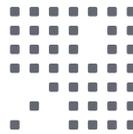


IMPROVING MIGRATION MANAGEMENT IN THE SILK ROUTES



RELEC

November 2020

WHAT IS RELEC?



RELEC stands for Regional Law Enforcement Cooperation on irregular migration, trafficking in human beings and smuggling of migrants. It is an initiative among the Silk Routes countries. Its main objective is to enhance international cooperation on preventing irregular migration, trafficking in human beings and smuggling of migrants. This cooperation is facilitated by the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD).

Participants of the RELEC initiative during a Kick-off meeting in Ankara, Turkey.



HOW HAS RELEC EVOLVED?

The RELEC network was initiated in October 2015 by Turkey and ICMPD through funding from the European Union, Bulgaria, Hungary, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey and the United Kingdom. During its initial pilot phase (October 2015 – July 2017), Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Iran, Iraq, Pakistan and Turkey defined a cooperation structure, that envisaged international cooperation on statistical data exchange to better counter irregular migration, trafficking in human beings and smuggling of migrants.

This initiative started as a pilot but grew into a network of partners that recognise that exchange of information among law enforcement stakeholders is vital. In a number of national and regional meetings, trainings, workshops and study visits the countries identified the need for stronger national capacity building, development of national guidelines and necessity of regular exchanges trust building and establishing work relations with European counterparts.

Funded by the European Union



Implemented by



WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

The second phase of RELEC is now supported by the European Union through the project “Improving Migration Management in the Silk Routes Countries”. The RELEC initiative now aims at promoting the engagement of Silk Routes countries and EU Member States in countering irregular migration, trafficking in human beings and smuggling of migrants.

In 2021 RELEC initiative will focus on:

1. Building the national capacities of law enforcement authorities in exchanging statistical data and information on irregular migration, trafficking in human beings and smuggling of migrants and development of national guidelines on inter-agency data exchange
2. Strengthening cooperation between national law enforcement agencies in Silk Routes countries, and relevant EU agencies and law enforcement bodies of EU Member States through development of recommendations for international cooperation.

Delegates to the RELEC initiative discuss migration trends in the Silk Routes region.

WHAT IS THE ROLE OF ICMPD?

The International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) has been the facilitating agency of the RELEC network. ICMPD supports the RELEC initiative further by expanding opportunities for international cooperation of law enforcement authorities in the Silk Routes region and exposing national actors in Silk Routes countries to European good practices, including direct cooperation with specialised EU mechanisms, e.g. Frontex and Europol.

FIND OUT MORE:

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