



Concept Note

**Stakeholder consultation with Experts' Group on
developing pre-departure content for Indians migrating to the EU**

21 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 the 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 and 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 inclusion of group of experts as critical stakeholders

This content development process will incorporate high degree of contextualization of the existing GOI PDOT manual¹ 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. Other stakeholders, including grassroot organizations, UN agencies, activists and trade unions have been providing information to migrant, increasing awareness amongst family members and community leaders and assisting migrants in difficult or vulnerable situations, often helping them

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



to access services and legal recourse. This puts civil society, trade unions and others in direct contact with the migrants and their family members. They can therefore bring direct field experiences on the issue of not just regular migration but also irregular migration, trafficking and smuggling, recruitment and visa fraud, social protection, social and cultural difficulties, return and so on. Since they are helping migrants access rights, they could also provide a deep insight into the information gaps that exist and need to be plugged. This information would be crucial for the development of the pre-departure handbook.

This meetings will help us get closer to the real issues that impact migrants and contextualise the content. Invitees will include those that have run awareness campaigns on migration, work on complaints and cases related to migrants and also deal with returnee migrants etc.

Details of the Consultation

Objective

- To understand the realities of migrants and their family members and the gaps in information that lead to their vulnerability
- To learn from other campaigns and messaging as to what is critical information and how it may be presented to migrants

Expected outcome

- An outcome document incorporating the suggestions and recommendations of experts' group.

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 presentation of the project. Participants will be invited to give their inputs towards the 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

- Civil society organizations and activists working with migrants
- Trade unions (European & global) that have been involved with pre-departure related modules and training, filing complaints etc.
- UN organisations with experience of creating awareness etc.
- India Centre for Migration (ICM)/ (MEA)
- International Labour Organization (ILO)

Date: 21 August 2020

Duration: 2 hours

Meeting Host and Platform: ILO via WebEx

India-EU Cooperation and Dialogue on Migration Mobility Project



Local partner



Implementing partner



Implementing partner