



## Facilitating Labour Mobility and Enhancing Development

in South-Eastern Europe, Eastern Europe and Central Asia



At a time of growing integration of economic, financial and labour markets, the need to create enabling environments which simplify cross-border mobility and harness benefits of migration, becomes ever more apparent. In addition to bringing economic and developmental gains, effective policies and frameworks of facilitated labour migration and development are important for safeguarding migrants' rights and ensuring their successful integration into receiving societies.

By working with a wide range of stakeholders – governments, civil society and international partners, the activities of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in South-Eastern Europe, Eastern Europe and Central Asia (SEEECA) are governed by the following objectives:

- maximizing **developmental benefits of migration**, through diaspora engagement, promotion of productive use of remittances and other financial gains from migration;
- **coherence** between migration policies and broader development policies and **mainstreaming** migration into sectoral policies, such as education, employment, economic development and poverty reduction;
- more effective regulative frameworks for **labour migration and foreign recruitment**;
- better **informed, trained and therefore empowered migrants**.



## MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT

**Economic and community development programmes** help make migration work for development by addressing root causes of economically-motivated migration. These projects contribute to community stabilization in countries of origin by creating income-generating activities and employment, improving social services and infrastructure. Sample projects include:

- **renovation** of old Kahriz water regeneration system in Azerbaijan (funded by the Korean International Cooperation Agency);
- creating **income generating opportunities and employment** through local reconstruction in Kosovo<sup>1</sup> (with the EU support);
- **job counselling** in Georgia (USAID as the main donor);
- addressing **youth unemployment** in Western Balkans and Turkey (funded by MDG-F).

In partnership with international stakeholders, IOM supports governments in **mainstreaming migration into development and sectoral policies**. Technical assistance in preparing **extended migration profiles** ensures that policy work builds upon a solid evidence base.

**Diaspora engagement** projects contribute to building sustainable partnerships with individual migrants, migrant networks and communities who are interested in or actively maintaining links with their country of origin. Results to date include mapping of diaspora in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Moldova, Serbia and Tajikistan; engaging diaspora in entrepreneurship and private sector development in Moldova and Western Balkans.

**Skills and knowledge transfer** programmes, implemented by IOM across the world since the 1970s, have started bringing scarce skills and expertise to the SEECA Region. Permanent, temporary and virtual return of qualified nationals to Georgia, Moldova and the Western Balkans, supported by the Dutch and EU funding, has not only helped with filling immediate skill gaps, but also resulted in building local capacities to continue diaspora engagement on a longer-term basis.

While recognizing **remittances** as private financial transfers, IOM facilitates the development of policies and mechanisms that improve remittance services to migrants and enhance their developmental impact through research and by partnering with financial institutions to lower transfer costs, improving developmental impact of remittances and other financial gains from migration, and empowering migrants through financial literacy training and information dissemination.

## LABOUR MIGRATION

As a transnational phenomenon, labour migration is most effectively managed through well-formulated national policies, and bilateral and multilateral partnerships. Through its global network of more than 440 offices, IOM is able to bring together stakeholders to establish **labour migration programmes and mechanisms** that balance their various interests, and address migrants' needs. In the SEECA Region, IOM has been contributing to this effort with:

- **policy advice and capacity building** in labour migration management;
- facilitating **foreign recruitment** and temporary migration;
- conducting **migrant training** and pre-departure orientation;
- information sharing and **awareness raising**.

Throughout the Region, IOM has assisted with the establishment of migrant resource centres (MRCs) which provide beneficiaries with information on job opportunities and procedures for gaining decent employment at home and abroad. In the Western Balkans, these centres now operate under government auspices and are gradually becoming an integral part of employment offices and other local administration entities.

**Migrant integration activities**, including migrant training, can play a significant role in both empowering and enabling migrants to become active participants in the public life of the host countries and to improve their human capital. These measures support migrants in finding suitable employment and contribute to economic growth, while preventing brain waste and combating xenophobia and social exclusion, which could lead to the marginalization of migrants and increased social tensions.



The UK, the European Union, the MDG-F, the Republic of Korea, Italy, IOM's Development Fund and UNDP are currently among the main donors of IOM's labour migration and development programmes



<sup>1</sup> This designation is without prejudice on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.

**IOM IS COMMITTED TO THE PRINCIPLE  
THAT HUMANE AND ORDERLY MIGRATION BENEFITS MIGRANTS AND SOCIETY.**



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