



## **New AFD/OECD report *Connecting with Emigrants. A Global Profile of Diasporas 2015***

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Substantial changes have occurred in international migration in the past decade according to a new AFD/OECD report. *Connecting with Emigrants. A Global Profile of Diasporas 2015* offers the most comprehensive and up to date picture of diasporas. It shows that high-skilled migration to OECD countries has increased by 72% between 2000/01 and 2010/11 and that some countries and regions of origin have been affected more than others by this trend. Although this can be a challenge and a risk for some origin countries, particularly developing ones, it can also represent a huge potential if countries engage with their diasporas and mobilise their skills for development.

The AFD/OECD report analyses the most recent data available in OECD and a number of selected non-OECD destinations to provide a detailed picture of the diasporas from 140 countries in the world, their characteristics and labour market outcomes, as well as their evolution over time.

This new report shows that there were 31 million highly educated migrants in OECD destinations in 2010/11 and an additional 4.6 million in selected non-OECD countries. More than half of them are women. Highly skilled migrants from Asia and Oceania, represent more than one quarter of all highly skilled migrants in OECD countries. However, the greatest rise in the number of highly educated emigrants is recorded for Sub-Saharan Africa: the number of highly educated migrants from this region almost doubled between 2000/01 and 2010/11. In addition, Pakistan, Colombia, Poland and Romania are top countries of origin of highly educated migrants, and at the same time those which saw their highly educated emigrant population more than double in ten years.

As a result of these trends, emigration rates of the highly educated are on the rise for many countries of origin and are particularly high for small countries and island states notably in the Pacific, the Caribbean and Africa. Sub-Saharan Africa is the region mostly affected by the risk of brain drain, with 13% of its highly educated persons living in the OECD. Even more worryingly, the highest increases in emigration rates of the highly educated over the past decade were observed in some of the countries with already high emigration rates in the beginning of the decade.

What is more worrying, migrants' skills are not fully utilised in the labour markets of destination countries. The AFD/OECD report finds that close to 8 million migrants with tertiary education are working in low- and medium-skilled jobs. Close to half of all highly educated migrants from Latin America and the Caribbean are overqualified for their jobs. In addition, although highly educated migrants have better labour market outcomes than those with lower levels of education, they have nonetheless been affected by the recent economic crisis, with employment losses being particularly important for highly educated migrants from the Middle East and North Africa and Sub-Saharan Africa.

Migration is here to stay says the AFD/OECD report. According to recent data from the Gallup World Poll Survey, one in seven persons in 150 countries worldwide would like to move permanently abroad if they had the opportunity. The intention to emigrate is even higher among youth, reaching 42% for young persons in Sub-Saharan Africa and 33% for those in Latin America and the Caribbean. Given these possible trends, it is necessary to introduce policies and build partnerships between countries of origin and destination to better manage the mobility of skills and harness the benefits of current and future migration trends for the migrants, their countries of origin as well as for their destinations.