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THAMM EGYPT Newsletter No.2, September 2021

Dear National and International Partners of the THAMM Programme in Egypt,

This is the second issue of the Newsletter on the progress and developments in the implementation of the regional programme “Towards a Holistic Approach to Labour Migration Governance and Labour Mobility in North Africa” (THAMM).

The programme aims to foster mutually beneficial regular labour migration and mobility for North African countries, and in particular to maximise the benefits of labour migration and mobility for countries of origin and destination, as well as migrant workers and their families. The regional programme also contributes to improving the governance for labour migration and the protection of migrant workers in the North of Africa. This newsletter provides insights into THAMM’s activities that have been implemented since February 2021.



First THAMM Regional Conference: 5-7 July 2021



In close collaboration with the European Commission (EC), the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) co-organised a regional conference - from 5 to 7 July - on labour Migration Responses to COVID-19 in European and North African Countries. It was the first conference of its kind in the “Towards a Holistic Approach to Labour Migration Governance and Mobility in North Africa” (THAMM) Programme. The conference was held in three languages (Arabic, English and French) and entirely online. Entitled “Labour Migration Responses to the COVID-19 Crisis in European and North African Countries: Strategic and Operational Trends, Lessons and Sharing of Experience”, the event aimed to document and explore policy changes 18 months after the start of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"We're in this together" - 1st Regional Conference Discussion Paper

During the event representatives from governments, social partners, and academia from THAMM’s partner countries (Egypt, Morocco and Tunisia) as well as ILO, IOM, ETF, OECD and international experts presented latest policy observations and findings from recent research produced in the framework of THAMM and beyond. With 189 registered participants from North Africa, Europe and the rest of the world and average connection numbers of between 137 and 75 people per session, the conference was an opportunity to:



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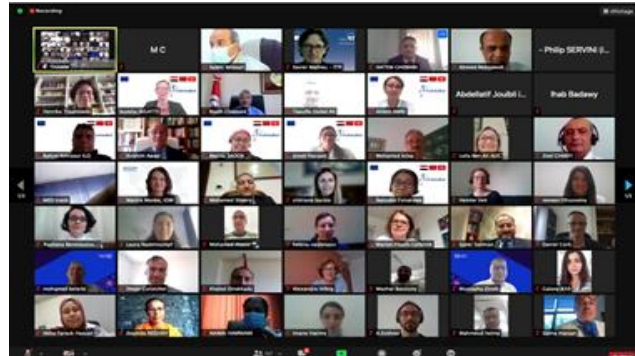


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- take stock of current labour migration and mobility trends observed within and between the EU and North Africa;
- reflect over mid-term results achieved within the THAMM programme and strengthen collaboration and information sharing among all partners
- facilitate exchange among a range of labour migration and mobility stakeholders to help build consensus of practice around establishing regular pathways including in a crisis situation;
- identify common approaches towards preparing for the post-crisis phase of “building forward better” based on lessons learned in 2020 and 2021.

Organised around five different panel discussions, the conference set out on the presentation of an original research paper produced for the conference presenting the state of the existing literature and available data on the impact of the COVID-19 crisis on labour migration dynamics between European and North African countries. Subsequent panel sessions explored the following issues:

- Adoption of the New European Pact on Migration and Asylum and its implications for labour migration and mobility for EU and North African countries;
- Recent findings from statistical analysis and quantitative surveys;
- The Impact of the Crisis on Remittances;
- Fair and Ethical Recruitment: Policies and practice;
- Sectoral Demand and Migrant Workers’ Protection;
- Global Skills Partnerships.



@ILO

The conference website offers all the conference documents in three languages. (<http://www.thammregionalconference.com>)



- First Meeting of the PCC in Egypt takes place
- The TCC in Egypt convenes twice
- National partners and the ILO are advancing well with the activities
- Partners and IOM identify priorities and a way forward for facilitated migration
- National partners, specifically MoSEEEA, and GIZ open calls for the mobility schemes activities and advance in capacity development activities

THAMM aims to foster mutually beneficial safe, regular and orderly labour migration and mobility opportunities for North African countries



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First Meeting of the PCC in Egypt takes place



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The first THAMM Egypt **Political Coordination Committee (PCC)** meeting took place on the 28th of February 2021 at the premises of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA). The meeting was chaired by H.E. Ambassador Neveen El Husseiny, Deputy Assistant Minister for Migration, Refugees and Combatting Human Trafficking, Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The meeting was well attended by the national partners, the European Delegation to Egypt and the German Embassy in Cairo along with the Implementing Agencies' (IAs) senior management and regional and country teams.

The meeting provided the needed political space among all members to discuss and resolve pending matters.

The PCC reiterated the importance of coordinating the work of THAMM and building upon existing efforts of national entities and the implementing agencies.

The TCC in Egypt convenes twice

The THAMM Egypt **Technical Coordination Committee (TCC)** under the chairmanship of the Ministry of State for Emigration and Egyptian Expatriates' Affairs (MoSEEEA) has met twice (on the 15th of April 2021; and on the 28th of September 2021). The first meeting offered the chance to highlight the interlinkages between the different Specific Objectives (SOs), the timeline of the programme, as well as the status of implementation and lessons learnt from Morocco and Tunisia. That meeting also served to officially launch the thematic working groups (WG) under the different SOs and their purpose. The second meeting witnessed progress reporting from each of the five lead ministries/agencies; discussions around the provision of the Migration Governance Certificate to the TCC members and others and the upcoming activities taking place in the different specific objectives.



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The role of the **Working Groups** is of high importance to the implementation of the activities, as each lead ministry is nationally accountable for the extent of success of their respective WGs. They serve as means of integration and compatibility between the different SOs.



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National partners and the ILO are well advancing with the activities

- A **report on Recruitment for International Placement** was commissioned by ILO in collaboration with MoM and will appraise existing legislation and actual recruitment practices in the public and private sectors against international labour standards and non-binding frameworks. Expected submission of final report: 20 October.
 - In coordination with MoM, and with the ultimate objective of enhancing the process efficiency of employing Egyptians abroad, the process of developing an action plan to prepare **internal Standard Operating Procedures (SoPs) on external employment** is ongoing and expected to be finalized in December 2021.
- The agreement on the exact activities and the close consultations with the national partners has been imperative for the implementation phase.
- A **diagnostic study on the assessment of labour migration data collection mechanisms in Egypt** against international statistical standards is ongoing under the lead of CAPMAS and ILO. The study, which is expected to be finalized in November 2021, shall lead to recommendations for enhancing the production, analysis and sharing of labour migration statistics using ILO standard data collection and analysis tools
 - Under SO5, and as part of the efforts to promote south-south cooperation in labour mobility and social protection, the ILO and based on the request of MoSS, is **facilitating dialogue between Egypt and Jordan** around the coordination of social protection systems.

Partners and IOM identify priorities and a way forward for facilitated migration

- A mapping of pre-departure orientation (PDO) and related services, such as pre-employment orientation or job counselling, is progressing and preliminary findings are emerging. A presentation of the main findings is expected to take place during November 2021. The recommendations from the study will feed into the subsequent activities consisting of developing a tailored PDO manual and preparing relevant entities to deliver such PDO services.
- Stakeholders agree to explore the needs of the destination markets and align national supporting tools to labour migration accordingly.
- In coordination with the main national partners, IOM will conduct two research studies. The first study aims to identify main countries of destination in need of foreign labour and with the potential to absorb Egyptian workers based on sectors of common interest with Egypt. The second study aims to support the strengthening of national skills assessment frameworks and tools for Egyptian labour migrants to meet occupational standards of recommended potential countries of destination.
 - In coordination with CAPMAS and IOM's Global Migration Data Analysis Centre (GMDAC), IOM will start implementing a capacity building plan. The plan includes topics such as big data and data innovation, and reporting on the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) as well as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). A regional training workshop on data disaggregation for GCM and SDGs reporting is also foreseen to take place.

National partners, specifically MoSEEEA, and GIZ open calls for the labour mobility schemes and advance in capacity development activities

MoSEEEA, GIZ, the German Federal Employment Agency (BA/ZAV) and other national partners launch calls for candidates in the framework of developing mobility schemes between Egypt and Germany. The calls for candidates



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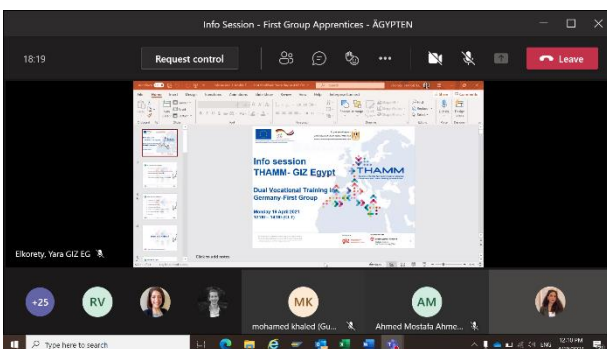
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are an important step in the process of piloting labour mobility schemes under the THAMM programme. Two calls for candidates to work in Germany and one call for apprenticeship in Germany were launched:

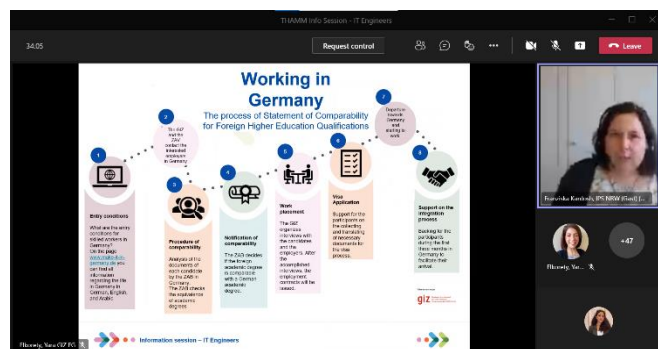
1. A call for IT Engineers and one for electronics technicians to work in Germany took place in August and September respectively. Applications were received and candidates were short-listed according to pre-defined criteria and interviews were conducted with short-listed candidates in September and October respectively. The two groups' candidates have been selected and are beginning their Pre-Departure Orientation phase which will last around 6 to 7 months.
2. A call for apprenticeship in Germany was launched in the fields of Industrial Mechanics, Bakery, Hotel and Gastronomy. The same process of selection will take place and the candidates shall be identified in order to start their Pre-Departure Orientation phase by the beginning of next year.

A software development firm was contracted for the creation of an online application management platform. This tool will allow to support the piloting of the mobility scheme and sustain the application management process on the longer run. Training on the utilization and management of the platform shall be provided to our national partners as part of comprehensive capacity development measures to increase the knowledge and techniques for labour migration management

The working group designated for SO4 has convened three times till date and has witnessed fruitful exchanges and cooperation between the Ministry of State for Emigration and Egyptian Expatriates' Affairs, the Ministry of Manpower, the Ministry of Education and Technical Education as well as the Ministry for Higher Education and Scientific Research.



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UPCOMING ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

First regional Conference

Working Groups continue to convene

July – August 2021



September- December 2021



July 2022



GIZ and partners kick off mobility scheme activities (with already 3 calls out)



ILO/IOM studies ongoing with national partners

GIZ and partners initiate capacity development assessments, plans and measures



2nd Regional Conference (TBC)

GIZ and partners continue activities of the mobility scheme and capacity development



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BACKGROUND

The regional programme is jointly implemented by the International Labour Organisation (ILO), the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) and the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH in the three countries, as well as the Belgian Development Cooperation Agency Enabel in Morocco and Tunisia. The action is financed under the North Africa window of the EU Emergency Trust Fund for Africa (EUTF) by the European Union (EU) and co-funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). THAMM implementation is currently taking place in Egypt, Morocco and Tunisia.



Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the country focal points:

GIZ – Shahira Wassef
shahira.wassef@giz.de
 +20 127 626 0918

ILO – Farah ElBatrawy
Elbatrawy@ilo.org
 +20 110 079 2221

IOM – Marwa Mostafa
mmostafa@iom.int
 +20 122 653 1552

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