It’s amazing ...

... what migrants bring.

IOM Regional Strategy
FOR THE EU MEMBER STATES, NORWAY AND SWITZERLAND
2014 – 2020
IOM's *Regional Strategy for the EU Member States, Norway and Switzerland* presents a unified, focused organizational approach to the current and future priorities and objectives of IOM and its 28 country offices in the Region covering the EU Member States, Norway and Switzerland.

The Strategy focuses IOM's work in the Region over the period of 2014-2020, but is also flexible and subject to periodic review to adjust to new realities and emerging priorities.

The Regional Strategy adheres to IOM's Constitution and its Strategic Focus, particularly in its recognition of the link between migration and economic, social and cultural development.

The Strategy affirms that in the coming years, IOM will remain steadfast in supporting governments and partners in the Region through its **Core Service Areas:**

- Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (AVRR)
- Counter Trafficking of Human Beings (THB)
- Unaccompanied Migrant Children (UMC)
- Immigration and Border Management (IBM)
- Migrant Integration
- Migration Health
- Migration Policy and Research

The Regional Strategy advocates for the advancement of **Strategic Areas of Focus** where IOM and partners have assessed a need for enhanced engagement:

- Migration for Economic Growth and Development
- Migration Crises
- Migration and Climate Change
- Resettlement

While core service areas such as Facilitating Labour Migration, Migration and Development, and Resettlement Assistance are also long-standing Pillars of IOM support in the Region, the Regional Strategy presents these particular fields among the Strategic Areas of Focus.

IOM seeks through this Strategic Approach to contribute to Europe's path towards growth, stability and solidarity with consistent attention given to the promotion and protection of the fundamental and human rights of migrants and vulnerable groups, especially women and children.

IOM considers complementary efforts and close cooperation with our Partners as the best course of strategic action.
Introduction

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) believes that well-managed migration and facilitated human mobility can ensure that the challenges of population dynamics evolve into opportunities for the benefit of states, migrants and society alike. This conviction is enshrined in IOM’s Constitution and in its global 12-point Strategic Focus which affirms the link between migration and economic, social and cultural development.

Human migration and mobility remain high on the agendas of European governments and EU Institutions – and public discourse is vigorous. The imbalances and the pressures generated by the ongoing economic crisis, political upheavals, and migration crises in the European Neighborhood have only increased their prominence. As the leading agency delivering comprehensive migration management services and policy advice, IOM has been a steadfast partner assisting European governments, the EU, migrants and societies to meet these mounting challenges and to harness the benefits that migration provides.

Yet in an increasingly interlinked world and a dynamic and changing region where demographic trends, uncertain economic recovery and complex migration flows call for enhanced response, the need has never been greater to move forward together with intensified effort to provide migrants and societies in the region with a more holistic, coherent and humane approach to migration management.

IOM has therefore developed a forward-looking Regional Strategy which considers the persistent and emerging migration dynamics in the Region, affirms the contribution of IOM’s enduring core areas of service and support, and presents four strategic priority areas where IOM seeks to sharpen its focus and increase its strategic engagement in the next 7 years.

Adhering to IOM’s Constitution and its global Strategic Focus, this Regional Strategy document aims to present our partners and stakeholders in the Region with a unified, focused approach to these priority areas and a commitment to maintain the high level of our traditional service areas, with consistent attention given to the protection of the rights of migrants and vulnerable groups across the board. Ultimately, IOM hopes that implementation of this Regional Strategy will contribute to Europe’s path towards growth, stability and solidarity.

While the Strategy guides IOM’s proposed work in the Region over the 2014-2020 period, it is flexible and subject to periodic review, allowing us to adjust to new realities and emerging issues. IOM will stress complementary action and strive to implement this Strategy in close cooperation with governments, partners, stakeholders and migrants.

This Strategy represents the current and future priorities and objectives of IOM and its 28 offices in the Region covering the EU MS plus Norway and Switzerland (which for ease of reference may hereafter be referred to as “the Region” or “Europe“): Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland (and Sweden), France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom. The IOM Regional Office for the European Economic Area, the EU and NATO (RO Brussels) serves as the coordinating hub supporting the country offices implementing this Regional Strategy.

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1 IOM Constitution, 14 November 1989. (www.iom.int)
2 “IOM Strategy”, Resolution No. 2150 (XCVIII), adopted by the Council at its 481st meeting on 7 June 2007
3 At the time of publication, a planned IOM office in Cyprus was pending.
Evolution of Migration in the Region: History, Trends and Outlook

IOM’s Growth and Development in the Region (1951 – present)

Since its establishment in 1951 as the “Intergovernmental Committee for European Migration” to help resettle millions of people uprooted by World War II, the Organization has evolved with the changing migration landscape in Europe and made a transition from an operational logistics agency to become the leading international agency working with governments, International Organizations (IOs), civil society and migrants themselves on a comprehensive range of migration issues. Indeed, IOM’s multi-faceted growth in the European Region has allowed the Organization to help partners meet the various migration challenges over the years that have impacted states in the Region. IOM embarked on a global restructuring in July 2010 which reshaped the architecture of the Organization to provide more coordinated and coherent coverage in the Regions. In Europe, the present structure aims to bring IOM action closer to all beneficiaries through its 28 country offices in the Region, and gives the Organization the capacity to deliver an ever-increasing number and diversity of projects at the request of our Member States and in cooperation with key partners such as the EU.

Overview of the Migration Context and Key Trends in the Region (2013)

Ongoing recession or uneven recovery in a number of European destination countries has contributed to a worsening of public perception towards migrants and asylum-seekers, which together with the rise of xenophobic rhetoric and initiatives, has degraded public discourse and exacerbated the economic and social marginalization of some migrants. At the same time, in the context of an ageing Europe and with the general political shift in Europe from austerity to a more pro-growth stance, discussion on improving labour mobility and tackling rising youth unemployment has become more prominent, thus presenting opportunities for countries in the Region to gain an edge in the global competition for workers. Reverse emigration and intra-EU migration dynamics are also noteworthy: new emigration from crisis-hit southern states to northern economies and to other regions is a trend that is likely to continue for those migrants following employment opportunities, and will thus test the response of governments and societies to both manage and benefit from these flows.

Externally, the EU and governments in the Region continuously factor in the role that the European Neighborhood and the enlargement candidate countries in South-eastern Europe play as the main countries of origin and transit to the EU. Volatility in the MENA region in particular has resulted in considerable cross-border movements; instability in these countries has also impacted Europe. As such, the EU and many governments in the Region have taken practical steps or made proposals to respond to irregular migration and resulting migration pressures on the EU’s external borders.

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1 IOM’s structure today comprises nine Regional Offices, two Special Liaison Offices, two Administrative Centers and more than 240 Country Offices and Sub-offices. The Regional Offices are: Brussels (European Economic Area); Vienna (South Eastern Europe, Eastern Europe and Central Asia); Dakar (Central and West Africa); Pretoria (Southern Africa); Nairobi (East Africa and the Horn of Africa); Cairo (Middle East and North Africa); San José (Central and North America and the Caribbean); Buenos Aires (South America); and Bangkok (Asia and the Pacific).

2 For instance through the EU’s “Action on Migratory Pressures” (April 2012) and its “Common Framework for genuine and practical solidarity towards Member States facing particular pressures on their asylum systems, including through mixed migration flows” (March 2012).
Migration Outlook for Europe in the next 5 to 10 Years

Forecasted labour and skills shortages will challenge the economic growth prospects of countries in the Region and the potential for economic recovery. The shortages are expected to rise over the near- and medium-term in the EU as a result of an ageing Europe and a shrinking workforce, structural changes in the distribution of occupations, and the nature of the skills in demand, induced by an increasingly competitive global economic environment. The EU’s forward view is contained in the Europe 2020 strategy which stresses the links between the development of a comprehensive labour migration policy and fostering growth and global competitiveness of the EU. Furthermore, improving labour market outcomes of immigrants residing in the EU and their descendants is highlighted as a priority as well in the EC Communication on Migration (2011) and the 2012 Employment Package.

Complex migration flows to Europe generated by man-made crises, and the resulting migration pressures, are expected to remain a concern for the Region. Furthermore, at the time of writing, IOM and partners expect the impact of the crisis in Syria to remain significant for the Region, while the withdrawal of international forces from Afghanistan in 2014 may lead to instability resulting in increased flows affecting a number of countries, including those in the Region. In the realm of climate change, IOM and partners expect in the near- and long-term that environmental degradation and other forms of human vulnerability that can be exacerbated by climate change will change migration dynamics both in the Region and externally.

Finally, promoting human development in a sustainable manner will figure prominently on the international agenda in the next 5-10 years with the revision of the UN’s development goals after 2015. More than ever, it will be crucial that all stakeholders recognize the established contribution of migrants and migration to all three pillars of sustainable development (economic, social and environmental) – as well as the recognition that development also impacts migration – and push for the systematic inclusion of migration issues in the post-2015 agenda.

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7 Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions of 4.5.2011 Communication on migration [COM(2011)248 final]. The Employment package was adopted by the EU Commission to support a job-rich recovery and address both the demand and supply sides of the labour market. The package also underlines the long term role of economic migration in creating a genuine EU labour market.
Pillars of Support: IOM’s Core Service Areas in the Region

IOM as the leading expert organization in migration will continue to actively support the EU and governments, and will enhance collaboration with all stakeholders in the Region through our well-established “pillars” of service in the Region:

- **Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (AVRR)**
- **Counter Trafficking of Human Beings (THB)**
- **Unaccompanied Migrant Children (UMC)**
- **Immigration and Border Management (IBM)**
- **Migrant Integration**
- **Migration Health**
- **Migration Policy and Research**

Each of the core activities and strategic approaches in the Region draw strength from IOM’s global footprint which enables us to strengthen transnational cooperation and dialogue, promote the exchange of good practices, and contribute to the creation of a more harmonized approach in the field of migration between European countries and with other regions from which migration flows originate or transit.

IOM has a long history, robust programmes, and strong institutional partnerships in countries along all major migration routes to Europe, and supports the main Regional Consultative Processes (RCPs) on migration which concern Europe.

With over 35 years of experience and a unique position that brings together stakeholders from governments and civil society along migration routes and across borders, as well as direct access to migrants themselves, IOM is the Region’s lead agency implementing **Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (AVRR)** programmes, which provide orderly, humane, and cost-effective return and reintegration of migrants who wish to return voluntarily to their respective countries of origin. IOM’s voluntary return programmes have been enhanced through the progressive inclusion of reintegration assistance, monitoring and evaluation as well as specific features for vulnerable groups, including Victims of Trafficking (VoTs) and **Unaccompanied Migrant Children (UMC)**. In fact, IOM has expanded its activities concerning UMC beyond the framework of the AVRR programmes in recent years to include projects on family-tracing, capacity-building and research.

IOM is also recognized as a key actor in the region for its work on **countering Trafficking of Human Beings (THB)** as the Organization has enhanced its role in providing direct assistance to VoTs and exploited migrants, quantitative and qualitative research, capacity-building, prevention measures, and support to governments to develop and implement national action plans. IOM in Europe develops programmes that not only benefit third country nationals, but also VoT who are EU citizens, as well as programmes that take into consideration the gender and age dimensions of human trafficking.

Another integral area of IOM’s work in the Region is **Immigration and Border Management (IBM)** which is directed at helping governments develop national legislation, administrative structures and operational systems to respond effectively and humanely to diverse migration and border management challenges. IOM’s technical experience, expertise, and our global footprint also enables us to facilitate the exchange of ideas, knowledge sharing, data management, capacity building, networking, and interfacing with sending and transit countries from a human rights perspective.

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Effective Integration policies for both temporary and permanent migrants need to be among the first priorities of a government’s migration agenda, as successful integration promotes social cohesion and prosperity. IOM views integration management as a comprehensive set of legal and policy measures that define the parameters of the migrants’ stay and involvement in the country of destination. IOM here provides a platform for dialogue and furnishes stakeholders with relevant evidence and international good practices to encourage the development and implementation of innovative solutions to migrant integration.

IOM’s long standing experience delivering comprehensive Migration Health programmes grounded in a human rights-based approach is increasingly relied upon. As recognized by governments, IOs and the EU, new policies in the area of migrant health need to be cross-sectoral in scope, taking into account the social, economic, cultural and migratory determinants of migrants’ health, while remaining mindful of the role of health in promoting social inclusion. IOM’s migration health activities in Europe respectively target governmental and public sector actors through cross-sectoral dialogue and capacity building exercises to improve the access and appropriateness of health care services, health promotion and prevention measures to meet the needs of migrants, Roma and other vulnerable groups, and to fight discrimination in health in line with the aims of the Europe 2020 Strategy on the need to reduce health inequalities.

Migration Policy and Research has long been the complementary arm to IOM’s operations in the Region where we are uniquely positioned to provide, based on our extensive grassroots experience, guidance on migration policy that advances the efforts of stakeholders to develop effective national, regional and global migration management policies and strategies. IOM supports national dialogue with third countries on migration issues, and actively contributes to EU and governmental policy debates on migration management. IOM also conducts research designed to guide and inform migration policy and practice – as well as to improve the effectiveness of the design of its own activities – and provides a unique space for exchange between researchers and policy makers.

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IOM’s recognized work in the core fields of Labour Migration, Migration and Development and Resettlement are also key pillars of IOM service in the region; however, these three service areas will be addressed in more detail among IOM’s Strategic Areas of Focus in the next chapter.
IOM’s strategic approaches in the cross-cutting areas of MIGRANT RIGHTS, GENDER, and MONITORING & EVALUATION are integral to IOM’s work in the region

MIGRANT RIGHTS

IOM aims to work in cooperation with partners to address the protection and promotion of the rights of all migrants.

Upholding and protecting the Fundamental and Human Rights of Migrants is central to the migrant-centered strategic approach which IOM applies across its entire array of service areas, in concert with our partners in the international community. Here IOM aims to work in cooperation with governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental partners in the Region to address the challenges related to the protection and promotion of the rights of all migrants, with emphasis on vulnerable migrants such as those in an irregular situation, migrants with health related needs, migrant single parent households, migrant children, and individuals who have been subjected to trafficking in persons, forced labor, or other forms of exploitation.

GENDER

Migrants can be exposed to a dual vulnerability: as migrants and because of their gender.

In today’s increasingly mobile and interconnected world, migration has become an integral part of the lives of millions of women and men. Yet migrants can be exposed to a dual vulnerability: as migrants and because of their gender. IOM works to uphold gender equality, particularly the empowerment of women, and is committed to ensuring that and the needs of all migrant women and men are identified, taken into consideration and addressed in all its policies and services. Through IOM’s innovative, gender-sensitive approaches, migration policies and programmes can be powerful tools to empower migrants for the benefit of all.

MONITORING & EVALUATION

IOM will continue to integrate systematic monitoring and evaluation in all its programmes and projects.

Meeting the challenges of impact evaluation and determining the consequences of migration are crucial to IOM’s work on behalf of governments and migrants alike. IOM in the region will therefore continue to integrate systematic monitoring and evaluation components in all its programmes and projects to maximize their effectiveness and sustainability and to feed findings and results back into further research.
Strategic Areas of Focus in the Region 2014-2020

Affirming that each of IOM’s Core Service Areas as described above will remain crucial to our work in the Region and will be maintained with the added benefit of our complementary institutional approaches, we intend to draw attention to the following Strategic Areas of Focus where IOM, its partners, and stakeholders consider that enhanced engagement in Europe will be necessary in the coming years:

- **MIGRATION FOR ECONOMIC GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT**: leveraging the potentials of migration
- **MIGRATION CRISES**: working together to know, plan and respond
- **MIGRATION AND CLIMATE CHANGE**: cooperating to reduce risks and support adaptation
- **RESETTLEMENT**: invigorating efforts and focusing on long-term integration

I. Migration for Economic Growth and Development

Anticipated labour and skills shortages in Europe will reinforce the need for facilitated legal migration and mobility to support growth and innovation. As noted in the Europe 2020 strategy, migration can be a key factor in boosting growth and in giving states in the Region an edge in the global completion for labour. To this end, advancing structural reforms, improving migrant admission and integration conditions and creating tolerant and inclusive societies can play a decisive role in attracting foreign workers of various skill levels, entrepreneurs, investors and strengthening the role of global talent in research and development. Yet these potentials are threatened by economic recession which has exacerbated the challenges of migrant integration, resulting in the increased economic and social marginalization of many migrants residing in Europe. Moreover, the growing realization of the links between migration and development necessitates increased efforts to harness the potential benefits through enabling integration and empowering immigrants to contribute skills, know-how and capital to their countries of origin.

If migration is to efficiently match labour and skill shortages in receiving countries, the design of admission policies should involve flexible tools for the selection of migration candidates at all skill levels in response to rapidly changing economic needs, as well as measures to facilitate the socio-economic integration, protection of rights and overall well-being of migrants and members of their families admitted under all immigration categories, at all the stages of the migration process.

The European Union has recognised that international migration can contribute to meeting labour and skills shortages both through the recruitment of labour migrants from third-countries and through better labour market integration of immigrants already resident in the EU. The EU has also established the Region’s commitment to a balanced and comprehensive approach to relations with third countries where cooperation on migration is closely interlinked with other policy areas, including development cooperation.

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9 In the EU's 2011 Communication on Migration and in its 2012 Employment package
10 In the EU’s Global Approach to Migration and Mobility and in its Agenda for Change
IOM will continue to support the European Union, its Member States, Norway and Switzerland as well as other actors in the region with evidence, policy analysis and operational knowledge in key policy areas and serve as a trusted partner in testing new approaches to labour migration management and immigrant integration. However, for the legal framework on immigration to achieve its aims, further advances are needed to develop operational tools in support of legal recruitment and employment of migrants with the skills needed by European economies. To this end, IOM is developing a new international framework to reduce migrant worker exploitation and trafficking for forced labour by promoting ethical labour recruitment: the International Recruitment Integrity System (IRIS) 11 is a voluntary accreditation and monitoring process that will bring together like-minded private sector and government stakeholders in a common effort to increase transparency and integrity within international labour supply chains.

Other key areas for multilateral and bilateral cooperation with countries of origin include support for the skill development of national workforces and improving the compatibility of occupational profiles in line with EU labour market requirements, portability of social and pension rights, effective recognition of qualifications and competences, as well as providing information and operational support in international recruitment to small and medium-sized enterprises in the Region.

The identification of innovative solutions to immigrant integration will be supported in partnership with key actors and in coordination between national and local authorities. The EU reaffirmed12 that countries of origin can play an important role in fostering migrant integration, in particular through pre-departure information support. IOM’s strength stemming from its global presence lies in the ability to propose effective transnational approaches to pre-departure migrant support measures. IOM has been carrying out migrant training over the past 60 years to a wide range of migrants, including refugees and other humanitarian entrants, family migrants, as well as migrant workers of various skill levels and envisaged durations of stay. Moreover, IOM spearheads the creation of Migrant Resource Centres in various countries of origin and destination, builds capacity of employment mediators and promotes innovative measures towards integrity in international recruitment processes, as through the aforementioned IRIS initiative.

Combating discrimination, including in recruitment and at the workplace, is a priority supporting integration alongside wider efforts to diminish xenophobia, fight misperceptions and stereotypes about migration, and to promote the positive contributions of migrants to their new societies. IOM will also support effective mainstreaming of immigrant integration support measures in a wide range of relevant policy areas, such as employment and education, civic and political participation, urban management, as well as help support inclusion of vulnerable groups: trafficked persons, unaccompanied migrants, women, the elderly and others. Additional attention will be paid to supporting the needs and the role of various levels of governance as integration on the local level and coordination between national and local authorities emerge as priority areas in the EU.

The growing realization of the links between migration and development necessitates further reassessment of current destination country migration and integration policies with respect to their development impact. IOM seeks to take advantage of its unique global position to engage with governments in countries of origin and destination, diaspora and other stakeholders in a

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11 IRIS aims to effectively bridge the legislative and regulatory gaps governing labour recruitment in countries of origin and countries of destination. By agreeing to abide by a common code of ethical conduct and best practices, stakeholders engaged in recruitment in countries of origin and destination will have assurances that their counterparts are committed to fair recruitment.

12 In the European Agenda for Integration of Third-Country Nationals (2013)
dialogue on the impact of policies on the development potential of migration. IOM also intends to conduct an evaluation of migration and development initiatives and on incentives for diaspora/migrant engagement and potential return in order to identify conditions in countries of origin and destination that enable a positive impact of migration on development and promote brain circulation. This will be done in a gender-sensitive way to address possibly different experiences and needs of female and male diaspora members.

Many countries within and outside the Region are also currently struggling with the impact of high rates of emigration and have started strengthening their diaspora capacities. IOM will focus on improving the knowledge of these transnational communities through mapping, surveys and study visits, which in turn could inform further programming on diaspora empowerment, strengthening links between diaspora and the countries of origin and facilitating the transfer of human, social, economic and cultural capital of diaspora. Remittance management, including formalizing remittance flows, improving financial literacy, especially of women and voluntary incentives for channeling remittances towards productive and job-generating activities will continue to be high on the agenda.

Finally, research suggests links between the success of immigrant socio-economic integration in countries of destination and their capacities to contribute to the development of their countries of origin through skill, knowledge and capital transfer. Policy coherence on the part of the EU and regional governments in this regard would entail making immigration, visa and migrant integration policies of the Region more “development-friendly” by facilitating mobility and supporting skill and resource acquisition and exchange of ideas.

Current (2013) Italian Minister for Integration, Cecile Kyenge featured in the 2008 IOM Rome Sensitization Campaign on Migration (photo: Agency Publicis)
II. Migration Crises

Migration crises have wide-ranging consequences in both the near and long-term, not only for the countries directly affected by these crises but also for neighbouring regions and states. Europe is clearly exposed to the migration consequences of external crises – and has not been immune to migration crises developing within its borders. As recognized by the EU and governments in the Region, a fundamental challenge in the management of migration pressures generated in part by neighboring crisis situations, is meeting the various protection and assistance needs in “complex migration flows”. Furthermore, addressing the different circumstances and requirements of women, men, girls and boys will be paramount to ensure protection and equality of affected populations.

As increasingly complex migration flows into Europe result from economic problems and socio-political upheavals in neighbouring regions as well as from growing instances of environmental migration induced by climate change, IOM believes that a greater emphasis on addressing migration pressures from a wider migration perspective can help to alleviate strains on the EU’s asylum system and reinforce the capacities of the EU and governments to respond to short and long-term needs of affected populations, especially for the large number of migrants not covered by existing protection tools and who fall into irregular or vulnerable situations.

IOM developed the migration crisis concept and approach to highlight the migration dimensions of humanitarian crises that are frequently overlooked in crisis response. The IOM Migration Crisis Operational Framework (MCOF) was developed at the request of IOM’s Member States as a result of their growing interest in the migration consequences of crisis situations.

The MCOF is now at the disposal of the EU and governments in the Region as an analytical tool that looks at all phases of a crisis (before, during, after) as a whole, and aims to help all crisis-affected populations to better access to their fundamental rights to protection and assistance by
considering the specific needs and vulnerabilities of migrants who fall outside of existing protection frameworks.

Accordingly, the MCOF aims to respond to the often unaddressed migration dimensions of a crisis, including the institutional and operational gaps that exist in the current set-up of international responses, by complementing existing humanitarian systems. One key aspect highlighted in the Framework is the protection of international migrants caught up in crises in countries of destination.

Indicative of IOM’s planned intensification of engagement in this priority area, the migration crisis concept and the MCOF are designed to further reinforce a migration management framework that supplements overall humanitarian response and allows the organization to respond to migration crises in a more coordinated, inter-connected way.

Going forward, IOM intends to leverage its global experience in emergency and post-emergency mobility crisis management to increasingly support the EU and Governments in the region through policy advice, capacity building, regional and inter-regional dialogue, and strengthened partnerships.

Facilitating dialogue and reaching a joint strategy between IOM and different European governments and sectors to provide comprehensive support and assistance in Migration Crises will also be prioritized.

In addition, IOM will continue to build on its strong relationships with European governments who have supported IOM’s response to migration crises beyond Europe in the Regions where they occur, and will work with them to set-up joint, comprehensive assistance mechanisms.
III. Migration and Climate Change

It is clear that our changing climate will affect most aspects of social and economic life: climate change has repercussions for development, human rights protection and security, to mention but a few. Within Europe, a wide range of impacts (both on the environment and society) have been observed, including an increased number of people affected by river and coastal flooding. Among the most significant, albeit indirect, impacts of climate change are those on human mobility. Estimates vary widely, with figures ranging between 25 million and one billion people migrating globally due to climate change over the next 40 years.

Environmental degradation and other forms of human vulnerability (including unmanaged urbanization, demographic pressures and unsustainable forms of development) that can be exacerbated by climate change have already and will continue to trigger significant migration and displacement – ranging from clear instances of forced migration to the greyer zone of migration linked to slow-onset processes such as desertification. Apart from climate change-related displacement, people are also increasingly using migration as a strategy to adapt to their changing environment.

Awareness of the issues at stake is growing and a consensus is emerging on the need for a global strategy to study, plan for, adapt to and mitigate the processes and effects of environmental change. The movement of people and the implications for sound migration management will be key elements of this endeavor, and momentum is gathering internationally. In Europe, the EU and governments have also increased attention to the link between climate change and migration: indeed, the EU’s Global Approach to Migration and Mobility (GAMM) confirms it as one component of the EU’s external migration policy.

IOM’s approach to environmental migration is grounded on a holistic, human security orientation, putting (potential) environmental migrants and their local communities at the centre of concern. While reducing the drivers of displacement and providing preventative and responsive strategies protecting people’s livelihoods are crucial, IOM considers human mobility as offering positive contributions towards the development of sustainable adaptation strategies. IOM therefore strongly recommends that adaptation and development agendas address the full spectrum of the human mobility dynamics of climate change. IOM intends to increase its focus on this topic in Europe and is well prepared to leverage its expertise in efforts to boost impetus in this area.

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17 European Environmental Agency Report 212/2012: Climate change, impacts and vulnerability in Europe 2012
18 For example, the International Panel on Climate Change stated as early as 1990 that “the gravest effects of climate change may be those on human migration” (IPCC First Assessment Report page 103).
20 The UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)’s 16th Conference of the Parties COP 16 (2010 Cancun) recognised that international adaptation must address the migration, displacement and relocation implications of climate change.
As an increasingly assertive actor in the policy debate, IOM will marshal its global capacities in research, data collection and operations in support of the EU and European governments by:

- Increasing recognition of the potential of migration as a climate change adaptation strategy, above all through its contribution to sustainable development and the UN’s post-2015 development agenda;

- Strengthening linkages with other policy domains, especially disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation and sustainable development to reduce vulnerability in the long term;

- Developing policy coherence at national, regional and international levels by mainstreaming environmental and climate change considerations into migration management policies and practice, and vice versa (this will include review of the National Adaptation Strategies in the Region);

- Building the capacities of all stakeholders, including local communities, to anticipate and respond to environmental changes and their implications for human mobility. This can include developing disaster risk management and risk reduction programmes in cooperation with relevant national and regional partners, such as civil protection agencies, in order to better respond to displacement induced by environmental events and processes.

Intensified cooperation with European governments supporting IOM’s climate change work in regions outside Europe is foreseen.

One example is the Italian government’s request for IOM to contribute to the development of a new environmental sustainability project in close cooperation with the UN Convention Global Mechanism to Combat Desertification.

The Project – *Promoting Sustainable Land Management through Innovative Financing Mechanisms in West Africa* – is expected to promote and support the use of remittances to address specific climate change related challenges in the Sahel.

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*As of May 2013, only 15 of the 30 EEA countries (including Switzerland) have adopted National Adaptation Strategies. Sources: European Climate Adaptation Platform and the European Environmental Agency.*
IV. Resettlement

Providing support to States on refugee resettlement continues to be a cornerstone of IOM’s work on behalf of refugees and Governments. Yet while resettlement serves as a vital protection tool and durable solution for thousands of vulnerable refugees all over the world, it has come under increased pressure worldwide and particularly in Europe due to the current economic climate.

Of the 10.5 million refugees recognized by UNHCR worldwide, only 1 per cent is referred for resettlement. Resettlement goes beyond its role in protecting individual refugees and providing a life-saving solution (including in response to emergency situations) but also plays an important role in terms of burden sharing responsibilities with host governments in developing countries.

IOM applauds EU initiatives to expand the scarce number of resettlement places and the recognition that more still needs to be done, and stands ready to work with individual countries in the Region and EU actors in offering practical assistance and advice on establishing resettlement programmes and engaging in practical cooperation on resettlement activities at the EU level. The establishment of a Union Resettlement Programme under the Asylum and Migration Fund 2014-2020 put forward by the EC is a clear incentive for EU Member States to work towards both a quantitative increase in current resettlement figures and a qualitative strengthening of the European dimension of resettlement.

In close cooperation with UNHCR, ICMC, governmental and civil society partners in the Region, IOM will continue to promote the exchange of good practices, research and information on policy changes relating to refugee resettlement and integration so as to increase mutual learning about resettlement in all its aspects and interlinked phases. One such example is the recently created European Resettlement Network which connects a variety of actors involved in refugee resettlement across Europe and aims to build their capacity to increase and improve resettlement efforts and related activities. As of 2013, the European Resettlement network is focusing additionally on emergency resettlement. IOM supports strong, well-coordinated efforts between overseas resettlement operations and domestic integration actors to ensure that refugees and receiving communities are well prepared to meet initial reception challenges and focus on long-term integration to ensure newcomers become empowered, fully integrated members of their new communities.

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\[22\] While resettlement provides a durable solution for refugees when protection cannot be assured in countries of first asylum and is an important international responsibility sharing mechanism for the protection and well-being of refugees, tailored solutions including temporary protection schemes in light of emergency situations (e.g. at the time of writing: the Syria crisis) should be supported by the usual suite of resettlement services offered by IOM. It remains however important to note that IOM considers that such schemes should only be complementary – and not substitute for – additional places for emergency resettlement.

\[23\] Emergency resettlement regards both the resettlement of individuals who are in imminent danger or whose situation is extremely vulnerable and for whom resettlement is needed within days, as well as resettlement of a refugee group as a response to an emergency situation in order to provide an immediate, life-saving support, and also to ensure that host countries keep borders open and maintain protection space for new arrivals.
It's amazing what migrants bring.
New skills. New ideas. New points of view. When people move to new countries, they bring a lot more than a suitcase. And what they bring can benefit everyone. Find out more about the contribution of migrants, and about the International Organization for Migration, at www.migrantcontribution.org