



Migration and Development Policies and Practices

A mapping study of eleven European countries and the European Commission



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 lead to more development-friendly policies.



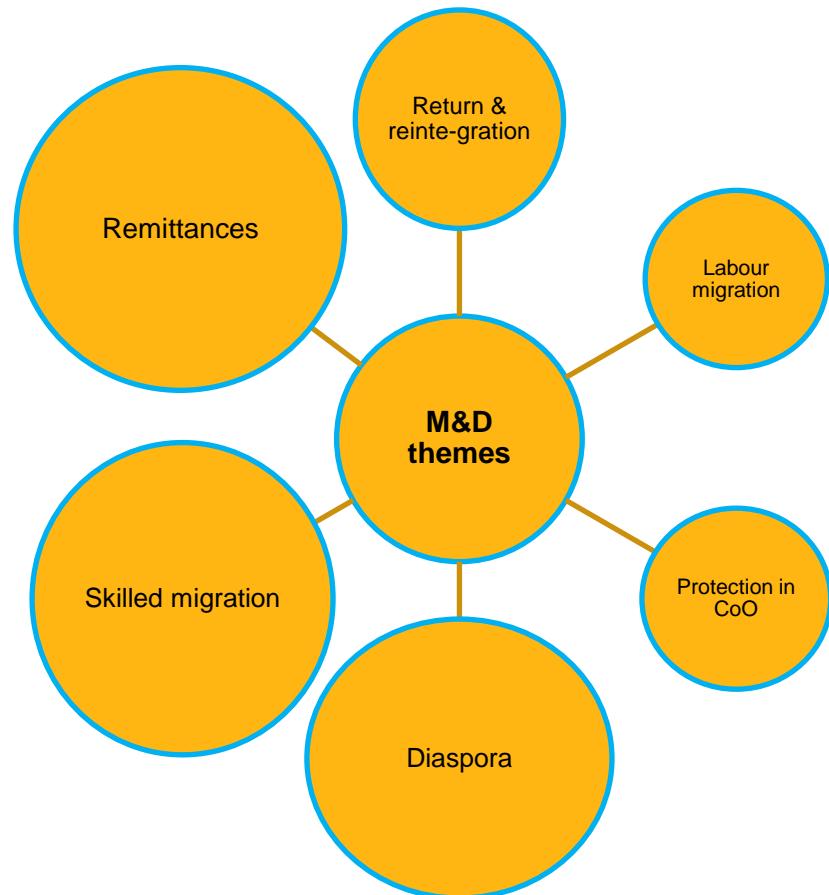
Operationalising M&D

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>

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