

#### India-EU Common Agenda on Migration and Mobility



# INDIA-EU MIGRATION GOVERNANCE: REGULAR MIGRATION AND WELL-MANAGED MOBILITY

### INTRODUCTION

With **7.6** percent of all Indian migrants living in the EU¹, India and the EU share a comprehensive and complex migration relationship. India is a country of source for **high-skilled** migrants as well as **low-skilled** migrants. It is estimated that between 2016 and 2030, **4 in 5 new job openings in the EU** will relate to **high-skilled** occupations, with nearly **12 million** new jobs for Business and Administration Associate professionals. India is projected to possess a **surplus of 245 million** high-skilled workers by **2030**, placing it in a position to plug a large portion of the **skilled worker gap** expected to arise in the EU². Moreover, **8.7 million jobs in the 'low-skilled category** are expected to become available in the EU by 2030³, indicating that mobility of **low skilled** workers between India and the EU could also be explored in the coming decade.

**Students' mobility** is another significant channel which, when managed well, will **benefit workforce and research** in both India and the EU. The number of Indian students and researchers in the EU has **increased** steadily, with over **50,000 currently in the EU**. Research has identified **financial feasibility** and **employment** 



<sup>1.</sup> India Migration Profile, European Commission. All data cited in this brief relates to EU-28 as the brief refers to research studies and data sets available till 2019. The UK exited the EU in January 2020, with resulting data implications for Indian migrant statistics in EU-27.

<sup>3.</sup> Skills Forecast: Key EU Trends to 2030 (EU Skills Panorama).







<sup>2.</sup> Korn Ferry FOCUS Study



prospects as the major driving forces for Indian students in Europe<sup>4</sup>. Balancing the concerns of Indian students with long-term workforce requirements of the EU will help ensure that the benefits of migration accrue for all. Bilateral flows of researchers, academics and students will also boost knowledge networks, with programs such as Erasmus+ in Europe and the Scheme for the Promotion of Academic and Research Collaboration in India benefiting both partners.

In the context of this growing need to manage regular migration and mobility, the India-EU Migration Governance Seminar was held under the framework of the India-EU Common Agenda on Migration and Mobility, an international cooperation policy framework, which aims to better organise and promote migration at relevant skill levels and foster wellmanaged mobility, including enhanced issuance of visas.

### BEST PRACTICES

The Erasmus program offers nearly 500 scholarships, and allows for credit mobility, Joint Masters, capacity building within universities and inter- university cooperation. Similarly, 130 Indian institutions offer foreign students 'study abroad' options and 2500 scholarships are available. The Global Initiative for Academic Networks (GIAN) Program also promotes foreign faculty visits and work opportunities in India.

The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship and National Skills Development Corporation collaborates with Japan on the Indo Japan Apprenticeship Programme. It involves the empanelment of organisations, language training, and bridging the gap between skills and demand for them to mutually benefit both countries and their workers. Such initiatives between India and the EU could build robust skills ecosystems.

<sup>4.</sup> Migration Policy Centre: India-EU Student Mobility

The **key insights** and **recommendations** from the summary are presented below.

#### **KEY INSIGHTS**

• The EU Intra-Corporate Transfer (ICT) Directive, which allows corporate employees in the EU to stay and work in EU Member States (MS) must be effectively implemented. Other policy directives for legal migration, such as the EU Directive for Students and Researchers and reform of the EU Blue Card must be prioritized.



 Facilitating the mobility of students is paramount. This will help enrich the research ecosystem and balance students' mobility from a skill and employment perspective.



 A system for the mutual recognition of qualifications and skills needs to be established. Lessons may be drawn from the European Qualification System, which standardizes skills.



 EU work visas must lower limitations on intra-EU mobility, some of which arise due to differing work visa policies at the national level.
 Extension of visa duration and enhancement of intra-EU mobility are crucial to enhance structured India-EU work migration movements.

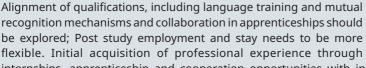


• Effective implementation of social security agreements between India and EU MS is imperative



### POLICY ENVIRONMENT AND COVERAGE

**Fine-tuning of the EU's migration policy** for the labour market and creating a **uniform policy** for highly-skilled and skilled workers.





internships, apprenticeship and cooperation opportunities with industry could be a starting point

Pilot projects that focus on offering legal channels to medium/low-skilled workers should be explored.

**Social Security Agreements for migrants** need to be effectively administered to address the issues of double coverage of payment, totalisation and portability. Grievance portals should be established in this regard

A review of existing visa and residence schemes to address the needs of the start-up ecosystem on both sides is essential; brainstorm innovative visa schemes



#### INFORMATION

Information dissemination on academic channels and scholarships for both EU and Indian students needs to be spread. Both the EU and India have extensive scholarship and mobility options for foreign students (for example: the Erasmus+ program in the EU and scholarships offered by over 130 Indian universities to foreign students).



## VISA AND RESIDENCY PROCESSES

A **new Visa Code**, effective 1st February 2020, will **balance visa application processing** with a country's cooperation on return and readmission of irregular migrants.



A **new Blue Card Initiative** (to be finalised), with **fast-track processing** and **enhanced labour market access** and **intra-EU mobility**, for better mobility of highly skilled migrants.

**Harmonise rules across sectors and companies** for the Intra-Corporate Directive in order to **promote stability and predictability** for corporate employee mobility.

Longer duration of visa for high-skilled workers, especially Information Technology workers, and their requirement of intra-EU mobility needs to be addressed