

Migration EU eXpertise Annual Report 2016

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Implemented by



Migration EU eXpertise (MIEUX)

Migration EU eXpertise Annual Report 2016

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ACRONYMS

ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
BBM	Better Migration Management Project
COMESA	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa
DDF	Demand-Driven Facility
EU	European Union
EU MS	European Union Member State
EUCAP	EU Maritime Capacity Building Mission
EUTF	EU Emergency Trust Fund
FMM	Free Movement of Persons and Migration
GAMM	Global Approach to Migration and Mobility
GTMPPT	Permanent Multi-sectoral Working Group against Trafficking in Persons
ICMPD	International Centre for Migration Policy Development
ILO	International Labour Organization
IOM	International Organization for Migration
JEMPAS	Support to the Mobility Partnership between the European Union and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
MC2CM	Mediterranean City-to-City Migration
MIEUX	Migration EU eXpertise
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
OEA	Overseas Employment Agency
PDD	Platform for Disaster Displacement
PNAT	Peruvian National Action Plan against Trafficking in Persons
POEA	Philippines' Overseas Employment Agency
SOP	Standard Operating Procedure
THB	Trafficking in Human Beings
UNCLG	United Cities and Local Government
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

FOREWORD

Migration EU eXpertise (MIEUX) is a demand-driven, capacity building facility that provides rapid and tailor-made expertise in the field of migration. This initiative is implemented jointly by the European Union (EU) and the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD).

Since its inception in 2009, 122 countries have benefitted from MIEUX peer-to-peer expertise. In total, 138 requests have been submitted thus far and more than 350 experts have taken part in the peer-to-peer activities and have exchanged their hands-on knowledge.

In 2016 alone, more than 52 activities were organised, with more than 600 participants taking part in MIEUX capacity building activities such as policy drafting workshops, information sessions or study visits. In the same year, MIEUX also supported the elaboration of 27 national migration management instruments, including seven strategies and policies, and five handbooks.

MIEUX is more than a technical assistance programme; over the years it has turned into a solid platform spearheading intra/inter-regional and national dialogue and cooperation, a catalyst for multi-stakeholder and diversified partnerships, a laboratory of good practices, a promoter of innovative approaches and working modalities, and a reference when it comes to collaboration between the EU and partner countries.

In the coming years, MIEUX will continue its efforts to broaden the range of partners, such as local administrations, parliamentary bodies and civil society organisations, whilst capitalising on the knowledge and experiences acquired.

Enjoy reading the (very first) MIEUX annual report 2016!

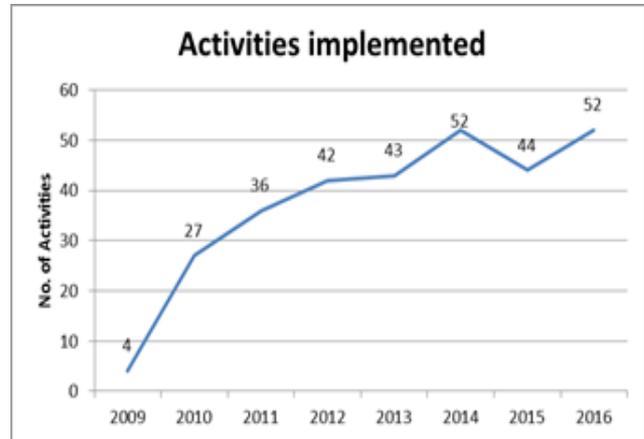
The MIEUX team¹

¹ <https://www.mieux-initiative.eu/en/about/mieux-team>

I. MIEUX IN 2016

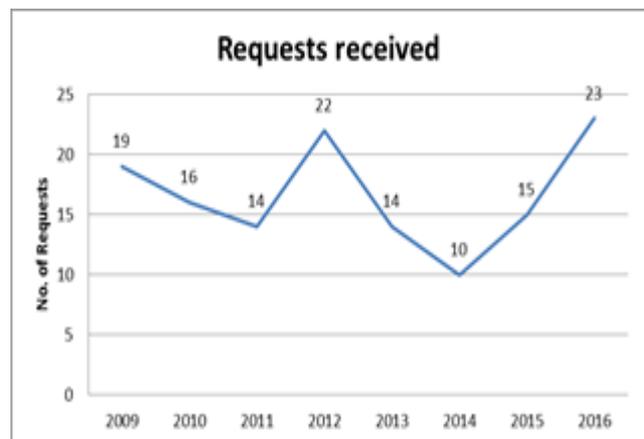
2016 marked the beginning of the third phase for the MIEUX Initiative and as such the MIEUX team had an enriching and eventful year!

MIEUX received 23 new requests (representing the highest number of requests received since the Initiative's inception in 2009) from countries across the globe; 52 capacity building activities were carried out; over 60 public (and private) officials from EU and non-EU countries were mobilised; and 27 national migration management instruments were developed. Key examples include the migration and development strategies of Malawi and Togo; the monitoring and evaluation handbook for Peruvian national and regional Trafficking in Human Beings (THB) Action Plans; a strategy to counter irregular migration in Niger; as well as the Kyrgyz and Sierra Leonean national migration policies (the latter currently pending approval by the Sierra Leonean authorities).



Efforts such as these ensured partner countries were better placed to prevent and combat irregular migration, including the smuggling of migrants and human trafficking, while fostering well-managed mobility, promoting international protection, and taking into account the developmental impact of migration and mobility. However, it also illustrated the MIEUX facility's evolution from a strictly capacity building facility to one where partnerships are reinforced and inter-ministerial coordination enhanced.

The 23 requests received were from: sub-Saharan Africa, Asia, Eastern (and Southern) Europe and Latin America, reflecting the EU's migration management priorities well within the Global Approach to Migration and Mobility (GAMM) priority areas and in alignment with instruments in the EU's policy framework (Mobility Partnerships, Common Agenda on Migration and Mobility). Although MIEUX's principal partners remain national central authorities outside of the EU, a growing number of requests (five) have focused on non-traditional actors (local and regional authorities, NGOs, civil society, ombudspersons).



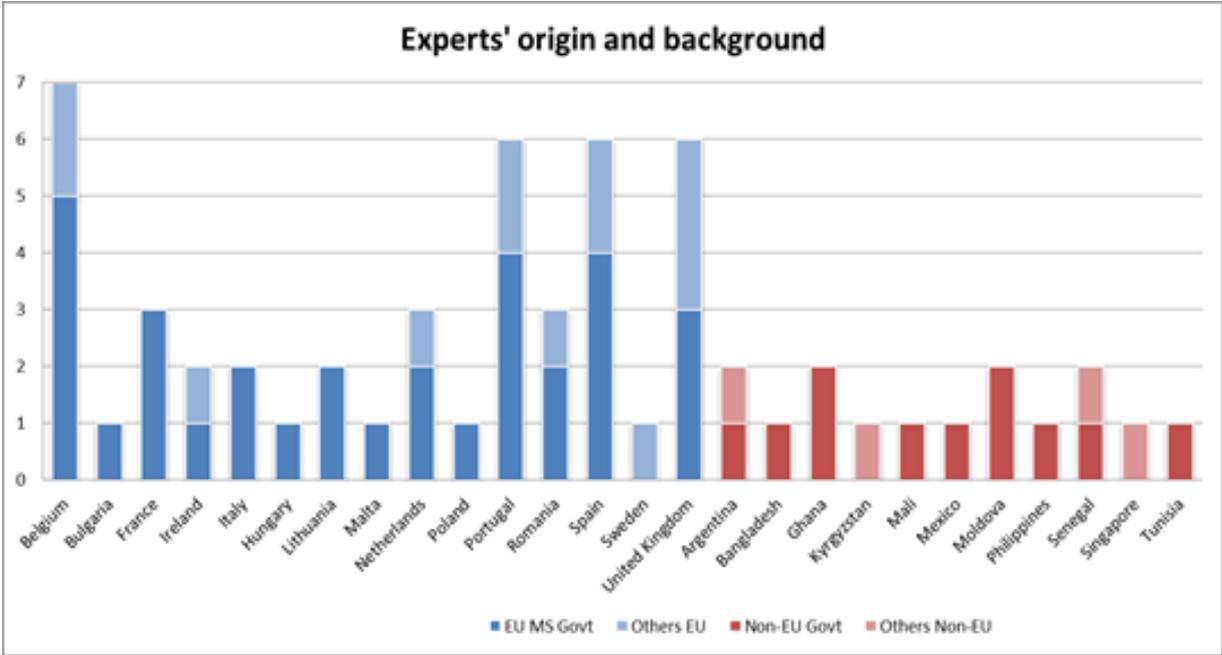
In times when migration receives the full attention of politicians, policy makers and the public, the role and added value of MIEUX – as instruments of cooperation and capacity development – were highly appreciated by MIEUX's partners, as reflected by the number of requests received as well as follow-up actions initiated. MIEUX's role in providing technical assistance and strengthening capacities has remained a highly relevant platform for partner countries and EU Member States (EU MS).

During the course of 2016, MIEUX continued to diversify its modus operandi by following the emerging priorities of its partners and equipping them with the mechanisms and know-how needed to improve and harmonise their efforts and actions: for example, the inter-ministerial structures established under multiple MIEUX Actions lead to more coordination, and the identification of numerous issues at national level and common solutions that partners are willing to tackle under new requests or other Actions (e.g. Malawi, Niger, Togo). The most common thematic areas of MIEUX's activities were: diaspora engagement, anti-trafficking of human beings, integration, migration and gender, migration and environment, and unaccompanied minors.

MIEUX requests in 2016	
Country/Regional organisation	Thematic Area
Mexico II	Asylum and Re-Integration
Belarus	Labour Migration
Togo III	Migration and Development/Diaspora issues
Moldova IV	Diaspora Feasibility study
Central African Republic II	Migration Policy/Strategy Development
Jordan II	Irregular Migration and Victim Centre care support
Costa Rica II	Update of the National Integration Plan 2016-2020 and development of the respective Action Plan
Mali II	Supporting the implementation of the National Migration Policy
Moldova V	Raising public awareness and effective communication with the public on Irregular Migration
Andean Community	Free Movement and Tourism
El Salvador	Support to consular staff and support to a migration conference on Migration and Gender
Niger III	Migration and Youth
Togo IV	Return, Readmission and Reintegration
Malawi IV	Development of a National Platform for engagement with local authorities on Migration and Development
Cabo Verde IV	Enhancing capacities of municipal and local authorities on Migration Management
Kenya II	Technical Support in the establishment of a Migration Data Resource Centre
Tajikistan III	Labour Migration
Peru III	Irregular Migration
Dominican Republic III	Irregular Migration (and Communication Strategies)
Guinea	Communication and Irregular Migration
Zambia II	Migration Data
Azerbaijan III	Project Development
Thailand II	Irregular Migration and Trauma of Victims

In parallel to the day-to-day implementation and in order to enhance internal procedures, efficiency and communications, new monitoring and evaluation tools and feedback questionnaires were developed, taking into account Standard Operating Procedures' (SOPs') quality management indicators.

MIEUX mobilises migration experts from EU MS and non-EU administrations to expand cooperation at national and international levels through peer-to-peer and triangular cooperation approaches. Therefore, MIEUX's success is attributed to experts' participation and contributions.



Finally, 12 Actions (seven in sub-Saharan Africa; two in Latin America; three in Asia) were closed in 2016, resulting not only in key improvements in the institutional, legislative and policy frameworks for MIEUX's partner authorities, but also an enhanced knowledge base and improved awareness of international/EU best practices for public officials engaged in the process.

Below are a few highlights of MIEUX's successes during the course of 2016:

- Togo's first ever national migration and development strategy that aims at improving the developmental impact of migration and the organisation of a diaspora forum;
- Strengthening the capacities of the Thai Multi-Disciplinary Teams to provide care for victims of THB;
- A diaspora engagement policy and Action Plan for Malawi;
- A national strategy to counter irregular migration, and improved knowledge on border management, prevention, return and reintegration for members of the Inter-Ministerial Committee of Niger;
- Recommendations for improving data collection in COMESA were adopted by Member States of the COMESA region;
- A standardised reporting form and work plan for the monitoring and evaluation of the Peruvian National Action Plan against Trafficking in Persons (PNAT) was developed and approved by the Permanent Multi-sectoral Working Group against Trafficking in Persons (GTMPPT), in addition to which a Handbook for Peruvian National and Regional Action Plans against THB has been developed;
- A Ministry of Labour handbook on managing labour migration in Myanmar that can be used as a tool by labour officers when advising migrants in search of opportunities abroad;

- A series of peer-to-peer training sessions took place in Tajikistan, enabling officials to enhance their practical skills on investigation techniques, victim identification, victim protection strategies and their theoretical knowledge on international THB frameworks as well as the EU, British and Romanian regulations;
- Reinforced regional cooperation in Peru to combat THB (first steps taken to form the South-American Anti-Trafficking Coalition with more than ten Latin America countries).

MIEUX continued to be implemented in an efficient way, benefiting from a strong commitment from partner authorities at all stages of implementation, ensuring synergies and complementarities with ongoing (or prior) Actions, whilst avoiding duplication with other EU-funded initiatives at national and regional levels².

² e.g. the Demand-Driven Facility (DDF) under the EU-funded Support to Free Movement of Persons and Migration in West Africa (FMM West Africa), EU Capacity (CAP) Sahel, JEMPAS Project, the Mobility Partnership Facility, Mediterranean City-to-City Migration (MC2CM), United Cities and Local Governments (UNCLG), United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), International Labour Organization (ILO), local authorities from Lyon and Barcelona, etc.

II. MIEUX IN THE WORLD

2.1. MIEUX IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

Introduction

Africa's close geographical proximity to Europe makes the region a priority area for the EU both at political and technical levels. In spite of the increased attention and resource allocation for Africa (e.g. EU Emergency Trust Fund – EUTF), these new initiatives have not undermined the relevance of the Actions conducted under the MIEUX Initiative in Africa. In fact, during the course of 2016, MIEUX Actions proved to be of significant complementarity – compared to widescale projects – in a large part due to their demand-driven, quick reaction and targeted nature. Focus was paid to cooperation mechanisms established with a broad number of migration actors operating in Africa, acknowledging the added value of the initiative which provides tailored responses to the main migration challenges that Africa is facing (ranging from migration and development and irregular migration to cross-cutting issues such as data management and policy development).

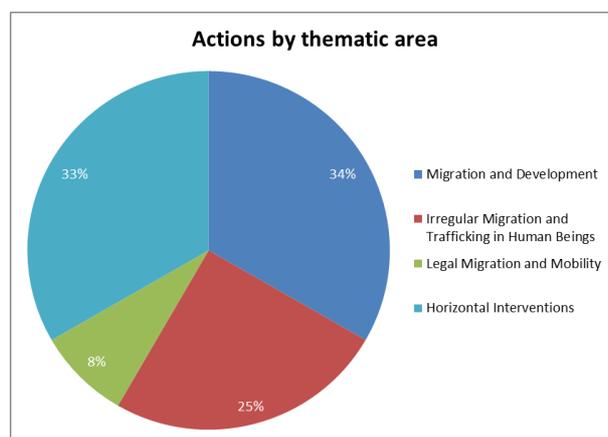
MIEUX Actions involved in 45 countries in Africa

Sub-Saharan Africa continued to be the most active region globally for the MIEUX team.



MIEUX covers all areas of migration in Africa in complementarity to other initiatives

The diversity of topics covered under MIEUX in Africa in 2016 illustrates the plurality and interconnectivity of migration challenges. MIEUX in sub-Saharan Africa dealt predominantly with migration and development, irregular migration and horizontal interventions such as data management and policy development.

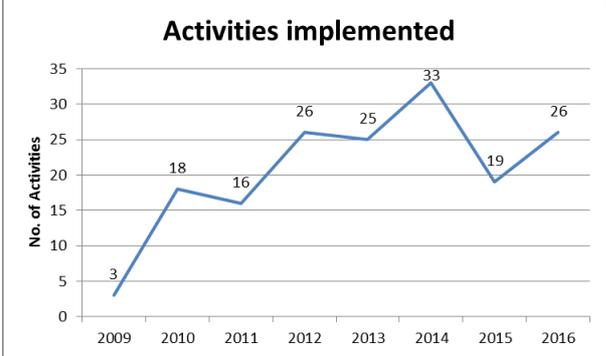


It is essential to highlight that policy development has been on top of the political agenda of African partners since 2012. The high number of requests revolving around the development of migration related policies, confirms the growing interest of countries on the continent to provide unified frameworks to the constantly evolving migratory phenomenon. Actions have been implemented both at national and regional levels. Indeed, as stated in MIEUX's specific objectives, the initiative not only aims to enhance the capacities of partner countries in various areas of migration, but also to strengthen cooperation among partner countries themselves and with EU MS. The MIEUX West Africa Action on climate change and migration allowed for the development of a comprehensive approach to the

increasing trend while strengthening the regional response to this transnational phenomenon. Furthermore, other activities implemented at national level – in the course of 2016 – were conceived in a way that complement other initiatives. Therefore, close coordination efforts were pursued. This was the case with the Platform for Disaster Displacement (PDD) in Niger, where MIEUX coordinated with EUCAP Sahel Niger, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to develop the National Strategy to Counter Irregular Migration. This coordinated approach replied to the need for streamlining the donor's and implementing agencies' approach to migration governance.

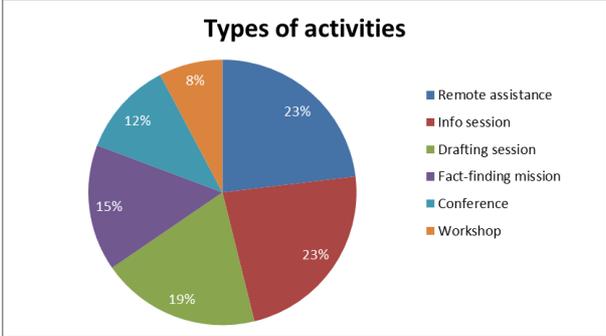
2016 – Implementation at a glance

In 2016, 26 activities were organised in sub-Saharan Africa.



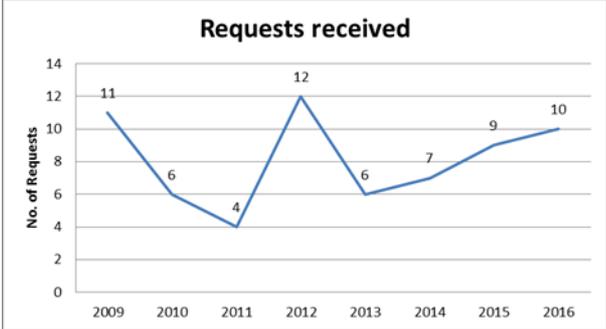
Priority was given to applying an inclusive and regional approach to all interventions in order to ensure coherence with other national and regional frameworks and to sufficiently address the complexities of the situations at hand. Participants from the regions and local authorities were invited to share their views and gain knowledge (e.g Niger and Nigeria) on the chosen topics. This proved to be of added value as the inclusion of participants from the region is essential in order to develop outputs that respond to the actual needs of the people who will benefit from them. This approach that gives priority to

providing sustainable solutions, was complemented by field visits to key regions which also proved highly relevant in the context of Africa where conditions vary significantly from capitals to the more remote places, as the relevance of policies has to be ensured for the whole country.



A demand-driven facility

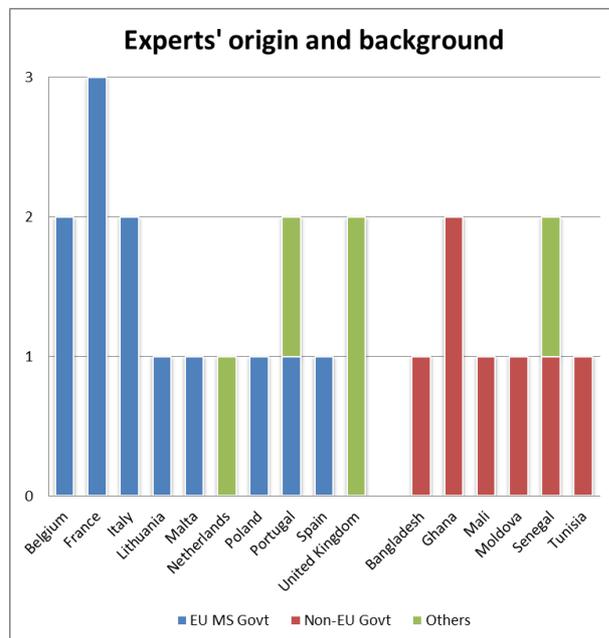
Out of a total of 23 requests received in 2016, ten were from sub-Saharan African countries illustrating the continuing relevance of the MIEUX facility for this region and the strong demand for flexible capacity building initiatives. Particularly in the regions of Africa that do not fall under the Emergency Trust Fund for Africa (EUTF), MIEUX provides a tremendous (and sometimes the only) cooperation opportunity on migration issues, despite the increasing relevance of the subject for the entire continent. Given the high degree of mobility between African countries, migration management is a concern for most governments on the continent and MIEUX was able to address a variety of needs that were expressed by various institutions. For countries which are eligible for the EUTF, MIEUX was able to complement other larger scale initiatives.



MIEUX experts – the driving force

MIEUX mobilised mixed teams of migration practitioners to share knowledge and experiences with their peers. In Africa, one out of every two experts was from a non-EU country, mainly from the sub-region, demonstrating the strong interest that African officials have in learning about their peers on the continent, as well as from their European counterparts. The peer-to-peer exchange among neighbouring countries moreover enabled the strengthening of networks between countries in the region and facilitated future exchanges of practices.

- Survey on Data Management in Member States of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa
- Regional Conferences on Migration and Climate Change in West Africa



MIEUX outputs from 2016 in Africa

- National Strategy to counter Irregular Migration in Niger
- Migration and Development Strategy of Côte d'Ivoire
- Migration and Development Strategy of Togo
- Diaspora Engagement Policy of Malawi
- Training Curriculum on Maritime Border Management in Nigeria
- Conclusions of the 1st Socio-Economic Forum of Togolese diaspora

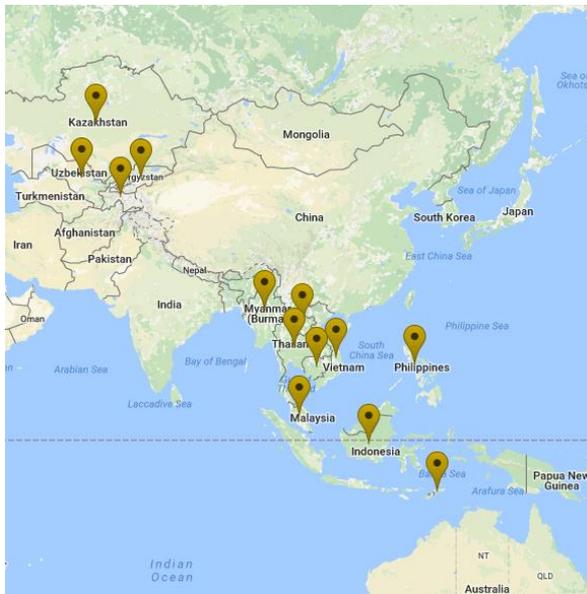
2.2. MIEUX IN ASIA

Introduction

With more than 75.1 million people on the move in Asia, migration flows in the region reached a new dimension in 2015. One out of every three of the world's international migrants live in the region, with numbers rising three times faster than in Europe. In total, 59 million Asians reside in another country of the region, making Asia-to-Asia migration the largest regional migration corridor in the world. Against this background, Asian countries are confronted with many challenges ranging from labour migration to trafficking in human beings – a focus of MIEUX interventions in the region.

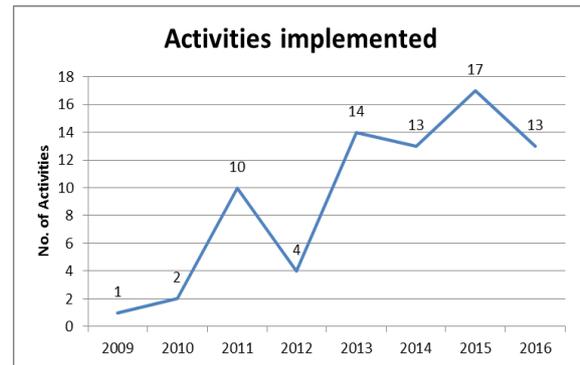
MIEUX Actions involved 16 countries in Asia

Active in Asia since the initiative's inception in 2009, MIEUX has so far supported 16 countries from both Central and South-East Asia via peer-to-peer expertise.



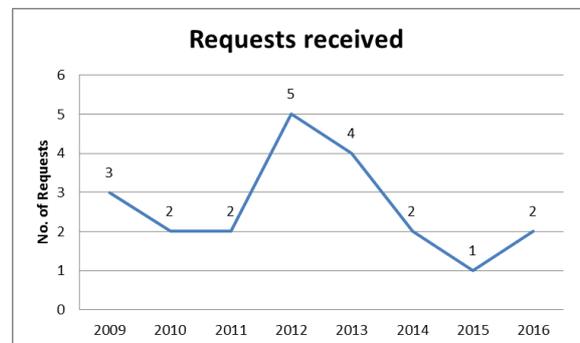
2016 – Implementation at a glance

In 2016, 13 activities were implemented in Kyrgyzstan, Myanmar, the Philippines, Tajikistan, Thailand and Timor-Leste.



A demand-driven facility

During the first years of MIEUX, a limited number of requests were received from the region (three requests/year). The upward trend started in parallel with the 2012 MIEUX regional Action involving the ASEAN Member States. The evolution of the number of requests can be seen as a sign of increasing awareness about the importance of peer-to-peer exchange for effective migration governance.

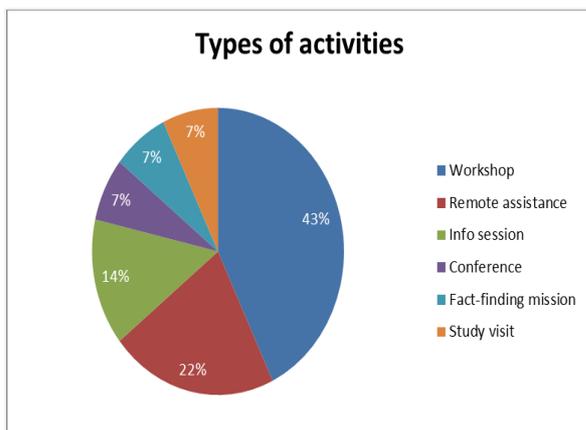


MIEUX covered all areas of migration

MIEUX in Asia focused mainly on trafficking in human beings, with a total of seven activities implemented in the Philippines, Tajikistan, Thailand and Timor-Leste on this issue. Interventions in Myanmar tackled labour migration challenges, and in Kyrgyzstan the development of the migration policy was the main focus.

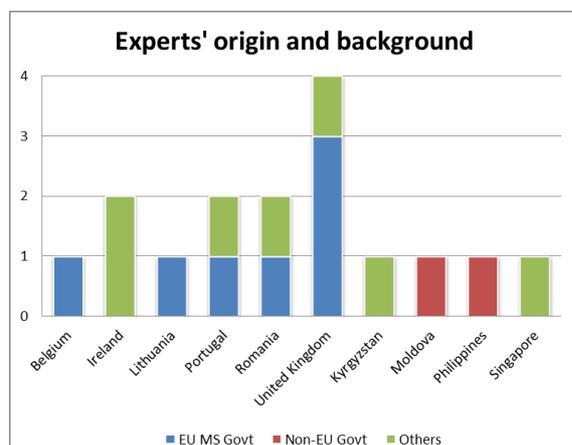
MIEUX – a flexible instrument for policy development

In 2016, and with an average of four days' duration each, six workshops were organised in Asia, reflecting the current Actions' focus on training and policy instrument development. With its peer-to-peer approach, MIEUX training contributed to the exchange of hands-on expertise, mixing theory and practice. The MIEUX activities were also the occasion to develop handbooks and policy that are aligned with the migration priorities of the Asian countries. Finally, the study visits organised provided a good occasion for exchange across institutions with EU MS (EU-South exchange).



MIEUX experts – the driving force

In the Asia Actions, one out of every four experts is from a non-EU country. This shows that the so-called 'triangular exchange' is gradually gaining momentum in the region.



MIEUX outputs of the year in Asia

- Handbook on Managing International Labour Migration in Myanmar
- Handbook for the Investigation and Prosecution of Illegal Recruitment Cases and Illegal Recruitment cases Connected to Trafficking in Human Beings in the Philippines
- Fact-finding mission report for Timor-Leste
- National Migration Strategy of Kyrgyzstan

2.3. MIEUX IN THE EASTERN AND SOUTHERN NEIGHBOURHOOD

Introduction

The Eastern and Southern Neighbourhood was characterised by two challenges: to the east, neighbours continued to contend with societal transformation and large outward mobility, whilst to the south, countries struggled to manage irregular migration flows largely due to civil conflicts and governmental instability. The Libyan and Syrian struggles, in particular, highlighted the need for EU cooperation on both security and humanitarian grounds. Countries in the region became the largest refugee-hosting countries of the world, such as Lebanon (1.2 million) and Jordan (0.7 million). The main migration focus for MIEUX ranged from irregular migration and diaspora engagement to cross-cutting issues such as data management and human rights.

MIEUX's efforts also facilitated ongoing political Mobility Partnership negotiations in Lebanon and Belarus, thus bridging the physical and knowledge gaps often inhibiting communications between both parties.

MIEUX Actions involved 13 countries in the region

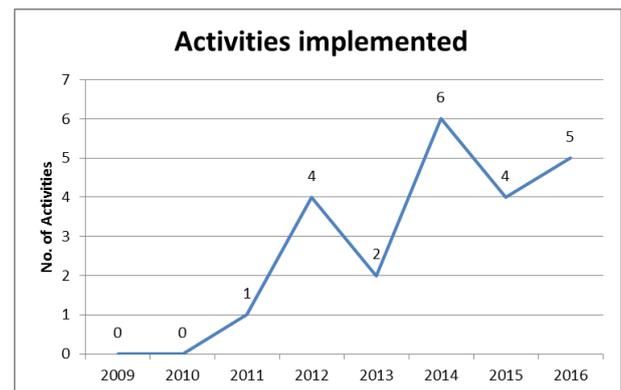


Active in the Eastern and Southern Neighbourhood since the initiative's inception in 2009, MIEUX has so far supported 13 countries in the region. The support delivered

complemented the EU's efforts to improve migration management (e.g. Belarus and Tunisia) and reinforced the EU MS partnerships the region has through the mobilisation of experts from key EU countries.

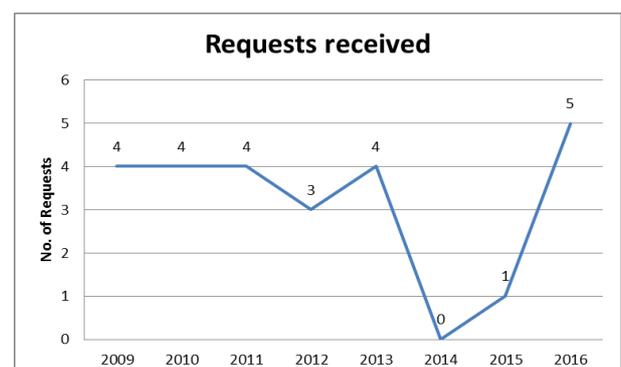
2016 – Implementation at a glance

In 2016, five activities were implemented in four different countries of the region (Belarus, Jordan, Lebanon and Tunisia). MIEUX training contributed to the exchange of hands-on expertise whilst remote assistance also played an important role to support the finalisation of outputs and ensure authorities felt total ownership of the process.



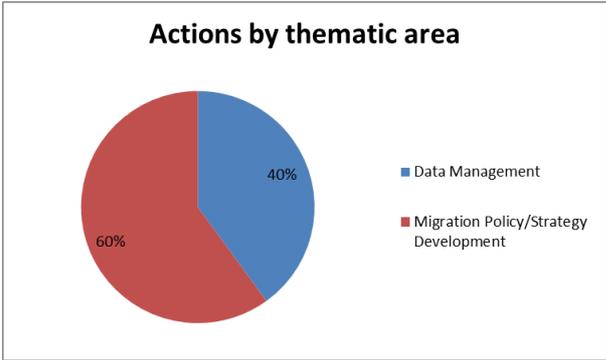
A demand-driven facility

In 2016, MIEUX received five requests from the Eastern and Southern Neighbourhood region, reflecting an upward trend compared with two years before.



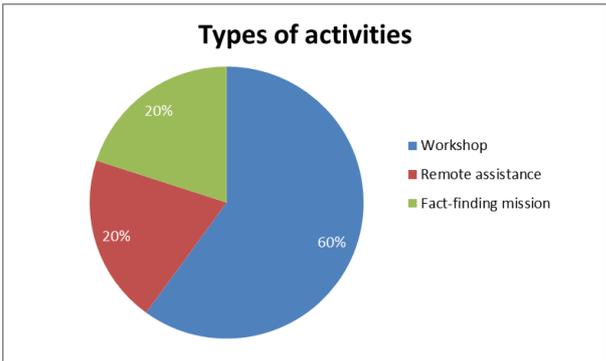
MIEUX focused on strategy development and data management

In 2016, MIEUX focused on the Eastern and Southern Neighbourhood mainly on horizontal issues, such as paving the way towards developing migration policies (e.g. labour migration standards in Belarus) or strategy development and data management (e.g. Jordan and Tunisia).



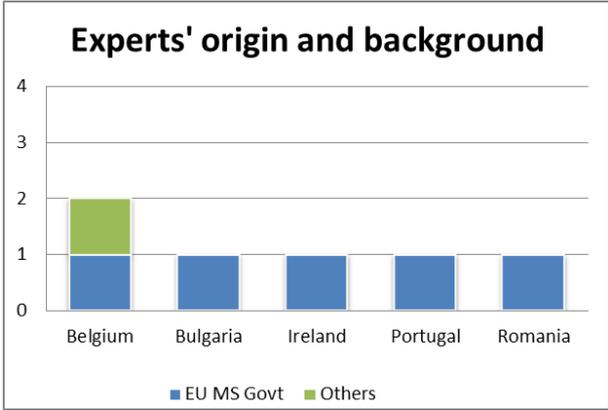
MIEUX – a flexible instrument for policy development

More than half of all activities organised in the Eastern and Southern Neighbourhood were workshops. Remote assistance and fact-finding mission played also an important role.



MIEUX experts – the driving force

In 2016, all experts mobilised in the region came from EU MS. As a result, MIEUX activities not only strengthened the capacities of partner authorities within the region, but also served as a tool for improved inter-regional cooperation.



MIEUX outputs of the year in the Eastern and Southern Neighbourhood

- Conference report on the functioning of a migration observatory and data management in Tunisia
- Fact-finding mission report for Belarus
- Guidelines on inter-institutional approaches and practices towards harmonising migration data in Jordan
- Terms of reference for diaspora mapping in Lebanon

2.4. MIEUX IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN (LAC)

Introduction

In 2016, the total population of LAC was estimated at more than 640 million. Emigrants represented around 4% of the total population or 30 million regionwide. In particular, intraregional migration flows have intensified in recent years. THB has become a growing problem in LAC, a region that contains major source, transit and destination countries for victims of trafficking. Asylum applications, particularly from Central American countries such as El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras, have increased sharply. At the same time, the flow of refugee and migrant children from Central America showed no signs of decreasing in 2016 despite the dangers of the journey.

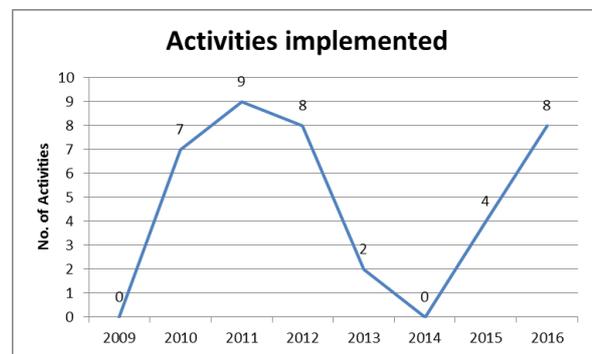
MIEUX Actions involved 16 countries in LAC

Active in the region since 2010, MIEUX has so far supported 16 countries via peer-to-peer expertise, including two regional organisations (Central American Integration System and Southern Common Market).



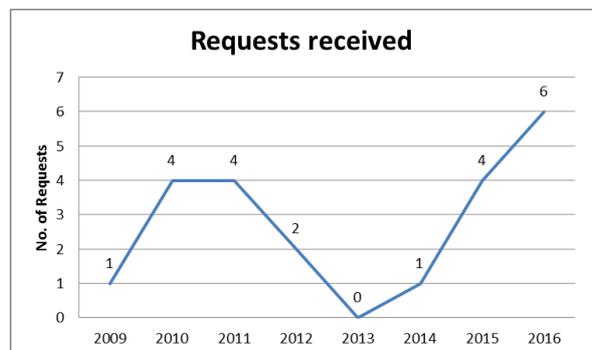
2016 – implementation at a glance

In 2016, eight activities were implemented in the region, which represented an increase compared with the previous three years. Through the various activities implemented, MIEUX supported the Government of the Dominican Republic, Mexico, Paraguay and Peru to strengthen their migration management capacities.



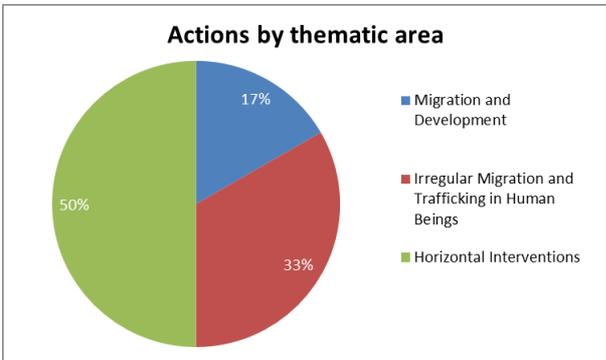
A demand-driven facility

In 2016, MIEUX received six new requests from LAC countries and regional organisations (the Andean Community, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Mexico and Peru) a record number reflecting an upward trend. 4 out of the 6 requesting countries already benefitted from MIEUX's technical assistance reflecting their high satisfaction with the initiative.



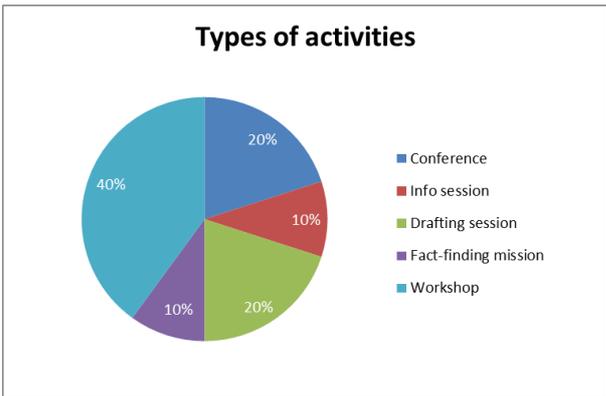
MIEUX focused on THB and the protection of unaccompanied migrant children

More than 80% of the MIEUX Actions focused on horizontal issues and on irregular migration and THB (Peru). Horizontal issues covered the protection and assistance of unaccompanied migrant children (Mexico) and the development of training capacities (Dominican Republic). The topic of diaspora engagement was covered within the framework of the Paraguay Action.



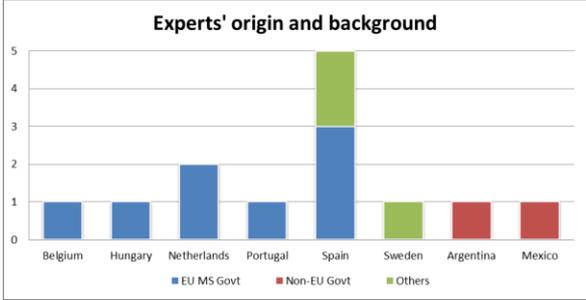
MIEUX – a flexible instrument for policy development

In 2016, eight activities were organised in LAC, covering nearly all types of MIEUX interventions from remote assistance to conferences, fact-finding missions, information sessions and workshops, the great variety of tools reflecting the tailor-made conception of each Action. Lasting a total of 25 days, remote assistance played an important role in 2016, mostly to finalise outputs and enhance exchange in between activities.



MIEUX experts – the driving force

MIEUX mobilised mixed teams of migration practitioners to share knowledge and experiences with their peers. In 2016, almost 40% of all experts deployed in LAC MIEUX Actions were from Spain. Among others, MIEUX participants, trained during previous Actions, shared experiences in other countries of the region, such as the Dominican Republic and Peru. The numbers show that the so-called ‘triangular exchange’ is gaining momentum in the region.



MIEUX highlights of the year in LAC

- Monitoring and Evaluation Handbook for Peruvian National and Regional Action Plans against THB
- Conclusions of the Regional South-American Meeting on THB
- Fact-finding mission report for the Dominican Republic
- Conference report of the Regional Workshop on Assistance and Protection of Unaccompanied Migrant Children in Mexico

III. FINDINGS 2016

Policy makers need to take into account the different needs and vulnerabilities of migrants to set up and implement actions effectively.

Whether in Latin America, Africa or the Middle East, one major aspect observed is the challenge to take into account the huge variety of needs and aspirations, and not only their potential but also the vulnerabilities of migrants all over the world. When working particularly on policy development with MIEUX's partners, it is often challenging to find ways to make them fit all purposes.

Depending on the regional and cultural backgrounds, men and women, adults, children and the elderly move at different rates and face very different migration journeys and hazards. As such, each requires a different approach and policy type to address their migration specific needs. For instance, women need even stronger protection and awareness-raising regarding THB and need specific services in refugee camps.

MIEUX integrated gender into the migration strategy in Kyrgyzstan and with a new Action in El Salvador focusing on supporting the Pro-Tempere Presidency of the Regional Conference on Migration on the topic of women, migration and development, MIEUX is continuing its efforts to support gender sensitive migration policies.

With projects on migration management multiplying, there is a growing importance to ensure harmonisation and consistency among various actors

With actors and projects multiplying in some of the focus countries in regions such as West or East Africa or the Middle East, increased coordination has become more important than ever.

Against this background, targeted facilities such as MIEUX should be regarded as a complementary opportunity, covering specific niches, to provide short-term rapid interventions where action is needed urgently, and to connect practitioners thanks to its growing network of participants and experts. Indeed, solid partnerships and continuous information exchange will become crucial in order to ensure synergies and prevent the duplication of efforts.

A coherent and collaborative institutional landscape is crucial for the effectiveness of MIEUX's Actions

When discussing and drawing up lessons learnt within the MIEUX team, the importance of the 'institutional set-up' was encountered again and again, and proved to be one of the main success factors identified.

Put differently: participatory and inclusive approaches are indispensable at any stage of project implementation, when designing policies and strategies but also other institutional tools and instruments, such as curricula, Action Plans, handbooks, etc. If there is no possibility to set up an inclusive multi-stakeholder process in order to identify needs, no inter-ministerial committee to design strategies in a participatory way, or institutional set-up to ensure its

implementation, no provision for the necessary prerogatives and budget, MIEUX's hands are tied.

The importance of this was shown, among others, during the elaboration of the strategy in Niger (see interview below). The correct institutional set-up, such as inter-sectoral working groups, were crucial for the success of drafting the strategy. How important and rewarding it is to address also the very local needs has been shown in many projects of MIEUX, such as in sheltered housing for THB victims in Asia.

Knowledge management is essential to learn, reflect and capitalise on lessons and good practices

In 2016, MIEUX developed its first Knowledge Management Strategy that is beneficial to identifying and prioritising internal and external activities to enhance the effectiveness, efficiency and sustainability of MIEUX's Actions. Knowledge management is not a goal in itself, but a support process for learning and sharing lessons learnt within the team, with partner countries and provides recommendations with the wider community of practitioners in the field of migration, such as this annual report.

Trends: some thematic areas are highly demanded by MIEUX's partner countries

As a demand-driven facility, MIEUX serves as an indicator for recent trends in different regions regarding migration policies. Looking back at the requests received in 2016, migration and development, in general, and diaspora engagement, in particular, were largely in demand, with an important number of activities conducted, especially in Africa. Cross-cutting issues such as gender, unaccompanied minors and climate change are also on the rise.

Among other trends is the increase in the number of requests from upper middle-income countries (e.g. Costa Rica, Mauritius, Mexico and Thailand) whose realities, priorities, institutions, dynamics and narratives differ from other partner countries' ambitions and objectives.

Better migration governance

Receiving multiple requests from the same country not only shows that MIEUX's efforts are appreciated and it is committed to sustainability, but also the fact that MIEUX contributes to enhancing national migration governance in partner countries (e.g. the inter-ministerial structures established under multiple Actions led to more coordination across the board, and the identification of numerous issues at national level, and common solutions that partners are willing to tackle under new requests or other Actions). It also maximises the potential of other initiatives, better governance and coordination.

Investing in partnerships

Over the years, MIEUX has moved away from pure technical assistance approaches (e.g. training) and has therefore managed to build essential new partnerships (e.g. EU Capacity (CAP) Sahel, Better Migration Management (BBM) Project, etc.) that are beneficial for implementation purposes, increasing the relevance of support provided to partner countries by various actors, as well as wide coordination and active synergies.

IV. HOW MIEUX WORKS

MIEUX would like to share some of the highlights of its work from 2016 and how it achieved the three MIEUX objectives – to build partnerships, develop capacities and elaborate strategies in different regions of the world.

To illustrate how these objectives are met in practice, MIEUX hands over in this chapter to the most important persons involved in MIEUX Actions: its experts and partners. Read the following interviews to learn how Ms. Maria Teresa Delos Santos, expert from the Philippines, was mobilised as an expert in Myanmar. Mr. Alassane Seyboun from Niger will share his firsthand MIEUX experience and share his thoughts on what any country developing an anti-trafficking strategy should take into account.

MIEUX creates partnerships

MIEUX, as a demand-driven initiative targeting governmental authorities, is well placed to bring together policy makers and practitioners with the aim to facilitate dialogue, to exchange experience, and to build a mutual understanding on various migration-related issues. Building partnerships is the first goal of MIEUX.

In 2016, MIEUX continued to create partnerships at different levels, between EU and partner country administrations, central and local authorities (e.g. Malawi, Cabo Verde), and government and non-government entities, as well as within regions where MIEUX is present, contributing among others to South-South exchanges of practices. In the coming years, MIEUX will continue its efforts to broaden the range of partners, such as with local administrations, parliamentary bodies and civil society organisations, whilst capitalising on the knowledge and experiences acquired.

MIEUX develops capacities

MIEUX's added value lies on the one hand in its peer-to-peer approach – the exchange of replicable good practices – and on the other in hands-on experience between practitioners who know each other's working realities. A particular add-on is the growing network of former participants in the MIEUX activities – more and more are changing their roles and become experts to share what they have learnt and their experience with new MIEUX Actions. The involvement of experts from a neighbouring country supports the so-called South-South exchange and a better cooperation regionally.

An interview below illustrates how this particular approach is applied in practice. Mutual understanding is a prerequisite of trust and therefore true partnerships.

Capacity development in Asia

“With MIEUX, we have the liberty to do things our way.”

Ms. Maria Teresa Delos Santos from the Philippines' Overseas Employment Agency (POEA) has participated in different MIEUX Actions in Asia from different angles. Thanks to her excellent coordination skills as focal point of the Philippines' MIEUX Action, a state-of-the-art handbook for the investigation and prosecution of illegal recruitment cases and illegal recruitment cases connected to trafficking in human beings as well as monitoring guidelines on the implementation of the memorandum of agreement for illegal



recruitment-free local government units were developed. “This might be of interest to other countries in the region”, Delos Santos thought. When MIEUX contacted her for an interview, she was happy to tell MIEUX how she could share some of the experiences encountered in the Philippines with Myanmar – in a new role: She was asked to support MIEUX as one of the more than 533 MIEUX experts, mobilised for peer-to-peer exchange. She particularly highlighted the specific MIEUX approach on capacity development.

Maria Teresa, you have worked with MIEUX on illegal recruitment and THB – how did you start working on this very pressing issue in Asia? Would you mind introducing yourself?

With pleasure! I'm from the Philippines, and I work for the POEA. It's the government agency that manages the labour migration of the Philippines. I am assigned to the recruitment branch and implementation of our flagship programme, the informing and integration of migrant workers, and to protect them against illegal recruitment. We are implementing also an illegal Recruitment and Trafficking Free government information campaign. We are focusing on education and information to make them aware of illegal recruitment practices. Knowledge is power, so we believe they are empowered not to be victimised.

How did I end up working on trafficking? Honestly, in our bureaucracy you get to be assigned to different areas – you don't get to choose. In my case, I was moved to the workers' education division and started to love the job of giving people information. In my heart I get to help them, I tell them what should be done, how to protect themselves, how to prepare to move abroad. Filipino mentality is that everybody wants to get abroad. So they get information from a friend of the family, but sometimes the information they get is not correct. So I think I am helping them a lot, and also the family, because migration here in the Philippines is not just for one person but for the whole family. Actually, I started seven months ago as part of the pre-departure programme – an education programme for workers who leave the country.

MIEUX aims to enhance capacities on migration in developing countries via peer-to-peer exchange between practitioners in EU and partner countries. Why do you think the Philippines solicited MIEUX to work on illegal recruitment and to establish a handbook? What do you think is the added value of MIEUX?

During the first Action, I was not on board yet. But I know that the Department of Labour got

in touch with MIEUX. For the second Action, we proposed the project to MIEUX and it was approved. So this is the difference: it's our project. Other organisations ask us to implement their projects: they develop it and ask us to implement it, whereas with MIEUX, we have the liberty to do things our way, as we like. In accordance with MIEUX's rules and guidelines, we can suggest to do things. Other organisations, they develop a project and ask us to implement what they want.

Was the Action relevant for the migrants, did it trigger down?

The problems come with the follow-up activities. For example, in the Philippines we were able to design posters as the experts taught us. But afterwards, we were not able to produce the materials due to lack of funds. Had the materials been produced, it would have had a positive effect on the migrant families, and triggered down to community level.

You also participated as an expert, together with an EU expert, in a MIEUX action in Myanmar. What was the objective and approach on capacity building here?

Yes, I got an invitation from MIEUX. Being in the workers' education programme, I was picked to support Myanmar's information campaign. In Myanmar, we were asked to help the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security to develop their campaign and strategy against trafficking, because in Myanmar there are a significant number of trafficking cases. I was there with another expert on social marketing. Theory-wise, we had discussed what the Philippines is doing and what we might duplicate as a model for migration. We are steps ahead of Myanmar when it comes to the education of workers. So we wanted to share with them what the Philippines' Government is doing. The participants were able to develop their own campaign. The first part was more on sharing of information and the theory of what it was all about. For the concrete development of flyers and brochures, we let them design their own materials, messages, etc., to bring out what information they wanted to announce to the public. They developed posters, we grouped them together and each group had its own idea and choice whether to come out with a poster or flyer or what kind of campaign material was needed.

Do you think the knowledge exchange was beneficial for both countries, Myanmar and the Philippines? Why? Was the output from the Philippines transferable to Myanmar?

Definitely it was a great help, because I went through the same experience in the Philippines and I duplicated the experience I had. Somehow, I appreciate that work because I was able to share. It was the output itself, because they were able to show us. From our previous discussions on our theory, they were able to understand what we told them during the first part of the Action and bring out the development of the material. They were able to put the concepts into practice.

The MIEUX approach builds on peer-to-peer exchange. The goal is also to build on partnerships between the EU and Asia, and foster regional integration and partnerships within Asia. Do you think MIEUX contributes to regional exchange?

Yes, definitely, of course we relate more to people within our own region. We can easily associate ourselves with people within our region. More or less we are both labour sending countries, so our experience is more similar than if you put someone from Eastern Europe and compare his situation to migration in Myanmar. Migration in the Philippines is more similar to other countries in Asia, like Taiwan, Laos and Cambodia, than in Europe or South American countries – we are all labour sending countries. So when we discuss among ourselves our programmes, we are more alike. In fact, in Myanmar there is an office called the Overseas

Employment Agency (OEA). There is also ongoing Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) integration, where there will be free movement of people – definitely we can relate more easily with each other.

What did you personally take out of it as an expert? Was it easy to share the experience with your institution?

It is boosting my confidence. Whenever we have training in Manila, I often mention my experience in Myanmar and show the way how we discussed things in the Philippines and in Myanmar. It was, I would like to say, a successful activity in Myanmar. I take pride in telling people who ask about my expertise as a trainer.

Providing training, it is entirely different doing it in the Philippines than in another country. Of course there are challenges when it comes to language, as there is a language barrier and an interpreter. Now, I have international expertise. As such, I am asked by international groups to train in other countries. It added points for me. It helps if you can say you are an international expert.

Do you have any suggestion for MIEUX in 2017 – how MIEUX works on capacity development to improve its approach?

I think the MIEUX programme is good enough, except for the fact that sometimes expert mobilisation is difficult, leading to implementation delays for the current programme. Everything works well apart from that. Maybe we need more experts, that's all. I would love to work with MIEUX again.

MIEUX supports the process of developing migration policies

One of MIEUX's main distinguishing features and 'specialisations' is the provision of expertise needed to craft national comprehensive or sectoral migration strategies. In 2016 alone, seven strategies and policies were developed. MIEUX's specific approach has proved to be effective in all contexts, building on a strong ownership thanks to MIEUX's demand-driven nature. Strategy development always draws from an intensive analysis, and applies a participatory approach with particular focus on the correct institutional set-up and ownership/leadership of partners, as well as its implementation following concrete Action Plans.

One of the highlights of 2016 was the development of Niger's strategy to counter irregular migration. In the following interview you will read more on how the strategy was developed in order to make a difference in Niger.

MIEUX support for sustainable policies

“The participatory and inclusive approach of MIEUX has been crucial in developing a strategy to counter irregular migration in Niger.”

Niger occupies a strategic position as a country of origin, transit and destination for migrants. MIEUX supported the development of the first National Strategy to Counter Irregular Migration and had the opportunity to talk to Mr. Alassane Seyboun, Deputy Secretary-General of the Ministry of the Interior, Public Safety, Decentralisation and Customary and Religious Affairs of the Republic of Niger, about the specific approach of MIEUX to policy development and the main challenges his country must confront today with regard to irregular migration.



What are the challenges Niger must confront with regard to irregular migration?

The major challenge is that Niger is not only a transit country, but also a departure country. With the socio-economic turmoil of the region and the tensions that surround it, the country is facing a massive influx of migrants. Irregular migration often benefits those who commit transnational and cross-border crime. The challenge of the migrant flux is security-related, but also economic, as people profit from this human/arms/drug traffic and related activities.

How does the National Strategy to Counter Irregular Migration meet these challenges? What are its objectives?

The main objective of the strategy is to stem this epidemic of irregular migration over time. In view of the insecurity caused by this traffic and the human consequences, the principle of public protection is central to our approach. So it is necessary to create a reference document so that all those active in the area of migration are involved.

As President of the Inter-ministerial Committee in charge of developing the National Migration Policy, how did you manage to mobilise the various parties involved in the work of the Inter-ministerial Committee?

The role of the committee, as its name indicates, is to bring together organisations concerned directly or indirectly by migration management in order to create a consensus and not proceed unilaterally. So it was necessary that all the ministries, NGOs, civil society, regional and local participants, and opinion leaders be represented in this committee to have a common strategy shared by everyone. My role was more that of a moderator: everyone can express his/her opinions, and the consensus is created in the discussion process. The MIEUX team can testify to this. The discussions of a single objective have sometimes been heated and hours of discussion have followed, but the relevance of the proposals takes precedence, and not one voice or another. When a proposal is relevant and jointly accepted, that is what takes priority!

The number of technical and financial partners in Niger has been growing for several years. Why did you choose the MIEUX Initiative?

We were right to choose MIEUX because its expertise has greatly enriched us in the development of this document. With a different organisation, perhaps we would not have had this result. So it was a very suitable choice with great added value!

What was the added value of MIEUX, with an approach focused on sharing knowledge between peers?

The added value is the approach of MIEUX to development of the strategy, with experts who have been in the field and who ask the practitioners questions. The experts are aware of the issues in migration and facilitate a collaborative approach in developing the document by means of various sessions and field visits, etc.

What is the added value of the participation of regional representatives?

The various regions are much closer to reality. The magistrates are those who apply the laws. **They are** the ones who implement, and who have an outlook closer to reality as participants in the field. The same applies to the police or even the NGOs which directly support migrants. Their input has been invaluable as they have informed the committee of the reality in the field. If they had not participated, we would have risked losing sight of the reality.

Niger collaborates with a large number of stakeholders with regard to migration, especially the IOM and EUCAP Sahel Niger. Do you view this support positively?

In reality, having several partners is always a plus: more discussion and debate with multiple opinions. So this is not a handicap but an asset. The discussion is enriched, and everyone brings his/her outlook. Despite the fact that everyone had an individual perspective, consensus could be found and agreements emerged from these numerous interactions. The diverse assessment was greatly appreciated and the synergies established have allowed fruitful results to be achieved.

Are there complementarities and links between them in connection with the strategy's development?

There are complementarities as the IOM has participated in all the work and their contribution has been greatly appreciated; it has been a major asset. Throughout the entire

process, the IOM has taken an active part and their representatives have taken an active share in the discussions. The same applies to EUCAP Sahel Niger, which has contributed a great deal, and the UNHCR.

The strategy has been finalised and should soon be approved. Do you think that this will have an impact on the Nigerien population and on migrants in general?

Objectively, we think so. This is why we now want to organise a national workshop that will bring together all the professional sectors and organisations so that the strategy becomes a reference document that can have a positive impact on regular migration. The impact on all sectors of the population will be visible.

It is important to recall that some migrant groups are considered especially vulnerable. Are they taken into account in the framework of the strategy?

Among the vulnerable populations there are men as well as women, and also children. It is necessary to discover what is the key for each group to persuade them to abandon this misadventure of crossing the desert. The population of the country lives primarily from agriculture and so, in terms of vulnerability, if there is no longer a workforce there is a rapid impact on all the different segments of the population. The problem must be attacked at grassroots level, on the issue of long-term development, and through the training of young people. People must be interested in remaining in their surroundings and having a future.

Migration is a growing global phenomenon. What advice or recommendations could you give to another country that might be tempted to develop a similar strategy on the basis of the MIEUX Niger Action?

It's a definite recommendation; if the country does not have a document like this, it must be seriously considered. Those who would also like to have this asset and bring this experience to their country to improve irregular migration management must be encouraged to share experience. So we recommend having a reference document and sharing experience. We have greatly appreciated the MIEUX approach, which differs from that of a consultant who comes and goes again without real consultation. Here, it's the participatory nature that has allowed the committee to take ownership of the document. It's a document developed by the committee and not solely by a consultant. We felt empowered in developing this document, and the entire Inter-ministerial Committee has appreciated this work. The participatory and inclusive approach of MIEUX has been crucial in developing a strategy to counter irregular migration in Niger.

As the strategy is now finalised, what are the next steps in implementing it?

The next step is national validation with all the socio-professional sectors. It will be submitted following approval by the Government to have a reference document on irregular migration. We are therefore planning to invite over a hundred participants for this validation workshop to have everyone's opinions on the issue. We would like MIEUX to participate in this workshop to bring its experience.

If you had a wish that could come true for Niger in 2017, what would it be?

That we could have this document finalised and implemented so we can optimally manage this epidemic confronted by our country. With the guidelines of this document, we will be able to really influence migration in our country and have a positive impact for the whole Nigerien population and all migrants.

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