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

Migration Profile on India

1. Background

In view of the importance of international migration on the global agenda and the untapped potential in the EU-India cooperation on migration issues, 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 comprehensive framework for cooperation on migration management. This was a significant step forward, as for the first time, the two parties outlined joint objectives, recommendations and actions to be undertaken on better organized legal migration, preventing and combating irregular migration and enhancing development impact of migration and mobility.

Over the years, EU and India have made substantial efforts to improve the global governance on migration and the ensuing policy challenges. There are clearly some similarities across the regions in terms of the economic, social, environmental and human development impact as well as some fundamental challenges and complexities that migration raises for the public policy makers. Better understanding of regional and national migration patterns and trends as well as the variations and complexities would assist in formulating strategic policy responses.

Whilst India is the top source country for international migrants globally, almost one third of the world’s international migrants (75 million) lived in Europe in 2015. According to recently released World Migration Report 2018 (IOM), “nearly half of all international migrants worldwide in 2015 were born in Asia, primarily originating from India (the largest country of origin”).\(^1\) Considerable growth has also occurred in Asian-born population in Northern America (15.5 million) and in Europe (20 million in 2015).\(^2\) However, unlike the growth in migration to Europe, the number of Europeans living outside Europe declined substantially with slow growth of European migrants in Asia and Oceania region between 2010 and 2015.\(^3\)

Intraregional movements, both regular and irregular, is a predominant feature in South Asia driven by labor market and economic differentials, geographic proximity and kinship ties. In the sub-region, India is a major country of origin, transit and destination accounts for about

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2 Ibid.
3 Ibid.
453 million internal migrants\(^4\) and 28 million international migrants\(^5\). Within its territorial borders, India witnesses extensive migration between different states and districts: about 37.8% of the country’s total population accounts for internal migrants, having risen by 44% over the decade of 2001-2011. India has the largest diaspora population in the world followed by Mexico and Russia; and the second largest number of international students. Of the 16 million Indians currently living abroad, 1.2 million are residing in Europe. Since 2010, the number of Schengen visas issued to Indian nationals has increased by 60%. EU Member States also receive nearly 5,000 asylum applications from Indian citizens every year, out of which some 40% are granted protection.

India is also the second largest recipient of remittances (China being the first). Over the years, India’s emigration policy has evolved and the country has put in place several initiatives to engage with its diaspora. It has also embarked on a robust skill development system for providing skills to its 18-23 year old population to benefit from the demographic dividend including scaling up the skills of workers migrating abroad based on the labor demand in destination countries. It envisages being one of the major labor-sending countries by 2030.

There is substantial scope for State Governments to set out their own direction in relation to labor migration for both local and overseas employment as well as connecting to their diaspora. Given the size and diversity within India, as well as a move towards greater decentralization, there is an increased interest in a number of States to compete for a share in the overseas labor markets. State-level policy-making and strategizing in this area targeting non-resident nationals has gained momentum (Kundu, D. & Sethi, M.; 2018 forthcoming).

Given the magnitude in terms of numbers and the changing profile of migration trajectories at the regional, sub regional and national level including intra and inter-state movements, there is a growing need for appropriate policy responses (based on accurate and updatable data) to manage both internal and international migration.

Indeed, the Migration Profile on India is conceived as a support tool to conduct further policy research, and develop a knowledge base for policymaking on India-EU migration and mobility.

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

The EU-India Cooperation and Dialogue on Migration and Mobility project – funded by the European Union, and implemented by the International Labour Organization (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,

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\(^4\) Data on Migration, Census 2011 (http://www.censusindia.gov.in/2011census/population_enumeration.html)

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).

More importantly, the increased focus on migration and mobility and its development implications for the ever-growing EU-India relationship not only requires new types of evidence but necessitates the use of consistent, reliable and comparable data including a monitoring framework that provides multi-sectoral insights into migrant characteristics, trends and flows. Indeed, given the complexity and variability involved, there is a great need to enhance availability, timeliness, comprehensiveness, reliability and comparability of data, as well as methodically analyze areas for improvements to create a common frame of reference for enhanced and better informed dialogue on EU-India migration and mobility issues.

2. Objectives of the Migration Profile on India

Building upon prior projects’ lessons learnt, the EU-India CDMM Project aims at underpinning policy dialogue with concrete technical cooperation activities to ensure that such dialogue does not remain sterile but produces actual results. During the first year of the project implementation, a Migration Profile will be developed by ICMPD.

The Migration Profile will aim at providing an overview of available data and data quality, updating existing data on migration and evidence, identifying data gaps, compiling and analyzing new types of trends, profiling stocks and flows in a concise and internationally comparable manner for both migration evidence advancement and migration policy enhancement.

The Migration Profile will not only constitute the baseline document for the EU and India in their negotiations, but will also serve as the central reference for the publication of two annual updates by the Government of India in the second and third year of the project implementation, reflecting the natural changes and evolutions of the EU-India migration situation. The Migration Profile will then be pursued with a view to becoming the repository of public information addressed to policy makers, decision makers in the government and the legislature, authorities involved in migration governance, statistical offices, representatives of civil society, international partners, operational and technical staff in both the EU and India. It should be seen as a flexible tool and a live document that can be
adjusted according to new developments and priorities, and eventually mainstreamed into national development planning.

The expert(s) will examine and draft a MP on the basis of the following structure:\(^6\):

1. Executive Summary
2. Data\(^7\) on EU-India migratory trends and migrant characteristics (i.e. flows, stocks in absolute numbers but also by country of destination, qualification, occupation, and gender)
   a. Immigration/emigration
   b. Irregular migration
   c. Return migration
   d. Internal migration
   e. Socio-economic impact of EU-India migration (human development – skills, economic development – remittances, employment)
3. The migration governance framework in India and the EU
   a. Policy framework
   b. Laws and Regulations
   c. Institutional framework
   d. International Cooperation
4. Key Findings and Recommendations to pursue as future activities within the CDMM project

Section five will include a set of recommendations outlining priority areas of action, which can then be expanded upon during the MP’s launch event, the overall CDMM project and beyond.

3. **Description of tasks and responsibilities**

The Migration Profile will be based on multi-disciplinary exploration and analysis of new and existing statistical data sources. It will be complemented by expert led interviews with key decision makers, authorities involved in migration governance, state authorities, statistical offices, civil society, international partners, donor agencies, research and academia (within India and abroad).

The objective is to have a document that is beneficial to both the GoI and EU Member States, identifying needs in terms of training, data gaps, defining the set of data to be collected, developing analysis capacities, inter-agency cooperation, developing technical solutions, etc.

To ensure sustainability after, the resulting profile will be jointly launched by the Government of India and the EU Delegation. As a direct follow up to the launch event, a workshop

\(^6\) In accordance to the four pillars of the EU-India CAMM
\(^7\) International data sources – such as UNDESA, Eurostat, World Migration Report - and Indian official statistics will be used, in so far as they are available and to the extent feasible. State level data – especially on irregular migration – will be referred to over the past ten years.
gathering key policy officers within the Ministries of External Affairs, Human Resource Development, Home Affairs, Labour, and Statistics and Programme Implementation, will be organized to review the findings, gaps and recommendations, as well as identify the way forward for an annual publication on Indian migration.

The expert’s tasks will be to:

- Provide an overview of available data and data quality
- Review the use of migration statistics in decision- and policy making
- Carry out interviews and complement observations with research findings
- Consolidate information from interviews conducted and assess whether these provide new insights
- Formulate recommendations on how to better utilize migration data/migration profile in support of policy development within the four CAMM pillars