ONLINE   LABOUR MIGRATION

FOSTERING THE SOCIAL AND PROFESSIONAL REINTEGRATION OF RETURN MIGRANTS

8 NOVEMBER – 17 DECEMBER 2021
🕐 **6 WEEKS, 5 HRS/WEEK**

Information Note

International Labour Organization

ITC International Training Centre

KEY FEATURES

GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE

An action-oriented, highly participative approach will be used, with particular attention devoted to sharing international experiences with a view to their adaptation and practical application. Particular attention will be paid to the presentation of "good practices" through case studies reflecting experiences already gained locally and internationally.

INTEGRATED E-LEARNING

An innovative e-learning experience combining self-paced modules, webinars and discussions, case studies, forum debates, role-play exercises and group work using up-to-date learning methods and technologies.

THREE PHASES

Learning begins at own pace, continues through high-quality, engaging "real time" sessions and ends with an individual assignment.

PEER-TO-PEER LEARNING

Practitioners from different parts of the world and different background will join the e-learning to share with participants their concrete experience and actions on how establishing fair recruitment practices.

ITCILO Diploma for Labour Migration Experts and Practitioners

This course qualifies for the ITCILO Diploma for Labour Migration Experts and Practitioners. Take the Academy on Labour Migration, three courses out of all eligible courses within a five year period, and complete a capstone project to become part of a global cadre of practitioners and experts with a recognised set of skills in labour migration policy.

INTRODUCTION TO THE COURSE

There are a number of structural and circumstantial challenges that can prevent the socio-economic reintegration of labour migrants and refugees. Some are inherent to the migration or displacement experience. A prolonged stay abroad often creates challenges for returnees to find employment opportunities, primarily due to the loss of contact with prior networks in their home country. Other factors relate to the capacity

of the country to facilitate the reintegration process. Often countries that are producing large migrant or refugee populations are unable to support their effective reintegration, principally due to the lack of institutional capacity, as well as human and financial resources. When back home, returnees may not have access to up to date information about employment services and current labour market situation. As a result, many returnees are concentrated in low-skilled informal employment or under-regulated sectors.

Due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, many labour migrants have lost their jobs in the country of destination and had to return to their country of origin, in some instances forcibly. The unexpected returns forced migrants to face situations where opportunities to access decent jobs may even be more limited due to lockdown and other restriction measures, as well as challenging economic situation in general, thus creating enormous difficulties for returnees in meeting basic needs for themselves and their families.

In some cases, returning migrant workers are coming back to countries already experiencing high unemployment and economic hardship. The pressure on job markets in areas of return with resident workers might increase competition and tension among communities. If access to jobs and livelihoods are unavailable in the place of return, then returnees tend to migrate towards urban areas in search of employment opportunities. The absence of sustainable reintegration increase the likelihood of these populations falling into poverty and/ or engaging into secondary migration or displacement is heightened. Returnees can play an important role in facilitating the transfer of qualifications and skills to origin countries as they bring back skills, experience and entrepreneurship abilities which can help countries to rebuild better. Providing operational support through income-generating opportunities for both returnees and communities in areas of return might help the overall reintegration process.

In response to these challenges and opportunities, ITCILO designed the course "Fostering the social and professional reintegration of return migrants". This course will explore the linkage between return migration and development while explaining why some return migrants succeed in reintegrating back home whereas others do not.

WHAT WILL I BE ABLE TO DO?

The course addresses the social and professional reintegration of return migrants by strengthening the capacity of policy level stakeholders design and facilitate evidence-based return migration policies. More specifically, you will be able to:
- Access innovative and comparative data on returnees' conditions back home;
- Combine a top down and a bottom-up approach to return migration and reintegration;

- Benefit from increased awareness of the need to develop adequate mechanisms sustaining the reintegration of returnees while redefining current policy priorities as applied to return;
- Understand the factors, public policies, as well as the pre- and post-return conditions shaping migrants' patterns of reintegration in their country of origin;
- Explaining why return may or may not have a positive impact on the development of migrants' country of origin;
- Acquire analytical tools and instruments (e.g. indicators) allowing adequate policies to be adopted with a view to supporting migrants' reintegration;
- Promote the integration of return migration issues in national and regional development strategies.

WHO ATTENDS THIS COURSE?

The course is designed for officials and practitioners committed to facilitating the reintegration of return migrants. More specifically:
- Public authorities at national and local level,
- Workers' and employers' representatives,
- NGOs and CSOs dealing with migration and development,
- Migrant associations,
- International cooperation agencies and organizations.

WHAT TOPICS DOES THIS COURSE COVER?

The course will tackle the following topics:
- Measuring return flows and stocks;
- Heterogeneity of returnees' profiles and patterns of reintegration;
- Factors shaping returnees' patterns of reintegration back home. Why do some returnees contribute to development whereas others do not?
- Returnees' investment and skills portability in the labour;
- Social protection mechanisms to cover returnees and their families;
- Empowering returnees and access to services at local level;
- The link between integration in host countries and reintegration in home countries;
- Impact of vocational training on the returnees' propensity to reintegrate professionally back home;
- Entrepreneurship of returnees and impact on development;
- Coordination and coherence among public institutions (local and national) in the development of a reintegration policy.

HOW?

The course consists of a number of online modules offered through the ITCILO e-Campus online platform to be completed over a period of six weeks, from 25 October to 3 December 2021, for an estimated 60 learning hours. The course is broken down into three phases:

- **Flexible learning:** (asynchronous) self-guided online learning on e-campus, forum of discussion facilitated by experts and assessment throughout the different phases of the course.
- **"Real time" learning (synchronous):** Live interactive sessions and engaging video presentations by highly experienced trainers, blended with individual and collaborative group exercises, peer-to-peer assessment and online technical forums on e-campus.
- **End of course assignment:** Individual assignment applying the teachings acquired during the course.
- Participants who successfully complete all assessments and the final assignment will receive a Certificate of Achievement. The passing grade is 60/100.

LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS

The course is offered in English.

WHAT WILL I BE REQUIRED TO DO DURING THE COURSE?

Course learning materials and tuition will be offered online in English. The following requirements are therefore essential to participate in this course:

- the ability to use and access a computer with internet
- working knowledge of written English or Spanish
- the availability to dedicate per week between 5-10 hours to the course

COSTS AND PAYMENT

The cost of participation is **950 EUR**, and is **payable in advance** by the participant or his or her sponsoring organization.

APPLICATIONS

Applicants should complete the online nomination form no later than **8 November 2021**, supported by a nomination letter from the sponsoring institution indicating how the participant will be financed. The form can be found at https://oarf2.itcilo.org/DST/A9713751/en

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