



Introduction to the event:

New Pathways for Labour Migration: What role for Skills Partnerships in EU migration policy?

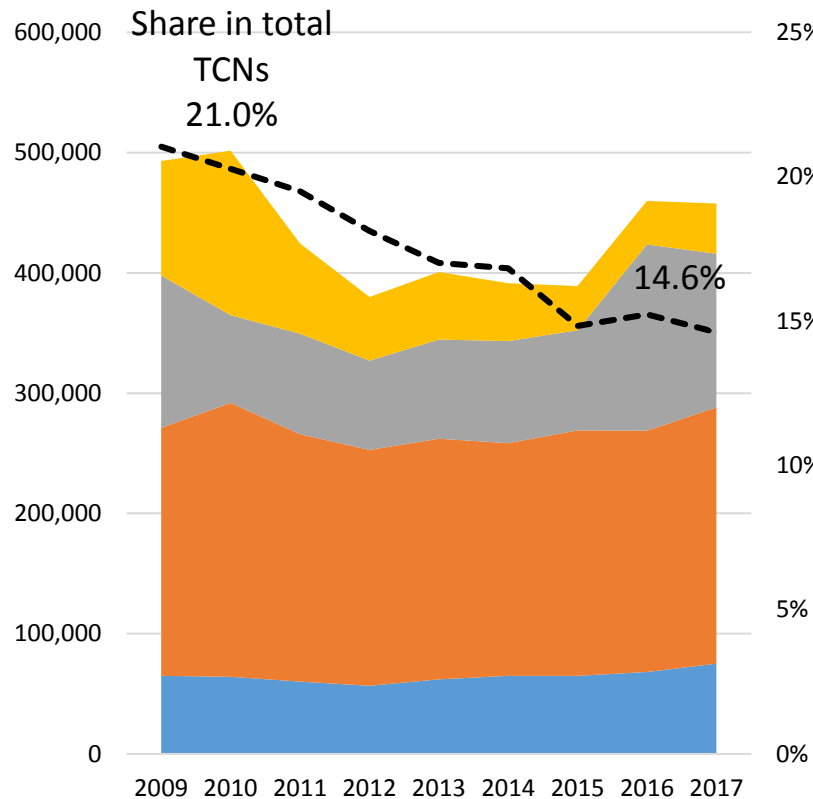
April 2, 2019
Mattia Di Salvo



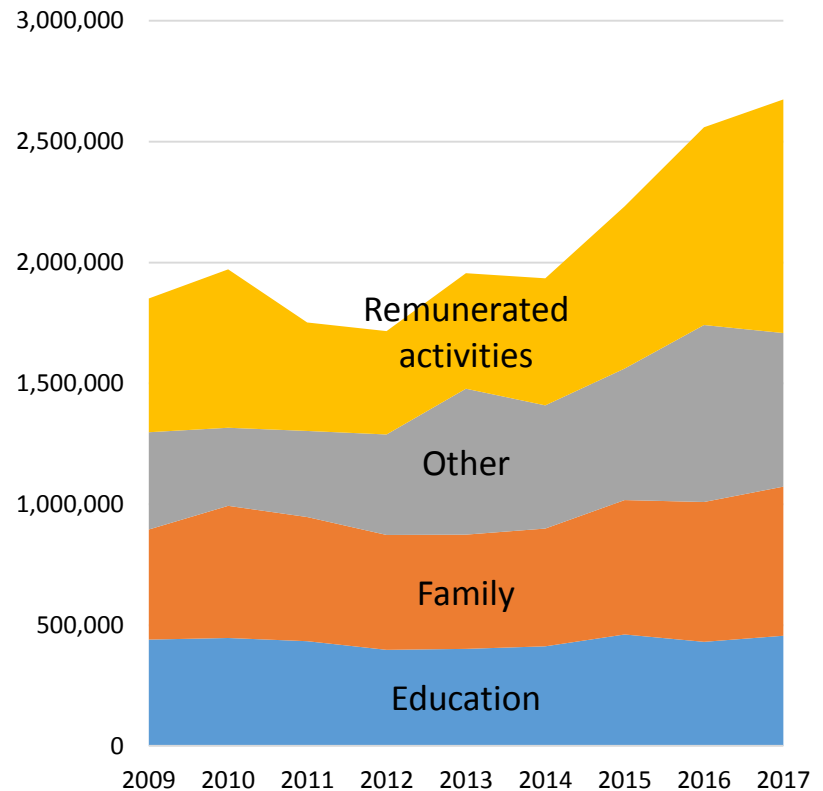
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EU28 First-time residence permits

African TCNs



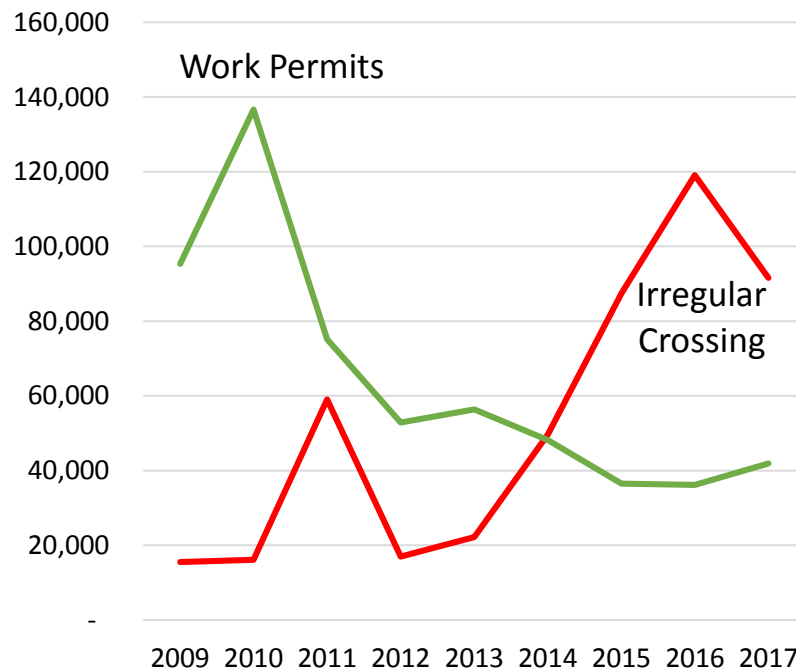
Other TCNs



Source: EUROSTAT

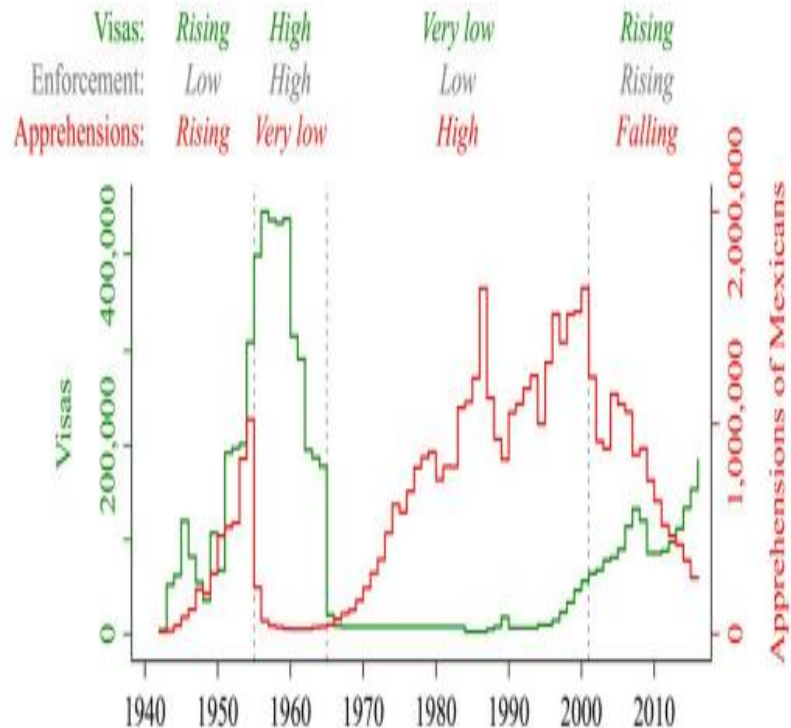
Substitution towards irregular migration

Africa-EU



Source: EUROSTAT, FRONTEX

Mexico-US



Source: Clemens and Gough, 2018

Complementary policies to curb irregular migration

Unintended consequences of tighter border control

- Increasing costs and risks of migrating
- Redirection to alternative ways
- Decrease in circular migration

Unintended consequences of more legal pathways

- ‘Selling visas’ - more immigration due to higher supply of pathways
- Selective projects - small scope and obstacles in implementation.

What conditions are necessary?

- More legal opportunities can reduce irregular migration provided i) sufficient scope and ii) efforts in border control and policy enforcement (e.g. return policies, employers’ control).
- Cooperation with origin countries as well as within the EU is key for this mix to work.

An EU-Africa partnership scheme for human capital formation and skill mobility

- A migration partnership is not a short-term but a long-term solution, with a development angle.
 - Aim is to train more people than will eventually migrate to increase human capital in origin countries
 - Long-term approach can increase trust among partners and thus cooperation in overall migration management
- The case for within-EU cooperation
 - Irregular migration is a joint EU issue, strong case for (flexible) solidarity
 - Scope of a legal migration program matters
 - EU-wide offers would increase EU bargaining power as well as credibility of commitments made in partners' eyes

Which set up for the scheme?

- MS identify shortage occupations and pledge number of permits
- European Commission would serve as coordinator, identifying synergies among offers made by MS and relating with partners during implementation
- The size and sectoral scope of Vocational Training programmes should take into account demand in both EU and African labour markets

Example of potential partnership EU-Africa

- Over the years 2015-17, EU member states consistently reported a shortage of sheet and structural metal workers, with limited scope for intra-EU cross-border matching
- 61% of EU workers have upper secondary or vocational education, while 35% only lower secondary degree (EU LFS)
- Firms in the metal industry in Tunisia and Egypt report lack of qualified workers (WB enterprise survey)



Mercator Dialogue on
Asylum and Migration



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Thank You!

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