

Migration and development Charter

This document originates from debates and exchanges, focusing on the link between migration and development, that have been realized in Bologna within the frame of the projects "CoMiDe-Consistency of migration and development policy" and "COONGER - Iniziativa Regionale di Dialogo e Valutazione - Cooperazione Decentrata 2012" promoted by COSPE and COONGER.

In operational and collective meetings, organisations belonging to the third sector, NGOs and migrants' associations confronted each other on the link between migration and development in order to identify a possible common vision.

Introduction

During the latest years, the attention of the international politics on issues related to migration and development raised significantly: a Global Commission on International Migrations and the Global Forum on Migrations and Development have been founded within the United Nations.

The European Community widely insisted on the need of a major coherence and integration among migration policies and development policies in order to increase the consistency between national and European procedures as well as the internal ones of each member states.

The Italian government tested some experiences related to migration and development, especially with the IOM Programmes and the recent creation of the Ministry for the International Cooperation and Integration that, despite being without portfolio, connected in one department these themes.

Decentralized Cooperation, Local Authorities and Civil Society organizations also are pivotal actors in this field, promoting on migration and development programmes and projects often highly innovative but fragmentary, due to the centralism of governmental politics and the lack of structural resources.

The realization of procedures aiming at improving the consistency between migration and development policies in order to grant benefits to all the subjects involved (countries of origin, incoming countries, transit countries and migrants themselves) is a complex and multifaceted topic that must take into account the scale of the issues that the relationship between migration and development's themes implies: socio-economical inequalities on global level, human rights protection, rights of citizenship, relation between government and citizen etc.

Such a complexity of themes requires that the connection between migration and development is faced with composite governance actions and a transnational and participatory approach, involving public and private actors at local level "here" and "there", so improving the networking and the exchanges of knowledge and best practices.

A **definition** for the connection between migration and development:

Although definitions proposed by the researchers for the link between migration and development (and in particular for co-development) are numerous, we here take into account the one offered by Stocchiero and Piperno in *"The evaluation of co-development projects: criteria and indicators"*:

"a model of development cooperation mainly based on decentralized cooperation, in which immigrants are considered actors of development of their societies of origin and, at the same time, dynamic actors in the construction of citizenship in the host society. The objective of the co-development thus has a triple implications for migrants, societies of origin and host: a pro-active and supportive integration, an accompaniment to cooperation actions within their areas of origin and, at the same time, the promotion of development education's initiatives to sensitize the host societies on the root causes of migration "

Aims of the Charter:

To identify shared recommendations that could inspire programs and policies on the link between migration and development.

Hereafter the principles of our Charter:

We consider the link migration-development as a synergistic relationship that should include the following pivotal elements: the promotion of inclusive processes of bottom-up participation "here and there"; the strengthening of the interculturalization of the whole society; the improving of a synergy among public and private actors aiming to remove the existing obstacles preventing immigrants to fully enjoy rights and

restrict their active participation to the socio-political life of their place of residence (we intend as active participation also the implementation of actions for cooperation).

Recommendations

Given that, in order to activate a virtuous circle between migration and development, a structural plan for the cooperation is unavoidable and political actions aimed at removing economical, social and political obstacles preventing migrant citizens to fully enjoy their rights in our countries are necessary too, the actions to address to the topic of migration and development should:

- Encourage the partnership of different actors for the development of a systematic plan: national institutions, local authorities, civil society and migrants' associations both in the countries of origin and the incoming countries.
- Promote a multifaceted approach of transnational and participative governance involving public and private actors working on migration and development sectors "here and there", favoring the networking and fostering the exchange of knowledge and best practices.
- Promote interdepartmental dialogue among different sectors of the public administration dealing with immigration and cooperation in order to build coherent, integrated and long-lasting plans.
- Overcome an approach overly focused on channeling of remittances by taking into account that their potential development is tightly linked to the context in which emigration takes place: both the outgoing country, whose socio-economical development level is crucial, and the incoming one, where migration policies have a pivotal role.
- Enhance the so-called *social remittances* acquired by migrants during their migratory path, that is: their human capital made of knowledge and know-how that could be putted at the service of the communities "here and there", while also taking into account the depletion suffered by those countries whose best specialists emigrate called by the needs of our social systems and national markets (see, for instance, the collapse of the welfare in Italy). It must as well be taken into account the condition of underemployment and overexploitation of migrant labor in our country, due also to the extreme rigidity of the national laws on migration.
- Incentive mechanisms for social and political participation of foreigners, taking into account the limitations (the quota system, the positive conditionality, the difficulties for the renewal or conversion of the residence permit, the restrictions on family reunification, the citizenship rights still tied to the *jus sanguinis*, the law 49/87 which regulates the Development Cooperation in Italy that makes no mention of migrants, by expressly indicating how employable in cooperation the only Italian citizens age) that a policy focused excessively on border control and security pose to the positive contribution of foreign citizens for the collective development of our society and to their possible involvement in co-operation activities or development of countries of origin.
- Promoting pathways of empowerment for migrant associations in particular as the subject actor of transnational programs, structuring actions and training courses and supporting the creation of networks and coordination at European level.

For the full implementation of complex programs such as those relating migration and cooperation, an appropriate mechanisms for evaluation is needed. It is therefore suggested to provide tools and methods of monitoring.