International Dialogue on Migration 2026
Geneva, 2 November 2026
Statement by the Council of Europe

Panel 3: Follow the Evidence: Building trust through People-centred data, narratives, and inclusive policymaking.

The Council of Europe welcomes the 2026 International Dialogue on Migration, and the focus on trust in migration governance, an issue that has also been central in the recent activities of the Organisation. We pay particular attention to the need for fact-based and effective communication on migration, the promotion of inclusive migration governance and the support of promising practices in migration.

As public debate on migration is often affected by misinformation or disinformation, the Council of Europe considers very important to enhance in all 46 member states responsible and effective communication related to migration law and policy, including the implementation of the relevant judgments of the European Court of Human Rights. The vital role and impact of mainstream and social media in this context may not be overstated. For this, two Roundtables have been organised by the Council of Europe Division on Migration and Refugees in 2025 and 2026, engaging with eminent experts in migration and communication, journalists, NHRIs, CSOs and institutional representatives, providing the occasion for open and insightful discussions that may guide further systematic action in this area.

In this framework, positive action coming from promising, multi-level practices by European states can contribute to the protection of human rights of migrants and refugees and encourage inclusion. Some of these good practices have been identified and collected through the Council of Europe Network of Focal Points on Migration, and three missions conducted by the Division on Migration and Refugees in 2026, focusing on the reception and integration of war-displaced people from Ukraine. The missions included countries that received the highest numbers of displaced Ukrainians, Germany, Poland and Czechia, the national authorities of which have made exemplary efforts to respond to the needs of displaced people, both immediate and long-term. Despite the challenges, promising practices have been promoted in these countries, especially regarding access of Ukrainian children to schooling, language training, and access to labour markets.

Inclusive policymaking is likewise essential at the local level, where many migration-related policies are implemented. Through its Intercultural Cities Programme, the Council of Europe works systematically with a network of more than 160 cities, regions and local authorities in Europe and beyond. This active strategy, based on the principles of equality, dignity and diversity, supports the exchange of practical experiences, evidence-based policymaking and the development of inclusive local communities, recognising the role of local authorities in building resilient and participatory societies.

At the same time, having recognised through the 2026 Chisinau Ministerial Declaration, the need for a common response towards contemporary challenges in migration, based on human rights, democracy and the rule of law, the Council of

Europe aims to reinforce its Network of Focal Points on Migration, as a key platform for collaboration and exchange between its member states, to promote more inclusive and informed participation.

In conclusion, we would like to reiterate the strong support of the Council of Europe to IOM's initiatives such as the present one, but also its determination to reinforce inter-institutional cooperation. Indeed, this year's International Dialogue on Migration reflects the need of continued synergies to promote a migration governance based informed and people-centred policies, drawing on our common standards of human rights promoting open and inclusive societies.