



17th OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum

Proposed joint IOM/ OSCE follow-up activities

1. Project Proposal: “Migration Profiles and Data Collection as a Sound Basis for Policy-Making in Eastern Europe and Central Asia”

Summary

Background Information and Justification

Data collection on migration stocks and flows is an essential element of migration statistics which, when correctly analyzed, would support effective and informed national migration policy. Moreover the opportunity to forecast regional migration trends through comparable national statistics will be in future a crucial element to foster and improve cross border movement cooperation and migration based economic development in the OSCE area. Currently, there are obvious gaps between needs and available data on migration at national, regional and international levels, particularly on irregular migration and the migration and development link debate. At the first Preparatory Conference to the Seventeenth OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum (Prague, October 2008), the preliminary conclusions on data collection noted an intensive need for high quality data as an essential tool for informed policy making as well as policy impact assessment. At the Tirana Preparatory Conference (March 2009) the call for more reliable and harmonized data was reiterated. It was emphasized that this requires local, national and regional co-operation between governments. Participating States also agreed to the fact that migration policy formulation should start from the correct assessment of economic realities, including forecasts of labour market needs. There is therefore, an urgent need for countries to share data and statistics and to produce more comparable data, which, in turn, requires a common agreement on data collection standards. To this end, IOM and OSCE have developed a thirty-month project proposal on data collection encompassing Eastern Europe and Central Asian (EECA) countries in close collaboration with EurAsEC, EUROSTAT, CISTAT (the CIS Statistical Committee) and other regional bodies in view of establishing a harmonized data collection template on migration.

Overall Objective

The overall objective of the present project proposal is to build the capacity of the EECA countries in establishing a harmonized data collection process through developing common templates on migration (statistical indicators) which will encourage synchronized data collection and therefore comparability in the regional context allowing possible regional forecasts.

Project Outputs

The project will consist of three phases. The first phase, “**assessment and feasibility study**” will establish the availability of aggregated migration data and examine the potential of data collection using existing mechanisms. It is envisaged to start from the second half of 2009. The second phase “**Development of the harmonized template for migration data collection**” will involve national consultations in all interested EECA countries on the draft template which shall be endorsed at a regional technical workshop at the end of the second phase. The third phase, “**Implementation of templates and capacity building in participating countries**” will last for 12 months. Phase 2 and 3 will be submitted to a relevant EC budget line in 2009 with possible co-funding from interested OSCE countries.

Phase I: National Assessments and production of a feasibility study (6 months)

Output 1: Feasibility study produced based on desk research which will map out and identify the type of migration-related data already collected and available in the eleven EECA countries. The feasibility study will specify sources of data, methods of its collection and storage, and the actors involved in its production.

Output 2: A regional conference organized for senior country representatives (December 2009), to discuss the results of the Feasibility study and a proposed template for harmonized data collection in the participating countries from EECA. The aim of the conference is to seek the necessary political commitment for project development and successful implementation.

Timeframe: July – December 2009

Estimated budget phase 1: EUR 80 000

Phase II: Development of harmonized templates for migration data collection (12 months)

A standard template for comparable migration data collection in interested participating countries will be developed by IOM experts in coordination with relevant national institutions working in the information and statistics field in national consultations and the draft template shall be endorsed at a regional technical workshop.

Phase III: Introduction of the templates and capacity building in the participating countries (12 months)

The third phase of the project will consist in the implementation of the templates developed in Phase II in interested participating countries, the production of country migration profiles for each EECA country and an overall regional report including comparable indicators and a section on irregular migration trends.

2. Project Proposal: “Regional Conference on Diaspora and Development - Migrant Savings, Investment and Development in the OSCE Region”, Vienna, November 2009

Summary

Background Information and Justification

At the first Preparatory Conference to the Seventeenth OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum (Prague, October 2008), panellists highlighted the link between migration and economic development. Further on, at the Tirana Preparatory Conference (March 2009), it was suggested that the OSCE should facilitate capacity building and legislative reforms in order to promote better utilization of remittances and to help improve the capture of the positive effects of migration and remittances in the countries of origin. To this end, partnerships with financial institutions towards the development of suitable products for migrant communities who wish to invest at home are essential. Governments should also play an important part in creating a stimulating environment. With this framework in mind, the Regional Conference on Diaspora and Development to be held in Vienna in November 2009, will bring together leading figures from the political, diplomatic, financial and academic spheres, and will aim to promote financial institutions' cooperation and future initiatives that strengthen the link between Diaspora's savings-investment and development. During the two day Conference, the panellists and other participants will discuss the following topics: Diaspora's impact on economic development in OSCE origin countries; link between savings and development in countries of origin; the role of the banking sector in spurring long-term development through Diaspora investment; policy focus towards investment stimulation; the role of government institutions (countries of origin) in building an investment environment of confidence, and; building favorable Diaspora policies in host countries.

Overall Objective

The overall objective of the project is to build the capacity of the OSCE countries in establishing the link between migration and economic development by recognizing the Diaspora's impact on economic development.

Project Outputs

- Output 1:** A Regional Conference organized on Diaspora's savings, investment and development in the OSCE region, bringing together representatives from relevant OSCE participating States.
- Output 2:** Enhanced networks in order to exchange information and best practices on Diaspora involvement in the development of the countries of origin.
- Output 3:** Development of future targeted research projects for specific corridors in terms of migrant savings and remittances (commitment of countries of origin).
- Output 4:** Development of projects on researching the awareness level of European banking institutions on the nature and volume of migrant savings.
- Output 5:** Development of projects which facilitate investments of migrant savings and remittances.

Timeframe: September – November 2009

Total Budget: EUR 80 000

3. Project Proposal: “Needs and Challenges Faced by Female Labour Migrants in the OSCE region”

Summary

Background Information and Justification

The OSCE and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) are strongly committed to the principle of gender equality reflected among other initiatives in the joint development of the “OSCE-IOM-ILO Handbook on Establishing Effective Labour Migration Policies” which mainstreamed gender issues into relevant policy contexts and in the newly produced “*Guide on Gender-Sensitive Labour Migration Policies*” by the OSCE which aims to facilitate the incorporation of gender into labour migration policies. Furthermore, IOM and OSCE are working on translating the Labour Migration Handbook into a practical training manual where gender aspects will be mainstreamed into the materials and a separate gender and labour migration module produced. Moreover, the OSCE organized two expert meetings on Gender-Sensitive Labour Migration Policies in Vienna in November 2008 and in Brdo/Slovenia in February 2009 to discuss the outline of the above-mentioned Guide, the impact of the global financial crisis on female labour migration, and the challenges in developing and implementing gender-sensitive labour migration policies. The discussions during the expert meetings and during the three preparatory conferences to the 17th OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum (2009) drew attention to the importance of the topic among OSCE participating States and Partners for Co-operation. This project is a direct follow-up to these activities and aims at raising further awareness of the importance of gender-sensitive migration policies among policy-makers and also building institutional capacity to develop and implement such policies in countries of origin, transit and destination.

Overall Objective

The main objective of the project is to raise awareness among senior policy makers from OSCE countries, NGOs and other relevant institutions on the importance of the inclusion of gender-sensitive measures into labour migration policies and in bi- and multilateral agreements in the OSCE region, as well as to improve institutional capacity of countries of origin, transit and destination to meet female labour migration challenges for the mutual benefit of the countries and societies concerned, and migrant workers.

Project Outputs

The project will last eight months and will consist of two phases. The first phase will start with a two day seminar on Female Labour Migration in the OSCE area in March 2010. During, the second phase, three regional training workshops on Female Labour Migration will be organized and will take place on a two-month interval basis. Two of the workshops will take place in countries of the CIS region and will gather participants from the respective regions. The remaining workshop will be held in a main country of destination with the participation of a number of other major destination countries in Europe. The Guide on Gender-Sensitive Labour Migration Policies and the Training Materials on Labour Migration will form the basis for the project and be utilized both for the seminar and the workshops.

Phase I: Organization of a Regional Seminar on Female Labour Migration in Vienna

Output 1: A Regional Seminar organized on Female Labour Migration bringing together government officials working on Labour Migration and gender issues and representatives of workers' and employers' organizations and migrant associations from the OSCE area.

Phase II: Organization of three training workshops on Female Labour Migration Management

Output 2: A selected group of around 15 government officials, representatives from employers' and workers' organizations as well as recruitment agencies from destination countries in Europe trained on female labour migration management through their participation in the training events.

Output 3: A selected group of around 15 government officials, representatives from employers' and workers' organizations as well as recruitment agencies from countries of origin in Central Asia trained on female labour migration management through their participation in the training events.

Output 4: A selected group of around 15 government officials, representatives from employers' and workers' organizations as well as recruitment agencies from countries of origin in the Western CIS region trained on female labour migration management through their participation in the training events.

Timeframe: January-September 2010

Total Budget: EUR 150.000

4. Project Proposal: “Environmental Degradation & Climate Change: Major Push Factors for Migration in Mountain Areas? A Study in Central Asia: Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan”

Summary

Background Information and Justification

With the further intensified environmental degradation and climate-related natural disasters, it is anticipated that gradual or sudden environmental migration will increase over the next decade. At the Tirana Preparatory Conference to the 17th OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum (March 2009), the panellists highlighted the severe impact of environmental degradation on global migration patterns which is likely to be exacerbated by climate change over the next decade. This will pose major challenges for social and economic development and for security at regional and international scale. Yet institutional and national public policy makers lack the essential data to address, prevent or respond to these challenges in an effective manner. The links between the environment and migration are complex and require in-depth scientific research which has not yet been carried out in Central Asia. The present project aims to create a better understanding of the causes of and the challenges posed by environmental migration to help integrate these considerations into various external/cooperation policies at the national and regional levels in Central Asia. **United Nations University** will be an additional equal partner in this project.

Overall Objective

The overall objective of the present project proposal is to assist OSCE's participant States to address environmentally induced migration as a security risk, promoting hereby environmental protection, preparedness and trans-boundary cooperation in support of sustainable development in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan.

Project Outputs

The research project will consist of four phases. The first phase will explore the links among environmental change, livelihoods and migration in Central Asia. During the second phase, an assessment study will be conducted on the impact of agricultural techniques on environmental degradation in Central Asia. On the basis of the primary and secondary data gathered on Phase 1 and Phase 2, a Geographical Information System (GIS) tool to map the land use, environmental degradation as well as migration movements and their consequences over time will be developed within the third phase. The findings of the GIS will be disseminated during a regional workshop (fourth phase) which will serve as a platform for exchange, knowhow transfer and networking among participant researchers, policy makers and IOs from the region.

Phase I: Assessment study on the links among environmental change, livelihoods and migration in mountain areas

Output: 1 Case Study Report for each country

Output: 3 Field Work Kick-off Workshops in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan.

Estimated budget phase 1: EUR 82 400

Phase II: Development of a synthesis report and presentation of the preliminary Project report

Output: 1 Project Report (synthesis of the 3 case study reports)

Output: Regional Workshop to introduce and evaluate the findings gathered in 3 case study reports and the preliminary Project Report (synthesis)

Phase III: Development of a Geographical Information System to map current environmental migration in the region

Output: 3 National Workshops to initiate and develop the GIS tool

Output: Geographical Information System - a multi-layered map combining social data and environmental data for each country

Phase IV: Dissemination of research results and development of adaptation measures based on GIS

Output: Regional Workshop to introduce the Final Report, including 3 country reports and GIS tools to a broad audience

Output: Final Report on the main findings of the Project Workshops

Timeframe: August 2009 – July 2012

5. Project Proposal: *“Environmental Degradation and Climate Change as Push Factors for Migration in the South Caucasus. Comparative national studies in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia”*

Summary

Background Information and Justification

With the further intensified environmental degradation and climate-related natural disasters, it is anticipated that gradual or sudden environmental migration will dramatically increase over the next decade. At the Tirana Preparatory Conference to the 17th OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum (March 2009), the panellists highlighted the severe impact of environment degradation on global migration patterns which is likely to be exacerbated by global climate change over the next decade. This will pose major challenges for social and economic development and for human security in an international scale. Yet institutional and national public policy makers lack the essential data to

address, prevent or respond to these challenges in an effective manner. The links between the environment and migration are complex and require in-depth scientific research which has not been carried out in the South Caucasus. The present project aims to create a better understanding of the causes of and the challenges posed by environmental migration. The United Nations University will be an additional equal partner in this project.

Overall Objective

The overall objective of the present project proposal is to assist OSCE participating States to address environmentally induced migration as a potential security risk, promoting hereby environmental protection in support of sustainable development and poverty reduction in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia.

Project Outputs

The research project will consist of four phases. The first phase will explore the links among environmental change, livelihoods and migration. During the second phase, a study will be conducted in order to assess the environmental hotspots and their link to the current migration patterns. On the basis of the data gathered on Phase 1 and Phase 2, a Geographical Information System (GIS) tool to map the land use, environmental degradation as well as migration movements and their consequences over time will be developed within the third phase. The findings of the GIS will be disseminated during a workshop (fourth phase) which will serve as a platform for exchange, know how transfer and networking among participant researchers, policy makers and IOs.

Phase I: Assessment study on the links among environmental change, livelihoods and migration

Output: 1 Case Study Report for each country

Output: 3 Field Work Kick-off Workshops in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia respectively

Budget Phase I: EUR 82 400

Phase II: Development of a synthesis report and presentation of the preliminary Project report

Output: 1 Project Report (synthesis of the 3 case study reports)

Output: Workshop to introduce and evaluate the findings gathered in 3 case study reports and the preliminary Project Report (synthesis)

Phase III: Development of a Geographical Information System to map current environmental migration in the region

Output: 3 National Workshops to initiate and develop the GIS tool

Output: Geographical Information System - a multi-layered map combining social data and environmental data for each country

Phase IV: Dissemination of research results and development of adaptation measures based on GIS

Output: Workshop to introduce the Final Report, including 3 country reports and GIS tools to a broad audience

Output: Final Report on the main findings of the Project Workshops

Timeframe: August 2009 – July 2012