Regional Consultative Processes and Data Exchange

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What are regional consultative processes on migration?

- Regional consultative processes (RCPs) are “repeated, regional meetings of states dedicated to discussing migration.” (Hansen, 2010)
- They share the common key features:
  - State-led and -owned
  - Informal
  - Flexible
  - Periodic meetings
  - Focus on areas of common interest and concern

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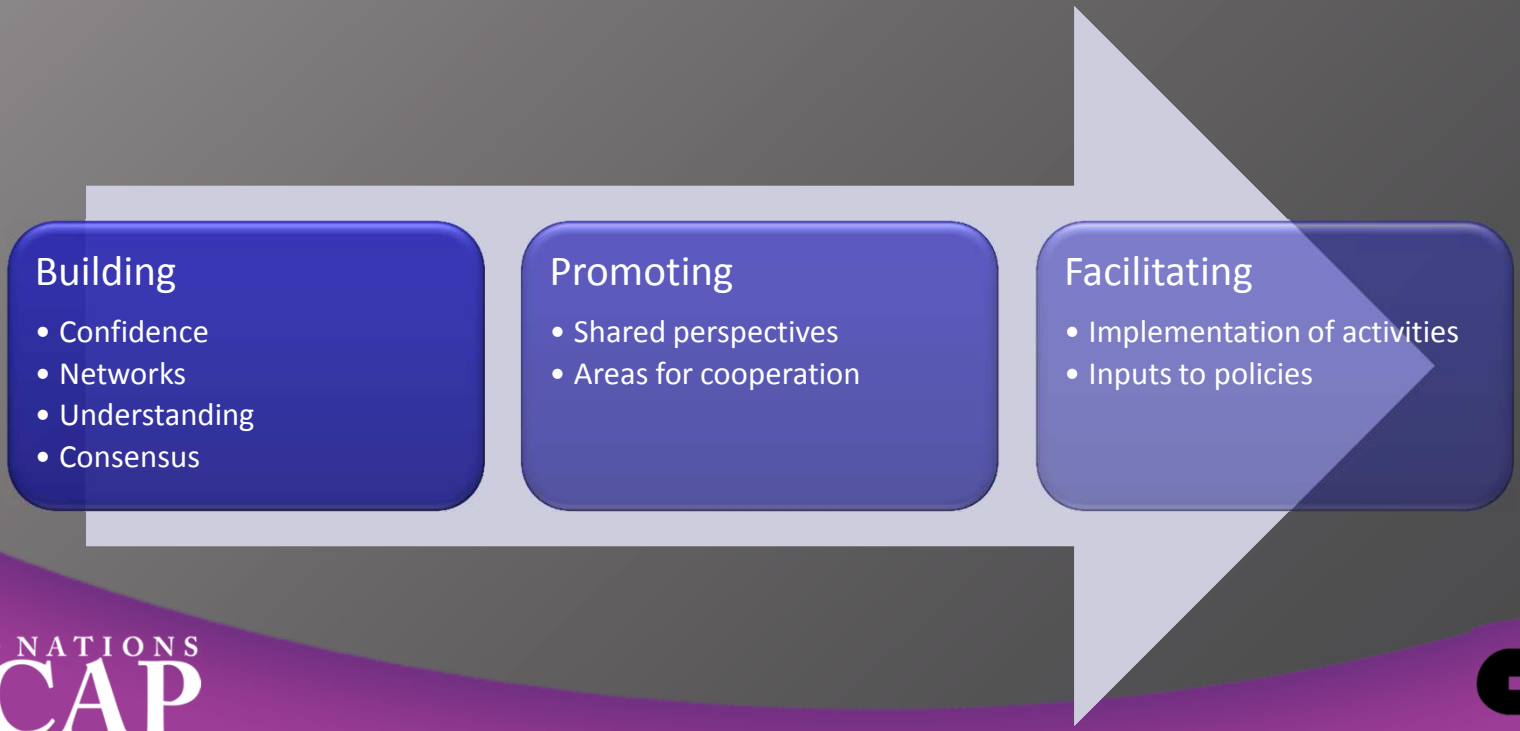
What is the purpose of RCPs?

- They are *not* negotiations
- They are a platform for non-binding dialogue and information exchange on migration issues



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RCPs in the Asia-Pacific region

- Ministerial Consultation on Overseas Employment and Contractual Labour for Countries of Origin in Asia (Colombo Process)
- Ministerial Consultations on Overseas Employment and Contractual Labour for Countries of Origin and Destination in Asia (Abu Dhabi Dialogue)
- Bali Process on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime

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RCPs and data

- Cooperation and exchange of data is key for migration policy-making…
- …However, exchange of data may be sensitive for countries
- The RCP methodology can therefore be helpful in paving the way for data exchange
  - Builds trust between actors
  - Shared understanding on data needs
  - Members retain control of data release
  - Mechanism to organise capacity-building activities

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Examples of RCPs addressing data issues

- Mediterranean Transit Migration Process i-Map
  - Member-State owned process
  - Consolidates data on wide range of migration topics
  - Specific portal for member States to share data on sensitive/confidential matters
  - Feeding into processes of dialogue and cooperation

www.imap-migration.org/fileadmin/Editor/Visualisations/MTM/i-Map_poster_14.05_ENGLISCH_Screen_reduced.pdf
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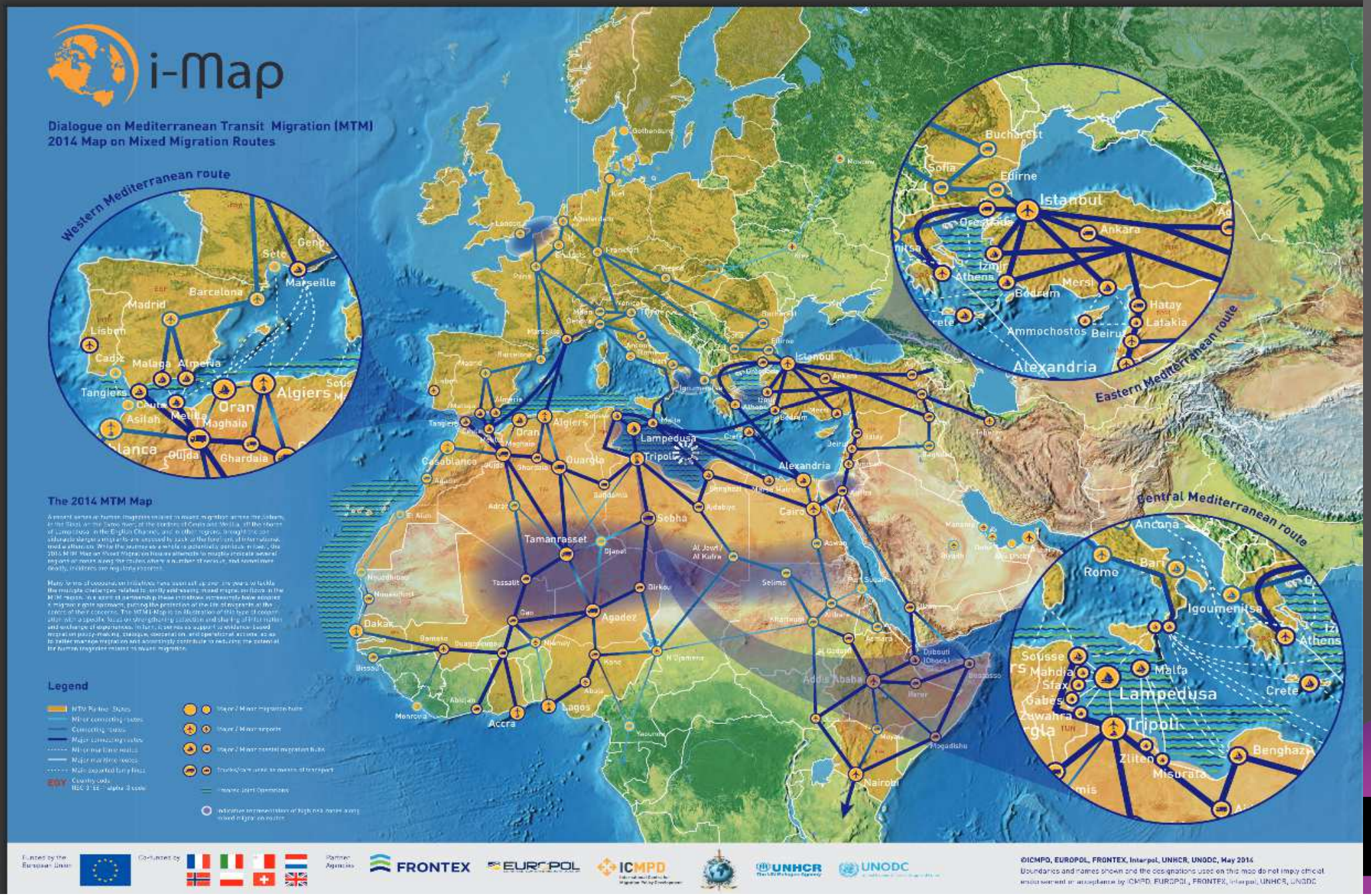

- Intergovernmental Consultation on Migration, Asylum and Refugees
  - Addresses migration data
  - Confidential portal to share data

Possibilities for RCPs to data exchange in Asia

- Colombo Process:
  - Set up a Thematic Area Working Group on migration data
- Abu Dhabi Dialogue
  - Introduce data-sharing as a potential area of dialogue

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Conclusions

- RCPs present a promising means of opening possibilities for building confidence towards data exchange between countries in migration corridors
- More could be done through existing processes to begin dialogue on these issues

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Thank you!

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