INTRODUCTION

Mobility Overview: India is the world’s largest source country for migration (17.5 million emigrants) and the EU, the world’s largest destination region. Migration in the India-EU context spans a number of sectors including science, technology, research, agriculture, agro-business, services, and education and is expected to increase in the coming decades. While manufacturing, dairy, and agriculture dominate migration streams to EU MS such as Italy, information technology and services prevail in Germany and the Netherlands. Among the Indian diaspora, 20% of total Indian payment agents are women who have built sophisticated financial companies and are active in trade, thereby boosting bilateral relations significantly.

Development Impact Overview: Migration has extensive development impact on both host and origin countries. The Indian diaspora contributes an estimated 2.9% of the country’s GDP. Social, human, and cultural transfers are also deemed critical in the development process. Immigrants from India also positively impact the development process in host countries. Ireland’s education, healthcare, and start-up sectors have benefited from India immigration in recent times.

In Italy, manufacturing, engineering, dairy, and agriculture sectors have also seen extensive immigrant contribution. Furthermore, the diaspora acts as a linkage between host and origin societies, boosting bilateral relations, and partnering with policymakers to better achieve development outcomes such as the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Strengthening strategic diaspora engagement is key to maximising the development impact of migration, as outlined in the India-EU Common Agenda on Migration and Mobility (CAMM). Under this framework, the Migration Governance Seminar discussed the key insights and proposed recommendations for maximising development impact given below.

**KEY INSIGHTS**

1. Recognising the critical potential of the diaspora in contributing to the achievement of UN Sustainable Development Goals in both countries of origin and destination, strategic engagement with the diaspora is imperative for building relations between countries of destination and origin.

2. Governments need to focus on broadening institutional support enabling diaspora to become effective partners in the process of development.

**EMIGRANT INITIATIVES BY INDIA**

MADAD is an online Consular Services Management System for helping emigrants and members of the Indian diaspora.

Pravasi Bharatiya Divas is a biennial event focused on strengthening the engagement of overseas Indians with the GoI and reconnecting them with their roots.

Kshetriya Pravasi Bhartiya Sahayta Kendra (KPBSKs), disseminate information and guidance for potential emigrants including extending help to returning migrants.
EU MEMBER STATES: GOOD PRACTICES FOR DIASPORA

Ireland has a program called 'Global Irish' which provides welfare services to vulnerable emigrants, facilitates outreach to the diaspora. Safe Home Ireland is a non-governmental program that facilitates return migration and provides services to Irish emigrants looking to return home.

Poland has a system promoting cultural ties and protecting the rights of Polish emigrants. The country also mentors Polish students studying in foreign countries.

Georgia has started developing Legal Migration Guidelines for three important destination countries – Greece, Italy, and Spain in order to support the Georgian diaspora in these areas.

The Netherlands, an emerging destination for Indian talent of medium and high skill workers, has welcomed Indian immigrants, by providing tax concessions and easier dependent rules, thereby propelling industrial growth and strengthening migration patterns.

In Italy, regularisation initiatives facilitating family reunion of Indian migrants, primarily low-skilled, has been instrumental in promoting migration and mobility of workers and their households.
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE FUTURE

POLICY ENVIRONMENT AND COVERAGE

Provide a conducive environment for diaspora engagement that will strengthen the diaspora’s ties with India and enhance investment and policy development.

Regular assessment and profiling of the diaspora in the respective country for targeted support and engagement programmes.

Reconnect with well-established diaspora and enhance partnerships with migrants and diaspora through capacity building and empowerment of migrants’ networks.

Enhance diaspora engagement through tools assisting pre-departure, arrival, and during the stay, pre-return, and return.

Provide targeted support to potential students through pre-departure orientation, institutional partnerships with destination countries, particularly for potential students from disadvantaged regions of India.

Facilitate inter-governmental and non-governmental partnerships to enhance diaspora engagement and aid the integration process.

INFORMATION

Knowledge exchange between the EU MS and India on areas such as diaspora communication and engagement strategies, support to vulnerable communities, capacity building of diaspora organisations and return of talent. The potential role of diaspora in trade and investments needs to be investigated and calls for research in future.

VISA AND RESIDENCY PROCESSES

Facilitate job-orientation and gaining of work experience for Indian students after graduation.