

Research program:
“Migrations from and towards the south of the world: demographic, cultural, political, economic and financial implications”

Annex C

Research Centre on International Cooperation

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MIGRATIONS FROM AND TOWARDS THE SOUTH OF THE WORLD: DEMOGRAPHIC, CULTURAL, POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Mobility of people, the young in particular, is exponentially growing both in rich and poor countries and from the latter to the former ones. Sometimes this mobility is often obtained in tragic and painful ways through attempts to escape from hopeless live conditions, not only during the trip but also at the first contact with the new country. However, being aware that the enormous toll in terms of human losses must be condemned and avoided, this mobility may not only be seen as “the problem” for the European countries but also from different perspectives. Migration towards the “North”, in fact, is not uniform and there are cases where the migrants, after having lived and worked for a given time in the North, plan to go back to their countries with new skills and tools suitable to succeed in finding work. Besides, some migrants often start co-operation actions from the host Country in favor of their people at home. Therefore, while admitting the existence of poverty and the need of humanitarian actions, the migrants of the poor Countries can end up with being themselves promoters of relief actions. These phenomena cannot be generalized but individual cases can be observed. Parallel to this, the same people are often in search of partnership with Europeans for entrepreneurial projects to be implemented in the Country of origin. Africa, Asia, Latin America, and so on, are not seen any longer as passive beneficiaries of projects and resources but as potential receptors of work and skills that from the North flow into the South, in partnership with actors of the South. This is probably a medium-term “vision” which deserves to be further considered: migration in opposite directions, of high quality, of young people from the South and Europeans who want to reanimate areas ready to embrace them from the human and entrepreneurial points of view, through collaboration and partnership with reciprocal advantages.

If this phenomenon becomes widespread, demographic and cultural, juridical, political, economic and financial implications follow (in particular on economic and financial development). These dynamics, if well addressed, may contribute at least to mitigate the critical conditions of some countries, which are at the origin of poverty.

METHOD AND PHASES

The research will be conducted both through analysis of the relevant literature on migration according to the mentioned perspectives (demographic, sociological, political, juridical, economic and financial) but also on wider themes such as the evolution of political systems and the dynamics of economic international flows. Since these perspectives pertain to different disciplines, it entails different skills in the design and supervision of the work: professors working in the sectors related to the scholarship but also other experts of territorial studies, such as those working in CST. Main information sources are represented by International organizations working on these themes (International Organization for Migration, The World Bank, The International Monetary Funds, OECD, FAO, and other UN Agencies).

Phases:

a-review of the relevant literature and refining of research questions; analysis of the relevant and International norms;
b-creation of a database on the relevant perspectives: demographic, socio-economic, political, and, more important, economic and financial; based on secondary sources (see preceding section) on the analyzed trends in order to describe the current situation;
c-realization of interviews to stakeholders from the public, private and political sectors;
d-realization of a questionnaire for interviews with a sample of migrants;
e-elaboration of data;
f-research report writing.

Bibliography

Abdelmalek Sayad, *La doppia assenza. Dalle illusioni dell'emigrato alle sofferenze dell'immigrato*, Milano, Raffaello Cortina Editore, 2002.

Scevi Paola, *Diritto delle migrazioni: profili penali, civili e amministrativi: dopo la legge 15 luglio 2009, n. 94, recante disposizioni in materia di sicurezza pubblica*, La Tribuna, Piacenza, 2010.

Castles Stephen, Mark J. Miller, *L'era delle migrazioni, Popoli in movimento nel mondo contemporaneo*, Odoja, Bologna, 2012

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

The research project aims at analyzing migration according to the different perspectives in order to draw potential recommendations for the medium-term, with a special focus on the implications for economic development. In this regard, policy implications on the direction of migration flows, on related laws, and on economic development strategies should emerge.

In particular, the following research questions should be answered:

- Based on historical migration flows and given the current evolution in political and economical equilibriums worldwide, what are the perspectives in terms of demographic locations and movements in the next ten years?
- What does this imply in relation to: urbanization and territorial localization, cultural effects, social policies and welfare, and migration laws?
- What are the effects on the economic system and on financial transactions? A particular focus should be put on employment and the dynamics of financial inflows and outflows (remittances, investments and other transactions), public and private and, more generally, on economic development.

Besides the expectations in terms of the elaboration of suitable socio-demographic, cultural, economic development policies, this analysis may be interesting as a significant information source on which to tune the educational offer of the University of Bergamo to encourage students to think to their future in relation to international perspectives.