Knowledge Sharing

The knowledge management strategy of the SURE project has four different entry points:

1. Knowledge sharing essentials: SURE will work in close collaboration with both the involved ILO units and office in the field as well as the Embassies of the Government of Italy in the project countries.

2. Knowledge sharing analysis: Through the research undertaken within the project, new data will be available. While there is already an extensive literature on the topic, the project will try to see how the Decent Work Approach can be mainstreamed in the reintegration process of return migrants.

3. Knowledge sharing planning, monitoring and evaluation: Participatory interactions that encourage reflection and help the project develop into the future, along with feedback on progress, will be the main tools employed to monitor and evaluate the project.

4. Knowledge sharing tools and techniques: SURE will develop an up-to-date online platform webpage that will provide to a larger audience access to practical tools such as digital visual storytelling, self-learning training, and materials for trainers on how to develop training or informative activities. Information toolkit for potential returnees will also be integrated on the platform, to better prepare the reintegration period.

Institutional Framework and Management Arrangements

The project is administratively and technically coordinated through the Social Protection, Governance and Tripartism Programme (SPGT) of the ITCILO. The project management unit works in close coordination with the ILO Headquarters (MIGRANT) and ILO Country Office in Algiers for Algeria, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco and Tunisia. The project will involve regular consultations with the Movimento degli Affari Esteri e Cooperazione Internazionale (MAECI) through its embassies in the targeted countries.

Supporting the Social and Professional Reintegration of North African Return Migrants (SURE)

January 2018 – 31 December 2019
Supporting the Social and Professional Reintegration of North African Return Migrants (SURE)

Context and Objectives

Return migration continues to be one of the least considered aspects in migration policy, despite its crucial socioeconomic significance for both countries of origin and destination. Obstacles to addressing return migration may stem from:

- The lack of analytical tools relating to the impact of return on development and the factors shaping returnees’ patterns of reintegration;
- The need for adequate institutional mechanisms to support the social and professional reintegration of migrants in their country of origin.

Policies addressed to returnees have to take into account the pre- and post-return conditions faced by migrant workers, the reasons for emigration and return, the duration of stay abroad and all those elements that can affect the capacity of reintegration in the home country. They should consider the employment and investment opportunities for the return migrants as well as serving migrants who return temporarily or permanently, with a development-oriented approach that places their skills, rights, aspirations and know-how at the centre of the discussion. Return constitutes a stage in the migration cycle and requires a multidisciplinary rights-based approach and relevant support mechanisms.

The overall objective of the International Training Centre’s SURE project is to support the social and professional reintegration of return migrants by strengthening the capacity of policy level stakeholders in North Africa to design and facilitate evidence-based return migration policies. The project targets directly Morocco and Tunisia, and indirectly Algeria and Mauritania.

More specifically, the project will:

- provide analytical tools allowing the adoption of policies supporting returnees’ reintegration;
- raise awareness of the need to develop adequate mechanisms sustaining the reintegration of returnees while redefining current policy priorities applied to return;
- contribute to integrating return migration issues in national and regional development strategies;
- produce and disseminate information and innovative datasets on North African returners;
- facilitate a constructive dialogue among European and North African stakeholders;
- provide added value to temporary labour migration schemes;
- capitalise on returnees’ know-how and human and financial capital acquired abroad;
- generate lasting and self-sustaining channels of discussion between migration stakeholders, at national and international levels.

Project Pillars

The project is divided into the below three pillars:

Pillar 1: Filling in the knowledge gap

An inventory of the available data related to return flows and returnees will be compiled for the target countries. Highlights of contracts and similarities as to how return and reintegration have been managed by public policies in the four target countries will be carried out. Collected data pertaining to return flows in the target countries will be used to trace the regional distribution of returnees.

Consultations with stakeholders will be held to assess their priorities with regards to returnees’ reintegration challenges. These consultations are paramount to properly understanding the contingencies of the public and private parties involved. Consultations will be conducted with academia and experts, government representatives, business communities, trade unions, NGOs, and return migrants themselves.

Pillar 2: Building and reinforcing the institutional capacities

Capacity building through an array of training courses at sub-regional and national levels, will be offered to migration and development stakeholders from the target countries and the EU Member States (when relevant) in order to tackle various issues pertaining to returnees’ reintegration. The capacity building activities will gather participants from North African countries but also from selected European countries. The training activities will offer a unique opportunity to share experience and knowledge.

The training activities 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 market;
- Social protection mechanisms to cover returnees and their families

Pillar 3: Fostering a constructive interregional dialogue on reintegration and development for policy orientation

Fostering interregional dialogue on reintegration through the organization of one high-level policy conference.

The objectives of the policy conference will be to:

- identify and compare the various contingencies faced by returnees’ patterns of reintegration and propose solutions;
- interact with policy-makers;
- delineating the contours of a realistic action framework aimed at strengthening a durable forum of discussion and institutional exchanges between the EU and North African countries in return migration and reintegration;
- encouraging and facilitating a South-South dialogue with countries from other regions which adopted a genuine reintegration policy (such as Philippines and Sri Lanka).

The policy conference aim to define ad hoc policy recommendations for fostering the reintegration of returnees and their contribution to the development of their country of origin.

Beneficiaries

The immediate project beneficiaries in countries of origin and destination are:

- Public authorities at national and local level
- Workers’ and employers’ representatives
- Chambers of commerce
- Migrant associations
- NGOs and CSOs dealing with migration

The ultimate beneficiaries of the project are migrants who have returned or are about to return to their country of origin for different reasons:

- Long-term immigrants residing abroad who returned to their country of origin, on their own initiative;
- Temporary labour migrants who, following the termination of their short-term job contracts, return to their home countries (this sub-category also includes seasonal workers);
- Circular migrants who practice the to and fro movements between their home country and abroad and who return on a temporary basis to their home country;
- Migrants in an irregular situations who are compelled to return to their home country.