



Budapest Process Factsheet

About the Budapest Process

The Budapest Process is one of the oldest existing migration dialogues, serving as a dynamic and adaptable platform for intergovernmental exchange on evolving migration challenges. Since 2013, the geographic focus of the dialogue has been on the Silk Routes region, covering Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Iran, Iraq and Pakistan. It provides a platform for discussion and operational cooperation for over 50 governments and 15 international organisations. The dialogue is chaired by Türkiye and co-chaired by Hungary.

With over 30 years of operation, the Budapest Process has built up a far-reaching network among participating states, as well as wide thematic coverage. The dialogue is valued in the region it works with, and its methodology is highly regarded: The unbinding nature, the setting of trust, as well as the fostering of an equal level principle have

made cooperation possible, including on sensitive issues. The Budapest Process has come to master the balance and interplay between political dialogue and operational action, with concrete projects flanking it and generating tangible outcomes of its political objectives in the Silk Routes Region. It supports and develops the capacities of administrations in all aspects related to the movement of people.

The dialogue offers a platform for learning and training between peers and provides on-demand technical assistance and tools for policy advancement. These support structures have resulted in measurable impact towards the objectives of the Budapest Process, fostering progress in the areas of legal mobility, integration, international protection, and the prevention of irregular migration and trafficking in persons.

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
TÜRKİYE
Established
1993

Participating States
52

Participating
Organisations
18

Co-Chair
HUNGARY
Secretariat
ICMPD

Observer States
6

Thematic Working
Groups
3

Budapest Process Milestones

1993

Official launch of the Dialogue in Budapest with countries in wider Europe. Hungary is Chair.

2003

Central Asian countries join the Dialogue.

2006

Türkiye takes over chairmanship. Hungary becomes co-chair.

2013

Silk Routes countries become the region of focus.

2019

Istanbul Ministerial Conference. The Istanbul Commitments are endorsed.

2022

First Meeting of the Community of Law Enforcement Practitioners (COLEP).

2024

Endorsement of the Budapest Process Ministerial Declaration and Call for Action (2025-2030).

7th Budapest Process Ministerial Conference



On 11-12th November 2024, ministers, deputy ministers and senior officials from 50 countries and 13 international organisations convened in Budapest and agreed to a joint vision of migration governance, endorsing a new Ministerial Declaration and Call for Action. The endorsement of these texts represents a significant step toward strengthening regional cooperation on migration, with a particular emphasis on the Silk Routes Region.



Participants
300+



Countries
50



Intl. Organisations
13



Bilateral Meetings
30+

Key Outcomes

→ Productive dialogue

The conference represented an impressive feat of political consensus building and multilateral cooperation, with the endorsement of two milestone documents: The Budapest Process Ministerial Declaration and its accompanying Call for Action 2025-2030. These texts outline six priority goals for the coming five years, denoting the areas of focus for future meetings and operational actions.

→ Strong ministerial participation

The event demonstrated significant high-level political engagement, with the presence of 20 ministers and deputy ministers in Budapest, reflecting the Dialogue's continued relevance and strategic importance.

→ Robust bilateral exchange

The conference facilitated more than 30 bilateral meetings, fostering meaningful dialogue, strengthening relationships and paving the way for further advancement of collaboration.

BUDAPEST PROCESS MINISTERIAL DECLARATION

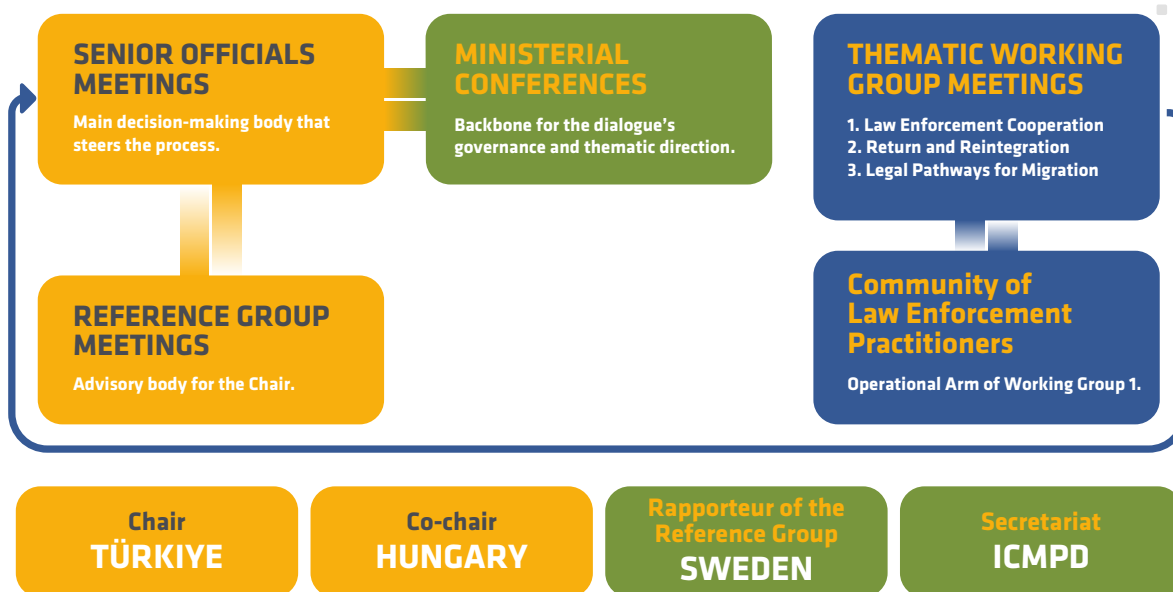
Priority Goals

- 1** Prevent irregular migration and fight against migrant smuggling, reinforcing cooperation in border management, criminal investigations, and prosecutions.
- 2** Strengthen pathways for legal migration and mobility, enhancing existing policies and cooperation on labour mobility.
- 3** Strengthen international, regional, and bilateral cooperation for safe, effective, and prompt return, readmission, and sustainable reintegration.
- 4** Strengthen the positive impact of migration on development, while addressing the root causes of irregular migration and forced displacement.
- 5** Ensure international protection and respect of the rights of refugees and people in need of international protection, promoting durable solutions in line with international law.
- 6** Support the integration of regular migrants, refugees, and those in need of international protection, countering racism, extremism, discrimination, and xenophobia.

Migration will always be a demanding and complex issue. This Declaration reflects compromise, consensus and a shared vision; acknowledges the diversity of its partners; and finds a lot of common ground between us.

- Michael Spindelegger, Director General of ICMPD

STRUCTURE AND GOVERNANCE



Dialogue Leading to Action

The Budapest Process is intrinsically linked with ICMPD's Silk Routes Regional Office and their projects. These projects play a crucial role in translating the Dialogue's ministerial commitments into concrete actions that deliver tangible results. By channelling insights and experiences back into the Dialogue, the projects enable it to adapt and evolve, ensuring it remains relevant and responsive to the shifting challenges and opportunities of the migration landscape.

These projects address key focus areas, such as those highlighted below, to ensure a comprehensive approach to migration challenges.

INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY BUILDING

IMPACT

- Delivery of specialised training programs for border management, document security, and risk analysis - enhancing the skills of key personnel.
- Provision of essential equipment to improve border control infrastructure.
- Organisation of study visits for border officials, fostering exchange of best practices and expertise.

POLICY WORK

IMPACT

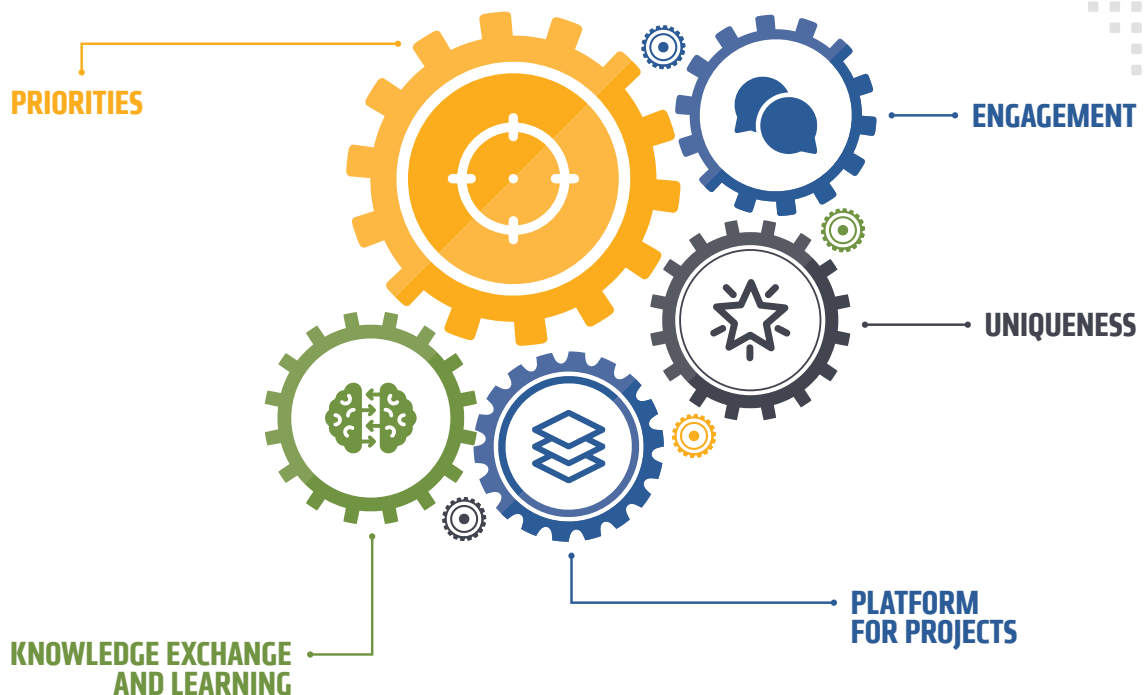
- Support to the development of national Integrated Border Management Strategies.
- Development of risk management policies and contingency planning frameworks.
- Publication of policy briefs on emerging migration trends, offering evidence-based guidance for decision-makers.

AWARENESS-RAISING AND ENGAGEMENT

IMPACT

- Outreach to millions of potential and intending migrants through ICMPD's Migrant Resource Centres (MRCs), offering knowledge and resources to empower their migration decisions.
- Informative counselling on legal pathways, the risks associated with irregular migration and the provision of support to returnees, promoting safe passage and sustainable reintegration.

Strengths of the Budapest Process



UNIQUENESS

The Budapest Process (BP) is *unique* in terms of its participating states, organisational structure and flexibility, resulting in:

1. Participation by key countries of origin, transit and destination
2. Collaboration between governments that – without the BP’s flexible but formal structure – would lack the trust, incentives or infrastructure to do so
3. Governance beyond the possibilities of bilateralism without challenging the autonomy of participating states

ENGAGEMENT

The BP facilitates continuous, constructive, high-level *engagement* by participant countries, resulting in:

1. Greater trust between participant countries
2. Deeper and more specialised relationships and networks
3. Long-term progress towards increasingly advanced joint agreements, with the BP a well-known “brand” for dealing with migration governance issues in the region

PLATFORM FOR PROJECTS

The BP acts as a *platform* for on-the-ground operational activities, on-demand technical assistance and tools for policy advancement and institutional capacity building. These initiatives have resulted in:

1. Measurable impact towards the BP’s objectives, such as discouraging irregular migration and raising awareness of legal and safe options
2. More advanced cross-border cooperation on migration governance

KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE AND LEARNING

The BP facilitates *peer-to-peer learning*, knowledge and data exchange and continuous tracking of the progress of activities, resulting in:

1. Better trained front-line and decision-making officers and greater migration governance expertise
2. Open and comprehensive documentation and exchange
3. Continuous improvement of the dialogue

Funded by

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Migrationsverket
Swedish Migration Agency



Norwegian Ministry
of Justice and Public Security



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
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Australian Government
Department of Home Affairs



ICMPD
International Centre for
Migration Policy Development

Secretariat