Supporting Migration Policy Development in Turkey (MIND)
Comparative study, pilot process, awareness raising in evidence-based policy making: 2017–2019

Executive Summary

The project aims to support the Turkish Ministry of Interior Directorate General of Migration Management (DGMM) in its capacity-building efforts to set up an evidence-based migration policy development model informed by data, inter-institutional cooperation, and regional and global standards. Towards this end, migration policy development processes from European countries have been studied and a comparative report has been drafted for reference, while the DGMM experts are introduced to regional dialogues in order for the Ministry of Interior to effectively use these as platforms to learn best practices and engage with sending, transit and receiving states, while imparting the notable experience gained by Turkey in migration management over the last decade.

In addition, a pilot process on migration policy development was undertaken, involving applied trainings on data collection, analysis, development of alternative policy scenarios and their impact forecasts, as well as the development of Monitoring and Evaluation benchmarks for the scenarios chosen. MIND also included a large awareness-raising component, which produced a Roadmap and Guideline for all of DGMMs communication activities. 7 “harmonization” meetings were organized in 7 cities throughout Turkey bringing together representatives of public institutions and migrant/refugee communities. Over 2500 migrants/refugees were reached through these meetings which enabled information to be given on their rights and responsibilities while receiving their feedback as regards the policies in place. The project is funded by the United Kingdom and the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) is responsible for its management and implementation.

Current Context

The DGMM is in the process of drafting a migration strategy for Turkey. The Migration Board has replaced the “Migration Policies Board” set out in the original Law on Foreigners and International Protection, with the mandate to determine, coordinate and implement Turkey’s migration strategy. This Board is chaired by the Ministry of Interior and comprised of representatives of ministries, institutions, and organizations determined by the Ministry of Interior. In addition, the Security and Foreign Policies Board tied to the Presidency is mandated with determining Turkey’s migration policy and strategies. The MIND project has provided the DGMM with a Communication Roadmap and Guidelines, a comparative study of migration policy development processes of
five European countries, a study of the EU migration policy development process during the migration “crisis”, a recommendation report on how Turkey can better use Regional Consultative Dialogues, and a Migration Policy Development Report with recommendations for revision of existing strategies, a mapping of migration data collected by all institutions in Turkey, and a model of evidence-based policy development for Turkey.

Objectives

The main need identified for the final beneficiaries with regard to the state institutions is the enhancement of overall capacity and experience to participate in migration policy development and monitoring of its implementation. With regard to migrants, their main need is the improvement of the provision of public information and awareness raising on migration policies implementation in Turkey.

The proposed action will respond to the above-identified needs of the main target groups and final beneficiaries in different ways, in particular, by:

- Collecting, analyzing and sharing relevant EU experience and expertise in development, implementation, and evaluation of migration policies (Component A);
- Enhancing capacity for evidence-based migration policy development and Monitoring and Evaluation of migration policy (Components B and C);
- Raising awareness on migration policies to ensure full and active participation of the civil society within the country (Component D);
- Strengthening international cooperation in the area of migration policy as the efficiency of the migration policy also depends on how well it is communicated to foreign and international partners of Turkey (Component E).

Beneficiaries

The beneficiary of the SUPREME project is the Directorate-General for Migration Management of Turkey (DGMM), its relevant departments including Migration Policy and Projects Department. Other beneficiaries the action include state institutions involved in migration management in Turkey, as well as the migrant/refugee community in Turkey.

Project Duration

3 April 2017 – 3 July 2019