Preface

An increasingly central dimension of globalisation is human mobility. The foreign-born population in OECD countries is approximately 8 per cent, reflecting a dramatic rise over recent decades. Policy makers and citizens look with growing interest — and sometimes with alarm — upon the economic and social consequences of these trends for OECD countries, migrants' countries of origin, and the migrants themselves. Can international migration contribute to economic progress?

The *Gaining from Migration* project, co-ordinated by the OECD Development Centre and supported by the Directorate for Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities of the European Commission, brought together a broad network of experts to assess what we know about international migration to European countries, economic and social integration experiences in Europe, the role of diasporas, and the migration-development connection in migrants' home countries. A wide array of studies was produced in various formats, and a fruitful sequence of workshops and conferences was organised (details on all of the project outputs are provided in an Annex to this report and at the project's website: www.oecd.org/dev/migration).

The narrow objective of the present report is to distil the main policy lessons and recommendations from the foregoing work; its broader goal is to shed light on the ways in which governments can make the emerging global mobility system work better for the benefit of societies of both receiving and sending countries, as well as for migrants. As such, this final project report has a slightly different character from many of the Development Centre's publications: it is essentially a set of policy proposals, aimed mainly at European migrant-receiving countries, but also at their developing-country partners. While we have rigorously provided references and links to other, more detailed project outputs to back up our assertions and recommendations, a full account of the underlying research and analyses will not be found between these covers.

Furthermore, this report's recommendations are not those of the OECD, its Development Centre, the EU, or any of the member countries of those organisations. Instead, these proposals are offered by the five leading members of the Core Project Team. Our goal is to promote discussion that will lead the players in the emerging world migration system to forge meaningful mobility partnerships, partnerships to generate more, and more equitably shared, gains for all parties. The next step is to bring these parties to the table and begin to form a consensus; it is our hope that this report will help inspire them to do so.

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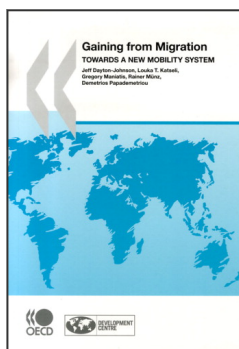
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