

Conference Co-organized by:

**United States Department of
Homeland Security and OECD**

18th November 2013

Tomich Conference Centre
111 Massachusetts Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20001
United States



ADAPTING TO CHANGES IN FAMILY MIGRATION:

**THE EXPERIENCES OF OECD
COUNTRIES**

Family migration is one of the largest categories of migration in most OECD countries, representing 35% of flows in 2011. In the United States, nearly 3 out of every 4 new permanent immigrants are family migrants. In the EU, family migration comprises 28% of non-European immigration. Family migration flows are also less subject to changing economic conditions which typically affect labour and free movement flows: the 2008 financial crisis, for example, had only a moderate effect on family flows, even as other flows declined sharply. No area of migration is so strongly “gendered” as family migration but as labour migration shifts in some countries towards more traditional female occupations, women are increasingly the first to immigrate, overturning past models.

Family migration is also a term which **covers many different categories of entry**: family formation, that is citizens and resident foreigners marrying foreigners resident abroad; accompanying family of newly arriving workers or other immigrants; reunification of family members – spouses, children, and sometimes other relatives – following immigration by one member of the family; or international adoption. *What are the main characteristics of migrants entering through these different categories? What are the dynamics of the different components of family migration and how do they relate to other categories of flows? What new emerging trends can be identified and what are possible policy implications?*

Policies aim at **ensuring that the right to family life is respected and misuse limited**. This may involve measures to ensure that marriages are legitimate, verifying family ties, or imposing probationary periods for those admitted through the family channel. For certain categories of family migrants, countries may impose requirements regarding minimum age, length of co-habitation, income, or the so-called “centre of gravity”. Similarly, labour market access for family migrants may be restricted for certain categories of family migrants and granted to others. *What are the main differences across countries in terms of management of family migration and how have they evolved recently? What are the legal constraints on the management of family migration? What mechanisms have countries developed to reduce the risk of misuse of this migration channel?*

Family migrants tend to **face specific integration challenges** and their outcomes are usually less favourable than those of labour migrants, at least in the first years after arrival. Labour market integration is often a particular challenge when women arrive from origin countries where labour market participation of women is low. However, individual characteristics (such as e.g. education levels) play an important role in this regard and a growing number of countries are requiring some basic knowledge of the host-country language for family migrants, with the aim of ensuring better integration. *How are family migrants faring in the labour market and are there major differences by sub-category? What policy instruments most appropriate to improve the labour market integration of family migrants?*

Family migrants of working age often make up for a **significant part of migrant workers**, but the nature and consequences of this contribution are poorly understood. *What is the share of persons who have entered with a family related type of visa are entering the labour markets of OECD countries? Can one quantify the impact of these inflows compared with other migration streams? Are there specific sectors or occupations where family migrants make a sizeable contribution? How can the economic benefits of family migration be enhanced?*

Against this context, this conference aims at better understanding the nature and importance of family migration and at identifying good policy practices regarding both admission and integration policies for family migrants.

Targeted audience

- ✓ Policy makers from various ministries and departments (*e.g.* Foreign Affairs, Interior/Justice, Labour and Social Affairs, Family/Children) in charge of designing and implementing policies for admission of family migrants and their integration;
- ✓ Representatives of OECD countries and researchers with a special interest for policy questions related to family migration;
- ✓ Other international organisations (*e.g.* the World Bank, UNICEF, ILO);
- ✓ Representatives of organisations working on family migration issues (*e.g.*, attorneys, NGOs).

Expected outcomes

- ✓ Improving knowledge about the key characteristics of family migration;
- ✓ Identifying factors which contribute to the successful integration of family migrants;
- ✓ Identifying policy responses to enhance the economic benefits of family migration while ensuring that migrants' rights are respected and the integrity of migration management systems preserved;
- ✓ Raising awareness among stakeholders about the specificities of family migrants relative to other migrant categories.

IMPORTANT: Conference Registration information

Registration is required for this conference.

The US Department of Homeland Security, which is hosting this conference, requires participants to register in advance.

US citizens should provide their full name and organization.

Non-US participants should provide their full name as it appears on their passport, date and country of birth, country of citizenship, country of residence, employer and position title, and passport number and expiration date.

Please send this information to Traci.Batla@hq.dhs.gov and Mary.K.Herrmann@uscis.dhs.gov by Friday 8 November to ensure that you are registered for the conference.

PROGRAMME

8:15-8:45 Registration of participants

OPENING SESSION

8.45-9:00

WELCOME ADDRESSES

- **Lori Scialabba**, Deputy Director, Citizenship and Immigration Services, U.S. Department of Homeland Security
- **Jean-Christophe Dumont**, Head, International Migration Division, Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

SESSION 1. New emerging trends in family migration

Chair Jean-Christophe Dumont, OECD

9:00-9:30

- **Jonathan Chaloff** (OECD): *Global trends in family migration in the OECD*
- **Lindsay Lowell** (Georgetown University): *Recent trends in family migration in the U.S.*

9:30-9:45

Q&A

9:45-10:30

- **Danièle Bélanger** (Western University): *Marriage migration in and from Asia*
- **Jeffrey Passel** (Pew Hispanic Center): *Differences in the family structure of Latin American migrants by legal status*
- **Cris Beauchemin** (INED): *Family migration from sub-Saharan Africa to Europe*

10:30-11:00

General discussion

11:00-11:30

Coffee break

SESSION 2. Managing family migration in OECD countries

Chair Maureen A. Dunn, Chief, Family Immigration & Victim Protection Division Office of Policy and Strategy U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Services

- 11:30-12:15
- **Philippe de Bruycker** (EUI) : *Family migration policies in Europe*
 - **María E. Enchautegui** (Urban Institute): *Evolution and recent changes in family migration policies in the United States*
 - **Tim Harrison** (Migration Advisory Committee, UK): *Causes and consequences of recent changes in family migration policy in the UK*

12:15-12:45 *General discussion*

12:45-2:30 ***Lunch break***

SESSION 3. Labour market integration of family migrants

Chair Joan Barrett, Chief, Multilateral and Global Issues, Office of International Relations, Bureau of International Labor Affairs, Department of Labor

2:30-2:55 *Part 1: Labour market outcomes of family migrants in the United States: new evidence from the New Immigrant Survey*

- **Mark Rosenzweig** (Yale University); **Guillermina Jasso** (New York University)

2:55-3:10 *General discussion*

3:10-3:40 *Part 2: Evidence in other countries*

- **Janette Haughton** (Regional Director, Americas; Embassy of Australia, Washington, D.C.): *labour market outcomes by visa category in Australia*
- **Marie-Hélène Amiel** (Ministry of Interior, France): *Integration of family migrants in France*

3:40-4:00 *General discussion*

4:00-4:30

Coffee break

SESSION 4. Policy responses to foster labour market integration of family migrants

Chair Jean-Christophe Dumont, OECD

4:30-5:45

Interactive panel discussion on three questions below (each participant will discuss each question for 5 minutes):

- *How can effective integration programmes be designed for new family migrants?*
 - *What specific programmes work well for accompanying family members of refugees?*
 - *How are community-based service providers and other non-governmental stakeholders contributing to improve outcomes for family migrants?*
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- **Matti Heinonen** (Head of Section, International cooperation, Finnish Immigration Service MIGRI, Finland)
 - **Uta Saumweber-Meyer** (Deputy Director-General, Integration Department, Federal Office for Migration and Refugees, Germany)
 - **Brenna MacNeil**, (Director of Horizontal Policy and Program, Integration - Foreign Credentials Referral Office, Citizenship and Immigration Canada, Canada)
 - **Hyunwoong Na**, (Deputy Director, Immigrant Integration Division, Ministry of Justice, Korea)
 - **Ron Munia**, (Director, Division of Refugee Services, Office of Refugee Resettlement, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, United States)

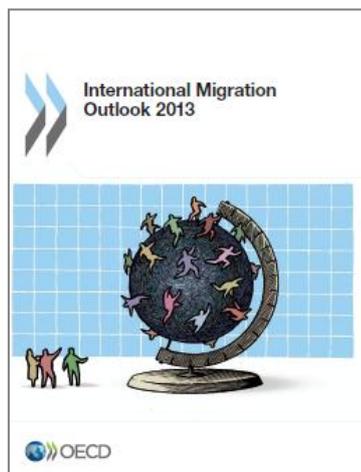
CONCLUDING REMARKS

5:45-6:00

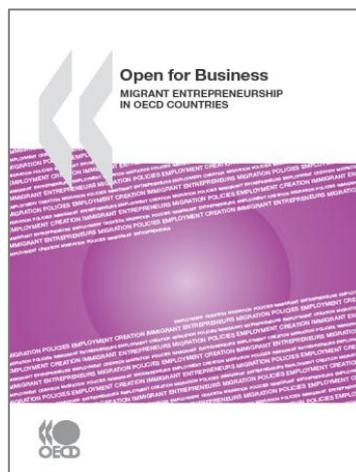
Representative of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security

More on this topic from the OECD

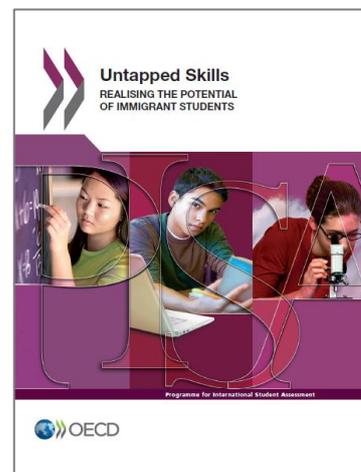
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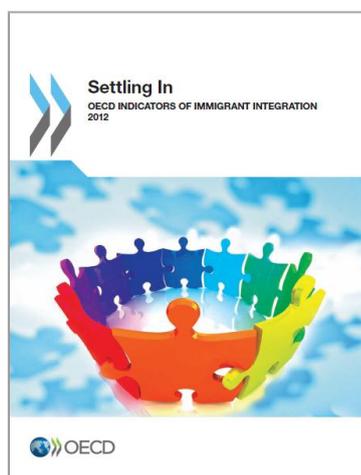
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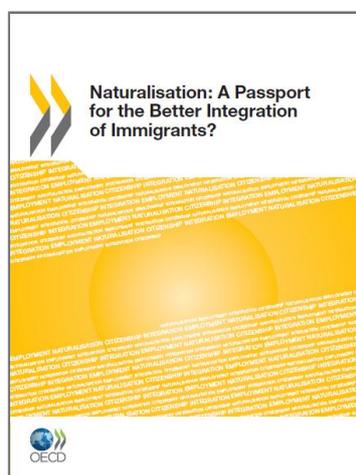
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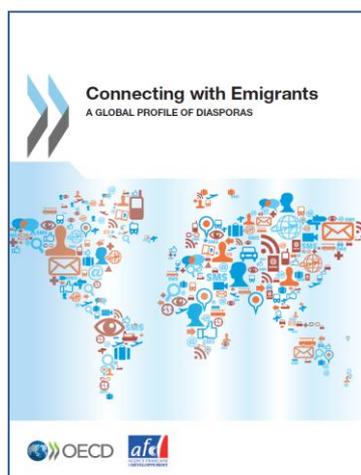
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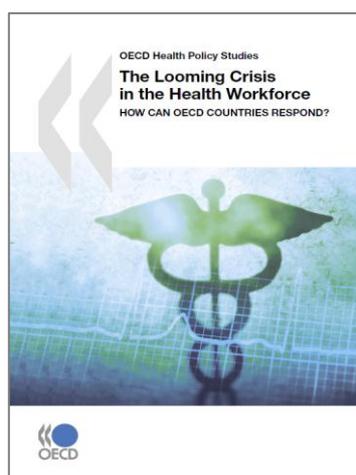
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<http://www.oecd.org/migration/firstreportofthecontinuousreportingsystemoninternationalmigrationintheamericassicremi.htm>

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