

About the project: GDISC Ukraine - Capacity Building and Technical Support to Ukrainian Authorities to Effectively Respond to Irregular Transit-Migration (ERIT)

The project aims at strengthening the dialogue between Ukraine and the European Immigration services, represented by GDISC, the General Directors of Immigration Services Conference. With the Czech Republic in the lead, the project addresses the following intervention areas:

1. Screening centres (module 1): led by the Office of Immigration and Nationality, Hungary;
2. Asylum procedure (module 2): led by Office for Aliens, Poland;
3. Country-of-Origin Information (module 3): led by the Migration Office, Ministry of Interior, Slovakia;

4. Detention capacity (module 4): led by the Ministry of Interior, Department for Asylum and Migration Policy, Czech Republic;
5. Return capacity (module 5): led by the Border and Immigration Agency, Home Office, UK;
6. Visa capacity (module 6): led by the Immigration and Naturalisation Service, the Netherlands.

ICMPD provides the requisite technical services and logistics, and deploys a project Liaison Officer to Kyiv to regularly brief all stakeholders.

The project started in February 2008 and lasts 24 months.

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Photo: Participants at the high level meeting in Ukraine: four members of the ICMPD project team; Zdenek Kral, Deputy Director of the Department for Asylum and Migration Policy, Czech Ministry of the Interior; Bert Van Hoorn, Deputy Director of Repatriation, Immigration and Naturalization Service of the Netherlands; Tomas Urubek, Head of the Unit for International Relations, Czech Ministry of the Interior; Wiet van Banning, International Project Manager, International Projects Bureau, the Immigration and Naturalization Service of the Netherlands; Zdenek Belonoznik, Liaison Officer; and Martijn Pluim, Director, Capacity Building and Operations department, both ICMPD.



High Level GDISC ERIT Meeting, Kiev, 26 March 2008

Photo: Ukrainian participants of the high level meeting. From left to right: Ms. Olga Dzyubiy, State Department for Legislation Approximation, Ministry of Justice; Mr. Boris Marchenko, Director of Department of Work with Foreigners, State Border Guard Service; Mr. Ivan Rybalko, Department for Citizenship, Immigration and Registration of Physical Persons (DCIRPP), Ministry of Interior; Mr. Sergeyi Radutnyi, Deputy Director of DCIRPP, Ministry of Interior; Mr. Sergeyi Borodinkov, Deputy Director of the Consular Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs.



The high level meeting to the GDISC ERIT Ukraine project, called jointly by the Czech Ministry of Interior (project leader) and the Immigration and Naturalization Service of the Netherlands (GDISC secretariat) took place on 26th of March 2008 at the Dutch Embassy in Kiev. It gathered high-ranking representatives of the Ukrainian partner

authorities, e.g. Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the State Committee for Nationalities and Religion and the State Border Guard Service as well as the EC Delegation to Ukraine and ICMPD.

The aim of the meeting was to sum up the latest developments in the project preparatory phase and draw up a plan of further steps. However, contributions and the subsequent discussion also touched upon other important issues linked to the project, its global perspectives and the process of improvement of the Ukrainian migration management as such. The high level meeting was followed by ERIT team meetings with representatives of other stakeholders in Ukraine (UNHCR, IOM, Söderköping Process, Danish Refugee Council and Caritas Austria). The aim was to learn more about ongoing, planned and already conducted activities in Ukraine in the area of migration capacity building and to ensure right from the beginning that the future ERIT project activities neither duplicate nor to overlap with activities of other organisations.



Introduction from Tomas Haisman, Director General of Asylum and Migration Policy Department of the Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic:

Dear partners, colleagues, readers,

The Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic succeeded in receiving a grant from the European Commission for financing the GDISC ERIT Ukraine project under AENEAS 2006. This success is a result of close co-operation between the authorities of Ukraine and six GDISC member states (Czech Republic, Hungary, Netherlands, Poland, Slovakia and United Kingdom), which will also be actively involved in respective project modules, supported by ICMPD that is responsible for the management of the project implementation.

The Ukrainian migration system has advanced and developed significantly during the last ten to fifteen years. This is due to an intensive and concentrated effort of the relevant Ukrainian state

authorities, whose input has been decisive and irreplaceable. The external co-operation aspect and the role of the European Commission, which is the significant donor for a big part of projects in Ukraine, are very important.

Needs and aims of the Ukrainian institutions are fundamental and necessary aspects of continuity for further developments for us, for this

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reason we attach high importance to close co-operation with the Ukrainian partners. The project also aims to support the implementation of the priorities of the European Neighbourhood Policy and implementation of the EU - Ukraine readmission agreement, as well as to develop a corresponding ground for concluding of similar agreements with third countries.

In close co-operation with Ukrainian authorities and with other stakeholders in Ukraine, the GDISC

ERIT project must be maximally original, but not individualistic, i.e. it must build on what had been done, and follow-up, and develop further in an innovative spirit. The main innovation we see in the very close co-operation between state institutions. The idea of co-operation on the level of state bodies builds on the presumption that aims and needs of state bodies are very similar in many respects; be it in GDISC States or in Ukraine. Jointly, we can identify the gaps and address them.

The technical assistance is of equal importance. Know-how, which is not supported by concrete technical assistance, cannot fulfil the required aims. Following the AENEAS programme philosophy, the know-how transfer, and its technical support, is highlighted in ERIT.

The added value aspect of deepening the relations between state bodies of EU MS and Ukraine will create a firm basis for the future bilateral and multilateral co-operation.

I wish GDISC ERIT, which started in February 2008 and is foreseen to last two years, to be a fruitful, efficient and successful joint effort of our states.



Mr Dirk Schuebel, Head of the Political, Press and Information Section, who represented the EC Delegation

at the high-level meeting on AENEAS 2006-funded project “GDISC ERIT UKRAINE” conveyed a very clear and supportive message at the beginning of the meeting. He said:

“The Commission highly welcomes the active involvement of EU Member States in supporting Ukraine in improving the national services’ capacity in dealing with irregular migrants and asylum seekers. In particular “new” Member States have gained exhaustive experience to overcome the transition period and to harmonize their norms and standards with those of the EU. This expertise, combined with the expertise of the “old” Member States will be a good basis to help Ukraine approximating their norms and standards in the area of asylum and migration with those of the EU. This objective is fully in line with the EU-Ukraine ENP Action Plan and the EU-Ukraine Action Plan on Justice, Freedom and Security.

The project is coming timely in respect of the implementation of the EC-Ukraine readmission agreement. When concluding the readmission agreement, the European Community had declared to help Ukraine in establishing necessary infrastructure and procedural standards for the proper implementation of the agreement. Such assistance is important since Ukraine has been frequently criticised for the poor detention standards and procedures in place, by the Council of Europe’s Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment (CPT), as well as by a number of human rights organisations, such as Amnesty

International, Human Rights Watch, the International Helsinki Committee and others.

The European Commission, through two projects implemented by the International Organization for Migration (“Capacity Building in Migration Management” – CBMM), has already made available more than EUR 7 million for the establishment of a Migrant Custody Centre in Zhuravychi in Volyn oblast, which will be opened this year by the Ministry of Internal Affairs, as well as for the renovation of Special Holding Facilities in Izmail (Odessa oblast), Malniv (Lviv oblast), Chernivtsi (Chernivtsi oblast), and Shatsk (Volyn oblast), all maintained by the State Border Guard Service. A second Migrant Custody Centre,

“The Commission highly welcomes the active involvement of EU Member States in supporting Ukraine in improving the national services’ capacity in dealing with irregular migrants and asylum seekers.”

mainly funded by the Ministry of Internal Affairs and located in Chernihiv oblast, will also be opened this year.

The European Commission has allocated EUR 30 million under its ENPI 2007 National Programme for Ukraine for improving infrastructure and procedures related to the accommodation and treatment of irregular migrants (“Readmission-related assistance”). Under this project, it is planned to create five additional Migrant Custody Centres in Ukraine. The Ministry of Internal Affairs has already pre-selected some sites which need now to be evaluated for their suitability for being refurbished into custody centres.

The full respect of determined human rights standards is a key priority and conditionality for such assistance. The GDISC project should complement both, the ongoing CBMM projects as well as

the planned readmission-related project. Close contact should therefore be held with the EC Delegation (Mr. Bogensperger) who is in charge of both projects.

Much is also ongoing in the field of asylum. The EC has funded an asylum project which was implemented from 2003 – 2006 by UNHCR. Under this project, Temporary Accommodation Centres for asylum seekers (TAC) have been established in Odessa and in Mukachevo. The State Committee for Nationalities and Religion has funded the creation of another TAC in the Zakarpathian oblast.

Moreover, the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) is currently implementing a twinning-type asylum project which is financed under the EC’s 2005 AENEAS programme. A Resident Technical Adviser has her office in the premises of the State Committee for Nationalities and Religion. It is therefore crucial to cooperate with UNHCR, the DRC and the Söderköping Secretariat so that the GDISC project will be complementary to ongoing activities.

In particular under the Söderköping Process, many seminars and trainings on asylum-related matters as well as study tours to EU Member States have been conducted in recent years. Quite importantly, a feasibility study on local integration of refugees has been completed and is now available – it can be obtained from the Söderköping Secretariat (located in the UNHCR premises in Kyiv).

The Commission is looking forward to a close cooperation with GDISC and the national partners involved in the project. With joint efforts we can contribute to Ukraine’s overall political goal, i.e. to approximate to EU standards. Please feel free to contact the EC Delegation whenever necessary. The EC Delegation will certainly closely follow the development of the project.”

Project timetable:

Month	Date	Activities						
		high level mission	Planning missions	report on planning	project	inception report	steering group meeting	kick off conference
March	03-07							
	10-14							
	17-21							
	24-28	26.March						
April	31-04		M2					
	07-11							
	14-18		M1, M5					
	21-25		M3, M4, M6					
	28-02							
May	05-09							
	12-16							
	19-23							
	26-30				27. May			
June	02-06							
	09-13							
	16-20							
	23-27							

Overview of inception phase activities:

- GDISC Introductory high level mission to Ukraine, March 26 - 27, 2008
- Planning Missions to Ukrainian counterpart institutions & other key international organisations (April 2008)
- Development of a tailored work plan (2008)
- Inception Report (End of May 2008)
Steering Group Meeting (2nd or 3rd week of June 2008)

Project Registration:

According to Ukraine law, all foreign projects need to be registered with the Ministry of Economy. The registration process requires full support and endorsement of the project of all beneficiary authorities in Ukraine. Due to ICMPD's previous experience, the registration procedure is running smoothly. Four out of five letters of endorsement were already received by March 2008, and it is expected that the complete documentation will soon be ready for forwarding. Subsequently, the project will be issued with a Project Registration Card. Technical assistance can only commence once this registration process has been completed.

Planning missions:

The planning missions will be conducted during April. Their purpose is to gain an overview of the latest developments and the needs of UA counterparts in the respective field of the project. For each project module/component a five-day a mission is foreseen. The missions are attended by the leading expert from the lead country of each module together with the project module manager. The agenda of the missions is elaborated in close co-operation between the leading expert, the project module manager from ICMPD and the respective Ukrainian counterpart. Travel arrangements and logistics are provided by ICMPD. The findings will be translated into specific and tailored activities, which will form the basis for the inception report.

Project Coordination Group Meeting:

This working level body will meet after completion of all planning missions with the aim to discuss the draft inception report on **May 27, 2008 in Vienna at ICMPD Headquarters.**

Steering Group Meeting:

The Steering Group Meeting encompasses high level representatives of all the project partners as well as the Ukrainian counterparts and the EC. The first meeting of this body will take place at the end of the inception phase (tentatively the second or third week in June) and will at the same time constitute the kick-off of the project implementation.

Steering Group:

Members:

- High level representation of partner states (6)
- High level representation of Ukrainian partner institutions (5)
- EC delegation (1)

Meetings:

At least three times in the course of the project

- End of inception phase (2 or 3 week of June 2008 in Kyiv)
- Mid-project review (February 2009)
- Final evaluation/end of the project (January 2010)

To discuss and agree on:

- Inception report
- Benchmarks

The ERIT Project Team: Vienna ICMPD Headquarters (Gonzagagasse 1, 1010 Vienna)



Project Coordinator
Marcela Entlichova

E-mail: Marcela.Entlichova@icmpd.org
Tel: +43-1-504 46 77-79
Mobile: +43-699-14 20 29 46



Project Module Manager
for screening and detention centers

Radim Zak

E-mail: radim.zak@icmpd.org
Tel: +43-1-504 46 77 - 23
Mobile: +43 676 925 77 41



Project Module Manager
for asylum procedure and country of origin information

Martin Wagner

E-mail: martin.wagner@icmpd.org
Tel: +43-1-504 46 77 - 24
Mobile: +43 699 1189 2030



Project Module Manager
for visa and return capacity

Ann-Charlotte Nygard

E-mail: ann-charlotte.nygard@icmpd.org
Tel: +43-1-504 46 77 - 34
Mobile: +43-676-42029-34



Liaison Officer
Zdenek Belonoznik

E-mail: Zdenek.Belonoznik@icmpd-ua.org
Tel: +380 442 34 17 13
Mobile: +380 685 98 10 26

Kyiv ICMPD Office (Krutoy spusk 6, Kyiv)

The International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD), the organisation responsible for the management of the project implementation, is an inter-governmental organisation with 11 Member States. More than 50 states and 10 international organisations are involved in various ICMPD activities. ICMPD has not only rich experience in implementing EC projects but also projects in CIS countries, including Ukraine.



More information about the project can be found on the ICMPD website: www.icmpd.org or on the European Space website: eu.prostir.ua/news/10357.html

Ukrainian Partner Institutions:

- Department for Citizenship, Immigration and Registration of Physical Persons, Ministry of Interior
- State Committee for Nationalities and Religion
- State Border Guard Service
- Consular Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine
- State Department on Approximation of Legislation of the Ministry of Justice

Project partners:

- Czech Ministry of the Interior, Department for Asylum and Migration Policy (Lead)
- Office of Immigration and Nationality, Hungary
- Office for Aliens, Poland
- Migration Office, Ministry of Interior, Slovakia
- Border and Immigration Agency, Home Office, UK (new: UK Border Agency)
- Immigration and Naturalisation Service, the Netherlands
- International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) – project backstopping



Department for Asylum and Migration Policy, Czech Mol



Office of Immigration and Nationality, Hungary



Office for Repatriation and Aliens, Poland



Migration Office, Mol, Slovakia



Border and Immigration Agency, Home Office, UK



Immigration and Naturalization Service, the Netherlands



International Centre for Migration Policy Development