

INITIATIVE ON GLOBAL MIGRATION AND HUMAN MOBILITY

The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation

While migration is an age-old phenomenon, its current scale and particular characteristics make it an issue of rising global concern at the outset of the twenty-first century. Immigration into the United States of America and Western Europe is part of a global system of population movement. Worldwide, some 200 million people are now living outside their country of origin. Today's migrants use contemporary transportation and communication technologies to maintain strong home country ties; these same technologies encourage the back-and-forth movements of "circular migration". Migration is spurred by economic opportunity, political turmoil, family reunification, war and environmental crisis. Flows of migrants have profound economic, security, social and cultural effects in countries of origin, transit and destination. While globalization has led to lowered barriers to the international movement of goods and capital, the movement of people is still officially subject to tight controls.

A. PURPOSE

The Foundation is currently (2006-2007) in the initial phase of grantmaking under a new Initiative on Global Migration and Human Mobility. During this period, the Foundation will support a small number of institutions and projects, with the aim of advancing three main objectives: (1) to develop improved understandings of global migration through support of policy-relevant empirical research and improved sources of data on migrant flows; (2) to encourage better governance of migration at global, regional, and national levels; and (3) to stimulate new thinking on broader issues of global human mobility.

B. STRATEGIES

MacArthur will be providing a limited number of grants in the following areas:

- Governance of global migration.
- Migration and development.
- Re-conceptualizing global human mobility.

C. GOVERNANCE OF GLOBAL MIGRATION

The Foundation will seek to contribute to an improvement in the norms and institutions for governance of international migration at the global, regional and national levels. MacArthur funding will concentrate on four sub-themes: (1) principles, norms and standards; (2) institutions; (3) data, and (4) national policy. Grantmaking in this area will be aimed at raising the profile of global migration issues on national and international agendas, helping to develop norms and standards for the effective governance of migration, facilitating the inclusion of civil society voices in policy deliberations at the national and international levels, and disseminating migration research to policymakers at various levels of government.

D. MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT

The Foundation will seek to foster better understanding and policy-relevant analyses of the relationship between the movement of people and economic development in sending and receiving countries. Under the broad topic of migration and development, the Foundation will concentrate primarily on three main channels through which the global movement of people affects the economies of sending countries and receiving countries: (1) worker remittances; (2) labour mobility and concomitant “brain drain” (and “brain gain”), and (3) expatriate community networks. In addition to examining migration from an international perspective, synergies are sought in the focus of MacArthur on India, Mexico, Nigeria, and Russian Federation.

E. RE-CONCEPTUALIZING GLOBAL HUMAN MOBILITY

The Foundation will also support a limited number of projects aimed at re-examining current ways of thinking about global human mobility. This includes work that re-evaluates the distinction between migration and other forms of population movement, and that offers new ways of conceptualizing the social, cultural, economic, political and security dimensions of global human mobility.

F. FUNDING

To pursue the goals of the Initiative

Georgetown University, Institute for the Study of International Migration (Washington, DC, United States of America)

\$750,000 for general operating support that will advance work on the governance of international migration and on the relationship between migration and development (over three years). (2006).

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (Paris, France)

\$900,000 in support of policy relevant research and policy dialogue to build effective partnerships on migration governance and development (over three years). (2007).

University of Oxford, International Migration Institute (Oxford, United Kingdom)

\$900,000 in support of a programme of research and capacity-building on African migration (over three years). (2007).

PROJECT GRANTS – GOVERNANCE

Center for Ethnopolitical and Regional Studies (Moscow, Russian Federation)

\$240,000 in support of a project on the social integration of migrants in Russia (over two years). (2006).

United Nations Executive Office of the Secretary-General (New York, New York, United States of America)
\$239,000 in support of activities to be carried out by the Special Representative for Migration in preparation for the inaugural meeting of the first Global Forum on International Migration and Development. (2006).

United Nations Institute for Training and Research (New York, New York, United States of America)
\$172,000 in support of a workshop series and three-day training program on key migration issues (over two years). (2006).

Woodrow Wilson Center, Latin American Programme (Washington, DC, United States of America)
\$300,000 in support of a project on civic and political participation by Latin American migrants (over two years). (2006).

PROJECT GRANTS – DEVELOPMENT

Academy Health (Washington, DC, United States of America)
\$350,000 in support of research to assess the dynamics of the “brain drain” of healthcare professionals from developing countries and to develop standards for ethical recruitment (over two years). (2006).

Aspen Institute, Realizing Rights: The Ethical Globalization Initiative (Washington, DC, United States of America)
\$200,000 in support of the Ethical Globalization Initiative to develop policies and bilateral agreements to address the movement of health workers from the developing world to the United States of America, United Kingdom and other receiving nations (over two years). (2006).

El Colegio De La Frontera Norte, Centro de Estudios Fronterizos del Norte de Mexico (Tijuana, Mexico)
\$120,000 in support of a survey of households in Oaxaca on the economic and social causes and consequences of migration. (2006).

Migration Dialogue (Davis, California, United States of America)
\$250,000 in support of research on circular migration and the impacts of free trade agreements on migration (over two years). (2007).

Princeton University (Princeton, New Jersey, United States of America)
\$120,000 in support of a longitudinal survey of Mexican migrants in the United States (over one year). (2007).

Red Internacional de Migración y Desarrollo (Zacatecas, Mexico)
\$200,000 for support of the Network and its collaborative research efforts on migration and development (over three years). (2006).

Social Science Research Council (New York, New York, United States of America)
\$350,000 in support of an effort to assess the state of research on migration and development in order to strengthen future research and its links to policy (over 15 months). (2006).

University of California, Department of Economics (Davis, California, United States of America)
\$166,000 in support of research on the economic gains from migration in countries of destination in North America and Europe (over two years). (2007).

