

International expert meeting on
*Assessing the economic contribution of labour migration
in developing countries as countries of destination*

OECD Headquarters (23-24 February 2015)

Day One: Monday, 23 February 2015 (Room E)

08:30 – 09:00	Registration
09:00 – 09:30	Opening remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Françoise Millecam</i> (European Commission) • <i>Michelle Leighton</i> (ILO) • <i>Mario Pezzini</i> (OECD Development Centre)
09:30 – 10:00	Introduction of the project <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>David Khoudour</i> (OECD Development Centre) and <i>Theodoor Sparreboom</i> (ILO)
Session I – Labour markets	
10:00 – 11:15	<p>Migration increases the local labour supply. Theory tells us that absent other adjustments, this supply shock should be matched by a change in wages. However, the consensus in the empirical literature is that the estimated effects of migration on labour markets are usually close to zero, although low-skilled native citizens may be negatively affected. A heterogeneous workforce, imperfect substitutability between immigrant and native workers, specialisation and (internal) migration by native workers, capital and other firm-level adjustments can account for these results. For developing countries, evidence is sparse. Different labour market structures, policy contexts and immigrant populations could cause effects to differ from those in high-income countries.</p> <p>Chair: <i>Carl Dahlman</i> (OECD Development Centre) Setting the scene: <i>Jesse Mertens</i> (ILO)</p> <p>Interventions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Christine Fauvelle-Aymar</i> (CNRS, Tours) • <i>Rosalía Vázquez-Alvarez</i> (ILO) <p>Followed by open discussion</p>
11:15 – 11:30	Coffee break

Session II – Human capital	
11:30 – 12:45	<p>The inflow of migrants directly affects the human capital stock of the country of destination. Moreover, there could be secondary effects that have the potential to affect the development trajectory of the country of destination in the long run. For example, the arrival of migrants can change the returns to education and therefore the incentives to invest in education. The presence of migrants can also affect the functioning of the educational system.</p> <p>Chair: <i>Andrew Bell</i> (OECD, Directorate for Education and Skills) Setting the scene: <i>Shinyoung Jeon</i> (OECD Development Centre)</p> <p>Interventions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Ryuichi Tanaka</i> (National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies, Tokyo) • <i>Irmgard Nübler</i> (ILO) <p>Followed by open discussion</p>
12:45 – 14:15	Lunch (Roger Ockrent Room)
Session III – Productivity, production and entrepreneurship	
14:15 – 15:30	<p>Immigration may increase entrepreneurship and boost productivity and technological change, with the mechanisms including increasing worker specialisation and productivity-enhancing characteristics of immigrant workers. Empirical studies in general find a positive relationship between immigration and various forms of innovation and entrepreneurship, but they are usually based on OECD countries and seldom present causal evidence. Immigration can also alter the manner in which firms organise their production process, an outcome that is often not researched given the lack of suitable data.</p> <p>Chair: <i>Hillel Rapoport</i> (Paris School of Economics) Setting the scene: <i>Marcus H. Böhme</i> (OECD Development Centre)</p> <p>Intervention:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Anna Maria Mayda</i> (Georgetown University) <p>Followed by open discussion</p>
15:30 – 15:45	Coffee break

Session IV – Economic growth	
15:45 – 17:00	<p>Immigration can affect per capita GDP and GDP growth through aggregate supply and aggregate demand effects, some of which are positive and some negative. Theoretically, the overall effect depends on the complementarity between the immigrant and native workforce, returns to scale in production, and the degree to which other inputs (such as land) are key for the production process and are fixed. The empirical evidence on the growth effects of immigration is mixed, and only rarely considers low and middle-income countries specifically.</p> <p>Chair: <i>Mariya Aleksynska</i> (ILO) Setting the scene: <i>Theodoor Sparreboom</i> (ILO)</p> <p>Interventions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Jeff Werling</i> (Inforum, College Park) • <i>Philip Martin</i> (University of California, Davis) <p>Followed by open discussion</p>
Session V – Public finances and public goods	
17:15 – 18:30	<p>The question whether immigrants ‘pay their way’ is a frequent topic of public debate in many immigrant-receiving societies. Economic theory provides little guidance as to whether immigrants are net contributors, but the field has generated many empirical studies on the welfare dependency and on the overall fiscal balance of immigrants in developed countries. Empirical studies on developing countries are few and far between. Large informal sectors in many low and middle-income countries complicate measurements. The related question of whether immigration affects the quality of public good delivery has received limited attention in both developed and developing countries, and its analysis is complicated by measurement challenges and by the fact that the effects are not only driven by economic but also political factors.</p> <p>Chair: <i>Tommaso Frattini</i> (University of Milan) Setting the scene: <i>Sarah Kups</i> (OECD Development Centre)</p> <p>Interventions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Corrado Giuliotti</i> (IZA, Bonn) • <i>Giovanni Facchini</i> (University of Nottingham) <p>Followed by open discussion</p>
18:30 – 20:00	Cocktail-Dinner (Roger Ockrent Room)

Day Two: Tuesday, 24 February 2015 (Room D)

Session VI – Methodological approaches and data collection	
9:00 – 10:45	<p>The project has the objective of arriving at an evidence-based understanding of the economic impact of immigration in low and middle-income countries. The breadth of the economic outcomes to be studied, differences in data availability and the difficulty of finding suitable and comparable instruments for immigration into all ten countries mean that this objective is ambitious. A combination of different approaches and datasets will be necessary to address the questions empirically. Secondary dataset such as censuses, labour force surveys and social contribution statistics may have to be combined with primary data collection. Among other topics, this session may concern the reliability of secondary data sources, the feasibility and thematic focus of a potential survey and such a survey's sampling methodology.</p> <p>Chair: <i>Steven Kapsos</i> (ILO) Setting the scene: <i>Marcus H. Böhme</i> (OECD Development Centre)</p> <p>Interventions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Çaglar Özden</i> (World Bank) • <i>Aurelia Segatti</i> (ILO) <p>Followed by open discussion</p>
10:45 – 11:00	Coffee break
Session VII – The big picture	
11:00 – 12:00	<p>The discussions during the expert meeting will serve to areas that address several research questions, but will also raise many additional ones. The aim of this final session is to put these additional questions on the table and give all participants a chance to express their views in the broader context of the project objectives.</p> <p>Chair: <i>David Khoundour</i> (OECD Development Centre)</p>
12:00 – 12:30	<p>Closing remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Cyril Cosme</i> (ILO Office for France) • <i>Nicola Harrington</i> (OECD Development Centre)
12:30 – 14:00	Lunch (Roger Ockrent Room)