

CAIPD

Cellule d'analyse d'impact des politiques
de développement
Issue 07 (Nov. 06, 2024)*

Developing Scalable Pathways for International Migration: Harnessing “Triple Wins” for Global Economic Progress

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Established at the initiative of the Directorate for Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Affairs, CAIPD brings together researchers from LISER and J-PAL Europe to equip the Luxembourgish Cooperation with methodological tools for impact evaluations and programme monitoring in cooperation projects.



Summary

Aging societies such as Europe face a growing need for young workers with diverse skills. This policy brief discusses how international migration can be encouraged and managed to maximise the benefits for all parties: migrants, communities of origin, and host countries. Private intermediaries have begun to develop strategies to overcome some of the barriers that migrants face, such as the facilitating acquisition of skills, covering the costs of training, and matching migrant workers with employers at destination. Governments, both in countries of origin and destination, can promote such investment in skills, improve the intermediation process, and ultimately make international migration more efficient.

Barriers to Emigration

Potential migrants face significant barriers, including limited knowledge of the destination language and lack of appropriate skills. Despite the huge potential gains from emigration, migrants remain reluctant to make country-specific investments. Private and public intermediation can help overcome these frictions.

Skills Partnerships

Countries of origin of migrants should promote and subsidise the acquisition of globally valuable skills. Governments and employers in destination countries have much to gain and should also co-invest in training programmes. If some of the better-qualified migrants leave, there are positive externalities for both countries.

Improving Intermediation

Governments can set up a quality rating system for private intermediaries to improve transparency, service quality and protection of migrants. They can lower the cost of intermediation by engaging directly in government-to-government arrangements. Partnerships with NGOs could also improve trust and efficiency.

Main Takeaways

This policy brief highlights some key findings on how countries can promote the benefits of migration:

- **Public and private intermediation is needed to increase the mutual benefits** of migration. Private intermediaries are paid by employers when they successfully place a migrant in a job.
- **Governments can contribute in a number of ways:** by promoting skills acquisition in origin countries, by developing a quality rating system for intermediaries, by becoming directly involved in intermediation through government-to-government agreements or by working with NGOs.

There is a need to provide rigorous evidence on the potential policy options and to test new alternatives. Governments should work with researchers, NGOs and private intermediaries to develop the knowledge needed to reap the benefits of global migration while minimising the risks.

*Policy brief n° 2024-07 from the LISER series.