

Webinar

“The impact of COVID-19 on remittances in EU and OECD countries”

European Migration Network (EMN) –
Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

1 December 2020, 14.00 – 15.30 (CEST)

I. Context and aims

The outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic and the substantial measures taken by EU and OECD countries to prevent the spread of the virus had consequences on remittances and the companies providing remittances services.

Remittances play a critical role in receiving countries and are typically used to increase and buffer household consumption, spend on health and education, alleviate credit constraint and start up small businesses. A decrease in remittances can be particularly damaging for the countries of origin of third-country nationals, as normally remittances tend to be countercyclical, meaning that they typically increase when the recipient economy undergoes a negative macroeconomic shock.

The EMN and OECD have been collaborating with the European Commission in order to provide information on how the pandemic is affecting migration in the EU and beyond useful to governments and policy makers. The result of the collaboration is a series of five Informs on measures taken at national and EU level in response to COVID-19 and their impacts on migration to address the negative consequences of the pandemic. Other topics include:

- ★ [Residence permits and migrant unemployment](#) (July 2020);
- ★ Impact on [international students](#) (September 2020);
- ★ Impact on [labour migration in essential sectors](#) (October 2020); and
- ★ Impact on return procedures (December 2020, tbc).¹

EMN and OECD will host a webinar to present the key findings of each Inform.

II. Overview of the event

This webinar will serve to launch the fourth EMN-OECD Inform on the impact of COVID-19 in the migration area which reports on the impact of COVID-19 on international remittances in EU and OECD countries.

This Inform *inter alia* examines whether a decrease in remittances sent to third countries since the onset of the COVID-19 crisis is visible and what the likely impact of COVID-19 is in the medium term. Furthermore, it will explore how access to and costs of remittances

¹ For more information on EMN events: https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/content/emn-events_en

services have been affected. The Inform will also outline any planned or implemented measures to compensate missing remittances in countries of origin.

A detailed agenda can be found below.

Agenda	
14.00 – 14.05	<p>Opening session</p> <p>Rafael Bärlund, EMN Finland and EMN Communication and Dissemination Working Group co-chair</p>
14.05 – 14.20	<p>The retail payments strategy for the EU</p> <p>Céu Pereira, Team leader, Retail payments, DG FISMA, European Commission</p>
14.20 – 14.35	<p>EMN OECD Inform “Reduction and loss of remittances as a result of COVID-19”: presentation of key findings</p> <p>Gladys Roy Chicharro, Head of Service for Legal Affairs, Secretary of State for Migration and member of EMN Spain</p>
14.35 – 14.50	<p>Remittances from OECD countries: Prospects for 2020-2021</p> <p>Charlotte Levionnois, Economist/Policy Analyst, International Migration Division, OECD</p> <p>& Gilles Spielvogel, Economist, International Migration Division, OECD</p>
14.50 – 15.05	<p>Phase II: COVID-19 crisis through a migration lens</p> <p>Dilip Ratha, Lead Economist, Migration and Remittances, World Bank and Head of KNOMAD</p>
15.05 – 15.20	<p>Q&A session</p>
15.20 – 15.30	<p>Closing remarks</p> <p>Jean-Christophe Dumont, Head of the International Migration Division in the Directorate for Employment, Labour and Social Affairs, OECD</p>

Moderator: **Rafael Bärlund**