The Budapest Process is one of the longest-standing and major intergovernmental migration dialogues, whose Secretariat is hosted by ICMPD. Since the Silk Routes Countries started to participate in the BP in 2010, intergovernmental consultations clearly demonstrated the need for a longer-term vision for regional cooperation; this included policy-making, as well as substantial capacity-building and institutional development along the migration routes and improved international as well as inter-ministerial cooperation between the Silk Routes Countries and their European counterparts. Through direct support to the Budapest Process, the “Silk Routes project” aims to address the SRCs needs and operationalises the priorities of the Budapest Process through capacity-building under the Facility, MRCs, MIGRA.P and RELEC components.

Through project support, the dialogue is further strengthened, based on a shared and clear understanding of migration and mobility between Silk Routes countries, Central Asian countries and European counterparts. The project supported the 2019 Ministerial Conference, supports annual Senior Officials meetings, meetings of the Silk Routes Regional Working Group, as well as research outputs and regular networking with - and within - the Silk Routes Countries.
Through project support, the Budapest Process held its 6th Ministerial Conference in February 2019 and developed an implementation plan of the adopted “Call for Action”.

The Istanbul Commitments on the Silk Routes Partnership for Migration and its Call for Action
- 6th Ministerial Conference in Istanbul, Turkey on 20 February 2019
- Adoption of the political declaration in the presence of the European Commissioner for Migration, Home Affairs and Citizenship, Dimitris Avramopoulos and 20+ Ministers and Deputy Ministers
- Close to 40 countries adopted the political declaration and its action plan
- The Call for Action contains 41 action points listed under 6 priority areas. The action points cover many aspects of migration and mobility, displaying the wide thematic range of the dialogue

The Implementation Plan of the Call for Action
- Senior Officials endorsed the Implementation Plan which includes activities for the next five year
- The Implementation Plan of the Call for Action frames the priorities for the upcoming years and provides an opportunity for states to contribute and fund certain priorities
- The Implementation Plan remains a living document while providing the direction and focus of the Budapest Process until 2024
Migration dialogues are useful and relevant instruments for international cooperation when they both generate political support and provide for a strategic direction while ensuring a framework for achieving operational results through implementation of actions, for instance projects on the ground. The Budapest Process provides the platform for bilateral and multilateral networking and experience sharing as well as the political framework under which the project’s objectives and activities are agreed, supported and being implemented. The Budapest Process initiates concrete action plans for the Silk Routes Region.

The different components of the Silk Routes project (Dialogue, Facility, Flagship Initiatives on MRCs, MIGRA.P and RELEC) are closely linked and support one another in the creation of knowledge, development of well-informed policies, enhancement of institutional capacity and fostering of partnerships at local, regional and international levels. The Dialogue component’s strong interlinkage with all other project components is crucial to realise the project’s objectives as it allows for a continuous flow of information between decision makers and practitioners. Ideas, knowledge and experience generated and tested on the ground inform the policy and decision makers who can share and disseminate the good practices identified and create the necessary cooperation frameworks for their advancement.

**SYMBIOSIS: HOW DOES THE DIALOGUE COMPONENT LEAD TO EFFECTIVE RESULTS AND SUPPORT OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES IN THE SILK ROUTES?**

**FROM POLICY DIALOGUE TO OPERATIONAL RESULTS**

**KEY CHARACTERISTICS OF THE BUDAPEST PROCESS**

- Successful policy dialogue flanked by projects in the Silk Routes region
- Networking platform and better mutual understanding of different migration realities
- Solid foundation of trust leading to concrete results, which operationalise specific policy objectives and priorities

**OPERATIONAL RESULTS**

**INFORMATION**

- Better information for migrants

**POLICY**

- Migration policies and structures through capacity development

**COOPERATION**

- Regional cooperation for improved migration governance

**MIGRANT RESOURCE CENTRES (MRCs)**

- Information on legal migration and dangers and consequences of irregular migration
- Pre-departure and post-arrival orientation for labour migrants

**POLICY, INSTITUTIONAL AND CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT**

- Development of migration policies
- Enhancing institutional capacities
- Development of sustainable training structures
- Programmes for migrant protection

**REGIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT COOPERATION**

- Exchange of information on irregular migration
An intergovernmental dialogue on migration starting in 1993 with flanking operational activities in the Silk Routes since 2011

Adopted Political Declaration and Action Plan
“The Istanbul Commitments and its Call for Action” in February 2019

3 pillars of implementation of the Call for Action
(1) dialogue (2) operational cooperation (3) research and knowledge

Short-term technical assistance
Flexible on-demand expert support to government authorities. Capacity-building initiatives developing needs-specific migration policies and support towards improving migration governance

Silk Routes Instrument for Large-Scale initiatives
Focused on capacity-building activities. Thematic areas covered under this Initiative focus on priorities set out in the Istanbul Commitments.

Centres providing outgoing and potential migrants with information on migration
Centres attached to relevant ministries in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Iraq which help people make informed decisions when considering to migrate. Information provided: promote safe and regular migration, access government programmes and services, resolve issues and cases, and inform the public on the dangers of irregular migration, human trafficking and smuggling of migrants.

A flagship initiative offering government authorities a broad range of expertise and services geared towards ensuring better protection of migrant workers
Expertise and services offered include: regulation and monitoring of recruitment processes and structures, response and referral mechanisms on migrants’ cases, capacity building for labour attaches and front-line service providers, and enhancing migrants’ skills and qualifications.

A flagship initiative to promote the engagement of Silk Routes countries and EU Member States in a sustainable dialogue on countering irregular migration, trafficking in human beings and smuggling of migrants
Building national capacities of law enforcement authorities in exchanging statistical data and information on irregular migration, trafficking in human beings and smuggling of migrants

How do components interlink?

The operational components respond in part to the Call for Action. The dialogue learns and shares knowledge from activities on the ground.