

MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT: A EURO-MEDITERRANEAN PERSPECTIVE

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RHODES



Discussion note

I. Introducing the Euro-Mediterranean perspective on Migration and Development

Managing migration has become a priority for policy makers both in developed and developing countries. Large immigration or emigration flows affect many aspects of an economy and society. Governments in migrant-sending and migrant-receiving countries are increasingly aware that better management of the phenomenon will generate greater gains for them -- and for migrants themselves. Interlinking migration and development policies can enhance the effectiveness of both and furthermore ease difficult trade-offs. Smart visa policies in receiving countries can be coupled with capacity building in sending countries; comprehensive partnerships can be established between home and host countries, supported by regional co-operation agreements and an effective engagement of diaspora networks.

This Euro-Mediterranean Migration and Development conference has been jointly organised by the Hellenic Migration Policy Institute (IMEPO) and the OECD Development Centre to discuss the outcomes of the *Gaining from Migration* project and to explore how to make these findings of greater relevance and utility to relevant stakeholders. The Conference aims to be a regional forum for experts and policy makers from migrant sending and receiving countries to share information, exchange ideas and tackle pressing policy issues.

Migration trends in the wider Euro-Mediterranean region will be presented and the potential synergies between migration and development policies will be explored. Country case studies co-ordinated by the OECD Development Centre with the support of the European Commission and IMEPO will be presented to demonstrate the diversity of migration experiences and the challenges for policy makers. Findings of this conference related to the potential for forging regional partnerships and improving the governance of migration and development co-operation will provide inputs to the first meeting of the Global Forum on Migration and Development to be organised by the Government of Belgium in Brussels 9 - 11 July 2007.

In order to encourage an informal and inclusive exchange of ideas, allocated speaking roles will be kept short. Chairs may give a short (2-5 min.) introduction to the session's topic, and Speakers will be invited to present in no more than 7-10 min. each.

The conference will take place at the Rodos Palace Hotel, Trianton Avenue, Ixia, Rhodes, Greece, Tel. +30 22410 25222.

II. The five sessions and three parallel workshops: background and guiding questions

Session 1

***Gaining From Migration* Report: Main Conclusions**

The *Gaining from Migration* report -- the salient findings and recommendations of which will be presented in this opening session -- is the concluding product of a project carried out at the OECD Development Centre between 2005 and 2007, in conjunction with the European Commission's Directorate for Employment and Social Affairs.

A review of the Report's findings will raise the following questions:

- How does immigration affect labour markets, unemployment and wages in receiving countries?
- What innovations would improve economic and social integration of migrants?
- What role can diaspora networks play in the new mobility system, in sending and receiving countries alike?
- How can international migration better serve the goals of economic development in sending countries?

Session 2

Migration Trends and Development Interlinkages

The current era might well come to be known as the “age of mobility.” More people will move more frequently, prompted not only by advances in transportation and communications, but also by two other major factors: the global competition for talent and the new demographics, which juxtaposes the developed world’s fast-growing old-age bulge with the developing world’s enormous youth bulge. At the same time, in recent years some of the traditional emigration countries in the Euro-Mediterranean region have become immigration countries.

What are the key characteristics of this emerging age of mobility in the Euro-Mediterranean region?

In answering this question, the discussion may include the following questions:

- What are the main migration flows (origin and host countries) in the region?
- What are the characteristics of those flows (age, gender, skill composition of migrants)?
- What would more effective migration management require -- for sending and receiving countries in the region?
- What are the principal channels through which migration affects development in the sending and transit countries?

Parallel workshops

Strategic Issues for Sending and Receiving Countries (Middle East and Africa – EU; South Eastern Europe – EU; Latin America – EU)

The three workshop sessions, dedicated to particular experiences of a number of migrant-sending developing countries, will stimulate debate and focus discussion in a smaller, less formal setting. With regard to receiving-country policies, the focus of the presentations should be on the coherence of policies (rather than migration policy per se), as migration is an important dimension, but not the only one that affects development outcomes. The presentations will also illustrate that the policy context and institutional setting of sending countries also affect their development outcomes.

The discussion may include the following questions:

- What are the recent trends and impacts of migration, especially for sending countries?
- What are the main policy challenges associated with the specific region in question?
- What role do remittances play in promoting development?

Session 3

Migration and Development: Policy Challenges for Receiving and Sending Countries

This session looks at migration policies through a development lens. To improve migration management and to maximise the positive impact of migration, policy makers in destination countries must assess the development consequences of their policy decisions. These include admissions policies and other migration policies, but also development-assistance, trade, security, and other policies.

The development impact of international migration depends not only on migrants' choices, but equally on the capacity of sending countries to adjust successfully to emigration on a large scale. This capacity depends in turn on the active engagement of migrants themselves as well as on incentives offered by existing institutional set-ups and other policies in their home countries; it can furthermore be strengthened with the support of receiving countries.

The discussion may include the following questions:

- How do you deal with trade-offs across policy domains (e.g. employment, social cohesion, security, development)?
- What are policy priorities -- for sending and receiving countries?
- How can development be better integrated into migration policies and vice versa?

Session 4

Migration, Irregularity and Regional Co-operation: What Prospects? What Policy Options?

There is little evidence to indicate that increasing resources for more aggressive patrolling of borders is effective in eliminating irregular migration. Human trafficking and the gains made from it seemed to have increased. Sanctions against employers hiring irregular migrant workers are rarely enforced for political reasons. At the same time, reducing irregularity would certainly bring gains to migrants themselves, but would also restore public confidence in the migration system. In this context, what policy innovations are needed to combat irregular labour mobility?

Increasingly, actors have come to realise that regional co-operation can be an effective approach to combat irregularity. Moreover, regional co-operation might provide other benefits to participating countries: increasing labour-market efficiency and encouraging circulation of skills, among others.

The discussion may include the following questions:

- What are the potential roles that regional co-operation might play?
- How are successful regional co-operation agreements forged?
- How should policies be adapted in the face of irregularity?

Session 5

Governance and Partnerships in Migration Management and Development

The joint consideration of migration and development co-operation policies, in an overhauled institutional setting, can form the basis of genuine migration and development partnerships between sending and receiving countries (and transit countries, where appropriate) and regions; these partnerships can exploit the full range of benefits of co-operation – and the costs of non-cooperation – to pursue more effective management of labour mobility.

These potential benefits, however, raise difficult questions of institutional design -- simply put, what needs to be done and who does what?

The discussion will take on these difficult questions, with attention to the following issues:

- What are the contents of new partnerships -- what does each party bring to the "deal"?
- Who are the main actors that should participate?
- What is needed to negotiate effective and sustainable partnerships?
- How can new partnerships be successfully implemented?

III. Further information

The link to download the Final Gaining from Migration report

<http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/29/51/38422104.pdf>

OECD Development Centre migration website

www.oecd.org/dev/migration

Hellenic Migration Policy Institute website

<http://www.imepo.gr/imepo-mission-en.html>