

About ICMPD

Promoting comprehensive and sustainable migration policies

The International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) was founded in 1993, upon the initiative of Austria and Switzerland. The organisation was created to serve as a support mechanism for informal consultations and to provide expertise and services in the newly emerging landscape of multilateral cooperation on migration and asylum issues.

ICMPD today is an international organisation headquartered in Vienna with 15 Member States, 200 staff members, a mission in Brussels and in Malta and representatives covering Bulgaria, Georgia, Lebanon and the Middle East, Moldova, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Tunisia and Turkey. In addition, ICMPD's operations in the field are supported by project offices in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kosovo*, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Macedonia, Malta, Nigeria, Tajikistan, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.



The organisation has cooperation agreements with more than 25 states and other international organisations and holds UN observer status. As an international organisation with strong European roots, ICMPD's activities focus particularly on developments in Europe and the European Union (EU), as well as in Africa, Central Asia and the Middle East. This strong partnership is reflected as well in the EU-ICMPD joint initiative MIEUX that aims to support capacity building in EU partner countries. As migration is a global phenomenon, ICMPD works in other regions of the world where significant migration interests exist.

Key Data

Director General: Michael Spindelegger Headquarters: Vienna, Austria Established: 1993 Member States: 15 Staff: Around 200 Projects: Around 60 Project Offices: 16

Over the years, ICMPD has been a key European player in the migration field, working with partners in creating innovative concepts and mechanisms like integrated border management (IBM), the interactive map on migration (i-Map) and transnational referral mechanisms (TRM) for trafficked persons, as well as carrying out in-depth research in important topics like regularisation. It has also been a leader in promoting migrants' contributions to their home communities and their receiving societies. One of ICMPD's most important contributions to the migration field is the advancement of multilateral cooperation in the form of 'migration dialogues' to cultivate today's migration opportunities and create forward-looking policies.

*This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/99 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.

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Work of ICMPD

Expertise for today's migration challenges

Migration is about people those who are on the move, those who remain and those who receive. ICMPD's working philosophy is based upon the conviction that the complexities of migration can only be met by working in partnership with governments, research institutes, international organisations and civil society.

ICMPD's Vision

Make migration and mobility of people orderly, safe and regular, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies.

The three pillars

This philosophy is reflected in ICMPD's work, which is based on three interlinked pillars:

dialogues: foster intergovernmental Migration dialogue in the current debate on international migration. ICMPD is the Secretariat to the Budapest Process (over 50 European and Eurasian states), as well as to the Dialogue on Mediterranean Transit Migration (MTM), which brings together European, Middle Eastern and African partner states. It is also an implementing organisation for the Prague Process (wider European and Central Asian states) and EUROMED Migration (EU, North African and Middle Eastern states). Furthermore, ICMPD supports the Rabat Process, a Euro-African dialogue on migration and development.



Capacity building: contributes to good migration governance and to strengthen national and regional capacities to deal with current challenges in migration issues. ICMPD organises training and capacity building programmes, facilitates international and interagency cooperation and supports governmental and administrative bodies in their institution building and legal reforms in areas such as illegal migration and return, trafficking in human beings, border management and visa, asylum, migration and development, and legal migration and integration.

Research and documentation: facilitates synergy within and beyond the research community and responds to the demand for a more policy relevant research. ICMPD conducts policy-oriented, empirical research using interdisciplinary an and international approach. This aim is reflected in the organisation's Policy Brief Series and Working Paper Series. Furthermore, ICMPD maintains one of the largest collections of migration-specific literature in Austria.

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Organisational Structure

Governing bodies of ICMPD

The representatives of Member States (one per Member State) constitute the Steering Group. The chair of the Steering Group is held in rotation by each of the contracting parties. It exercises general supervision of ICMPD, appoints the Director General (DG) and approves the annual report of the DG, the budget, annual accounts, and the working programme. The Steering Group also is a platform where Member States discuss migration-related issues of joint interest and concern.

The Director General is the highest executive officer of ICMPD. He is supported by three functional Directors, heading the Migration Dialogues and Cooperation Directorate; the Policy, Research and Strategy Directorate and the General Management Directorate. The Director of General Management (formerly Human and Financial Resources) was appointed Deputy Director General by the Steering Group in May 2016 for a five year term.





Ensuring quality management

ICMPD decided in 2009 to introduce a quality management system (QMS) based on ISO standards. With the substantial growth of the organisation over the last several years, clear structures and procedures, as well as increased documentation, have become even more important. The ICMPD Quality Management System was launched in October 2011 and ICMPD received ISO 9001:2008 certification in September 2012. The ICMPD Quality Policy provides the overall framework for this system and emphasises the importance of the expectations of internal and external customers who receive ICMPD's services. It also guarantees that the organisation consistently and continually provides high-quality services.

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Member States



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