

TAIEX Workshop on Emigration Issues in the Western
Balkans - joint approach to linking migration and
development of the countries of origin
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***“Migration & Development:
The EU Approach”***

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Background information

- ✓ The new millennium starts with **175 millions international migrants**, of which **60% to be found in developed countries** (UN PD 2002)
- ✓ Many developing states regard the loss of people through emigration as a serious loss of resources.
- ✓ Increasingly, however, migrant sending countries start to recognize that migrants can still advance national development from abroad :
 - 1) Remittances flows to developing countries are higher than total Official Development Assistance (ODA) and in some cases account for important % of GDP.
 - 2) Migrants have the potential to be organized into strong lobbies that advocate for sending country interests.

Migration/Development/Migration Nexus

- ✓ **The Development Cooperation Assistance and Policy can help reducing Migration Flows** by addressing the root causes of migration (reduction of poverty, consolidation of democracy, etc.);
- ✓ **A Comprehensive Migration Policy can contribute to Development** by maximizing the positive effects of migration (supporting brain circulation, lowering the costs of transferring remittances and channeling them into productive activities ,etc.).

The EU first attempt to link Migration and Development Policies

In 2002 the EC calls for a three-pronged strategy on migration:

- 1) A balanced overall approach **addressing the root causes of migratory movements;**
- 2) **A partnership on migration** stemming from a definition of common interests **with third countries;**
- 3) Specific and concrete initiatives to **assist third countries** in increasing their capacity in the area of **migration management.**

The EC's role in the global debate on M&D

Between 2005/06 the debate on the link between M&D gains momentum :

- ✓ It's a main topic of the **GCIM Report**,
- ✓ the UN decides to dedicate for the 1st time the General Assembly, plenary session, to M&D (**UN HLD on IMD**): Main outcome **GFMD**
- ✓ the EC proposes **some concrete actions** to be put in place to maximize the positive impact of Migration on Development.

M&D: Some concrete orientations

COM(2005) 390 final

- ✓ Mainstreaming migration into development policy and assistance to third countries.
- ✓ Fostering cheap, fast and secure ways to send remittances,
- ✓ Improving access to banking/financial services,
- ✓ Facilitating the contribution of remittances to the development of migrants' countries of origin (3x1 Mexico),
- ✓ Supporting the role of Diasporas as actors of home country development,
- ✓ Increasing mobility, circular migration and brain circulation,
- ✓ Mitigating the adverse effect of brain drain (ethical recruitment codes),

M&D as the third pillar of the EU Global Approach to Migration

- ✓ In October 2005 100s of **sub-Saharan migrants** loose their lives in the desperate attempt to reach Ceuta and Melilla, two Spanish enclaves in Morocco.
- ✓ As a reaction an **Informal EU Council** meets at **Hampton Court** and decides to strengthen the external dimension of migration management:
 - 1) by building up **true partnerships with third countries and regions** (initial focus on Africa, then extended to East and South-East Europe) and
 - 2) by addressing **migration in a comprehensive way** and via a three-pillar approach, including: legal migration, irregular migration and **M&D**

M&D as a key element in the relations with third regions

- ✓ 2006 Euro-African Conference on Migration and Development, Rabat (Rabat Process for the West Africa Migratory Route)
- ✓ 2007 Africa-EU Migration, Mobility, Employment, Lisbon
- ✓ 2009 The Prague Process –Building Migration Partnerships (WB, Russia, Turkey, Southern Caucasus and Central Asia)
- ✓ 2009 The EU-LAC Structured and Comprehensive Dialogue on Migration

Furthermore M&D is a core element within the framework of the ***Mobility Partnerships*** the EU has signed with **Cape Verde, Georgia and Moldova.**

Main elements of the EU strategy on M&D

- ✓ **Mainstreaming Migration into Development Policies;**
- ✓ Exploring ways to **foster circular migration** via skills matching, educational exchange, temporary or virtual return opportunities (i.e. MIDWEB), creation of jobs in countries of origin and international portability of social security rights;
- ✓ Working towards **transparent, safe, quick and low-cost remittance transfers**, also via the use of new technology (i.e. sms);

Main elements of the EU strategy on M&D

- ✓ **Creating an environment favourable to economic investments in countries of origin;**
- ✓ **Encouraging initiatives enabling migrants and their families to access business management advice, micro-credit opportunities, support for setting up SMEs;**
- ✓ **Promoting Financial Literacy among migrants and migrants' families both in countries of origin and destination;**
- ✓ **Supporting efforts by migrant source countries to reach out to their diasporas and;**
- ✓ **Supporting diaspora groups that are engaged in development-related activities in their source countries,**

The EU support to M&D initiatives

The EU has funded and is funding different initiatives to foster the links between Migration & Development via:

- ✓ The thematic programme Migration&Asylum (and its predecessor the AENEAS programme);
- ✓ Targeted projects foreseen under geographical instruments (IPA, ENPI, EDF, etc).

The Migration & Asylum Programme

The programme has funded a target project the JMDI and several actions aiming at :

- ✓ Encouraging the contribution of diasporas to the development of their country of origin and increasing the value of migrants' return;
- ✓ Mitigating brain drain and promoting the circular movement of skilled migrants ;
- ✓ Facilitating financial transfers of migrants to their country of origin;
- ✓ Supporting voluntary return and reintegration of migrants;
- ✓ Fostering capacity building efforts to help countries in the formulation of pro-development migration policies and in their capacity to jointly manage migration flows ;

The contribution of FIIAPP to the EU policy on M&D

Since its creation in 2006 the FIIAPP/M&D Programme has been supporting the implementation of the EU Global Approach by supporting **policy dialogues** and **capacity building activities**.

The FIIAPP/M&D Programme is implementing the following EU funded projects:

- ✓ The Action Plan of the Rabat Process (with ICMPD)
- ✓ The Africa-EU Migration, Mobility and Employment (with ICMPD)
- ✓ The EU-LAC Dialogue on M&D (with IOM)
- ✓ Supporting Western African Public Administrations in the implementation of M&D initiatives .

What is next in the EU Agenda on M&D?

- ✓ Making **migration work for development** is a priority issue to be discussed with MS in the forthcoming years
- ✓ The real policy challenge is whether the **EU and its Member States** are capable and prepared to **offer real migration and mobility options** for nationals of developing countries
- ✓ Implementation must continue on a number of issues, especially **remittances, increased mobility, and stronger links with diaspora organisations.**

Next Step

In November 2011 a new EC communication on M&D will be published. It will focus on:

- ✓ Creating a **global partnership for M&D.**
- ✓ Supporting new initiatives to **encourage the positive impact** on development from the transfers of **migrants' remittances** .
- ✓ Strengthening the human dimension of M&D policies through the introduction of a **migrant-centred approach.**

**Thank you very much for your
attention**

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remittances (source WB 2010)

- ✓ In 2010, worldwide **remittance flows** are estimated to have exceeded **\$440 billion**. The true size is believed to be significantly larger.
- ✓ **developing countries** received **\$325 billion**, which represents an increase of 6% from the 2009 level.
- ✓ Recorded remittances in 2009 were nearly **three times the amount of ODA** and almost as large as **foreign direct investment (FDI) flows to developing countries**

remittances

- ✓ Remittances are private money, which will first and foremost benefit the family of the sender, and will leave out the poorest groups that do not have family members abroad.
- ✓ In a first stage remittances are generally spent on family maintenance and debt repayment.
- ✓ in a later stage they are dedicated to housing improvement, consumer durables, education and health.
- ✓ In a third phase they are invested in productive activities and the purchase of land or small businesses.

remittances

Recipient countries need to take a number of actions:

.reach out the diaspora

to encourage migrants to invest in their home country, is the cofinancing of the remittance investments in proportion 50/50.
(Moldova)

offering programs productive private investment focusing on local development migrants.

remittances

The 3X1 programme seeks to foster development and productive investments in some of Mexico's poorest /most marginalised communities through an innovative approach that involves migrant communities resident in the United States in partnership with local beneficiaries and government entities at the national and sub-national levels (federal, state, and municipal levels).

The programme supports the development initiatives of Mexicans residing outside the country and provides them with an institutional mechanism through which they can channel resources to support public works of their choice intended to benefit their communities of origin