

INITIATIVE ON GLOBAL MIGRATION AND HUMAN MOBILITY

The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation

While migration is an age-old phenomenon, its current scale and particular characteristics make it an issue of rising global concern at the beginning of the twenty-first century. Immigration to the United States of America and Western Europe is part of a global system of population movement. Worldwide, some 200 million people are now living outside their country of origin (United Nations, 2006). Today's migrants use contemporary transportation and communication technologies to maintain home country ties with the same technologies encouraging also circular migration. Migration is spurred by economic opportunity, political turmoil, family reunification, war and environmental crisis. Flows of migrants have profound economic, security, social, and cultural effects in countries of origin, transit and destination. While globalization has lowered barriers for the international movement of goods and capital, the movement of people is still officially subject to tight controls.

A. GRANTMAKING GUIDELINES

1. Purpose

In 2006, the Foundation began grantmaking under a new Initiative on Global Migration and Human Mobility. Through this initiative, the Foundation supports a small number of institutions and projects, with the aim of advancing three main objectives: (a) to improve understanding of global migration through support of policy-relevant empirical research and improved sources of data on migrant flows; (b) to encourage better governance of migration at global, regional and national levels, and (c) to stimulate new thinking on broader issues of global human mobility.

2. Strategies

MacArthur will be providing a limited number of grants in the following two areas: (a) governance of global migration, and (b) migration and development.

a. Governance of global migration

Improving governance of international migration focuses on three levels of governance: global, regional and bilateral. The Foundation considers governance of international migration to encompass: (a) the philosophical underpinnings of how migration should be managed; (b) specific norms, standards and principles, and (c) concrete policies, institutions, international treaties and other legal mechanisms that regulate the movement of individuals across international boundaries. Thus, on each level (global, regional and bilateral), the Foundation seeks to advance the conceptual framework, the normative dimension (principles, norms and standards) and relevant institutions.

b. Migration and development

The Initiative on Global Migration and Human Mobility seeks to promote research and policy efforts to better understand the links between migration and development and to help maximize the benefits and minimize the costs of migration for countries of origin and destination and for migrants themselves. The Initiative's work on development focuses on three main areas. The first two represent

the main channels by which migrants impact development, that is, via financial flows and labour mobility. The third, migration data, provides the tool to better understand these phenomena and to improve policy.

Financial flows related to migration include remittances, foreign direct investment and investment in capital markets (such as foreign stock exchanges and bond markets). The Foundation is also interested in non-financial flows that impact development, such as the exchange of ideas, know-how, and cultural and social mores, all of which are transmitted by migrants individually or through broader, organized networks of transnational communities. The economic, political, social and cultural impacts of labour mobility on countries of origin and destination are also of interest to the Initiative.

3. Funding

In order to pursue the goals of the Initiative, the Foundation provides support to nonprofit organizations, including research institutes and universities. Grants are awarded for research and policy studies, dissemination and related activities in the strategy areas listed above. The Foundation is particularly interested in supporting projects that reflect diverse national, institutional, professional and cultural perspectives on global migration.

An organization wishing to approach the Foundation may submit a letter of inquiry informing the Foundation of the proposed project. Sample letters and more information on the Initiative can be found on the website of the MacArthur Foundation¹.

Since its inception, the Migration Initiative has made 47 grants worth US\$13.8 million. In addition to project grants on governance and development issues, MacArthur provides substantial support to a small number of leading institutions in the field of migration research and policy analysis. The MacArthur Foundation is the largest nongovernmental donor to the Global Forum on Migration and Development.

NOTE

¹ For information on how to apply for grant money, see the Foundation's website at www.macfound.org/migration (accessed 26 February 2009). For further questions regarding this Initiative or the work of the Foundation, please send an e-mail to: 4answers@macfound.org (attn. John Slocum, Director or Milena Novy-Marrx, Program Officer, Global Migration and Human Mobility, The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation).

REFERENCE

United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2006). *Trends in Total Migrant Stock: The 2005 Revision*. POP/DB/MIG/Rev.2005.