

## Foreword

**M**igration is a growing and dynamic phenomenon. The number of international migrants in the world increased by one-third in the 13 years to 2013, to the level of 232 million. Countries of origin have become more diversified over time, while new countries of destination and transit have emerged. In addition, migrants are today more skilled than ever and women represent a growing share of migrants, in particular skilled ones. Intra-regional flows are on the rise across the world, including within the OECD area and Europe. The challenge of how to reach out to diasporas is shared among all countries, irrespectively of their income and development levels.

There is a broad recognition both in origin and destination countries that migrants provide opportunities if properly supported and many governments are adopting policies to help them fully utilise and further develop their skills. Countries of origin increasingly realise that definitive return is not the only way that diasporas can contribute to their home countries. Members of the diaspora make as many ambassadors of their countries of origin around the world. Building links with their emigrants abroad and engaging with their diasporas have become important issues for government and development agencies in the countries of origin. The contribution of the diasporas to their countries of origin depends greatly on their size and their characteristics, such as the skills and age but also on the integration of migrants in the host-country's labour market and their income.

The availability of high quality and internationally comparable data on diasporas is a prerequisite for proper analysis of migration as well as for the design and implementation of effective policies in both sending and receiving countries. However, such data remain difficult to collect at the global level.

This publication gathers a broad range of statistical information on migrant populations in the OECD area and in a number of non-OECD countries by origin country. It is aimed at helping policy makers to tailor policies to the specific needs and circumstances of the population groups in question. It fills in the data gap on diasporas by presenting a broad range of statistical information on migrant populations and notably trends over time by country and region of origin.

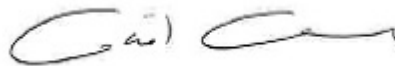
The primary data source is the Database on Immigrants in OECD and non-OECD Countries (DIOC and DIOC-E) which is the result of a longstanding cooperation between the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and the French Development Agency (Afd). This database contains new and detailed information on diasporas and their characteristics and how these have evolved over time. The latest update was conducted also in cooperation with the World Bank and the International Migration Institute at the University of Oxford and with support from the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation.

This publication contains a synthesis chapter and six regional chapters which present the latest developments in diasporas by region of the world. In addition, it contains six regional notes and 140 country notes summarising the key characteristics of emigrant populations (gender, age, education) and their labour market outcomes; the numbers and main destinations of international students; recent migrant flows to OECD countries; the evolution of diasporas, and of the labour market outcomes of migrants between 2000/01 and 2010/11; and information on the desire to emigrate among different population groups.

*We hope that this publication will help to portray more accurately the migrant communities worldwide in order to facilitate sound policies in both sending and receiving countries and better international cooperation.*



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