



MMDP participants, in-person cohort, Maastricht

Improving migration governance: fostering cooperation to enhance policy outcomes

All over the world, civil servants who influence migration policies at the national level face the challenge of managing migration effectively while developing a shared understanding of its multifaceted dimensions. To address this need, the **Migration Management Diploma Programme (MMDP)** was launched under the EU-funded Migration Partnership Facility (MPF). The programme aimed to support 58 mid- to senior-level public servants from Mobility Partnership (MP) and Common Agenda on Migration and Mobility (CAMP) countries between 2020 and 2023.

Coordinated by the Maastricht Graduate School of Governance, the MMDP was designed to empower civil servants to shape inclusive and collaborative migration policies by **building knowledge, fostering cooperation, and enabling long-term institutional change**.

A tailored study journey



MMDP participant

The MMDP offered a three-month intensive curriculum combining theory and practice to strengthen participants' migration policy skills. Delivered in both online and in-person formats, it covered three core areas: **migration governance, development, and policy.**

Hands-on learning was central to the programme. Through case studies, group work, and assignments, participants applied concepts in real-world contexts. Visits to Brussels, The Hague, and Geneva offered exposure to EU and international institutions, deepening understanding and exchange.

A civil servant and MMDP alumni involved in Ethiopia's migration policy reform emphasised,

"The programme strengthened my skills in policy analysis. I contributed to reviewing the national migration strategy using the tools I learned."

From learning to action

Survey results from the Migration Management Diploma Programme (MMDP) highlight its **strong and lasting impact on participants**.

An impressive **91% reported applying newly acquired skills in their professional roles**, contributing to improvements in migration policy and practice within institutions. Additionally, **85% of participants maintained professional networks established during the programme**, fostering continued peer-to-peer exchange and cross-country collaboration.

These **results underscore the programme's effectiveness** not only in building individual capacity but also in strengthening long-term cooperation and institutional change in migration governance.



Lessons and future directions

The MMDP shows how targeted training can **transform not just individuals, but entire migration systems - a vital investment in a complex global landscape**.

One of the participants said, **"Thanks to the programme we changed different aspects of our country's migration policy."**

The challenge now is to sustain this momentum and scale up such initiatives to ensure more countries can benefit from this collaborative, evidence-based approach to migration governance.



Looking ahead

The MMDP stands as a compelling example of how targeted capacity-building can drive policy innovation and regional cooperation. As migration remains a defining global issue, such initiatives are vital to equip policymakers with the tools, confidence, and networks to lead effectively.

As one alumnus aptly said: *“This was more than training. It was a catalyst for transformation - in myself, and in the system I work within.”*

About the MPF

This grant project is part of the EU-funded Migration Partnership Facility (MPF), managed by the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) to support the external dimension of the EU's migration policy. MPF funds projects that promote dialogue and cooperation on migration and mobility between EU Member States and partner countries outside the EU.

About the project

This project was awarded and contracted in the framework of Calls for Proposals of the MPF to support the external dimension of the EU migration policy. Through its grants, the MPF facilitates the execution of projects to strengthen dialogue and cooperation on migration and mobility between Member States and partner countries outside the EU.

About the evaluation

This evaluation for ICMPD conducted by the Migration Policy Group reviews the impact of the Migration Management Diploma Programme on civil servants from MP/CAMM countries. It assesses improvements in migration governance, peer collaboration, and institutional coordination, while identifying data gaps and proposing ways to sustain knowledge transfer and cooperation.



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