



## India-EU Common Agenda on Migration and Mobility



Concept Note  
Stakeholder Consultation with Facilitators of Overseas Mobility on  
Developing a pre- departure handbook content for Indian workers migrating to the EU

14 August 2020  
Virtual meeting

### Background

Indian government and the EU endorsed the India-EU Common Agenda for Migration and Mobility (CAMM) at the EU-India Summit of 30 March 2016 recognising the growing importance of migration and mobility in EU-India relations, a framework for cooperation. While the two sides have agreed to work collaboratively on the issues of migration and mobility, there is a need to ensure the dialogue is not limited to just high level events, but that collaboration and sharing gain momentum and the objectives of the CAMM are achieved. With this aim, the International Labour Organization (ILO), International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) and India Centre for Migration (ICM) are implementing a technical support project on India-EU CAMM.

The overall objective of the project is to contribute to a better governance of migration and mobility between the EU and India, as well as to prevent and address the challenges related to irregular migratory flows. Its specific objective is to support the EU-India High Level Dialogue on Migration and Mobility (HLDMM) and the implementation of the Common Agenda for Migration and Mobility (CAMM).

In line with section 3 (viii) of the CAMM which states that issues such as “developing programmes and policies for pre-departure orientation including to facilitate integration” a pre-departure orientation material handbook is planned, given the comprehensive human rights approach towards migration governance adopted by the project. This content is also expected to contribute towards section 4 (viii) “building awareness amongst all stakeholders about the risks of irregular migration and building capacity and exploring ways for prevention of irregular migration”, as well as section 5 (ii) “harnessing the contribution of migration to the economy of destination countries as well as origin”. It will thus address three priority areas of the CAMM - regular migration, irregular migration and trafficking, maximizing the development impact of migration.

As a beginning step towards the content development, ILO in partnership with ICM plans to hold a series of stakeholder consultations to invite and incorporate the perspective of critical stakeholders in compiling the most relevant pre-departure information for migrant workers heading to the EU

### Rational for Identification of Recruitment Agents as critical stakeholders

This content development process will incorporate high degree of contextualization of the existing GOI PDOT manual<sup>1</sup> which is focused on workers migrating to the Gulf. It will therefore include information on regulations, methods, do’s and don’ts, risks of irregular migration, trafficking and smuggling. It will also address gender issues, family issues and will be developed to be user-friendly.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://emigrate.gov.in/ext/static/english-pre-departure-orientation-for-migrant-workers.pdf>

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Recruitment agents are one of the few external stakeholders who play a significant role in the initial phases of migration of the migrant workers.

In addition to the state objectives of the planned stakeholder consultations, these meetings will help the project team developing the content to gain a better understanding of the practical realities of migration from India to EU, including issues related to regular migration, prevention of irregular migration and trafficking, social protection, remittances, return and so on.

The day-to-day experience of recruitment agents in dealing with employers in the countries of destination, government authorities as well as migrants themselves gives them a unique and comprehensive understanding of the strengths as well as the gaps in the governance mechanism of international migration, some of which can be addressed through meaningful training at the pre-departure phase. They are mandated to ensure low-skilled migrant workers complete this training before migrating to the destination countries in the Gulf.

This project, therefore, envisages a critical contribution of the stated stakeholder in the development of this manual. Based on their previous experience in their capacity of supporting migrant workers, this stakeholder consultation will also act as a review of existing information, in terms of its relevance in contemporary times.

### Details of the Consultation

#### Objective

- To gain perspective of the Indian recruitment agents on specific themes, topic areas and training methodology essential for pre-departure training of Indian workers migrating to the EU
- To review content of the existing PDOT manual basis present migration trends and needs of the out-going migrant workers

#### Expected outcome

- An outcome document incorporating the suggestions and recommendations of the recruitment agents

This outcome document will act as a brief reference document for ILO and ICM while drafting the PDOT manual. This document will be part of a series of brief documents covering the perspectives of different stakeholders identified as critical in the process of PDOT content development.

#### Methodology

The meeting will begin with a brief presentation of the project and the task of content development for a pre-departure handbook. Participants will be invited to give their inputs towards content for a pre-departure handbook for migrants going to Europe. Some guiding questions will be placed by the moderators and participants experience will inform the discussions.

### Participants

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## India-EU Common Agenda on Migration and Mobility



- Indian recruiters for the EU labour market
- Transnational companies that depute workers to Europe
- India Centre for Migration (ICM)/ (MEA)
- International Labour Organization (ILO)

**Date:** 14 August 2020

**Duration:** 2 hours

**Meeting Host and Platform:** ILO via WebEx

**Draft Agenda:** Please see the attached draft agenda

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