



Office for Democratic Institutions
and Human Rights
Organization for Security
and Co-operation in Europe



International Organization for Migration
Technical Cooperation Centre
for Europe and Central Asia

Workshop on Cross-Border Cooperation and Development of Migration Legislation

Almaty, Kazakhstan

October 29 - 31, 2001

Summary Report

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE/ODIHR) organized an international workshop on **Cross-border Co-operation and Development of Migration Legislation** in Almaty, Kazakhstan from 29 to 31 October.

Participants from ten countries of Eastern Europe and Central Asia included the Advisor on migration issues to the President of the Russian Federation, the Deputy Foreign Minister of Georgia, the Deputy Minister of Justice of Kazakhstan, and parliamentarians from Kyrgyzstan, Moldova and Ukraine. Government officials from Central and Western Europe, and representatives of international organizations and NGOs were also present. The workshop was held as part of the Follow-up to the 1996 Geneva Conference on the Problems of Refugees, Displaced Persons, Migration and Asylum Issues. Its aim was to take a closer look at migration legislation as a reflection of migration policy and to discuss the role of international co-operation in legislative development and enhancement.

Considering the security challenges to states posed by irregular migration, the development of migration legislation compatible with international standards and best practices is of paramount importance. Harmonizing migration legislation on a regional level would benefit the management of international migration and facilitate the process of balancing state security interests with freedom of movement. The workshop examined in detail the experiences in migration policy and legislation of the Czech and Slovak Republics, before and after the break-up of the former Czechoslovakia, as well of

Lithuania, Canada, the United States, and the countries of the Schengen area. It addressed the relevance of these experiences for countries of Eastern Europe and Central Asia and the follow-up steps needed to enhance cooperation and development of migration legislation. Support and assistance in setting the workshop agenda and preparing materials was provided by the IOM Technical Cooperation Centre and the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights of the OSCE (ODIHR/OSCE), and significant logistic and organizational support was provided by IOM Almaty before, during and after the workshop. To request the CD with information on referenced materials during the workshop write to infotccvienna@iom.int

Experts to the Workshop: From Left to Right: Mr. Lubomir Mihocka, Slovak Republic; *Mr. Gervais Appave, IOM Geneva; Mr. Oakley Duff, Canada; Mr. Antanas Turcinas, Lithuania; Ms. Isabelle Mihoubi and Mr. Christoph Bierwirth, UNHCR.*