The Budapest Process is an interregional dialogue on migration stretching from Europe to the Silk Routes region - also covering Europe’s Eastern neighbours, the Western Balkans and Central Asia. It provides a platform for dialogue and operational cooperation for over 50 governments and 10 international organisations. The dialogue is chaired by Turkey and co-chaired by Hungary.

During its more than 25 years of operation, the Budapest Process has built up a far-reaching network among participating states and wide thematic coverage. The dialogue is valued in the regions it involves and its methodology is well trusted: the unbinding nature, the setting of trust as well as fostering of an equal level principle have made cooperation possible, also on sensitive issues. The Budapest Process offers a platform for learning and training between peers as well as for facilitating concrete project development and cooperation.

The Budapest Process has come to master the balance and interplay between political dialogue and operational action, with concrete projects flanking it and creating tangible outcomes of its political objectives: the project “Improving Migration Management in the Silk Routes Countries” (funded by the EU) is a direct outcome of the dialogue. It supports and develops the capacities of administrations in all aspects related to the movement of people, including awareness of how migration could be more beneficial for the development of each country.

**BUDAPEST PROCESS MILESTONES**

- **1991:** Initial Ministerial Conference in Berlin with Western, Central and South European countries.
- **1993:** Official launch in Budapest with countries in wider Europe. Hungary is Chair.
- **2003:** Central Asian countries invited to join.
- **2006:** Turkey takes over chairmanship. Hungary becomes co-chair.
- **2010:** The Silk Routes countries invited to join.
- **2013:** Istanbul Ministerial Conference defines “A Silk Routes Partnership for Migration.”

**STRENGTHS OF THE BUDAPEST PROCESS**

- Informal and flexible framework for migration policy development
- Platform for regional migration policy coordination
- Springboard for migration policy projects and new approaches
- Migration policy network and knowledge hub

**KEY DATA**

- **Chair:** TURKEY
  - Established: 1993
  - Secretariat: ICMPD
- **Participating States:** 52
- **Observer States:** 7
- **Participating Organisations:** 17
- **Regional Working Groups:** 3
In April 2013, the Ministerial Declaration on a Silk Routes Partnership for Migration defined six priority areas:

1. Better organise and improve conditions for legal migration and mobility
2. Support the integration of migrants and counteract phenomena of discrimination, racism and xenophobia
3. Strengthen the positive impact of migration on development
4. Prevent and counteract irregular migration, facilitating return and readmission of irregular migrants
5. Prevent and combat trafficking in persons
6. Promote international protection

In February 2019, close to 40 Ministers from the Budapest Process participating countries, the European Commissioner for Migration, Home Affairs and Citizenship and representatives of relevant organisations agreed to take concerted action to endorse and implement the five-year plan “a Call for Action” following the priority goals of the 2013 Istanbul Ministerial Declaration to ensure safe, orderly and regular migration along the Silk Routes by applying five key commitments to:

1. Partnership
2. Comprehensive migration governance
3. Respect, protect and fulfil international human rights and fundamental freedoms
4. Support and solidarity
5. Knowledge