ACP Observatory on Migration, Trinidad and Tobago

General Information

The African, Caribbean and Pacific States (ACP) Observatory on Migration is an institution designed to produce data on South-South migration for migrants, civil society and policy-makers and to enhance research and data collection capacities for the development of nationally focused, evidence-based policy making for the improvement of migrants’ conditions and the strengthening of the migration-development nexus. It is an ACP Secretariat Initiative, empowered by an International Organization for Migration (IOM) led international research consortium, funded by the European Union, with the financial support of Switzerland.

The main objective of the Observatory is to create a network of research centers and private researchers to provide policy makers, civil society and the public at large with reliable and harmonized data on ACP migration. It will focus its attention on migrants’ situations and will foster the inclusion of migration into pilot countries’ development strategies. The Observatory was officially launched in October 2010 in Brussels, Belgium. While currently based in Brussels, the Observatory will be based in one of the 79 ACP countries as of 2013.

Trinidad and Tobago was chosen as one of the pilot countries of the project based on a proposal made by the ACP Secretariat in 2007 that reflected Trinidad and Tobago’s migration situation and migration patterns. Trinidad and Tobago’s role, both as a regional hub and a sending country for migrants, was considered a case study reflecting the situation of other ACP countries and whose experience could be replicated to other countries in ACP regions.

The ACP Observatory on Migration is one of three components of a larger intra-ACP Migration Facility, which will foster institutional capacity in the ACP countries and strengthen the civil society with the aim to include migration issues into national development policy strategies.

Priority Areas of Activity

Given the scope of the ACP Observatory’s objective to strengthen the migration development nexus, the proposed initial research angles will focus on the following themes:

- South-South Remittances
- Migration and Climate Change
- Labour Migration
- Forced Migration
- Migration and Health
- Enhancing networking for a better acknowledgement of ACP migration flows
- Research data and Policy Development
Project Implementation: Trinidad and Tobago

To facilitate the implementation of the project, a National Consultative Committee (NCC) was established in October 2010. The NCC is composed of representatives of government institutions, academia and civil society. Regular NCC meetings will provide feedback on migration issues in Trinidad and Tobago and will define the research and capacity building activities of the ACP Observatory in the country. National follow-up meetings will be scheduled every 3-4 months. The 1st NCC meeting was held on October 14th 2010 and focused primarily on introducing the scope of the ACP project and its objectives. The 2nd NCC meeting was held on February 3rd 2011 and was primarily focused on outlining the research and capacity building activities for the year 2011 for Trinidad and Tobago. The 3rd NCC meeting is tentatively scheduled for May 5th, 2011.

The ACP Observatory will focus on the following research topics in Trinidad and Tobago in 2011:

- The Impact of Migration on Development
- Irregular Migration, including Trafficking in Persons and Smuggling

ACP Observatory National Capacity Building activities in Trinidad and Tobago will focus on the following topics in 2011: Data collection – Diasporas, Remittances, Labour Migration, Irregular Migration, Migrant and Human Rights.

Events

In addition, Trinidad and Tobago NCC members will be invited to participate in the following Regional Training Workshops and Meetings:

- The impact of Migration on Development, (Senegal, April 2011)
- Labour Migration, Irregular Migration, Cross Border Migration, Gender and Rights (Haiti, June 2011)
- Internal Migration, Forced Migration, Migration and Environment, Migration and Health (Timor-Leste, July 2011)
- 3rd National Consultative Committee Meeting (May 2011)

To find out more about these activities, please visit http://www.acpmigration-obs.org. The website contains information about call for papers, vacancies and other areas related to the Observatory. The ACP Observatory also invites members of the public with an interest in migration to register with the Observatory to get the latest news and information.

IOM Trinidad and Tobago

International Organization for Migration

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