



# Sixth Steering Committee Meeting

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13 December 2018, 09.30 – 13:30

**Draft minutes**



## Participants

[REDACTED]	DG HOME (A3) – Chair of the Steering Committee
[REDACTED]	DG HOME (B1)
[REDACTED]	DG HOME (E1)
[REDACTED]	DG DEVCO (B3)
[REDACTED]	EEAS
[REDACTED]	Ministry of the Interior, CZ
<u>ICMPD / Secretariat of the Steering Committee:</u>	
[REDACTED]	Director, Head of Brussels Mission, ICMPD
[REDACTED]	Deputy Head of Brussels Mission, Head of Resources Management Brussels, ICMPD
[REDACTED]	Programme Coordinator, Global Initiatives, ICMPD
[REDACTED]	Regional Coordinator, ICMPD
[REDACTED]	MPF Project Manager, ICMPD
[REDACTED]	PP DATA Project Manager, ICMPD
[REDACTED]	MPF Project Officer, ICMPD
[REDACTED]	MPF Project Officer, ICMPD
[REDACTED]	Associate Resource Management Officer, ICMPD
[REDACTED]	MPF Programme Assistant, ICMPD

## Outcome of the discussion

### Opening remarks

ICMPD took note of the presence of three SC members (namely DG HOME, DG DEVCO and EEAS, DG NEAR was absent). The Ministry of Interior of Czech Republic (CZ), representing the Strategic Group of the Prague Process (PP), was present during the first and second agenda points.

DG HOME highlighted the key developments of the facility since the last reporting period, praising the fact that the MPF has expanded its mandate to the PP, expanded its work to cover pilot projects on legal migration and engage in an ambitious exercise such as the development of the online platform. Besides, DG Home took note of the achievements of actions implemented under the previous call for proposals and the openness of ICMPD to find a viable solution to accommodate emerging needs in line with the commitment of the European Agenda on Migration. Finally, the MPF SC Chair reported that DG Home is looking actively into possibility to provide MPF with a top-up rather than another Delegation Agreement (DA).

## Updates on the Prague Process

CZ stressed that the Eastern Dimension remains a policy priority despite the transition periods at EU level. The Prague Process (PP) established in 2009 has become a comprehensive regional platform building trust, reinforce dialogue and share information. High participation from participating countries testifies the continued interest in the process. 2019 will mark the 10<sup>th</sup> PP anniversary and will offer a good occasion to discuss its future beyond 2020. In this context, involvement of the EU Presidencies is crucial: the next PP Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM) will be hosted in Bucharest in June 2019 under the EU Romanian Presidency. The 2018 PP SOM is expected to contribute to shaping strategic approach to the PP and formulating the joint understanding of how the PP can be used to implement the GCM.

ICMPD acting as PP Secretariat presented the latest achievements and outlined the plan for next year, which remains inspired by the Bratislava Ministerial Declaration adopted in 2016. The establishment of a Migration Observatory and a Training Academy are tangible results as much as the documents produced and capacity-building activities carried out. Members of the MPF SC suggested establishing targeted channels to distribute PP knowledge tools, such as policy briefs and analytical reports. ICMPD also highlighted that the PP as a regional intergovernmental dialogue is well placed to implement the GCM at the regional level.

## MPF Fifth Interim Report

ICMPD provided an overview of the ongoing and concluded Actions under the scenarios A and B1, their main results and achievements, highlighting the following:

- **13 actions involving authorities from 16 EU MS and respectively six MP and two CAMM countries** were launched.
- Positive developments were registered in the **southern neighbourhood**, though most actions focused on the Eastern partnership area;
- For the first time under the MPF, **CAMM** countries (namely India and Nigeria) were also targeted, while good progress was evident on **Belarus**.
- Most actions targeted and budget was channelled to areas linked to GAMM Pillars 1 (legal migration) and 2 (irregular migration, including border management and fight against organised crime).
- All MPF action contributed to reinforcing bi- and multi-lateral cooperation and enhancing the **capacity and institutional development** of partner countries' administrations by training **over 850** among officials and migrants; organising study visits / peer-to-peer workshops / field missions in EU MS or partner countries for around **150 participants**; developing **guidelines or assessment reports** to ameliorate policies or institutional set-ups or conducting sectorial **researches**; setting-up (e-learning) **platforms** and procured **equipment** instrumental to the implementation of specific activities; supporting about **80 migrants** in establishing businesses / job placement / market search in their home countries through the setting up pilot / innovative **mobility schemes**; safely **returning over 250 migrants**, both irregularly staying in the EU or part of mobility schemes; **promoting good practices** at High Level Meetings or Local Cooperation Platforms or **creating synergies** with other projects and programmes funded under other financial instruments; generating knowledge and visibility of EU policies through large and targeted communication campaigns, likely to have reached out to **around 1.5 million people**.



ICMPD plans to run a short ex-post evaluation of concluded grants in the course of 2019 in order to assess the impacts and changes brought about the actions implemented in the partner countries.

Under MPF II, two actions have already started (between LV and respectively GE and MD), building on the previous action granted under the previous call, while one more will be kicking-off in early January 2019 (between IT and NG). The MPF team continues scooping ideas and assisting potential applicants.

ICMPD reported also on the final results of the evaluation exercise conducted on Cabo Verde, Moldova and Georgia by the University of Maastricht. In particular, it was noted that there is a need to:

- Reflect a large number of stakeholder's views engaging in clear communication activities, including on the expectations around "mobility" and legal migration opportunities;
- Increase financial and human resources dedicated to MP, by recognising the MPF as a key driving force behind their implementation;
- Involve a larger number of international stakeholders to play a larger role in implementing the MPs, while clarifying the role of and properly equipping EU Delegations;
- Adapt MP governance and monitoring and implementation tools to better accommodate analytical thinking, critical discussion and forward-looking programming.

DG Home flagged the intentions to run a second round of evaluation, starting with Tunisia in 2019.

ICMPD informed on the organisation of the thematic workshop on law enforcement cooperation on cross-border crimes perpetrated within migratory contexts (specifically on smuggling of migrants and ID fraud) on 14-15 February 2019. The workshop, to be hosted by EUROPOL in The Hague, was welcomed by DG Home which agreed to cover Lebanon too.

#### Focus on Strand D: Pilot projects on labour migration

DG Home reported on the first ideas (evaluated and being contracted) from Belgium and Lithuania and those scheduled by France and Spain. In total, 12 EU MS have expressed interest in the pilot projects. It also informed of the meeting with EU MS planned for the day after (14 December) and aiming to present those ideas, collect more feedback by interested EU MS and international organisations and envisage some additional activities able to trigger more interest or explore possibilities in countries not yet targeted by existing pilot projects.

ICMPD confirmed its readiness to contribute to this process and reflect concrete activities in the 2019 AWP.

#### Revised GEC rules and Guidelines for Call for Proposals

It was agreed that ICMPD will be responsible for the coordination of the nomination and subsequent appointment of evaluators and GEC members. Moreover the SC was informed of the introduction of a top-up mechanism for awarded grants under the GEC Rules of Procedures.

The existing guidelines for both Calls for Proposals will be revised to clarify that passing the envisaged threshold doesn't necessarily means having an action approved and that the current deadline for implementation of the actions is not June 2020.



## Amendments to MPF Delegation Agreements

ICMPD presented the rationale for the MPF DAs with the aim to:

- Extend MPF I duration by 7-month in order to absorb the expected unallocated and unspent funds of approx. 1 MEUR to cover HR cost up to 31 December 2019. This amount reflects the sum of financial remaining and unspent resources to date under the assumption that MPF granted actions will close with an actual average expenditure rate close to 84%. The indicated amount includes also the budget previously transferred from Scenario A to Scenario B2.
- Transfer an equivalent amount from HR Costs under MPF II to Strand A of the AMIF Fund. This modification reflects the specific request and suggestion made by DG HOME to support the emerging Pilot Projects on Legal Migration with additional financial means in order to respond to this political priority and EU Member States interested in submitting project proposals.

The aim is therefore to optimise and make a better use of the available funds in view of addressing the objectives of the EU Agenda on Migration. However, ICMPD remarked that without the possibility to top-up the current MPF II budget, HR costs won't be fully covered until the end of the implementation period of the second phase of the Facility.

## Revised SC rules: two-step evaluation approach

DG Home suggestion to simplify the first evaluation step for actions under Strand D by merging the consultation and the actual evaluation with interested parties (art. 11.2 and 11.3 of SC Rule of Procedures) into one single task was unanimously approved.

## Revised Annual Work Plans (AWP) 2018

It was agreed to approve the changes to the AWP 2018 and that a draft AWP for both MPF I and MPF II will be shared among SC member in the first half of January 2019 and approved by written procedures.

## Conclusions and summary of next steps

The following steps will be taken:

- ICMPD will amend both MPF I and MPF II 2018 AWP in line with the latest amendments to both Delegation Agreements;
- ICMPD will share draft 2019 AWP for both MPF I and MPF II in the first half of January 2019 for approval by written procedures;
- ICMPD will update GEC and SC Rules of Procedures as well as both Guidelines for calls for proposals for Strand A and D;
- ICMPD will suggest additional activities in support of pilot projects (such as thematic meetings, target missions, workshops, etc.);
- ICMPD will upload infonotes for concluded actions, create dissemination channels on concluded activities and other relevant communication materials;
- The next MPF SC meeting will take place in May 2019.

