

Workshop on Emigration Issues in the Western Balkans – joint approach to linking migration and development of the countries of origin

Panel Discussion: Circular or temporary labour migration

Introduction

- „Fact is, that migration poses fundamental issues for the economic, social, and cultural development of Europe. Certainly migrants have made **substantial contributions** of every kind to EU Member States throughout history, and continue to do so today“.

(Peers, S, EU Justice and Home Affairs Law, Oxford EC Law Library)

Legal Migration to EU – Background

- ❑ The development on an EU law or policy on legal migration was for a long period a „missing link“
- ❑ Lack of consensus on the Commission's 2001 proposed “horizontal” Directive on legal migration
- ❑ Commission policy plan on legal migration (2005) with a sectoral approach

The European Pact on Immigration and Asylum 2008

- Organize legal immigration to take account of the priorities, needs and reception capacities determined by each Member State, and to encourage integration
- Create a comprehensive partnership with the countries of origin and of transit in order to **encourage the synergy between migration and development**

The Stockholm Programme 2009

- Need to take further steps to **maximize the positive and minimize the negative effects of migration and development** in line with the Global Approach on Migration

Circular migration in Austria

- ❑ No specific programs for circular migration in AT
- ❑ No participation in mobility partnerships

Historical experiences in Austria

- ~ 1950 labour shortage in Austria
- Guest worker program based on fixed annual “contingents”
- Rotation Principle
- 1962 contract with Spain
- 1964 contract with Turkey
- 1966 contract with Yugoslavia

Historical experiences in Austria

- ~ 265.000 immigrants came to Austria between 1961 and 1973
- 1974/75 turning point in AT immigration policy
 - International economic crisis (oil crisis)
 - Austrians who had been working abroad were returning home
- Recruitment stop in 1974

Lessons learnt

- ❑ Employers were in search of cheap industrial labour force
- ❑ Strict “rotation model” implied costs and risks for employers
- ❑ High unemployment rates in the countries of origin
- ❑ Only few guest workers pursued their initial plan for return

Public consultation on the Global Approach to Migration

- ❑ EU action in the external dimension of migration policy adds a value
- ❑ It is important that the EU acts in a balanced way
- ❑ Lack of EU action would have negative consequences

Public consultation on the Global Approach to Migration

- Migration and development
 - Actions in the field of
 - Remittances
 - Circular migration
 - Reduction of brain drain/waste and
 - Facilitating brain circulation

Public consultation on the Global Approach to Migration

□ End of 2011

■ Migration Package

- Communication on the Global Approach
- EC Working Paper on maximizing the positive and minimizing the negative aspects of migration on development
- EC Working Paper on the effects of climate change on international migration, including its potential effects on immigration the European Union

Challenges and Policy Options

- ❑ Finding a common definition of circular migration
- ❑ Broaden knowledge on circular migration
- ❑ Defining clear objectives for circular migration schemes
- ❑ Facilitation circular migration
- ❑ Respect of human rights and human dignity
- ❑ Awareness over the possibility choice of circular migrants to stay permanently

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- **Man hat Arbeitskräfte gerufen, und es kommen Menschen – sie fressen den Wohlstand nicht auf, im Gegenteil, sie sind für den Wohlstand unerlässlich.**
 - We sent for workers but instead we got people. They do not devour our prosperity; on contrary, they are essential for our prosperity.

(Max Frisch, from his preface to A.J. Seiler "Siamo Italiani, Zürich, 1965)



Thank you for your attention

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