Genesis of the Partnership Approach to Migration & The New Generation of Bilateral Migration Agreements from the French Perspective


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Overview

• Definition of partnership
• Partnerships for Development
• The Migration & Development discourse and the comprehensive approach
• Partnerships for migration management
• The paradigm shift
• Brief presentation of the French new bilateral agreements on migration
Definition of Partnerships

• Partnership → buzzword in different contexts
  – at national, regional, and international level
  – by governments, IOs, private sector and civil society

• Common language → a rather positive connotation: “a desirable, voluntary, inherently positive form of cooperation among equals, pursuing common goals based on mutual respect”. (Kunz, 2011).

• Initially used in different fields of international cooperation: peace, development, economics, aid, security.

• Since 2005 entered the field of international migration policy.
Partnerships for Development

• In the field of development, *partnership* increasingly used to describe new forms of North-South and aid relations (Kunz 2011).

• Since the mid-70s, securing support to ex-colonies in the context of the Cold War rivalry → ACP countries entrusted with a role in the management of development (e.g. Lomé Conventions 1975-2000 → “culture of partnership and dialogue”) (Laakso 2007).

• Since the mid-90s, Post-Washington Consensus → move from conditionality towards a partnership approach (e.g. OECD, DfID, the World Bank) // good governance.
The Migration & Development discourse and the comprehensive approach

• In the field of migration, the partnership approach coincides with the M&D dialogue that was formalised in the political discourse since 2004-2005 (IAMM, GCIM, EU Global Approach to Migration, UN-HLD, IOM, GFMD).

• Idea: new challenges → new solutions → call for “a planned, balanced, and comprehensive approach” for migration management (IAMM 2004).

• EU Global Approach to Migration (GAM) (2005) → encompasses the different aspects of the migration phenomenon: regular migration (labour), the fight against irregular migration, and migration & development synergies.
Partnerships in Managing Migration

- “Migration management is an area for partnerships between interested stake-holders and for consideration of responsibility sharing between States involved in or affected by particular migratory movements. Continued exploration is required to identify additional ways by which governments, international organizations, non-governmental organizations and other private sector and civil society organizations [including migrant themselves and the media] can work together to develop greater confidence and effective and joint management tools, technical cooperation, cost and other responsibility sharing”. (IAMM 2004)

- “[…] the need for a balanced, global and coherent approach, covering policies to combat illegal immigration and, in cooperation with third countries, harnessing the benefits of legal migration […] The EU will strengthen its dialogue and cooperation with [a broad range of third countries] on migration issues, including return management, in a spirit of partnership and having regard to the circumstances of each country concerned. […] [The EU’s] commitment to support the development efforts of countries of origin and transit is part of a long-term process to respond to the opportunities and challenges of migration” (European Council 2005). “The approach taken shows tangible, active solidarity, hinged on responsibility-sharing between Member States and with third countries” (COM 2006).
The paradigm shift

• New partnership approach of migration management based on:
  – Comprehensive dialogue and cooperation
  – “Shared advantages”
  – “Shared responsibility”.

• Implications of the partnership approach:
  – “Technicalisation” of migration management $\rightarrow$ depolitization (in the sense of politics, not policy!)
  – Migration management $\rightarrow$ integral component of good governance
Bilateral Migration Agreements (BMAs)

- Comprehensive approach elaborated and propagated at international and regional level.
- States are encouraged to adopt *complementary* actions at *bilateral* level → new generation of BMAs.
- E.g. France (and Spain) following the EU GAM → Agreements on joint management of migration flows and solidarity development.
New generation of French BMAs

• Signed since 2006, mainly with West-African (& Eastern-European) countries

• **Trilateral design** reflecting the EU GAM:
  – Regular migration (**labour & students**)  
  – Fight against **irregular** migration  
  – Solidarity **development**

• **Partners:**
  – Governments  
  – Private sector (labour & trade unions, banking institutions)  
  – Diaspora
Thank you very much for your attention.

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**Suggested reading:** Kunz, Rahel, Lavenex, Sandra and Panizzon, Marion (eds.), *Multilayered Migration Governance: The promise of partnership*, Routledge Advances in International Relations and Global Politics, London and New York, 2011.