



**MY  
FOLDER**

**on migration  
and local  
development**

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## Foreword – European Commission

Migration and mobility have the potential to act as powerful enablers for economic, social and environmental development in both countries of origin and destination.

In recent years, the EU has made significant progress in furthering the migration and development agenda. The 2013 EU Communication ‘Maximising the Development Impact of Migration: The EU contribution for the UN High-Level Dialogue and next steps towards broadening the development-migration nexus’<sup>1</sup> makes a call to development policy makers and practitioners to step up their engagement on migration and development issues. Development thinking needs to fully integrate the role of migration and mobility as development enablers, and recognize the essential role of effective migration governance in addressing potential challenges for a sustainable development. This is also fully integrated in the recent ‘European Agenda on Migration’<sup>2</sup>, which aims at establishing a coherence and holistic policy framework on migration, with a strong emphasis on development cooperation.

In line with this approach, the Joint EU-UN Migration and Development Initiative aims at strengthening the capacities of local authorities to plan, develop and implement effective migration and development policies. The programme reinforces the attention and focus on the local dimension: drivers and impacts of migration are often most strongly felt at the local level where local authorities are at the frontline in providing services to migrants and returnees. However, sustainable policy making needs to be based on empirical evidence of social and economic trends in order to address existing demands; unfortunately local authorities frequently lack resources and experience on linking migration and development.

In this context, this modular “*My JMDI Toolbox*”, developed by the Joint EU-UN Initiative, will contribute to reinforce the capacities of local stakeholders in linking migration and local development by covering a wide range of practical topics such as mainstreaming migration in local policy development or increasing the development impact of migration through integration policies. This training material is conceived as a flexible and hands-on tool box for local policy makers and practitioners and through its e-learning modules in particular it has the potential of a broad global outreach.

With its specific focus on the local dimension, I trust it will become an innovative and efficient tool in a context where local actors are increasingly recognised as key players in effectively linking migration and development.



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1 COM(2013) 292 final

2 COM(2015) 240 final



## Foreword - Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation

For millions of people migration is an individual livelihood strategy that contributes to poverty reduction and development in countries of origin and countries of destination worldwide. The importance of the nexus between migration and development is only just being recognized by many development actors, and a lot of work remains to be done in order to make full use of the development potential of migration.

Concretely migration always happens locally. People move from one specific town to another, from one community to another. This is why it is important that local authorities take migration into account in their development planning and that migration and development initiatives are implemented also on the local level. The Joint Migration and Development Initiative (JMDI) has produced a vast amount of extremely valuable practical and theoretical knowledge in this regard, showcasing concrete examples of how local initiatives successfully link migration and development, and synthesizing this information into general learning tools, like the present *“My JMDI Toolbox”*.

This toolbox is a milestone of the JMDI and a result of the learning and the experience gained over the last years among all the stakeholders involved in this project. It will be of great value to practitioners around the world working both on migration and on development.

Switzerland has been strongly engaged in migration and development for over a decade by shaping the international policy dialogue and by supporting concrete projects on the ground. Underlining Switzerland’s commitment in this area the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation is very pleased to co-finance the JMDI, and thereby to contribute to reinforce the positive impact of migration on local development.



Markus Reisle

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## Foreword – United Nations

In a world context of human mobility and rapid urbanisation, where more than half of our world's population resides in urban areas, local and regional authorities find themselves at the forefront of addressing the challenges of migration, including forced migration. They are therefore compelled to meet the needs of migrants, and respond to their claims for rights and resources when addressing such issues as employment, housing, education, health and social welfare in a bid to foster more inclusive growth. Within this context, a greater number of local and regional authorities are seeking ways to incorporate migration policies and good governance principles into local planning and development initiatives. Yet local and regional authorities also face significant obstacles and challenges to managing and optimizing migration dynamics, especially from a gender and human rights-based point of view.

As part of our Inter-Agency Joint Migration and Development Initiative (JMDI), we support local and regional authorities in their efforts to face these challenges. The JMDI does this by providing capacity building and supporting the implementation of locally led migration and development initiatives, which have culminated in the creation of the *“My JMDI Toolbox”* training kit developed by IOM and ITCILO. The content of this Toolbox is based on the collection and consolidation of good practices and lessons learnt in the field through the implementation of the JMDI projects. Moreover, the many JMDI partners which comprise the JMDI programme, namely: UNDP, IOM, ITCILO, UN Women, UNCHR, UNITAR and UNFPA, have further enriched the content with their large pool of expertise across many issues relevant to Migration and Development.

The *“My JMDI Toolbox”* offers a flexible and comprehensive tool for local stakeholders to mainstream migration into local development planning in order to better harness the development potential of migration. It comes at a crucial moment, as we transition from the Millennium Development Goals into the Post-2015 Development Agenda and the newly proposed Sustainable Development Goals to be adopted by the UN General Assembly in September 2015.

Indeed, negotiations on the Post-2015 Development Agenda have thus far reflected that migration will figure in a number of the target areas for the new Sustainable Development Goals pertaining to economic growth, employment and decent work; reducing inequality as well as means of implementation. The role of local and regional authorities as key development actors has also been recognized in this dialogue. The Post-2015 Development Agenda is therefore formally paving the way for local and regional authorities' to take on and thrive in this role as key development actors by

successfully managing the challenges and opportunities human mobility generates for enhanced local development and it is our firm belief and objective that the JMDI Toolbox will support this process.

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank all the organizations involved in the implementation of the JMDI projects, whose experience and achievements have made this Toolbox possible. We are also grateful for the sustained and generous support of the European Union and the Swiss Development Cooperation Agency.



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