



EASTERN PARTNERSHIP

Panel on Migration and Asylum

Ad Hoc Meeting on Registration, Integration and Internally Displaced Persons Kyiv, 4-5 June 2015

CONCEPT PAPER

In relation to the Eastern neighborhood of the European Union the situation for internally displaced persons is of crucial importance. The current conflict in Eastern Ukraine, as well as frozen conflicts in the Caucasus and Moldova are in many aspects linked to internal displacement.

The emergence of IDPs as a category of individuals in need of protection became more visible in the 1990s and onwards. At the end of 2013, there were an estimated 33.3 million internally displaced people around the world¹.

In Ukraine, over 1.1 million women, men and children have become internally displaced according to official figures since April 2014 as a consequence of the annexation of Crimea and the violent conflict in the east of the country². In addition, the Eastern Partnership countries face situations of protracted displacement caused by several armed conflicts since the end of the Soviet Union.

Given the renewed topicality of the issue, the Eastern Partnership Panel on Migration and Asylum, in consultation with Ukraine as a host, and the Czech Republic as a co-host, proposes to hold an ad hoc meeting dedicated to internal displacement and the correlated topics of registration and integration, including of displaced and mobile populations.

The one-day meeting will be divided into four main sessions, each allowing to exchange best practices, challenges and lessons learned, through panel discussions and presentations delivered by the EU and its Member States (EU MS), Eastern Partnership countries, international organisations, academia and civil society.

¹ Global Overview 2014 – People internally displaced by conflicts and violence” Internal Displacement Monitoring Center of the Norwegian Refugee Council <http://www.internal-displacement.org/assets/publications/2014/201405-global-overview-2014-en.pdf>

² Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine, 10 March 2015 - http://www.mlsp.gov.ua/labour/control/uk/publish/article?art_id=173599&cat_id=107177



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Session I – Legal concepts and policy framework applicable to situations of internal displacement

The main human rights guarantees are enshrined in the European Convention on Human Rights, and reflected in the UN Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement as well as several Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly Recommendations and Resolutions³. Speakers from the UN (UNHCR), the EU and the Council of Europe as well as civil society and academia will be invited to present the different relevant applicable legal and policy tools. Ukraine, Georgia and Western Balkan countries will present an overview of the overall national framework to address and mitigate the effects of past and current displacement situations. Due attention will also be paid to sketching out the main challenges and vulnerabilities that are inherent to internal displacement and that range from socio-economic difficulties to increased vulnerability and risks of exploitation.

Session II – Snapshot: Ukraine

The topic of IDPs is particularly relevant for Ukraine, having to cope with and support over one million internally displaced persons. Therefore, Ukraine will present its institutional and practical set-up to address the situation and share main lessons learned and challenges faced. Further, the conflict in Ukraine has not only triggered internal displacement but also increased cross-border movements to neighbouring countries as well as asylum applications submitted by Ukrainian citizens. In this respect, Armenia, Belarus and Poland will be invited to share their experience with Ukrainian migrants and asylum-seekers.

Session III – Registration of internally displaced and mobile populations

Efficient and reliable mechanisms for timely and accessible registration of displaced individuals is crucial not only to understand the scope and flows of internal movement, but also to ensure that the persons who had to flee conflict or other types of violence have access to all basic services and fundamental rights. At the same time, registration of large numbers of persons over very short timeframes and without prior preparation is an extremely challenging task, from the legal, logistical and technical points of view. Session II will therefore be dedicated to exchange of best practices and lessons learned in setting up and implementing registration (and referral) mechanisms for displaced persons. The Western Balkan countries and Georgia will be asked to complement the presentation by Ukraine on the current set-up. In addition, EU MS will be asked to share their thoughts and practices in registration of mobile populations, to broaden the picture and explore additional avenues and ideas.

Session IV – Integration of internally displaced persons

Conflicts and violence are generally at the source of internal displacement, making return impossible or extremely difficult. Therefore integration is a measure to be considered at the earliest stage of displacement. In order to be sustainable and viable, integration policies need

³ Recommendation 1631 (2003), Recommendation 1667 (2004), Resolution 1497 (2006), Recommendation 1570 (2002), Recommendation 1877 (2009)



to pay attention to the individuals to be supported but also to the host communities. This session will hence focus on frameworks and practices for integration, as well as on economic integration and social cohesion.

