Throughout history, migration and mobility have been intimately related to both global and local processes of change – social, economic, political and others. If governed well, migration and mobility have positive impacts on the well-being of migrants and migrant households, and on the development processes both of countries of origin and destination.

Channelling these beneficial effects can prove difficult if interrelated policies are not adequately coordinated or when contradictory objectives are being pursued. In order to effectively respond to migration and development inter-linkages, the full potential and consequences stemming from the movement of people needs to be addressed in a wide range of policies and with a long-term vision.

ICMPD works worldwide to support stakeholders in developing policies and programmes that foster sustainable and comprehensive governance of migration and mobility for the benefit of migrants, and countries of origin and destination. We apply a migrant-centred approach at all levels where migrants are affected and where migration impacts on development should be considered.

- We advise policymakers and practitioners on how to best address the migration phenomenon in their specific contexts i.a. through research and impact assessments, legal revisions, drafting of policy objectives, and strategy and action plan development.

- We support whole-of-government approaches to migration, inter-ministerial coordination and multi-stakeholder processes.

- We facilitate dialogues and organise policy discussions at national and regional levels to generate new knowledge and facilitate network-building for a combined effort in development actions.

- We provide technical expertise and training to further develop the capacities of migration and development stakeholders. We believe in peer-to-peer learning and have pioneered south-south cooperation and expert exchanges.

- We develop tools and methods to effectively reach out to and provide services to diaspora and emigrant communities.

- We also cooperate directly with diaspora organisations in order to build their capacities and empower them to meaningfully engage in the development of their origin countries.
Key initiatives

M&D policy development and programming support

- Strategy and programming advice and technical support for a development-sensitive and coherent Turkish migration policy framework (2014–2016)
- Policy reflections and training on development and migration for the European Commission DG DEVCO, implemented by the Brussels Mission (ETEM, 2008–2013)

Policy and capacity development on diaspora engagement and outreach

- Strengthening diaspora policies in Africa and the Middle East through mapping policies and practices, peer-to-peer exchanges, south-south technical cooperation, regional dialogue and networking (AMEDIP/MTM, 2011–2016)
- Developing and piloting a diaspora and emigrant mobile counselling programme with the Georgian government (ERGEM, 2012–2014)

Developing capacities of diaspora organisations


Multi-thematic projects

- The MIEUX II programme implemented by ICMPD’s Brussels Mission implements a number of technical assistance actions worldwide that address various aspects of M&D.
- The ENIGMMA project includes an impact analysis of migration on Georgia’s socio-economic development as well as diaspora engagement strategy support.

Policy seminars

- High-profile migrants and their potential for development (EuroMed Migration III, Lyon 2014)
- Public-private partnerships on M&D (EuroMed Migration III, Portorož 2013)
- Recommendations for the UN High Level Dialogue on M&D, round table for worldwide diaspora communities in Europe (GIZ/Eschborn 2013)
- Assessing the socio-economic impact of labour migration and factoring this into development planning in the Silk Routes Region (Budapest Process, Tbilisi 2012)
- Leveraging remittances: the role for development, rural vs. urban impact and innovative solutions (MTM Dialogue, Rome 2012)

Publications and tools

- Enhancing diaspora engagement: operational guidelines for south-south and triangular cooperation (MTM, 2014)
- Guide on organising mobile counselling for migrants and diaspora members (2014)
- Migration and development policies and practices: a mapping study of eleven European countries and the European Commission (2013)
- The interactive map on migration (i-Map) provides news and information on M&D policies and practices in selected countries in Africa, the Middle East, Europe and Asia (www.imap-migration.org).
- The JMDI e-learning course on M&D project cycle management (www.migration4development.org)