



India-EU Common Agenda on Migration and Mobility



Seminar on Sharing of Good Practices on Migration Governance

Minutes of the Seminar
10 July 2019, New Delhi, India

India-EU Cooperation and Dialogue on Migration and Mobility Project:



Local Partner



Implementing Partner



Implementing Partner

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I: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A one-day seminar on Sharing of Good Practices on Migration and Governance was held under the India EU Common Agenda on Migration and Mobility framework. This event was co-implemented by the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) in local partnership with the India Centre for Migration (ICM), on 10 July 2019 in New Delhi. The core objectives of this seminar were to:

- ▶ understand and take stock of the evolving efforts in Europe and India, post-2017 High Level Dialogue on Migration and Mobility (HLDMM), on migration management, from the perspective of each side's own practices, challenges, opportunities, and lessons learnt (regionally and globally) on regular migration, irregular migration, and diaspora engagement;
- ▶ offer the opportunity to EU and the Government of India to further their existing relationship and synchronize their efforts in the governance of migration and mobility; and
- ▶ put forward recommendations for potential convergence and collaboration.

This seminar preceded the 5th India EU High Level Dialogue on Migration and Mobility. The seminar addressed three key priority areas of the India EU Common Agenda on Migration and Mobility – better organizing and promoting regular migration, preventing and combatting irregular migration

and maximizing the development impact of migration. Government stakeholders and technical experts shared good practices from India and the EU addressing these three pillars. The seminar was attended by 130 participants, including 75 representatives from the EU, EU Member States, Government of India, and 55 technical experts and academicians.

The seminar also witnessed the launch of two knowledge products developed by the project implementing partners, a handbook titled 'Integration of Indians In Italy' and a checklist for students titled "Prepare for your Study in Europe".

The sharing of good practices highlighted some of the practical approaches undertaken by the EU, EU Member States, and India to facilitate mobility of high-skilled professionals and students, as well as initiatives to raise awareness on the risks and consequences of irregular migration and efforts towards assisted voluntary return and strategic engagement with diaspora.

Key issues emerging to further India EU cooperation on migration governance included ease of access to reliable migration data, enhanced scope of migration governance policy framework, issues under regular migration, irregular migration and migration and development. The seminar underscored the need for enhanced cooperation between India and the EU to strengthen engagement on migration governance.



I: INAUGURAL SESSION

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The session began with welcome note of esteemed dignitaries from Government of India (Ministry of External Affairs, Ministry of Home Affairs, and Ministry of Labour, Ministry of Skills, State governments) and the EU (Directorate General for Home Affairs, European External Action Service, and EU Member States).



► Mr. Vinod K Jacob

Joint Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs

Mr. Vinod K Jacob, Joint Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs opened the session by welcoming Ms. Paraskevi Michou, Director General, Home Affairs, European Commission and Mr. Sanjiv Arora, Secretary (Consular, Passport & Visa and Overseas Indian Affairs) Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India and other dignitaries and guests. Emphasizing the multi-stakeholder mechanism of the conference, he brought attention to the fact that the current approach of practical co-operation to ensure ease of movement of people from India to EU and vice-versa against the normal government-to-government approach. Such trans-border engagement is imperative to both national and federal governments across the globe. He mentioned that safety and welfare of citizens, labour migrants, semi and high-skilled professionals is at the core of migration governance. This discussion on sharing of good practices on migration governance is expected to provide useful avenues to channelize the talent and streamline the mobility corridor.

► Mr. Tomasz Kozlowski

Ambassador of the EU to India

Mr. Tomasz Kozlowski, Ambassador of the EU to India, mentioned that EU and India had traditionally been natural partners joined by a shared view on global issues; the current partnership is developed on practical list of issues and also on the synergies which have already been achieved. He mentioned that in November 2018, the EU adopted a new strategy on India renewing their partnership and highlighting common opportunities. Both sides committed to working towards a favourable environment for business, politics, education and culture, people-to-people ties and evolving strategies to better manage migration and mobility between India and EU. Referring to the 5th EU India High Level Dialogue on Migration and Mobility scheduled on the following day, he confirmed that the process of engagement is focused on furthering cooperation and promoting migration and mobility between India and the EU.

► **Ms. Paraskevi Michou**

Director General Home Affairs
European Commission

Ms. Paraskevi Michou, Director General Home Affairs, European Commission in her inaugural address thanked Secretary Mr. Sanjiv Arora and Joint Secretary Mr. Vinod Jacob and the EU Member States' representatives, local partner India Centre for Migration (ICM) and implementing partners International Labour Organisation (ILO) and International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD). This seminar, she mentioned, focused on how the spirit of partnership, confidence and trust could move forward between India and EU and how India and EU may benefit from mutual learning, to move forward together. In the backdrop of migration crisis in 2015, a comprehensive EU Migration agenda was put forward but several challenges thwart security of the region. A holistic approach on migration management, to cover legal migration and integration, border management, trafficking, irregular, return migration and recognition of irregular migrants has been adopted. The issue of migration therefore needs to be addressed holistically together with member states and India.

On legal migration, DG Michou outlined several revised initiatives that have been taken on student researchers, trainees and volunteers from third country nations to facilitate their mobility to the EU and among EU Member States. Other aspects of cooperation include: revised visa rules to facilitate tourism, trade and enhance security. EU has supported EU Member States (EU MS) and other actors through funding, exchange of good practices and developing pilot projects. All EU MS have agreed on EU Common Basic Principles on Integration. The Commission launched in 2016, an action plan for integration of third country nationals. This is an EU wide integration through partnership of employers' organisations and other socio-economic partners. Diaspora engagements and remittances feature prominently in the engagements.

On irregular migration, preventing and combating irregular migration remains at the core of all EU irregular migration actions. Actions for enhanced cooperation include reinforcing capacities in border

management, improving document security, addressing the root causes through investments and increasing of employment opportunities, raising awareness and capacity-building measures with partner countries, and building strategic frameworks for the orderly and safe return of irregular migrants.

Asylum and international protection forms another important area of joint action, particularly focusing on saving life at sea. Asylum in international protection has also been extended, with over 1 million lives rescued at sea since 2016. Ms Michou shared that the EU is in the process of reforming the Dublin System, establishing the Asylum Agency to replace EASO, replacing the Asylum procedures Directive, Qualification Directive and Reception Conditions Directive, a framework for resettlement: these focus on harmonization of criteria, convergence of decisions, and the rights of the beneficiaries

Other important areas of action-based cooperation include sharing of information and data among the EU member states. Efforts are taken to make the data inter-operable. Ms Michou referred to the India EU High Level Dialogue on Migration and Mobility as a framework to further develop the India EU Common Agenda. She reinstated the EU's commitment to work with India and offer a better future to people. She ended her address by underscoring the need to translate ideas, through exchanges facilitated by such seminars, into actions and achieve results.

► **Mr. Sanjiv Arora**

Secretary (Consular, Passport & Visa and Overseas Indian Affairs), Ministry of External Affairs,
Government of India

Mr. Sanjiv Arora, Secretary (Consular, Passport & Visa and Overseas Indian Affairs), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India warmly welcomed the Director General and her accompanying delegation to India, and expressed hope that this would be the first of many visits by the Director General to India. He also complimented and thanked the ILO team in New Delhi, and the India Center for Migration (a think tank on migration issues functioning under the aegis of the Ministry of External Affairs) and ICMPD for their collaborative efforts in organizing today's seminar.

Shri Arora formally inaugurated the seminar by

highlighting that “one of the important mechanisms envisaged in the Common Agenda for Migration and Mobility (CAMM) is the India-EU High Level Dialogue on Migration and Mobility [HLDMM] which steers the implementation of the agreed agenda”. Recognizing the enormous opportunities to both India and EU Member States for shared prosperity and progress in the current times, he highlighted how migration and mobility, addressed in a holistic way, including through transfer and sharing of technology; trade and investments; knowledge and information; and human resources presents a win-win situation for both sides.

Complementarity between India and EU's demography and skills, as well as India's efforts in migration governance efforts was shared. Identifying common challenges like terrorism; transnational crimes and other threats, Shri Arora stressed the importance of constructive engagement and expanding partnership, including through suitable migration and mobility flows, as ways to enable the two sides to combat these challenges more effectively. Emphasizing on the need for migration to be managed by establishing collaborative frameworks for governance, he expressed confidence in this event making a positive contribution to further strengthen the EU India partnership.



II: LAUNCH OF THE INTEGRATION HANDBOOK FOR INDIAN DIASPORA IN ITALY AND STUDENTS CHECKLIST

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As part of the technical project supporting India EU CAMM, two knowledge products developed by the implementing partners, ILO and ICMPD, were launched by Ms Michou and Sh Arora.



► The handbook for the Integration of Indians in Italy

This handbook titled Integration of Indians in Italy was developed in consultation with the Embassy of Italy, the EU and Government of India. It serves as a guidebook for Indian migrants in Italy to

understanding the local systems and access the services offered by government, institutions and service providers in Italy. The handbook includes information on visas and permits, social security, education, housing, travel etc. It is presented in an easy to read format, in three different languages – English, Hindi and Punjabi.



► The students' checklist entitled 'Prepare for your study in Europe'

The Checklist was developed as a tool for Indian students orienting themselves for further education in the EU. It offers easy-to-access information common to all EU Member States as well as encourages the student to reflect on each phase of

the student's journey (preparatory, pre-departure, arrival, post-graduation) by identifying key questions to ask as they prepare. Tips, common risks, e-links, and broad guidance at each stage ensure that students succeed, do not fall prey to clandestine practices, and avoid unnecessary costly services unjustly burdening themselves or their families.



III: SETTING THE CONTEXT

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Session objective: To lay the context of India EU Migration and mobility with a sharing of existing and emerging data on migration flows and stock, categories of migrants.



Key Discussion points

- ▶ Compatibility and comparability challenges, limited data availability and sharing, and varying definitions of key terminologies, even across databases held within the Ministry of External Affairs, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs and EUROSTAT.
- ▶ Shifting trends of the India-EU flows - increase in short-term work permits and decline in long-term, more family reunification than work visas for Indians, numbers of irregular migrants from India to the EU on decline, marginal increases in forced and voluntary returns.
- ▶ Evolution of sector demand and demographics to be investigated further for harnessing mutual benefits of mobility
- ▶ Student mobility to be enhanced by recognizing existing challenges and limitations (including compatibility of university programmes, visa processes, financial aspects, and post-graduation opportunities).

▶ Dr. Meera Sethi

Independent expert and lead author

Dr. Meera Sethi, independent expert and lead author of a statistical baseline report on mobility from India to the EU (within the framework of the EU-India technical project supporting the implementation of CAMM) presented the team's findings on India-EU migration flows, trends and migration mobility and dialogue¹.

With more than 70 per cent of all international migrants living in Asia, India is the largest country of origin and Europe is the largest country of destination. The United Kingdom (UK) has been the prime destination for Indian migrants, followed by Italy and Germany. In India-EU flows, there are an increasing proportion of short-term permits vis-à-vis long-term permits. Short-term residence permits increased from 15,575 in 2008 to 23,687 in 2016, whilst the long-term residence permits declined from 46,457 to 33,890 in the same time period. Indian citizens remain one of the largest recipients

¹ The statistical baseline report under development commissioned by ICMPD is in collaboration with the National Institute for Urban Affairs (NIUA). The authors are Dr Meera Sethi, Dr Debolina Kundu, and Dr Arvind Pandey.

of the EU Blue Card scheme. India is also the third largest country to receive permits under family reunification; the number of permits received under this category is higher than the permits granted for employment purposes. The UK has recorded highest permits granted under this category followed by Italy and Germany in 2016. Several studies indicate an increase in number of skilled Indians returning home from the UK and other EU Member States motivated by economic reasons (such as the termination or completion of contracts, short term nature of contracts, restrictive emigration policies, limited job prospects, and/or family links back at home). The UK reported the highest number of returns (4,660) in 2017 followed by France, Germany, Netherlands and Cyprus with insignificant numbers. OECD data also reflects that in 2016, the U.K. had the highest number of practicing Indian doctors (16,407) and nurses (16,931) in the EU. Ireland also reported a significant number of doctors (460). In 2017, the volume of remittances increased to 6,896 billion USD, of which the share of EU was 8.69% (5.99 billion USD).

Preventing and combating irregular migration remains a challenge. In 2008, EUROSTAT data indicate 19,510 Indians were identified as irregularly present in the EU, which declined to 16,415 in 2017. The UK accounted the highest share of irregular Indian migrants followed by Germany and France in 2016. Travelling without a visa or valid documents are two reasons why Indians have been refused entry or intercepted at EU borders both at sea and land. The number of Indians who returned under Assisted Voluntary Return programs have increased substantially from 270 in 2014 to 410 in 2017 compared to enforced returns, which increased marginally from 385 to 425 during the same period. Except in 2016, the number of forced (forcibly) returned was higher than assisted voluntary return. However, sharing of data remains much vexed issue. The absolute figure for asylum seekers has declined to 5,280 in 2017, after registering an increase between 2008 and 2016. Most of the asylum seekers are male and are young, in the age group between 18 to 34 years. The proportion of unaccompanied minors is also substantial.

Limitation in data availability, sharing of data among EU members states only, limited scope

of compatibility and comparability and varying definitions of key terminologies across Ministry of External Affairs, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs and EUROSTAT are some of the key challenges when compiling data for policy dialogue

► Dr. TLS Bhaskar

CAO

Indian Centre for Migration

Dr. TLS Bhaskar, CAO, Indian Centre for Migration - Focusing on the complementary between India and EU, Dr Bhaskar suggested that it might be useful to further investigate what kind of sectors may unfold and what kind of opportunities may become available in the near future, so as to mutually benefit India and EU. The healthcare in EU, for instance is expected to grow by 5 per cent due to demographic shifts and emergence of better healthcare applications. Indian agencies can also focus on other opportune sectors such as engineering and Information Technology, which are expected to expand by around 30 percent between 2018-2030: thus creating the possibility of generating nearly 1 million jobs. He also highlighted the growing consensus and increased engagement of state governments to protect migrants including their retention, remittances and integration.

► Dr. Rupa Chanda

Professor, Indian Institute of Management,
Bangalore

Dr. Rupa Chanda, Professor, Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore presented an overview of various dimensions of India-EU Migration. New forms of mobility are emerging with growth of start-ups and entrepreneurial ventures, Small and Medium Scale Enterprises, digital applications. A multi-faceted approach that builds on existing initiatives and engages in a futuristic vision is important. Regular migrants to EU cover a large proportion of Indian students, academics, researchers, trainees, professional, and semi-skilled personnel. This presents a promising picture of mutually beneficial relationship. Indian students are a source of financing future global talent for the EU and can promote mutual understanding, trade, investment and research ties.

She raised issues that need consideration and

provided suggestions for the same: The visa process is perceived as cumbersome, time consuming, discretionary, non-transparent with associated conditions; streamlining and addressing of pre-consular procedures is needed. Changes in immigration rules without prior notice, considerable differences in visa-processing time-lines among states, non-alignment of visa regulations with requirements of sectors of mutual interest like information technology and start-ups, restrictions on movement and employment of dependents and absence of long-term multiple entry visas remain other perceived hurdles. Regarding student mobility, there is considerable misalignment between programmes of Indian universities and those of European Universities and a higher degree of regulatory co-operation is needed between accreditation bodies and educational establishments to bridge this gap and bring in an equivalent system. Another issue that affects student and research community includes high costs, limited scholarships, and funded exchange programs. More scholarships, post-doctoral and funded research exchange schemes, academia internships, needs to be rolled out and dissemination of information to the intended (student) community in this regard is equally crucial. Additionally, post study employment and stay needs to be more flexible. Another issue of concern includes mandatory requirements

on foreign professionals to make social security contributions, raising cost of doing business in EU. Impact and effectiveness of bilateral programs for student mobility need to be assessed.

► **Ms. Seeta Sharma**

Technical Officer
ILO

► **Mr. Naozad Hodiwala**

Project Manager
ICMPD

Ms. Seeta Sharma, Technical Officer, ILO and Mr. Naozad Hodiwala, Project Manager, ICMPD provided the context of India-EU Technical Project derived from the four pillars of the CAMM. Activities planned within the project's work plan align with the key priorities outlined within the document and endeavor to improve knowledge sharing, holding dialogues and building capacities in terms of awareness of risks and opportunity lost were some of the approaches highlighted. Ms. Sharma added that migration has been an important subject in ILO's constitutional mandate and the organization, in conjunction with its implementing partner – ICMPD continues to provide technical support in the implementation of CAMM with the aim of strengthening the dialogue on migration between India and the EU.



IV: REGULAR MIGRATION & WELL-MANAGED MOBILITY

IV. REGULAR MIGRATION & WELL-MANAGED MOBILITY

Moderator: Dr. Gulshan Sachdeva, Professor JNU

Session objective:

- ▶ To share India EU perspective on high and low skill mobility;
- ▶ To share initiatives by India and the EU on opportunities for strengthening regular migration cooperation.



Key Discussion points

- ▶ Opportunities for skilled workers including engineers, technicians and Information Technology professionals to remain high; low skill jobs such as sales representatives, drivers, cleaners and helpers is also expected to remain till 2030.
- ▶ Mutual recognition of skills system needs to be set up; collaboration in apprenticeships to be explored
- ▶ Introduction of new visa code by the EU from Feb 1, 2020 with visa rules to be adapted according to cooperation on the return and readmission of irregular migrants.
- ▶ Businesses request consistency in procedure and timelines for visas, and intra-EU mobility
- ▶ +/- 34,000 Indians migrate to EU annually, for the purpose of study; post-study work initiatives can be explored
- ▶ 7. Social security agreements to be extended and effectively implemented; mechanism for addressing issues proposed (grievance portals)

Dr. Gulshan Sachdeva introduced the session by emphasizing that migration between India and the EU must be seen, as an opportunity for increased engagement with EU MS. Focus of bilateral discussions should also move beyond facilitating high skill mobility and enable facilitation process for low and medium skilled workers as well.

▶ Ms. Maria Madrid

International Coordination Unit
DG Home Affairs, European Commission

Ms. Maria Madrid, International Coordination Unit, DG Home Affairs, European Commission presented perspective from the EU legal migration as a part of comprehensive migration policy. The third-country nationals form 4.2% (21.6 million) of the total population in the EU. It is expected that legal pathways to migration would be enhanced through robust growth and strong job creation (although not in all countries) in both skilled and less-skilled opportunities. Besides skilled trades, engineers, technicians and Information Technology professionals, opportunities in less skilled jobs of sales representatives, drivers, cleaners and

helpers is expected to remain till 2030. EU's legal migration policy needs to be in tune with labour market needs and provide a single and uniform framework to attract skill/highly skilled workers and to manage the labour migration in a proper manner. Implementation of the EU Intra-Corporate Transferee (ICT) Directive, Students and Research Directive and reform of EU Blue Card (in negotiation) is required.

The EU Intra-Corporate Transferee (ICT) Directive is immensely important from Indian perspective where the right to stay and work in EU MS is facilitated for corporate employees through flexible scheme of short-term stay of three months, and is extendable by three months at a time. A new Blue Card initiative is in pipeline that has fast-track procedures, enhanced rights on labour market access, family reunification and ease in intra-EU mobility. Ms. Madrid closed the presentation with an update on the EU legal migration fitness check and revised visa policy which highlighted the positive contributions of the EU legal migration policy and the challenges on policy coherence and inconsistencies for attracting high skilled workers. A new visa code coming into force from Feb 1, 2020 was also mentioned wherein conditions for processing visa applications (for example on processing time, visa fees or the issuance of multiple-entry visas) would be adapted depending on whether a non-EU country cooperates satisfactorily on the return and readmission of irregular migrants.

► **Mr. Thibault Devanlay**

European Union Delegation

Mr. Thibault Devanlay, European Union Delegation presented the success stories of organized migration and mobility of high skilled workers and academics. He mentions that 50,000 Indian students every year migrate to EU Member States, UK being the most favored destination followed by Germany and France. Several countries which do not have considerable international migrants are making policy efforts to attract Indians in specific sectors. Around 400-500 scholarships are offered through the Erasmus programme. Four kinds of programs are offered under Erasmus: credit mobility, Joint Masters' Degree, capacity building between universities and within universities and common understanding and creation of cooperation. The Erasmus + program

covers not only higher education but also training the youth in sports.

► **Mr. B.K Sikdar**

Director, Ministry of Skills Development and Entrepreneurship, GOI

B.K Sikdar, Director, Ministry of Skills Development and Entrepreneurship, GOI mentioned the need to align skills and high skills in particular, across different countries. Indian understanding and parameter of defining high skills may differ with EU member states' definition of high skills. Hence aligning of system and mutual recognition mechanism needs to be set up. Lessons can be drawn from European Qualification System, where there is standardization of skills.

Ministry of Skills Development and Entrepreneurship and National Skills Development Corporation collaboration with Japan – the Indo Japan Apprenticeship Programme was shared as a good practice. It includes the empanelment of sending organizations, language training and bridging the gap between skills demand and supply for a mutually beneficial arrangement. Apprenticeship trainings such as these help in building the skills ecosystem of the countries.

► **Dr N Saravana Kumar**

Joint Secretary, Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India

Dr N Saravana Kumar, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India noted that the ultimate goal for bilateral and multilateral academic exchange remains enhancing the research ecosystem but balanced mobility remains a challenge from the skill and employability perspective.

India has a number of programs including initiatives to attract foreign students. Currently, 130 Indian institutions are offering foreign students opportunities to study in India and more than 2,500 scholarships are offered. Foreign students are coming to India primarily from South East Asia, South Asia and Africa. Short-term courses on yoga, spirituality and languages are planned. Scheme for Promotion of Academic and Research Collaboration offers collaboration between top ranking Indian and Global institutes with the objective to enhance the

mobility of researchers and students. 28 countries are part of this program and most proposals come from USA, UK and Australia. Global Initiative for Academic Networks (GIAN) program promotes foreign faculty visits and work opportunities in India. GIAN plus program promotes balanced mobility of Indian academicians to other countries.

Mutual recognition of qualifications becomes important. A need for country specific Memorandum of Understanding was suggested by Mr Kumar to promote enhanced and balanced students' mobility. Recognizing the high percentage of Indian students returning to India post-scholarship, initiatives on post-study visa arrangements was recommended also to be considered by the speaker.

► **Mr. S. K. Jha**

Ministry of Labour and Employment
Government of India

S.K. Jha, Ministry of Labour and Employment, Government of India stated that migrant workers often contribute to the social security schemes but when they return to their country of origin, often they are not given their dues, especially in cases of service for a short span of contributory period. Effective implementation of Social Security Agreements addressing issue of double coverage of payment towards social security (detachment), totalization and portability of benefits needs to be addressed. India has such arrangements with 12 EU Member States but with only four countries grievance portal have been established. At present, only workers registered under Employees' Provident Fund Organization are covered by Social Security Agreements but attempts are being made to widen coverage to other categories.

► **Mr. Gagan Sabharwal**

National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM)

Mr. Gagan Sabharwal, National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM), highlighted the limitation of work visas offered by the EU MS in terms of intra-EU mobility. Frequent changes by EU Member States on national visa rules without prior notification adds to this challenge. Different rules are in place for different sectors and companies. In this regard, NASSCOM drafted and presented a white paper on Intra-Corporate Transferees and this has increased the understanding of the requirements to promote migration and mobility. Recommendations included extension of visa duration and enhancement of intra-EU mobility. "Businesses work on stability and predictability, therefore consistency on timeline and procedure shall be helpful."

► **Ms. Seeta Sharma**

Ms. Seeta Sharma shared some of the key recommendations from the private sector, as presented in the India EU Talent Mobility Seminar last held in June 2019 in Pune. The seminar was held, as part of the technical project supporting the India EU CAMM, with a three-fold objective of: (1) building enhanced understanding on the benefits of talent mobility in the current and future world of work, highlighting the complementarity of India and EU in this regard.; (2) highlighting the industry practitioners' point of view on identification of challenges, lessons from good practices and recommendations for enhanced mobility between India and EU; and (3) understanding the initiatives undertaken by Indian government, the EU and EU MS for enhanced talent mobility.



Key recommendations from the seminar are listed below.

Automotive Industry	Start-ups
Measures to foster migration and mobility in the India EU automotive sector need to be promoted	A review of regulatory requirements is necessary in both EU and India
Skilled labour demands to be commensurate with the growing advancement of technology, pace of market growth	Alignment of work visas and permits with business realities is required - longer duration of visa
Bilateral cooperation at India EU level in addressing skill shortages and talent mobility is incumbent	Need to mitigate the lack of clarity on policy and procedure requirements for foreign nationals starting a business in India
India needs to strategize its penetration into this explosion of demand for talent that is projected to happen by 2025	Initiatives and platforms that mitigate constraints need encouragement.
In addition to fiscal leverage, mobility programmes also need to encourage better cultural integration as well as employment opportunities for spouse and migration of women expatriates in the sector	Enable engagement of regulatory bodies with the industry to facilitate dialogue on roadblocks to mobility, and build alternative narratives that empower enterprises.



V: INITIATIVES TO PREVENT AND TACKLE IRREGULAR MIGRATION

V: INITIATIVES TO PREVENT AND TACKLE IRREGULAR MIGRATION

Moderator: Mr. Martijn Pluim, Director, ICMPD

Session objective:

- ▶ To discuss India and EU experience in preventing irregular migration, cooperating on return, tackling migrant smuggling, and identifying challenges and opportunities.
- ▶ To share the good practices in relation to prevention of irregular migration and return and the challenges and gaps that needs to be addressed, including return and re-integration experiences.



Key Discussion points

- ▶ Return of irregular migrants is an integral part of EU migration policy; Readmission is currently worked through a country to country agreement
- ▶ Use of India's national verification portal and biometric-linked passports as tools for identity recognition to be used to their potential
- ▶ Understanding migrants' perspective, and challenges, is key to prevent irregularity
- ▶ Engagement at community level, awareness campaigns and dissemination of information on safe migration and risk and reality of irregular migration, on avenues for voluntary returns, to be sustained on both sides of the migration line
- ▶ Creation of a team in India in charge of emergency certificates and adoption of standards of service suggested Framework and standards for Assisted Voluntary Return (AVR) and reintegration were shared as a good practice

▶ Ms. Maria Madrid

International Relations Officer, International Coordination Unit, DG Home Affairs
European Commission

Ms. Maria Madrid, International Relations Officer, International Coordination Unit, DG Home Affairs, European Commission explained that at the time most of the irregular migration arrived along the western Mediterranean route, but migration routes change rapidly. An estimated 150,114 irregular migrant detections were identified on EU's external border in 2018, with Syria, Morocco and Afghanistan being the top three countries of origin. From 2015-2018 over 3.5 million first time applications were received for asylum and 1.4 million persons are to be returned.

EU adapted an Agenda on Migration in 2015 and its main objectives are: saving lives at sea, targeting criminal smuggling networks, relocation and resettlement of asylum seekers, working in partnership with key countries outside EU and

helping front-line members states. To better manage migration, there is a need to address its root causes, combat smuggling and initiate more effective returns, reinforce border management and stronger asylum system. EU Action Plan against Migrant Smuggling (2015-2020) aims to prevent and combat exploitation of migrants by criminal networks, through a multi-disciplinary approach and building stronger investigation capacity and prosecution, investigation exchange of information and intelligence, enhanced prevention of smuggling and assistance and stronger cooperation with third countries. Deployment of European Liaison Officers (one was deployed in India between 2016 and 2018), building cooperation networks and raising awareness campaign are some of the steps taken to foster stronger cooperation with third countries. Return of irregular migrants found is an integral part of the EU Migration Policy. On readmission, EU is taking step-by-step approach to negotiate with the country of origin. EU has started the process with some countries in Africa and the next step to further strengthen the re-admission process would be to initiate dialogues at the continent-to-continent level.

► **Mr. Amrit Lugun**

Protector General of Emigrants, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India

Mr. Amrit Lugun, Protector General of Emigrants, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India presented his perspectives on irregular migration from India to EU. Though the figures are not high, he mentioned there are certain specific regions within the country from where such migration takes place, mainly for economic reasons. The Government of India has recently initiated a program named 'Prashikshit Jae Surakshit Jae' (Go Trained and Go Safe). It is quite common that migrants dealing with unscrupulous agents face destruction of their documents. The government also has Pravasi Bharatiya Sahayata Kendra (PBSK) which are operational to provide 24x7 assistance and counseling facilities to prospective emigrants. Further, series of awareness generation campaigns

and training of trainers workshop have also been organized by ICM. Coming from the Indian subcontinent, it often becomes difficult to identify migrants (in absence of any formal documents) on the basis of looks, language and habits, because of shared cultural practices in the border countries. Re-admission becomes difficult. Hence, the Nationality Verification Portal has been set up, 11,386 cases have been referred so far, of which 9,201 have been verified, 229 are in process and 1,102 cases are pending. The strike rate of verification is 81%. In India for instance emigration to Emigration Clearance Required countries² require prior registration and 10 officers are empowered at the national level to take penal actions against irregular agents. On similar lines, measures can be taken to check India-EU irregular migration. Other steps which can be taken to tackle irregular migration include counsellor dialogue, biometric linked passport and persecution of irregular agents.

► **Mr. Maschell Wellington**
Ms. Radhika

Representative of UK High Commission

Mr. Maschell Wellington and Ms. Radhika, Representative of UK High Commission suggested that to combat irregular immigration and raise awareness about legal ways of migration, engagement at the community level with local self-help groups, charity organisations and panchayat/village leaders is essential. Interventions in Punjab, in partnership with Caritas, were cited as an example of such steps. In addition, measures like dissemination of information on safe and regular migration in colleges, skill training centres and establishing regular dialogues with Government of India with mutually agreed priorities have also been initiated.

Seminars in India and UK were held to increase awareness building about visa types, avoiding the use of fraudulent agents, educating about the realities of life in UK as an irregular migrant, and providing accurate information about different re-integration avenues for anyone voluntarily wishing to return to India. They suggested that steps may

² 18 countries are listed as Emigration Clearance Required (ECR) countries. Indian workers holding ECR passports are mandated to get clearance prior to migrating for employment to these countries. The countries are: Afghanistan, Bahrain, Indonesia, Iraq, Jordan, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Malaysia, Oman, Qatar, South Sudan, Sudan, Syria, Thailand, United Arab Emirates, and Yemen

be taken to combat irregular migration and raise awareness about legal pathways of migration.

Home Affairs Dialogue/Migration Dialogue with Government of India on mutually agreed priorities was established. The British High Commission launched a project for providing assistance to voluntary returnees for their re-integration. A project office was set up in Jalandhar, Punjab and 35 returnees were supported through the program. Migrants were informed about the Immigration Act of 2016 and the Compliant Environment - Immigration Compliance and Enforcement which required members of the community (landlords, Nation Health Service (UK), charities, banks) to check identification. Voluntary services/and reintegration support were available in Punjab, including health services for those returning.

They suggested facilitating return through the constitution of a team in India taking care of requirements and approval of Emergency Certificates, enhanced interaction with Indian authorities, better data management to prevent duplication, adoption of standards of services.

► Mr. Dinesh Ponraj Oliver, IAS

Overseas Manpower Corporation Ltd.,
Government of India

Mr. Dinesh Ponraj Oliver, IAS – Overseas Manpower Corporation Ltd., Government of India, shared the experience of state governments in tackling irregular migrants. Most of the irregular migration takes place for economic reasons and such job seekers are lured by authorized recruiting agents or sub agents of registered agents.

Some job seekers (low skill or unskilled people) opt for a tourist visa channel to migrate for employment purpose. Lack of information about the risks posed by taking irregular channels is cited as the key reason for this decision. Raising awareness through campaigns on safe and legal routes of migration is considered crucial to address this phenomenon.

Some initiatives taken by the Tamil Nadu government to reduce irregular migration from the state include: short films made to raise awareness on regular and safe migration, conducting awareness workshops, booklets and leaflets prepared and distributed by the Ministry of External Affairs.

► Mr. Sarat Dash

International Organization for Migration (IOM)

Mr. Sarat Dash, International Organization for Migration (IOM) maintained that understanding the perspective of the migrant – economic, social and emotional, will help protect the migrant from being exploited. Challenges experienced in handling irregular migration included lack of effective action against unauthorised recruiting agencies, mismatch of promised versus paid wages, dispute between the employer and the employee upon the enforcement of agreement; claiming compensation amount for death of the emigrant and injuries sustained in the work place.

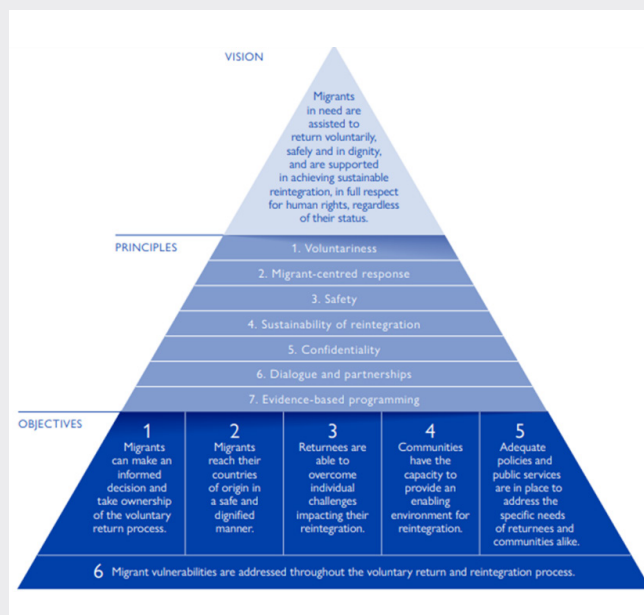


Figure 1: Framework for assisted voluntary return and reintegration

To prevent irregularity, safe migration practices through ethical recruitment checks needs to be created at the community level. Pre-departure orientation is also a helpful practice. Capacity building at the provincial level, mainstreaming of welfare schemes are some of the other means to support prevention of irregularity.

The process of returning migrants is often oversimplified but it involves re-inclusion or re-incorporation of a person into his or her own culture, family and society, and often such reintegration is not seamless. A framework on facilitating assisted voluntary return and re-integration has been developed keeping into consideration the above

mentioned challenges³. Speedy processing of emergency certificates can be helpful in the return of Indian migrants.

Since 2006, a total of 2,250 India migrants have been returned voluntarily from Europe by the IOM. They belong to the age-group of 30-50 years and have only elementary or school level education. In 2019, there were 122 cases of assisted voluntary return. The state of Punjab has the highest share (38%) of such returnees. Safety of returning migrants and the standard of services provided needs to be ensured. Returning migrants are provided with temporary shelter, skill and education training, medical treatment and assistance for starting small businesses.

Caritas India's experience of re-integration of Indians from Europe was, presented by Benoît

Sauveroché from the EU Delegation in India. Caritas India and Navjeevan Charitable Society, Jalandhar, Punjab conducted awareness campaigns against unsafe migration, advocacy with local self-help groups and panchayat/village leaders in Punjab. This was supported by Dutch Ministry of Justice and Safety. Progress was monitored by working groups consisting of British High Commission and EU Liaison Officer. Though figures of return migrants is not high and most of them have returned voluntarily, good practices of return and reintegration need to be established to assist others who are irregularly staying in Europe to return. Apart from Punjab some other states like Gujarat, Haryana and West Bengal are also recording returnees and have been reintegrated with support from Caritas.

3 For more information refer here: <https://www.iom.int/assisted-voluntary-return-and-reintegration>



VI: MAXIMIZING THE DEVELOPMENT IMPACT OF MIGRATION AND MOBILITY

VI: MAXIMIZING THE DEVELOPMENT IMPACT OF MIGRATION AND MOBILITY

Moderator: Dr. Constantino Xavier, Fellow - Foreign Policy Studies, Brookings India

Session objective:

- ▶ To understand the EU – India perspective on diaspora engagement and efforts towards diaspora empowerment
- ▶ To discuss the contributions of Indian diaspora in destination economies
- ▶ To discuss best practices in diaspora engagement



Key Discussion points

- ▶ Engagement of diaspora is key to build bridges between country of residency and country of origin; it is also instrumental in reaching the UN sustained development goals.
- ▶ EU Member States and India have developed initiatives and programmes for supporting diaspora engagement: these are needed to address integration and progression in the destination society, as well as to protect rights and nurture ties with the country of origin.
- ▶ Institutional support for diaspora to be an able partner with governments to be ensured
- ▶ Co-development of tools for facilitation, re-integration and retention of qualified diaspora to be investigated; initiatives already taken in this sense to be fully analysed;
- ▶ Alternative engagements other than permanent return also to be fully considered

▶ Ms. Cecilia Costa

Cooperation Manager
EU Delegation in India

Ms. Cecilia Costa, Cooperation Manager, EU Delegation in India, presented perspectives on empowering diaspora networks and enhancing integration measures within the EU. Indian diaspora's contribution of 2.9% (78.6 billion USD in 2018) to GDP through remittances is substantial and their role in the country of origin's development is central. Besides economic contribution, the significance of human, social and cultural transfers is also deemed critical. The role of diaspora as an effective link or actor of change between communities within countries of destination, and countries of origin, was underlined (especially in international trade and business). Diaspora is crucial stakeholders in achieving UN Sustainable Development Goals and their engagement with policy makers for partnerships and policy dialogue is essential. An

interesting observation on Indian diaspora women revealed that 20 per cent of total Indian payment agents are women who have built sophisticated financial companies and are active in trade. They also boost bilateral relations through trade by getting goods from their country of origin. 2019 has witnessed the launch of an EU Global Diaspora Facility.

The European Union (EU) Global Diaspora Facility is an EU-funded project running from June 2019 until December 2022 (implemented by ICMPD) that aims to strengthen collaboration and engagement between diaspora development organizations, countries of origin and the EU.

With an overall budget of €5 million, the project consists of four interlinking components:

a global mapping of diaspora engagement; targeted capacity building interventions for countries of origin and diaspora organizations; outreach and interaction through an online platform, diaspora consultations, meetings with countries of origin and EU Member States and the Annual EU Global Diaspora Forum, and mobilization of diaspora experts for development projects.

These parallel components will generate a consolidated knowledge base on diaspora engagement practices, address the capacity building needs and priorities of governments and diaspora organizations, strengthen and expand pre-existing networks, formalize diaspora-EU interaction and promote diasporas as development actors.

► **Mr. Abbagani Ramu**

Joint Secretary,
Overseas Indian Affairs II
Ministry of External Affairs

Mr. Abbagani Ramu, Joint Secretary, Overseas Indian Affairs II, Ministry of External Affairs expressed that interaction with well-settled Indian migrants in the EU, celebrating their success and re-connecting with them will help in strengthening diaspora ties with India. Globally, India's diaspora community is the largest in the world: 31 million people comprising of approximately 12 million Indian Passport holders

(Non-Resident Indians) and Persons of Indian Origin. An online portal called Madad (meaning help in Hindi) has been set up to help them with issues such as property and marriage disputes and other conflicts. A fund has also been created to help them in this regard. A biennial celebratory event called Pravasi Bhartiya Divas (Overseas Indian Day) is organized to acknowledge diaspora contributions from across the world and includes the Pravasi Bhartiya Samman Awards. Regional Pravasi Bhartiya Divas are also celebrated. The 'Know India' program encourages youth to tour India and pilgrimages for 45-60 year old diaspora are arranged. Schemes like 'Skill India', 'Come and Make in India' are avenues through which the diaspora is engaged and contributes to development initiatives in India.

► **Mr. Bhavani Shankar**

CEO, Andhra Pradesh Non-Resident Resident
Telegu Society (APNRT)

Mr. Bhavani Shankar, CEO, Andhra Pradesh Non-Resident Resident Telegu Society (APNRT) presented the experiences of non-resident Telegu migrants. The Government of Andhra Pradesh adopted a Migrant Development Policy in 2017. Under this policy, Migrant Resource Centers have been established to provide amnesty and repatriation of immigrants and other services like informing about the requirements of migration to other countries, as well as insurance. To give guidance to aspiring students, a scheme (Vidya Vahini) has been established and proving to be a milestone in gaining skill and employment. They in return send remittances and investments, thus promoting integrated development. Also, the APNRT is in discussion with the incubators/accelerators to create a global platform that would help Non-Resident Telugus (from the state of Andhra Pradesh) to realize their innovation/ entrepreneurship in their country of domicile. The society has established a fund through contributions made by the diaspora, to develop smart villages, on the lines of smart cities.

► **Dr. Jonathan Portes**

King's College UK

Dr. Jonathan Portes, King's College UK discussed the contributions of Indians to destination economies, from a draft paper commissioned by ILO under the technical project supporting India EU CAMM. He shared the experience of the drivers and impact

of Indian immigration to the EU in two countries and sectors: Information and Communication Technology in the Netherlands and the agricultural (specifically dairy) sector in North Italy. Netherlands has a buoyant labour market with excess demand for medium and high skill workers, especially 'knowledge workers' and Indian migrants have met this demand. This has resulted in rapid industrial growth and in general, continued demand from employers has further driven the migration stream. Dutch policy makers have undertaken attractive initiatives such as favorable tax concession for migrants and easy rules for dependents.

In Italy, push factors (economic and political turbulence in Punjab), and pull factors (labour demand) along with repeated regularization initiatives helping family reunion, have been instrumental in promoting migration and mobility of workers and their households. This process helped in mitigating insecurities of the native workers towards migrants but integration and upward occupational and sectoral mobility remains a challenge. Steps that need to be taken include matching demand and supply, recognizing the need of both workers and employers, and extending coverage and support to families and dependents.

► **Ms. Marion Noack**

Policy Analyst at ICMPD

Ms. Marion Noack, Policy Analyst at ICMPD, presented observations and recommendations from three diaspora studies in Germany, Ireland and Italy (developed on behalf of ICMPD under the technical project supporting India EU CAMM) and best practices from EU Member States. The studies mainly highlighted diaspora's contribution to destination and countries of origin, identifying migration patterns and channels, analyzing integration characteristics and potential of diaspora organizations and their forms. The three key sectors that have recently (and continue to) draw Indians to migrate to Ireland are education, healthcare, and entrepreneurship. The challenges faced are similar in terms of integration and sense of belonging besides other practical problems of housing, healthcare and lengthy visa processes. The composition and challenges of the Indian diaspora in Italy were found to vary depending on the specific region in question within Italy, but continue to be

strong contributors to their host economies ranging from formal and informal employment within the manufacturing, dairy, agricultural, livestock, and mechanical and biomedical engineering sectors. They faced challenges in terms of lack of information about admission, visa processes and gap between graduation and employment search.

Ms Noack also shared good practices from EU Member States and partner countries on attracting diaspora. Poland has a system that not only promotes cultural ties but also protects the rights of the Polish immigrants and provides for mentoring of their students abroad and arranging short trips to back home. Ireland has a very balanced policy in place, known as 'Global Irish' which provide welfare services to their vulnerable citizens (Emigrant Support Programme), that facilitate outreach to their diaspora community, developing better communication and information services and facilitation of return of migrants (Safe Home Ireland). Georgia has started developing Legal Migration Guidelines for three frequent destination countries - Greece, Italy and Spain. They have engaged in focused group discussions, encouraging the engagement of youth and through supporting activities like Georgia's Young Ambassadors and students or academic exchange programs between Member States.

Supporting migrants' network, diaspora's capacity and policy development, guiding government outreach and providing a conducive environment for diaspora development were recognized as the main strategies by governments. An opportunity in facilitating interactions between EU Member States and India on the return of qualified diaspora members was also shared. The suggested initiatives on return could potentially include tools for re-integration and retention, attraction and facilitation. Re-integration and retention program should include tailored advice, mentoring and counselling, entrepreneurship and start-up support, integration instruments (education courses). It was emphasized that sustainable migration governance can only be undertaken through partnership with migrants and diaspora.

Recognizing the lack of expertise on diaspora engagement and scholarship on basic data on contribution of diaspora, Dr. Constantino Xavier

concluded the session by underscoring the significance of strategic investments in bridging this gap. Celebrating and connecting with Indian diaspora are critical in pursuing India's diplomatic interest outside India. Singhvi Committee⁴ recommendations on developing models for diaspora to work in India, return to India and invest in India were also referred. Contributions of Goan and Keralite diaspora, like Andhra Pradesh diaspora in their quest to become economic hubs, were highlighted in skilling out-bound migrants and

providing economic opportunities and promoting innovations. To understand the impact of policy initiatives of diaspora engagement, a cost and benefit analysis of institution building (such as APNRT) model is considered important. Limitations of physical return of diaspora were also underscored as diaspora gets more organized through various avenues to re-engage with the country of origin such as short-term courses, capital investments and mid-range services.

⁴ Singhvi Committee was a high level committee on the Indian diaspora set up by GOI in 2000 to develop a comprehensive report informing the Indian public of the achievements of the Indian diaspora, their problems and expectations from their mother country and proposing a new policy framework. More information available [here](#)



VII: EMERGING ISSUES FOR FUTURE DIALOGUE AND ACTION

VII: EMERGING ISSUES FOR FUTURE DIALOGUE AND ACTION



A. Overall

1. Ease of access to reliable migration data
 - a. Strengthen access and cross-sharing of data between governments in a dynamic way
 - b. Enhance compatibility and comparability of data by addressing gaps in documentation and varying terminologies
 - c. Share data on labour projections (opportunities, focus sectors) and irregular migrants
2. Scope of policy on migration governance: Adapting a multi-faceted policy approach that builds on existing initiatives and engages in a futuristic vision, which incorporates:
 - a. Reflections on new forms of mobility such as start-ups, entrepreneurial ventures, small and medium scale enterprises
 - b. Concerted actions to reduce refusal of entry or interception of Indian migrants at EU borders, both at sea and land, due to lack of valid travel documents.
 - c. Sharing of good practices and mutual learning to streamline migration and mobility

B. Regular Migration

1. New Visa Code is set to link processing of applications on non-EU country's satisfactory cooperation on return and readmission of irregular migrants from February 2020
2. Longer duration of visa for high-skilled workers, especially Information Technology workers, and their requirement of intra-EU mobility needs to be addressed
3. Reliable processing time for visa applications as businesses work on stability and predictability.
4. Grievance portals can be established for countries having social security agreements
5. Alignment of qualifications, including language training and mutual recognition mechanisms should be explored; lessons from European Qualifications System can be shared
6. Post study employment and stay needs to be more flexible. Initial acquisition of professional experience through internships, apprenticeship and cooperation opportunities with industry could be a starting point. Reasons of high proportion of return of Indian students need to be researched.

7. Check whether existing visa and residence schemes address the needs of the start-up ecosystem on both sides. There is need to brainstorm whether innovative visa schemes can be developed.
8. Pilot projects that focus on offering legal channels to medium/low-skilled workers should be explored.
9. More scholarships and funded research exchange schemes, academia internships could be rolled out. Dissemination of information to the student community is crucial.

C. Irregular Migration

1. Regular knowledge exchanges between EU institutions, European Member States, and Indian authorities should address gaps and challenges related to the prevention and combat irregular migration and addressing unethical recruitment. agents.
2. Raising awareness to combat irregular immigration
3. Migrant Resource Centres to be established to carry out campaigns and assist with pre-departure. Engagement at the community level with local self-help groups, charity organisations and panchayat / village leaders, educational and skill development to be initiated
4. Devising incentives for voluntary return, and circular migration, and ethical recruitment practices with constant monitoring of recruitment agencies and enhanced prosecutions of irregular agents/ smugglers
5. Improve consular and other on-site services to facilitate education (informed decision-making), prevention and rescue of migrant workers in exploitative situations.
6. Enhance cooperation between India and the EU (e.g. establishment of Standard Operating Procedures, standards of services, comprehensive agreements) to identify, promote and facilitate the return of migrants; counsellors dialogue to be developed.
7. A return team constituted at the country of origin may take care of the requirements for qualifying or approval of Emergency Certificates

8. Management of data to better inform policy makers and offer innovative policy recommendations.
9. Adopting standards of services to support quality checks is encouraged
10. Maintain/develop reintegration and re-inclusion support programmes accompanying return processes.

D. Migration and Development

1. Provide a conducive environment for diaspora engagement that will help strengthen the diaspora's ties with India and enhance investment and policy development.
2. Invest in regular assessments to understand the profile of the diaspora in the respective country as well as their needs to build targeted support and engagement programmes.
3. Reconnect with well-established diaspora and enhance partnerships with migrants and diaspora through capacity building and empowerment of migrants' networks.
4. Enhance diaspora engagement through tools assisting pre-departure, arrival and during the stay, pre-return and return
5. Provide targeted support to potential students through pre-departure orientation, institutional partnerships with destination countries or scholarships, particular for potential students from disadvantaged regions of India.
6. Facilitate inter-governmental and non-governmental partnerships to enhance diaspora engagement and aid the integration process.
7. Engage in knowledge exchange between the EU Member States and India on areas of shared interest, such as diaspora communication and engagement strategies, support to vulnerable communities, capacity building of diaspora organizations and return of talent.
8. Potential role of diaspora in trade and investments, though often overlooked, needs to be investigated and calls for research in future.
9. Facilitate job-orientation and gaining of work experience for Indian students after graduation



VIII: PARTICIPANTS FEEDBACK AND SUGGESTIONS

VIII. PARTICIPANTS FEEDBACK AND SUGGESTIONS

While the organizing team received a low number of feedback forms, of those who submitted, 80 per cent shared that they benefitted from participating in the meeting. The top learning of the participants included: (1) Indian government initiatives on migration governance, especially diaspora engagement; and (2) Research on India-EU migration and lack of data on the topic.

Suggestions to the organizing team for future such events concentrated primarily on the design of the meeting - focusing on less number of panelist and more time for discussions and logistical arrangement, especially quality audio/video arrangements.



► IX: ANNEXURES

IX: ANNEXURES

1. Concept Note and Agenda

Seminar on Sharing of Good Practices on Migration Governance

10 July 2019

Silver Oak Hall, India Habitat Centre, Lodi Road, New Delhi, India

Background

Based on common values, India and EU have a long standing relationship, of over fifty years, covering several opportunities for cooperation ranging from environmental protection, sustainable energy solutions, trade and investment, defence, migration and mobility. The first EU Summit took place in 2000 and the EU-India Strategic Partnership was established in the fifth summit in 2004. More recently, the Joint Communication **Elements of a renewed EU strategy on India** was adopted on 20 November (with Council conclusions adopted on 5 December) 2018 in Brussels noting Migration and Talent Mobility as opportunities for EU-India cooperation. Operationally, the latest **High Level Dialogue on Migration and Mobility (HLDMM)** took place in April 2017 following the endorsement on 29 March 2016 by the Government of India and the European Union of the India-EU **Common Agenda on Migration and Mobility (CAMM)**.

The CAMM offers a mutually agreed upon framework for cooperation for deeper cooperation and solid mutual engagement on migration. It addresses four priority areas in a balanced manner: **better organised regular migration and the fostering well-managed mobility; preventing and combating irregular migration and addressing trafficking in human beings; maximising the development impact of migration and mobility and the promotion of international protection.**

One of the key components of the CAMM calls for the “exchange of good practices and [to] explore possibilities for concrete cooperation, make policy recommendations and develop actions in the four priority areas”. The technical project supporting the India-EU CAMM has been tasked to undertake activities on areas of mutual interest, as identified

by both sides and to facilitate the exploration of future possibilities for further cooperation on migration and mobility issues of mutual interest, including through relevant recommendations under the HLDMM. To that end, this seminar on migration governance is conceptualised.

Objective

The objective of this seminar is:

- ▶ **Firstly**, to understand and take stock of the evolving views and efforts in Europe and India, post-2017 HLDMM, on migration management, from the perspective of each side’s own practices, challenges, opportunities, and lessons learnt (regionally and globally) on regular migration (panel one), irregular migration (panel two), and diaspora engagement (panel three).
- ▶ **Secondly**, to offer the opportunity to EU and GOI to further existing relationships and synchronise their efforts in the governance of migration and mobility.
- ▶ **Thirdly**, to put forward recommendations for potential convergence and collaboration.

Expected Output

Information shared during the course of the three panel discussions is expected to be summarised in the form of a set of **mutually agreeable conclusions/priorities** that may then form the basis of both sides preparation for the next HLDMM.

Methodology

Following introductory remarks, four panels are foreseen over the course of the day. The first panel will set the context through a short presentation of the technical project as well as trends of migration and mobility along the corridor. Presenters from the Indian government and the EU institutions will share

their respective approaches and achievements on migration management during the following three session. Focus will be paid to recent developments in: **regular mobility** avenues (such as the facilitation of the skilled labour and student/researcher mobility, the ICT Directive, the New Visa Code, as well as the findings of the EU's 'Fitness Check' on the Legal Migration Directives) and **efforts to combat irregular patterns of migration** with a focus on the fight against migrant smuggling, cooperation on return and readmission. The last panel will focus on **migration and development**, with emphasis on diaspora engagement (how national and local authorities empower diaspora groups to act as bridges for political and economic connectivity). A closing session will offer concluding remarks for the event.

Participants

The seminar will gather a maximum of 100 participants. Speakers will include representatives of the **Government of India** (Ministry of External

Affairs, Ministry of Home Affairs, and Ministry of Labour – as well as other GoI authorities upon MEA's advice) and EU institutions (DG HOME, DG DEVCO, European External Action Service (EEAS)) and agencies (European Border and Coast Guard Agency).

A select **group of experts** will be asked to complement the perspectives of the two governments by offering technical and academic input on recent trends in the labour market, skills shortages, border reinforcements and diaspora platforms. Relevant representatives from other international organisations, private sector, social partners, academics, and civil society will also be invited to attend.

The meeting will be hosted by the **International Labour Organisation (ILO)**, the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) and with the support of the **India Centre for Migration (ICM)**.

10:00 -10:30	Registration/Coffee
10:30: 11:20	Opening Remarks: - Mr. Vinod K Jacob, Joint Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India - Mr. Tomasz Kozlowski, Ambassador of the European Union to India and Inaugural Address: - Ms. Paraskevi Michou, Director General, DG- Home Affairs, European Commission and - Mr. Sanjiv Arora, Secretary CPV & OIA Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India Launch of Handbook for Integration of Indians in Italy and Student Checklist
11:20 -11:45	Tea
11:45 -12:15	Setting the context - Presentation on India-EU migration flows and trends and migration and mobility dialogues –Dr. Meera Sethi and Dr. Deoblina Kundu, Associate Professor, NIUA - Presentation on future trends of migration affecting India and EU - Dr. TLS Bhaskar, Chief Administrative Officer, India Centre for Migration - Overview of Various Dimensions of India-EU Migration, Dr. Rupa Chanda, Professor, Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore - India-EU technical project - Ms. Seeta Sharma, Technical Officer ILO, Mr. Naozad Hodiwala, Project Manager ICMPD

12:15 -13:30	Session 1: Regular Migration & Well-Managed Mobility Moderator: Dr. Gulshan Sachdeva, Professor Jawaharlal Nehru University Speakers: ▶ Perspectives from the EU • EU legal migration as part of comprehensive migration policy – Ms. Maria Madrid, International Relations Officer, International Coordination Unit, DG Home Affairs, European Commission • Erasmus+ and Marie Skłodowska Curie Actions and other Initiatives to attract students Mr. Thibault Devanlay, Counsellor- Political Affairs European Union Delegation ▶ Perspectives from the Indian government • Initiatives in Skilling and Certifications, Mr. B.K. Sikdar, Director, Ministry of Skills Development and Entrepreneurship, GOI • Mutual recognition of academic qualification and issues pertaining to post-study employment opportunities Dr N. Saravana Kumar, Joint Secretary, Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Human Resources and Development, -GOI • Functioning of social security agreements – Dr. V.P Singh, Additional Central PF Commissioner –HQ, Employers’ Provident Fund Organization, Ministry of Labour and Employment, Government of India ▶ Perspectives from experts - Opportunities for strengthening regular migration and mobility • Issues regarding visa work/residence permit –Mr. Gagan Sabharwal, Senior Director, Global Trade Development, National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM) • Feedback from Talent Mobility seminar – perspectives from EU and Indian private sector– Ms. Seeta Sharma, Technical Officer, International Labour Organization Q&A – 10 min
13:30-14.30	Lunch
14.30 -15.45	Session 2: Initiatives to Prevent and Tackle Irregular Migration Moderator: Mr. Martijn Pluim, Director, Migration Dialogues and Cooperation, International Centre for Migration Policy Development ▶ Perspectives from Government -Initiatives on how India and the EU are preventing irregular migration, cooperating on return and tackling migrant smuggling – associated challenges and opportunities • Ms. Maria Madrid, International Relations Officer, International Coordination Unit, DG Home Affairs, European Commission • Perspectives from GOI - Mr. Amrit Lugun, PGE, MEA,GoI • Representative of UK High Commission – Ms. Maschell Wellington, Head of Migration, & Radhika Sunger, Migration Policy Officer, British High Commission New Delhi

	• Experience sharing by state governments –Mr. Dinesh Ponraj Oliver, IAS – Overseas Manpower Corporation Limited, Government of Tamil Nadu ► Perspectives from experts- Good practices in relation to prevention of irregular migration and return- • Best practices and challenges in relation to return - Mr. Sarat Dash, Chief of Mission for Sri Lanka and Maldives, IOM • Reintegration of Indians from Europe - tbc Q & A - 10 min
15:45 -16:05	Tea
16:05 -17:15	Session 3: Maximizing the development impact of migration and mobility Moderator: Dr. Constantino Xavier, Fellow, Brookings India ► Perspectives from EU • Supporting diaspora networks and Integration measures within the EU - Cecilia Costa, Cooperation Manager, European Union Delegation in India ► Perspectives from GOI: • Initiatives for diaspora engagement – Mr. Abbagani Ramu, Joint Secretary, Overseas Indian Affairs –II, Ministry of External Affairs, GOI • Experiences from states – Mr. Bhavani Sankar Kodali, CEO – APNRT, Government of Andhra Pradesh (tbc) ► Perspectives from Experts – Empowering diaspora to be the future bridges of investment, education and Innovation • Contributions of Indians to destination economies – Dr. Jonathan Portes, Professor Economics and Public Policy, King's College UK • EUMS best practices - Observations and Recommendations from Diaspora Studies in Germany, and Ireland - Ms. Marion Noack, Policy Analyst, ICMPD Q & A – 10 min
17:15-17:30	Closing Remarks ► Mr. Benoit Sauveroché, First Counsellor - Migration and Home Affairs, Delegation of the European Union to India ► Dr. Shashank Vikram, Director, Overseas Indian Affairs - I, Ministry of External Affairs, GOI

2. List of Participants

Government of India

S.No	Name of Participant	Designation	Organization
1	Mr Sanjiv Arora	Secretary	CPV&OIA, Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)
2	Mr Vinod K Jacob	Joint Secretary	OIA-1, MEA
3	Dr Shashant Vikram	Director	MEA
4	Ms Ankita Mittal	Director OIA-II	MEA
5	Dr V P Singh	Additional Central P.F. Commissioner	Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO), Ministry of Labour and Employment (MOLE)
6	Dr N Saravana Kumar	Joint Secretary	Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD)
7	Mr B K Sikdar	Director	Ministry of Skill Development And Entrepreneurship (MSDE)
8	Mr K Bhavani Sankar	CEO	Andhra Pradesh Non-Resident Telugu Society (AP NRT)
9	Mr Dinesh Ponraj Oliver	Director	Overseas Manpower Corporation Ltd (OMCL)
10	Mr Abbagani Ramu	Joint secretary OIA-II	MEA
11	Mr Amit Lagun	AS (OE) & PGE	PGE, MEA
12	Mr Nishikant Singh	Under Secretary OIA-1	MEA- OIA-1
13	Mr S K Jha	Regional PF Commissioner	EPFO
14	Mr Sameer Kumar		EPFO
15	Ms T Ajungla Jamir	Director	MEA
16	Ms Paloma Sengupta	Consultant	MSDE
17	Dr K V Swamy	General Manager	Overseas Manpower Company of Andhra Pradesh (OMCAP)
18	Ms Naga Bharthi	General Manager	Telangana Overseas Manpower Company (TOMCOM)
19	Mr Ajith Kolassery	Recruitment Manager	Department of Non Resident Keralites Affairs (NORKA)
20	Mr Suyash Chavan	Indian foreign Service (IFS)	MEA
21	Ms Shivani Gupta	IFS	MEA
22	Mr Naveen Choudhary	IFS	MEA
23	Mr Sowmiya	IFS	MEA
24	Mr Bharat Yadav	IFS	MEA
25	Mr Dhruv Mishra	IFS	MEA
26	Mr Utpal Sannyashi	IFS	MEA
27	Mr Rahul Bhat	IFS	MEA
28	Mr Utkarsh Duggal	IFS	MEA
29	Ms Megha Arora	IFS	MEA
30	Mr Phmpa Tseing	IFS	MEA
31	Mr Mayank Goel	IFS	MEA

32	Ms Anumeha yadav	IFS	MEA
33	Mr Benson	IFS	MEA
34	Mr Muhammed Shabeer K	IFS	MEA
35	Mr Himanshu Sagar	IFS	MEA
36	Ms Risha Oberoi	IFS	MEA
37	Mr Deepanshu Khurana	IFS	MEA
38	Mr Harveer Singh	IFS	MEA
39	Ms Sanjana Arya	IFS	MEA
40	Ms Swetha M	IFS	MEA
41	Mr Ashok Kumar	IFS	MEA
42	Ms Shivani Jhirwal	IFS	MEA
43	Mr Tejas Pagar	IFS	MEA
44	Mr Navodit Verma	IFS	MEA
45	Mr saurabh Sabhlok	IFS	MEA
46	Mr Basist Nandan	IFS	MEA
47	Ms Saranya V S	IFS	MEA
48	Dr Ketan Baliram Patil	Punjab Police	Police

European Union/ Member States

S.No	Name of Participant	Designation	Organization
49	Ms Paraskevi Michou	Director General DG HOME – co-Chair	European Commission
50	H.E. Tomasz Kozlowski	Ambassador of the European Union to India	European Commission
51	Ms Silvena Pesta	Deputy Head of Unit – International Coordination – DG HOME	European Commission
52	Ms Maria Madrid	Desk officer for India, DG HOME	European Commission
53	Mr Benoît Sauveroché	First Counsellor-Migration and Home Affairs	Delegation of the European Union to India
54	Mr Thibault Devanlay	Counsellor	European Union Delegation
55	Ms Cecilie Costa	Cooperation Manager	Delegation of the European Union to India
56	Ms Maschell Wellington	Head of Migration, British High Commission in New Delhi	British High Commission
57	Ms Radhika Senger	Migration Policy Officer	British High Commission
58	Ms Gauri Sharma	Press and Information officer	EU Delegation
59	H.E. Milan HOVORKA	Ambassador	Embassy of Czech
60	Mr Jesus Lucas Diaz Carazo	In-charge of Consular Affairs	Embassy of Spain
61	Ms Liisa Uschanov-Eskelinen	Team Leader	Embassy of Finland
62	Mr Pietro Sferra Carini	Deputy Head of Mission	Embassy of Italy
63	Ms Emer Davis	Immigration and Visa Section	Embassy of Ireland

64	Mr Manuel Oberhofer	Attache	Embassy of Austria
65	Ms Elena Lange Bratanova	People & Culture Lead	Federal Ministry of Interior, Building and Community (BMI) of Germany
66	Mr Reich Ronja		EU-MS
67	Mr Eduard Hock	Consul	Embassy of Germany
68	Mr Baetens Alain	First Secretary	Embassy of Belgium
69	Ms Zuzana Mezencevova		Embassy of Slovakia
70	Ms Jan Thompson	Deputy High Commissioner	British High Commission
71	Mr Harry Booty	Regional Communications Manager	British High Commission
72	Mr Jakub Zaczek	Second Secretary, Vice Consul	Embassy of Poland
73	Ms Mika Ney		Embassy of Germany
74	Ms Chiora Petracea	Head of Press and Cultural Affairs	Embassy of Italy
75	Mr Karoly Sardi	Director	Embassy of Hungary

Think tanks

S.No	Name of Participant	Designation	Organization
76	Dr Deoblina Kundu	Associate Professor	NIUA
77	Dr Rupa Chanda	Professor	IIM, Bangalore
78	Dr Gulshan Sachdeva	Professor	Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU)
79	Dr Constantino Xavier	Fellow	Brookings India
80	Dr Jonathan Portes	Professor	King's College
81	Prof Anisur Rahman	Professor and Director UGC HRD centre	Jamia Millia Islamia University
82	Mr Wasim Ahmed	Researcher	Jamia Millia Islamia University
83	Dr Sebastian Irudaya Rajan	Professor	CDS
84	Mr Sadanandan Sahoo	Professor	IGNOU
85	Dr Naresh Kumar	Professor	Gujarat Central University
86	Dr Amit Kumar Mishra	Professor	Ambedkar University
87	Dr Amarjiva Lochan	Professor	Delhi University
88	Dr Priya Vijaykumar Poojary	Professor	Manipal University
89	Dr Javeria Maryam	Senior Research Fellow	IITF
90	Dr Arpita Mukharjee	Professor	ICRIER
91	Ms Anjana P Sarma	Researcher	ICRIER
92	Ms Surabhi Singh	Researcher	ICWA
93	Mr Arvind Pandey	Assistant Professor	NIUA
94	Mr Vijay K Soni	Professor	IGNOU
95	Prof Seema Sharma	Professor	Delhi University
96	Prof Arnab Bose	Professor	JGU
97	Ms Baishali Lahiri	Researcher	NIUA

UN and other organizations

S.No	Name of Participant	Designation	Organization
98	Mr Kiran SN	Director –HCL technologies	HCL
99	Mr Gagan Sabharwal	Senior Director Global trade Development	NASSCOM
100	Ms Parisha Singh	Deputy Director	FICCI
101	Mr Sanjeev Kumar	Business Head	Ecentric Solutions Ltd
102	Ms Vandana		Orient Craft Ltd (OCL)
103	Ms Mungreiphy Shimray	Manager	CARITAS India
104	Mr Sumit Dhiman	Senior Program Officer	CARITAS
105	Mr Alok Kumar Gupta	Reporter	D.D News
106	Mr Anand Kashyap	Reporter	D.D News
107	Mr Sarat Dash	Chief of Mission	IOM
108	Dr Meera Sethi	Independent Consultant	Independent Consultant
109	Mr Martijn Pluim	Director, Migration Dialogues and Cooperation	ICMPD
110	Mr Naozad Hodiwala	Project Manager	ICMPD
111	Ms Marion Noack	Policy Analyst	ICMPD
112	Ms Sedef Dearing	Senior Regional Adviser	ICMPD
113	Ms Seeta Sharma	Technical Officer	ILO
114	Ms Pallavi Mansingh	National Project officer	ILO
115	Ms Harpreet Bhullar	National Project officer	ILO
116	Mr Sabarinath Nair	Specialist Migration	ILO
117	Ms Sudipta Bhadra	National Programme Officer	ILO
118	Ms Shruti Rane	Research and Administrative Assistant	ILO
119	Ms Ruchira Chandra	Programme Officer	ILO
120	Mr Alwyn Lobo	Communication Assistant	ILO
121	Mr P Buwembo	Specialist Statistician	ILO
122	Dr TLS Bhaskar	Chief Administrative Officer	ICM
123	Ms Hiral Upadhyay	Intern	ICM
124	Ms Ojasvi goyal	Intern	ICM
125	Mr Aman Singh	Intern	ICM
126	Ms Preeti Gulati	Programme Management Specialist	UN Women
127	Ms Harjot Kaur	Senior Social Development Specialist	World Bank
128	Mr Juan Pablo	Programme Specialist	UNESCO
129	Mr K K Roy Chowdhury		Independent Consultant
130	T Goyal		

ILO Decent Work Team for South Asia and Country Office for India

India Habitat Centre, Core 4B, 3rd Floor,
Lodhi Road, New Delhi 110003, India

Tel: +91 11 47509200, Fax: +91 11 24602111

Email: delhi@ilo.org | www.ilo.org/india