

# LABOUR MOBILITY AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT



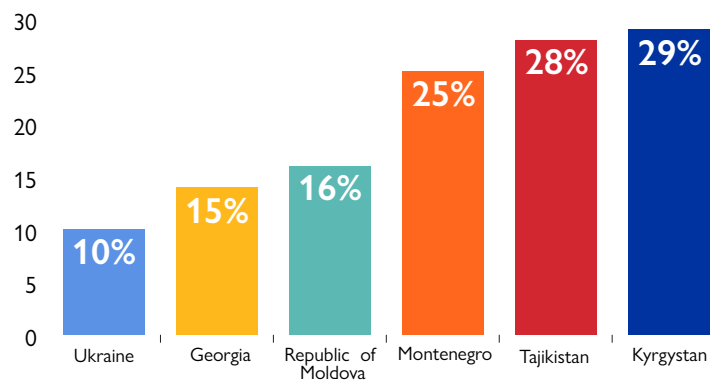
IOM works to maximize the positive impacts of migration for migrants, their families and the broader community in countries of origin and destination. This work includes facilitating labour mobility and enhancing government capacity to effectively manage labour mobility; strengthening links between migration and development, (particularly through diaspora engagement in development initiatives); and supporting migrant integration and social cohesion in communities of destination.

Among the 20 countries covered by IOM's Regional Office in Vienna are established countries of destination such as the Russian Federation, and emerging ones such as Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan, and Turkey, as well as countries of origin of labour migrants like Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Georgia, Armenia, Ukraine and Moldova. These regional migration dynamics offer opportunities to leverage migration to support local and national development efforts. However, they also come with risks relating to migrant protection, social conflict and, more recently, with significant implications for migrants' health and sustainability of livelihoods dependent on remittances in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. IOM's Labour and Human Development (LHD) programmes seek to mitigate the risks and augment the opportunities of labour mobility.

International labour migration is playing a growing role in an increasingly interconnected global economy. Workers have become ever more mobile, engaging in temporary and circular migration, as well as onward and return migration. These dynamics are present throughout Central Asia and Eastern Europe in terms of migratory patterns, investment patterns, and remittance uses in countries of origin.

More recently, temporary and seasonal labour channels, as well as more permanent labour migration, have been established between EU (Germany, Poland, Bulgaria, etc.) and non-EU Member States (Moldova, Ukraine, Georgia, etc.) in Eastern Europe. While the COVID-19 outbreak has significantly reduced the regular movement of persons across borders and impacted established labour mobility corridors, longer term demographic and labour market trends indicate that labour migration will play an increasingly important role in the region.

## REMITTANCES RECEIVED, AS % OF GDP



Top Remittance-receiving countries in Europe and Central Asia, 2019, as percent of GDP

In 2019, migrants remitted over US\$ 554 billion to developing countries. Within the South-Eastern Europe, Eastern Europe and Central Asia (SEEECA) region, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan are among the most remittance-dependent countries globally, with remittances representing 29% and 28% of their GDP in 2019, respectively. Remittances have lifted millions of people out of poverty; the estimated 20 per cent decrease in remittances in 2020 as a result of COVID-19 will have a devastating impact on families and communities that rely on these funds.

## WHAT IOM CAN DO FOR YOU

- ↔ Enhance government capacity to effectively manage both outgoing and incoming labour migration
- 👤 Work with employers and private recruitment agencies in establishing standards on ethical recruitment (IRIS)
- 🛡️ Provide information and orientation services to protect migrants
- 💬 Develop programmes to facilitate diaspora engagement

- 🔑 Build government capacity to engage with diaspora
- 🏛️ Advise national and local governments to facilitate migrant integration and ensure social cohesion
- 🧩 Deliver programmes to support socio-economic integration and address challenges of xenophobia in host communities
- 🌡️ Support the socio-economic response and recovery in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic



### MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT: DIASPORA, KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER AND INVESTMENTS

In the SEECA region, IOM has been at the forefront of innovative diaspora mapping techniques, applying big data and onomastic analysis to map and identify diaspora communities. In Armenia, these techniques have been used to identify and engage with Armenian medical professionals in the diaspora who have experience treating COVID-19 patients to support the Armenian Ministry of Health in their response to the pandemic. In Georgia, a global mapping of Georgian diaspora business owners and investors has contributed to enhance business networking and identifying opportunities for trade and partnerships. IOM is also working on research in Central Asia designed to improve the remittances market for the benefit of senders and recipients, providing safer and more efficient options, and linking remittances to greater financial inclusion and sustainable livelihoods.



### FACILITATING LABOUR MIGRATION

Well-managed labour migration and the establishment of legal migration corridors not only reduce pressures towards irregular migration but can also have significant positive impacts on economic growth in countries of destination. In the SEECA region, for example, IOM supports governments and the private sector in various countries to develop and implement bilateral labour agreements to facilitate regular, safe and orderly labour mobility and thus build opportunities for workers and employers alike. In light of the COVID-19 context, facilitating cooperation between countries of origin and destination becomes all the more important to ensuring a safe migration process.



### INTEGRATION AND SOCIAL COHESION

IOM recognizes integration as a two-way process requiring the initiative and goodwill of both migrants and their hosts. Within the SEECA region, IOM's offices in Turkey have been at the forefront of integration and social cohesion programming reaching out to over 11 000 beneficiaries through pre-departure orientation programmes. Across Turkey as well as in other countries in the region, IOM works with national and local governments to improve social and economic integration services for migrant communities and enhance social cohesion between migrant and host communities.

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