

## Migration and Development Seminar Series

### ***Migration Profiles: Lessons learned***

12-13 July 2011, Batumi, Georgia

#### **Background**

The international workshop on “Migration Profiles: Lessons learned”, is one of the thematic workshops to be carried out within the framework of The Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) 2011, chaired by the Swiss Government. GFMD 5 will provide space for a series of smaller, focused and action-oriented meetings around the world, in support of the Chair’s flagship theme ‘*Taking action on Migration and Development – Coherence, Capacity and Cooperation*’. Cluster III of the GFMD Thematic Work Programme, focuses on processes and tools, which can promote an evidence-based approach to policy-making.

The Migration Profile concept, which was first proposed by the European Commission in 2005, has evolved in recent years into a process and tool to promote policy coherence on migration and development, and an evidence-based approach to policy-making, involving a broad range of stakeholders. Governments are increasingly recognizing Migration Profiles as a key tool for such policies, as recommended at the 2010 GFMD Puerto Vallarta and earlier discussions, inter alia in the context of the GFMD Working Group (WG) June 2010 seminar held with governments and other actors in Vienna. Further, the GFMD WG on Policy Coherence, Data and Research has also been consistently supporting the conceptual development and implementation of migration profiles.

Migration Profiles provide a framework for aggregating in a structured and systematic manner existing data and information from international, national and regional sources. To date, more than 70 migration profiles have been prepared, but there is a lack of a common understanding of what a migration profile exercise entails, and how preparing a migration profile can contribute to capacity-building and greater policy coherence.

This workshop is partly building upon discussions and results of the workshop Migration Profiles: Developing evidence-based Migration and Development policies held on 30 June 2011 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York. The overall objective of this seminar is to exchange experience among states, which have in various initiatives (such as the Building Migration Partnerships/Prague Process) already developed their Migration Profiles are working on it or are considering elaboration of this national migration policy tool and its format. Experience on the Extended Migration Profiles, the concept prepared by the European Commission, which includes apart from migration data, statistics and analyses also information on socio-demographic, economic and other aspects.

The Batumi workshop will provide an opportunity for policy-makers from different countries to exchange their views on the migration profiles as a national policy tool, to discuss implications on the national level and among relevant state migration authorities and migration related actors, and suggest improvements with regard to (Extended) Migration Profiles. Countries which have already conducted a Migration Profile exercise will share their experiences with those

countries interested in preparing one and provide with their views on a corresponding format of the document, implications of work on such document not national level among migration authorities and the need for update the information on a regular basis.

### **Key issues and questions for discussion**

1. Are (Extended) Migration Profiles useful?
2. What kind of information should be included in a Migration Profile?
3. What is the process required to prepare a Migration Profile? Who should participate in a Migration Profile exercise?
4. To what extent can Migration Profiles contribute to policy development and greater policy coherence, and enhance the evidence base - including capacity building - on migration and development?
5. How can Migration Profiles become a tool that is owned by implementing governments and other stakeholders and regularly updated by them?
6. What areas and key issues may be included to further develop the MP framework and what opportunities international cooperation offers to the MP initiative?
7. To what extent could Migration Profiles be used to assess the impact of migration on development, and thus help to mainstream migration into national development plans?

### **Outcome**

In addition to a report of the discussions, a compilation of lessons learned and suggestions for possible improvement will be prepared and shared with key stakeholders currently implementing a MP exercise or planning to do so.

Government representatives will become more familiar with the (Extended) Migration Profile concept and will be able to assess if there is a need and interest by their national government in producing a Migration Profile for their country in the near future.

### **Meeting Format**

The briefing is structured as a face to face event, benefiting from the contribution of specialists from governments and international organisations. The workshop would help governments involved in a Migration Profile exercise to share their experience with others. Following the presentations, participants will have the opportunity to engage in in-depth discussions.

### **Target audience**

The workshop is intended for senior-level decision makers and migration data analysts from state migration authorities. The result should lead to increased understanding of the purpose of (Extended) Migration Profile, the structural implications of such work and the benefits which such document with a collection of national migration data represents for development and formulation of national migration policy. Participation of other continents will ensure the global nature of the meeting.

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