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Reducing the costs
of labour migration
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Decent work, migration and sustainable development

*Search for decent work is a core driver of international migration:
• Approx. 50 per cent of the 232 international migrants in the

“ Persistent unemployment, ever-rising inequality, unmanaged migration flows and ideological polarization are among the factors stretching societies dangerously close to the breaking

Reducing labour migration costs

*High economic and social costs of labour migration

are impediments to sustainable development and widen inequality.

*Labour migration costs must be seen in the broader context of employment and labour markets-- not merely through the lens of remittance transactions.

*High costs borne by migrants are exploitive:
• discrimination in wages and working conditions;

•jobs/skills mismatch and contract substitution; and
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Republic of Moldova: 45.64 % of returned migrants reported working for little or no pay; 24.85 % received late payments.

Armenia and Georgia: Between 19.76 -20.22% reported

Lack of coherence between

employment and migration policies

*Skills’ mismatch:
• 25-45 per cent of workers in Europe are either over - or under-qualified for their job. Among those most
affected are foreign -born workers.
• mismatch between the declining labour force growth

rates in developed economies and the growing labour force, esp young workers in developing countries.
• increased labour market segmentation with low -skilled jobs becoming the exclusive domain of immigrants.

Reducing labour migration costs

Restrictions on mobility:
* Hinder labour market competition
* Affect migrant workers ’ earnings
* Prevent protection of rights

•Studies show greater mobility for migrants within the destination country – changing jobs/employers/better skills matching –may increase workers’ real earnings
by 10 per cent

Reducing labour migration costs

Reducing remittance transaction costs

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Growing insecurities and absence of regular channels for migration:

*Migrants pay between USD 1,000 - 10,000 depending on the route and amenities during the journey.
• 20-meter fishing boats reportedly earn smugglers USD 1.5 million a trip (500 migrants/3,000 USD each) – est. smugglers have grossed more than USD 1 billion in 2014 alone.

*Countries spend millions in sea rescue and border control:
• Under the Mare Nostrum programme, Italy spent equivalent
USD 13 million a month in search -and-rescue operations.
• Spain has spent EUR 289 million between 2007 and 2013 on strengthening border controls for Ceuta and Melilla and Morocco.

Reducing labour migration costs

Thank you for your
attention!