



Survey of European Union and Return Migration Policies: the case of Romanian Migrants

European Union and Return Migration Policies: the case of Romanian Migrants

This report is part of the project "SME – Supporting Migrant's Entrepreneurship"
SME is part-financed by IFAD

This report has been produced with the assistance of the IFAD Financing Facility for Remittances Programme. The contents expressed herein are the opinion of the authors and can in no way be taken to reflect the views of the United Nations, including IFAD, or those of their member states.

Edited by

Alberto Ferri
Sandra Rainero



VENETO LAVORO

Veneto Lavoro
Via Ca'Marcello, 67
30172 Mestre (Venezia)
www.venetolavoro.it

March 2010

Table of Contents

INTRODUCTION	5
SME – HARNESSING CIRCULAR MIGRATION RESOURCES TO DEVELOPMENT GOALS.....	7
<i>The Project: objectives & expected results</i>	7
<i>Return & Development: a "circular" challenge?</i>	8
CHAPTER 1: THE CONTEXT.....	11
EUROPEAN UNION & RETURN: AN OVERVIEW	11
<i>European Union: International Migration & Internal Mobility</i>	11
International Migration	11
Internal Mobility.....	17
<i>Focus on Romania: migration flows, remittances and return</i>	19
<i>Migration in Romania: focus on return and on rural areas</i>	22
CHAPTER 2: MANAGING RETURN MIGRATION.....	25
INTRODUCTION	25
CURRENT PRACTICES OVERVIEW: PROJECTS AND PROGRAMMES	25
<i>Section 1: Return Programme and Policies at national level</i>	25
SPAIN: Modelo Migratorio de Retorno Voluntario basado en el Desarrollo de la Capacidad Empresarial	26
ITALY: MIDA Ghana - Senegal.....	27
NURSE Return Migration	28
ECUADOR: Plan Retorno Voluntario, Digno y Sostenible.....	29
CZECH REPUBLIC: voluntary return plan	30
World Diaspora Fund.....	31
AFFORD (African Foundation for Development).....	32
<i>Section 2: Return Projects at EU, national, regional and local level</i>	33
Country of Return Information Project (CRI).....	33
IRRICO II: Enhanced and Integrated Approach regarding Information on Return and Reintegration in C.of Origin	34
ZIRF: Information Centre for Voluntary Return	35
ILO return projects: Asia.....	36
ILO return projects: Africa	37
IOM: Return of Qualified Afghans	38
IOM: Supporting Migrants and Potential Migrants from Egypt through Information	39
IOM: Encouraging Moroccan Migrants to become Agents of Development	40
INT ENT.....	41
MIREM Project.....	42
REMADE Project.....	43
ALBAMAR Project.....	44
Strengthening of the Social Capital in Senegal	46
Strengthening Moldova’s Capacity to Manage Labor and Return Migration	47
DEVINPRO Project	48
FOCUS ON ROMANIA.....	49
<i>Section 3: Return projects and programmes involving Romania</i>	51
MEDIT Project	51
Fondo Microcredito Balcani:	52
<i>Section 4: the experience of the Return Information Desk in Veneto</i>	53
Genesis & Description.....	53
Operative Framework	54
Services, Activities & Functions.....	54
The Networking Activity in origin countries.....	55
The RID activity in the SME / IFAD project	57
Activation Of The Romanian actors	57
CONCLUSION	58
SUCCESSFUL SUPPORT TO MIGRANTS: TIME, PREPAREDNESS AND RESOURCES MOBILIZATION.....	58
SME RETURN DESK EXPERIENCE: SOME FINAL CONSIDERATIONS.....	62
BIBLIOGRAPHY	63

Introduction

Why is the concept of circular migration and – within this framework -- “return migration ” important?

In the last 15 years empirical and theoretical research on “return” migration and its impact on development, has put forward that entrepreneurial activities and advances in personal and family situations as indicators of development are more likely to take place when migrant financial capital (that is, remittances or savings) is balanced by transfers of human and social capital.

These three kinds of migrant capital come together when migrants return to their origin area and directly engage in the endeavours at home.

This report intends to present the state of play on the findings, policies and programmes that have been implemented in the field of “productive return” of migrants, with a focus on Romanian migration towards and back from Italy and to provide a first assessment for future reference.

The objective is to produce a solid knowledge background about circular migration, a basis for the elaboration and implementation of a return management system for Romanian migrants willing to return and to contribute to the development of their country of origin as foreseen in the SME project, with a specific focus in rural areas. It is a result of the knowledge acquired by and activities of the Regional “Return Information Desk” established in Veneto and other relevant experiences of Veneto Lavoro in the field of migration.

For the overall objectives of the SME project, the research team of Veneto Lavoro has deemed useful to analyze the dynamics and the experiences, mapping and offering an initial assessment of the existing policies, research and practices on productive return in EU and in particular between EU countries and Romania carried out by national and local actors. The report also aims at providing some initial guidelines for a better planning and management of such kind of initiatives.

As we are going to demonstrate, migration & development is a very complex subject, and there is nothing mechanical in it, as attempts to foster productive return as a lever for development show. There are manifold examples that show the impossibility of treating co - development as if it were a separate issue from political, social and cultural contexts, ‘here’ and ‘there’, not embedded in coherent policy making that takes into account vertical, horizontal and cross-border partnerships.

Such experiences also reveal issues of control, of misunderstandings due to naïve expectations, of idealisation of partners, of mutual disillusionment, as well as the importance of transnational social networks and individual and collective financial and social capital (or lack of it)¹.

Nonetheless, local and regional authorities are increasingly aware of the role that migrants play in development in the perspective of co-development. Veneto Lavoro as operational agency of the Veneto Region Authority, has a number of significant experiences in this field. The management of several projects dealing with return policies that target different groups of migrants² enabled the institution to build a strong knowledge-base on this multifaceted issue and its various implications. While remittances’ flows and impact

¹ Ralph Grillo1 and Bruno Riccio - Translocal Development: Italy–Senegal, POPULATION, SPACE AND PLACE Popul. Space Place 10, 99–111 (2004). Published online in Wiley InterScience (www.interscience.wiley.com). DOI: 10.1002/psp.321

² MIGRAVALUE (www.migravalue.net), MIGRALINK (www.migralink.org), RETURNET (www.returnet.eu), CITY to CITY (www.interregc2c.net), VOREALCI (Return Programme 2006), Regional Programme MIGRANTI (within which the Return Information Desk had been developed).

have been subjects of extensive research in the work of the agency, the focus has gradually shifted to a more all-encompassing appreciation of all migrants resources. We have already mentioned communities (social capital), but migrants' capacities and skills – when coupled by a structured scheme to make such skills work for the development of their country of origin (mainly but not exclusively through entrepreneurial skills) – can become a formidable tool for the benefit of both receiving and origin areas. In the Interreg III B project "Migravalue" an effort to systematize this approach has resulted in a very broad multi-stakeholders scheme where regional actors and migrants are at the core of a "access to credit, including the idea of a regional Guarantee Fund, system of co-development". Further work of the agency has highlighted that, for any kind of circular or permanent returns, the positive effects can hardly be seen or sustained if they are managed by one side alone.

At the same time, the Return Information Desk had been created (in late 2008), the first in Italy to be managed by a regional authority and has been strengthened by specific tools and methodologies to support entrepreneurial efforts developed specifically in the framework of the IFAD co-funded SME project.

This report draws its lessons from all the previous efforts. Because most initiatives on return are carried out by the national and international level actors, such efforts have a significance because they may be considered innovative for the local level, which is by its nature more fit for responding and implementing territorial cohesion and situation-based needs of the population because of its proximity with it, and therefore give more weight to the local dimension, as recently the European Union has – in many of its communications – recognized.

In the next pages, an initial overview of the SME project and the general framework referring to return migration and development is offered. In **Chapter I** the overall European framework, including EU orientations and instruments with regard to circular migration and its potential for positive effects on development are discussed, as well as the concepts of "return" with some general data for the countries involved in the SME project. The analysis of the Return Information Desk opened in 2009 at Veneto Lavoro, its development and functioning - including a first update on the characteristics of clients - and future course of action are described in **Chapter II**. Because the analysis is based on a restricted number of cases and has been carried out in an empirical way, the conclusive Chapter gives some practical input, which does not claim to be scientific but rather of operational nature, that the editors deem useful for the project.

SME – harnessing circular migration resources to development goals

The Project: objectives & expected results

All Member States of the European Union (EU) are affected not only by the flow of international migration, but also by internal migration flows (mobility), direct consequence of the progressive enlargement of the EU borders. On the one hand (international migration), the EU government bodies have agreed to develop a common immigration policy at EU level. The European Commission has made proposals for developing this policy, most of which has now become EU legislation. The main objective is to better manage migration flows with a coordinated and global approach which takes into account the economic and demographic situation of the EU. On the other hand (internal mobility), the attention had been moved from a mere “boarders control against illegal migration”, linked to a classic framework of “two countries, two legislations”, to a more integrated approach based on “labour mobility” and “mutual development” between two EU countries, through positive action aiming at favouring temporary migration for professional reasons, financial resources channelling, physical return and brain gain.

Despite of the typology of the flows (internal or international), recent high-level indications clearly state that migration in general has a high potential for development in a more equitable perspective, that is – tapping into migrants’ resources for socio-economic development in the areas of origin. In this respect, regional and local authorities are increasingly active as forefront agents of the Migration and Development nexus.

On one side, considerable resources have been mobilised to fight illegal migration especially to target traffickers and smugglers, but it is recognised that the EU needs migrants in certain sectors and regions in order to deal with its economic and demographic needs. On the other side, sending countries are increasingly focusing on return programs for their highly skilled, and on attracting the skills and resources of their nationals abroad to the benefit of home communities. Origin areas that greatly rely on remittances might experience increasing inequalities in terms of wealth distribution and opportunities between migrant and non-migrant households, and among different geographical areas within countries. In fact, analysis points out that quite often these sums remain un-invested, thereby creating a financial surplus which may generate inflation instead of development., because a significant proportion of remittances shun the formal transfer channels and they are not made available for community development use³.

In this framework, the SME project (Supporting Migrant’s Entrepreneurship: creating innovative facilities to support migrants economic initiatives in the countries of origin) part-financed by IFAD, approaches the close relation between migration and development from the productive return perspective. The project, led by the Veneto Lavoro, brings together a group of public and private local actors in Italy and Romania namely the Brussels office of the Veneto Regional Authority, Banca Etica, Ethimos, and Veneto Banca from Italy and the Fundația Dezvoltarea Popoarelor from Romania.

³ Sandra Rainero, Anna Colleo et al., “From Migration to Development: Lessons drawn from the Experience of Local Authorities” report to the UN-EC Joint Migration and Development Initiative (Nomisma ed. 2010)

The **General Objectives** of the SME project are to improve access to remittance transmission in rural areas and to develop innovative and productive rural investment channels for migrants and community-based organizations. In terms of **specific objectives**, the project intends:

- to highlight the entrepreneurship attitude in migrants
- to make migrant population able to efficiently use economic resources deriving from their work activity in Veneto
- to channel economic and human capital in development tools for the countries of origin
- to generate a private-public partnership in order to collect main stakeholders able to generate ideal conditions to support economic initiatives of migrants in sending countries
- to improve information and communication channel between migrants associations and the respective communities of origin

Return & Development: a “circular” challenge?

Circular migration is conceived as a continuing, long-term, and fluid movement of people between countries, including both temporary and more permanent movements. When it occurs in a planned and voluntary way, linked to the labour needs of countries of origin and destination, *circular migration can be beneficial to all involved*⁴.

Circular migration is at the cutting edge of the migration and development debate, because it combines the interest of highly industrialized countries in meeting labour needs in a flexible and orderly way with the interests of developing countries in accessing richer labour markets, fostering skills transfer and mitigating the risks of brain drain⁵.

Facing return migration issues with an eye on co –development requires the effort of considering both Migration and Development Policies in a coherent approach. Local authorities, with decentralised cooperation policy have increasingly worked with developing countries as part of their external relations policy. At the same time, immigration policies have been approached from a perspective of social cohesion and security. The extent to which local authorities in Europe and in the world apply a synergic and mainstream approach to M&D policy, remains—to a large extent – uncharted territory, as public authorities, NGO and Associations are not used to merge these two spheres. A certain degree of complexity and a high level of diffidence remains when one talks about “creating development through return migration”.

First of all, it is impossible to easily bridge the gap between two different “social approaches” towards external relations and territorial needs. In general, policy makers and practitioners working in the field of international cooperation are used to considering foreign countries as a “place to be helped”, while those working in the field of territorial cohesion and security (who are usually in charge of dealing with migration

⁴ Kathleen Newland and Dovelyn Agunias, Migration Policy Institute, in collaboration with the Task Force set up by the Belgian Government for the preparation of then first meeting of the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD), 2007.

⁵ Ibidem

dynamics in receiving areas) are used to considering origin countries as a “place where migrants can be sent back”.

Over time, these different approaches led to different outcomes and still unstructured collaborations among the offices responsible for the different policies involved in the governance of migration as a win-win situation for both migration governance and development aid.

The most common policy route to date has been to create *incentives for migrants to return* to their countries of origin *or impose strict penalties for overstaying* a temporary visa. But strict policies to lock people out can have the reverse effect of locking them in, often in illegal circumstances. This offends host communities, discredits migration and lessens the developmental potential of the migrant and their assets. *Incentives to return remain key to effective circularity, but linked more to broader development and growth, so that the conditions that encourage people and their skills to return home can also be the conditions to encourage them to stay home in the first place*⁶.

The considerations reported here are in line with SME objectives, which aims at creating development and growth thanks to the skills and competences acquired by the returnees, in other words through circular migration. In order to do so, as will be underlined in the last paragraph, it will be necessary to create a sustainable regional synergy between immigration / security policies with decentralized cooperation and development aid policies. The competences of returning migrants, if sufficiently oriented, could be the added value for the success of decentralized cooperation programmes among EU and developing countries.

Kathleen Newland and Dovelyn Agunias identified **two forms of circular migration** of greatest interest to policy makers:

1. the return of permanently settled migrants to conduct activities in their countries of origin (business, professional, philanthropic, educational, artistic, etc.)
2. the temporary residence abroad of migrants for work, study, research, cultural activity, or voluntary service.

The first of these are distinguishable from conventional return migration because migrants retain their right to reside in the destination country. The second is different from conventional temporary migration since it may involve repeated cycles of residence abroad, possibly with some privileged access to re-entry to the destination country. These two forms are discussed in a Communication from the European Commission published on 16 May, 2007 under the title ‘On circular migration and mobility partnerships between the European Union and third countries’.

The differences between these two “profiles” also affects the definition of a potential return plan. While in the first case it is possible to think about personal entrepreneurship and growth plans on a “definitive” basis (that means less attention to the maintenance of bilateral links between the two countries), in the second case it is necessary to discuss and to take deeply into consideration the opportunity to develop a “temporary

⁶ Ibidem

return plan” along the line of a permanent relation between the origin country and the country of destination.

In the second case, we are going to deal with the broader and most typical meaning of “mobility”, close to the concept of “temporary international movement of workforce”. As underlined by Issa Barro, Martijn Adriaan Boermans and Karel van Hoestenbergh in the document “*Mode 4 of the GATS: Towards an Implementation Framework in West Africa (August 2009)*”, temporary movements of workers is part of trade policy regulated at multilateral level with a large potential impact on economic development. This requires sound organisation which should include entrepreneurial strategies for returning workers. Again, policy coherence, not only between migration and external relations policy, but also, social, economic policies play important roles in the dynamics pertaining to return.

Also for Romania, these movements of workers stimulate entrepreneurial activities, especially in the construction sector. In addition, temporary movements overcome the brain drain problem. One of the principal benefits of return migration can be identified in the “brain gain” associated to the return of newly skilled nationals who may have gained additional work experience, skills and know-how while abroad (Olesen, 2003).

Newland and others (2008) present the case of learning by doing from circular international migration where both sending and receiving countries benefit from temporary mobility. They note that countries have developed a preference for temporary over permanent migration, in particular of low skilled migrants. Temporary work programs (TWPs) allow selection of workers with demanded skills for available jobs and remove administrative obstacles to mobility as governments encourage transitory return migration. For example, Kofi Annan states that international migration related to economic development is an opportunity that can result in a “Triple Win”; benefiting the both sending and receiving country, and the migrants themselves⁷.

Following the main arguments of scientific work, it is possible to affirm that migration & development are a “circular challenge”, both in geographic and in social terms. Migration must be considered a circular phenomenon (no migration policies without return programmes) and social / economic development in country of origin as well as in host countries must be considered as a circular issue (no development in destination countries with under development in home countries). The result is that migration must become a lever for bilateral development.

⁷ Issa Barro, Martijn Adriaan Boermans and Karel van Hoestenbergh - “Mode 4 of the GATS: Towards an Implementation Framework in West Africa (August 2009)

Chapter 1: The Context

European Union & Return: an overview

European Union: International Migration & Internal Mobility

In order to offer an institutional framework to the concept of return migration, it is useful to recall the main steps and orientations of the European Union with regard to the more general approach to both migration and development, the two cornerstones on which the concept of return migration is founded.

May 1, 2004 has been an important milestone for the EU for another reason much less well known than enlargement itself. The EU-15 had committed to having in place, by that date, the bases of what has been termed "An Area of Freedom, Security and Justice". This refers to the entire territory of the EU Member States, which the EU aspires to make into a space where:

- Citizens are free to circulate;
- Immigration is well managed;
- Access to the humanitarian protection of asylum is well regulated;
- Citizens and other residents are secure;
- Justice is upheld for all⁸.

The idea of a common EU territory in which there is freedom, security and justice was set out in the Treaty of Amsterdam, signed in 1997. This Treaty had been built on the 1992 Maastricht Treaty on European Union, which included the concept of EU citizenship and a basis for inter-governmental cooperation on immigration, asylum and border control policies.

This approach defined ***two different attitudes towards migration*** and two different regulations.

International Migration

The decision to create a common policy on immigration, asylum and borders elaborated in the Treaty of Amsterdam was reinforced through a special summit held in Tampere, Finland, in October 1999⁹ where the elements required for an EU immigration policy were set out:

- It shall be based on a comprehensive approach to the management of migratory flows so as to find balance between humanitarian and economic admission
- It shall include fair treatment for third-country nationals aiming as far as possible to give them comparable rights and obligations to those of nationals of the Member State in which they live

⁸ Nicola Momentè, Seminar on "EU MIGRATORY POLICIES TOWARDS EAST EUROPE ENLARGEMENT AND THE MEDITERRANEAN AREA"

⁹ *ibid*

- A key management in strategies must be the development of partnerships with countries of origin including policies of co-development

The European Commission's first step towards creating a common EU immigration policy was a communication to the European Council and the European parliament in November 2000. The aim was to start a debate with the other EU institutions, with the Member States and civil society at large. The Commission recommended a coordinated approach in which the following should be taken into account:

- ⇒ The economic and demographic development of the EU
- ⇒ The capacity of reception of each Member State along with their historical and cultural links with the countries of origin
- ⇒ The situation in the countries of origin and the impact of migration policy on them (brain drain and other negative impacts)
- ⇒ The need to develop specific integration policies based on fair treatment of third-country nationals legally residing in the union, the prevention of social exclusion, racism, xenophobia and the respect of diversity.

In February 2002, the Council adopted a comprehensive plan on how to fight illegal immigration and trafficking in the EU. In December of the same year, the Council adopted a Return action programme which develops measures and guidelines in the field of return of illegal residents. In 2003, the European Council adopted Directives regarding EU long-term resident status and family reunification.

On the 4th of November 2004, the European Council adopted the Hague Multiannual Programme. This programme sets the goals and objectives that should be implemented for strengthening the area of freedom, security and justice during the period 2005-2010. The Hague Programme has taken into account the European Commission's final evaluation of the Tampere Programme as well as comments from on-line consulting with European citizens.

The Hague Multiannual Programme had been recently replaced and updated by the **Stockholm Programme**, approved by the Council of the European Union in Brussels, the 2nd December 2009. This new document in the field of Justice, Freedom and Security as well as External Relation policies states that *"significant progress has been achieved to date in this field. Internal border controls have been removed in the Schengen area and the external borders of the EU are now managed in a more coherent manner. Through the development of the Global Approach to Migration, the external dimension of the EU's migration policy focuses on dialogue and partnerships with third countries, based on mutual interests"*.

The Global Approach to Migration is the milestone mentioned by the document. As underlined in the previous paragraph, and in line with the most recent developments in the field of migration, there is an increasing pressing need for an interrelation of different policies. In fact, the Stockholm Programme affirms that, *"in spite of these and other important achievements in the area of freedom, security and justice Europe still faces challenges. These challenges must be addressed in a comprehensive manner. Further efforts are*

thus needed in order to improve coherence between policy areas. In addition cooperation with partner countries should be intensified'.

In the field of cooperation with Third Countries, the link between migration and development and an innovative approach towards security issues are crucial in the new EU framework for the next years (2010 – 2014). This rationale calls for a tighter cooperation between Migration Policies, External Relation Policies and Justice, Freedom and Security Policies, as well as between the latter and the Cooperation Policies and Strategies. This is the meaning of “global approach to migration”.

The priorities of the EU for the next 5 years stated by the Stockholm Programme are telling:

1. Promoting citizenship and fundamental rights: respect for the human person and human dignity and for the other rights set out in the Charter of Fundamental Rights and the European Convention on Human Rights are core values.
2. A Europe of law and justice: priority should be given to mechanisms that facilitate access to justice, so that people can enforce their rights throughout the Union.
3. A Europe that protects: the strategy should be aimed at strengthening cooperation in law enforcement, border management, civil protection, disaster management as well as criminal judicial cooperation in order to make Europe more secure.
4. Access to Europe in a globalised world: access to Europe for businessmen, tourists, students, scientists, workers, persons in need of international protection and others having a legitimate interest to access EU territory has to be made more effective and efficient.
5. A Europe of responsibility, solidarity and partnership in migration and asylum matters: development of a forward-looking and comprehensive European migration policy, based on solidarity and responsibility, remains a key policy objective for the European Union.
6. The role of Europe in a globalised world – the external dimension: need for increased integration of these policies into the general policies of the European Union. The external dimension is essential to address the key challenges we face and providing greater opportunities for EU citizens to work and do business with countries across the world.

Point 5 and point 6 are particularly important in order to understand the relevance of the link between EU and third countries and in particular the unbreakable correlation between migration & development.

The Stockholm Programme mentions “important achievements in this direction”. It is worth mentioning here some other relevant EU guidelines that have contributed to the evolution of the EU policies: the Green Paper on an EU approach to managing economic migration, in 2005, where the Commission re-launched a debate on the need of common rules for the admission of economic migrants. This led to the adoption of a Policy Plan on Legal Migration in December of the same year, where the Commission lists the actions and legislative initiatives considered necessary for the consistent development of the EU legal migration policy. The Green Paper suggests five directives; the first one is a general framework directive that would guarantee a number of rights to all third-country nationals in legal employment. The four other are more

specific and would only concern entry and residence for highly skilled workers, seasonal workers, intra-corporate transferees and remunerated trainees. But the European Union with this document, even if turned to the right direction, failed in detecting the need for a “bilateral approach” to migration.

The second, fundamental step had been done with the EC 2007 Communication, COM (2007) 248 “*On circular migration and mobility partnerships between the European Union and third countries*”, which is the most relevant framework in which the Return Information Desk has been developed. Due to the importance of this document, it will be discussed in detail in chapter 2.

Importantly, the communication on circular migration is placed in the more general context of the so-called and above mentioned “**global approach to migration**”. The guiding principle of this approach is that migration -- and migration management -- in Europe cannot be excluded from worldwide dynamics and interrelations that cross European borders and entail many a different issues and policy making.

A chronology of the global approach

In 2006 the European Commission issued in “The global approach to migration one year on: a comprehensive European migration policy¹⁰”, a seminal communication that sets the basis for developing a comprehensive, multi policy European migration strategy including areas such as external relations, development, employment, and justice, freedom and security. The Communication proposes ways to step up the dialogue and cooperation on migration issues (especially with Africa) covering the whole range of migration issues, from legal and illegal migration to strengthening protection for refugees and better harnessing the links between migration policy and development policy.

The most recent EU document attesting and strengthening the “global approach to migration” is the Communication from the commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions titled “*Strengthening the global approach to migration: increasing coordination, coherence and synergies*” [Brussels, COM(2008) 611/3]. The Communication stressed the importance of reducing migratory pressures, underlined the need to a more transparent and balanced approach guided by a better understanding of all aspects relevant to migration and enlightened the importance of improving the accompanying measures to manage migratory flows as well as making migration and mobility positive forces for development¹¹.

For the first time the concept of “mobility partnership” became fundamental in the field of migration policies, with a strong stress on “circular migration” to be carried on by “*supporting efforts to strengthen third*

¹⁰ Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions - *Applying the Global Approach to Migration to the Eastern and South-Eastern Regions Neighbouring the European Union* [COM(2007)0247 final]

¹¹ Communication from the commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions titled “*strengthening the global approach to migration: increasing coordination, coherence and synergies*” [COM(2008) 611/3]

countries' capacities to manage legal migration, including by facilitating the work of the national services or of autonomous centres in charge of counselling potential migrants and/or their nationals abroad' (2.1 - Legal economic migration and mobility) as well as by *"enabling members of diasporas to contribute to their country of origin and the temporary return of highly qualified migrants"* (2.3 - Migration and development).

In particular, in point 6.1.2 Migration and development, *the European Council underlines the need to take further steps to maximise the positive and minimise the negative effects of migration on development in line with the Global Approach on Migration. Effective policies can provide the framework needed to enable countries of destination and origin and migrants themselves to work in partnership to enhance the effects of international migration on development. Efforts to promote concerted mobility and migration with countries of origin should be closely linked with efforts to promote the development of opportunities for decent and productive work and improved livelihood options in third countries in order to minimize the brain drain*¹².

Establishing lasting relations with countries of origin generates different problems related to the knowledge of the territory, information concerning the economic and professional condition, political stability and social reintegration. These factors differ not only from country to country, but also from region to region within a same country. This consideration calls for a specific analysis of the matter, carried on with a strong emphasis on the "regional / local dimension" of the phenomena, and this is a relevant argument for the SME IFAD project: while the determinants of migration policy are often set at central and to some extent at supra-national level, its impact on migrants and society is felt more strongly at the local level, where other policies interact. It is at the local level that transformation occurs – where it is possible to observe processes under way and intervene effectively to determine their orientation and outcome¹³. SME IFAD project is focused on "rural areas" intended as marginalized territories where the process "return migration = development" is more difficult to promote and whose results and positive effects are hard to achieve.

Very interesting in this respect is the Opinion of the Committee of the Regions on "strengthening the global approach to migration: increasing coordination, coherence and synergies", which underlines how *"Regional and Local Authorities are on the front line in elaborating, implementing, evaluating and monitoring migration policy and thus should be considered as central partners in its development"* and that is necessary to enhance the *"integration of migrants in the host societies, because migrants are key players for the development of both their countries of origin and destination"*. From this perspective, it is clear that the "bilateral dimension of migration" not only is a matter of national relationships, but rather a crucial role can be – and indeed is -- played by Regional and Local authorities, both in host and in origin countries, in particular when linked to development goals. Linking the already existing decentralized approaches in the field of Cooperation Policies with "migration programmes" will enable territories to *"supports twinning programmes between public and private sector, employers and institutions from EU member states and countries of origin, aiming to support circular migration and fight the "brain drain" on a regional scale, with more tangible and localized results. Moreover, through this approach "Local and Regional Authorities could*

¹² COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION, Brussels, 2 December 2009 - 17024/09 CO EUR-PREP 3 JAI 896 POLGEN 229 No. prev doc. 16484/1/09 REV 1 JAI 866 + ADD 1 Subject: The Stockholm Programme – An open and secure Europe serving and protecting the citizens.

¹³ From Migration to Development: lessons drawn from local authorities – UNDP – op. cit.

put forward their valuable expertise and knowledge in order to help migrants reintegrate in home country labour markets", favouring co - development and "brain gain"¹⁴.

As underlined, the Opinion of the COR is fully in line with the Stockholm Programme, where it focuses on building a Europe of responsibility, solidarity and partnership in migration and asylum matters, recalling also the importance of building comprehensive partnerships with countries of origin and of transit, to encourage synergies between migration and development.

The European Union resources for Migration and Development

The European Council's ongoing commitment to viewing migration challenges and opportunities as one of the major priorities for the EU at the start of the 21st century has received a boost with the European Parliament's approval (Brussels, 14 December 2006) of the Commission's Justice, Freedom and Security financial programmes for 2007-2013 which allocates around €4 billion euros to migration issues.

The framework programmes in the area of Justice, Freedom and Security, under the new financial Perspectives 2007-2013 have been established to provide coherent support to an area of freedom, security and justice. The three key objectives of freedom, security and justice are to be developed in parallel and to the same degree of intensity, thus allowing for a balanced approach. Each of the three key objectives is supported by a Framework programme underpinning and linking each policy area. The three framework programmes are:

- Security and Safeguarding Liberties (amount for the period 2007-2013: €745M). It consists of two financial instruments encompassing the following: a. Prevention of and fight against crime and Prevention, b. Preparedness and consequence management of Terrorism and other Security related risks
- Fundamental rights and Justice (amount for the period 2007-2013: €542, 90M). It consists of five instruments: Prevent and combat violence against children, young people and women and to protect victims and groups at risk (Daphne III), Drugs prevention and information, Fundamental rights and citizenship, Civil justice and Criminal justice
- Solidarity and management of Migration Flows (amount for the period 2007-2013: €4020, 37 M). It consists of four specific instruments: The European Refugee Fund, the External Borders Fund, the European Fund for the Integration of Third-country nationals and the European Return Fund.

Dedicated funding schemes also support the efforts of those who have a stake in the global approach. For the period 2007-2013, the external dimension of the EU's migration and asylum policy is financed through geographical instruments, such as the European Development Fund (in the African, Caribbean and Pacific countries), the Development Co-operation Instrument (in Latin America, Asia and South Africa), and the

¹⁴ Opinion of the Committee of the Regions on "strengthening the global approach to migration: increasing coordination, coherence and synergies" - 80th plenary session, 17-18 June 2009 - CONST-IV-022.

European Neighborhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI - for EU Eastern and Southern neighboring areas);

In March 2004, the European Parliament and the Council adopted a Regulation to establish AENEAS, a programme for financial and technical assistance to third countries in the area of migration and asylum. It stretches from 2004 to 2008 and controls an overall budget of 250 million euros. In November of the same year, the Handbook on Integration was published, which is now available in 21 different languages. The AENEAS programme aimed at supporting these nations' efforts in better managing migration flows in all their dimensions), in 2008 it has been replaced by the Thematic Programme for Cooperation with Third Countries in the areas of Migration and Asylum.

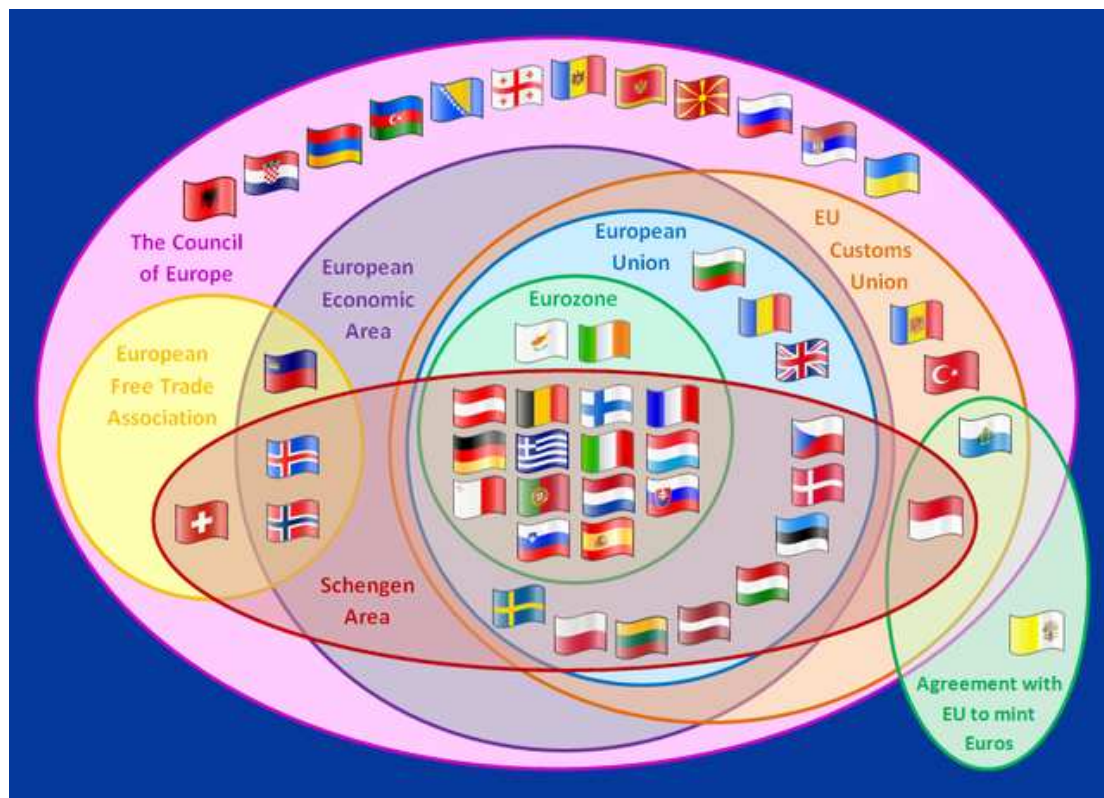
EU structural funds can also play a role in supporting local efforts in migration and development: the European Regional Development Fund funds actions that are believed to reinforce economic and social cohesion across EU and neighbouring regions. Similarly, the European Social Fund can have an impact on migrants' communities and capacities, since it promotes access to employment for job seekers, the unemployed, women and migrants and it supports social integration of disadvantaged people and combating discrimination in the job market. Finally, thematic instruments such as the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR), the programme for cooperation with non-state actors and local authorities, and Investing in People can provide financial support to specific migration and development aspects.

The European Union is not the only European source of funds for linking territories and communities across different countries, and enhancing the development impact of mobility flows. Other stakeholders have begun to allocate growing financial resources to international development initiatives, including in relation to international migration. The IFAD program Financing Facility for Remittances is exemplar of the commitment in this field.

Internal Mobility

Due to the recent enlargement of European Union borders (2007), Romania became a Member State of the EU. In this framework, it is not possible to use the classic definition of "migration" when we refer to Romanians. It is necessary to consider also the **internal migration**, recently called "**mobility**", a process defined by Hatton and Tani (2005) as "*one of the mechanisms through which local area labour markets adjust to migration inflows*". Concerning this issue, the COMMISSION COMMUNICATION titled "The demographic future of Europe – from challenge to opportunity" said that "*with respect to the internal mobility of Community citizens, the transition towards full freedom of movement for workers within an enlarged EU of 27 Member States will continue up to 2014. This internal mobility helps offset imbalances in labour markets in Europe and should be taken into consideration in planning immigration policies*".

The regulation system dealing with internal mobility in Europe is mainly linked to Schengen Agreements. The following chart shows the regulatory framework in which migrants are enabled to move across national borders:



The Schengen area and cooperation are established on the Schengen Agreement of 1985. The Schengen area represents a territory where the free movement of persons is guaranteed. The signatory states to the agreement have abolished all internal borders in lieu of a single external border. Here common rules and procedures are applied with regard to visas for short stays, asylum requests and border controls. Simultaneously, to guarantee security within the Schengen area, cooperation and coordination between police services and judicial authorities have been stepped up. Schengen cooperation has been incorporated into the European Union (EU) legal framework by the Treaty of Amsterdam of 1997. However, all countries cooperating in Schengen are not parties to the Schengen area. This is either because they do not wish to eliminate border controls or because they do not yet fulfil the required conditions for the application of the Schengen acquis¹⁵.

As underlined before, despite of the fact that since 2008 Romanians are "European Citizens", restriction at the borders still exist. The "free movement of people" granted for countries fully included in Shengen areas does not fully apply for Romania.

In fact, Bulgaria, Cyprus and Romania are not yet fully-fledged members of the Schengen area; border controls between them and the Schengen area are maintained until the EU Council decides that the conditions for abolishing internal border controls have been met.

The SME Project only concerns Romanian migrants living in Italy, At any rate, human mobility (and the resources mobilized with it), however may it be called and handled, entails a number of different policies

¹⁵http://europa.eu/legislation_summaries/justice_freedom_security/free_movement_of_persons_asylum_immigration/l33020_en.htm

enabling the development potential of areas of outflows and inflows of people that need to be consistently formulated with security and border control policies.

Focus on Romania: migration flows, remittances and return

In this section a short description of recent Romanian migration flows, with particular attention to the link between migration and development, with an eye on return and with particular attention to Italy.

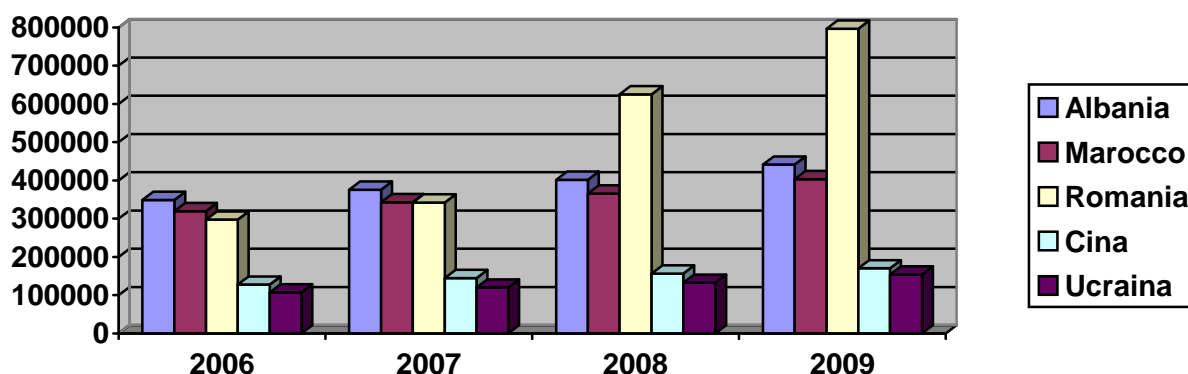
According to UN statistics, in 2006 more than 2 million Romanians work and live abroad, at least on a temporary basis, and more than 50 percent of them live in Italy. More than 77 percent of them have a secondary education degree while only 9 percent hold a university degree. In the case of Romania, Ferro (2004) investigated the labour migration experience of high-skilled Romanians and in particular of IT staff and qualified researchers. She finds that the working perspective, *the life quality and encouraging foreign immigration policies are the most relevant pull factors for leaving the home country*. An interesting result of her research was also the fact that the higher the integration in the host country, the more likely is their return home. She also finds that the role played by international networks and transnational relations contributes to the local development through the spread of information, supply of jobs and promotion of business¹⁶.

Cingolani (2007) has shown that more than 93 percent of high-skilled immigrants have undertaken under-qualified occupations and this is preserved over time for more than 70 percent of them. However, it is interesting to know that *82 percent of those who accept an under-qualified occupation are those who intend to return home after a limited period of time in Italy*. Moreover, Cingolani and Piperno (2005) argue that after ten years' of work in Italy, the out-migration of Romanians and their permanent return home are increasing. Even though this phenomenon is still marginal it is expected to increase rapidly as the socioeconomic situation at home improves.

In order to have a clear and actual picture of the situation, is therefore necessary to update these numbers and data, following the consequences of the Global Economic Crisis both in Italy and in Romania.

¹⁶ Isilda Shima, Return migration and labour market outcomes of the returnees - Does the return really pay off? The case-study of Romania and BulgariaFIW Research Reports 2009/10 N° 07 February 2010

Migration in Italy: 5 best performances



The graphic (ISTAT Data¹⁷) shows the trends of migratory flows towards Italy of the first 5 countries for number of migrants regularly registered between 2005 and 2009. As it is possible to notice, the "best performance" has been played by Romanian migrants, who stepped from the 3rd place in 2006 to the 1st place in 2009, almost doubling the second nationality (Albania).

As it is possible to notice, in 2009 the effect of the EU enlargement on migration flows from Romania to Italy had been stronger than the effect of the global crisis. Probably this trend had been reduced in the last part of 2009 and in the first part of 2010, but official data are not yet available at national level.

At regional level (Veneto Region), the number of registered romanian workers in the last months of 2009 had been 43.555 with the following local distribution:

Occupazione dipendente in Veneto. Flussi di assunzioni 2009, per cittadinanza straniera e provincia

Paese di cittadinanza	BELLUNO	PADOVA	ROVIGO	TREVISO	VENEZIA	VERONA	VICENZA	Totale complessivo
ROMANIA	1.148	6.537	2.412	5.687	7.931	16.850	2.990	43.555
MAROCCO	345	2.424	983	1.753	1.665	5.361	1.111	13.642
CINESE, REPUBBLICA POPOLARE	292	2.920	1.259	2.856	2.065	1.445	842	11.679
ALBANIA	365	1.310	417	1.510	2.616	1.851	828	8.897
MOLDOVA	180	1.793	299	553	2.759	2.170	582	8.336
POLONIA	204	300	592	531	667	4.993	131	7.418
BANGLADESH	35	308	59	399	3.486	362	683	5.332
INDIA	43	311	78	660	214	1.730	1.164	4.200
SERBIA	77	259	77	480	536	1.184	1.370	3.983
UCRAINA	327	299	144	324	1.974	381	155	3.604

(Source Veneto Lavoro on data from Regional Labour information System, December 2009)

Concerning the distribution of romanian workers in the different professional sectors, we can notice that, even if the higher number are employed in the field of "services", in general there is a general distribution in all the sectors (11.599 in Agriculture, 13.839 in Industry and 18.117 in Services). Verona Province leads the number of presence in agriculture, while Venice & Verona show the higher number in services. Concerning industry, the presence of romanian migrant is higher in Padova, Treviso and Verona.

¹⁷ <http://demo.istat.it/>

SECTOR	BELLUNO	PADOVA	ROVIGO	TREVISO	VENEZIA	VERONA	VICENZA	Total
ROMANIA								
AGRICULTURE	113	652	894	807	529	8391	213	11599
INDUSTRY								
<i>Mining</i>	7	12		2	1	8	5	35
<i>Craftmanship</i>	185	1999	245	2639	862	1746	884	8560
<i>Buildings</i>	157	1051	221	846	842	1682	445	5244
<i>Total</i>	349	3062	466	3487	1705	3436	1334	13839
SERVICES								
<i>Tourism and Commerce</i>	554	978	341	573	4207	1722	576	8951
<i>Enterprises Services</i>	70	1222	144	456	918	2155	516	5481
<i>PA, education, health</i>	41	215	93	143	271	226	120	1109
<i>Family care</i>	21	408	474	221	301	920	231	2576
<i>Total</i>	686	2823	1052	1393	5697	5023	1443	18117
TOTAL	1148	6537	2412	5687	7931	16850	2990	43555

In the Romania's case, *labour migration has become the main form of migration*, after 1989. The latest data reveal a number of over 2,500,000 persons working abroad, most of them on temporary basis (Sandu et al, 2007). The migration patterns shifted from permanent to temporary (circular migration, back and forth), becoming a "life strategy" (Sandu, 2005)

So, side by side with the entry flows, the partners of the SME IFAD project started to pay attention to the return flows, in order to detect the opportunity of "co development actions" related to a more integrated management of circular mobility. Data concerning the "return migration" from Italy to Romania are less structured and organized. There are *"no Official Statistics on Return Migration. Meanwhile, the Romanian government has no expectations regarding the number of return migrants. There are no official statistics and the Ministry of Labor says that there are no inquiries about employment for return migrants"*¹⁸. Professor Dumitru Sandu says for Adevarul newspaper, *"Romanian migrants will only come back if they have no other choice, no business opportunities or no relationships in other countries"*, but in a situation of difficult economic condition abroad, with particular reference to professional opportunities, this can happen.

For example in Spain, the Migration Policy Institute (2009, September) in the document *"Migration and the Global Recession: A Report Commissioned by the BBC World Service"* (see Migration Policy Institute website: <http://www.migrationpolicy.org>), declares that the global recession seriously has been affecting the immigrant population. The number of Romanian migrants declined by more than 60%. According to the National Statistics Institute, it is estimated that the number of migrants leaving Spain nearly doubled from 120,000 in 2006 to 232,000 in 2008.

The Municipality of Rome declared that in 2008 more than 600 romanian migrants left Italy, with more than 450 request for reimbursement of travel costs granted by the Italian local administration. Even if 85% of

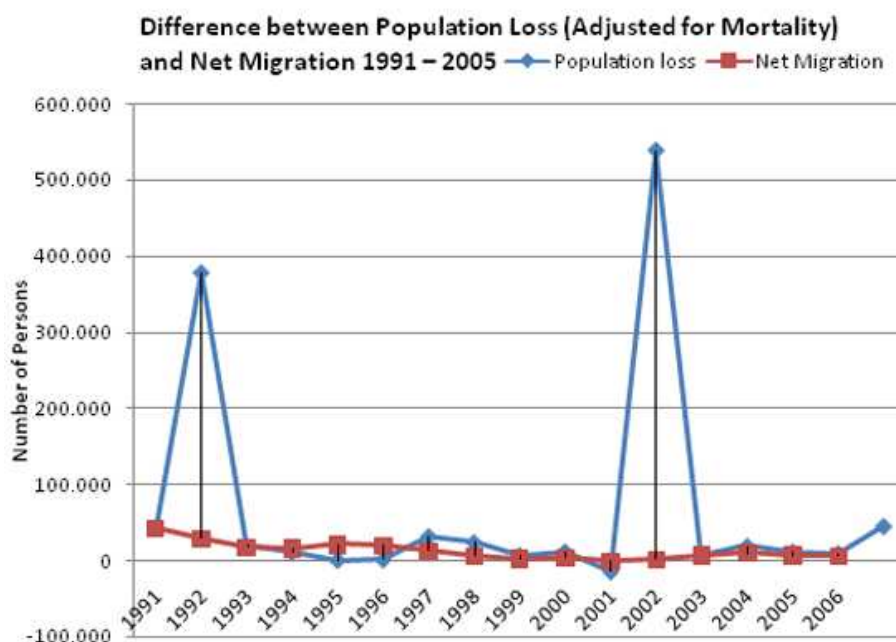
¹⁸ Irina-Raluca Ivan, Romanian Economic Migrants Unlikely to Return - Global Economic Recession Does not Precipitate Return of Romanians Article | Mar 24, 2009 | http://romania.suite101.com/article.cfm/romanian_economic_migrants_unlikely_to_return

beneficiaries had been “irregular migrants”, some of them were families who experienced a abrupt loss of employment.

Among the latest developments in the field of diaspora policies, it should be noted that Romanians working abroad are now being viewed not only as potential voters or promoters of Romanian culture, but as a labour supply that can help fill growing shortages in sectors of the Romanian labour market. In early 2007 a special interdepartmental committee of the central administration, headed by the Prime Minister, was set up with the purpose of drafting a set of measures to encourage the return of Romanian labour migrants abroad¹⁹.

Migration in Romania: focus on return and on rural areas

The effects of migration in Romania over the last 10 years are massive. A vivid migration potential and the still large size of the shadow economy might not only contribute to the low activity rates but also to the shortages on the labor markets. Romania lost nearly 2 million inhabitants between 1991 and 2006 (INS 2008). Nevertheless, most of these population losses can be explained by a higher mortality rate than birth rate after the total fertility rate began turning low in the nineties (cf. footnote 32 at page 35) whereas the officially tracked net migration is rather modest.



Some differences between official net migration figures and mortality adjusted population shrinkage suggest that also informal long-term migration is at work. While the first gap (1992) might be explained well with statistical proceedings (cf. Heller 2006) the second gap (2002) coincides with the new introduced right for Romanians to visit the Schengen area twice a year without visa, each time for a maximal stay of 90 days. However, the total amount of migration flows is hard to track and further data is missing, yet. However, estimations frequently assume some **2 millions of Romanians working abroad** (cf. e.g. Andrei & Păuna 2006; Dill et. al 2005 or Fuster 2008), often for – not necessarily formal – seasonal working. Main

¹⁹ <http://www.focus-migration.de/Romania.2515.0.html?&L=1>

destinations are Italy and Spain which affected especially the Romanian construction sector negatively. Attempts to retract the Romanians working abroad with special offers and assistance had very limited success so far. The respective job fairs initiated in Italy caught very little attention, yet (cf. e.g. Carbuneanu 2008) which is in line with rather similar experiences in Poland (cf. Fuster 2008).

In this framework and in line with SME project main target (returnees in rural areas), it is important to highlight that Zaman (2007 b) reports that urban unemployment rates in Romania tend to be higher than rural unemployment rates as in the rural areas subsistence agriculture serves as a buffer. This trend is also confirmed by a recent territory / specific research titled "The analysis of the effects of rurbanization on rural communities in the North-East Development of Romania²⁰" of the Department of Agriculture, "Ion Ionescu de la Brad" University of Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine, in Iași, which states that despite of the fact that in 2009, *"an increase of 23.1% in the rural – urban migration flow was observed for the researched area"*, on the other side *"due to the proximity of rural communities to urban centers, urban – based enterprises moved their services in the countryside because of lower land taxes, local taxes or subsidies awarded to rural enterprises. This urban – rural flow caused an increase of rural-based employment rate over the past year in non-agricultural activities, many of these requiring specialized labours"*. SME project partner therefore need to consider that returnees who want to return to rural areas may not find the best opportunities in the primary sector but can work on the existing trend showing that previous urban-only activities moved to the countryside and created new opportunities for people owning competences like the ones acquired abroad. Moreover, it will be important to inform Romanian returnees concerning the "lower land taxes, local taxes or subsidies awarded to rural enterprises" and how to access them. In addition, the research underlines how "this kind of businesses don't create workplace for rural inhabitants, requiring only specialized personnel" and this means that there are more opportunities for returning migrants (usually high skilled).

Focusing more on Romanian returnees, Ferro (2004) investigated the labour migration experience of high-skilled Romanians and in particular of IT staff and qualified researchers. She finds that the working perspective, the life quality and encouraging foreign immigration policies are the most relevant pull factors for leaving the home country. An interesting result of her research was also the fact that ***the higher the integration in the host country, the more likely is their return home***. She also finds that the role played by international networks and transnational relations contributes to the local development through the spread of information, supply of jobs and promotion of business.

The OECD (2008) argues that the barriers to a free entry of migrants from Romania and Bulgaria have been partly removed and those countries that did not impose restrictions could satiate their labour market through the reduction of labour shortages and structural unemployment.³ However, one disadvantage for the high-skilled immigrants, especially in the initial phase of migration, is the acceptance of under-qualified jobs as is the case for the Romanians in Italy.

²⁰ Codrin Paveliuc-Olariu, The analysis of the effects of urbanization on rural communities in the North-East Development of Romania, AAB Bioflux 2010.

Another distinctive phenomenon among Romanian migrants is the vast presence of migrant women choosing to move on a temporary base. A further relevant characteristic is the family network support, which is intensively present at various stages of migration. The high mobility among Romanians was also related to their weak position both in terms of legal status and qualifications (those without regular documents and unqualified are more vulnerable and consequently are supposed to adapt their mobility plans). Following Massey's (2002) migration theory of networks, the relevance of networks abroad and their support for integration into the host country are evident. As concerns the implications of remittances, little evidence is found on their effect on investment and entrepreneurship. In spite of a high flux of remittances sent home their positive direct effect has still to be documented.

Iara (2008) argues that the high intensity of Romanian migration flows in different forms of temporary migration. The encountered linguistic and cultural affinity with the main host countries and the admission to the labour markets of the EU Member States, support an increasing mobility of migrants, which in turn has important repercussions both for the host and home country. However, the improvement of the socio-economic conditions at home, the shortage of skills and the increasing demand for know-how require the return of emigrants to Romania. Thus, policies addressing temporary migration, encouraging permanent return and making the return and integration in the local labour market affordable and rewarding, are desirable. Summarizing, temporary migration is quite an intensive experience for Romanian migrants. The pool of migrants is relatively well educated and the negative labour market situation in the host country in particular induces the highly-skilled migrants to return to their home country. The duration of stay abroad is relatively longer than 5 years and there is an increasing trend of returns in particular for those that accepted under-qualified jobs in the host country²¹.

On February 19, 2009, Soros Foundation Romania issued 'Romanian Communities in Spain', a sociological study developed within its "Migration and Development" program, which focuses on the factors that determine and set the trends in the return of Romanians from abroad.

The study starts with an overview of Romanian community profiles and the dynamics of Romanian immigration in Madrid region, Spain.

Return migration is seen as both a long-term project and a state of mind. What draws them back is their concern for "own home" and "own business", but the ones who actually plan on returning are those whose health deteriorated and those who foresee a positive future for the labor market in Romania. Going back is understood as a family project: 57% of those who claim they certainly will return also indicate someone else in the family as part of the plan. This is explained by the high percentage (around 70%) of Romanians living together with at least one other family member in the Madrilenian communities.

²¹ Isilda Shima, Return migration and labour market outcomes of the returnees - Does the return really pay off? The case-study of Romania and Bulgaria, FIW Research Reports 2009/10 N° 07, February 2010.

Chapter 2: Managing Return Migration

Introduction

The main objective of this report is the collection and analysis of the existing best practices and policies dealing with “return migration governance”, with a particular focus on Romania. In order to organise this collection, the methodological approach had been structured as follow:

Section 1: Return Programmes and Policies (at national level)

Section 2: Return Projects (at EU, national, regional, local level)

Section 3: Focus on Romania

Section 4: Study Case (the Return Information Desk and the SME’s One Stop Desk in Veneto)

While the first two sections are intended to offer a general overview of the existing “know how” in the field of productive return migration management within a period of about 10 years (from 1999 to present), section 3 and section 4 are planned to focus on Romanian Return Migration or Circular Migration and on a specific practice (Return Information Desk in Veneto Region, which has developed a specific approach with would-be Romanian return entrepreneurs thanks to SME / IFAD project).

Current Practices Overview: projects and programmes

Section 1: Return Programme and Policies at national level

The first section of the Chapter 2 is dedicated to a general overview of the ***programmes and policies*** adopted and implemented in the EU territories (with third country partnership) from 1999 to 2010, with a short overview of the most recent ongoing actions.

The aim of this section is to analyse the state of play of the cooperation among stakeholders and institutions in the field of circular migration, in order to evaluate what has been done and to learn from past experiences. As described in chapter 1, return is a poliedric issue, encompassing several categories and gathering several legal conditions.

From each practice collected, some interesting findings can be transferred and taken into consideration for further development or projects. In particular, the attention should be paid to “methodology of involvement of public authorities” and to “alternative / innovative fund raising components”.

List of programmes:



SPAIN: Modelo Migratorio de Retorno Voluntario basado en el Desarrollo de la Capacidad Empresarial

Objective	The general objective of the Project is to promote the participation of migrants to the social and economic development of their country of origin, starting from the local communities, through the establishment (direct or indirect) of productive activities. The specific objective is to create new business in the CO managed by Spanish migrants, or by returning physically or by a distance management through remittances targeted to local actors. The project will be targeted to: Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Uruguay and foresees 5 components: 1) development of the network and dissemination; 2) entrepreneurship creation programme; 3) channelling of remittances towards productive activities; 4) organization of entrepreneurial networks; 5) implementation of a monitoring and evaluation programme.
Partnership	SPAIN: Fundación CREA COLOMBIA: Universidad Sergio Arboleda BOLIVIA: Fundación "FIE" ECUADOR: Fundación Alternativa URUGUAY: Fundación Fundasol
Legal Framework	Spanish Government Funds
Contacts	Fundación Crea Empresa - Paseo de la Castellana, 140, 28046 Madrid TLF.: +34 91.563.06.66 FAX.: +34 91.411.49.10 Email: info@fundacioncreaempresa.com Website: http://www.fundacioncreaempresa.com/index.html
Strengths	The great availability of money allocated (7 mlns euro). The strong political commitment and the signature of bilateral agreements.



ITALY: MIDA Ghana - Senegal

Objective	<p>The objective of the MIDA project is to contribute to the socioeconomic development of Ghana and Senegal, through the identification and transfer of skills, financial, social and professional resources of the expatriates living in Italy and the promotion of partnerships between hosting and origin communities. More specifically, MIDA Ghana/Senegal supports Ghanaian and Senegalese expatriates living in Italy who are interested in promoting the economic and social development of their home country through the promotion of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Co-development projects within the perspective of decentralized cooperation;2. Business Development Services (BDS) to support the start up of small-to-medium enterprises (SMEs) in the country of origin;3. Innovative mechanisms for remittance transfer and microfinance.
Partnership	<p>MIDA-Ghana/Senegal is a project promoted by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and supported by the Italian Cooperation (Ministry of Foreign Affairs).</p>
Legal Framework	<p>Italian Department for International Cooperation</p>
Contacts	<p>International Organization for Migration – IOM Rome</p> <p>Via Nomentana, 62 Rome - Italy</p> <p>Tel.: +39 06.44 186 223 - Tel. : +39 06.44 186 230 - Fax: +39 06.440 25 33</p> <p>E-mail: Midaitalia@iom.int</p>
Strengths	<p>It is a project specifically targeted on 2 countries and it counts on a solid financial availability. It foresees "business development courses" and "money and remittances transfer mechanisms". Some concrete projects had been selected: 12 projects – 5 in Ghana and 7 in Senegal - which were each awarded funding from a minimum of € 9.063 to a maximum of € 30.000 (period: 2006 / 2007).</p>



NURSE Return Migration

Objective

Founded in 2005 as a joint endeavor between CGFNS International and the International Council of Nurses, the International Centre on Nurse Migration (ICNM) serves as a global resource for the development, promotion and dissemination of research, policy and information on global nurse migration. Vision: the International Centre on Nurse Migration occupies a key role in establishing dynamic, effective global and national migration policy and practice that facilitate safe patient care and positive practice environments for nurse migrants. Mission: to serve as a global resource for the development, promotion and dissemination of research, policy and information on nurse migration. Goals/Policy: the ethical recruitment and equitable treatment of migrating nurses is a fundamental principle of the International Centre on Nurse Migration. The goals are: to promote, collect, create and disseminate data and information on nurse migration; to act as a resource centre on nurse migration; to track trends and patterns of global healthcare workforce migration; to analyze current policy, generate policy options and advocate for sound policy concerning nurse migration; to promote, undertake and disseminate research on nurse migration, particularly concerning the migrant nurse workforce; to provide consultation and expert advice on nurse migration; to offer continuing education about migration.

Partnership

CGFNS International (<http://www.cgfns.org/>)

International Council of Nurses (<http://www.icn.ch/>)

Legal

Framework

Contacts

Mailing Address - 3600 Market Street, Suite 400 Philadelphia, PA 19104-2651 USA

Phone: +1 215 243 5841 - Fax: +1 215 387 7497 – Email [info- icnm@intlnursemigration.org](mailto:info-icnm@intlnursemigration.org)

Strengths

It is targeted to a specific sector of high-skilled jobs. "circular and return migration": nurses and medical staff can be critical to development and improving social-economic situations on the countries of origin.



ECUADOR: Plan Retorno Voluntario, Digno y Sostenible

Objective	The SENAMI (Secretaría Nacional del Migrante) is the responsible for the management of the Voluntary, Sustainable Return Plan (Plan de Retorno Voluntario, Digno y Sostenible) in Ecuador. This return plan does not necessarily imply the physical return of the migrants: it is also based on political, cultural and economic – including remittances and savings - participation of the Ecuadorian citizens living abroad, through bilateral activities. Going deep on economic return, the Plan also foresees the creation of a Migrant Bank, of a Network of Units for the support to the business plan creation and implementation and many other tools. Concerning the “physical return”, the plan foresees a “virtual platform”, a “support service from SENAMI offices” and a strong cooperation with the Ecuadorian Embassy.
Partnership	SENAMI (Secretaría Nacional del Migrante), Banco del Migrante
Legal Framework	Ecuador Government Funds
Contacts	www.migranteecuatoriano.gov.ec Italian SENAMI Office: Senami en Milán, Piazza Bottini No. 1 – zona Lambrate – Milán
Strengths	Creation of the “Fondo Concursable EL CUCAYO”: targeted to the Ecuadorian migrant willing to return in Ecuador for setting up a business, it foresees also counselling and support (financial and technical). The 25% is funded by SENAMI (not more than 15.000 euro for individual undertakings, not more than 50.000 euro for partnerships), while the other 75% by the migrant. http://www.migranteecuatoriano.gov.ec/content/view/1370/211/



CZECH REPUBLIC: voluntary return plan


Objective	<p>With the Voluntary Return, the Czech Interior Ministry's Programme offers assistance to foreigners willing to come back in their country of origin, by paying 500 € for the travel. The International Organization for Migration (IOM) in Prague is in charge of this programme. Over the past eleven months the ministry was ready to assist some 4,000 foreigners but much fewer people than expected applied. IOM in the Czech Republic operates the Assisted Voluntary Return Programme to facilitate the voluntary and orderly return of irregular migrants and asylum seekers who decide to withdraw their asylum claim to their country of origin, and to contribute towards the sustainability of their return. The project includes return counselling and information dissemination, pre-departure assistance, transit assistance, assistance upon arrival and reintegration assistance. IOM provides potential beneficiaries with information about the advantages of assisted voluntary return through information materials and outreach efforts, and assistance in arranging the voluntary return (obtaining travel documentation, purchasing travel tickets, departure, transit and arrival assistance).</p>
Partnership	Czech Interior Ministry, International Organization for Migration (IOM) in Prague
Legal Framework	National Law
Contacts	IOM, Czech Republic Office, Dukelských hrdinů 692/35 - 170 00 Praha 7, Czech Republic. Tel: (+420) 233 37 01 60, (+420) 233 37 67 90. Fax: (+420) 233 38 22 59. email: prague@iom.int
Strengths	The first phase of the scheme, which lasted until July 2009, was fairly successful as nearly 2,000 people applied to return to their country of origin.

Objective	<p>The World Diaspora Fund (WDF) has been launched at the headquarters of the International Organization for Migration, as an international cooperative of migrants involved in the development of their countries of origin.</p> <p>The World Diaspora Fund is therefore intended to offer migrants a secure investment vehicle that will contribute to the development of their countries of origin. The WDF will invest through loans, guarantees, or even taking stakes in microfinance institutions in the South. The Fund will also participate in financing infrastructure identified by the migrants. The WDF will invest through guarantees, loans and equity in Microfinance institutions that are regulated and sustainable. It will also participate to the co-financing of infrastructures proposed by the migrants. The WDF is willing to offer to migrants a profitable and secure investment like most of the microfinance funds.</p>
Partnership	<p>The creation of this Fund is an initiative of the Working Group of the International Migrants Remittances Observatory for Least Developed Countries (IMRO), in partnership with several public and private organizations. It's also a part of the follow up of the recommendations of the Ministerial Conference of LDCs on enhancing the impact of remittances on development, hosted in Cotonou (Benin) in February 2006 by the Government of the Republic of Benin, with support from the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the Office of the United Nations High Representative for Least Developed Countries (UN-OHRLS), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Norway, Ireland and the World Bank.</p>
Legal Framework	<p>The World Diaspora Fund is today a Swiss cooperative in which every migrant can be represented through the purchase of one CHF 100 share or more (5 shares per entity) or the equivalent in USD or EUR. The WDF will become an investment vehicle open to individuals, public and private investors for which the migrant cooperatives will be one of the main governance bodies.</p>
Contacts	<p><i>WDF International Secretariat</i> : C/O OITFM Genève 2, rue de la Faucille, 1201 Geneva SWITZERLAND Tél.+41 788785326 Fax +41225948267, jpouit@oitfm.org</p> <p><i>WDF Africa Secretariat</i> : C/O OITFM, 02 BP 2766 Cotonou BENIN Tél. +229 21308297 info@oitfm.org Website: http://www.oitfm.org/wdf</p>
Strengths	<p>Although it is too early to assess the impact of the fund, its approach that remittances (especially collective remittances) are at the core of the initiative.</p>

Objective	<p>AFFORD concentrates on supporting the African diaspora in the UK to contribute to wealth and job creation in Africa. AFFORD was founded as a UK registered charity in 1994 by a group of Africans in the UK, in response to concerns, that despite the vast number of Africans in the UK who organize themselves and contribute to Africa's development, Africans were effectively marginalized from mainstream development activity directed towards Africa. AFFORD's a mission to enhance and expand the capacity of Africans in the diaspora to contribute to Africa's development. By 2008 AFFORD has mobilized African diaspora communities/groups in the diaspora to invest their time, as well as their financial, intellectual, cultural, political and social capital to create/support small, micro & medium sized enterprises (SMMEs) that focus on providing employment opportunities for young people in DRC, Ghana, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Uganda.</p>
Partnership	<p>No official partnership, but several links with diaspora's organizations and association and other stakeholders</p>
Legal Framework	<p>Private, diaspora-led initiative</p>
Contacts	<p>AFFORD - African Foundation for Development Castle Works, 21 St Georges Road - London SE1 6ES Tel : 020 7582 3578 - Fax : +44 (0)20 7587 3919 Email : afford@afford-uk.org Website : www.afford-uk.org</p>
Strengths	<p>The creation of a specific Funding Programme: Supporting Entrepreneurs and Enterprise Development in Africa or SEEDA is AFFORD's flagship programme. SEEDA harness the resources of the African diaspora - skills, know-how and finance - to support small and medium-sized businesses in Africa. Since the first SEEDA mission to Sierra Leone in March 2006, four further missions have been undertaken, supported by Voluntary Services Overseas Diaspora Volunteering Initiative. So far 70 diaspora Resource Persons (RPs) have invested over £120,000 worth of their time and money, engaging with 800 plus businesses, assisting them with book-keeping, business planning, marketing, and even with opening bank accounts and securing capital.</p>

Section 2: Return Projects at EU, national, regional and local level

This section is dedicated to a general overview of the **concrete projects** adopted and implemented in the EU territories (with third country partnership) from 1999 to the present day

 <p>Country of Return Information Project</p>	Country of Return Information Project (CRI)
Objective	Independent or voluntary return can be a valid option on condition that it is indeed the returnee's own personal choice and that his safety and dignity are guaranteed. In order to make that decision, potential returnees must be well informed about their perspectives upon return. The Country of Return Information Project aims to do just this: helping people to decide whether they should stay or go. And if they choose to go, helping them with the preparations. And this by providing all the necessary information returnees need, focused on their personal situation. This programme only targets refugees and asylum seekers.
Partnership	Vluchtelingenwerk Vlaanderen (VwV) www.vluchtelingenwerk.be Consiglio Italiano per i Rifugiati (CIR) www.cir-onlus.org Caritas International Belgium (CIB) Coördination et Initiatives pour Réfugiés et Étrangers (CIRÉ) www.cire.be Austrian Centre for Country of Origin and Asylum Research and Documentation (ACCORD) http://www.rotekreuz.at Hungarian Helsinki Committee (HHC) www.helsinki.hu
Legal Framework	The Country of Return Information Project runs until the end of 2007 and is funded by the European Community. European Refugees Fund Community Action 2003.
Contacts	HELPDESK RETURN: tel. +32/ 2- 274 00 23 E Mail: return@vluchtelingenwerk.be Website: http://www.ecoi.net/
Strengths	Good level of analysis on how to collect information on return. Presence of a "training set for operators" (with a training platform online: http://www.ecoi-training.net/content/). Production of updated "country sheets".



IRRICO II: Enhanced and Integrated Approach regarding Information on Return and Reintegration in C.of Origin

Objective	<p>IRRICO II is a project carried out by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) that aims to provide information for migrants considering returning back to their countries of origin. IRRICO II provides information about return and reintegration possibilities in the countries that are highlighted in the world map above. Information is provided in the form of country sheets about health care, housing, education, employment, business opportunities, custom issues, and transportation. In addition, in each country of origin, a contact list is provided with the addresses of relevant organizations and service providers: hospitals, schools, universities, ministries, NGOs, etc. The IRRICO II project provides information about 20 countries of origin (countries in orange). By clicking on the countries in light blue on the map, you can also find information about some other countries that IRRICO II does not cover. This information comes from the CRI project (Country of Return Information), a similar project coordinated by the Flemish Refugee Council with the same target of migrants (refugees and asylum seekers).</p>
Partnership	<p>IOM Brussels Office</p>
Legal Framework	<p>European Refugees Fund</p>
Contacts	<p>Website: http://irrico.belgium.iom.int/</p>
Strengths	<p>It gives way to an interesting publication named "Practical Guide on Information Provision Regarding Return and Reintegration in Countries of Origin" (http://irrico.belgium.iom.int/images/stories/documents/IOM%20Brochure%20low%20res-web(1).pdf). Interesting "country sheets". A very useful database of contacts in countries of origin in the website.</p>



ZIRF: Information Centre for Voluntary Return

Objective	<p>Planning, co-ordination and networking for the promotion of voluntary return; Enhancement of the assistance counselling through the bundling of relevant information; Efficient use of available resources for the promotion of voluntary return.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Initiation and assessment of project applications for the assistance in a voluntary return - also in co-operation with other institutions.2. Provision, accumulation, compilation and transfer of information for: information centres, public authorities responsible for foreigners, social welfare offices and other public authorities; other participating institutions (eg. IOM, AGEF, GTZ); carriers of non-government, non church affiliated welfare organisations; persons interested in voluntary return.
Partnership	<p>German Federal Office for Migration and Refugees Frankenstraße 210 90461 Nürnberg Information Centre for Voluntary Return – ZIRF Gerlinde Wachter Frankenstraße 210 90461 Nürnberg</p>
Legal Framework	<p>German National Funds</p>
Contacts	<p>Hotline: 0911/943-4333 Fax: 0911/943-4899 Email: zif@bamf.de Website: www.zif.eu</p>
Strenght	<p>With the project ZIRF-Counselling, ZIRF offers individual counselling within the assisted voluntary return. Through ZIRF-Counselling, the following will be provided for:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">a) Country-specific information sheets for currently 29 countries of origin Information on: general situation, labour market, housing situation, health care, etc;b) Responses to inquiries of the prospective returnees that will be answered directly in their home country. <p>Great database online with an huge amount of information and data concerning countries of origin.</p>



ILO return projects: Asia

Afghanistan	Capacity building for return, reintegration and temporary migration of afghan workers and their protection <i>May 2006 to June 2008</i> <p>The ILO has been working with the UNHCR since 2004 in its efforts to seek a durable and comprehensive solution to the problem of Afghan displacement. This technical cooperation project was a follow up to the research phase on the Afghan displaced population in Iran and Pakistan and returnees in Afghanistan. (provide links to the two reports) The immediate objectives of the project are: a) improve the capacity of the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, Martyrs and Disabled (MoLSAMD), to develop temporary labour migration programmes for Afghan workers consistent with their protection; to formulate policies and programmes for sustainable reintegration of returnees in the Afghan labour market; and improve the policy, legislative and regulatory framework relating to labour migration. The project has assisted with the establishment of a unit to address labour migration issues in the MoLSAMD, reviewed the existing legislation relating to migration, conducted training seminars for tripartite partners, and organized a study tour to the Philippines for government officials.</p>
Contacts	M. Piyasiri Wickramasekara, Senior Migration Specialist, ILO MIGRANT, Tel: +41.22.799.64.97, E-mail: wickramasekara@ilo.org .
Strengths	It foresees concrete support for returnees in country of origin.



ILO return projects: Africa

Nigeria, Mali, Mauritania **Technical assistance to better regulate migratory flows from Senegal, Mauritania and Mali to Spain**

Description

November 2006 - June 2007

The ILO has recently started the implementation of a project covering Senegal, Mauritania and Mali also designed to support efforts to maximise social and economic benefits of migration for the region of the Sahel, for Spain, and for migrant workers, in line with the principles of equality and non discrimination. This project is kindly supported by the Government of Spain and will be carried out in close cooperation with vocational training and labour administration institutions in the countries of origin and with Spanish authorities, with a view to support orderly migration toward Spain and maximise the development benefits of migration for both countries of origin and destination. The Rabat Plan of action suggest that measures are put in place to "guarantee that sufficient skills are available for the development of African countries" and to strengthen the cooperation in terms of professional training. In line with this suggestion, this project focus on facilitating matching of labour market supply and demand for migrant workers and on enhancing the employability of selected migrant workers through support to vocational training institutions and improvement of training and employment services in countries of origin. This project will therefore contribute to match the Spanish enterprises demand for migrant workers through temporary migration schemes in full respect with migrant workers rights and at the same time promote means to effectively reintegrate migrant into the national labour market upon return.

Contacts

Ms. Gloria Moreno Fontes, Migration Specialist, ILO MIGRANT, Tel: +41.22.799.78.54, E-mail: mfontes@ilo.org or M. Federico Barroeta, Project Coordinator, ILO Sub-Regional Office for the Sahel, Dakar, Tel: +221.338.24.98.11, E-mail: barroeta@ilo.org.

Strengths

It deals not only with refugees and asylum seekers, but also with regular migrants by promoting the brain gain and to favour productive return.



IOM: Return of Qualified Afghans

Objective	The 'Return for Qualified Afghans' programme (EU-RQA), co-funded by the European Commission, offered comprehensive assistance packages to qualified and highly qualified Afghans residing in the EU who wished to return to their home country to work in the public and private sectors. The EU-RQA programme focused on the development of critical sectors in Afghanistan including: private businesses that provide goods and services in the domestic market, civil and social services, public infrastructure, and rural development. The EU-RQA programme ended in June 2005. It facilitated the return of 150 qualified and skilled Afghans (14 female and 136 male) to Afghanistan to take up assignments according to their professional backgrounds. The programme is regrettably no longer able to place further candidates.
Partnership	IOM (International Organization for Migration) Afghan Interim Administration, Afghan Assistance Coordination Authority
Legal Framework	European Union Fund for Refugees 2003
Contacts	For further information, please contact the coordination office in Brussels at the following phone number: +32-2-282 45 74, or write to MRFBusselsRQA@iom.int
Strengths	Skilled returnees may have a greater potential from a developmental perspective



IOM: Supporting Migrants and Potential Migrants from Egypt through Information

Objective	Support the Ministry of Manpower and Emigration, in particular the Emigration and Egyptians Abroad Sector (EEAS), in managing regular migration flows from Egypt. Create a database accessible via website that would allow job matches to be made between Egyptian jobseekers and prospective employers abroad. Strengthen the ties between the Egyptians abroad and their homeland. This project consists of two phases: IMIS and IMS Plus . IMIS started in June 2001 and ended in December 2005, while IMIS Plus started in February 2008 and will end in January 2010. IMIS covered the setting up of the website (www.emigration.gov.eg) and data centre, as well as strengthening the skills of the MME in language, information technology, management and research. The website was launched in October 2009, with IOM Rome carrying out seminars to inform Italian entrepreneurs on the availability of a system for identifying workers. IMIS Plus fine-tunes the integrated information system set up in Phase I in addition to strengthening socio-economic ties with Egyptians abroad and promoting the more effective management of Egyptian labour migration. It focuses on the practical application of the system by facilitating the insertion of Egyptian migrant workers in the Italian labour market and by providing appropriate information on investments for promoting the transfer in remittances. The Italian case study will be used as an example to be applied to other Egyptian migration receiving countries.
Partnership	Ministry of Manpower and Emigration, in particular the Emigration and Egyptians Abroad Sector (EEAS), IOM (International Organization for Migration), Italian Government
Legal Framework	Italian Cooperation Office Fund 1.605.659.22 € [donor]
Contacts	Luigi Carta (Project Manager, Integrated Migration Information System), International Organization for Migration - MRF Cairo, 29 Ahmed Heshmat Street, 3rd floor, Zamalek Cairo, Egypt. Tel: +20.2 735 08 79 +20.2 735 70 53 +20.2 736 08 48 Fax: +20.2 736 37 57 E mail: lcarta@iom.it
Strengths	"The project was an overall success. Both the Ministry of Manpower and Emigration and the donor agreed on the success of the project and commit to extend the activities to Phase II (IMIS Plus). From the database, several lists of workers in different sectors were extracted to fulfill the needs of other pilot projects. Phase II will fill the gaps of the original project and will make the system even more comprehensive."



IOM: Encouraging Moroccan Migrants to become Agents of Development

Objective	Mig-resources, short for "Migration and Return, Resources for Development" is an IOM programme that focuses on Moroccan migrants as potential agents of development. It aims to create favourable conditions in Italy and Morocco for expatriates to invest at home, either through temporary or permanent return programmes, targeted investments of remittances or through the creation of a trans-national network of firms, migrants' associations and public administrations in both countries. Knowing that the average Moroccan migrant leaves his country with good qualifications which are rarely employed in Italy at a level proportionate to his skills, the project aims to reverse this by favouring better social and professional integration in Italy. It also encourages effective socio-economic development of Morocco through the targeted investment of migrants' remittances, the improvement of social and technological transfers, and the return of migrants.
Partnership	Carried out by IOM's Rome office, in cooperation with the Italian research and training institute Centro di Ricerca e Documentazione Febbraio '74 (CERFE), the Rabat-based Centre d'Etudes et de Recherches Démographiques (CERED) and the Hassan II Foundation for Moroccans Residing Abroad,
Legal Framework	The project is financed by the Italian Ministry for Foreign Affairs – Italian Cooperation.
Contacts	International Organization for Migration, MRF Rome Via Nomentana 62, 00161 Rome Italy. E Mail: MRFRome@iom.it
Strengths	Training and appropriate job placements in Italy for potential Moroccans who plan to go abroad. Assessment of and guidance on projects (whether investments, small businesses, or not-for-profit cooperation) for Moroccan migrants who plan to return, and assistance in carrying them out. Networking with representatives from the political, institutional, social and economic sectors of Morocco and Italy. Access to a database on integration opportunities in Italy and professional opportunities for migrants who return.

INT ENT

Objective	<p><u>General:</u> to contribute to the development and strengthening of entrepreneurship in the programme countries by assisting (starting) migrant entrepreneurs, currently living in the Netherlands, who wish to set up a business in their country of origin, through training, counselling, facilitation of a market research and mediation to obtain bank financing.</p> <p><u>Specific:</u> to select clients on the basis of entrepreneurial attitude and characteristics, as well as potential for success of their business idea; to provide training, counselling and advice so that they can carry out a thorough market research and draw up a reliable business plan; to act as an intermediary towards banks and other financial institutions, so that those entrepreneurs, who need and can afford a bank loan, are able to get it; to provide complementary financial services in particular guarantees when the entrepreneur has insufficient collateral or other bank securities; to provide follow-up business advisory services during the first the start up phases; to draw lessons learned to serve as a basis for further policy development in the area of enterprising across borders.</p>
Partnership	DOEN Foundation, HIVOS, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Dutch Govt., Afghanistan, Ghana, Morocco, Netherlands, Netherlands Antilles, Suriname, Turkey
Legal Framework	Dutch Government Funding and Donors
Contacts	Website: http://www.ondernemenoverdegrens.nl/
Strengths	<p>Starting a business in another country is not easy. Years of experience have shown IntEnt that financing your business can be difficult. That's why IntEnt has its Friends & Family Fund (FFF). With the FFF entrepreneurs can get their seed capital easier. They do this together with Friends, Family and the IntEnt Guarantee Fund.</p> <p>By the end of 2003 more than 3600 persons approached IntEnt for information. Around 900 afterwards registered as clients of whom almost 800 were admitted. Most of these were from Surinam, followed by Ghana, Morocco, Dutch Antilles and Turkey.</p> <p>The project gives way to the creation of a "business activity" still active (2010, see the website).</p>

MIREM Project	
Objective	The main objective of the MIREM project revolves around a more in-depth consideration of the challenges linked to return migration as well as its impact on development. Analyses and user-friendly tools are provided to understand further the impact of return migration on the Maghreb countries. These are aimed at identifying the factors inherent in the returnees' migratory experience, as well as those that are external to it, which shape their patterns of reintegration, as well as their opportunities to participate in the development of the Maghreb countries (Algeria, Morocco, and Tunisia). The dissemination of the MIREM outcomes among migration and development stakeholders in the EU and the Maghreb is also a key objective designed to facilitate a constructive dialogue, through the concrete exploitation of the produced data.
Partnership	<p>MIREM project's coordination unit works at the Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies of the European University Institute. Its main purpose is the organisation of the research activities of the project. The Coordination Unit is also the basis for the research done by all the institutional partners who participate in the project framework, in:</p> <p><u>Algeria</u>: Centre de Recherche en Economie Appliquée pour le Développement (CREAD, Algiers). Responsible for MIREM project: Mr. Mohamed Saib MUNETTE</p> <p><u>Morocco</u>: Association Marocaine d'Etudes et de Recherches sur les Migrations (AMERM, Rabat). Responsible for MIREM project: Mr. Mohamed KHACHANI. Institut National de Statistique et d'Economie Appliquée (INSEA, Rabat). Responsible for MIREM project: Mr. Mehdi LAHLOU</p> <p><u>Tunisia</u>: Office des Tunisiens à l'Etranger (OTE, Tunis). Responsible for MIREM project: Mrs. Raja CHAIEB, Mr. Abderrazak BEL HAJ ZEKRI</p>
Legal Framework	EU funding (European Commission and European University Institute)
Contacts	<p>MIREM Project: European University Institute, Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies - Via delle Fontanelle, 19, 50014 San Domenico di Fiesole (FI) - Italy</p> <p>Phone: +39 055 46 85 819 Fax: +39 055 46 85 770 E Mail: jpcassarino@eui.eu</p>
Strength	This is probably the most significant "resource center" in the field of return migration



REMADE Project

Objective	The REMADE project is "a European Union co-funded project that will last for three years to December 2011 - is taking place in the UK, Netherlands and Ghana. It is a project that works with people who are serious about business. The REMADE project is an initiative that works with those people who are serious and ready to start their business in Ghana; who have a good portion of their capital - at least 50% - and are looking for one to one assistance to bring their vision into reality. The project also focuses on the importance of having a strong business plan. People are often very excited about bringing the business to life and do not take the time to plan - which can help identify and safeguard against potential pitfalls or help recognise alternative beneficial ways of doing things. Starting anything new is made easier with knowledge and support and that is why the REMADE project is invaluable to those who live outside Ghana or the African Diaspora who seriously want to start a business in Ghana.
Partnership	AFFORD (UK), IntEnt (Netherlands), EMPRETEC, Ghana leading entrepreneur support agency, Ghana Investment Promotion Centre (GIPC)
Legal Framework	European Union Co - funded Project
Contacts	anna@afford-uk.org or call 0207 582 3578
Strength	Creation of " business advisors ", with an office in Ghana. Creation of a Business Club which, for a nominal annual amount, will: provide worthwhile networking opportunities, 15% discount on annual subscription to African Business Magazine plus a 1 year free subscription to African Banker Magazine, talks from leading business people, discussion forums, online networking group.

Objective	<p>ALBAMAR (integrated support towards returning migrants in Albania and Morocco) project targets Moroccan and Albanian migrants, forcedly or voluntarily repatriated to their countries of origin. ALBAMAR aims at the definition and implementation of a sustainable programme of integrated support to return and reintegration, taking into account the complexity of the issues at stake (from psycho-social counselling, to support in economical development). Support will be furnished by way of a pre-departure and post-arrival phase through a process of social and work reintegration. In Albania and Morocco assistance centers will be created to facilitate their reintegration. The project will be implemented in the towns of Turin and Milan in Italy, and the regions of origin of the Moroccan and Albanian communities there, namely the provinces of Khouribga and Beni Mellal, respectively in the region of Chaouia-Ourdigha and Tadla-Asilal, in Morocco and the provinces of Tirana and Shkodra in Albania. The project addresses the following target groups: Returning migrants repatriated from Italy to Morocco and Albania, contacted in the prisons of Turin and Milan (Italy); Albanian and Moroccan migrants in Italy highly exposed to social exclusion, contacted in shelters and care centers in Turin and Milan (Italy); Albanians and Moroccans returned migrants, contacted in their country of origin; Young people at risk of illegal migration in Albania and Morocco, involved in social and cultural activities in their own countries.</p>
Partnership	<p>COOPI (http://www.cooi.org), HFTF (Hope for the Future - Shprese per te Ardhmen, http://www.shprese.org), AVFIC (Amis et Familles Victimes de l'Immigration Clandestine, http://migcom.org), Fondation Zakoura, Maroc. (http://www.zakourafondation.org), PSHM Microfinance institution in Albania (http://www.pshm-oi.org), SRF. S.R.F - Società Ricerca e Formazione (http://www.srfpiemonte.it), CNCA, (http://www.cnca.it)</p>
Legal Framework	<p>EU Funds</p>
Contacts	<p>Piera Turati turati@coopi.org, Paolo Palmerini rabat@coopi.org COOPI – Cooperazione Internazionale , Via De Lemene, 50 - 20151 Milano http://www.cooi.org http://www.albamar.it/index.php</p>

Strengths

Four centres will be opened to provide a variety of services to the returnees. Each centre will provide the following services: psychological counselling, job seeking support, business start-up support, legal counselling, professional training. In Albania the capacity of the NGO already providing similar services (Hope for the Future) will be reinforced in Tirana and a new centre will be opened in Shkodra. In Morocco the centres will be managed in collaboration with the association AFVIC. One centre will be created in Khouibga (Chaouia-Ouardigha region) and the other in Beni-Mellal (Tadla-Azilal region). Returnees' assisted by the centres through placement in the job market (6 months stages), support in business creation (providing access to microcredit services), psychological support, legal counselling and the involvement in social activities.

Objective	<p>The project, implemented by COOPI, CeSPI and CISAO and partially co-financed by the EU, intends to strengthen the Social Capital in Senegal by favouring the creation of a net (migrants in destination and origin countries) with the aim of reinforcing their knowledge and skills and of supporting activities and projects (both social and economic) focused on the development of villages and cities in CO. The project will enable the activation of contacts between Italian and Senegalese entrepreneurs and will improve the opportunities to set up a business. From the other side, it is planned to strengthen the role of migrants as "development agent" for the COs. The project will offer: a) free of charges counselling for economic and social planning; b) co funding, through EU resources, of entrepreneurial projects in Senegal thanks to the activation of a guarantee fund; c) contribution to entrepreneurs who are willing to attend the fairs in Dakar and Monza; d) mobilization of resources of the subjects residing in COs; e) dissemination, information and knowledge sharing activities.</p>
Partnership	COOPI, CeSPI and CISAO
Legal Framework	EU cofinancing
Contacts	<p>COOPI</p> <p>In Italia: Alessandra Soprano, Via F. de Lemene 50, 20151 Milano, Tel. +39 02 3085057, fax +39 02 33403570; soprano@coopio.org, www.coopio.org</p> <p>In Senegal: Maddalena Spada, Av. Birago Diop, rue 5 x F, Point E, Dakar - coopidkr@arc.sn, Tel. +21 825 34 24 — GSM +221 611 47 07</p>
Strengths	A call for proposal had been launched. A guarantee fund (with European Commission resources) had been created.

Strengthening Moldova's Capacity to Manage Labor and Return Migration

Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Promote legal mobility between Moldova and EU; ▶ Provide correct information about migration procedures and opportunities; ▶ Inform about the risks of illegal migration; ▶ Provide both pre-departure trainings and programs for returnees in order to match their expertise and experience with international and national labor market demand.
Partnership	<p><u>Governmental Institutions:</u> Ministry of Economy and Trade, National Employment Agency of Moldova, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Reintegration</p> <p><u>National Stakeholders:</u> Trade Unions, The National Confederation for Trade Union in Moldova, The National Federation of Employers in Agriculture and Food Industry (FNPAIA), National Confederation of Trade Unions of Moldova</p> <p><u>International Stakeholders:</u> Bulgaria (Ministry of Labour and Social Policy and Ministry of Interior), Cyprus (Department of Labour of the Ministry of Labour and Social Insurance) , Czech Republic (Ministry of Interior), Greece (Ministry of Interior), Germany (Federal Office for Migration and Refugees and German Federal Ministry of Interior and Centre for international Migration and Development (CIM) - German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development), Hungary (The Office of Immigration and Nationality, National Employment and Social Office, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Justice and Law Enforcement), Italy (Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Policies), Lithuania (Lithuanian Labour Exchange), Poland (Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, Ministry of Interior and Administration), Romania (Ministry of Labour, Family and Equal Opportunities, National Agency for Employment), Slovakia (Ministry of Interior), Sweden (Ministry of Justice)</p> <p><u>International organizations:</u> European Training Foundation (ETF), Hivab International, International Labor Migration, International Organization for Migration, United Nations Development Fund for Women</p>
Legal Framework	Funded by: Sida and European Commission (EuropeAid)
Contacts	<p>Representative of Swedish Public Employment Service in Moldova: 77 Vlaicu Parcalab str, entrance 6, Chişinău, MD 2012. Republic of Moldova. Tel/ Fax: + 373 22 21 31 42</p> <p>E-mail: contact@legal-in.eu Web: www.legal-in.eu</p>

DEVINPRO Project

Objective	<p>Brief description of the initiative:</p> <p>The project aims to directly support migrants to meet their migration-related objectives, specifically related to the accumulation of savings and investment capital. This will include facilitation of networking between communities in countries of origin, migrant communities in host countries, and financial intermediaries.</p> <p>It also aims at maximizing the development aspect of migration, and improve migrant capacities in financial, social, and human capital. This will be achieved through improving investment returns, encouraging entrepreneurship, and creating employment in Moldova.</p> <p>Main objectives:</p> <p>The overall goal of DEVINPRO is to support and leverage the positive impacts of migration vis-à-vis sustainable development.</p> <p>Main activities:</p> <p>Activities include market research on the group of migrants as 'clients'. The project will develop and test a variety of options for transfer of remittances, including but not limited to micro-credit, small loans for housing, health insurance, mutual investment funds, pension and child education savings schemes.</p> <p>Main beneficiaries:</p> <p>the key beneficiary groups (or target groups) of DEVINPRO include: Potential migrants; Circular migrants; Long-term and returning migrants, including Diaspora; Dependents and Entrepreneurs in place of origin.</p>
Partnership	Centre of Sociological, Politological, and Psychological Analysis and Investigations (CIVIS), International Agency for Source Country Information (IASCI)
Legal Framework	Donors: JMDI, European Union (for 2009). IFAD (for 2008)
Contacts	<p>DEVINPRO Project Team.</p> <p>Tel. +355 4 222 53 16. E-mail: DEVINPRO@nexus-mdi.org</p> <p>Web: www.nexus-mdi.org</p>

Focus on Romania

The international economic crisis and the recent trends of Rumanian migration flows have contributed to an increasing importance on the topic of return migration. In the current global economic turndown, not only has the crisis hit the economic systems of migration destination countries, but rather its consequences have been heavily felt also by Romanian citizens and the Romanians abroad. However, this situation has not prompted migrants to return back home in sheer numbers, instead many of them, including Romanians in Italy and other European destinations have opted to live –somewhat precariously- in the destination country instead of returning home, because the prospects of a lower wage, fewer opportunities to find a better paid occupation or job and greater difficulties in setting up an entrepreneurial activity loom and limit return choices. Furthermore, Romania has itself become a “destination country”: the jobs available now in Romania are mostly related to constructions and services for tourism, usually covered by a stronger presence of foreign workers. Paradoxically, “ *the labor force crisis in Romania will worsen gradually, probably exacerbating towards the end of the 2020s, if steps to counterattack the more and more obvious lack of personnel are not taken, especially in fields such as construction, textile industry and HORECA (hotels, restaurants, cafés)*”²². Potential returning migrants are not likely to apply for such a jobs, because they reached a different status, thanks to higher earnings abroad. So, at the end of the day, there is a mismatch between the political and economic needs and strategy, and the perception of actual opportunities by Romanian citizens abroad.

This notwithstanding, in 2009, Romania continued to be an emigration country, but the rhythm of departures continued the deceleration that began in 2006. Estimations based on multiple data sources point to an increase in stock of Romanians working abroad during 2008 (from about 2.2 million in 2006 to about 2.8 million). For 2009, as a result of both increased return migration and a decreasing departure rate, there was an expected slowdown. In an increasingly stable profile of international migration, Italy and Spain continued to have the highest concentrations of Romanians working abroad. So, in 2009, in a Romania affected to its core by the global economic crisis, the direction of evaluations changed, at least regarding one issue - return migration. Driven apparently by economic downturn in destination countries, return migration became a matter of serious concern²³.

In 2009, the Program Managing Migration in Romania has identified three main axes:

- I. To sustain the implementation efforts of an efficient migration management and to promote public policies recommendations with the purpose of their integration within the efficient migration management system.
- II. To elaborate and contribute to the implementation of public policies, on a medium and short term, aiming a benefit regulation of immigration phenomenon in Romania.
- III. To support the development and integration of focused public policies on specific areas of migration such as: ***return migration***, gender and migration, ***remittances and economic development***.

²² Soros Foundation Romania, Labor Market in Romania and the Immigration - November the 28th, 2007.

²³ Monica Șerban, in the website <http://www.migrationonline.cz/centraleasterneurope/2009/#n5> , Principal research fellow, Research Institute for the Quality of Life, Romanian Academy of Sciences

In particular, the third axis is meant to be implemented through focused research and analysis on specific aspects of migration: return migration, gender and migration, remittances and social-economical development, and through the establishment and consolidation of relevant expertise on the proposed subjects, by developing and promoting specific recommendations for public policies focused on these specific areas of migration²⁴.

Focusing on returnees (and circular migration in general) people with a working experience abroad develop a specific attitude pattern: they tend to be more critic towards the state of things in Romania, but are much more optimistic about the future. They return with superior standards, which favour social criticism both on state of things in their communities and in present day Romania. Furthermore, people without working experience abroad who intend to go to work in a foreign country are the most dissatisfied with their community and country. The dynamic optimism - discontent for the present and optimism about the future - is a common element among people intending to migrate and those that have already done it. At the opposite end, the chronic pessimism - "it is not working and we have not seen the worst yet" - appears most commonly in households without migrating experience. Survey data reveal respondents' belief that the main negative consequences of temporary migration are related to family. Almost half of the respondents that consider people going to work abroad a bad thing (46%) sustain their position with arguments related to family life. The distance, equivalent to a certain level of affectivity deprivation, is the highlighted negative consequence (35%). In the same category arguments such as "family breaking" (9%) or "suffering of those left home" (1%) are also mentioned²⁵.

The need for strong and concrete measures in the field of return migration is underlined also by the *Strategic National Report Regarding Social Protection And Social Inclusion (2008 – 2010)* when it declares that "it is worth mentioning that the migration of the labour force had a positive evolution since a significant percentage of the labour force chose to look for a job outside the borders of Romania. This caused a labour force deficit, which needs to be covered by emergency measures to attract and stimulate workers in returning to the country".

It is interesting also to note that being part of the European Union has also been an obstacle for Romanian government to identify opportunities and incentives to re-attract Romanian citizen back.

Considering the Spanish VRP – the voluntary return plan that foresees the payment of unemployment benefits and access to credit with a clause of no-return for at least 5 years -- the ban on return was one reasons why the labor program did not apply to the EU citizens, as in contrast with the current European Union "freedom of movement" principle. With no internal controls and the right for EU citizens to reside anywhere in the EU, it would be impossible to extend the program to e.g. Romanians. The Romanian government was nonetheless interested in extending the voluntary return to its citizens because emigration had weakened its ability to attract foreign investment and make the most of post-EU accession development funds. The Romanian government lacked funds to motivate its citizens to go back so the Spanish voluntary return program would have been very helpful, particularly following the abrogation of transitional labor

²⁴ http://www.osf.ro/en/program_articol.php?articol=143

²⁵ data source: Living Abroad on a Temporary Basis - The Economic Migration of Romanians: 1990 - 2006, released today by the Open Society Foundation.

market mobility periods for the citizens of Romania (and Bulgaria) on the Spanish labor market (January 1, 2009). Some Romanians who had lost their jobs in Spain returned home spontaneously but were thought to soon re-enter Spain after realizing that the employment prospects in Romania were illusory²⁶.

Back in June, Spanish and Romanian authorities had considered measures to provide incentives for employed Romanian migrants to return home to fill public sector vacancies. With the recent austerity measures announced by Bucharest, however, including the slashing of 10,000 jobs in the public administration, such plans seem now off the table.

Section 3: Return projects and programmes involving Romania

With the following two experiences, the One Stop Desk of the SME project has started a collaboration in order to create synergies between the objectives of each initiative, and to increase the opportunities for return enterprise creation.

	MEDIT Project
Objective	<p>Intended as “model for transnational cooperation for the return of Romanian migrants”, the MEDIT project planned to establish tools able to inform Romanians migrant in Italy concerning the situation in Romania and to get local institution ready to support the Romanian returnees once they decided to go back. The project intends to use “transnational cooperation” for improving the matching between the labour demand by Romanian migrants in Italy and labour offer by the Romanian employers.</p> <p>The project will last till March 2011, and aims at creating information tools for Romanians in Italy about the situation in Romania, in order to pave the way for a productive return.</p>
Partnership	<p>National Agency for Employment (Anofm)</p> <p>Italia Lavoro</p>
Legal Framework	<p>ESF Fund</p>
Contacts	<p>Graziella Lobello (Italia Lavoro)</p> <p>Italia Lavoro SpA - 00197 Roma - Via Guidubaldo del Monte, 60</p>

²⁶ Piotr Plewa, THE 2008/2009 FINANCIAL CRISIS: SPAIN'S VOLUNTARY RETURN PROGRAM: EARLY MECHANISMS AND EARLY RESPONSES piotrek@udel.edu, Department of Political Science and International Relations, University of Delaware, USA

Strengths	A transnational labour matching portal will be created (as in Spain). The project however, has not so far yielded significant results, because of the limited job opportunities in the current labor market situation in Romania.
Weakness	

Fondo Microcredito Balcani:

Objective	<p>Funding for Rumanian migrants who want to start up an enterprise in Romania, by investing what had been saved in destination country, plus "special banking tools" for migrants residing in Italy. These are the proposal of Unicredit Bank since 2007. This proposal had been summarized in the "Microcredit Fund for Balkans", managed by Unicredit Group (Tiriak Bank in Romania), with the supervision of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Productive Activities, mainly focused on "female and youth entrepreneurship".</p> <p>This fund offer microcredit for a maximum amount of 20.000 € (with a rate of 2,52% that allows for the fund to be self sustained) with a maximum duration of 5 years, reimbursable through six-month payments.</p> <p>Since 2007, the MFB gave more than 100 loans in Romania, for about a total credit of 1,6 M euro, of which 35% in health and care sector, 25% in services and enterprises, 25% in craftsmanship, and the remaining 15% to individuals or families (wellness and rural-tourism). The funding has been allocated for 40% in Transilvania, for an average amount of 15.200 € in the following sectors: 60% equipment, 30% transportation and 10% buildings.</p>
Partnership	Unicredit Tiriak Bank, Ministry of Productive Activities in Romania, Ministry of External Affairs, Italy, Spirit Romanesc – Roma Association, Risorsa Donna Foundation
Legal Framework	European Balkans reconstruction fund, managed by Italian authorities and banks
Contacts	Costantino Moretti Italian Ministry of External Affairs
Strengths	The presence of a Bank ensure the financial sustainability of the return projects, the amount of credit exceeds the typical microcredit threshold and makes credit accessible for a competitive interest rate.

Section 4: the experience of the Return Information Desk in Veneto

Genesis & Description

The Return Information Desk (RID) (www.sportellorientro.veneto.it), realized by Veneto Region – Direction of Migration Policy -- through its Labour Agency Veneto Lavoro, is a counseling and informative service for regular migrants residing in Veneto Region and having nationality outside the EU territory. Its main objective is to offer beneficiaries support in order to identify and plan a productive return path towards their country of origin.

The RID has been established in the framework of the multi-annual "Immigration Policy Plan – 2007-2009" of the Veneto Region. The actual structure of the RID is informed by a number of preparatory and experimental activities that have taken place before the desk opened in late 2008 and became fully operative in 2009. Some of its activities and tools refer to **additional services developed especially and implemented in the framework of the SME project.**

A series of studies analyzing migration trends, remittances use and the impact of migration on origin countries, as well as a pilot action that co-funded return projects of migrants in Veneto, have given relevant background and knowledge on the return trends and features of migrants residing in Veneto.

The Regional Immigration policy plan inscribes the Return Information Desk in the "Circular Migration" approach, introduced (together with the concept of "partnership for mobility") with the invitation of the European Council to the Commission in December 2006 and refers to "the need of promoting new ways for integration of existing "legal migration tools and opportunities" within External Relation Policy framework, thus implementing EU policy at regional level.

The Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions called "*On circular migration and mobility partnerships between the European Union and third countries*" [COM(2007) 248 final], followed. Point C) of the Commitments to be given by the EC and Member States participating, entitled "Measures to address the risk of brain drain and to promote circular migration or return migration" states that "*mobility partnerships could include, at the request of the third country in question, measures to help address the risk of brain drain... .. they could also include mechanisms to facilitate circular migration, which by nature can help mitigate brain drain. In addition, as part of a mobility partnership, the third country in question, the EC and interested Member States could agree incentive measures to support the return of temporary or seasonal migrants and foster effective circularity of migration. Such incentives would help countries of origin harness the skills and other forms of social capital of returnees or circular migrants and mitigate the impact of brain drain*".

The objectives of this strategy are:

- to suggest and propose new tools in order to favour temporary & circular migration;

- to present detailed proposals on “how organize and inform beneficiaries on legal mobility solutions” between EU Countries and Third Countries;

The objectives are further explained in Chapter III of COM(2007) 248: “Circular Migration”, where a list of priorities had been created: *“first, a common definition of the concept of circular migration is needed. The different forms of circular migration that could be most relevant to the European Union and its Member States also need to be identified. A distinction could be drawn between, on the one hand, putting in place the legislative framework that would facilitate circular migration and, on the other, the possibility of developing circular migration schemes. Such schemes would enable migrants to enter the EU to work, study or perform other activities for a set period of time. Finally, it is important to define the conditions and safeguards that must be put in place to ensure that migration really is circular”.*

The last two priorities (circular migration schemes and conditions and safeguards) are at the core of the Return Information Desk work, whose aim is to create organized and defined paths for return migration targeting the varied experiences of migrants, by giving them all the information required in order to carry on a return project as safe as possible. The RID approach contributes also to the definition of “circular migration” as a bilateral issue taking into consideration both the needs of destination and origin countries.

Operative Framework

The Return Information Desk is planned to operate in a framework where migration phenomena are not considered as “unidirectional”, but “bi-directional” or “multi-directional”. A stronger commitment, both theoretical and operative, from institutions, social and economic actors dealing with migration but also from financial and credit institutions, which are able to support the labour force mobility is needed to this aim.

This commitment must be based on policies and measures (including services) operating at two levels:

1. Information on entering “legal circular migration channels” for potential returnees;
2. Support for Returnees on three levels: competences assessment, socio / occupational reintegration and access to credit

Importantly, point 2 refers to the fact that the desk needs to address all migrants’ resources during the process of acquiring and offering information that support potential returnees in their return project. It is paramount that the return management system takes into consideration and offers advice with knowledge of the human, social and financial capital that each potential returnee brings about.

Services, Activities & Functions

The Return Information Desk is a first-level information and counselling structure.

<i>SIR can:</i>	<i>SIR cannot:</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Give information concerning the opportunities for return and circular migration - Set up "counseling meetings" with beneficiaries in order to guide and support eventual return paths - Build and activate the stakeholders network and its "information flows" 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - directly fund migrants in order to initiate return paths - Make call for proposals or other tenders to finance return projects - Follow the entire return path of the returnees, after the informative / counseling phase

So, concurrently with information activities, the Return Information Desk, together with the Veneto Immigration network (www.venetoimmigrazione.it), has activated a number of public and private organizations operating in the field of migration, in order to update all the potential stakeholders and to be updated with reference to the more recent trends in migratory flows.

- ⇒ Periodical Networking Activities with the practitioners working on migration in the Regional Territory (migration flows, integration, social care, ...) such as Migrants Associations and diasporas, Social Partners, Microcredit Associations/ Institutions, Employment Centers, Chambers of Commerce, Professional Associations and Training centers;
- ⇒ Monitoring activities concerning funding opportunities for productive return projects and information to the beneficiaries;

The Networking Activity in origin countries

An efficient activity of support to potential returnees depends on a strong bilateral relation with countries of origin. networks of stakeholders are necessary not only in host countries, but also where migrants intend to return. The RID operates with some origin countries also in this regard, because of the:

- ***need for updated information:*** often migrants, after a long period spent in another country, have softened (some nationalities more than others) the links with their country of origin and are not always updated on economic and political changes, professional and entrepreneurial opportunities in their origin areas. A constant relation with countries and areas of origin, through a extensive information exchange, can improve the opportunities of success for return projects and push for other similar decisions, should the conditions be fertile for return.
- ***opportunity for productive relationship:*** being in contact with actors responsible for the macro and microeconomic policy of the countries of origin (regions, counties, towns...) can produce business opportunities between nationals and migrants abroad, as well as transfer of knowledge and skills. Return of business and skills can be the means (or the engine) for return of individuals.
- ***Awareness raising of the dangers of illegal migration and the achievements of return migration:*** by organizing bilateral meetings and seminars focused on return.

Through these activities it is possible to raise the awareness of the governments of countries of origin of the economic importance of brain gain and the productive reuse of remittances and savings.

These assumptions of the RID have been shared with the participants of bilateral / international activities carried out by the Return Information Desk of Veneto Region in Senegal, Ukraine and Moldova and, in the framework of the SME project, also in Romania. During the first meetings, the origin country counterparts have highlighted the importance of such dialogue and cooperation, in their words:

... This meeting is important to try to make joint actions to encourage the return of Moldovans to their country of origin. It 's a major initiative that strengthens the existing relationship between the Italian authorities and those of Moldova. I hope we can find the opportunity to make concrete steps to encourage return. (Bruno Castellani, Italian consul in Moldova, Chisinau, 06.02.2009)

...The ideal is to work in "joint venture " with the Veneto Region (or Italy). Often the migrant is seen as a source of the country's development, but it is necessary that remittances are used for development (for investment in the country) and not for consumption (Mamadou Toure, President PAMECAS, Dakar, 05/10 / 2009)

... many of the regions and local governments in Ukraine are doing projects to facilitate the return of Ukrainian emigrants at home. Return is important for the development of relationships and business activities of all countries (Volodymyr Gyshchak, Youth Employment Center of Kyiv , Ukraine, 29/05/2009)

All these interventions underscore the increasing relevance of regional and local authorities and stakeholders in the governance of migration flows (both immigration and return flows). The local dimension²⁷ of international migration is a paradox only in appearance: migration does not take place between countries of origin and host countries, but between specific territories which - via word-of-mouth involving parents, friends and fellow townsmen - are linked by patterns of human enterprise and resources, which migrants inevitably mobilize. Migrants from the same home place often concentrate in the same geographical areas in the host country. The active involvement of regional and local actors is therefore an added value to migration management, including efforts to steer and foster circular and return migration²⁸.

The invitation of the RID to meet stakeholders in the origin country almost seems a banal step, but the meetings have highlighted that building a network on this theme entails a great effort: in all the meetings organized by the RID in 4 countries, many stakeholders sat to share return migration issues around the same table for the first time.

In all visited countries return is perceived as a "development opportunity", even if the efforts of the local governments are considered not sufficient in this direction. With the word "return" countries of origin mean both return of human resources and return of financial resources. Remittances, professional mobility enhancement, recognition of competences, social reintegration and access to credit are the cornerstones of every return project

²⁷ From Migration to Development

Finally, the success of a return policy is strictly based on the level of trust between the different actors, and decision making bodies in particular at different levels. On this last issue a lot remains to be done.

The RID activity in the SME / IFAD project

Although the physical location and some of the RID desk officers and of the SME One-Stop Desk are the same for reasons of sustainability of the service after the end of the IFAD funded project, the activities developed for the target group of would-be return entrepreneurs have been developed in synergy but with specific tasks and approach to meet the objectives of the SME project. In fact, the RID has developed a "methodology" and built a "network" that has been adapted, fine-tuned and greatly improved for the Romanian context

The One Stop Desk is not only a first level entry door for information. It plays a crucial role as collector of potential requests for return, activating the Romanian diaspora, migrant entrepreneurs and provides a full fledged consultancy and financial tools made available by partner financial institutions for entrepreneurial endeavors of migrants, wishing to productively invest or use their remittances in rural areas of Romania. To this aim, a "contest of entrepreneurial ideas" will be launched in the next months.

Activation Of The Romanian actors

In the framework of the SME project, the One stop Desk, in cooperation with the other project partners, has created and maintained a network with the Romanian social and economic fabric in Veneto and other Italian regions in order to inform and reach as many potential beneficiaries as possible. Concurrently, the "transnational approach", has also been implemented:

networking activity in Italy: this action had been carried on through a series of "meetings with Romanian potential entrepreneurs", representatives of the diasporas, Romanian leaders in Italy and church leaders.

networking activity in Romania: the SME Desk has organized two different meetings in Bucharest (the first in January 2010 and the second planned in June 2010) in order to activate all the potential stakeholders useful to support Romanians returnees once back in Romania. The organization of these events has been planned in line with the classic methodology used in the RID regular transnational meetings.

The contacts activated through these meetings had been invited to be part of an **official agreement**.

Conclusions

Successful Support to Migrants: time, preparedness and resources mobilization

To strengthen the link between return migration and development at home, return should not simply be viewed as a voluntary act on the part of the migrant but, above all, as a proof of readiness. The propensity of migrants to become actors of change and development at home depends on the extent to which they have provided for the preparation of their return.

(J.P. Cassarino, Theorising Return Migration, 2004)

Preparation to return and **readiness** are two fundamental pillars of a successful return path. Both pillars are based on a crucial factor: time. What should be clear to all potential returnees is the fact that, in order to be a productive and successful action, return to and enterprise creation in their homeland require enough time and cannot be improvised. On this assumption, as the experience of the RID has also demonstrated, the service and especially the expectations of the returnees need to focus.

Even if crucial, time is not the only factor influencing the results and the achievements of a return path. To be successfully achieved, return preparation also requires **resources mobilization and willingness** on the part of the migrant. In other words, there exist various degrees of return preparation that differ in terms of resource mobilization and preparedness²⁹.

Resources Mobilization

A returnee can be considered "ready to return" when he or she mobilizes enough resources to support him or her along the return path. By "resources" we refer to the 3 Capitals possessed in different degrees by each migrant: human capital, social capital and financial capital. Among them, the latter is composed only by tangible values, while the first 2 components can be both tangible and intangible.

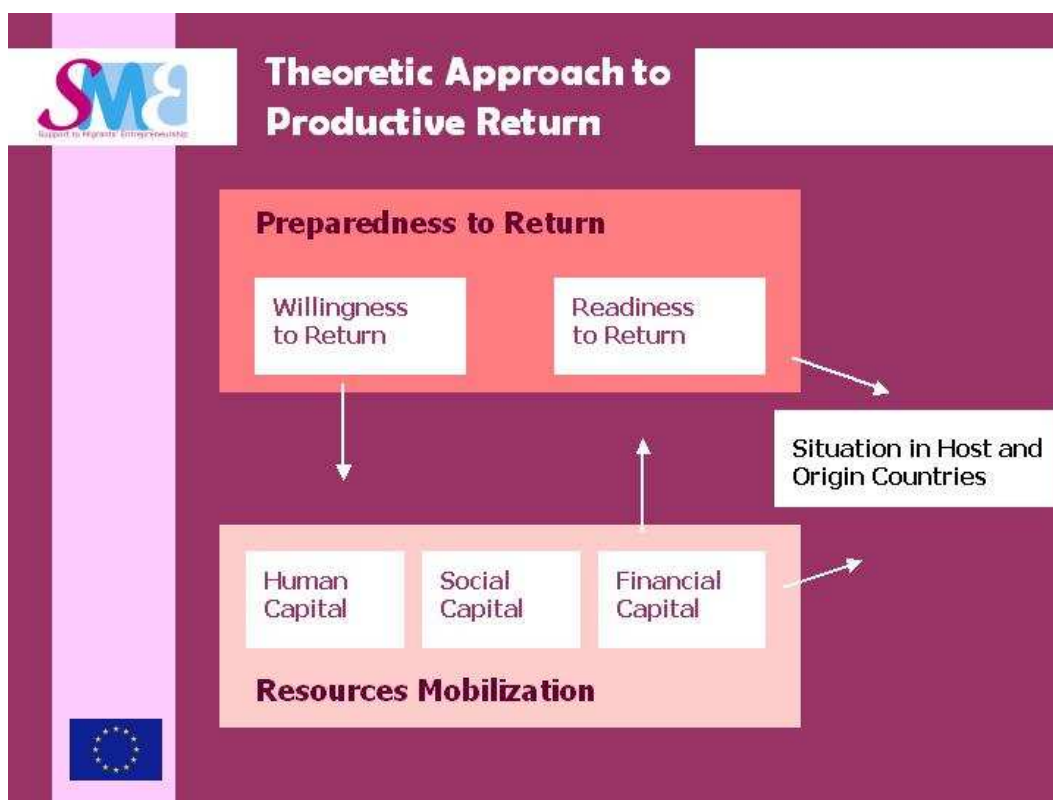
- a) *human capital*: tangible or intangible.
- b) *social capital*: resources that the migrants had brought with them prior to leaving their origin country or acquired in the destination country (networks, contacts, transversal competences, friendship, social relations...)
- c) *financial capital*: remittances, savings, lands owned, goods and equipments owned...

Preparedness to Return

Pertains not only to the willingness of migrants to return home, but also to their readiness to return. In other words, the returnee's preparedness refers to a voluntary act that must be supported by the gathering of sufficient resources and information about post-return conditions at home.

²⁹ International Journal on Multicultural Societies (IJMS), Vol. 6, No. 2, 2004: 253 -279 - ISSN 1817-4574, www.unesco.org/shs/ijms/vol6/issue2/art4©UNESCO

The figure below intends to give a visual interconnection of all these elements:



The emphasis of the One Stop Desk on the willingness and readiness of the migrant to return (i.e. the returnee's preparedness) and on their components can yield various benefits that can lead to the development of methodologies, actions and services supporting the returnees, by taking in consideration also the will and the readiness of the migrants. Preparedness can be seen under 3 different angles:

- **Preparedness before migrating:** in a "circular migration logic", the success of a future return experience depends on the level of planning before migrating. In particular concerning:
 - The existence of a well structured "idea of return", based on concrete objectives and opportunities
 - The choice of the channel for remittances and savings
 - The ability to create the right contacts useful once back home after years abroad
 - The relationship with the main institutional organizations able to support a future entrepreneurial activity
- **Preparedness during the time spent abroad:** usually the average time spent abroad before returning home ranges between 4 and 15 years. The stay should be as long as to enable a good integration – at least from an economic point of view – of returning migrants, but not so long, because of the importance of the contacts and links with the country of origin. In any case, during this period abroad, the potential returnees should spend his or her time with an eye on:
 - Acquiring the skills and competences in line with the return plan

- Acquiring the necessary financial stability, by choosing financial tools and services offering transnational guarantees or operations (bankarization).
 - Building the contacts and networks useful for a future support to his or her entrepreneurial / return plan
 - Getting updated information concerning the situation in their country of origin
- **Preparedness right before returning:** this is the last phase of the return process preparation, but it will be successful only if the first two phases had been carried out properly. In fact, in most of the cases, the failure of a return experience occurs because returnees believe that this phase is enough to ensure a successful and productive reintegration.

In other words, return does not simply rely on voluntariness, but also on a set of “mobilization resources processes” enabling returnees to go back. These processes depend also on “time availability”.

For the SME - IFAD experience, the target is represented by all the migrants regularly based in Italy or in Veneto region who intend to return and undertake a business activity as a spontaneous choice. On the base of this consideration, it's possible to draw the following indications:

1. return **is a process that needs time:** in order to evaluate the degree of mobilization of all the potential resources and in order to evaluate the will and the readiness to return. The great part of the would be returnees showed an high degree of voluntariness, but also the existence of several gaps in terms of readiness.
2. the ability of the potential returnee of mobilizing resources heavily depends on **their status** (regular migrants, exploited, but also refugees or asylum seekers) and on the **duration** of the stay in the destination country (the optimum is between 4 and 15 years). The stay should be long enough to ensure a good integration – at least from an economic point of view – of returning migrants, but not too long, because of the importance of maintaining close contacts and links with the country of origin.
3. the attitude toward return does not rely only on the experience abroad, but also on the **significant links, together with the perception of positive changes** (institutional, social, economic and political), in the country of origin. In these last months, unfortunately, the perception of Rumanians in Italy with regard to the current situation in Romania is all but positive.
4. the organization of return is built around **concrete opportunities** – services, favorable conditions as networks, stability and general improvement – the potential returnee knows, directly or through the social capital owned. In this sense, the Balkans Microcredit Fund established by Unicredit Bank and the Ministry for the Productive Activities of Romania can be the “best practice” for a future implementation of this kind of tools.
5. the impact of a returnee on local development of country of origin is directly correlated with **preparedness degree**, as defined in these sections, and also with the capacity to mobilize the

resources not only after the migratory experience but even before migrating. Concerning the potential SME IFAD returnees, the organization and building of the local network and the coordination of the services in Romania (rural areas) with the signature of bilateral cooperation agreements with the subject able to support returnees once back in Romania will be crucial for the sustainability of such undertakings.

SME Return Desk Experience: some final considerations

The cases of the SME One stop Desk showed some promising trends and, at the same time, some problematic issues. First of all, Romanian potential beneficiaries returnees are very different from those of other nationalities who have been RID clients, especially from African beneficiaries.

As most Eastern European nationals (Romania, Moldova, the Ukraine) they are not willing to enter formal or and public-run services, mostly because of mistrust in public institutions, and they access the desk only after a personal contact or after a private exchange of information among group of close friends or nationals.

These considerations are crucial for planning effective promotional campaigns targeting Romanian nationals. It has proven extremely difficult to reach and promote the One Stop Desk activities through recognized migrants associations. Romanians associations, differently from many African diaspora associations, tend not to be active in the field of "mutual support and development of their country of origin", because they are more focused on promoting their culture in Italy. Rather, the strategy had to be tailored to reach Romanians at their work place, or other gathering places, both churches and other public venues (such as ethnic stores).

Concerning the effectiveness of the return path proposed, the needs and the requirements of Romanian migrants are unique, as well as is their approach to the return experience. Due to the "freedom of movement" acquired by Romanians after their entrance in the EU, their projects of return tend to be "not final" and not "permanent": in general, they prefer to check the opportunity to transfer part of an already existing business developed in Italy without a physical return, by involving some countrymen still residing in Romania. If they also plan a "physical return", it is often linked to the will of an Italian employer to "transfer part of the production in Romania", by involving potential returnees as a trusted person in a delocalized unit, sometimes result of a joint venture, in which the returnee manages operations.

Bibliography

EU Regulation

Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions - Applying the Global Approach to Migration to the Eastern and South-Eastern Regions Neighbouring the European Union [COM(2007)0247 final]

Communication from the commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions titled "strengthening the global approach to migration: increasing coordination, coherence and synergies" [COM(2008) 611/3]

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION, Brussels, 2 December 2009 - 17024/09 CO EUR-PREP 3 JAI 896 POLGEN 229 No. prev doc. 16484/1/09 REV 1 JAI 866 + ADD 1 Subject: The Stockholm Programme – An open and secure Europe serving and protecting the citizens.

Opinion of the Committee of the Regions on "strengthening the global approach to migration: increasing coordination, coherence and synergies" - 80th plenary session, 17-18 June 2009 - CONST-IV-022.

http://europa.eu/legislation_summaries/justice_freedom_security/free_movement_of_persons_asylum_immigration/l33020_en.htm

Others

Ralph Grillo and Bruno Riccio - Translocal Development: Italy–Senegal, POPULATION, SPACE AND PLACE Popul. Space Place 10, 99–111 (2004). Published online in Wiley InterScience (www.interscience.wiley.com). DOI: 10.1002/psp.321

Anna Colleo, Sandra Rainero et al., "From Migration to Development: Lessons drawn from the Experience of Local Authorities" report to the UN-EC Joint Migration and Development Initiative (Ed. Nomisma 2010)

Kathleen Newland and Dovelyn Agunias, Migration Policy Institute, in collaboration with the Task Force set up by the Belgian Government for the preparation of then first meeting of the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD), 2007.

Issa Barro, Martijn Adriaan Boermans and Karel van Hoestenberghé - "Mode 4 of the GATS: Towards an Implementation Framework in West Africa (August 2009)

Nicola Momentè, Seminar on "EU MIGRATORY POLICIES TOWARDS EAST EUROPE ENLARGEMENT AND THE MEDITERRANEAN AREA"

Isilda Shima, Return migration and labour market outcomes of the returnees - Does the return really pay off? The case-study of Romania and Bulgaria FIW Research Reports 2009/10 N° 07 February 2010

Irina-Raluca Ivan, Romanian Economic Migrants Unlikely to Return - Global Economic Recession Does not Precipitate Return of Romanians Article | Mar 24, 2009 |

http://romania.suite101.com/article.cfm/romanian_economic_migrants_unlikely_to_return

Codrin Paveliuc-Olariu, The analysis of the effects of rurbanization on rural communities in the North-East Development of Romania, AAB Bioflux 2010.

Soros Foundation Romania, Labor Market in Romania and the Immigration - November the 28th, 2007.

Monica Șerban, in the website <http://www.migrationonline.cz/centraleasterneurope/2009/#n5> , Principal research fellow, Research Institute for the Quality of Life, Romanian Academy of Sciences

Living Abroad on a Temporary Basis - The Economic Migration of Romanians: 1990 - 2006, released today by the Open Society Foundation.

Piotr Plewa, THE 2008/2009 FINANCIAL CRISIS: SPAIN'S VOLUNTARY RETURN PROGRAM: EARLY MECHANISMS AND EARLY RESPONSES piotrek@udel.edu, Department of Political Science and International Relations, University of Delaware, USA

International Journal on Multicultural Societies (IJMS), Vol. 6, No. 2, 2004: 253 -279 - ISSN 1817-4574, www.unesco.org/shs/ijms/vol6/issue2/art4©UNESCO

Jean – Pierre Cassarino, International Journal on Multicultural Societies (IJMS), Vol. 6, No. 2, 2004: 253 -279 - ISSN 1817-4574, www.unesco.org/shs/ijms/vol6/issue2/art4©UNESCO

Web Bibliography

<http://demo.istat.it/>

<http://www.focus-migration.de/Romania.2515.0.html?&L=1>

http://www.osf.ro/en/program_articol.php?articol=143

www.venetolavoro.it

www.venetoimmigrazione.it

www.sportellorientro.veneto.it

www.nexus-mdi.org

www.legal-in.eu

www.coopi.org

www.afford-uk.org

www.iom.int

www.intent.eu