



PRESS RELEASE

Better management of migration – major initiative to train young professionals from Southern/Eastern Europe and Central Asia

The biggest international training programme for young people from Central Asia, the Caucasus, Southern and Central Europe on the critical issue of migration took place in Kachreti, Georgia from 30 June to 6 July 2019. Organised by ICMPD and funded by the European Union, this summer school targeted young professionals, government employees, students and civil society representatives. Violeta Wagner, ICMPD's Regional Portfolio Manager for Eastern Europe and Central Asia who organised the event, highlighted its importance as follows: "This international summer school has profound implications for the future management of migration and integration in the region, as these early career professionals and talented students will one day be shaping these nations' migration policies. The calibre and commitment of these young people has been astonishing and suggests that there is a bright future for migration policy making in the region."

Whereas the summer school only targeted students from Georgia and Azerbaijan in the past, its sixth edition expanded to the participating states of the Prague Process. As a result, it gathered participants from 16 nations: Albania, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Northern Macedonia, Russia, Serbia, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan. They received training on various migration-related issues ranging from economics, law, human rights, development, media, to statistics and integration. The summer school's teachers and professors represented some of the world's leading universities, including the Universities of Oxford and Sussex in the UK, the Universities of Maastricht and Leiden in the Netherlands and the Sorbonne.

Suleyman Suleymanov, 21 years old, student, Azerbaijan: "It has been a great experience. The project enriched our understanding about migration issues and helped us analyse it from various points of view, and from basic facts to academic theories. It was a great opportunity to learn from the highly specialised researchers."

"It was also the perfect opportunity to exchange ideas and knowledge among young professionals from diverse nations and backgrounds. On top of improving my knowledge of the subject - from elementary to advanced level - I was able to learn practical skills and develop my previous knowledge of the issue. It was also fantastic getting to know people from different countries, establish friendships and have fun."

For more information, please contact:

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The International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD), established in 1993 by Austria and Switzerland, is an international organisation that works in migration-related fields. ICMPD carries out its activities throughout the world, including in Europe, Africa, Central Asia, the Middle East and Latin America. Through its six Competence Centres, ICMPD provides its 15 Member States and numerous partners with in-depth knowledge and expertise in dealing with migration. It does so through using a holistic 3-pillar approach: research, capacity building and migration dialogues.

The 2019 International Summer School on Migration was organised as a part of the EU-funded “Sustaining Migration Management in Georgia” (ENIGMMA 2), the “Support to the Implementation of the Mobility Partnership with Azerbaijan” (MOBILAZE) and the “Prague Process: Dialogue, Analyses and Training in Action” (PP DATA) projects, implemented by the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD). ENIGMMA 2 and MOBILAZE projects are carried out in close cooperation with the Delegations of the European Union to Georgia and Azerbaijan, the national stakeholders involved in migration management in both countries, as well as EU member states. PP DATA sustains and further enhances the established cooperation in the area of migration and asylum between 50 countries of the European Union, Schengen Area, Eastern Partnership, Western Balkans, Central Asia, Russia and Turkey. The joint implementation of the Summer School allowed for broader regional cooperation between the academic staff, students and state institutions involved.

Find more information on ICMPD at www.icmpd.org and on ICMPD activities in Georgia and Azerbaijan here: www.enigma.ge and <https://www.facebook.com/ICMPDinGeorgia> and <https://www.facebook.com/ICMPDinAzerbaijan>. For more information on the Prague Process, please see: www.pragueprocess.eu and <https://www.facebook.com/PragueProcess>.