TOR – Podcast for disseminating EU-India initiatives supporting Indian students and EU universities

Background

EU-India Cooperation and Dialogue on Migration and Mobility Project background
Recognising the growing importance of migration and mobility in EU-India relations, the EU-India Common Agenda for Migration and Mobility (CAMM) was endorsed at the EU-India Summit of 30 March 2016. While the two sides – India and EU - have agreed to work collaboratively on the issues of migration and mobility, there is a need to ensure the dialogue is not limited to just high level events, but that collaboration and sharing gain momentum and the objectives of the CAMM are achieved. With this aim, the EU is supporting the ILO and ICMPD to deliver a project titled ‘EU-India Cooperation and Dialogue on Migration and Mobility’.

The overall objective of the EU-India Cooperation and Dialogue on Migration and Mobility project is to contribute to a better governance of migration and mobility between the EU and India, as well as to prevent and address the challenges related to irregular migratory flows. Its specific objective is to support the EU-India High Level Dialogue on Migration and Mobility (HLDMM) and the implementation of the Common Agenda for Migration and Mobility (CAMM).

Description of tasks and responsibilities

Background
Information about European universities in India is commonly gained through social networks, word of mouth, paid education recruitment consultants, and agencies of varying integrity, as well as online portals of diverging interests. A dearth of accurate, free, publicly available, information about the opportunities for education within the EU, combined with the ubiquity of unscrupulous educational consultants - or overseas agents – across India has impeded the students’ process of decision making. Consequently resulting in situations of vulnerability (victim of trafficking, exploitative practices requiring the payment of exorbitant fees to unethical recruitment agents) or a misalignment of reality versus expectations (promised admission into a university that proves to be different in reality). Greater outreach efforts - by the EU in conjunction with the Government of India – supported by the media, academia, think tanks and civil society, is necessary if the EU is to successfully attract Indian talent and Indian citizens are to enjoy safe and secure mobility to the EU.
Activity Rationale
In line with EU-India CAMM’s emphasis on exploring the possibility for enhanced mobility and exchange of students and researchers in a safe and secure environment, ICMPD has undertaken, and continues to, develop tools such as the EU-India Students’ Checklist and the upcoming EU Reference Tool for EU universities. However, the awareness of these initiatives amongst students, EU based universities and policymakers remains temporary.

The EU-India CDMM project – on the request of the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) – organised a ‘listening session’ for students to physically partake in the European Higher Education Virtual Fair (EHEVF) India 2019 (put together by the EU-POP project) on the 14th and 15th of November in New Delhi (for further details please refer to TORs). It gathered over 90 students from local universities. Podcasts (an audio recording) represents a flexible and effective means of dissemination, especially for younger audiences like students. A podcast motivating, contextualising and documenting the various initiatives will increase awareness and uptake of EU efforts. Moreover, the podcast (audio file) will facilitate distribution and broader inclusion (especially of those not in attendance). A podcast can also represent all the relevant stakeholder perspectives in a narrative form. The digital distribution form also allows for tracking audience type and listenership numbers to accurately gauge effectiveness of this dissemination strategy. Such a podcasts can raise awareness, effectively share information and inspire students to choose safe, official and low cost channels to study in the EU.

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The audio recording/podcast program will feature select conversations with key target groups within the student mobility domain narrating a story of how Indian students experience the phases of student migration: pre-orientation (i.e. researching/counselling/outreach), pre-departure (i.e. visa application/financial planning/travel), post-arrival (i.e. integration into host community/support services/inclusion), and post-graduation (i.e. options for return/employment/continued stay).

This podcast will profile Indian student mobility to the EU, and will consist of the following discussion points:

1. **Introduction**: expert voices presenting the background, trends, and the major topics related to Indian students abroad (first globally, and then narrowing focus down to the European context).

2. **Review of experiences and expectations** by Indian students currently in the pre-orientation phase, graduate alumni in Europe or back in India - post graduation - describing their present
and past experiences, the prevalent practices used by Indian students/European Universities to recruit, how they procure (or are procuring) information, identifying financing means, and other relevant topics (visa applications/post-arrival assistance/travel). Tools and resources publicly available to protect and safeguard student mobility – by either the EU, EU Member States, or the Government of India, will be recognised here.

3. **Review of experiences and expectations** by EU based universities: Using key informant interviews with EU university representatives - working in international recruitment - key issues, support services, and available resources will be presented.

4. **Conclusion**

This podcast is expected to:

- Be used as an easy-to-consult resource for students, EU universities, counsellors, and policy makers;
- Disseminate best practices and tools developed by the EU for students and universities;
- Reinforce Indian efforts to strengthen diaspora engagement in Europe whilst at the same time strengthening EU and national initiatives on education and pre-departure;
- Offer concrete recommendations to improve training and awareness initiatives foreseen within the project (e.g. organizing awareness raising campaigns, drafting of integration handbooks), inform stakeholders and researchers on current trends of Indian students to EU;
- Inform future avenues for research on the India – EU migration corridor;
- Frame student immigration in an accurate light within a policy and public debate.

**Methodology**

A methodology will need to be elaborated by the consultant in conjunction with ICMPD. However, it is foreseen that this podcast will use face-to-face interviews/focus groups. The qualitative interviews will use a flexible, semi-structured interview guide.

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 are duly represented.

**Phases of Implementation**

1. Background literature and secondary data review for crafting podcast structure, narration script, questionnaires, and identifying key informants/stakeholders.
2. Interviews with experts and students:
   a. at the EU-India Fair in Delhi
   b. in Europe studying or as former students who remain within the EU or who may have already returned back to India.
3. Production
4. Dissemination
List of Suggested Interviewees

The following interviews will be conducted to patch together a conversation bringing together differing perspectives on EU-India Student Mobility:

1. **Prospective Indian students** identified through field interviews (and follow up calls) in Delhi during the Virtual Fair that took place on the 14-15 November 2019
2. **Select Indian students and Alumni in EU Member States** at Bachelor’s, Master’s and PhD levels through Skype interviews as well as those who have graduated and are currently working/living in India – identified through field interviews
3. **Representatives from Indian Universities/High Schools** (Counsellors/Teachers) – identified through Listening Session at PBK preparations
4. **EUD representative in New Delhi**
5. **Representatives from the Government of India**
6. **Representative from EU Member State Embassies**
7. **Expert Voices** on EU-India student migration from India and the EU.

For more information on the podcast/audio file, please contact ICMPD’s EU-India project team: euindia@icmpd.org