



EU-LAC Foundation
Fundación EU-LAC



German Institute of Global and Area Studies
Leibniz-Institut für Globale und Regionale Studien

**Seminar: "Forging Bonds with Emigrants:
Challenges for Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean"
Organised by the EU-LAC Foundation and the GIGA Institute
18-20 September 2017, Town Hall Hamburg, Germany**

- Concept Note -

Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) are regions with rich and complex migration histories, marked by moments in which immigration, emigration or transit migration have been paramount, but never fully ruled out each other. In the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries Latin American states mostly focused on immigration policies to attract populations to their new independent territories, while poverty and wars encouraged migration from Europe. In the last decades, the policy scenario changed in fundamental ways. Migration flows in Western Europe increased throughout the 1950s and 1960s. The Treaty establishing the European Economic Community included a chapter giving residence and mobility rights to migrant workers. In the last decades of the 20th century, Latin America and the Caribbean became regions associated primarily with emigration. Today, some Latin American and Caribbean countries have over 15 per cent of their current citizen population residing somewhere else in the world.

In a new era of transnationalism, the challenge of assuming responsibility towards emigrants has pushed states around the world to develop new policies that recognise and protect emigrants' rights and, in a more general sense, that allow them to contribute and have a say in their home countries. These are called **emigrant policies** (or diaspora engagement policies) and are comprised of different approaches. Across Latin America and the Caribbean, for example, some countries help their emigrants to remain abroad and to integrate, thus reinforcing emigration patterns, while others also aim at supporting the return of emigrants and adopt policies that are more conducive to circular migration programs, with the expectation to offer benefits for all parties involved: migrants, countries of origin, and countries of destination.

At the same time, within the **framework of the European Union (EU)**, many rights granted to EU Member States' migrant workers (or to workers *tout court*) have been extended to migrant workers from third countries, including in particular the portability of welfare benefits. Therefore, a kind of migrant worker policy has arisen in the EU framework that relates to workers who have already entered the labour market and does not prejudge the legal conditions for entry into the EU from the perspective of home affairs (visas, etc.).

From a wider perspective, **each region and each nation-state designs its own arrangements to represent and establish links to emigrants based on their own traditions and goals**. Still, emigrants fighting for the recognition of their rights at home, as well as policy makers, have learned from what other countries are doing in the field of emigrant policies. International governmental and non-governmental organisations have also promoted horizontal learning. Both the EU and Latin America and the Caribbean are working towards the implementation of



This Seminar forms part of Hamburg's
Latin American and Caribbean Fall Festival



Auswärtiges Amt



the **EU-LAC Structured and Comprehensive Dialogue on Migration, which** was launched in 2009 with the objective of identifying common challenges and areas for mutual cooperation as well as building a stronger evidence base for EU-LAC migration. Besides having trained over 350 civil servants representing 150 institutions across 30 countries in the CELAC and EU regions, this cooperation has resulted in a technical theoretical framework that serves as the base to build alliances to strengthen impact of remittances, achieve increased transparency on national migration data, and foster collaboration between administrations.

The objective of this seminar is to offer a deepened understanding of policies towards migrants and to promote bi-regional knowledge transfer and learning within and across the EU and LAC regions. For both regions, the sharing of on-going initiatives, programmes and good practices in the field of emigrant policies is crucial because such policies may lower the costs of integration for individual emigrants, but also for the involved sending and receiving states. The different policies on migration provide useful parameters for sending countries to improve their policies in this area, and offer venues for sending and receiving states to collaborate. Migrants also gain from having a clear panorama about these policies, as this knowledge gives them a roadmap to define their agendas when they act collectively for the advancement of their transnational rights.

This seminar will look beyond the migrant flows between the regions into the policies that make it possible to develop fruitful connections between states of origin and their emigrants. To compare and discuss what can be learned from one another in a peer position, the debates featured will showcase experiences from single countries, sub-regions, and regions as a whole. Invited speakers to this Seminar will include academic experts, policy makers and representatives of international organisations who from their respective disciplines and professional perspectives can make significant contributions to the dialogue and exchange of practices.

Format of the Seminar

The Seminar will be co-organised by the EU-LAC Foundation, the GIGA Institute of Global and Area Studies and CAF Development Bank of Latin America. The event will start off with a reception and keynote speeches on 18 September 2017, followed by four roundtable sessions and a concluding session on 19 and 20 September 2017. The Seminar will take place in the Town Hall of the Free and Hanseatic State of Hamburg, Germany. The event will be publically announced by the co-organising institutions and will be open to participation from authorities from Latin America, the Caribbean and the European Union, representatives of institutions from Hamburg, Germany, the EU and Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as the broader interested public. As seats are limited, persons interested in attending the Seminar will be asked to register in advance. The discussions of the Seminar will be resumed in a brief publication in Spanish and English and circulated by the co-organising institutions.



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Reception: During the reception two distinguished guests will hold keynote speeches addressing the topic of the Seminar from a policy-oriented and an academic perspective. This reception will also serve to inaugurate the *Latin American and Caribbean Fall Festival in Hamburg*, which in this year will be dedicated to the **theme “Migrants and Travellers”**.

Roundtables: The roundtables will deal with four specific topics (Emigrants Political Participation, Beyond Remittances, Social Policies, Citizenship Agreements) and be organised as follows: One moderator will briefly sketch the theme of the session, introducing the mayor debates and recent trends, and presenting the speakers of the session. This introduction will be followed by short presentations of the speakers who, depending on their professional profile (researchers, policy makers, representatives of international and regional institutions, and civil society organizations) will showcase innovative and forward-looking research findings, examples of innovative policies and good practices from Latin America, the Caribbean and European states. This first round of short presentations will be followed by questions prepared by the moderator. The questions will be geared toward the identification of potential interconnections between the presented themes, but also towards developing ways in which knowledge, ideas and practices can be transferred within and across the European and the Latin American and Caribbean regions. Afterwards, the Session will be opened for questions and comments from the general public attending the Session. Lastly, the moderator will invite the participants to formulate concrete recommendations for national, regional and bi-regional policies, taking into account the inputs by the participants and public.

Book presentation “Emigrant Policies in Latin America and the Caribbean”: This book systematizes the emigrant policies across 22 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean. This book is a resource for both academics working on diaspora policies and for public administrators and policy makers interesting in learning about diaspora engagement policies of most countries in this region.

Overall, we strive to bring together researchers, policy makers, representatives of international and regional institutions and civil society organisations to share their knowledge, policies, agendas and practices related to migration and diaspora engagement. We seek to encourage a deeper comprehension across the European Union, Latin America and the Caribbean of each other’s migration policy perspectives. We hope that the diverse backgrounds and experiences of the invited speakers will attract interested public from policy-making circles, foundations, migrant organizations, and the academia.



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