

Dokumentation

WORKSHOP

22. Mutual benefits of EU Mobility Partnerships and the added value for the development of Partner Countries. The example of the MP Georgia

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Inputs have been provided by Jeppe Winkel (DG Home Affairs of the EU commission; Tornike Nozadze (State Chancellery of the Government of Georgia) and Benjamin Woesten, (Centre for international Migration and Development), followed by a group discussion.

Inputs

The Global Approach on Migration and Development (GAMM) of the EU is a framework through which the EU commission tries to cooperate on four aspects, namely organising legal migration and mobility; preventing irregular migration; promoting international protection and enhancing the external dimension of asylum policy; maximizing the development impact of migration and mobility. The implementation of these four pillars is realized through legal and political instruments, one of them are mobility partnerships (MP). According to Jeppe Winkel, the GAMM framework itself is balanced, however implementing the four aspects in a truly balanced way is challenging in practice. MP agreements have been criticized for being too focused on security concerns and the prevention of irregular migration. Until now, five MPs have been implemented between the EU and Cape Verde, Republic of Moldova, Georgia, Armenia and Morocco. Next week, Tunisia is going to enter an MP agreement with the EU. MPs include commitments on visa facilitation, mobility and readmission agreements. As Jeppe Winkel explained, the EU commission cannot implement MPs alone; the EU is, on the contrary, dependent on member states' participation and engagement. EU member states are not obliged to participate in MPs; for instance in the example of Georgia, 16 member states participate in the MP agreement which is the highest number of participating states in the MPs. By the end of February 2014, a report on the implementation of the GAMM for the past years will come out.

Next to being a migrant sending country, Georgia transformed into a migrant receiving country, and according to Tornike Nozadze the MP agreement came handy to support the coordination of migration policies such as border management or a migration database. The main benefits for Georgia of the MP agreement have been support in visa facilitation and readmission agreements. Currently, phase 1 of the action plan of the agreement is finishing.

In order to strengthen the development potential of the MP between the EU and Georgia, the Centre for international Migration and Development (CIM) which is a joint operation of the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH and the German Federal Employment Agency (BA), makes use of several instruments as Benjamin Wösten explains:

- support of highly skilled Georgian returnees and entrepreneurs from Germany to Georgia in cooperation with the Georgian Small and Medium Enterprise Association (GSMEA)
- policy advice to government institutions in cooperation with the Georgian Civil Service Development Agency (CSDA)

- elaboration and future implementation of a pilot circular migration scheme of Georgian health care and hospitality professionals to Germany in cooperation with the CSDA (small scale pilot project with 20 persons migrating in each sector). The goal is to create triple win situations.

Discussion Outcomes

- For Tornike Nozadze, circular migration cannot be compared across different country contexts – there is no universal formula for a circular migration scheme.
- Jeppe Winkel points at the Swedish model of removing barriers to return home (e.g. keep residence permit in the host society valid when returning); the development component of migration should be thought into all schemes and policies.
- According to Benjamin Wösten, it is important to think of follow-up measures that manage migration after Migration and Development projects are finished.
- In terms of return migration to countries of origin, according to Tornike Nozadze, incentives to return should be created by states, at least initially - return migration should not be left to the market.
- The added value of mobility partnerships in comparison to bilateral agreements, according to Jeppe Winkel, would be the cooperation between several member states, reaching out to different projects and partners, creating a network and reflecting on future needs together.
- As a result it became very obvious that the EU Mobility Partnerships require a high degree of policy and institutional coherence between the actors involved, in order to bridge traditionally diverging interests, i.e. between labour market and development policy. The practical work undertaken so far, has given good prove that the Center for International Migration and Development (CIM) as a joint operation of the German Development Cooperation (through GIZ and BA) is a highly useful setup to address these challenges.