

## Migration and Development Group Recommendations

“Workshop on Migration and Development in Mediterranean region”

Lampedusa 4 of October 2014

International Cooperation and Civil Society Organizations’ studies and field works have led to new recommendations on Migration and Development policies in the Mediterranean. Political debate cannot be constantly limited to emergencies. On the other hand, the area’s well known endemic crisis should be the very motivation for re-thinking past decisions and for elaborating more far-sighted strategies, based on genuine co-development and on the effective safeguard of human rights. **Migration policies should be tightly interwoven with co-development plans, involving both the Southern and the Northern shores of the Mediterranean Sea, focusing on human beings and labor creation, beyond border divisions.**

Within the work started up by national Concord platforms of Southern Europe<sup>1</sup>, and in order to modify EU policies in the Mediterranean region, the Italian Concord platform decided to investigate some relevant issues concerning European Mobility Partnerships, brain-drain, un-accompanied immigrant children, assisted voluntary return, migrant’s participation to co-development initiatives.

Mobility Partnerships are one of EU’s central strategies to govern migrations at the international political level. Their implementation is however insufficient and reveals some crucial weak points. The following steps are therefore necessary:

- a- **Mobility Partnerships (MPs) must be reformed**, and both member States and Civil Society organizations must be made officially committed and involved in them, so that human rights are recognized as obligations to be more effectively safeguarded by a common mechanism of monitoring, surveillance, conflict management and default control.
- b- **MPs priorities should be reset**, and migrants’ role as development actors should be enhanced, facilitating regular migration and international protection. Transnational mobility must be better connected with employment policies, both in countries of origin and of arrival, and cooperation and integration among local labor markets has to be encouraged. This means that MPs must be included in, and be consistent with, labor and cooperation policies supported by the European Neighborhood Policy, and with labor reforms in origin and destination countries based on reciprocity and human rights principles. The transitional process, with its emergent democracies, ought to be supported definitely.
- c- **A global and fair outlook on co-development and on the individual’s right to move should be adopted**. Migration channels should be expanded, and more effective information and training actions about job placement should be promoted.
- d- **Information programs on the migration process, skills assessments, education and job counseling ought to be implemented** in origin, transit and destination countries. Projects should also be networked, so that the role of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), whether they belong to

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<sup>1</sup> [http://www.concorditalia.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/140-copie-colore-DISCUSSION-PAPER-\\_EUROMED\\_FV-copia.pdf](http://www.concorditalia.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/140-copie-colore-DISCUSSION-PAPER-_EUROMED_FV-copia.pdf)

Northern or Southern Mediterranean countries, is optimized. This is of crucial importance, since CSOs can promote common initiatives at transnational level and work as junctions among individuals, communities and local, national and international Institutions.

**e- Transition from first arrival to job placement should be smoothed out** by reinforcing guidance, vocational training, job-placement scholarships, start-up businesses support, etc., and by networking and circulating good practices.

f- In order to understand and deal with migration more effectively, **MPs ought to promote capacity-building actions and provide for dialogue initiatives among responsible institutions, Migrant's organizations and Civil Society representatives.** The ultimate goal should be that of working-out a common European strategy on migration, capable of encouraging legal mobility and of contrasting labor exploitation and criminal organizations.

One of the lacking points in current MPs implementation, is the issue of **brain drain**, with its possible negative impact on the welfare systems (e.g. Health) of countries of origin. When dealing with migration processes, agreements of countries in need of health personnel with partner-origin countries should assume a public health vision, providing for:

- a- **Health impact assessments** of new MPs mobility policies, based on a clear identification of lacking health workers in the partner country
- b- **set-up limitation to the recruitment of health workers** coming from countries identified as lacking of such personnel by the Health World Organization
- c- **Satisfactory economic incentives for migrant health workers** returning to their countries of origin after a period of work in the EU
- d- **Support mechanisms for the health system of country of origin**, so as to compensate the loss of investment and expertise

Another crucial and extremely sensitive matter is the issue of **unaccompanied minors**. New MPs should promote a **family to family approach** for foreign separated children, and in particular:

- a- **Privilege and develop post-arrival reception in host families**, at national and international levels, with local institutions and qualified CSOs engaged in training and supporting available families
- b- **Favor family reunion individual projects**, both in the countries of origin and in Europe. Institutions should encourage individual Assisted Voluntary Return initiatives and prevent trafficking of minors. Local Development Cooperation projects ought to pursue legality and support families and children.

**Assisted Voluntary Return** itself needs to be carefully revised and the European Directive modified. In particular :

- a- **Focus ought to be placed upon co-development and not irregularity.** The profile of eligible migrants should be enlarged; initiatives of common interest should be implemented in both territories, integrating return in wider and synergic co-development cooperation projects.
- b- **Migrants' role as crucial actors in the economical, social and political development of origin countries** should be empowered and recognized. Different types of incentives should be designed so that each individual can display his own peculiar experience and skills, in view of a sustainable and truly human local development process.

**Respect for migrants' subjective identity**, effective protection of their rights, genuine appreciation for their participation to society and sound development of their individual abilities and skills can represent new dynamic resources for human development in the Mediterranean region. Thus Migration and Development must be regarded as indivisible components of a unique synergic process including some indispensable priorities:

- a- Development of **inclusive participation devices both in countries of origin and of residence**
- b- Reinforcement of **cross-cultural processes throughout society**
- c- Better **coordination between State and private actors in dealing with transnational economy**, and in particular in supporting migrants' small and medium-size companies.
- d- **Removal of legal obstacles** which do not let immigrant citizens enjoy individual rights, nor let them participate into the social and political life of the receiving country. This is even more relevant for global development, since immigrant citizens themselves could work out cooperation project-proposals to be implemented in their countries of origin.