



EMN INFORM

Maximising the Development Impact of Migration and Mobility in 2011

As a complement to the [Commission's 3rd Annual Report on Immigration and Asylum](#), an overview is given of the main developments that took place in 2011 within the [Global Approach to Migration and Mobility \(GAMM\)](#) objective of maximising the development impact of migration and mobility. Aspects covered are an overview of [effective migration and development policies \(Section 1\)](#); [remittances \(Section 2\)](#); and [diasporas \(Section 3\)](#). Each section includes both [EU](#) and [national](#) developments. Information on national developments has, in addition to the Commission's 3rd Annual Report on Immigration and Asylum, been drawn from EMN [National Annual Policy Reports 2011](#), with contributions from 25 EMN NCPs.¹

1. Effective migration and development policies

At EU level, the Commission adopted a [Communication on a Dialogue on Migration, Mobility and Security](#) with Southern Mediterranean countries; endorsed by the European Council in its conclusions of 24 June 2011. The dialogue on migration, mobility and security with Morocco and Tunisia has been officially launched in October 2011. Egypt expressed in September 2011 its lack of readiness to start the dialogue. For the [Euro-African Dialogue on Migration \(the Rabat Process\)](#), [action plans](#) for the 2011-2013 period have been adopted at the Ministerial Conference in Dakar.

Dialogue and cooperation with countries in Eastern and South-Eastern Europe has also been substantially reinforced by regular high level meetings: In the context of the Prague Process, a [Ministerial Meeting](#) was held in Poznan and an Eastern Partnership Summit was held in Warsaw, where a joint declaration reaffirming the total commitment to increased mobility between all the partners was issued. Dialogues on visa-free regimes have been launched with Ukraine and Moldova, and visa facilitation and readmission agreements are being implemented with these countries and Georgia. The Commission has been mandated to negotiate similar agreements with Armenia, Azerbaijan and Belarus. A Mobility Partnership was concluded with Armenia.

[A Commission Staff Working Paper on Migration and Development](#), accompanying the GAMM Communication, underlined the importance of a comprehensive framework on migration and development. As a result, new priority issues include mitigating the negative social consequences of emigration on communities and families in countries of origin,

¹ AT, BE, BG, CY, CZ, DE, EE, EL, ES, FI, FR, HU, IT, LT, LU, LV, MT, NL, PL, PT, SE, SI, SK, UK and NO. The Commission's Annual Report includes contributions from all 27 Member States.

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improving protection for the human rights of migrants during their transit process and supporting the integration of migrants in destination countries.

On 13 October 2011, the Commission adopted the [Agenda for Change on increasing the impact of EU Development Policy](#), which calls on the EU to better address the interrelationship between migration, mobility and employment and to promote regional labour mobility in the Global South. In the context of Policy Coherence for Development (PCD), the Commission produced its [biannual report](#) and organised an expert meeting in May 2011 to discuss environmentally induced migration as part of the EU external migration policy within the GAMM framework.

At national level, many Member States (AT, BE, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, IT, LT, NL, PT, SK, SE, UK) and NO undertook actions to integrate migration and development policies effectively. These included studies (BE, DK, NL, SE, NO), (methodological) approaches for integrating migration and development policies (DK, ES, SK), as well as solidarity projects (AT, BE, DE, DK, FI, FR, IT, LT, PT, SE, SK, UK). DK concluded a three-year study on the relationship between migration and development and BE published a study on transnational practices of migrants, including development-related activities. In [NO](#), the Norwegian Peace Research Institute (PRIO) published a handbook on the role of diasporas in peace building, whilst Maastricht University in NL is conducting policy-supporting research within the framework 'Migration and Development.' Solidarity projects have included working with diaspora communities (AT, BE, FI, FR and UK); support to migrants in countries of origin (IT, FR, PT, SE, UK); and cross border cooperation (LT). [IT](#) focused on experimental forms of transnational cooperation enhancing the migrants' leading role in the field of migration and development. In [ES](#), the Spain-ECOWAS Migration and Development Fund earmarked €10 million to boost the positive and alleviate the negative effects of migration.

Other activities included involvement in international initiatives (CY, EL, HU, PT, SE, UK); developing a website providing information to entrepreneurs and investors in Africa and funding capacity-developing projects for migrants' organisations ([BE](#)); support for combining development and the implementation of coherent migration policies (DE); support for sectoral policies (health, education, training, governance), creation of new businesses in countries of origin and decentralised cooperation for further development (FR); continued support for an Inter-departmental Committee on Development during 2011 (IE); development of cooperation agreements to promote cooperation in the implementation of official development aid programmes (SK); regular consultation with diaspora groups (UK); and participation in the UN Global Forum on Migration and Development (FR, NO). In the framework of the latter, FR and Morocco jointly organised an international conference on the contribution of migrants to development.

2. Remittances

At EU level, the Commission and several Member States support developing countries in the establishment of policy frameworks which are more conducive for remittances. Efforts to mitigate brain drain have been advanced by supporting the [World Health Organisation \(WHO\) Code of Practice](#) on the international recruitment of health personnel. [The EU Programme for Action](#) to tackle the critical shortage of health workers in developing countries (2007 – 2013) produced a clear set of actions, aimed at enhancing developing countries' capacities to train, manage and retain their health workers. A Commission-funded study was launched in September 2011 with the overall objective to analyse and improve the state of implementation of existing EU commitments on remittances. The study will focus on

data collection at both the EU and partner country levels; estimations of informal flows; determining the needs of migrants and their families; making a preliminary assessment of the impact of the implementation of the Directive on payment on transparency and cost; and assessing the feasibility of creating an EU-wide remittance portal.

At national level, several Member States (BE, DE, DK, ES, FR, IT, UK) and NO have promoted co-development actions and support instruments for transferring migrants' remittances. To improve transparency and increase competition, [DE](#), [IT](#) and NO have launched a website which allows migrants to compare the prices of remittance transfers and informs migrants about the services and fees of banks. ES and UK participated in the [World Bank-led Global Remittances Working Group](#), which is committed to reducing average costs of transferring remittances from 10% to 5% by 2014. DK supported a World Bank study on migration, remittances and development support, aimed at improving the flows of migration and remittances in sub-Saharan Africa. The UK's Department for International Development supported initiatives to reduce the cost and improve the speed and safety of transmitting remittances. In IT, the Ministry of Interior and the Italian Banking Association signed a protocol agreement to promote the financial inclusion of migrants. Research was also carried out by the Bank of Italy on credit to immigrants in IT and by the Italian Banking Association on Immigrants and Financial Inclusion. CZ and SE have planned co-development actions and support instruments for transferring migrants' remittances to their countries. CZ will lead a project in the context of the Prague Process on analysing policies and legislation of countries of origin and destination in order to identify successful practices and focus on the possibilities of facilitating circular migration. In SE, the Parliamentary Committee on Circular Migration and Development proposed to set up a website comparing the costs of transferring money.

3. Working with diasporas

At EU level, funding for "[Non-state actors and Local Authorities in Development](#)" is also open to diaspora organisations due to their importance as agents for development of their countries of origin vis-à-vis both policymakers and donors. The [EC-UN joint initiative for migration and development](#) fosters exchange of experience and best practices among diaspora organisations, provides capacity building and supports their involvement in the development of their countries of origin. Moreover, one of the 12 initiatives of the [2011-2013 Migration Mobility and Employment \(MME\) Action Plan](#) aims to establish an Africa-EU Diaspora Cooperation Framework.

At national level, few Member States have specific national policies with regard to supporting diaspora groups in enhancing development in their country of origin. In [SE](#), however, the Government Communication "Global Challenges - our responsibility" specifically states that it is necessary to increase knowledge on a national level about diasporas and their contribution to development in countries of origin; to promote the transfer of knowledge from individual labour immigrants and diasporas to their countries of origin; to work to enable more secure and cheaper remittance transfers; and to support activities that will encourage entrepreneurship among migrants.

Several Member States (AT, BE, DE, DK, FI, FR, IT, NL, PT, SE and UK) do have specific activities with regard to supporting diaspora groups in enhancing development in their country of origin. In AT, the Austrian Development Agency (ADA) created a number of events involving diasporas during the World Cup in South Africa 2010, to enhance their visibility in the Austrian business community. AT and [DE](#) implement the 'Migration for Development in the Western Balkans' (MIDWEB) project, supported by the IOM. In [BE](#), the

Belgian Cooperation Development Department co-finances projects and programmes from associations of migrant diasporas and supports the fourth implementation phase of the MIDA Great Lakes Programme, with the aim to encourage the mobility of the skills and resources of the diaspora. A "Diaspora Cell," established within their Chamber of Commerce (CBL-ACP) supports migrants willing to invest in their countries of origin. The Refugee Council in DK supports a fund for diaspora involvement in rehabilitation and redevelopment in former home countries, aimed specifically at the Afghani and Somali diaspora. In [DE](#), an independent programme was launched to allow migrant organisations to receive advice, and (sometimes) financial support, for development-related project proposals in their countries of origin. FI provides cooperation funds for the initiatives of diaspora organisations within their countries of origin. FR continued to support development initiatives of migrants' organisations, for example, to improve health and education in Mali and Senegal or to promote tourism in Cape Verde. In IT, partnership relations have been established with organisations in countries of origin to facilitate return and initiate co-development relations. For example, the project "Eurafrica" aims to raise awareness of human rights and cultural investment among young local leaders of 11 African countries.²

NL, together with Switzerland and the IOM, finance the development of a '[Diaspora Handbook](#)', describing how policymakers can best involve diaspora groups in the countries of origin. NL further supports many initiatives of migrant organisations to contribute to the development of their villages, communities and countries of origin and also organised an annual consultation meeting for community-based organisations.

To facilitate the post-conflict reconciliation process in Guinea-Bissau, PT supported the organisation of a conference on "Peace and Reconciliation" which targeted the PT-based diaspora from Guinea-Bissau. In [SE](#), the 'Kosmopolit' project targets foreign-born nationals to support trade promotion, helping to give developing countries greater access to the Swedish market and to improve their chances of attracting foreign investment. In addition, the project 'Investment Cooperation with Entrepreneurs from Immigrant Backgrounds' supports business ideas which have the potential to become viable enterprises in the entrepreneur's country of origin. The UK's Department for International Development (DFID) co-funds the 'Common Ground Initiative' (CGI) which aims to increase funding to small and diaspora organisations to create sustainable change in disadvantaged communities in countries of origin, mainly in Africa.

4. Further Information

You may obtain further details on this EMN Inform and/or on any other aspect of the EMN, from HOME-EMN@ec.europa.eu.

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² Guinea, Mali, Benin, Ivory Coast, Malawi, Mozambique, Tanzania, Congo DRC, Rwanda, Burundi, Uganda.