SASPEN & FES Conference on Social Protection for Migrants

APEI: Movement of business People
By

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APEI

• Accelerated Programme for Economic Integration
• 5 Like-minded Countries: Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Seychelles, Zambia

• Objectives:
  ➢ Attract FDI
  ➢ Job creation
  ➢ High Growth

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5 Pillars

• Improvement of business regulatory environment
• Elimination of barriers to trade in goods
• Promotion of trade in services
• Improvement in trade facilitation
• Peer to peer learning and capacity building
TRADE PROMOTION

• Why movement of business people and professionals?
• Attraction of investment – investors
• Uneven distribution of skills
1) Short-term visits by businesspersons and professionals
2) Movement of professionals to provide services in priority sectors
3) Fast-tracked movement of professionals to fill skills gaps in labor markets.
HOW?

The MOU could cover four main aspects of the facilitation of the movement of businesspersons and professionals. First, would be to harmonize and standardize business visa procedures. Separately, we have suggested that such harmonization could be effected through means of an APEI Business Travel Card. Second is to standardize provisions for temporary employment permits to enable short-term working visits for businesspersons and professionals. Third is to standardize a fast-tracked employment permit for longer work assignments. Fourth is to facilitate movement of professionals through recognition of their qualifications.
Implementation Challenges

implementation phase. While there are no major legal impediments to the five countries adopting the draft MoU, there are legal, regulatory, and administrative procedures that each country would need to undertake. The challenges are likely to lie where they often have: First, in mustering sufficient political will and local ownership to bring together the disparate government ministries, departments, and agencies at national level as well as non-state actors. Second, in streamlining and harmonizing bureaucratic procedures in competition with numerous other reform priorities. And third, in adopting new ways of working, especially collaboratively across the five countries, to implement the agreement. None of these challenges is insurmountable.
Mechanisms for Overcoming the challenges

➢ A concerted, sustained public education to engage the public and policymakers in informed dialogue on the issues;

➢ A policy framework for exploiting synergies between investment, talent mobility, and domestic job-creation;

➢ APEI labor markets should be aligned and integrated with regard to training, recruitment, skills development, and job-seeking;
Mechanisms for Overcoming the challenges

- APEI countries would need to specify priority sectors in terms of needs and offers of skilled professionals
- Establishment of a platform of accessible, user-friendly and well-publicized interlinked national jobs portals that is linked to adequate regulation of cross-border recruitment;
- APEI-wide centres of excellence in training in key skills and sectors need to emerge to address skills gaps beyond an individual APEI nation-state.