

# IMPROVING MIGRATION MANAGEMENT IN THE SILK ROUTES



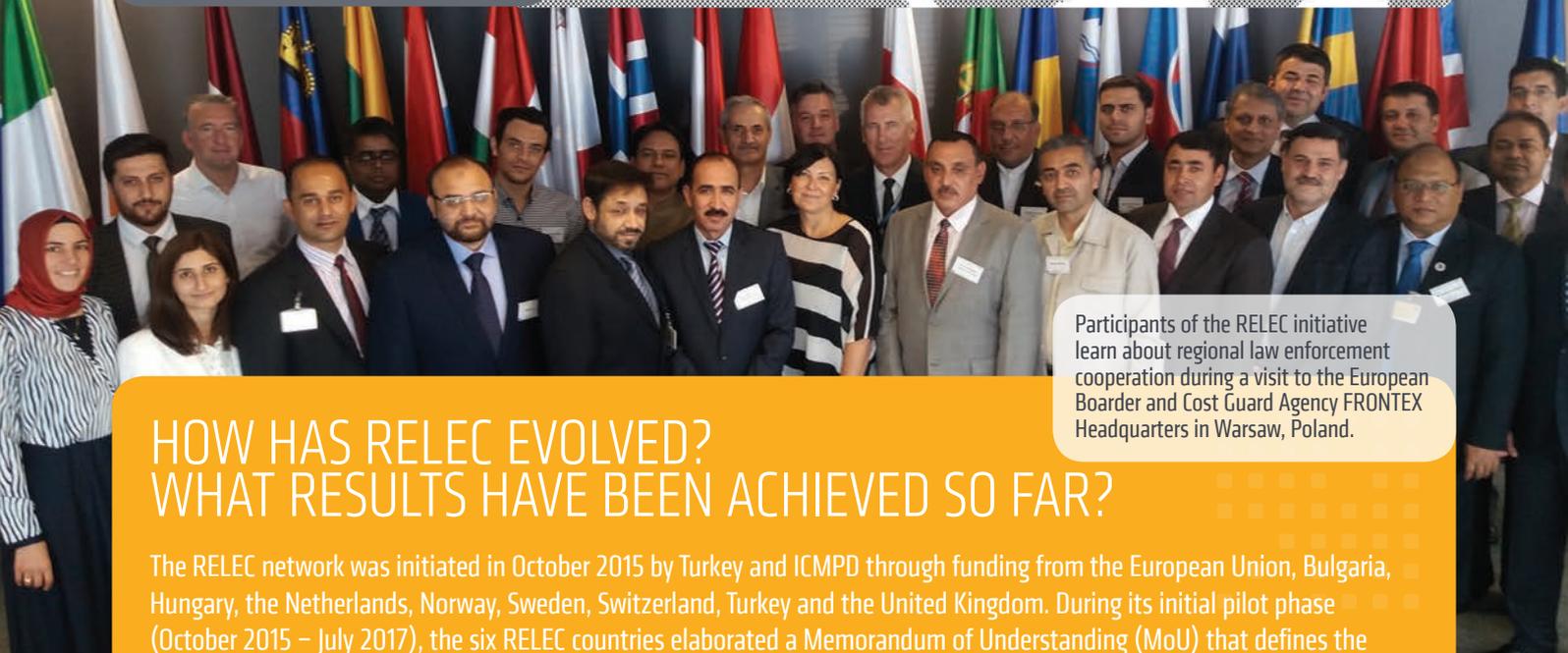
## WHAT IS RELEC?



RELEC stands for *Regional Law Enforcement Cooperation on irregular migration, migrant smuggling and human trafficking*. It is an initiative among Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Iran, Iraq, Pakistan and Turkey; its main objective is to enhance regional cooperation on preventing irregular migration, migrant smuggling and human trafficking. This cooperation is facilitated by the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD).

## PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES

Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Iran, Iraq, Pakistan, Turkey



Participants of the RELEC initiative learn about regional law enforcement cooperation during a visit to the European Border and Coast Guard Agency FRONTEX Headquarters in Warsaw, Poland.

## HOW HAS RELEC EVOLVED? WHAT RESULTS HAVE BEEN ACHIEVED SO FAR?

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), the six RELEC countries elaborated a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) that defines the RELEC cooperation structure. The MoU consists of three main areas of cooperation - irregular migration, migrant smuggling and human trafficking - and envisages the establishment of

- National Contact Points (NCPs),
- Exchange of statistical data every three months based on six indicators,
- Early warning information system,
- and an annual analysis of statistical reports to achieve a better understanding of changing migration patterns.

Funded by the European Union



Implemented by



## WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

The RELEC Memorandum of Understanding has been submitted by each respective national authority to the national approval procedure. Once signed, ICMPD will facilitate the MoU's operationalisation and the cooperation amongst the six countries. The National Contact Points will be trained on gathering, distributing and analysing statistical information; a process for sharing the quarterly statistical reports will be established, and training on establishing and maintaining a well-functioning early warning system will be provided.

The second phase of RELEC is now supported by the European Union through the project "Improving Migration Management in the Silk Routes Countries" (the "Silk Routes" project in brief). The RELEC initiative aims to be the start of a long-term cooperation in the Silk Routes region and its neighbourhood with a view to address irregular migration and prevent the loss of lives.

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; it is however not a signatory of the MoU. ICMPD will support the RELEC initiative further by operationalising the terms agreed upon in the MoU through the "Silk Routes" project funded by the European Union.

ICMPD provides technical assistance, organises meetings, supports and facilitates trainings and helps establish a mechanism for regular exchange of data, information and analysis amongst the signatories of the MoU.

## FIND OUT MORE:

To find out more please do not hesitate to contact:

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