

## THIRD NATIONAL CONFERENCE MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT: COOPERATION WITH THE COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN AND TRANSIT

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The UN **Agenda 2030** recognize that international migration is a multidimensional reality of major relevance for the development of countries of origin, transit and destination and highlights the positive contributions of migrants for inclusive growth and sustainable development.

On June 2014, the European Council agreed the strategic agenda of key priorities for the next five years. It established that *“faced with challenges such as instability in many parts of the world as well as global and European demographic trends, the Union needs an efficient and **well-managed migration**, asylum and borders policy.”*

According to the European Council, *“**addressing the root causes of irregular migration** flows is an essential part of EU migration policy. This, together with the prevention and tackling of irregular migration, will help avoid the loss of lives of migrants undertaking hazardous journeys. A **sustainable solution** can only be found by **intensifying cooperation with countries of origin and transit**, including through assistance to strengthen their migration and border management capacity. **Migration policies must become a much stronger integral part of the Union's external and development policies**, applying the “more for more” principle and building on the Global Approach to Migration and Mobility.”*

The European **Agenda on Migration**, set out by the Commission in May 2015, promotes a comprehensive approach to migration management. The European Commission underlined the necessity of reducing the incentives for irregular migration by the means of **addressing the root causes** of irregular and forced displacements in third countries. In this context **partnership with countries of origin and transit** deem to be crucial.

On 29 October the **Joint Action Plan with Turkey** was activated by the EU-Turkey Summit. The Action Plan is part of a comprehensive

cooperation agenda based on shared responsibility, mutual commitments and delivery.

On 12 November, the Valetta Summit on Migration gathered Heads of State and Government from the EU and Africa to strengthen cooperation and address the root causes of the crisis. As a result, a list of concrete actions will be implemented by the end of 2016. At the same meeting, the EU Trust Fund for Africa was officially launched, with a total contribution from EU financial resources of €1.8 billion. In the Declaration it was recognised the **high degree of interdependence** between Africa and Europe as there are **common challenges**. The Heads of State acknowledged their **common responsibility** to address the opportunities and challenges of migration and mobility which must be shared in a fair manner between countries of origin, transit and destination. They committed to take into further consideration **migration and mobility in our development strategies, programming and implementation**.

**The aim of this conference is to discuss the linkages between migration and development and to identify better practices and challenges on cooperation with third countries.**

### **Panel 1 Migration and development**

There is a global consensus about the convenience of strengthening the linkage between migration and development. According to the World Bank the volume of **remittances** to developing countries amount to about three and a half times the volume of official development assistance. There are also strong evidences about the role that **diasporas** can play as driven of progress in trade, foreign investment attraction, entrepreneurship and more intangible flows of knowledge.

However, the relation between migration and development is complex. The debate focus on whether migration should have an instrumental role to achieve development goals or whether addressing the root causes of migration could help tackling irregular flows. Probably the connection should be bidirectional: well managed migration boosts sustainable economic, social and environmental development whereas improving the resilience of the regions of origin help reducing the incentives of irregular migration.

### Questions for discussion

- ⇒ How should the EU address the root causes of migration in a fair and successfully way?
- ⇒ What is the potential impact of mainstreaming migration issues into development policies?
- ⇒ Which measures could be envisaged in order to link migration and development more strongly?
- ⇒ Which role could play the diasporas as development actors?

### Panel 2 Maximising the benefits of well-managed migration for the countries of origin, destination and for the migrants.

Well managed migration and mobility have positive impact both on the countries of destination and the countries of origin.

For the **country of destination**, well managed migration contribute to address labour market shortage. Furthermore, according to the OECD diversity enhance the creation of knowledge and entrepreneurship.

In the global race for talent, countries try to attract those with the skills who can make a positive contribution through work and study.

The **countries of origin** benefit from remittances and the decrease of unemployment. Moreover diasporas bring benefits to the economy through their impact on growth and trade.

Returning migrants bring savings, skills and international contacts that could boost growth and progress.

However, policymakers should not underestimate some negative perceptions. In the countries of destination, there are often fears for the potential depression of wages, pressure on public service, potential rise of unemployment and the integration difficulties.

In the countries of origin brain drain and the social problems for children left behind are usually important concerns.

### Question for discussion

- ⇒ What are the benefits of well-managed migration and mobility for countries of origin and destination?
- ⇒ What role could play legal migration (for work, study, research, family's reasons...) in establishing partnerships between the countries of origin and destination?
- ⇒ How could policymakers address the fears of society against migration both in the countries of origin and destination?
- ⇒ Are there good practices on maximizing the benefits of well managed migration?
- ⇒ How could international students act as development agents?
- ⇒ Should the concept of brain circulation be substituted by the notion of brain drain?

### Panel 3 Cooperation with the countries of origin and transit in the field of return

Migration is a **common responsibility** and challenge for the countries of origin and destination. In the European Agenda on Migration it is established that no State can effectively address migration alone.

Cooperation with the countries of origin and transit is crucial in order to prevent irregular flows, improve control of frontiers, fight against smugglers and manage an effective return system.

Notwithstanding sometimes the countries of origin are reluctant to admit returns of their nationals –or third country nationals- because of their public opinion. Effectiveness on readmission is most likely be achieved by developing a sustained, long term, holistic partnership with the countries of origin. Capacity building programs and reintegration measures could also facilitate the goal.

### Question for discussion

- ⇒ What lessons could be learnt about past experiences of cooperation with countries of origin and transit?
- ⇒ What are the common interests and main challenges that the EU encounters with countries of origin and transit in the field of return?
- ⇒ How could voluntary return be enhanced?
- ⇒ Which measures could help to fight against smugglers?