

# **MIEUX Case Study Madagascar (2017 - 2019)**

Funded by the  
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ICMPD



## How to read this case study?

### MIEUX Thematic Areas



Migration and  
Development



Legal Migration  
and Mobility



Irregular Migration  
and Trafficking in  
Human Beings



International Protection  
and Asylum Policy



Horizontal  
Interventions

### Ten features of good practice in MIEUX Actions

- 1 There should be ownership on the part of the partner country
- 2 Actions should provide an opportunity to be innovative in their context
- 3 Actions should be able to be replicated
- 4 Actions should provide tangible results
- 5 Actions should be endorsed at a high level
- 6 Actions should be integrated into existing priorities
- 7 Actions should be based on the highest levels of experience
- 8 Actions should complement and be in synergy with other initiatives
- 9 Actions should provide EU added value
- 10 Actions should act as a catalyst for the acquisition of knowledge through the exchange of experiences

## NATIONAL DIASPORA ENGAGEMENT POLICY

### Madagascar (2017 - 2019)

MIEUX provided support to the Malagasy authorities to develop a comprehensive and inclusive Diaspora Engagement Policy in order to promote, foster and facilitate the participation of the Malagasy diaspora in the socio-economic development of the country.

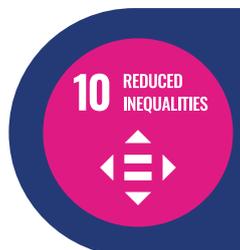
#### Context

Madagascar, an island country in the Indian Ocean, is among the growing number of countries who recognise the important potential of their diaspora for development. In this perspective, the Malagasy Government decided to strengthen its ties with its citizens abroad and make diaspora affairs one of the pillars of the so-called economic diplomacy of the country. In February 2015, a Directorate for Diaspora Affairs was created within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Following the creation of the directorate, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs commissioned a study on the diaspora in France (the main country of destination), as little was known about the exact size and composition of the Malagasy diaspora generally. This study, carried out in cooperation with other institutions and organisations, found that the diaspora in France is mainly feminine, mostly high-skilled and highly integrated. Most importantly, the majority of the persons involved in the study expressed being favourable to participating in the development of their country of origin, which indicated a large potential to tap into if well managed.

In order to be able to more effectively tap into this potential, the Directorate for Diaspora Affairs decided to develop an inclusive and sustainable Diaspora Engagement Policy and contacted the MIEUX programme to provide the necessary capacity building support in this area.

- 1 There should be ownership on the part of the partner country
- 4 Actions should provide tangible results
- 5 Actions should be endorsed at a high level

**MIEUX**  
FEATURES



## Action Design

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The Action was composed of a combination of different types of activities, and involved two experts from France with extensive knowledge of diaspora engagement issues and experience in working with diaspora organisations. The activities were as follows:

- The Action started with a **fact-finding mission** in Madagascar, during which the MIEUX team met with various Malagasy authorities to get a better understanding of their visions and expectations for the policy, and familiarised itself with the general environment in which the policy would be developed.
- The experts led several **thematic capacity building workshops and drafting sessions of the Diaspora Engagement Policy**, involving the Directorate for Diaspora Affairs and other Malagasy institutions, to enhance their knowledge and capacities on diaspora issues and on methodologies for policy development.
- A delegation of representatives from three key Malagasy institutions (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Economy and Finance, and the Economic Development Board of Madagascar) participated in **two study visits**. The selected countries were Senegal (as a country with a solid experience in diaspora outreach) and France (as the first country of destination of the Malagasy diaspora, and a country implementing initiatives supporting African diasporas). During these two visits, the Malagasy delegation also **consulted members of the Malagasy diaspora** regarding the development of the policy.
- A **final event** held in Antananarivo in December 2019 was the occasion for the Directorate for Diaspora Affairs to present the Diaspora Engagement Policy to more than 80 stakeholders from different backgrounds, including representatives from many ministries, but also from international organisations, civil society, the private sector and the diaspora.

## Practices

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- **Building on existing momentum:** The Action was launched shortly after the first Diaspora Forum in Antananarivo in October 2017, which gathered various governmental and non-governmental stakeholders to discuss the involvement of the diaspora in the development of Madagascar. This was very useful for the Action, as it meant that a number of issues had already been discussed during the forum and most institutions already had an idea of the priorities that should be tackled by the policy, and the objectives envisaged by the diaspora.
- **Learning from the good practices of EU MS and African countries:** During the workshops, the experts shared good practices of other countries in harnessing the development potential of diaspora engagement (including other African countries such as Mali, Morocco

and Senegal) to inform and inspire the Malagasy authorities and create a basis from which to develop the policy. In addition, a Malagasy delegation met with various Senegalese stakeholders involved in M&D during a study visit, and discussed their practices and lessons learnt as an African country with significant know-how in this particular field. During the study visit to France, the Malagasy delegation exchanged with French institutions on good practices in the field of M&D and possible areas for cooperation.

- **Ensuring a multi-institutional approach:** Besides the Directorate for Diaspora Affairs, representatives from various other Malagasy institutions participated in the activities, thereby ensuring that their expectations and needs were taken into account in the drafting of the policy. In addition, selected embassies (Belgium, France, Mauritius, Senegal and USA) participated in one of the workshops in order to increase coordination between the Directorate for Diaspora Affairs and the representations abroad, and to discuss the role of embassies in diaspora engagement and how both sides can work together more effectively.
- **Involving the diaspora:** The Directorate for Diaspora Affairs was eager to involve the diaspora in development of the policy from the early stages. Online consultations were organised and embassies were involved in contacting members of the diaspora. In the framework of the MIEUX Action, two consultations were organised in France and Senegal, during which the Directorate for Diaspora Affairs could exchange with the diaspora regarding its expectations and needs.

## Impact

- **A national Diaspora Engagement Policy.** The Action led to the development of a national Diaspora Engagement Policy, which detailed the background, vision, objectives and main pillars of intervention to promote and facilitate involvement of the Malagasy diaspora in the development of Madagascar. It also included an action plan, which presented the main activities to be implemented by the Malagasy authorities. After official validation at political level, the policy will be implemented in the future by the Directorate for Diaspora Affairs, in cooperation with other relevant institutions.
- **Linking diaspora engagement, sustainable development and the formulation of policies.** The exchanges with the French experts, as well as with institutions from France and Senegal, enabled the Malagasy institutions involved in the Action to get a better understanding of key aspects of diaspora issues and their impact on development, and the formulation of sustainable policies in this area.
- **Fostered cooperation between stakeholders.** The process of developing the Diaspora Engagement Policy enabled and committed various stakeholders to reflect jointly on the links between diaspora engagement and development, to reach a collective vision of diaspora engagement, and to agree on the inter-institutional approach to be taken at national level.

## Lessons Learnt

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- **Ownership and political support.** The commitment of the Directorate for Diaspora Affairs to the Action and its ownership of the policy development process, as well as the strong political support demonstrated by high-level officials, were essential factors for the success of the Action.
- **Knowledge base for policy development.** When developing diaspora engagement policies, it is important for the relevant authorities to have a good understanding of the diaspora it wishes to engage. This can be achieved, *inter alia*, through solid research and data collection on diaspora communities, and through consultations with diaspora members to better understand their expectations and needs.



[www.mieux-initiative.eu](http://www.mieux-initiative.eu)



Migration EU Expertise



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Since launching operations in 2009, the Migration EU expertise (MIEUX) Initiative has provided space to request capacity development activities and EU expertise, allowing the sharing of knowledge and practices between peers working in institutions in and outside of Europe.

The adoption of the Global Compact on Migration and the creation of the UN Network on Migration coincided with MIEUX's ten-year anniversary. To mark the occasion, MIEUX undertook a comprehensive analysis of its achievements, methodologies and practices.

By delving into MIEUX's portfolio of over 100 interventions, this series of case studies intend to offer a glimpse of the broad range of tools, methodologies and approaches that can inspire or be used by governments and migration and development practitioners to advance a cooperative and sustainable international architecture of migration.