



Development of the Migration Profile of Moldova: current status and lessons learned

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Background

- **Emigration of its citizens has severe socio-economic consequences (approximately one fourth of Moldova's labour force is residing abroad, total population of Moldova - 3.9 mln)**
- **Main policy objective of the country - to create effective mechanisms for management and monitoring of migration flows**



Justification of the Migration Profile

- **Need for more effective migration management institutional framework and policies**
- **Lack of accurate information and statistics on the number of labor migrants, both legal and illegal, abroad hinders the development of effective migration management policies**
- **Coherence of national migration policies requires appropriate compilation and availability of internationally comparable migration data, national policy coordination, active cooperation among involved authorities**



Justification of the Migration Profile

Hence – the need to:

- **Analyze the current situation in the area of collection and analysis of data/statistics**
- **Identify gaps in analysis and develop practical recommendations based on the experience of EU MS in order to enhance the migration statistics field in Moldova**
- **Strengthen the capacity of Government to understand and assess the actual and potential sources of regular and irregular migration and the effectiveness of national and regional migration policies**



The aim of the Migration Profile

- The aim of the MP - it should broaden the Government's knowledge-base about migration and enable it to assess how it can beneficially impact development, improve the use and smooth dissemination of existing migration information among relevant stakeholders.



Migration profile within the EU - Moldova Mobility Partnership

- **Following up on the recommendations of the GFMD meeting in Athens (2009), MD has acknowledged the utility of the Migration Profile with implementing an Extended Migration Profile**
- **As an activity within the Mobility Partnership with EU (started in 2010):**
 1. **Monitoring of migration flows in order to determine the needs and necessities;**
 2. **Via elaborating and updating a comprehensive monitoring mechanism which will offer detailed information on migratory flows and stocks, as well as on the impact of migration on the Moldovan labour market in general, and on its skills pool in particular;**
 3. **an important sustainable tool for the drafting of policies.**



EU - Moldova Mobility Partnership

- **Pilot Mobility Partnership with Moldova concluded in 2008: conceived as a open-ended instrument based on political dialogue and comprises 93 initiatives (35 initiatives have been implemented, 51 projects under implementation and 7 new initiatives considered to be launched)**
- **15 EU MS, European Commission, Frontex, European Training Foundation)**
- **The Extended Migration Profile exercise in Moldova is as part of the EU-funded ENPI project “Supporting the implementation of the migration and development component of the EU-Moldova Mobility Partnership”, implemented by the International Organization for Migration (IOM)**



Objectives of the Migration Profile

- Enhancing governmental knowledge about migration and its relationship to development
- Supporting government in establishing mechanisms for regular reporting on migration-related trends
- Improving the use of migration information for policy development
- Fostering greater inter-ministerial coordination and collaboration with respect to data collection and policy development



Key functions of the Migration Profile

- **Data collection tool** – identifying data gaps, enhancing data collection, analysis and sharing
- **Capacity-building tool** – empowering the Government to take ownership of the regular updating of the Migration Profile
- **Policy tool** – promoting a greater coherence and a more comprehensive approach to migration planning and policies
- **Reference tool** for supporting EU-Moldova Mobility Partnership – monitoring and evaluating the impact of the implemented initiatives



What information should be included in the EMP ?

- Data on migration with all its lacks, and recommendations, suggestions for improvement of the situation (nr. of immigrants, refugees, asylum seekers, nr. of emigrants, diasporas abilities, remittances);
- Deep analysis on the possible impact of the migration in different areas;
- Policies related to the migration, trade relations, demographics, human resources, education;
- Analysis of the labor market;
- Institutional framework;
- Policies on migration and development;
- International agreements relevant for migration (labor, social protection, readmission, etc.);
- Projects and programs in the field of migration, there efficiency and impact on migration management.



Specific features of the Migration Profile in the RM

- **Extended M.P.:** strong capacity building components geared towards achieving national ownership of the instrument
- Focus on the **process**, rather than on the output
- **Mainstreaming migration** into strategic development policies
- Special needs-based chapters to be prepared: the **Diaspora mapping** exercise and profiling of special **needs of the children and elderly left behind**
- Tool to **monitor** and evaluate the implementation of the Mobility Partnership
- Enhancing data exchange with **destination countries**, including through twinning exercises
- Contributes to the implementation of the conditions/commitments undertaken under the **dialogue for free visa regime with EU**



Implementation stages

- **Assessing the effectiveness of the current Moldovan statistical data collection, analysis, dissemination and sharing and identifying how far the current practices are from the standards set by European/EU MS, evaluating data users' satisfaction and needs;**
- **Indicating gaps between international/ European standards and Moldovan practices;**
- **Providing concrete and useful recommendations on the aspects that need to be modified for effective reform in order to harmonize Moldovan methods of migration data management with international/ European principles;**
- **Developing indicators to be included in a Migration Profile template in the light of the needs assessment and international guidelines on migration statistics;**



Implementation stages

- **Assessing the statistical capacity in the light of selected indicators;**
- **Developing guidelines for producing missing data needed for the migration profile**
- **Drafting a strategy/plan for national production, updating and disseminating of the Migration Profile to data users;**
- **Compilation of the first Migration Profile Report;**
- **Implementation of capacity-building activities needed for an effective take-over of the tool by the Government.**



Preliminary results of the EMP

- The concept and the list of Migration Profile activities has been defined
- Creation of the Technical Working Group (three sessions of the TWG were organised)
- The international and local expert team started work, having carried out three field missions
- The MP work in progress and preliminary results were presented within GFMD meeting in Mexico (2010)
- Cooperation with all the relevant stakeholders has been initiated
- An assessment was undertaken of the existing data collection and analysis mechanisms, needs of data users, resources and data needed to update an EMP on a regular basis



Preliminary results of the EMP

- A draft Data assessment report was produced, presenting the findings of the assessment, including recommendations on how to improve the current data collection and information sharing
- Draft core and non-core/country specific indicators, in the light of the Data assessment report and international standards on migration statistics, including not only information on migration trends, but also on the broader development and institutional context related to migration, and the labour market



Preliminary results of the EMP

- **National Commission on Population and Development (NCPD) joined the TWG, given its mandate for coordination of the domain of population and development and demographic security and close coordination is ensured between the process of elaboration of the EMP and work of the NCPD.**
- **Approval of the list of indicators of the EMP by the NCPD (on 8 July 2011)**



Technical Working Group

Composition:

Members: 12 public institutions (policy makers/data users and data producers)

Observers: International development partners (UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA, ILO, WB, UNHCR, WHO), EU MS, other destination countries of Moldovan migrants

Functions:

- Platform for inter-agency dialogue between data users and producers to jointly assess the existing data and statistical capacity
- Guiding and supervising the entire implementation process
- Formulating recommendations addressing the issues of information sharing, capacity-building and coherent policy development related to migration
- Help identifying gaps in the currently collected migration data
- Identifying a national institution which will take over the responsibility for the Migration Profile's regular updating



Findings of the Data Assessment Report

- **No less than 10 different Ministers or Public Administrations deal with international migration issues. In addition most of the local delegations of international institutions, numerous NGO and several foreign embassies are involved in programs where international migration is a major component. Numerous administrative databases exist where information and data to describe and evaluate the impact of international migration can be found.**
- **Concretely the statistical data produced on the basis of data extracted from administrative databases should be improved by following more strictly the rules of statistical data processing including data validation**



Next steps of the EMP exercise

- **Extended Migration Profile Template** will be proposed which will provide information on projects and programmes on migration and their effectiveness in managing migration, information on who fund and implements them, and development challenges.
- **Migration Profile report** will be compiled. The report will also constitute a tool to better inform and advance policy planning on international migration in Moldova.
- **Technical Research Papers** will be drafted (**diaspora mapping**, and on **the needs of children and elderly left behind by migrants**)
- to develop a **data management strategy** and, a **two-year government-owned plan for regular production and dissemination of the Migration Profile**, and **Methodological guidelines for development and up-dating of the Migration Profile**.
- Organization of a number of specific activities such as workshops, trainings and twinning programmes with relevant EU Member States institutions will be designed to encourage government ownership - **capacity building exercises**

EMP a tool for mainstreaming migration into development strategies

- Moldova has been selected as one of the four pilot countries under the project on Mainstreaming migration in national development strategies (articulated around the *Handbook on mainstreaming Migration into Development planning* that was conceived by IOM and endorsed by the GMG).
- Government of Moldova will be hosting and chairing a global event on Mainstreaming Migration into Development Planning in order share and discuss the experience of implementation of the Extended Migration Profiles as a tool of mainstreaming policies for evidence-based policy making at national and regional level (under GFMD Swiss initiative and GMG) - eventually October 2011

Migration Profile - evaluation tool of the impact of Mobility Partnership

- **The Commission document SEC(2009) 1240 mentions that migration profiles are an evaluation tool for the Mobility Partnerships and allow to quantify their impact on the migratory situation of the country in the mid-term review process.**
- Identifying/selecting indicators in the template to become benchmarks for evaluating the impact on the migratory situation; a questionnaire could be spread to stakeholders and implementers, making the development of the benchmarks a participatory process.
- Collection of baseline data and compiling the first Extended Migration Profile Report (to serve as baseline data for the evaluation)
- Document review: Joint Declaration, Scoreboard, possibly project documents
- Distribution of detailed questionnaire – the qualitative evaluation method
- Possible timeline: once the benchmarks will be developed on the basis of the indicators, the first baseline data for measuring the progress will be available only following the compilation of the first Extended Migration Profile report.

Lessons learned

- **Balance between comparability and country focus should be ensured**

- *The concepts and definitions in the field of international migration should be carefully scrutinized and aligned with the internationally and EU standards. Moldova should ensure the production of all basic statistical data on international migration. The EU data request in the field of international migration should be carefully investigated to elaborate a national plan to reach this objective with identification of the different milestones and expected results.*

- *Additional modules reflecting the particularities and interest of a given country could be added (mapping diaspora and aspects of children and elderly left behind included in the EMP of the RM).*

Lessons learned

- **The data collected in the template should be accurate and reliable.**

Not only the full availability of data should be ensured but also their reliability for bringing concrete support to policy development and their comparability with EU/international standards.

- **The need for constructive and more active coordination between the main data producers, the engagement of all the stakeholders is crucial**
- **More access to the general public and the transparency is needed**

Lessons learned

- **Ensuring the capacity building of the main data producers (the National Bureau for Statistic as its role is crucial for improving the data collection in the field of international migration statistics in the line of international requirements and aiming to support efficiently the policy development in Moldova and more specifically the updating of the Migration Profile)**
- **The importance of using the local research consultants to prepare the Migration Profile reports in order to strengthen local research capacity and links between research and policy communities.**
- **Developing a strategy for regular production and dissemination of the Migration Profile is necessary to ensure sustainability. This strategy may be incorporated in a broader national data management strategy where they exist**

International cooperation

- **Moldova hosted an international conference “The Eastern Partners’ contribution to the Stockholm Programme: Synergies to improve mobility and strengthen security”, which ended with the adoption of a set of recommendations (January 2011)**

“ To share experience and good practices among Eastern Partners regarding extended migration profiles; including capacity building and the use of the migration profile as a tool for policy definition, cooperation programming and evaluation, as was the case in Moldova. Improved knowledge on the needs of the labour market situation in all partner countries can be beneficial for labour mobility”



Thank you
for your attention!