



The Budapest Process



Strategic document following
the adoption of “The Istanbul
Commitments on the Silk Routes
Partnership for Migration and its Call
for Action – a five year plan”



With the Implementation Plan of the Call for Action

December 2019

Funded by

Chair



Co-Chair



Secretariat



ICMPD

International Centre for
Migration Policy Development

Background



Turkey, as Chair of the dialogue, hosted in February 2019 the Budapest Process 6th Ministerial Conference in Istanbul. The migration situation in the Silk Routes Region and in Europe called for a reaffirmed political commitment since the last political declaration adopted in 2013 with a stronger focus on initiatives and resources addressing both short-term and long-term priorities.

This led to the adoption of “The Istanbul Commitments on the Silk Routes Partnership for Migration”. The political declaration was complemented by an action plan “A Call for Action - a five year plan” which lists 41 points to be addressed under each of the six priority goals adopted with the 2013 Istanbul Declaration¹. Close to 40 Budapest Process participating countries and representatives of relevant organisations, in the presence of the European Commissioner for Migration, Home Affairs and Citizenship agreed:

- **To take concerted action to endorse and implement the attached five-year plan “a Call for Action” following the priority goals of the Istanbul Ministerial Declaration**
- **To apply key commitments to ensure safe, orderly and regular migration along the Silk Routes**

The “**Istanbul Commitments**” focuses on ensuring safe, orderly and regular migration by applying five key commitments to: Partnership, Comprehensive migration governance, Respect, protect and fulfil international human rights and fundamental freedoms, Support and solidarity and Knowledge.

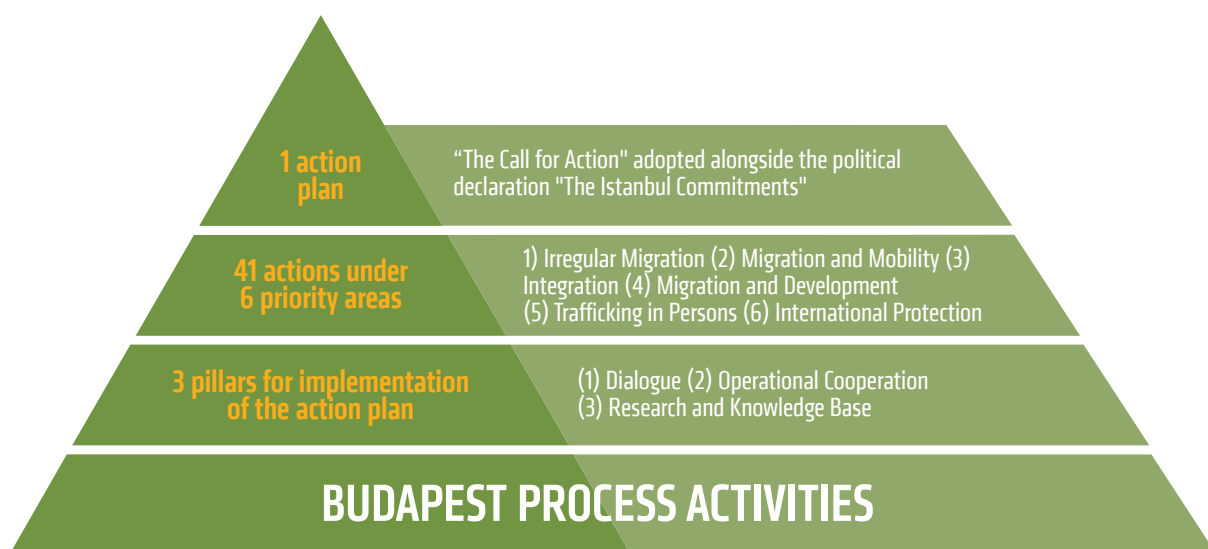
The “**Call for Action - a five year plan**” sets out the general framework for cooperation with the Budapest Process participating countries in the next five years. The dialogue will use the 41 action points listed as a basis for its further activities, meetings and projects or initiatives.

¹ 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 during the 5th Ministerial Conference. The Silk Routes Region refers to Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Iran, Iraq and Pakistan.

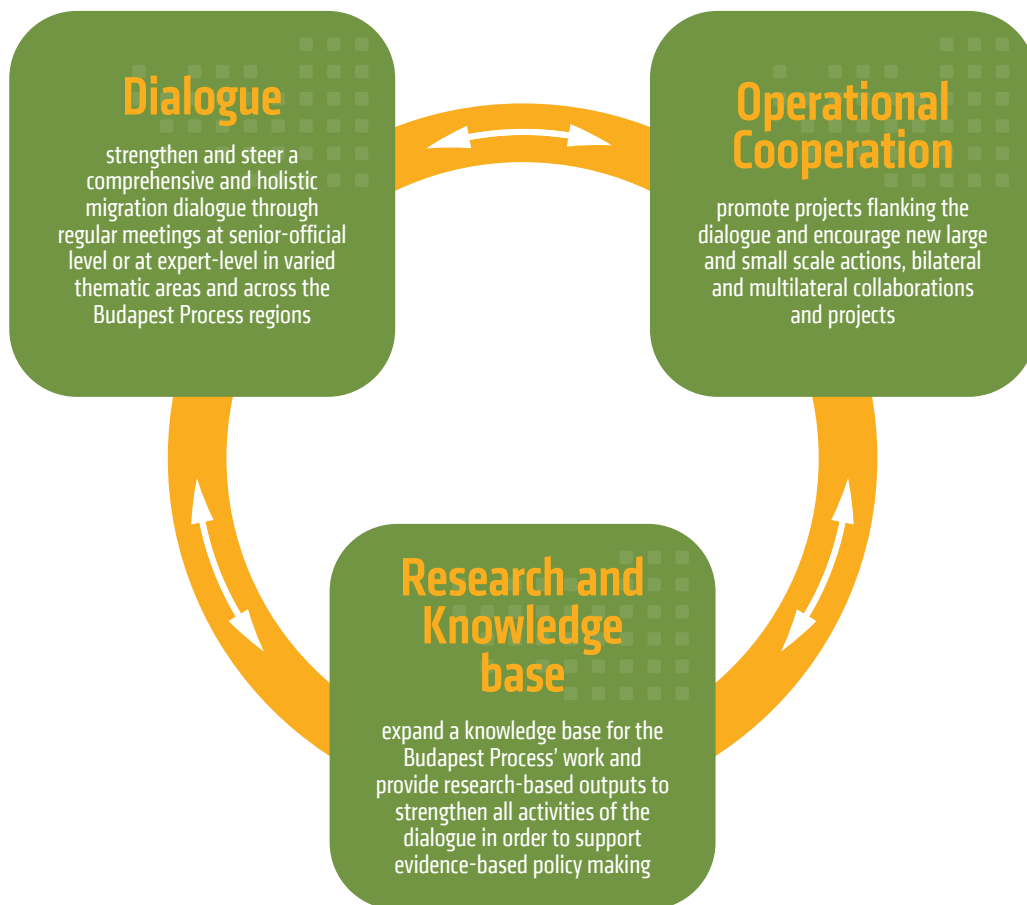
Objective



The **overall purpose** of the strategic document is to provide information on what and how to implement activities under the umbrella of the Budapest Process which respond to the action points listed in the Call for Action. The strategy is to separate activities taken linked to the Call for Action under three separate pillars and to suggest a results-oriented learning tool. The implementation plan with a list of activities under the three pillars is presented in the last section.




Description of the implementation pillars



1. Dialogue

Senior Officials Meetings (SOM) take place once a year and are chaired by Turkey and co-chaired by Hungary. SOMs steer the dialogue and take stock of activities implemented in the course of the year. They are also the opportunity to take stock of the activities in the projects flanking the dialogue and the annual expenditures.



Working Group (WG) meetings usually take place 2-3 times a year depending on the strategic priorities, chaired by the respective WG Chair and with the support of the Chairmanship and Secretariat. **Three Regional Working Groups** (Silk Routes Region, Black Sea Region and South East European Region) currently support the Budapest Process Senior Officials. Regional WG meetings will focus on the six priority goals and their related actions laid out in the “Call for Action”. They present an opportunity to share good practices, discuss common standards and work towards further developing concrete initiatives and deliverables based on the priority areas listed in the “Call for Action”.

2. Operational Cooperation

Operational cooperation is crucial and primarily focuses on **activities in the Silk Routes Region**. The Black Sea Region and the South East European Region may also be involved as part of the migration routes in these activities. Operational cooperation includes **capacity building activities** (expert consultations, peer-to-peer exchanges, training sessions, technical workshops and study visits etc.) which will be developed and implemented. Furthermore, **new projects in the Silk Routes Region which relate to the Call for Action** will be developed based on the needs and findings of ongoing activities under the umbrella of the Budapest Process.

Currently, the following two projects linked to the Budapest Process are being implemented in the Silk Routes countries:

- **“Improving Migration Management in the Silk Routes Region”²** (12 M € / 2017-2021) funded by the European Union: This project builds upon earlier projects and initiatives³ linked to the Budapest Process. It funds a significant part of the Dialogue (See “Funding Section”). It also enhances migration governance and mobility and operationalises the Budapest Process through concrete initiatives such as the establishment of further Migrant Resource Centres (MRCs), the Silk Routes Facility for capacity building, Protection of Migrants’ Rights (MIGRA.P) and continuation of the Regional Law Enforcement Cooperation on irregular migration, migrant smuggling and human trafficking (RELEC) initiative.
- **“Integrated Border Management in the Silk Routes Countries”** (12 M € / 2019-2022) funded by the European Union: The EU-funded Integrated Border Management in the Silk Routes Countries builds on the foundation laid by the EU-funded project “Improving Migration Management in Silk Routes Countries”. This project seeks to support the countries in the region to build more effective and efficient border management sys-

² More information at: <https://www.budapestprocess.org/migration-in-the-silk-routes/148-improving-migration-management>

³ “Silk Routes Partnership Project” (4 M € / 2014-2017) funded by the European Union, Hungary (Lead Partner), Bulgaria, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey and the United Kingdom

“Bridging Measures for Migration Management in the Silk Routes Region” (~200.000 € / 2013-2014) funded by the United Kingdom

“Fostering Migration Cooperation in the Silk Routes Region” (~ 620.000 € / 2011-2013) funded by The Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland and Turkey

tems, and, in doing so, strengthen the capacity of state authorities to combat irregular migration, encourage safe migration, and enhance trade and prosperity across borders. Training sessions on effective border management and document identification are a few examples of planned activities.

3. Research and Knowledge Base

In order to ensure high quality meetings and operational activities in the regions, the Budapest Process provides evidence-based outputs. Aside from producing background papers and relevant presentations for meetings the following other formats will be used: policy briefs, research briefs, videos, country profiles, guidelines, lessons learned, academic input, expert voices, case studies, mapping exercises, data management and forecasting on migration trends etc.

Results-oriented Learning Tool




Over the next five years, the participating states and organisations of the Budapest Process have committed to implementing a series of activities aimed at realising the six priority goals and 41 actions of the Call for Action. Participating states and organisations plan to develop meetings, short-term capacity building activities, projects and knowledge-based products to expand evidence available to drive the dialogue. To support the Call for Action, the Budapest Process Secretariat plans to develop a ‘results-oriented learning tool’ aimed at **ensuring on-going learning and feedback from activities while in the field as well as tracking and assessing results**.

The Secretariat plans to build this tool in the first half of 2020 in a series of five steps. These steps include developing and refining:

1. a map of “Silk Routes-relevant” projects in the field
2. appropriate outputs and outcomes and companion S.M.A.R.T. indicators⁴ for each of the priority goals to be assigned to each activity

4 Specific, measurable, achievable, relevant and timebound indicators

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3. an implementation plan for the tool
 4. a feedback plan for sharing and learning from indicators
 5. reporting on results and learning to inform decision-making about the Call for Action and broader Silk Routes priorities moving forward.

Because the tool should reflect both learning from the field and the evolving priorities of the dialogue itself, the Secretariat will update it likely annually. The team will compile promising and effective practices that contribute to the Call for Action priorities through the tool and deploy this learning to refine and focus the tool itself.

Funding



The **European Union (EU) contributes to the dialogue** through the present project “Improving Migration Management in the Silk Routes Region” (12 M € / 2017-2021). The budget dedicated to the dialogue component is approximately 1.7 million Euros for four years. The EU-funded project “Integrated Border Management in the Silk Routes Countries” (12 M € / 2019 – 2022) is also funding activities which flank the dialogue.

In addition, it is a unique feature of the Budapest Process dialogue to be partially funded by bilateral voluntary contributions with an approximate 200.000 Euros annually.

The present level of bilateral funding covers a portion of the regional working group meetings and the Senior Officials Meeting. For the next year, the usual level of contributions from donors is foreseen. Regular donors in the last years include Turkey, Hungary, Switzerland, Poland, Norway and Finland.

However, the implementation of the **“Call for Action” goes hand in hand with the need for additional funding**, outside of the current funding structure so far mainly funded by the EU. These additional funds will be raised in addition to the bilateral contributions received from donors.

Implementation Plan



The **implementation plan is flexible and non-binding**. It provides suggestions based on consultations for activities and can be further revised on an annual basis depending on states' priorities. Participating states and organisations are welcome to provide suggestions or ad hoc requests throughout the implementation period (2019-2024). Approximately 5-7 activities are foreseen per year.

- Dialogue
- Operational Cooperation
- Research and Knowledge Base

Priority Goal		Action	Indicative timeline	Comments
Prevent and counteract irregular migration, facilitate return and readmission of irregular migrants, and combat criminal networks involved in smuggling of migrants	1.1	Thematic meeting on sustainable return and reintegration: best practices and lessons learned	2020	connected
	1.2	Lessons learned on return and reintegration: what works, what doesn't	2020	
	1.3	Working Group meeting/thematic meeting on dismantling of smuggling and trafficking networks with law enforcement experts: investigation techniques, online decoding of smugglers	2020	BS RWG or for all Link with PG 5
	1.4	Training and capacity building activities in the area of document security.	2021	partially covered by EU IBM Silk Routes project
	1.5	Organising and hosting a study visit for senior officials responsible for border protection and prevention of irregular migration from the Western Balkan countries	2021	BS RWG / SEE RWG
	1.6	Project in partnership with law enforcement agencies in the Silk Routes with a view to develop national strategies on countering irregular migration through provision of capacity building at regional and national levels	2022-2024	Follow-up to both EU Silk Routes projects
	1.7	Baseline needs assessment of Countries of Origin on livelihood opportunities for returnees	2020	Link with PG 4
	1.8	Meeting on the harmonisation of common standards for identification of irregular migrants in South East Europe	2023	SEE RWG

<i>Better organise and improve conditions for legal migration and mobility</i>	2.1	Expert meeting looking into skills development and matching and accreditation, recognition and certification needs and sharing experiences between countries	2021	connected SR RWG
	2.2	Research brief: how to promote skills development? Good practices	2021	
	2.3	Working group meeting on labour migration and assessment of legal pathways for migration	2020	combined SR + BS RWG
	2.4	Expert meeting exploring the nexus between visa facilitation/mobility for bona fide travellers and return/readmission	2023	
	2.5	Expert voice: what is the role of the private sector in promoting legal pathways and labour mobility?	2020	
<i>Support the integration of migrants and counter-act discrimination, racism and xenophobia</i>	3.1	Raise awareness on ways to counter xenophobia, racism and related intolerance	2022-2024	connected
	3.2	Thematic meeting on the topic of integration and overview of national perspectives	2023	
	3.3	Integration: background paper, lessons learned in Europe and case studies concerning migrants from the Silk Routes	2023	
	3.4	Foster city to city cooperation by sharing knowledge between cities through focus groups and subsequent study visit(s) between local municipalities	2022	
<i>Strengthen the positive impact of migration on development, both in countries of origin and of destination</i>	4.1	Thematic workshop alongside the financial/banking sector and diaspora to explore ways for financial inclusion, including more efficient remittance transfers	2021	connected SR RWG
	4.2	Mapping of diaspora stakeholders for the Silk Routes countries in Europe and remittances channels	2021	
<i>Prevent and combat trafficking in persons, address its root causes and provide adequate protection and support to trafficked persons</i>	5.1	Expert meeting on exchange of best practices concerning identification and protection of victims of trafficking in South East European Region	2022	connected SEE RWG
	5.2	Research brief: on identification and protection of victims of trafficking in South East Europe	2022	
	5.3	Thematic Meeting on identification and assistance to victims of trafficking in human being including on cultural and gender aspects	2022	
	5.4	Training for officials on national and transnational referral of trafficked persons	2023	

<i>Promote international protection and the respect of the rights of refugees, in line with international standards</i>	6.1	Thematic meeting on promoting a rights-based approach for vulnerable groups on the move, including unaccompanied minors	2021	connected
	6.2	Case studies on vulnerable groups on the move including unaccompanied minors	2021	
	6.3	Joint meeting of asylum authorities in the South East European Region to improve the cooperation of international protection of people on the move	2020	SEE RWG
	6.4	Expert meeting on how to enhance solidarity with countries hosting large number of refugees especially in protracted ones	2023	SR RWG
	6.5	Organise a study visit to the EU on asylum system including reception centres: good practices for a rights-based approach	2023	SEE RWG / SR RWG
<i>Cross-cutting</i>	7.1	Thematic meeting on migration data management and analysis for evidence based migration policies	2022	BS RWG and open to all
	7.2	Expert meeting on forecasting and geopolitical outlook on migration trends in the next five years	2022	
	7.3	Thematic meeting on addressing the root causes of migration	2023	Link PG4
	7.4	Thematic meeting on introducing gender aspects into migration policy making	2022	
	7.5	Study on the drivers of migration with a focus of new drivers including climate-induced migration	2023	
	7.6	Implementation of Migration Policies in the Silk Routes Countries	2021-2024	Follow-up to the Silk Routes Project
	7.7	Organise a technical workshop to review innovative technologies (used in the area of migration) and share experiences in this regard	2022	
	7.8	Establishment of an international migration research and cooperation center to enable sustainable research and training capacities for government authorities and other relevant institutions in the area of migration to strengthen complementary migration management in the regions of the Budapest Process	2021-2024	
	7.9	Develop awareness raising strategies and raise awareness for migrants on safe and regular migration as well as on the dangers and consequences of irregular migration	ongoing	Link with Silk Routes Project
	7.10	Facilitate cooperation between the South East European Regional Working Group and the Silk Routes Regional Working Group to initiate regular migration cooperation	2021	SEE RWG
	7.11	Support the development of migration priorities of SEE Regional Working Group (Migration Agenda)	2022-2024	SEE RWG