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A Fair Deal on Talent – Fostering Just Migration Governance

Lessons from Around the Globe

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Reinhard Mohn Prize 2015

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Fostering a Triple Win through Fair Migration Governance

If well managed, migration can generate mutual benefits for migrants, destination countries and origin countries. Well-managed migration involves benefits for migrants, as they improve their standard of living, expand their personal skill set and achieve upward social mobility. For destination countries, it can bring innovation, alleviate demographic pressures, generate fiscal benefits and foster cultural diversity. For origin countries, it can bring benefits associated with remittances, knowledge transfers, investments and the cultivation of business relations.

In reality, however, migration-policy failures frequently lead to suboptimal or even negative outcomes. Migrants are often treated unfairly, unable to find employment commensurate with their qualifications or exploited by traffickers or corrupt employers. Poorly managed migration in destination countries can result in wage dumping and a neglected domestic labor force, both of which can subsequently foster social tensions and populist right-wing movements that feed on societal division. In origin countries, the external recruitment of workers may – under certain conditions – slow development opportunities and reduce the supply of skilled workers (brain drain).

In 2013, approximately 232 million people worldwide lived in a country other than their native one. Realizing the full potential of migration involves nothing short of a paradigm shift toward the fair management of migration. This is the theme of the Bertelsmann Stiftung's Reinhard Mohn Prize 2015. Already in 2006, Kofi Annan, the former U.N. secretary-general and recipient of the Reinhard Mohn Prize 2013, demanded more fairness in migration policies, saying: "More and more people understand that governments can cooperate to create triple wins – for migrants, for their countries of origin and for the societies that receive them." We need to uphold this triple win as a normative principle for migration policies that are universally fair.

Increasing migration rates around the world make this goal more urgent than ever. Development and urbanization pressures in developing societies are driving migration flows from these countries to many OECD countries currently facing dramatic demographic changes. According to U.N. estimates, by 2050, Europe's working-age population will shrink by 96 million. At the same time, Africa's working-age population will grow by 910 million and Asia's by 517 million. Migration pressures on OECD countries – in particular from African countries –

are therefore destined to grow. In parallel, international competition for labor will intensify. In the medium term, countries that have traditionally been the source of migration, such as China, will begin recruiting workers from abroad. Desired workers in this context include highly skilled professionals as well as persons with medium-level qualifications, particularly in the health care sector.

A further challenge for migration policymaking is posed by increasing refugee flows resulting from political crises, for instance, in the Middle East and Africa. Whereas neighboring countries in particular must deal with a large influx of refugees, many European countries are struggling to deal with growing numbers of refugees. Similarly, there are increasing numbers of people seeking to escape massive poverty and economic insecurity worldwide.

Implementing policies that can achieve a triple win is a challenging endeavor that gives rise to a number of questions. These include: Is the concept of a triple win merely “a fancy European idea” or a reflection of the way things do or should work? What are the respective roles of the market and the state in managing migration? To what extent can and should migration flows be controlled at all? How can we achieve both economic success and social cohesion? Can there be a “social market economy” for migration? What is the best system to manage migration in a fair way?

The present volume addresses these questions by discussing different aspects of fair migration management, examples of good practices from around the world and possible ways forward.

It has the following structure: Chapter I examines the main challenges and opportunities associated with fair migration. Chapter II presents a number of examples of good practices in fair migration management. Chapter III explores the perspectives of and approaches pursued by selected destination countries and regions of origin, as well as the role of international organizations and NGOs in fair migration management. Chapter IV examines how fairness in migration policy can be made fairer and provides policy recommendations for doing so.

The Bertelsmann Stiftung would like to thank all of the authors for their excellent contributions. In particular, we would like to highlight the commitment of the OECD’s International Migration Division, which co-organized, together with the Bertelsmann Stiftung, a workshop of international experts that laid the foundation for the present volume. As a complex phenomenon with many intertwined dimensions, migration requires a holistic approach. We hope that the ideas presented here will help find and develop answers to current migration and integration challenges and inspire policymakers – to quote Kofi Annan again – “to create triple wins for migrants, for their countries of origin und for the societies that receive them.”

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FR: www.youtube.com/watch?v=ElwcY5HlQ_E

ES: www.youtube.com/watch?v=sYMX9lxSaF0

EN: www.youtube.com/watch?v=S81zTfn4dRk



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