

Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities Migration governance



What is labour migration management?

Effective labour migration management is an integral part of good economic governance. The Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities (OCEEA) supports participating States in developing and strengthening comprehensive and effective migration policies as a key contributing factor to security, stability and growth.

The positive impact of migrants' work and income in countries of origin and destination is a driving force for prosperity and socio-economic development. At the global level, approximately \$583 billion is sent back home each year by the estimated 250 million international migrants who live and work outside their country of origin.

The participating States are of the opinion that migration-related matters must be dealt in view "to ensure, through collaboration between the host country and the country of origin, the conditions under which the orderly movement of workers might take place..."

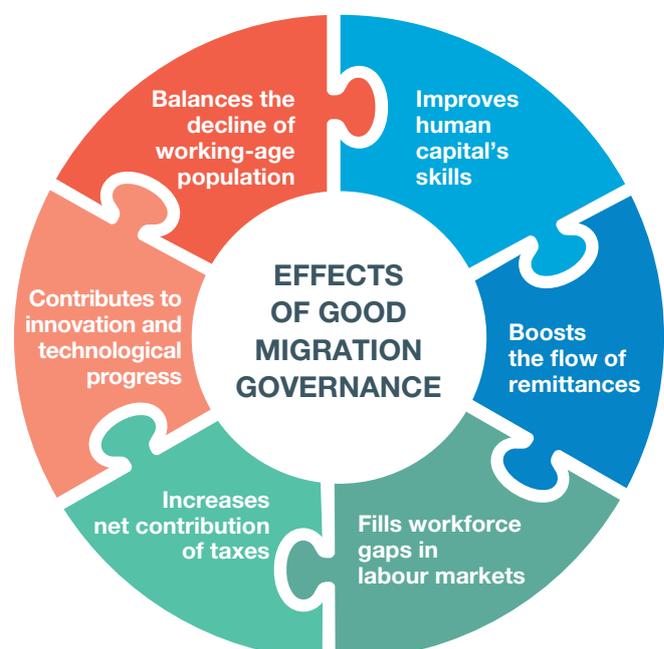
Helsinki Final Act (1975)

Why migration matters

States are the primary actors in managing migration flows as it is their prerogative to determine who enters and stays in their territory and under what conditions. Effective labour migration governance systems strive to balance different concerns related to border control, demographic shifts, needs of national economies, skill-specific demands of labour markets and private businesses.

The Ministerial Council acknowledges "... the increasing importance of and the benefits stemming from effective migration management for the socio-economic development, social cohesion, security and stability..."

Athens Ministerial Council Decision on Migration Management (2009)



What we do

Labour migration has been an area of focus for the OSCE since its establishment. Grounded on the 1975 Helsinki Final Act, the OSCE migration-related commitments recognize the linkages among migration, economic co-operation and development.

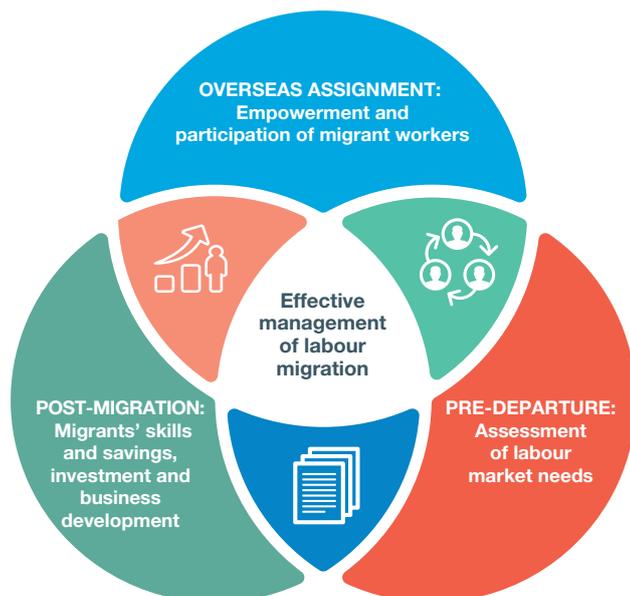
According to its mandate, the OCEEA assists countries of origin, transit and destination in promoting economic development and growth by facilitating legal migration, by upholding the well-being of migrant workers, particularly vulnerable groups, and by creating attractive conditions for migrants' savings, investment and business development.

Our mandate

- Helsinki Final Act (1975)
- Ljubljana Ministerial Council Decision on Migration (2005)
- Brussels Ministerial Statement on Migration (2006)
- Athens Ministerial Council Decision on Migration Management (2009)

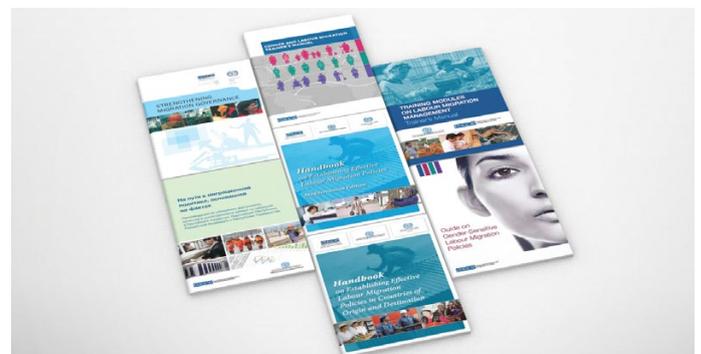
Activities

Based on the mandate, the OCEEA supports participating States in implementing their commitments on migration governance through the development of effective policies and practices, as well as facilitating dialogue and co-operation.



Bridging the knowledge gap

Labour migration policies need to be grounded on economic analysis and evidence to display their positive effects. The OCEEA produces knowledge tools, such as policy guides, handbooks and training materials, to allow relevant stakeholders to master the key elements that improve the effectiveness of migration legislation and policies. Some areas of expertise where the OCEEA has pioneered innovative approaches include methods to address aspirations and vulnerabilities of men and women migrant workers, as well as effective systems to collect and exchange migration data and statistics.



These publications are available on the OSCE website at <http://www.osce.org/publications/migration>

What we do

(continued)

Bridging the capacities gap

Global migration challenges require pragmatic responses at national and local levels. In order to acquire effective capacities and competencies, knowledge transfer is particularly important for key stakeholders: relevant ministries, local authorities and municipalities, representatives of trade unions and private sector, migrants' communities and diaspora. By involving these stakeholders, the OCEEA's training events offer the opportunity to turn theoretical knowledge into operational practices, in line with local needs. Such an approach fosters the exchange of ideas and leads to the development and implementation of pilot initiatives.

Bridging policies

The ever-changing nature of migration flows requires continuous research for common grounds and shared solutions to address multiple policy options and economic implications. The OCEEA facilitates the exchange of information and the understanding of key factors that make migration an asset for countries of origin and destination.



Who we work with

The OCEEA promotes an inclusive framework of co-operation that involves government entities – as the main decision-makers – as well as other OSCE executive structures, institutions and field operations, international and regional organizations, the

private sector, think-tanks, civil society actors and academia. Such a collaborative approach allows these stakeholders to complement, support, enrich and synergize each other's work.

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