Migration and Development Policies and Practices

A mapping study of eleven European countries and the European Commission

Malin Frankenhaeuser, Programme Manager M&D, Geneva, 22.05.2013
Why this study?

- Study commissioned and funded by the **Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation**
- Joint research project by six researchers from the **ECDPM** (European Centre for Development Policy Management) and **ICMPD**

♫ Take stock of where we are on M&D in Europe
♫ Provide input for continued policy discussions on M&D beyond Europe
♫ Assist states in identifying possible future directions as well as common ground for addressing migration as an inherent part of development
Who? 11 + 1

- Belgium
- Italy
- The Netherlands
- United Kingdom
- Denmark
- France
- Germany
- Norway
- Spain
- Sweden
- Switzerland
- European Commission

How?

- Desk research (public sources) finalised in September 2012
- Complementary telephone interviews
- Country chapters shared with governments for checking factual inaccuracies and any missing elements
- Comparative analysis to identify common patterns and trends
Main findings

- **No clear and consistent** M&D approach

- Migration often portrayed as a **challenge** rather than an opportunity

- M&D a **tool for poverty reduction** → overemphasis on economic dimension of development?

- Exchange of practices between the central and **local level** is lacking

- Policy coherence for M&D is not always **Policy Coherence for Development (PCD)**

- Level of coordination and harmonisation between states is **lower** than in other sectors addressed by development cooperation

- All have some way to go to make their migration policies more **development-friendly**
Conceptualisation of M&D

No consensus on the exact nature of M&D and needed policy responses but attempts to create opportunities for synergies (institutional and operational)

- It has been easier to integrate migration issues into development cooperation than vice versa.
- Integrating development concerns in migration policies have revolved around return, reintegration and circular migration, as well as ethical recruitment.

Focus on the archetypal figure of a relatively successful “voluntary” or “economic” migrant holding valuable resources.

Most of the countries focus on international migration from developing to developed countries and its role in the development of the poorer countries of origin.
Institutional framework and policy coherence

The prevailing mandate of the Ministry in the lead may colour the M&D approach, but changes have usually coincided with elections.

- Mostly MFA in the lead of M&D – each country has a different political and institutional culture
- Development cooperation in the lead could be assumed to promote a development-friendly M&D approach – but usually lower political status than migration counterparts
- Measures to strengthen policy coherence on M&D between the local, provincial and national level are still limited.

Discussions in the mapped countries to strengthen the impact of development cooperation and the links between M&D have intensified.

- Whole-of-government approach gains popularity
- Inter-ministerial meetings take place
- But, M&D policy coherence does not necessarily to more development-friendly policies.
Operationalising M&D

Difficult to compare volume of funding

- Most funding comes from the ODA budget
- 3 main approaches: dedicated budget, mainstreaming migration in development cooperation and hybrid approach

Target countries coincide and go beyond development cooperation partner countries.

Most M&D projects are still carried out mainly in a national framework and logic.
A more encompassing approach to migration and mobility

- Taking into account a broad set of movements including short-term and non permanent forms of movements
- Inclusion of migrants’ human rights along the migration cycle
- Including forced migration in the M&D approach

Recommendations

- Broaden the conceptual approach to M&D to encompass all forms of migration and mobility, within and between countries of origin, transit and destination regardless of where they are situated in the world.
- Ensure a migrant-centred approach, respecting the human rights of migrants along the migration cycle with emphasis on vulnerable groups.
- Address the development needs of forced migrants (refugees and IDPs) as a part of the already ongoing reflection between humanitarian assistance and development planning.
A more encompassing approach to development

- Attention to integration challenges in the CoDs
- Attention to social effects of migration in the CoOs and the CoDs

Recommendations

- Learn from other sectors in development cooperation and increase discussion on how to avoid fragmentation. Strengthen cooperation in the field of migration, development and humanitarian interventions.
- Analyse the effects of migration on other policy areas, and vice versa, in both the CoOs and the CoDs
- Assess integration and social policies under the M&D framework
- Deepen dialogue on M&D between and among central and local level authorities
Towards Policy Coherence for Development

- The mainstreaming approach towards PCD

Recommendations

- **Define M&D objectives** in a way that ensures PCD
- Follow through on **commitments to PCD** in the field of migration and inter-related policies.
- Increase financial and political support for evaluations of the **impact of migration policies** on the development of developing countries
- **Invest in evaluations** and studies that link such M&D interventions to the overall policies they seek to support, while engaging into joint evaluation processes whenever possible.
- **Push for attention to migration** as a development issue in the UN High-level Dialogue, and in positions for a post-2015 framework on development (MDGs) and the Rio+20 process (SDGs)
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http://www.icmpd.org/Migration-Development.1568.0.html
www.ecdpm.org/eumapping

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