MYTH 2: Poverty in the main cause of migration. More development will lead to less international migration.

REALITY: Poverty is one of the factors that lead to migration. However, the claim that poverty is the only reason for migration is not supported by evidence. While poverty can be a motivator for migration, it is not the only reason. Other factors, such as political instability, climate change, education, and opportunities, can also influence migration decisions.

MYTH 3: Development cooperation can reduce irregular migration.

REALITY: While development cooperation can contribute to reducing irregular migration, it is not a one-size-fits-all solution. The effectiveness of development cooperation depends on the specific context, the target population, and the effectiveness of the delivery mechanisms. Moreover, development cooperation should be integrated with other policies and measures, such as migration management and enforcement, to achieve a comprehensive response.

MYTH 4: Migration undermines the development of migrants’ countries of origin.

REALITY: Migrants contribute significantly to the development of their countries of origin through remittances and other transfers. While some regions of origin may experience a brain drain, the overall impact of migration on development is positive. Remittances can help to reduce poverty, improve education, and invest in infrastructure.

MYTH 5: The destination countries benefit from migration.

REALITY: While migration can bring benefits to destination countries, such as demographic and workforce contributions, it also has costs, including social integration challenges, labor market disruptions, and fiscal burdens. Therefore, it is important to consider the overall impact of migration on host societies and to develop policies that address both the benefits and costs of migration.

MYTHS AND REALITIES

1. The reduction of poverty is a necessary condition to reduce migration. This would imply, for example, that the improvement of socio-economic development at national level tends to stifle the migration flows. However, this is not necessarily the case. While poverty reduction is important, there are other factors that also contribute to migration, such as political instability, climate change, and education opportunities.

2. The issue of brain drain is often used as a characterizing impact on the migrants’ countries of origin, but this is superficial and simplistic. For example, the emigration of a family member can increase the financial well-being of the family left behind, and in the long term, can contribute to the development of the country of origin.

3. The majority of migrants come from the poorest countries to the richest countries, with a considerable proportion of people from countries such as the United States, Switzerland or the United Kingdom. It is concluded that immigration has a positive impact on the economies of the destination countries, as it brings new skills and knowledge.

4. More development will lead to less international migration. This is the result of the idea that the reduction of poverty in the countries of origin reduces the push factors that lead to migration. However, while poverty reduction is important, it is not the only factor that influences migration. Other factors, such as political instability, climate change, and education opportunities, also play a role.

5. Remittances arrive directly to families and communities in the countries of origin, and do not cease in times of crisis. Therefore, remittances can be a crucial source of income for many people in the countries of origin. Moreover, remittances can also contribute to the development of the countries of origin, as they can be used for education, health, and infrastructure.

REALITY: About 2/3 of all international migrants are part of the labour force, and it is every 4th worker who migrates internationally. In many countries, migrants are a key part of the workforce and contribute to the economic development of the host countries. In some cases, the skills of these migrant workers are complementary to those of the local workers and can facilitate economic growth.

RECOMMENDATIONS

GENERAL AND GLOBAL RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Due to a secularisation of migration, it is necessary to strengthen the combination of the migration-development nexus, recognizing and encouraging the contribution of migrants to development. This requires a concerted effort by countries through policies and concrete measures at a global, national and local level.

2. To ensure the respect for human rights and the protection of migrants, it is necessary to develop policies and practices that respect the rights of migrants, including their right to freedom of movement, and to ensure that policy development and the use of its funds comply with their central purpose (to fight poverty and promote development).

3. To prevent an instrumentalisation of development aid for the purpose of insurance and management of migration, particularly in relation to third countries, ensuring that aid is managed in a transparent and accountable manner, and monitoring of human rights violations identified during the course of its operations.

4. To present an instrumentalisation of development aid for the purpose of insurance and management of migration, particularly in relation to third countries, ensuring that aid is managed in a transparent and accountable manner, and monitoring of human rights violations identified during the course of its operations.

5. To strengthen the existing legal and institutional framework through a systematic review of the laws, regulations and policies on migration, and the initiation of new policies or laws, as necessary, to ensure that there is a coherent and effective framework for the management of migration.

6. To strengthen the return and reintegration efforts of migrants, particularly from those countries where there is a lack of resources and capacities, and to ensure that there is a comprehensive approach that saves lives and provides proper assistance, protection and relocation to refugees and migrants. To ratify human rights treaties at the heart of policy-making and ensure that these treaties are implemented, especially regarding the rights of returnees and migrants.

7. To ensure that the European Union and development policy pay special attention to the migrants’ rights and migration policies and that these are consistent with the development goals set out by the European Union.

8. To ensure that the use of development aid and humanitarian assistance is not exclusively used to achieve strategic interests, but that it is used to support the long-term development of the countries affected by migration.

9. To strengthen the positive relationship between migration and development in all sectors, including the development of policies available, internal and external, with a focus on issues of integration and integration.

10. To define a body of rights and duties for migrants (as for there is European citizens), with a focus on rights to access to education, work and mobility, and that is consistent, coherent, and common in the European space.

11. To ensure that migrants have access to the same opportunities as other EU citizens, including in terms of access to education, work, and mobility.

12. To establish a system of remittances and international migration, with a focus on rights to access to education, work, and mobility.

13. To promote the promotion of development and migration of migrants’ countries in the sector policies of Member States, including plans related to development, at central and local levels.

14. To recognize the role of migrants in the development of the countries of origin and on the impacts of EU policies on migration, as the basis for the design and targeting of development policies.

15. To invest more in the knowledge of the reality and research on the causes of migration and the effects of migration policies, and for the design and implementation of policies that will be coherent and sustainable in the future.

Migration is the world's oldest poverty reduction strategy and is a key to a world in emergencies, the international community needs to tune with itself. As we face the continuation to tackle the root causes actively and promote development is increasingly complex and recognises this multi-faceted interconnection, providing a framework for concrete measures that have a significant impact on the lives of migrants - their origin country, in a country different from their origin country, and in a key role in the international community and national levels. In this framework, Policy Coherence for Development ensures that sectoral policies do not collide with the efforts of eradicating poverty and promoting development at global, European, national and local level.

To ensure a fairer, more decent and sustainable world is more than ever a requirement of the international community and national levels. In this framework, Policy Coherence for Development (PCD) stands as a concept, an approach and a tool for ensuring that the several sectoral policies do not collide with the efforts of eradicating poverty and promoting development at global, European, national and local level. In a globalised society and interdependent world where challenges of development are complex and multidimensional, it is necessary that public policies on migration, climate change, trade, security or food sovereignty contribute to an effective transformation and to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. The European Union (EU) and its Member States have ensured PCD as a political commitment and obligation legislation in the framework of the Lisbon Treaty, but will the European institutions and countries continue to pursue sectoral policies that contribute effectively to sustainable development?

Migrations have been pointed out as one of the main engines of development, both in countries of origin and host countries. In the mobility era, the global agenda on migration and development is increasingly complex and recognises this multi-faceted interconnection, providing a framework for concrete measures that have a significant impact on the lives of migrants and their communities. However, the instrumentalisation and securitisation of this subject have hindered the promotion of migration and mobility as a development factor. Moreover, while there have been made enormous efforts to allow for a greater and freer movement of goods, services and capital, the third element of this economic triad - work or the movement of people - remains restricted to a multitude of national controls. Are the implemented policies and measures coherent and coordinated? Do they enhance the contribution of migration to development, and respect the dignity of migrants and of their fundamental rights? What have been the approaches of the EU and Portugal in this context? How to ensure a more effective and positive connection between migration and development?

Migrants have contributed very positively to the development of host countries and countries of origin, however to promote this beneficial impact, integrated and coherent policies are required.

- Mobility has reached a high and unprecedented level and it is expected that in the future the number of international migrants continues to increase, as a result of economic globalisation and demographic and environmental pressures.
- Most international migrants born in developing countries in other countries from the "South" and 86% of refugees live in the poorest countries.
- Migrants contribute very positively to the development of host countries and countries of origin; however to promote this beneficial impact, integrated and coherent policies are required.
- Most existing myths about migrations are disassembled by facts. For example, the improvement of socio-economic development at national level tends to stimulate in the short and medium term an increase of international migration, rather than a decrease. International migrants tend to contribute more in terms of taxes and social contributions in the countries they live than they get in benefits. The European space needs, in a structural and growing way, immigrants with different levels of skills and competences. 
- Migrants are connected with several aspects of the global development agenda, which defines as a specific goal “to facilitate migration and mobility of people in an orderly, safe, regular and responsible manner, including the implementation of planned and well managed migration policies” (2030 Agenda, SDG 10 target).
- The migration policies of the European Union - particularly in the past two years, in response to the increased flow of migrants and refugees - revolve several inconsistencies, including their fundamental values, which materialise in a security approach at the expense of development opportunities and measures coherent and coordinated. Do they enhance the contribution of migration to development, and respect the dignity of migrants and of their fundamental rights? What have been the approaches of the EU and Portugal in this context? How to ensure a more effective and positive connection between migration and development?

INTRODUCTION

Human mobility has reached a high and unprecedented level: the global number of international migrants currently exceeds 244 million, both voluntary and involuntary. If they integrated a country, they would be the 5th largest country in the world in terms of population. Only a small part - less than 10% - concerns refugees: approximately 22.5 million, although these have increased 60% in the last 5 years (UNHCR, 2017).

The migration causes are very diverse, ranging from personal motivations to social or economic factors. Among the factors that influence migration patterns are the existence of networks of migrants from a country - family, friends, communities - in particular destination countries, immigration policies, the increase in schooling levels in developing countries, the demographic changes and the changing needs of the labour markets at global level. In the future, it is estimated that the number of international migrants continues to increase, as a result of economic globalisation, demographic and environmental pressures. Thus, it is expected that in 2050 more than 405 million people will be living in a country different from their origin country, in a global population estimated 9.7 billion.

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