The contribution of migrant workers to economic development, stability and security through circular and return migration

Professor Ermelinda Meksi,
Deputy Co-ordinator/Head, Economic Activities,
Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities (OCEEA)
1. OCEEA's vision of good migration governance

2. OCEEA's contribution to this vision.

250 million international migrants

51% - in 10 countries, 7 of which are in the OSCE region
Migration

CRISIS vs. RESOURCE

Restrictive labour migration policies

- Foster insecurity
- Increase irregular flows
- Reduce circularity and return
- Undermine social cohesion
- Affect transparent and competitive labour market
Why regular migration matters

More secure
- reduces illegal practices
- counteracts social exclusion of migrant workers

Richer
Migrant workers' savings in countries of origin and remittances
650 million workers in remittances
70% ODA (Development Aid)

More resilient

More protected
Preservation of welfare system

Arrival of young and motivated talents into aging societies
Arrival of young and motivated talents into aging societies → Preservation of welfare system

More protected

Richer

Migrant workers' savings in countries of origin and destination

583 billion dollars in remittances = 3x ODA (Overseas Development Aid)
More resilient

Effective migration management as an integral part of good economic governance

- orderly movement of migrants

Helsinki Final Act, 1975

Ljubljana MC Decision, 2005

Athens MC Decision, 2009

- developing effective systems to facilitate labour mobility
At the crossroads of

- states' interest for border control
- national economies' needs
- individuals' aspirations
- availability of qualified labour force
- needs of private businesses

Priority areas for the future

Change the narrative of migration

Enhance circularity

MIGRATION AS A RESOURCE

Make use of our tools and develop additional ones
Change the narrative of migration

MIGRATION AS A RESOURCE

Enhance circularity
Make use of our tools and develop additional ones

Expert meeting
17 June, Vienna

to explore more effective ways to assist participating States
Migration as a resource

Shared responsibilities

Great purposes
Great engagement

Work together

Common goal