



Seminar on Gender-Sensitive Labour Migration Policies

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MINISTRY FOR FOREIGN
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Concluding Remarks

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Session 1: Gender & Labour Migration Trends

- When considering developing and implementing policies to address female migrant workers, governments and stakeholders must take into account that ...
- Female dominated sectors, such as domestic work must be recognized and be made visible;
- The public should be informed about the contributions made by immigrants to avoid discrimination, sexism and xenophobia.



Session 2: National & International Legal Frameworks

- National legal framework should include provisions that facilitate access of vulnerable migrants to the legal system.
- In order for migrants to come forward a “legal firewall” between enforcement of immigration law and labour legislation during investigation and litigation should be in place.
- Concerns of female migrants should be reflected in migrant-specific admission and integration measures, and mainstreamed in other relevant national policy areas.
- A range of UN and ILO international conventions on labour rights and elimination of discrimination towards women also cover migrant workers. However, ratification of some of these instruments remains uneven across the OSCE region. Further efforts are needed to achieve full implementation of their provisions in the participating States.



Session 3: Labour Migration Policies in Countries of Origin

- A rights based approach must be integrated into policy planning and legislation covering the whole migratory process – from pre-departure to reintegration;
- Participating States should recognise domestic work as a proper work and as a category of migration;
- Countries of Origin are to provide adequate services, which facilitate labour migration movement taking into consideration the needs of migrant workers along with labour market demand;
- Policy-makers should integrate and mainstream labour migration issues in national employment, gender equality, labour market and development policies to maximize opportunities and minimise risks for migrant women.




Session 4: Gender in Bilateral & Multilateral Temporary Labour Agreements

- There is a need to ensure that high-skill female migrant workers are able to utilize their skills by accessing opportunities in the labour market in receiving countries;
- Stakeholders should recognized the important role that social partners (e.g., trade unions and civil society) play in protecting workers rights, and they should be included in the development and implementation of BLAs;
- Migration management is regulated through a multi-layer approach.



Session 5: Labor Migration Policies in Destination Countries

- To develop more gender-sensitive labour migration policies in destination countries more information, data and research is needed
- A multi-disciplinary approach is needed so that all relevant actors could be heard in the policy-development process
- Labour migration policies should take into account the existing human rights and other relevant legal frameworks.
- The new Swedish Labour Immigration rules are interesting and should have a positive effect on female migrants and female migrant workers.
- Involve non-stakeholders in formulating gender-sensitive labour migration policies.



Interesting policies, practices and models mentioned

- ANAPEC services to facilitate labour migration from country of origin while supporting migrant workers
- Alternative Investment Initiatives in countries of origin prior to return – mentioned by the RESPECT Network
- A US civil society initiative of complaint against employer located in country of origin, e.g. in Mexico
- Equal Employment Opportunity Commission in the US
- Domestic Workers Program in Canada
- New Swedish labour immigration rules



Next Steps

- Review the inputs, comments and suggestions received from the Brdo Seminar
- Conclude the drafting of the Guide on Gender-Sensitive Labour Migration Policies
- Aim for launch at the OSCE 17th Economic and Environmental Forum in Athens, 18-20 May
- Translate the Guide into Russian
- Present the Guide to high-level meetings such as the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and the Permanent Council
- Distribute the Guide to all OSCE participating States and Partners for Co-operation, OSCE Field Presences, partner organizations and civil society
- Include the Guide in relevant OSCE activities to further promote the its messages