



Global Forum on
MIGRATION & DEVELOPMENT

GFMD Switzerland 2011



International Policy Seminar
“Mainstreaming Migration into Strategic Policy Development”

12-13 October 2011
Chisinau, Republic of Moldova

CONCEPT NOTE

Background:

The Republic of Moldova is actively participating in the work of the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD). The GFMD is a non-binding intergovernmental dialogue on migration and development which is growing year on year, and is becoming one of the most important platforms for policy dialogue and for understanding of migration and migration-policy related issues at global level.

The previous meetings of the Global Forum have made recommendations and suggested policy initiatives, some of which have subsequently been implemented by the Republic of Moldova with the support of the European Union, the International Organization for Migration (IOM), as well as other international development partners. One of the themes and recommendations of recent GFMDs has been to bring migration policy issues more firmly into development planning frameworks.

To help countries address these issues, the Global Migration Group (GMG)¹ has made migration mainstreaming one of its key areas for collaboration, starting with the publication of the joint *Handbook on Mainstreaming Migration into Development Planning*, launched at the 2010 GFMD in Mexico. It has further established a dedicated Working Group (WG) on Mainstreaming Migration in Development Strategies, co-chaired by UNDP and IOM, which brings together a self-selected subset of GMG member agencies. The WG aims to facilitate enhanced inter-agency cooperation on migration and development at the country level with a special focus on supporting government and UNCT efforts on mainstreaming migration in national development strategies.

To support mainstreaming, adequate analyses of the migration and development nexus at country level is required. Following up on the recommendations of the 3rd GFMD Meeting in Athens, the Republic of Moldova has acknowledged the utility of the Migration Profiles proceeding with implementing an Extended Migration Profile with the support of the European Union Commission, the EU Member States and IOM. Furthermore, the Government of Moldova regards this instrument as a tool for strengthening the policy and institutional coherence, mainstreaming migration into National Development Strategies, and building the capacity to collect and analyse international migration data and design, implement, monitor and evaluate effective, coherent and evidence-based migration and development policies.

The Government of Moldova is one of four² governments implementing a pilot project on Mainstreaming Migration into Development planning to incorporate migration into national development policies. This is funded by the Swiss Development Cooperation (SDC) managed by UNDP and IOM as chairs of the Global Migration Group (GMG) Working Group

¹ The Global Migration Group (GMG) is the UN's inter-agency coordination mechanism on migration, which brings together 16 entities including the International Organization for Migration and the World Bank.

² The other countries selected to participate in the pilot project are: Bangladesh, Jamaica and Mali.



Rationale of the event:

Greeting the intention of the Swiss Chair-in-Office of GFMD to decentralize and move the GFMD activities “to the field”, and minding the recommendations made within the recent Pan-European Conference titled “The Eastern Partners’ contribution to the Stockholm Programme: Synergies to improve mobility” hosted by Moldova, the Government of Moldova together with GMG would like to host an action-oriented seminar aiming to explore some of the practical applications of the GFMD discussions at national, regional and inter-agency levels, and share and discuss the concrete experiences on the ground.

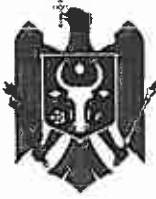
To this end it is envisaged carrying out in mid-October 2011 a Seminar on Mainstreaming Migration into Development and the role of the National Migration Profiles for Strategic Policy Development. The workshop would be organized as a direct contribution of the GMG to the GFMD process in 2011 and its deliberations on practical follow-up to the Mainstreaming Handbook. The event will target national policy-makers, to heighten public institutions’ awareness of the linkage between migration and development. The event will promote the channelling of migration data into national development policies and strategic documents, and the use of the Migration Profiles as a framework for data collection and analysis in support of strategic policy planning at the national and regional levels. During this event, the Moldovan Government, the other three countries participating in the GMG project on Mainstreaming Migration into Development Planning along with other participating States will acquire theoretical and technical knowledge and learn good practices on systematic mainstreaming of migration into development policies, sharing their experiences, benefiting from the GMG expertise and support. The proposed event would be organized as a thematic seminar under the GFMD 2011 Cluster III: Planning tools for evidence-based migration and development policies.

The added value of this event will be: 1) acquainting the policy makers with good practices on systematic mainstreaming of migration into development policies; 2) sharing and discussing the experience of pilot testing the Handbook on Mainstreaming Migration into National Development Planning Tools with all the agencies which supported the development of the Handbook as well as with Governments and agencies interested in possible identification and application of tools for mainstreaming the migration into development and poverty reduction policy making; 3) sharing and discussing the experience of implementation of the Extended Migration Profiles as a tool for evidence-based policy making at national and regional level and 4) promoting and advancing the use of the two synergistic tools.

Objectives of the event:

General Objective: the workshop would aim to strengthen capacities of the government officials and other stakeholders from the four GMG-supported pilot countries currently embarking on migration mainstreaming exercises, foster an exchange of experiences and peer-to-peer learning among government officials and advance the use of innovative planning tools required to promote evidence-based migration and development policies from the perspective of coherence, capacity and cooperation.

The event would provide stakeholders with the opportunity to learn from the practices and experiences of other countries that have already undertaken similar exercises or are in the process of conducting mainstreaming exercises of their own. Beyond facilitating a one-off exchange among governments and other stakeholder groups, the workshop would aim to facilitate more lasting networking and collaboration among participants by identifying concrete avenues and actions for follow-up, both among participating countries and stakeholders, and for the wider GFMD.



These recommendations would be shared with the GFMD prior to or during the planned extended Friends of the Forum meeting at the end of 2011.

Specific Objectives:

1. Promoting the use of the Handbook on Mainstreaming Migration into National Development Planning Tools and of the Migration Profiles;
2. Provide concrete orientations and GMG guidance on pilot testing the initial implementation of the Handbook on Mainstreaming Migration into National Development Planning Tools in the Republic of Moldova and other pilot countries;
3. Sharing and discussing the experience and good practices on implementation of the Migration Profile with governments, international agencies and experts and its use as a comprehensive data and information tool for evidence-based policy making on migration and development, as supported by appropriate capacity building; issues of needs of children and other vulnerable groups affected by migration will be specifically approached;
4. Sustaining and increasing the cooperation of Governments, relevant international agencies, civil society organisations and academia in this area.

Expected outcome

- Key Recommendations on advancing the use of planning tools required for mainstreaming migration and development issues into country and regional level consultation and planning frameworks.

Place and date:

12-13 October 2011, in Chisinau, Republic of Moldova.

Partners:

The event will be hosted by Moldova and co-chaired by the four countries participating in the pilot project on migration mainstreaming in cooperation with the Swiss government in its capacity as chair of the Global forum on Migration and Development (GFMD), the GFMD Working Group on Policy Coherence, Data and Research and the GMG Working Group (WG) on Mainstreaming Migration in Development Strategies, and potentially, donors contributing to the event.

Participants

It is proposed that the workshop would bring together a total of about 30-40 international participants. Its primary target group would be composed of the following constituencies:

1. Government representatives from the four pilot countries, who are in charge of or closely involved in policy making on migration and the mainstreaming process (e.g. from the ministry of interior, labour, social affairs, immigration, health; the national planning commission etc.);
2. Representatives from other Governments with past or on-going experience in mainstreaming migration in development planning and/or who are undertaking mainstreaming efforts outside the pilot project and are able to share their experiences;
3. UNCT representatives from the participating countries who are actively involved in supporting national migration mainstreaming exercises;



4. GMG representatives, acting as resource persons and facilitators;
5. Representatives of the partner countries and Eastern Partnership;
6. GFMD Chair;
7. The co-chairs and facilitator of the GFMD ad hoc working group on policy coherence, data and research.

Based on consultations with the participating governments, especially the four pilot countries, and the GFMD Chair, the participation of the following, additional stakeholders would be envisaged:

8. Civil society, private sector and diaspora/migrant association stakeholders from the participating countries, who are actively involved in migration and development initiatives and the mainstreaming processes;
9. Representatives of bilateral development partners with an interest in supporting migration mainstreaming processes.

