



International Migration: A force for equality, under the right conditions

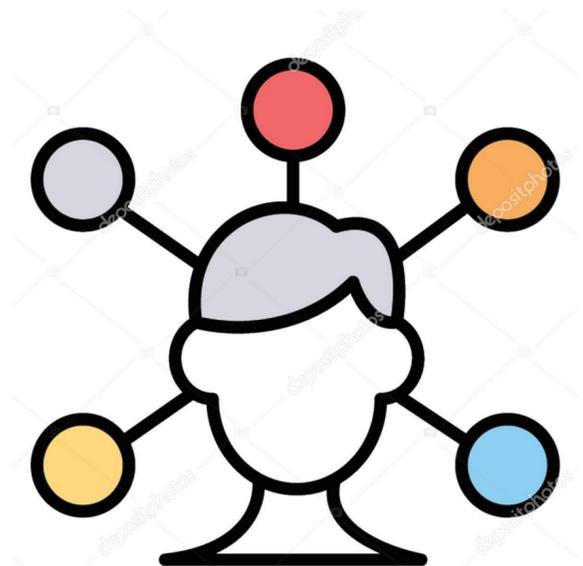
Elitsa Ivanova Maria Marinova



What is International Migration?



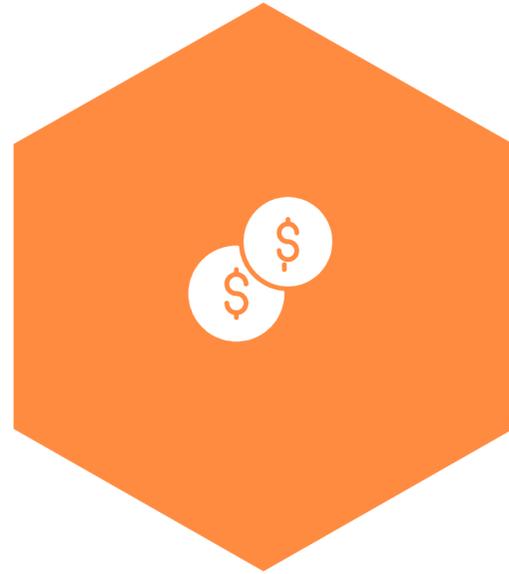
International migration is a powerful expression of people's desire to improve their circumstances in a highly unequal world



International migration and inequality among countries

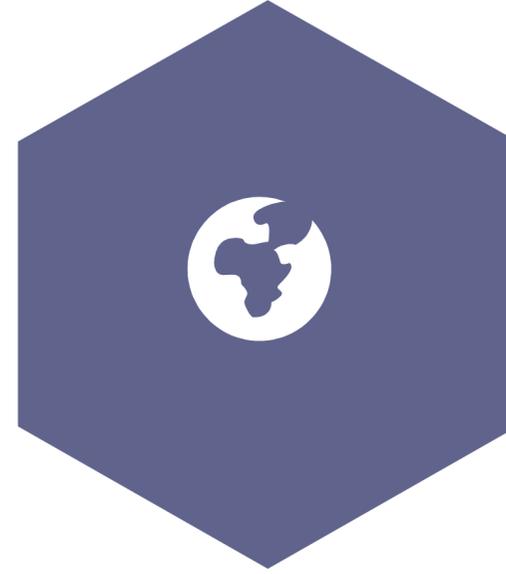
Migration as part of the development process





Economic inequality

Income gaps are indeed considerable between countries of origin and destination along major migration corridors.



Conflict and violence

They continue to force people out of their countries – as do, increasingly, natural disasters



Social differences

Demographic differences and education

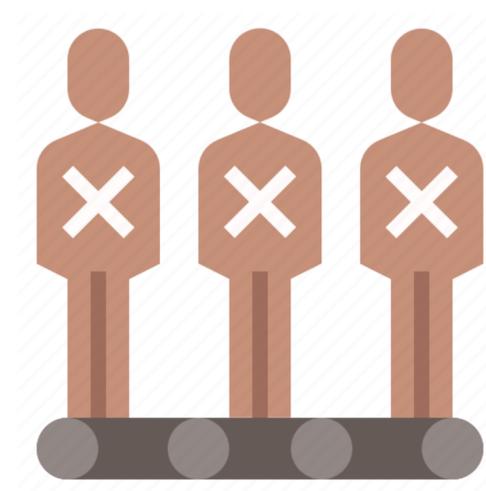
The potential of migration to reduce inequality among countries

- Rise in global economic output
- Distribution of economic and other gains
- Loss of skilled workers



Migration of highly skilled workers

- Nearly one in six countries, saw more than 20 per cent of their population with tertiary education emigrate abroad
- Preferred destinations
- Migration policies that promote the movement of highly skilled workers
- Advantages and disadvantages for both sides
- Emigration may result in shortages of professionals with key skills



Migration of less-skilled workers

- Less-skilled workers can see substantial increases in their income
- They also remit a larger portion of their income to their home countries
- Investments in countries of origin
- Emigration can also provide relief from unemployment and push wages upwards



International migration and inequality within countries

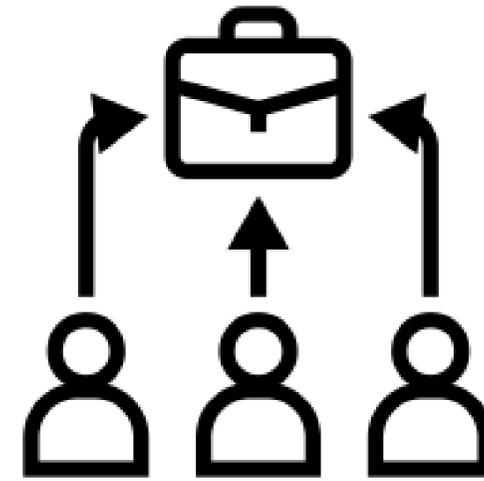
- Does migration helps to reduce inequality within sending and receiving countries ?
- Much depends on the characteristics of each country and on the conditions under which migration takes place
- Changes in wages and employment opportunities
- Concerns regarding the effect of immigration on group-based inequality disparities between migrants and natives of such countries



Migrants and the functioning of labor markets

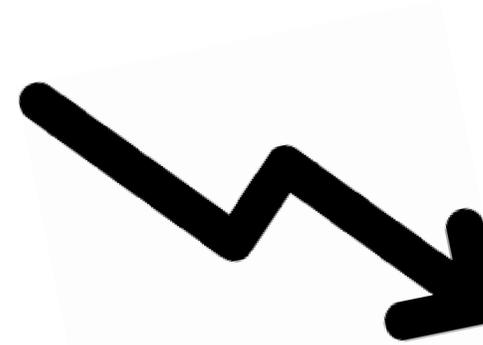
In countries of destination

- Immigration has a weak impact overall on average wages and employment
- It may increase competition for certain jobs
- Concerns over the negative effects of immigration on wages
- Less-skilled migrant workers often accept jobs that the native labor force is not performing
- The inflow of highly skilled migrants brings improvements in productivity as well



In countries of origin

- Emigration can cause a loss of skilled workers
- Wage inequality may rise even where the emigration of workers in the middle of the skill distribution is prevalent
- The presence of migrants abroad and their eventual return can also stimulate the transfer of technology and capital



Group-based inequality and the immigrant experience

- Migrants are worse off than their native peers in countries of destination
- In the labor markets of developed countries, international migrants work more often in informal jobs, receive lower wages and endure worse working conditions than natives
- Low proficiency in the country's language and lack of country-specific labor market experience has a strong effect on their employment prospects



Maximizing the potential of international migration

- The positive effects of migration are far from guaranteed
- In many rich destination countries, immigration policies are highly selective
- Offering options for regular migration at all skill levels would help meet labor market demands, reduce irregular migration and promote the integration of migrants, allowing them to fulfill their potential
- The creation of “skills partnerships” by which employers or Governments in destination countries may fund the training of experts in countries of origin to fill specific job gaps can help reduce the loss of skills



Thank you!