



# **Synergies between Migration and Development. Policies and programs: Moldova**

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# Background

- Migration wave from 2000 onwards had a deep impact on the Republic of Moldova's development.
- Emigration of its citizens has severe socio-economic consequences and thus one of the country's main objectives is to support return migration.
- Approximately one fourth of Moldova's labour force is residing abroad (total population of Moldova - 3.9 mln).
- In addition, an estimated equally large number permanently established themselves and their families abroad.
- Risk of being permanently lost for the country.
- Migrants can be viewed as potential actors in Moldova's development, beyond the remittances they transfer to their families.
- As a percentage of GDP, international economic institutions rank Moldova among the ten leading remittance-receiving countries in the world, and among the top in Eastern Europe.



# Migration impact on development

## Positives:

- Economic gain - remittances, investment etc.
- Labor market and employment opportunities abroad (enhanced mobility of labor force)
- Migrants as development agents (human, social capital, skills, fostering innovation, progress and advancement, good governance)
- Diaspora as a source for economic and social development
- Return (brain/skills circulation) can maximize developmental impacts of migration by transfer of skills
- Equalizing effects on income of origin countries



# Migration impact on development

## Negatives:

- Brain-drain (loss of human capital, including highly qualified specialists) and brain-waste (qualified/unqualified employment) entails difficulties in professional reintegration upon potential return
- Negative social costs: torn families, children and elderly left behind, burdening the social protection system
- Inflation impact on economy/pressure on currency exchange rate
- Increased inequality/disparity in incomes



# Main policy objectives of the Government:

- To create effective mechanisms for management and **monitoring of migration flows**;
- Supporting and deploying strategies to promote **remittances** as a lever for development;
- To enhance the **linkages** of the Government with **Diaspora** and its contribution to the development of the country;
- To favour **legal mobility** of labour force;
- To enhance the **human rights of migrants and their families** (protection mechanisms for most vulnerable migrants, especially victims of trafficking and unaccompanied minors);
- To ensure the **social protection** of the migrants;



# Designing migration interventions

The Moldovan Government intends giving **migrants, and their families and communities** a more **central place** in the state policies - in the area of migration and development, by designing interventions aimed at:

- **Return migration**, facilitation of the reintegration of the migrants in the labour market;
- Efficient investments of **remittances** and strengthening ongoing efforts to make remittances cheaper, faster and safer;
- Strengthen capacities of **Diaspora** groups in destination countries to provide social support, including by channelling information on rights and procedures.
- Promoting **circular migration** at all skills levels, such as the portability of social rights, enhancing labour matching services;
- Developing evidence based policies in the migration field (through **migration profile**).



# Labour mobility, return and reintegration programs

**Governmental Plan of Action on Fostering Return of Moldovan Migrants from Abroad (Oct. 2008). Ministry of Labour, Social Protection and Family - monitoring institution for its implementation. A new plan will be submitted for approval (2011, II sem.).**

- organization of **job fairs** where Moldovan employers presented their various job offers in competitive financial conditions (Germany, Italy);
- Legal **labour communication campaigns** (informing and encouraging Moldovan citizens planning to migrate to the EU member states to do it through legal ways). For more details - [www.legal-in.eu](http://www.legal-in.eu)
- professional **temporary placement programme** for young graduates of foreign institutions (identification of possible employers, transport costs, and a monthly allowance for a period of up to 6 months). The program is carried out in partnership with the Ministry of Youth, Ministry of Education, and National Employment Agency, with the support of IOM.





# Labour mobility, return and reintegration programs

**Accessibility of socio-economic reintegration services for returning migrants and multiplying offers of professional (re-) qualification, employment counseling and grants for small business start-ups.**

- PNAET program - trainings for young people from the rural sector, including from socially vulnerable categories, in business launch and management, provision of grants (equipment for business development). Organization for Development of Small and Medium Business - implementing and monitoring institution.
- Launching of the „**Clearing House Function**” (2009) - to ensure transparency and compatibility of the migrants’ skills and qualifications. Ministry of Education in partnership with ETF monitor the implementation of this project.
- Defining a common format for **employment standards** applicable for the labour market of the RM, by Reference and Policy institutional groups ([www.etf.europa.eu](http://www.etf.europa.eu)).
- Temporary return programme for scientists-Moldovan expatriates, within which Moldovan scientists living abroad will share their experience and accumulated knowledge with their Moldovan colleagues (EU funded project, IOM support).



# Efficient investments of remittances

## Small and Medium Enterprises State Programme

(adopted in February 2009)- providing investments of the remittances and charitable donations for home village development projects.

- Programme **PARE 1+1** ( launched in 2010) - stimulating the set-up of small and medium businesses by migrant workers and their relatives (each invested MDL from remittances shall be complemented by a MDL in the form of a grant). Ministry of Economy is in charge of its implementation and monitoring.



# Diaspora consolidation

**Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration and Interethnic Relations Bureau are the monitoring structures for implementation of the activities aimed at Diaspora consolidation.**

- Establishing more formal links between the Moldovan society and the Diaspora and assisting migrants under pressure in host countries through enhanced consular services, ;
- Providing information and support services to migrants throughout the migration process (dissemination of “information packages” for migrants);
- On 12-14 October 2010, the 4th **Diaspora Congress** took place, organized for 110 Moldovans domiciled in 31 countries, followed by launching of a small **grant programme** for capacity building of the Moldovan Diaspora associations (with the IOM support);

# Social protection of migrants and their members of families



- **National Action Plan for Protection of Children left without parental care for 2010-2011** intended to intensify the actions aimed at identification and protection of children left without parental care in order to guarantee observance of their rights. Ministry of Labour, Social Protection and Family is responsible for its implementation and monitoring (indicators of Migration Profile will be used).
- Ensuring the portability of social rights of migrants (concluding bilateral agreements on labour migration and social security).



# Mobility Partnership EU - Moldova (MP)

- Mobility Partnership concluded in 2008, with 15 EU MS, European Commission, Frontex, ETF comprises around 70 initiatives. MP fully corresponds to actions undertaken under the National Action Plan in the field of migration and asylum for (for 2 years time framework) Ministry of Interior is the monitoring institutions of its implementation.
- In 2009 a **Committee of Monitoring the implementation of the Joint Declaration on Moldova-EU MP** was instituted at national level, chaired by the Deputy Minister of Labour Social Protection and Family. Ministry of Foreign Affairs is the main coordinating national institution of the MP with EU and responsible for monitoring of the reports on implementation stage done on quarterly basis.
- Elaborate a **set of benchmarks in order to monitor the impact of the EU-Moldova Mobility Partnership** (using of indicators of the Extended Migration Profile)



# Mobility Partnership EU-Moldova: monitoring mechanism

- **Meetings on the Mobility Partnership** implementation are held once per year, inclusively within the Moldova-EU Subcommittee on justice and home affairs;
- The main coordination structure between member states experts, European Commission and European agencies involved in the Partnership implementation is instituted in Brussels (**task force**) and will meet on the necessities;
- The **Cooperation Platform** is established in Chisinau and is responsible for local and operational coordination of the whole process of implementation of the Partnership;
- The monitoring of the Mobility Partnership implementation is performed by means of a “**score board**”. Please see attached the link <http://www.mfa.gov.md/mobility-partnership-ro/>



# New priorities/directions on the migration and development MD agenda

- Expanding **circular migration** schemes in the framework of the EU-MD Mobility Partnership. New initiative-“Better managing the mobility of health professionals in Moldova”,(WHO project, EU funded).
- Support the **mainstreaming of migration issues in development policies** (Moldova, as a pilot country of Swiss-funded initiative on mainstreaming migration in national development strategies, led jointly by UNDP and IOM under GMG, will host a global event in the End September 2011 on this topic).
- Developing **evidence based policies** in the migration field through the establishment of an **Extended Migration Profile of the RM** as policy and capacity building tool.

