TOR – EU-India Cooperation and Dialogue on Migration and Mobility

Desk Review on Indian Diaspora

1. Background

EU-India Cooperation and Dialogue on Migration and Mobility Project background

Given the significant untapped potential in the EU-India cooperation on migration issues, the two parties have been exploring and deepening their dialogue on migration and mobility. As a result of these continuous joint efforts, great progress has been made in the last two years. In 2016, at the 13th EU-India Summit in Brussels, leaders endorsed the EU-India Agenda for Action 2020 (a common roadmap to jointly guide and strengthen the partnership) and established the EU-India Common Agenda for Migration and Mobility (CAMM) as a framework for cooperation on migration management. It outlines joint objectives, recommendations and actions to be under-taken on better organized legal migration, preventing and combatting irregular migration and addressing trafficking in human beings, international protection, and development impact of migration and mobility.

The EU-India Cooperation and Dialogue on Migration and Mobility (CDMM) project – funded by the European Union, and implemented by the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) – aims at operationalizing EU support for better management of mobility and legal migration between the EU and India, as well as to prevent and address the challenges related to irregular migratory flows. It is expected that through the implementation of concrete cooperation in support of political processes like the High Level Dialogue on Migration and Mobility (HLDMM) and the Common Agenda on Migration and Mobility (CAMM), the project will reinforce the continuity and sustainability of migration and mobility cooperation between the EU and India.

The project will adopt three strategic approaches: improved access to and utilization of quality information and data management to make informed policy decisions and formulations in both directions; promotion of knowledge transfer, capacity building, technical and expert support to ensure the concrete improvement of migration governance systems; and policy development to facilitate the implementation of comprehensive, coherent and feasible measures. EU-India cooperation on migration and mobility is further advanced through the annual High-Level Dialogue on Migration and Mobility (HLDMM).
2. Description of tasks and responsibilities

The primary objective of this activity is to shed light on the function, contributions, connections, future potential and existing needs of Indian diaspora and their communities in Italy. The research collected will be delivered in the form of a report which, will serve to expand the existing knowledge base of migratory dynamics between India and Italy, at a national and local policy level, but will also inform future activities within the CDMM project.

Specifically, the foreseen research will focus on eight interrelated objectives:

- Highlighting diaspora contributions to destination and countries of origin;
- Assessing migration patterns, features (states of origin), and migration methods from India to Italy (circular, chain, irregular, labour…);
- Assessing integration characteristics and challenges;
- Identifying diaspora associations, networks, centres of gathering, and their function in Italy;
- Assessing diaspora communities’ economic, social, political and/or cultural connections and interests to India and their local communities;
- Ascertaining the potential for migrant communities to support new immigrants (in regular or irregular situations of distress);
- Determining their needs: training, counselling, outreach, SOPs, etc.;

Methodology

The research is built on a combination of preliminary desk-based research and extensive qualitative research for the purpose of collecting primary information from the various stakeholders relevant to Indian diaspora communities in Italy, including diaspora organisations, as well as employers’ organisations, cultural mediators, trade unions, municipal offices and social cooperatives in Italy, specifically in the regions of Lombardia, Emilia Romagna and Lazio.

Desk research and review of secondary sources
First, a comprehensive desk research will be performed to collect all available information on migration dynamics between India and Italy and on the state, role, function, potential and needs of Indian diaspora communities in Italy. This task will build on the existing knowledge of the team, which will facilitate the scoping and implementation of the desk research. Drawing on the team’s experience in performing research on diaspora communities in Italy, the analysis of secondary sources will furthermore benefit from the availability of existing in-house resources and knowledge.

Stakeholder engagement and primary research
Due to the complexity of the research objectives and the prevailing lack of scholarship on social remittances of Indian diaspora communities in Italy, the research approach categorically foresees an extensive primary research campaign. The desk research will directly inform the design and elaboration of the primary research strategy, which in turn will
serve to contextualise, validate and expand the preliminary results of the analysis of the secondary sources. For the purpose of the primary research campaign, an approach of focus groups with semi-structured interviews will be used. Focus groups allow exploring research questions in greater detail than individual interviews because respondents can build upon the input provided by others. Selected face-to-face semi-structured interviews will be carried out in order to further expand on interesting answers or missing information arising from the focus groups.

The elaboration of the research strategy comprises three major angles, all of which are instrumental to the success of the activity:

- **Preparing a purposive sampling strategy.** For the purpose of this research activity, it is recommended to use a purposive sampling strategy. It is suggested to reach out to the two biggest Sikh temples in Italy, Associazione Gurdwara Singh Sabha in Reggio Emilia and Gurudwara Shri Guru Kalgidhar Sahib Cremona Tempio Sikh in Cremona, as well as to diaspora associations in Cremona, Reggio Emilia, Modena, Parma and Rome. In order to complement the perspectives of diaspora communities in line with the research objectives, the team will reach out to employers and employers’ organisations in Cremona and the social sector in Modena and Parma. The social sector here refers to cultural mediators, trade unions, municipal offices and cooperatives. The team will ensure that all of the pertinent stakeholder groups relevant to the guiding research questions are duly represented in the research campaign.

- **Preparing an outreach strategy.** There are three ways to reach out to diaspora communities in Italy: 1) directly through diaspora associations and faith-based organisations, 2) through employers and employers’ organisations and 3) through the social sector (cultural mediators, trade unions, municipal offices). For the purpose of maximising the success of the diaspora engagement, the team will use all three of these outreach strategies to activate and involve diaspora communities in the region.

- **Preparing specific questionnaires tailor-made to each of the overarching research objectives, as well as to the specific stakeholder categories that are targeted in the primary research.**

The team will proactively contact the stakeholders in order to maximize the result of the engagement and will ensure that all of the pertinent stakeholder groups relevant to the guiding research questions are duly represented in the research campaign. The primary research campaign will be performed in the framework of field trips to Italy.

**Report writing**

Following the implementation and analysis of results of the primary research campaign, preliminary findings will be shared with the CDMM project team. In a next step, the team will write the final report, summarising the findings of the desk research and the primary research campaign in a structured and concise manner reflecting the different research objectives outlined at the beginning of this proposal. The consultancy company will also elaborate a note of recommendations on how public authorities may continue to better support Indians citizens overseas whilst maximizing their social, cultural and financial linkages. Additionally, conclusions will be drawn on how to best replicate diaspora studies in
other EU countries, including lessons learnt on the effectiveness of different outreach strategies for different kinds of information and general issues to be taken into consideration when setting up this type of research.

3. Qualification and Experience
   - Advanced university degree in political science/migration/international relations; PhD will be considered an advantage;
   - In-depth knowledge of Indian diaspora specific to the EU context (Italy);
   - Proven publication track record on diaspora affairs;
   - Ability to draw conclusions from various sources of data and practices
   - Fluency in written and spoken Italian and English;
   - At least 6 years of relevant professional experience;
   - Ability to work in a multi-cultural and multi-ethnic environment.

4. Dissemination and Branding
Dissemination and branding modalities will follow the EU and Government of India’s prescriptions and guidelines.