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Migration and economic development: the French experience

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How to maximise the positive effects of migrations to the economic development of countries of origin and destination ?

This question lies at the very heart of the migratory policy adopted by France, to which it offers the following answer:

- 1- A proposal to the countries of origin: agreements on the concerted management of migratory flows and mutually supportive development,
- 2- A new concept: mutually supportive development, a notion that both encompasses and goes further than mere codevelopment.

1- Agreements on concerted management of migratory flows and mutually supportive development

Based on the adoption of a global approach, these agreements simultaneously cover legal migration, struggle against illegal immigration and promotion of mutually supportive development.

The two States decide on programmes chiefly in order to:

1. Manage migratory flows together by providing:

- Coordinated answers to the needs of both economies,
- Limits on the 'brain drain' or waste of intellectual resources,
- Joint measures taken to combat illegal immigration
- Sharing of responsibilities.

2. Seeking joint benefits through mutually supportive development: new business creation, training, support provided for the activities of diasporas, etc.

2- Mutually supportive development

A new approach to development pursued, in priority within the framework of bilateral agreements, with a view to:

- Reinforcing professional migration programmes included in agreements with input from sector-based cooperation activities (training, health, etc.),
- Supporting:
 - The development of high migration regions,
 - Codevelopment projects,
 - The productive investment and the creation of economic activities by the migrants themselves,
 - The mobilisation of diasporas (assignments entrusted to researchers, teachers, doctors, engineers, technicians, *etc.*)
 - The improvement of the transfer of migrants' funds,
 - And support provided for young people's initiatives.

Conclusion: Some encouraging signs

1- The emergence of new dynamics in favour of the new attitude that both countries are encouraged to adopt towards the fundamentals of their economies:

- **The labour markets,**
- **Occupations where tensions exist, imbalances between supply and demand and the qualifications of the future,**
- **Policies related to employment and vocational training**
- **The new activities of the agencies in both countries and the new forms of inter-agency and inter-country cooperation allowing them to share responsibilities.**

Conclusion: encouraging signs

2- Mutually supportive development creates renewed prospects for cooperation based on the migratory profiles of both countries.

3- The European Pact on Immigration and Asylum adopted in October 2008 by the European Council gives new impetus to the creation of partnerships capable of acting as vectors of synergy between migrations and economic development.



Thank you for your attention

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