

"Can migration flows exploit the potential for complementarity that exists between radically different demographic and labour force structures? The case of the Mediterranean region"

UN International Symposium on
International Migration and
Development
Torino, June 2006

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The underlying idea

- A potential for mutual benefit is inherent in demographic and labour force complementarity, in this case between the two banks of the Mediterranean
- It would make migration more beneficial for both sides (a win-win scenario)
- This could improve the public evaluation of migration
- History provides good examples for it
- This idea is enjoying increasing consideration

Some reasons for scepticism

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Is there complementarity in the Mediterranean?

- EU economies face labor shortages and need immigrants
- The ratio between active persons and inactive ones is worsening
- In the southern and eastern bank, employment is the foremost problem
- They would benefit from a safety-valve

Is complementarity sufficient for migration to increase?

- **It is not (there is nothing automatic about it)**
- **Powerful obstacles militate against the increase of migration:**
 - **a) the globalization of migration flows**
 - **b) the existence of alternatives to migration**
 - **c) skill mismatches**
 - **d) the political environment**
 - **e) restrictive, inadequate admission policies**

A complex, changing migration landscape

- **South-North flows in the basin are losing relative weight (the relevance of visa policies)**
- **Much outmigration goes elsewhere**
- **Increasing flows from neighboring countries**
- **Some traditional source countries are being increasingly seen as transit countries**
- **Neither side is homogeneous in migration terms**

