ICMPD

International Centre for Migration Policy Development

Budapest Process

A Silk Routes Partnership for Migration

The **Budapest Process** is a consultative forum with over 50 governments and 10 international organisations aiming at developing comprehensive and sustainable systems for orderly migration. During its more than 20 years of operation, the Budapest Process has developed from an information sharing tool between European countries in a pre-EU enlargement setting to a far-reaching European-Asian forum for improving migration management. It is chaired by Turkey and co-chaired by Hungary since 2006.

Silk Routes Partnership for Migration

Celebrating its 20th anniversary in 2013, the Budapest Process witnessed an important landmark when the Istanbul Ministerial Declaration on a Silk Routes Partnership for Migration was adopted in Turkey. The Silk Routes Region refers to **Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Iran, Iraq** and **Pakistan**. Cooperation with these countries started in 2010 and since then these countries have successively joined the forum as new participating or observer states. The main objective of the partnership is to promote dialogue and mutual cooperation in managing migration flows taking place along the **Silk Routes.**

Working Groups

The Budapest Process is managed through annual Senior Officials Meetings gathering all participating states. In addition, the Istanbul Ministerial Declaration provides for a geographic working group structure, giving interested states in certain sub-regions an additional platform to discuss migration and related matters. The Budapest Process accordingly has three regional working groups for: **the Silk Routes Region, the South East European Region** and **the Black Sea Region.**

BUDAPEST PROCESS
A SILK ROUTES PARTNERSHIP FOR MIGRATION

Key Data

Chair: **Turkey**	Participating States: **52**
Co-Chair: **Hungary**	Observer States: **6**
Established: **1993**	Working Groups: **3**

> **The Budapest Process provides an informal and flexible framework for states and other stakeholders to meet on an equal footing and address issues of common concern.**

Phase I focused on cooperation among Western, Central, Eastern and South East European countries.

Phase II brought Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan into the Process.

Phase III involved a further redirection eastward with Afghanistan, Bangladesh, China, Iran, Iraq and Pakistan (the Silk Routes Region) successively joining as new participating and observer states.

timeline:

1993   2003   2010

The Ministerial Declaration on a Silk Routes Partnership for Migration identified six priority areas:

1. Better organise and improve conditions for **legal migration** and mobility

2. Support the **integration** of migrants and counteracting phenomena such as 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**

> The positive spirit and valuable exchange that guided the developments of the ancient Silk Routes serve as an inspiration for modern day migration management.

> The main objective of the partnership is to promote dialogue and mutual cooperation in managing migration flows taking place along the Silk Routes.

Project Partners and other Participating Countries

Silk Routes countries: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Iran, Iraq, Pakistan

Donors: European Union, Bulgaria, Hungary (lead state), Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom.

Silk Routes Partnership Project

The project "Support to the Silk Routes Partnership for Migration under the Budapest Process" translates the political commitments of the Silk Routes Partnership into concrete actions on the ground. The project aims at **strengthening the migration management capacities** of the Silk Routes countries Afghanistan, Iraq and Pakistan, both at national and - together with Bangladesh and Iran - also at regional level.

Even though the migration situation in the Silk Routes countries varies a lot, they all have in common a need to develop a long-term comprehensive vision on migration, build up a common understanding (both at national and regional level) and enhance their knowledge on migration issues.

Thus the project focuses on **increasing the migration-related knowledge, expertise and management skills** of relevant government officials. It aims at strengthening the national migration data management systems, supports the development of comprehensive national policy frameworks and increases the concrete operational cooperation.

Methodology of the Project

The improvement of competences and structures for migration management in the Silk Routes countries is targeted through a combination of interventions and by approaching the issue from three necessary angles: capacity (training), information and policy. These three basic components are flanked by intergovernmental dialogue at all levels. Government officials turn new skills into practice in pilot projects.

Sustainable training systems

To improve training structures in a sustainable manner, the project develops **inter-disciplinary training programmes** in the area of migration, including curricula and other relevant materials. An inter-agency approach is applied by using the training-of-trainers model, testing developed curricula through pilot trainings and linking to existing national training structures.

Data management & knowledge base

Accurate and reliable migration data is crucial for informed policy making. The project supports a) strengthening migration data collection, management and analysis, (b) enhancing inter-agency and regional cooperation on **data collection and sharing** and (c) consolidating the knowledge base on migration through regional and national workshops, targeted expert support and the development of migration profiles.

Comprehensive migration policy development

Comprehensive migration policies are important to institute functioning working structures and to allow authorities to efficiently do their job. The project aims to embed the currently dispersed national migration management policies into a more **coherent policy structure** and to bring it closer to international standards. This is done through assessment of existing policies and delivery of workshops both at regional and national level.

Regional intergovernmental dialogue

The Budapest Process offers a unique forum for regular **peer-to-peer interaction at strategic and policy level.** The project supports expert-level dialogue and targeted information exchange among the Silk Routes countries as well as among all Budapest Process participating states, especially through the Silk Routes Region Working Group.

Pilot projects

Certain pilot initiatives are supported by the project to support national authorities in dealing with specific migration matters using a targeted and innovative approach to put newly gained skills and knowledge into practice and facilitate regional cooperation among the Silk Routes countries. **Two pilot initiatives** were launched in 2015:

• Establishment of Migration Information Centres and Raising Awareness on Migration in Pakistan

• Initiating Regional Police Cooperation – Silk Routes Region and Turkey

Silk Routes Partnership Pilot Projects

Awareness Raising in Pakistan

This pilot project aims to raise awareness on migration in Pakistan by **providing information** about the risks of irregular migration and about legal migration and the rights of migrants. The project targets the wider public, including **potential migrants.** It uses a three tier approach through which information is delivered via counselling and pre-departure orientation at Migration Information Centres, a TV drama and an information campaign using different media.

Migration Information Centres:

- The Centres are located in **Islamabad** and **Lahore** and are operated jointly with the International Labour Organization (ILO), the Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development and the Labour Department of Punjab. They provide information and capacity building on **rights, legal practices, jobs and protection possibilities** abroad as well as on the dangers and consequences of irregular migration.

TV Drama:

- Television is the most dominant medium of communication in Pakistan. Making use of this outreach capacity, a **TV drama focusing on migration**, in particular in the context of irregular migration based on case studies from Pakistan will be produced and broadcasted on a national TV channel.

Information Campaign:

- The information campaign targets migrants at the pre-departure stage, during migration, in the destination country and, if applicable, in the post-return phase. It shall **increase awareness** about migration and the possible **risks and consequences of irregular migration**. The information campaign uses print, social media and engages local communities.

Regional Police Cooperation: Silk Routes and Turkey

This pilot project covers the Silk Routes countries Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Iran, Iraq and Pakistan as well as Turkey, who is the coordinator of this specific pilot.

The objective is to strengthen mutual regional assistance in law enforcement cooperation with focus on **prevention, detection and fighting migrant smuggling and trafficking in human beings.** Furthermore, border management cooperation shall be enhanced. Special emphasis is put on solutions, which can be applied within the whole region, including low cost applicable practices, legislative measures, standard operating procedures and common definitions.

The project will develop guidelines for regional law enforcement cooperation, supported by a regional network of officials and peer to peer trainings.