Social Security for Migrant Workers
- from ILO’s perspectives -

Seventh Conference of the National Migration Network

25 June 2014, Warsaw

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Global Trends in Labour Migration

- In 2013, there were estimated 231.5 million international migrants, representing 3 per cent of the world’s population.

- The number of migrant workers is estimated about 105 million. Migrant workers and their families account for about 90 per cent of total international migrants.

- Migrants provide significant remittances to their home countries, amounting to US$ 338 billion in 2008.

- Women make up almost 50 per cent of international migrants.

- Between 10% to 15% of migrants are in irregular status

=> Growing number and more diverse forms of migration will likely to continue.
Backgrounds

- In the time of globalization, lack of social security is one of the challenges facing migrant workers and their families.

- To secure the **equality of treatment** for migrant workers, and to **extend the social security coverage**, there is a large need to ensure the right of social security for migrant workers.

- Social security agreements – bilateral or multilateral – would be an effective way to safeguard the social security rights of migrant workers and their families.
Instruments for coordination

- ILO Conventions and Recommendations
  - C102 – *Minimum standards, 1952*
  - C118 – *Equality of treatment, 1962*
  - C157 – *Maintenance of rights, 1982*
  - R167 – *Maintenance of rights, 1983*

- Social security agreements (treaties in international law)
  - Multilateral
  - Bilateral

- Binding on signatories once ratified
ILO instruments for the coordination of social security

Equality of Treatment

C. 19 (1925) (employment injury benefit)

Art.68 of C.102 (1952) (minimum 3 of 9 branches to be ratified)

C. 118 (1962) (all 9 branches to be ratified)

Maintenance of Rights

C.48 (1935) (outdated but ratification remains valid)

Revision

C.157 (1982)

Rec. 167 (1983)

Annex: Model provisions and model agreement for multilateral or bilateral social security instruments
Strategy options for non-EU countries

- Flexibly designed bilateral social security agreements
- Unilateral national/personal measures
- Multilateral agreements
  - Join existing agreements (EU, harmonization)
  - Revise the outdated agreements (CIS)
  - Create new agreements
Recent experiences of Moldova and Ukraine

- Moldova: BG (09), PT (10), RO (11), LU, AT, EE (12),
- Ukraine: SK (09), PT (11), EE (12), PL (13)

Success factors and challenges:

- Willingness of both sending and receiving countries to conclude bilateral social security agreements.
  Cf. EC Communication on “The external dimension of EU social security coordination” (30 March 2012).
- Focus on pensions (\(\Leftarrow\Rightarrow\) in-kind benefits, e.g. sickness)
- Low turn-over of staff
- Lack of branch (e.g. Ukraine has no social health insurance)
- Further need to build capacity for implementation
Examples of regional multilateral agreements

- CARICOM Agreement on Social Security
- Ibero-American Multilateral Agreement on Social Security
- Gulf Cooperation Council Unified Law on Insurance Protection Extension

=> In addition to geographical proximity they share common features

=> Difficulty in regional agreement in Asia with diverse types of schemes
Challenges of social security coordination

- Long-term care benefits
- Fully funded pensions
- Irregular migrants
References

- Social security coordination for non-EU countries in South and Eastern Europe: a legal analysis (ILO Budapest, 2012)
- Social Security for Migrant Workers - A rights-based approach (ILO Budapest 2011)
Thank you for your attention

For further information, please visit our webpage at

www.ilo.org/secsoc

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