



## **Defining the State-of-the-Art on Remittances and Return**

**14-15 May 2009, Maastricht**

### **Call for papers**

Applications are invited from both researchers and policy-makers to participate in this conference organized by Sussex Centre for Migration Research and the Maastricht Graduate School of Governance and sponsored by the European Network of Excellence on 'International Migration, Integration and Social Cohesion in Europe' (IMISCOE).

The aim of the conference is to establish a way forward for policy-relevant research on remittances and return. The format of the event will primarily involve presentation and debate around specific questions where existing research evidence is patchy or inconclusive. Participants are required to commit to concrete engagement in relation to one of the issues listed below, either by preparing a state-of-the-art background review paper, presenting new empirical research evidence or acting as discussant. Empirical papers must make a substantial, targeted contribution related to one of the following themes or questions.

#### **Promoting return or circular migration**

- What options are available to stimulate return or circular migration?
- To what extent is there evidence of policy success or failure?
- To what extent have programmes promoting return been cost-effective?
- What factors shape return migration at the time of retirement?

#### **Impacts of forced return on development**

- How does the return or removal of irregular migrants and failed asylum-seekers affect development in countries of origin?

#### **Changes in remittance flows over time**

- How do remittance flows change over time, in relation both to individual households, and overall receipts for countries of origin?

#### **Policies for attracting remittances**

- What options are available to stimulate the flow of remittances to countries of origin?
- What is the best available evidence on policy success or failure?

- What are the implications of different remittance transfer mechanisms (formal, informal) for development in migrants' countries of origin?

#### **Linking remittances and micro-finance**

- What is the potential for linking remittances and microfinance?
- Can specific lessons be learnt from policy successes or failures?

#### **Critical discussion of discourses on remittances and return**

- What is the origin of current policy discourses on return and remittances?
- What is the effect of current policy discourses on migrants and sending communities?

We welcome review papers from academics, researchers, PhD students and policy-makers with a background in various disciplines – sociology, anthropology, political science and economics.

Abstracts (300-500 words) should be submitted by 15 December 2008 to Ms. Cristina Pantiru at [M.C.Pantiru@sussex.ac.uk](mailto:M.C.Pantiru@sussex.ac.uk). Each abstract should include the research questions to be addressed, the paper's main findings and the author(s)' institutional affiliation and contact details.

The Selection Committee of the conference consists of Professor Richard Black, Sussex Centre for Migration Research, Dr Melissa Siegel, Maastricht Graduate School of Governance, Dr Jorgen Carling, International Peace Research Institute, Oslo and Dr Nick van Hear, COMPAS, University of Oxford.

The authors of papers accepted for the conference will be notified in January 2009. Full papers should be submitted by 27 April 2009. Accommodation and meals during the conference will be covered by IMISCOE. Participants will need to cover their own travel costs.