



HELLENIC REPUBLIC  
MINISTRY OF INTERIOR, DECENTRALIZATION  
AND E-GOVERNANCE



## General Report on Gender Issues

*Andreas Takis*

If one is to summarize in a few words the importance that we gave to the issue of gender equality and migration during our proceedings, one would certainly highlight the fact that discussions at all three roundtables persistently raised the necessity to **include the gender perspective** in all strategic and policy planning that address the migration-development nexus.

### **1.**

In discussing ways to make this critical nexus work in developmental policies while according the gender perspective its due importance, it came up as an obvious necessity that mainstreaming migration in planning should **take in account different needs and experiences** of men and women migrants.

By substantiating such contention, one would also allow for integrating in developmental migration policy the need to address **equitable allocation of resources** among gender groups. This, it should be noted, turns the need for sex-disaggregated data equally urgent.

Including the gender perspective in policy planning should especially focus on fields such as lifelong education policies, health policies, and access to **gender specific** information and services.

**Migration profiles** may also prove a useful device for incorporating the gender perspective in migration and development planning, enhancing integration effects of policies.

It was also stressed on several occasions that developmental planning should also target **sustainability**. Yet aiming at sustainable development necessarily elicits concern for gender related daily management practices of natural resources and climate change effects.

When it comes to engaging **diasporas** and migrants as a vulnerable group and their role in mainstreaming the gender perspective, it seems that a special need has been identified for elaborating and implementing **concrete projects** that allow taking in account gender specific concerns related to migrant women as a vulnerable group.

## 2.

The gender perspective must be taken especially into consideration in planning and implementing policies aiming at the inclusion, protection and acceptance of migrants by populations of reception countries.

Special programs and administrative practices for supporting female migrants are especially to the point: such are, eg., centers providing migrant women with language courses, personal counseling,

mentoring for employment and entrepreneurship, legal aid etc.. Raising migrant women awareness on their rights through official action, (i.e. handbooks and easy access to information) has also been mentioned as an important means for intensifying women migrant integration. Yet, of critical importance seem policies establishing institutional instances with a mandate to **prevent exploitation** of migrant women and combat **multiple discrimination** and abuse.

In the framework of reintegration policies, it was stated that the gender perspective should be taken into consideration in the adaptation process of reintegration policies to new forms of temporary and circular movements. Emphasis must be given to reskilling and counseling. The OSCE' s Labour Migration Training program for 2010 includes gender sensitivity training.

### 3.

It has been stressed, in parallel sessions as well, that there is a need in intensifying institutional cooperation with NGOs and women NGO's in particular with focal point on migration and development issues, promoting and **facilitating cooperation** among gender focused **NGO's** both in reception as well as sending countries. Strengthening **partnerships** is of great importance for the purposes of developing **research programs** and **collecting data** across borders. Coordination and collaboration are especially needed in order to plan and implement policies preventing trafficking and forced migration. It also enhances mainstreaming policy for data collection and analysis taking gender inequalities as a central variable.

Of special importance are considered research and data on **those left behind**, especially women and children, taking also in account the relevant social cost.

Finally, special attention should be given on collecting and processing gender related data on **labor market entry** as well as on the effect of educational level and cultural background and origin on such entry.

\*\*\*\*\*

Closing this summary exposition of concerns about gender that were voiced during our proceedings, allow me to draw your attention to a cardinal gender relevant priority recurring both explicitly and implicitly: migrants' forced labor and human trafficking still retain a strong gender dimension and preventing and combating them alleviates not just human suffering but also shame.