

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **New report presents how a path to legal residence impacts employment opportunities for migrants**

VIENNA, 28 March 2014 – ICMPD is releasing later today the final report for a study on the impact regularisation has had on employment opportunities for migrants who were in an irregular situation in seven European Union countries. The study, titled “Feasibility Study on the Labour Market Trajectories of Regularised Immigrants within the European Union (REGANE I)”, was funded by the European Union and was carried out from October 2012 to December 2013. Regularisation is a process that provides a path to legal residence for certain migrants in an irregular residence situation. Given the challenges these countries face in dealing with irregular migration, this process is an important policy tool for many EU countries in responding to the prolonged presence of migrants in an irregular situation. In the past two decades, at least 3.5 million persons have been regularised in the EU as whole through time-limited regularisation programmes and several hundred thousand persons have received legal residence status through permanent regularisation mechanisms. In addition to providing insight on how the regularisation process affects migrants’ success in the labour market, the study uncovered many other aspects that play an important role.

While there is a growing body of research on regularisation policies, there has been only limited research on their impacts. In particular, little is known on the effects of regularisation on employment opportunities for individuals. The results of the study indicate that opportunities to escape the informal labour market or, more generally, to improve one’s labour market status through regularisation, are shaped by a variety of factors, including the recognition of qualifications, access to (vocational) training, the length of residence (until regularisation), gender, the welfare system, the labour market structure and, finally, the migration regime. Thus, one must look at other factors in addition to regularisation to get a full picture of the employment opportunities for regularised migrants. This study, which is based on explorative qualitative research, provides a first step towards examining all these aspects and lays out the design and feasibility of a quantitative study that would provide a deeper understanding of the impacts of regularisation.

The publication can be downloaded [here](#).

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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. Although ICMPD has a European basis, it 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 the phenomena of migration. It does so through using a holistic 3-pillar approach: research, capacity building and migration dialogues.

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