



INDIA-EU MIGRATION GOVERNANCE: REGULAR MIGRATION AND WELL-MANAGED MOBILITY

INTRODUCTION

With **7.6 percent of all Indian migrants** living in the EU¹, India and the EU share a comprehensive and complex migration relationship. India is a country of source for **high-skilled** migrants as well as **low-skilled** migrants. It is estimated that between 2016 and 2030, **4 in 5 new job openings in the EU** will relate to **high-skilled** occupations, with nearly **12 million** new jobs for Business and Administration Associate professionals. India is projected to possess a **surplus of 245 million** high-skilled workers by **2030**, placing it in a position to plug a large portion of the **skilled worker gap** expected to arise in the EU². Moreover, **8.7 million jobs in the 'low-skilled category'** are expected to become available in the EU by 2030³, indicating that mobility of **low skilled** workers between India and the EU could also be explored in the coming decade.

Students' mobility is another significant channel which, when managed well, will **benefit workforce and research** in both India and the EU. The number of Indian students and researchers in the EU has **increased** steadily, with over **50,000 currently in the EU**. Research has identified **financial feasibility** and **employment**



1. India Migration Profile, European Commission. All data cited in this brief relates to EU-28 as the brief refers to research studies and data sets available till 2019. The UK exited the EU in January 2020, with resulting data implications for Indian migrant statistics in EU-27.
2. Korn Ferry FOCUS Study
3. Skills Forecast: Key EU Trends to 2030 (EU Skills Panorama).



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prospects as the major driving forces for Indian students in Europe⁴. **Balancing** the concerns of Indian students with **long-term workforce requirements** of the EU will help ensure that the benefits of migration accrue for all. **Bilateral** flows of researchers, academics and students will also **boost knowledge networks**, with programs such as **Erasmus+** in Europe and the **Scheme for the Promotion of Academic and Research Collaboration** in India benefiting both partners.

In the context of this growing need to manage regular migration and mobility, the **India-EU Migration Governance Seminar** was held under the framework of the **India-EU Common Agenda on Migration and Mobility**, an international cooperation policy framework, which aims to better organise and **promote** migration at relevant **skill levels** and foster **well-managed mobility**, including **enhanced issuance of visas**.

BEST PRACTICES

The **Erasmus program** offers **nearly 500 scholarships**, and allows for credit mobility, Joint Masters, **capacity building within universities** and **inter- university cooperation**. Similarly, 130 Indian institutions offer foreign students 'study abroad' options and **2500 scholarships** are available. The **Global Initiative for Academic Networks (GIAN) Program** also **promotes foreign faculty visits** and **work opportunities in India**.

The **Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship** and **National Skills Development Corporation** collaborates with Japan on the Indo Japan Apprenticeship Programme. It involves the **empanelment of organisations, language training**, and bridging the **gap** between **skills** and **demand** for them to **mutually benefit** both countries and their workers. Such initiatives between **India** and **the EU** could **build robust skills ecosystems**.

4. Migration Policy Centre: India- EU Student Mobility

The **key insights** and **recommendations** from the summary are presented below.

KEY INSIGHTS

- The EU **Intra-Corporate Transfer (ICT) Directive**, which allows **corporate employees** in the EU to stay and work in EU Member States (MS) must be effectively implemented. Other policy directives for legal migration, such as the EU Directive for **Students and Researchers** and reform of the EU **Blue Card** must be prioritized.
- Facilitating the **mobility of students** is paramount. This will help enrich the **research** ecosystem and balance students' mobility from a skill and employment perspective.
- A system for the mutual recognition of **qualifications** and **skills** needs to be established. Lessons may be drawn from the **European Qualification System**, which **standardizes** skills.
- EU **work visas** must lower **limitations** on **intra- EU mobility**, some of which arise due to differing work **visa policies** at the **national** level. **Extension** of visa duration and **enhancement** of intra- EU mobility are crucial to enhance **structured** India- EU work migration movements.
- Effective implementation of social security agreements between India and EU MS is imperative



POLICY ENVIRONMENT AND COVERAGE

Fine-tuning of the EU's migration policy for the labour market and creating a **uniform policy** for highly-skilled and skilled workers.

Alignment of qualifications, including language training and mutual recognition mechanisms and collaboration in apprenticeships should be explored; 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

Pilot projects that focus on offering legal channels to medium/low-skilled workers should be explored.

Social Security Agreements for migrants need to be effectively administered to address the issues of double coverage of payment, totalisation and portability. Grievance portals should be established in this regard

A review of existing visa and residence schemes to address the needs of the start-up ecosystem on both sides is essential; brainstorm innovative visa schemes



RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE FUTURE

INFORMATION

Information dissemination on academic channels and scholarships for both EU and Indian students needs to be spread. Both the EU and India have extensive scholarship and mobility options for foreign students (for example: the Erasmus+ program in the EU and scholarships offered by over 130 Indian universities to foreign students).



VISA AND RESIDENCY PROCESSES

A **new Visa Code**, effective 1st February 2020, will **balance visa application processing** with a country's cooperation on return and readmission of irregular migrants.

A **new Blue Card Initiative** (to be finalised), with **fast-track processing** and **enhanced labour market access** and **intra-EU mobility**, for better mobility of highly skilled migrants.

Harmonise rules across sectors and companies for the Intra-Corporate Directive in order to **promote stability and predictability** for corporate employee mobility.

Longer duration of visa for high-skilled workers, especially Information Technology workers, and their requirement of intra-EU mobility needs to be addressed

