
Achieving the ‘Quadruple Win’: Labour migration strategies for Europe to meet its skill needs

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Today's webinar

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NEW REPORT: Best practices for designing and managing labour migration corridors to Europe

By Kate Hooper, María Belén Zanzuchi, Abigail Goldfarb, Ravenna Sohst, and Bertrand Steiner

Available at: bit.ly/migrationcorridorsEU



New MPI/MPI Europe Research

- Research report commissioned by the European Commission to identify **best practices for designing and managing labour migration to Europe**
- Premise: skilled migration as part of the solution to Europe's looming skills and labour shortages – how can this benefit all parties?
- Mapping of **122 bilateral labour migration corridors**, then selection of **five corridors** for in-depth analysis, including via fieldwork and consultations with government, civil society, employers and migrant workers at origin and destination



Selected Corridors for In-Depth Analysis

- 1 India-Germany
- 2 Vietnam-Hungary
- 3 Peru-Italy
- 4 Bangladesh-Portugal
- 5 Senegal-Spain



Insights from the five corridors



India-Germany Corridor



Labour migration snapshot

- Major source country of labour migrants to Germany, with nearly **40,000 permits** issued for employment to Indian nationals between 2019 and 2023
- Workers find employment in a range of sectors across skill levels, notably in the STEM field



Emergence of the corridor

- Coordination dates back several decades, with recent developments including the **Migration and Mobility Partnership Agreement** (in force as of March 2023)



Migration management and prospects for scale

- Strong **political support for scaling the corridor**, with stakeholders on both sides eager to expand
- Yet key challenges persist in Germany and in India, such as limited regulation of private intermediaries that increase the risk of exploitative recruitment practices or difficulties related to language acquisition



Bangladesh-Portugal Corridor



Labour migration snapshot

- Growing number of employment permits issued to Bangladeshi nationals in recent years, with nearly **15,000 permits** issued from 2019 to 2023
- Labour migrants are most concentrated in the **agricultural sector** and predominantly male



Emergence of the corridor

- Began in small numbers in the late 1980s and early 1990s, but has expanded rapidly in recent years, driven by Portugal's **growing labour demand** and **comparatively accessible pathways to residency**



Migration management and prospects for scale

- Marked by **high levels of informality** and limited formal governmental coordination
- Little interest from the Portuguese government to scale this corridor, with efforts to recruit foreign labour more focused on Portuguese-speaking countries



Peru-Italy Corridor



Labour migration snapshot

- Labour migrants are mostly female, representing **72% of employment permits** issued since between 2019 and 2023
- Significant concentration in the **personal care services sector**



Emergence of the corridor

- Dates back to the early 20th century, when descendants of Italian families in Peru began returning, driven by economic instability and political changes
- Key drivers today include **expanding diaspora networks** and perceived **linguistic and cultural proximity**



Migration management and prospects for scale

- No bilateral labour mobility agreements or frameworks, and large role played by **private intermediaries** (including diaspora networks and recruitment agencies in both countries)
- Growing interest in recruiting Peruvian workers, particularly in the **social care sector**



Senegal-Spain Corridor



Labour migration snapshot

- Steady growth in employment permits issued year-over-year since 2019
- Migrant workers from Senegal are predominantly male and employed across a variety of sectors, with **services and agriculture** representing the largest shares



Emergence of the corridor

- Migration along this corridor first became established in the 1980s
- Key drivers cited by migrants include a **well-established diaspora network in Spain, geographic proximity, economic opportunities in Spain, and high unemployment in Senegal**



Migration management and prospects for scale

- Long **history of cooperation on migration management**, with efforts intensifying over the last decade, including Senegal's participation in Spain's seasonal work programme (GECCO)
- However, irregular migration remains common along this corridor, driven in part by restrictive visa policies and the well-established Senegalese migrant community in Spain



Vietnam-Hungary Corridor



Labour migration snapshot

- Rising number of employment permits issued to Vietnamese nationals in Hungary in recent years
- Vietnamese workers are employed in a wide range of economic sectors, with **administrative and support services** representing the largest share



Emergence of the corridor

- Hungary is perceived by many Vietnamese workers as a **transit country**, serving as a stepping stone to opportunities in other EU Member States that offer higher wages



Migration management and prospects for scale

- Limited government-to-government cooperation, and strong **reliance on private recruitment agencies** to offer orientation services or connect employers and workers
- Removal of Vietnam from the list of countries eligible for the Guest Worker permit as of January 2025



Key takeaways



Best Practices & Enabling Conditions for Scale

- Skills development initiatives that align with **destination- and origin-country needs**
- Effective **systems for matching** employers and prospective workers
- Accessible and efficient **visa pathways**
- Protections against worker **vulnerability and exploitation**
- Government-to-government **coordination and data sharing**
- Programming to maximise the **development impact** of labour mobility



Our Recommendations to the EU include...

- Tackling critical **information gaps**
- Improving **visa processing** procedures
- Supporting **skills development**, including investments in language training
- Supporting **ethical recruitment practices**, especially in high-risk sectors



Thank you for joining us



Read the report:
bit.ly/migrationcorridorsEU



Reporters can contact Michelle Mittelstadt at
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Video from today will be available at:
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