

## DYNAMIG policy workshop on 30 November 2023

### Background note

**DYNAMIG** is a three-year project that aims to create a more thorough understanding of how people make decisions on whether or not to migrate and on how they migrate. Focusing on Africa and Europe, we will analyse to what extent migration policies – or policies that impact migration – take into account the factors that shape migration decisions, and look at how effective these policies are in influencing decisions and behaviour.

On 30 November 2023, we are organising the third in our series of three thematic policy workshops in Brussels. These workshops aim to create room for open and frank discussions in a small setting between EU policymakers, migration experts and DYNAMIG researchers. Together we will discuss research plans, policy priorities and strategies on migration decision-making and the interaction between policies and factors influencing migration decisions.

These workshops are of key importance to ensure that our work takes into account – and builds on – the knowledge and priorities of policymakers, increasing its quality, usefulness, relevance and impact.

#### The workshops aim to:

- incorporate input and feedback into DYNAMIG research and findings;
- ensure a better understanding of the exact ways in which EU policies are meant to affect migration and what the priorities of EU policymakers are;
- improve our understanding of the mechanisms through which policies can influence migration decisions; and
- increase the quality and relevance of our research from the outset.

The thematic workshops will be by invitation only and take place under Chatham House rules. We will gather ten to twelve EU policymakers and experts for each of the workshops to exchange with the DYNAMIG team.

#### Venue

##### **ECDPM**

*Avenue des Arts 44,  
1000 Bruxelles, Belgium*

# Agenda workshop 3

Thursday 30 November

## Registration and coffee

09:30 – 10:00

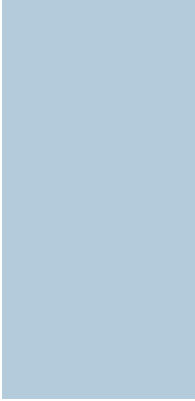
## Workshop 3: Enhanced opportunities for regular labour migration to the EU: Influencing choices of potential migrants?

10:00 – 12:00

The EU is in need of workers at various skill levels. Many economic sectors – ranging from construction to health – struggle to find skills, talent and capacity. Providing better pathways for legal labour migration is part of the European Commission's strategy to ensure a competitive EU economy. Moreover, the possibility for irregular migrants to find a job in the informal economy is one of the key drivers of irregular migration. Enhanced opportunities for regular (labour) migration to the EU may also be seen as an incentive to reduce the need for irregular migration or to enhance partnerships with non-EU countries on migration management.

In this workshop, we will look at **how migrants from the African continent think about European legal migration opportunities and related policies**, such as rights and integration measures within EU member states. Participants will discuss whether this plays a role in their decisions on how and where to migrate, what role qualification and skills training plays in their aspirations to migrate, and **how labour migration policies can better take into account migration decision-making**.

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| <b>10:00 – 10:05</b> | <b>Welcome</b> (ECDPM and the Kiel Institute for the World Economy)  |
| <b>10:05 – 10:15</b> | <b>Overview of the DYNAMIG project and the different thematic and cross-cutting work packages:</b> research questions, approaches and data collection  |
| <b>10:15 – 10:30</b> | Short thematic opening presentation <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● <i>Martin Ruhs, Professor and Deputy Director, Migration Policy Centre, EUI</i></li><li>● <i>Lena Detlefsen Postdoctoral researcher at the Kiel Institute for the World Economy</i></li><li>● <i>Carlotta Minella, Research Fellow, Migration Policy Centre, EUI</i></li></ul> |
| <b>10:30 – 12:00</b> | Roundtable discussion focusing on three main areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● <b>Policy priorities:</b> What are the EU's policy priorities when it comes to enhancing legal migration opportunities – both within the African continent</li></ul>   |



and to the EU? What type of impact on migration decisions is envisaged?

- **State of play and challenges:** What role do legal migration opportunities play in how migrants take decisions? Can legal pathways and opportunities reduce incentives for irregular migration? How do migrants think about different forms of visas, legal options and integration opportunities at destination for them and their families?
- **Knowledge gaps:** What further information and knowledge is needed for labour migration policies to effectively take into account migration decision-making processes?

**Light lunch, networking and informal exchanges**

12:00 – 12:45