

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Armenia and ICMPD deepen cooperation

**YEREVAN, 15 November 2016 – The Republic of Armenia and the International Centre for Migration Policy Development today signed a Seat Agreement, formalising long-standing bilateral relations.**

With the signature of the Seat Agreement ICMPD in Armenia commits itself to continuing supporting the Government of Armenia to develop migration policies and contribute toward wider cooperation and mobility in Europe. Cooperation between Armenia and ICMPD dates back to 2003 when Armenian authorities actively participated in the ICMPD-led migration dialogues. This partnership widened with implementation of a number of capacity building projects in the area of border management, trafficking in human beings and migration management.

“The Republic of Armenia has already had many years of close co-operation with ICMPD on various projects in the areas of migration and border management”, H.E. Edward Nalbandian, Minister of Foreign Affairs said upon signing the Seat Agreement. “I congratulate the organisation on the establishment of a permanent presence in our country and wish it every success in its important endeavours.”

“Armenia, considering its central location in a volatile region, is both a country of origin and of destination, hosting more than twenty thousand Syrian refugees. ICMPD is committed to supporting Armenia in finding holistic solutions to its migration challenges”, Ms Gabriela Abado, Deputy Director General of ICMPD, added. “We should keep in mind that migration is about people and ICMPD is ready to further support the Government of Armenia in designing and implementing policies that promote adherence to good international practices”.

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ICMPD has contributed to the following EU-funded initiatives and projects in the Republic of Armenia in cooperation with other international organisations:

- Budapest Process
- Prague Process
- Support to Migration and Border Management in Armenia (MIBMA)
- Migration EU eXpertise (MIEUX)
- Eastern Partnership (EaP) Integrated Border Management (IBM) Capacity Building Project
- Eastern Partnership cooperation in the fight against irregular migration – supporting the implementation of the Prague Process Action Plan' (EaP-SIPPAP)
- Eastern Partnership - Integrated Border Management Flagship Initiative Training Project (EaP IBM FIT)

- Provision of Equipment and Infrastructure for the Bagratashen – Sadakhlo Border Crossing Point between Armenia and Georgia and Enhancement of their Capacities (BSIBM)
- Enhancement of Border Management Capabilities at the Ninotsmida – Bavra Border Crossing Point (NBIBM)
- Supporting Integrated Border Management Systems in the South Caucasus (SCIBM)
- Strengthening of comprehensive anti-trafficking responses in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia

## **ABOUT THE INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR MIGRATION POLICY DEVELOPMENT**

The International Centre for Migration Policy Development is a key player in the migration field. The organisation has 15 member states and carries out activities throughout the world, including Sub-Saharan Africa, North Africa, the Middle East and Central Asia. The Vienna-based organization has a mission in Brussels and project offices in 16 countries. Founded in 1993, ICMPD served as a support mechanism for informal consultations and to provide expertise in multilateral cooperation on migration and asylum issues. The principles of partnership and balancing of interests are the foundation of the organisation.

## **MORE INFORMATION AND INTERVIEW REQUESTS**

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