

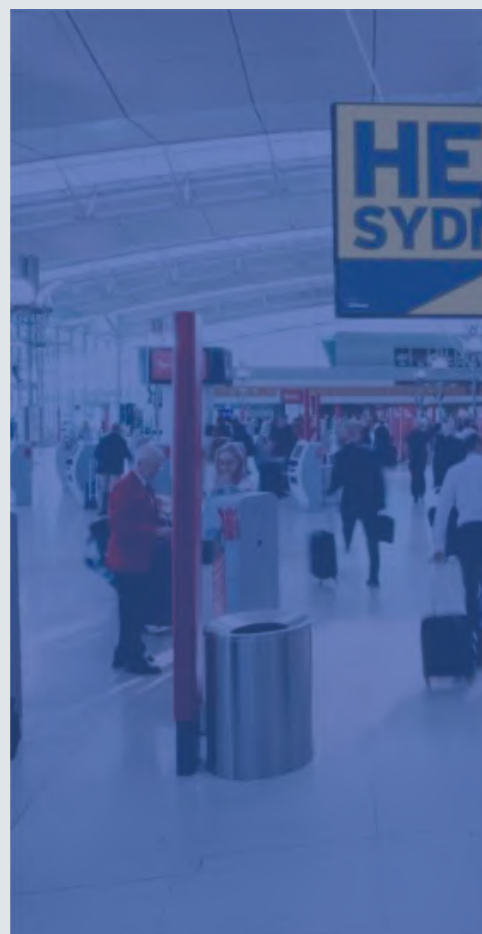


INDIA-EU MIGRATION GOVERNANCE: MAXIMIZING THE DEVELOPMENT IMPACT OF MIGRATION AND MOBILITY

INTRODUCTION

Mobility Overview: India is the **world's largest source country** for migration (17.5 million emigrants¹) and the EU, **the world's largest destination region**. Migration in the India-EU context **spans a number of sectors including science, technology, research, agriculture, agro-business, services, and education** and is **expected to increase** in the coming decades. While manufacturing, dairy, and agriculture dominate migration streams to EU MS such as Italy, information technology and services prevail in Germany and the Netherlands. Among the Indian diaspora, 20% of total Indian payment agents are women who have built sophisticated financial companies and are active in trade, thereby boosting bilateral relations significantly.

Development Impact Overview: Migration has **extensive development impact** on both host and origin countries. The Indian diaspora contributes an estimated **2.9 % of the country's GDP**. **Social, human, and cultural transfers** are also deemed critical in the development process. Immigrants from India also **positively impact the development process** in host countries. Ireland's **education, healthcare, and start-up** sectors have benefited from India immigration in recent times.



1. CEDEFOP Press Release, 10/2016.



Local Partner



Implementing Partner



Implementing Partner



In Italy, **manufacturing, engineering, dairy, and agriculture** sectors have also seen extensive immigrant contribution. Furthermore, the diaspora **acts as a linkage** between host and origin societies, **boosting bilateral relations**, and partnering with policymakers to **better achieve development** outcomes such as the UN **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**.

Strengthening strategic diaspora engagement is key to **maximising the development impact of migration**, as outlined in the **India-EU Common Agenda on Migration and Mobility (CAMM)**. Under this framework, the **Migration Governance Seminar** discussed the **key insights** and proposed **recommendations for maximising development impact** given below.

EMIGRANT INITIATIVES BY INDIA

MADAD is an online Consular Services Management System for helping emigrants and members of the Indian diaspora.

Pravasi Bharatiya Divas is a biennial event focused on strengthening the engagement of overseas Indians with the GoI and reconnecting them with their roots.

Kshetriya Pravasi Bhartiya Sahayta Kendra (KPBSKs), disseminate information and guidance for potential emigrants including extending help to returning migrants.

KEY INSIGHTS

1. Recognising the critical potential of the diaspora in contributing to the **achievement of UN Sustainable Development Goals** in both countries of origin and destination, strategic **engagement with the diaspora is imperative** for building relations between countries of destination and origin.
2. Governments need to focus on **broadening institutional support** enabling **diaspora to become effective partners** in the process of development.





3. EU MS and India have **developed initiatives and programmes for supporting diaspora engagement**: these not only **address integration and progression** in the destination society but also protect rights and nurture ties with the country of origin.
4. There needs to be **co-development of tools for facilitation, re-integration, and retention** of diaspora groups as well as analysis of existing initiatives in these areas. It is important for origin countries to **consider alternative** engagements other than the permanent return of diaspora groups.



EU MEMBER STATES: GOOD PRACTICES FOR DIASPORA



Ireland has a program called '**Global Irish**' which provides **welfare services to vulnerable emigrants**, facilitates **outreach** to the diaspora. **Safe Home Ireland** is a non-governmental program that facilitates **return migration** and provides services to Irish emigrants looking to return home.



Poland has a system **promoting cultural ties** and protecting the **rights of Polish emigrants**. The country also **mentors Polish students** studying in foreign countries.



Georgia has started developing **Legal Migration Guidelines** for three important destination countries – **Greece, Italy, and Spain** in order to support the Georgian diaspora in these areas.



The **Netherlands**, an emerging **destination for Indian talent of medium and high skill workers**, has welcomed Indian immigrants, by **providing tax concessions** and **easier dependent rules**, thereby propelling industrial growth and strengthening migration patterns.



In **Italy**, regularisation initiatives **facilitating family** reunion of Indian migrants, primarily low-skilled, has been instrumental in promoting migration and mobility of workers and their households.



RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE FUTURE

POLICY ENVIRONMENT AND COVERAGE

Provide a **conducive environment for diaspora engagement** that will **strengthen the diaspora's ties** with India and enhance investment and policy development.

Regular assessment and profiling of the diaspora in the respective country for **targeted support and engagement programmes**.

Reconnect with well-established diaspora and enhance partnerships with migrants and diaspora through capacity building and empowerment of migrants' networks.

Enhance diaspora engagement through **tools assisting pre-departure, arrival, and during the stay, pre-return, and return**.

Provide **targeted support to potential students** through pre-departure orientation, **institutional partnerships with destination countries**, particularly for potential **students from disadvantaged regions** of India.

Facilitate inter-governmental and non-governmental partnerships to enhance diaspora engagement and aid the integration process.



INFORMATION

Knowledge exchange between the EU MS and India on areas such as **diaspora communication and engagement strategies, support to vulnerable communities, capacity building** of diaspora organisations and **return of talent**. The potential **role of diaspora in trade and investments** needs to be investigated and calls for research in future.



VISA AND RESIDENCY PROCESSES

Facilitate **job-orientation and gaining of work experience** for Indian students after graduation.

