




Circular Migration

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Circular Migration

De facto circular migration

- Circular migration, or repeated migration is not new; on the contrary, it is an old and widespread phenomenon
- The *de facto* circular character of many traditional migration flows
- Free circulation of people in integrated regional systems
- Circular migration in the absence of effective entry/stay control of foreigners

Contemporary concept of circular migration

- No crystallisation of the notion of circular migration
- European Commission definition:
 - « A form of migration that is managed in a way allowing some degree of legal mobility back and forth between two countries »
- World Forum on Migration and Development definition:
 - « Circular Migration is the fluid movement of people between countries, including temporary or more permanent movement which, when it occurs voluntarily and is linked to the labour needs of countries of origin and destination, can be beneficial to all involved »

Promises of circular migration

- Country of destination: promise of flexible labour
- Country of origin: promise of remittances and technology transfer; solution to brain-drain issues
- Migrant workers: promise of new legal immigration channels

Context of emergence (resurgence) of the circular migration concept

- Reopening labour migration channels by EU member states
- Interest generated by the link between migration and development
- Preventing irregular immigration; a primary objective

Conditions for a circular migration that benefits all parties concerned

- Circular migration must be adapted to the labour market needs of countries of origin and destination
- Circular migration must be rights-based
- Circular migration must set a favourable context for return
- Circulation migration must enable the acquisition and the transfer of skills and knowledge

Means / practices to meet the aforementioned objectives

- Labour market analysis in countries of origin and destination
- Offer of incentives to returning migrants
- Information dissemination and training of migrant workers
- Flexible work and stay/residence permits
- Skills upgrading and transfer of competences
- Portability of social benefits and pensions
- Permission of dual nationality
- Cooperation between countries of origin and countries of destination: bilateral labour agreements are the principal means for developing circular migration schemes

Thank you!

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