



Budapest Process - Silk Routes Partnership

Multi-Annual Strategy 2014-2016 including the BP Silk Routes Programme

Through the adoption of the Istanbul Ministerial Declaration during the 5th Budapest Process Ministerial Conference held in Istanbul on 19 April 2013, "A Silk Routes Partnership for Migration" was established "with the objective to promote further dialogue and mutual cooperation in managing migration flows taking place along the Silk Routes".

The Istanbul Ministerial Declaration listed several **initiatives** organised around the six **priority goals** of the Silk Routes Partnership, tasking senior officials to agree on **concrete actions**.

The Silk Routes Partnership for Migration will be developed through the implementation of operational activities - the BP Silk Routes Programme - but also through the geographical working group structure and thematic meetings on priority topics.

1. Operational activities – the BP Silk Routes Programme

Building upon the experience acquired in the implementation of previous actions, especially the projects "**Fostering cooperation with and in the Silk Routes Region**" (funded by the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland and Turkey and implemented by ICMPD) and the UK project "**Bridging Measures for Migration Management in the Silk Routes Region**" (funded by the UK) the following main areas were identified:

- Migration management in the Silk Routes countries
- Development of a regional migration management response in the Silk Routes Region
- Diaspora engagement
- Management of return and reintegration assistance
- Effective governance of legal migration and mobility

Building on this, several follow-up measures were elaborated to implement the initiatives included in the Declaration of the Silk Routes Partnership for Migration. These measures, in different stages of development, are in the pipe-line for the coming period.

Beginning of 2014 the following initiatives will be launched.

- a) The project "Support to the Silk Routes Partnership for Migration under the Budapest Process", which has a comprehensive scope contributing to all six priority fields of the Istanbul Ministerial Declaration, supported by the European Commission, Bulgaria, Hungary, the Netherlands, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey and ICMPD.
- b) The project aiming at the development of complementary actions to implement the Silk Routes Partnership for Migration, focusing on migration and mobility and irregular migration, supported by Turkey and IOM.

The following projects are under consideration and are expected to be launched at a later stage:

- a) "Diaspora Engagement in the Silk Routes Countries (DESIR)"
- b) "Effective governance of legal migration and mobility in the Silk Routes Region"
- c) "Return and reintegration assistance in the Silk Routes Region".

A number of countries and international organisations have already expressed interest to support these projects.

2. Geographic working group structure and thematic expert meetings

The Istanbul Ministerial Declaration tasks Senior Officials to oversee the implementation of the Partnership through yearly Senior Officials' Meetings, to ensure an appropriate geographical working group structure, offering interested states in certain sub-regions a possible additional platform to discuss migration flows along the Silk Routes and to initiate thematic expert meetings, to facilitate in-depth discussion between all stakeholders on specific priority issues.

Since 2009/2010 the Budapest Process has three regional working groups (in order of establishment);

- a) the Working Group on the South East European Region since 1999 (chaired by Croatia since 2007),
- b) the Working Group on the Black Sea Region since 2008 (chaired by Bulgaria) and
- c) the Working Group on the Silk Routes Region since 2010 (co-chaired by Afghanistan and Turkey)

For all three working groups, annual meetings are foreseen in the period 2014-2016.

In terms of future perspective for the three working groups the following can be mentioned:

- a) for the Working Group on the South Eastern European Region; in particular the establishment of an action plan on mixed migration flows through the region has been envisaged.
- b) for the Working Group on the Black Sea Region, continued exchange of experience and knowledge on different types of migration (legal, irregular and refugee flows) in the region and their impact on the migration management capacities including labour migration, border management and document security
- c) for the Working Group on the Silk Routes Region, its activities will focus on supporting the BP Silk Routes Programme.

3. Regional results for wider use

The Budapest Process should continue building partnerships and cooperation also with international and regional organisations as well as with other regional migration dialogues and globally with the Global Forum for Migration and Development (GFMD), in particular in view of the Turkish Chairmanship mid-2014 - 2015. This is important in order to ensure highest possible level of cross-fertilisation between relevant initiatives at regional and global level.

Detailed information about above initiatives and the tentative time table can be found on the Budapest Process webpage www.budapestprocess.org.