

Migration and Cooperation Priorities

The introductory block of the survey tackled the most important migration policy areas from the perspective of the South Partner Countries (SPCs). Additionally, and to invite considerations on the cross-regional dimension of migration flows, it asked respondents to indicate which of the same areas should be prioritised in the relations with neighbouring countries (other than the EU or EU Member States). The options proposed to respondents are taken from the terminology and areas of action envisaged in the EU Pact'

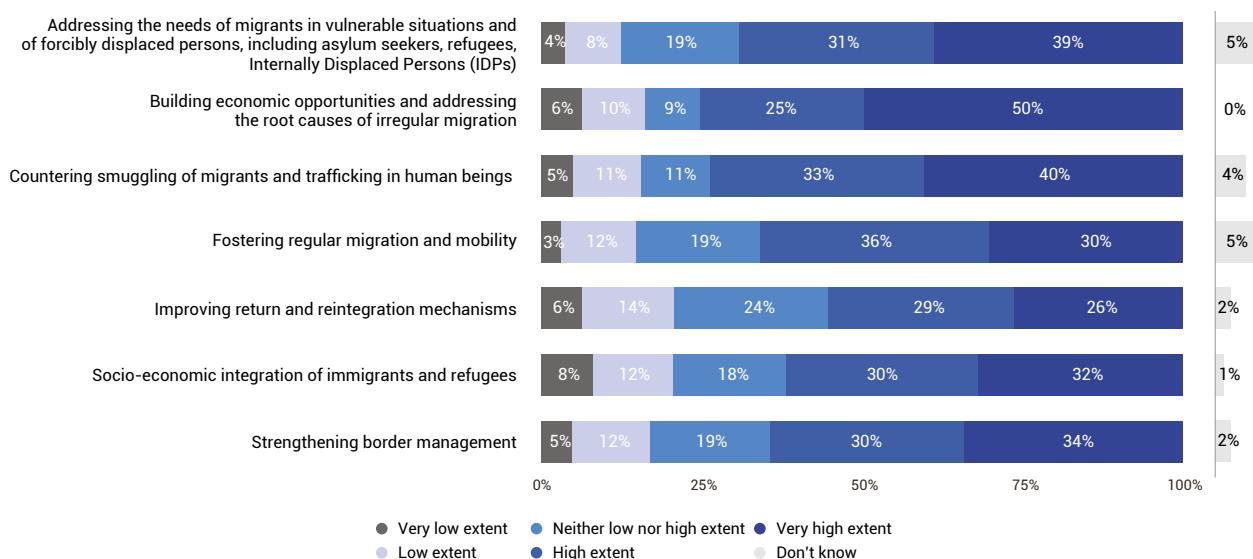
Main findings:

- There is a consensus amongst respondents of the survey that building economic opportunities and addressing root causes of irregular migration is the most important policy area, closely followed by countering smuggling and trafficking of human beings.
- In relation to priority areas of cooperation with (non-EU) neighbours, respondents rank counter-smuggling activities first. Building economic opportunities and addressing root causes of irregular migration comes second.
- Maghreb respondents consider that building economic opportunities and addressing root causes of irregular migration is both the most important policy area and a cooperation priority.
- Mashrek respondents consider that addressing the needs of migrants and forcibly displaced persons in vulnerable situations is as important as addressing root causes of migration, while the cooperation priority is countering smuggling and trafficking of human beings.

The first two questions of the survey were designed to assess, respectively, i) migration priorities in the South Partner Countries and ii) cooperation priorities between them and their neighbours (other than the EU or EU member states). The overall results show that “Building economic opportunities and addressing root causes of irregular migration” is considered to be, in aggregate, the most significant area of migration policy for the concerned countries (Graph 1). Besides, the survey indicates that actions related to “Countering smuggling and trafficking of human beings” and “Building economic opportunities” should drive cooperation with third countries (other than EU or EU member states) (Graph 2).

GRAPH 1

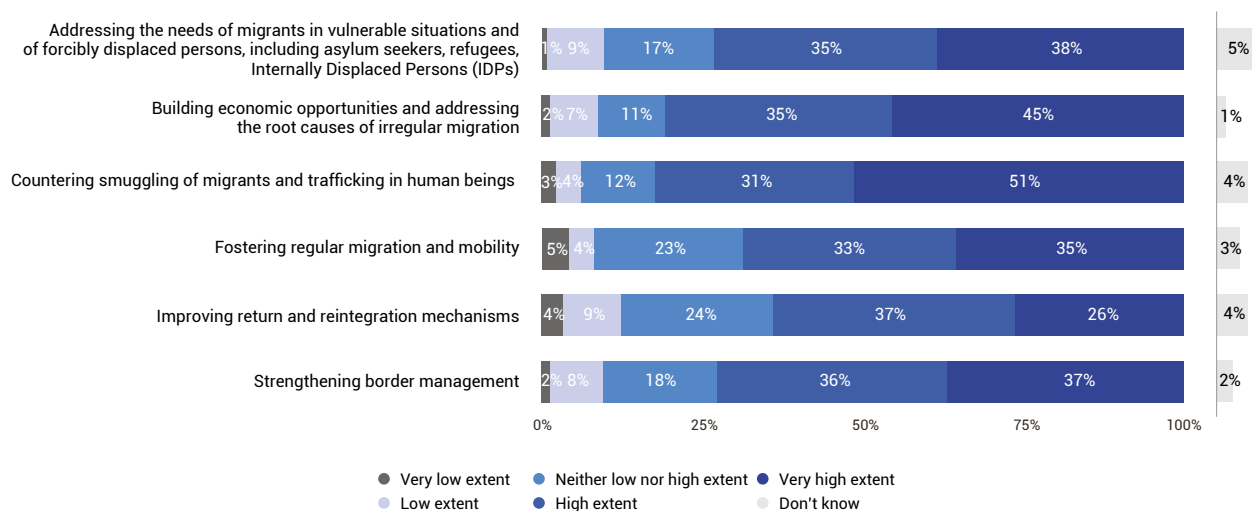
Q.1 To what extent do you consider that the following areas of migration policy are important for your country?



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

GRAPH 2

Q.2 To what extent should cooperation with your neighbours (other than the EU or EU member states) in the following areas of migration policy be prioritised?

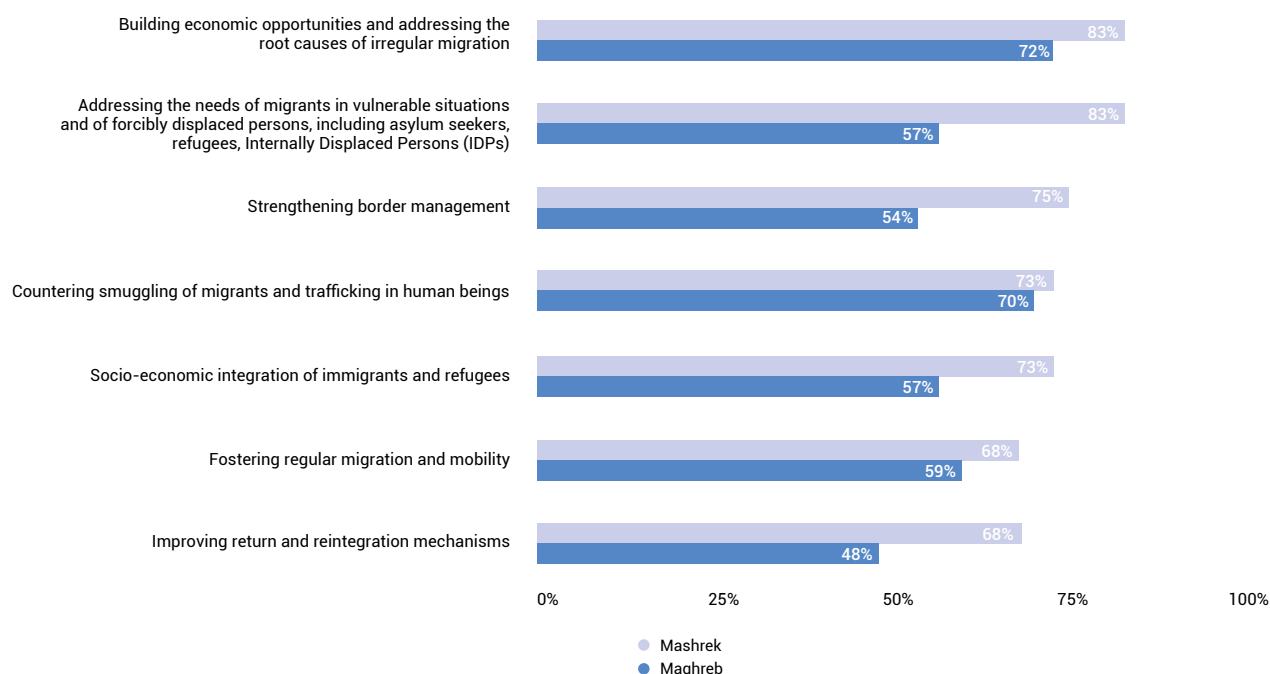


Source: Compiled by the IEMed based on the results of the EMM5-EuroMeSCO Euromed Survey

Results by geographical origin point to some nuances on the perceived importance of policy areas. Maghreb respondents followed the aggregate result pattern for this question while Mashrek respondents considered “Addressing the needs of migrants in vulnerable situations and of forcibly displaced persons, including asylum seekers, refugees, Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)” as the first option with the same % of answers as “Building economic opportunities and addressing root causes of irregular migration” (see Graph 1 bis).

GRAPH 1bis

Q.1 To what extent do you consider that the following areas of migration policy are important for your country?
(% of high and very high answers)

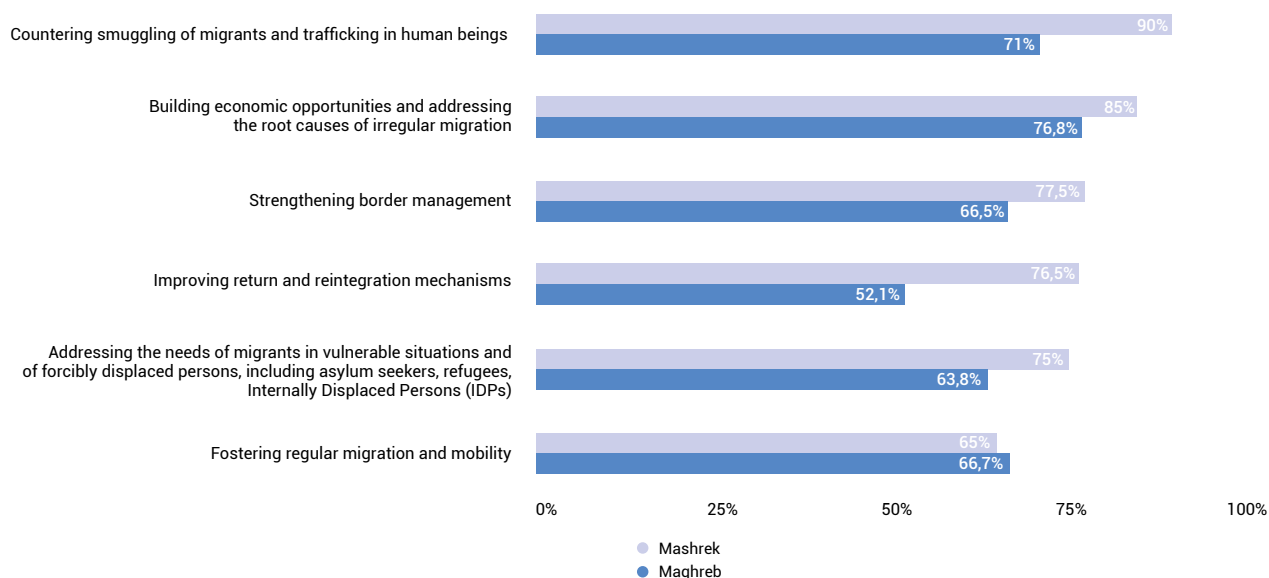


Source: Compiled by the IEMed based on the results of the EMM5-EuroMeSCo Euromed Survey

In terms of cooperation areas with their respective (non-EU) neighbours, answers from the Maghreb and the Mashrek differ sensibly. Mashrek participants considered “Countering smuggling and trafficking of human beings” as the first area to prioritise, while for Maghreb participants it came in second place right after “Building economic opportunities and addressing root causes of irregular migration” (see Graph 2 bis). Interestingly, the entry on “improving return and reintegration mechanisms” was ranked last as a priority cooperation area for Maghreb participants. Respondents from the Mashrek viewed the option “Fostering regular migration and mobility” the least important area to develop with neighbours.

GRAPH 2bis

Q.2 To what extent should cooperation with your neighbours (other than the EU or EU member states) in the following areas of migration policy be prioritised? (% of high and very high answers)



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

Open comments highlighted some complexities but also mentioned potential mechanisms to enhance cooperation:

For many complicated political and other reasons, the cooperation with our relevant neighbours is considered irrelevant and unfruitful.

- Lebanese respondent -

The Arab countries should build the common market and the Maghreb countries should organise an easier flow of migration with a national identity card, the African countries should build more transportation infrastructure.

- Tunisian respondent -

Additional partners need to be included in cooperation on immigration management.

- Moroccan respondent -

A breakdown of answers by kind of institutions show some group specificities in terms of importance granted to priority areas, while in terms of cooperation, perception follow the overall survey trend with some slight differences.

TABLE 1

	Preferred option by category of respondent (aggregate of high and very high answers)	
	Most important area in the country	Main cooperation area with your neighbours
Civil Society	Fostering regular migration and mobility	Building economic opportunities and addressing the root causes or irregular migration
Experts	Building economic opportunities and addressing the root causes or irregular migration	Building economic opportunities and addressing the root causes or irregular migration
Policy-Makers	Countering smuggling of migrants and trafficking in human beings	Countering smuggling of migrants and trafficking in human beings

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

Table 1 shows how answers differ according to the respondents’ group considered. In stark contrast to the overall trend discussed above, civil society respondents perceive issues related to regular migration as the most important area of migration policy in their countries. Experts and policy-makers are more aligned on the overall sentiment that economic opportunities or countering smuggling activities deserve the most attention.