This second edition of the International Migration Outlook presents detailed analysis of recent trends in migration movements and policies in OECD countries. The report evaluates the impact of the European Union enlargement on the flow of immigrant workers into OECD countries, and highlights the increase and the feminisation of immigration from India, China, Eastern Europe and Africa. Links between migration and development, notably in the context of regional economic integration, are emphasized, as is the growing importance of inflows of highly qualified workers, temporary workers and students. The edition also includes statistics on long-term international migration inflows, especially those aimed at the selection of immigrant workers to respond to labour market needs. It describes measures to facilitate the integration of immigrants.

This publication explores policies to improve the management of migration flows, especially those aimed at the selection of immigrant workers to respond to labour market needs. It describes measures to facilitate the integration of immigrants from arrival to naturalisation. International co-operation to improve border control and to combat irregular immigration is analysed in detail. The edition also includes statistics on long-term international migration inflows for most OECD countries and two special chapters on topical issues. The first of these addresses the challenge of matching immigrants’ education to employment, while the second analyses the presence of immigrants in the health sector.

This report is a summary of recommendations that seek to answer this question. They are the result of a multi-faceted project undertaken in partnership with the European Commission to rethink the management of the emerging mobility system. The policy innovations proposed here will be of interest to decision makers in migrant-sending and migrant-receiving countries. New ideas, based on an exhaustive review of past policy experiences in Europe and elsewhere, are offered for policies related to labour markets, integration, development co-operation and the engagement of diasporas.

What are the costs and benefits of migration for developing countries? How can these flows be better organised to yield greater benefits for all parties concerned – migrant-sending countries, migrant-receiving countries, and the migrants themselves? This book seeks to answer these questions, taking stock of what we know about the effects of migration on development, and distilling from that knowledge a set of policy recommendations for sending and receiving countries alike. It draws on a large number of country and regional case studies co-ordinated by the OECD Development Centre to illustrate the mechanisms that link migration and development: labour-market effects, the brain drain, remittances, diaspora networks and return migration.

Migrant-receiving countries are encouraged to look at their migration policies through a development lens; migrant-sending countries, conversely, should look at their national development policies through a migration lens. Interlinking migration and development policy making promises a more effective pursuit of the objectives of both sets of policies. This volume provides the basis for a productive debate surrounding the policy innovations that maximise the overall benefits of international migration.

Policy Coherence for Development is one of the Centre’s thematic flagships published within its Development Centre Perspectives series.

When immigrants arrive in a new country, they are confronted with labour market requirements which they are not always able to satisfy. Over time, as they acquire language proficiency and become familiar with job search procedures and work practices, their labour market outcomes should approach those of the native-born. In practice, however, differences persist. Employers may not fully recognise experience and qualifications earned in another country or may discriminate during the hiring process. Immigrants also tend to lack the social networks that are useful in finding jobs. Some of these obstacles affect immigrants as well as their children, even when the latter are born and educated in the receiving country.

In order for immigrants to have good outcomes in the labour market, they need to have appropriate skills that can be assessed by employers. Governments need to promote language and vocational training, facilitate job entry, combat discrimination and promote workplace diversity. The success of OECD countries and immigrants in achieving these objectives will have an impact on the viability of future migration policies.

This publication presents reviews of the labour market integration of immigrants and their children in four OECD countries and provides country-specific recommendations. It is the first in a series which will eventually cover some ten OECD countries.
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