

MIEUX

Case Study

South-East Asia

(2012-2013)

Funded by the
European Union



Implemented by
ICMPD



ICMPD

International Centre for
Migration Policy Development

How to read this case study?

MIEUX Thematic Areas



Migration and
Development



Legal Migration
and Mobility



Irregular Migration
and Trafficking in
Human Beings



International Protection
and Asylum Policy



Horizontal
Interventions

Ten features of good practice in MIEUX Actions

- 1 There should be ownership on the part of the partner country
- 2 Actions should provide an opportunity to be innovative in their context
- 3 Actions should be able to be replicated
- 4 Actions should provide tangible results
- 5 Actions should be endorsed at a high level
- 6 Actions should be integrated into existing priorities
- 7 Actions should be based on the highest levels of experience
- 8 Actions should complement and be in synergy with other initiatives
- 9 Actions should provide EU added value
- 10 Actions should act as a catalyst for the acquisition of knowledge through the exchange of experiences

ADVANCING COOPERATION ON MIGRATION

South-East Asia (2012-2013)

The first of MIEUX's multi-country requests created a series of round-tables to share knowledge, practices and experiences between EU MS and several South-East Asia Governments on migration and mobility, supporting their inter-governmental and inter-regional cooperation frameworks and collaborative efforts in M&D.¹

Context

In 2012, the Governments of Indonesia, the Philippines and Vietnam submitted a joint request after identifying a number of constraints in the South-East Asia region, such as limited discussions on the nexus between M&D; the need for greater dialogue between countries of origin and destination to address common migration concerns, thus promoting mutual understanding and fostering policy coherence; or better implementation and enforcement of regional commitments taken by governments in order to facilitate the movement of people, protection of migrant workers' rights and increased cooperation.

This was MIEUX's first Action with a regional scope in South-East Asia, generated by three governments who were willing to advance regional cooperation on mobility and migration, and to support the efforts of mainstreaming M&D into regional cooperation frameworks and national development policies. The fight against irregular migration and THB had always taken precedence over this important topic. The round-tables served as platforms to share the knowledge, practices and experience between EU MS and the three South-East Asia Governments on the given aspects related to migration and mobility, and on their inter-governmental and inter-regional cooperation frameworks and collaborative efforts in M&D.

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MIEUX
FEATURES

¹ More information available at: <https://www.mieux-initiative.eu/en/actions/149-southeast-asia-migration-and-development-human-rights-legal-migration>.

Action Design

The Action was made up of three regional conferences and involved experts from Hungary, Indonesia, Italy, the Netherlands, the Philippines, Poland, Romania, Singapore and Thailand, representing the public sector, civil society and academia. The topics covered were as follows:

- *"Migration and Development: Taking Stock of the Situation in Southeast Asian Countries"* in Manila (December 2012).
- *"Regional Cooperation on International Migration, Mobility and Best Practices on Migration and Development in Southeast Asia"* in Jakarta (August 2013).
- *"Advancing Regional Cooperation and Efforts in Preventing Irregular Migration and Protecting the Rights of Migrants"* in Hanoi (October 2013).

Practices

- **The innovative approach:** The determination of three governments to move beyond the prevailing regional discussions about labour and irregular migration to discuss M&D at regional level. Up until that point, dialogue had been largely framed within the confines of the shared priorities of the ASEAN agenda. Despite their divergent views, all ten ASEAN MS attended the regional conferences, exchanging on diverse topics pertinent to migration governance and development policy. In particular, the three regional events aimed at broadening the M&D agenda in order to comprehensively address the full range of positive and negative impacts that migration can have on sustainable economic and social development in countries of origin, transit and destination.
- **The link with the international development agenda:** The Action was conceived as a contribution to the advancing of dialogue and fostering policy debate, including on the post-2015 agenda, as well as moving forward a number of ideas and initiatives regionally. The reports and outcomes of the conferences fed subsequently to a number of regional or global fora (e.g. GFMD, UN High-Level Dialogue on International Migration Development, Policy Panel on Europe-Asia Cooperation), the Government of the Philippines being able to share a regional dimension on the topics addressed.
- **Creating learning spaces between the EU and South-East Asia:** The Action served as a platform enabling the sharing of practical knowledge, practices and experiences between EU/EU MS and the South-East Asia Governments on diverse aspects related to migration, mobility and development, and on their inter-governmental and inter-regional cooperation frameworks and collaborative efforts in M&D. Therefore, the practice of exchanging on practices between two regions of the world, at operational level and for the first time, proved to be inspirational and effective.

Impact

- The conferences enabled the participants to better grasp the realities of M&D in each participating country, as well to have an overview on and comparison of the regional processes and the EU. The importance of such gatherings was particularly stressed, as the sharing of information between the South-East Asia Governments on migration-related issues had been deficient between countries of origin and destination.
- A number of South-East Asian participants expressed their interest in setting up a replica of the European Migration Network (EMN)² in the region. Following completion of the Action, the Commission on Filipinos Overseas (the main entity behind this request), secured funding from the Government of South Korea to create an entity based on the EMN model.

Lessons Learnt

- **States can discuss and debate topical issues beyond the existing formal structures if there is political willingness and openness:** Despite the fact that migration has an enormous impact on the development of several countries in South-East Asia, there was no setting to discuss the inter-play between M&D and to learn from each other. The determination of the Philippines, joined by Indonesia and Vietnam, was therefore to 'break the ice' by convening meetings on topics that do not always appeal equally to all members of ASEAN, thus providing a platform for exchanges and to include the EU.
- **Targeting operational level through peer-to-peer programmes:** Not being anchored in complex political processes can yield positive results that surpass initial expectations, as was the case for this Action.

² https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/what-we-do/networks/european_migration_network_en. [Accessed 25 August 2020].



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Migration EU Expertise



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Since launching operations in 2009, the Migration EU expertise (MIEUX) Initiative has provided space to request capacity development activities and EU expertise, allowing the sharing of knowledge and practices between peers working in institutions in and outside of Europe.

The adoption of the Global Compact on Migration and the creation of the UN Network on Migration coincided with MIEUX's ten-year anniversary. To mark the occasion, MIEUX undertook a comprehensive analysis of its achievements, methodologies and practices.

By delving into MIEUX's portfolio of over 100 interventions, this series of case studies intend to offer a glimpse of the broad range of tools, methodologies and approaches that can inspire or be used by governments and migration and development practitioners to advance a cooperative and sustainable international architecture of migration.