

Developing Pathways for Legal Migration to Europe

This block of questions tackled respondents' assessment of initiatives between Europe and Southern Mediterranean partner countries in the field of labour mobility cooperation and collected views on the policy improvement needed. In addition it questioned participants on the recently proposed Talent Partnerships and other similar potential cooperation initiatives.

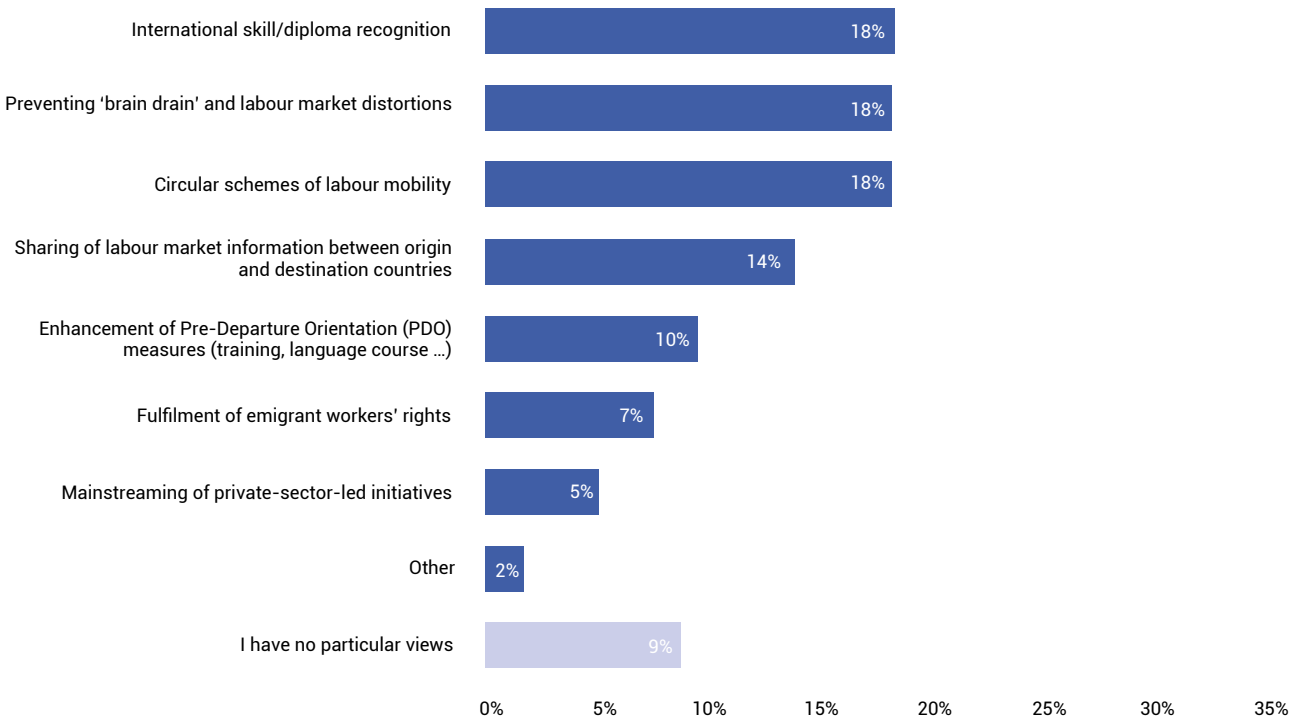
Main findings:

- Respondents acknowledged the fruitfulness of several initiatives proposed by the EU in the field of labour mobility cooperation.
- International skills and diploma recognition, preventing brain drain and domestic labour market disruptions, as well as circular schemes of labour mobility are considered priority areas for improvement.
- Overall, respondents welcomed the development of Talent Partnerships, primarily in their potential to generate domestic market opportunities through business creation and development.
- Visa facilitation as well as professional and university training schemes were among respondents' top suggestions with regards to developing further legal mobility pathways to the EU.

Question 20 invited respondents to choose which of the proposed domains of cooperation with the EU should be improved. Overall answers reveal that international skill/diploma recognition should be improved as a matter of priority to a similar extent as preventing brain drain and labour market disruptions, as well as promoting circular schemes of labour mobility (each of these three options represent approximately 18% of the views expressed).

GRAPH 29

Q.20 In which domains should cooperation with the EU be improved in priority?

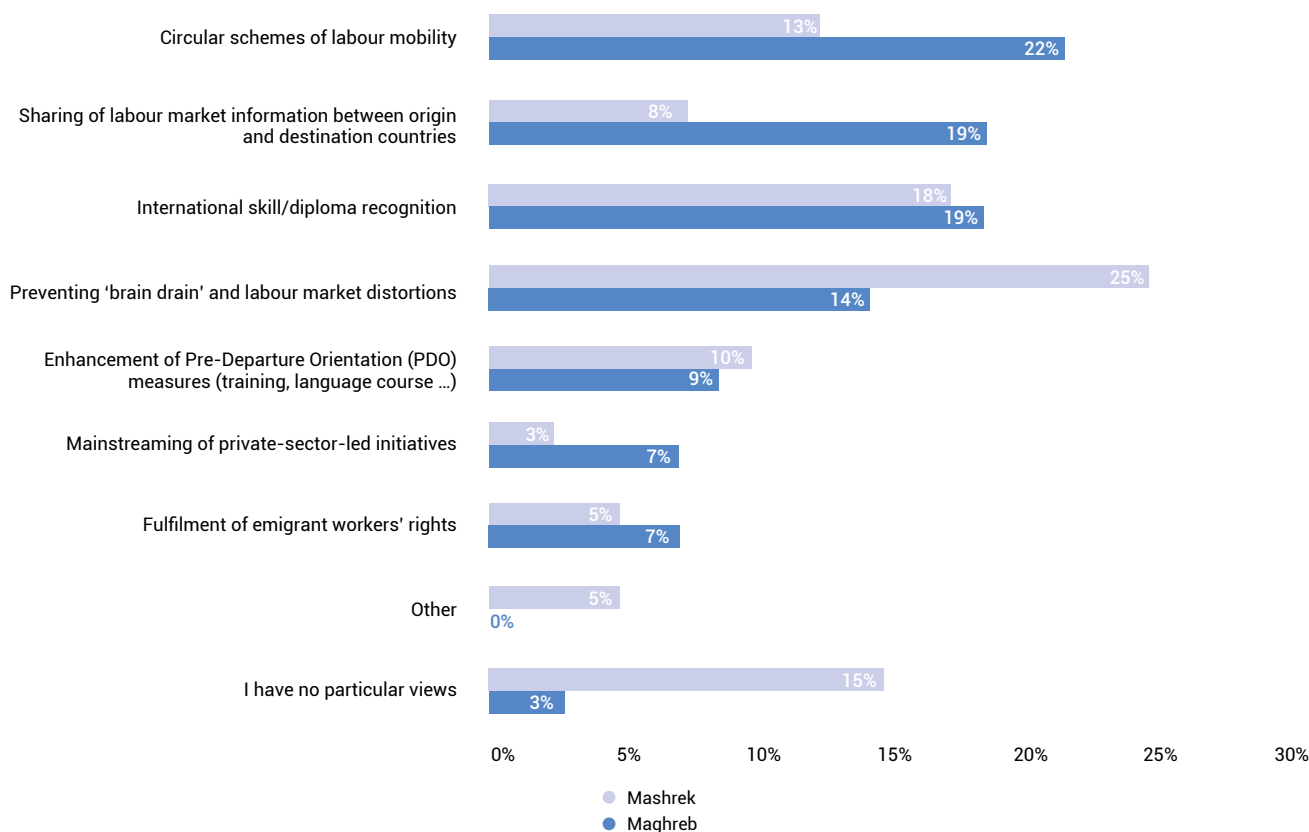


Source: Compiled by the IEMed based on the results of the EMM5-EuroMeSCo Euromed Survey

Consistent with other areas of the survey, the answers to these questions show a certain divergence between Maghreb and Mashrek respondents. The answers of Mashrek countries respondents largely reflect the overall ranking of priorities whereas for Maghreb countries respondents, circular schemes of labour migration stands as the first domain. Additionally, sharing labour market information between origin and destination countries is considered as much of a priority as international skill/diploma recognition. Furthermore, preventing brain drain and labour market distortions appears as less of a priority than sharing labour market information between origin and destination countries according to Maghreb respondents' answers.

GRAPH 30

Q.20 In which domains should cooperation with the EU be improved in priority?



Source: Compiled by the IEMed based on the results of the EMM5-EuroMeSCo Euromed Survey

In **Question 19** respondents were asked to share their viewpoint on the initiative which, based on their experience and in their country, has been the most fruitful in the area of labour mobility cooperation with the EU and/or EU Member States. Many respondents recognised the work carried out by the EU and EU Member States and highlighted the following initiatives: “Towards a Holistic Approach to Labour Migration Governance and Labour Mobility in North Africa” (THAMM), “Partnership for Progress and a Common Future” initiative and the European Union Emergency Trust Fund for Africa (EUTF). The mobility partnerships signed by the EU with Morocco, Tunisia and Jordan and involving some EU Member States are also recognised by respondents, although further efforts are needed according to the following answer:

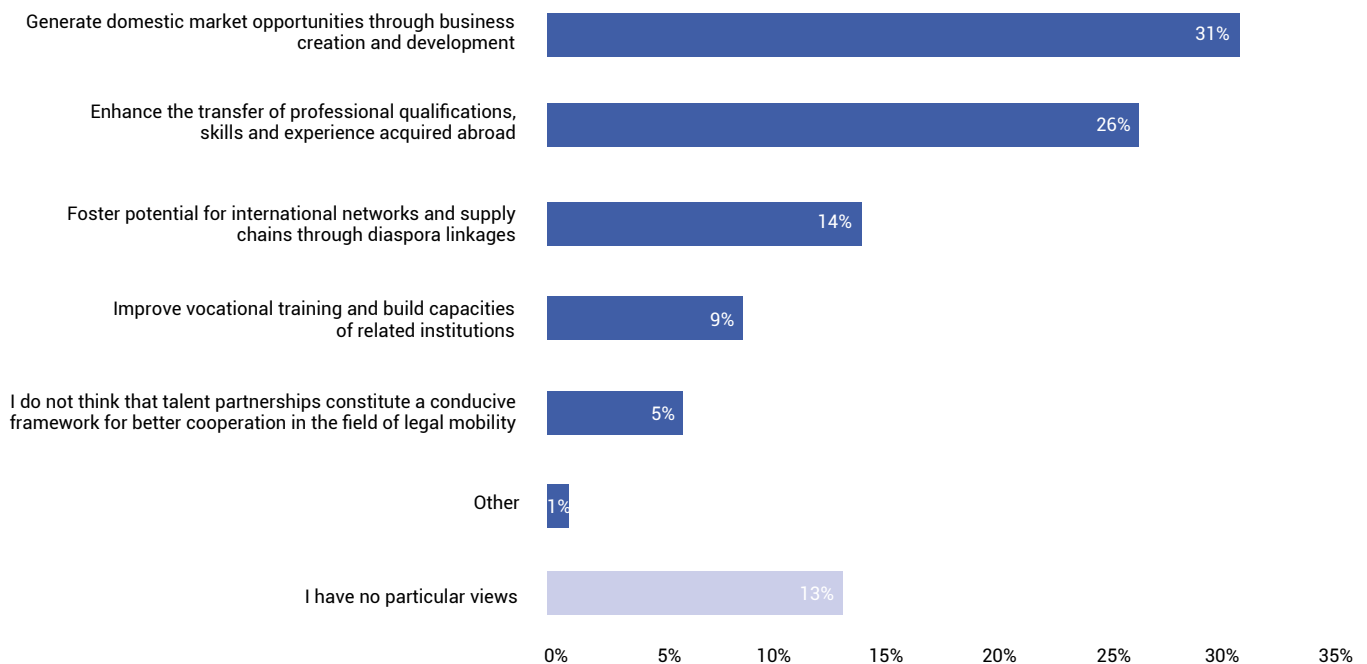
All mobility agreements signed and involving Morocco, Germany, France, Italy, Spain and Belgium, since the framework agreement signed on this subject between Morocco and the EU in 2013. However, the number of beneficiaries should be more important and their follow-up in Europe as well as after their return to Morocco should be both effective and reliable.

- Moroccan respondent -

Question 21 asked respondents to pinpoint what could be the main benefits related to Talent Partnerships in their respective countries. Almost one third of expressed opinions opted for the generation of domestic market opportunities through business creation and development as the main possible benefit. Maghreb and Mashrek respondents both chose this as the top option, although Mashrek respondents did with a larger margin (see Graph 32).

GRAPH 31

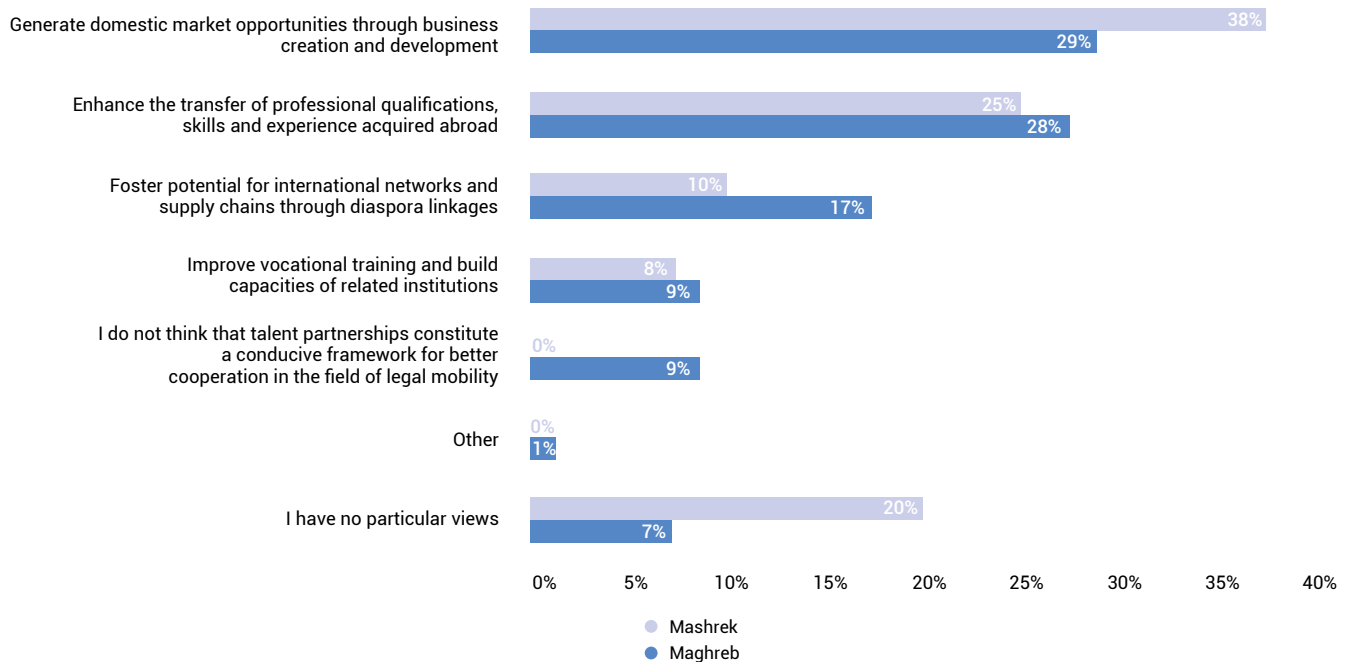
Q.21 Talent partnerships is a paradigm that the EU wants to pursue as a channel to support legal migration and mobility cooperation with your country. In your opinion, what could be the main benefits for your country?



Source: Compiled by the IEMed based on the results of the EMM5-EuroMeSCo Euromed Survey

GRAPH 32

Q.21 Talent partnerships is a paradigm that the EU wants to pursue as a channel to support legal migration and mobility cooperation with your country. In your opinion, what could be the main benefits for your country?



Source: Compiled by the IEMed based on the results of the EMM5-EuroMeScO Euromed Survey

Overall, respondents expressed favourable opinions related to these schemes, with only 6% of them denying the idea that Talent Partnerships could be a conducive framework for better cooperation in the field of legal mobility.

In relation to these Talent Partnerships, **Question 22** went on to ask respondents to explain, as a matter of priority, which complementary steps should be taken beyond Talent Partnerships to further develop legal pathways of mobility to the EU. Among the recurring answers, visa and mobility facilitation was put forward by respondents to the largest extent. Many respondents also insisted on the need to foster professional and university training and exchanges between southern Mediterranean and European professionals in order to ensure that the skills of their countries' professionals match the needs of the European labour markets.