

PROGRAMMES TO HARNESS THE ECONOMIC POTENTIAL OF return MIGRANTS: THE CASE OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

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***Abstract:** With the rise in international migration and the subsequent return of migrants to their home countries, there is a growing recognition of the economic contributions that return migrants can make to their communities and national economies. The article explores various programs and initiatives aimed at facilitating the reintegration of return migrants into the labour market and entrepreneurial activities. This article examines the implementation and impact of programs designed to harness the economic potential of return migrants. Drawing on empirical evidence and case studies from different countries, the article highlights the diverse approaches and strategies employed in these programs. Additionally, it explores the importance of creating an enabling environment through policy frameworks, access to finance, and social support systems to facilitate the successful reintegration of return migrants. The article also assesses the outcomes and impacts of these programs, including the economic contributions made by return migrants, job creation, business development, and the overall socioeconomic development of communities. It discusses the challenges and lessons learned in implementing such programs, including the need for targeted support, collaboration between multiple stakeholders, and addressing potential social and cultural barriers. Its findings and insights serve as a valuable resource for policymakers, practitioners, and researchers alike, as they endeavour to design and implement impactful programs that optimally leverage the skills, knowledge, and resources of return migrants to propel economic growth and foster sustainable development.*

***Keywords:** return migration, development potential of migrants, integration of migrants, migrant entrepreneurs*

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