

LJUBLJANA RESOLUTION ON FACILITATING BRAIN CIRCULATION AND PREVENTING BRAIN DRAIN IN THE OSCE AREA

A Statement by the Young Parliamentarians of the OSCE PA

We, young members of parliaments of the OSCE participating States, gathered at the National Assembly of the Republic of Slovenia in its capital city of Ljubljana on 14-15 March 2025 to discuss the effects and opportunities of youth migration, particularly the phenomenon known as brain drain;

Whereas, the role of youth, especially young parliamentarians, in the OSCE area and in the work of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, in promoting human rights, peace, and security in both national and international fora must not be underestimated and represents a critical factor for democracy and the strengthening of the resilience of societies in the region;

Whereas, international organizations, including the OSCE, play a vital role in shaping policies that facilitate safe, orderly, controlled, and responsible migration while promoting conditions that encourage young people to stay or return and contribute to the development of their home countries, fostering innovation, economic resilience, and social cohesion through education, entrepreneurship, and institutional support;

Whereas, while migration can provide young people with opportunities for education, employment, and personal development, as well as contributing to the broader development of economies and societies of host countries, it also results in brain drain, weakening of local economies, social structures, and activation of inactive natives towards the labour market and political engagement in countries of origin;

Whereas, effectively managing this issue, requires urgent dialogue addressing the full spectrum of human mobility and its socio-economic and macroeconomic impacts, as well as the impact on the development of local communities in both sending and receiving countries;

Noting that the OSCE PA Bucharest Declaration (2024)¹ urges national parliaments to consider taking actions to reduce the risks of brain drain in countries of origin, which increase with the simplification of skilled labour migration to receiving states, particularly in the healthcare sector and highlights the importance of implementing evidence-based retention schemes;

Recognizing that good governance, curbing corruption and economic development are critical in turning brain drain into a more positive cycle of brain circulation, where talent and skills flow back to the countries of origin, particularly in sectors where skilled labour shortages are most pressing;

¹ Bucharest Declaration adopted with calls by parliamentarians for co-operation, dialogue and adherence to OSCE commitments, OSCEPA (3 July) <https://www.oscepa.org/en/news-a-media/press-releases/press-2024/bucharest-declaration-adopted-with-calls-by-parliamentarians-for-co-operation-dialogue-and-adherence-to-osce-commitments>

Underscoring that the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly can encourage participating States to implement policies aimed at balanced mobility of skilled professionals and their integration into national development strategies, thereby contributing to long-term socio-economic growth;

Acknowledging climate change as a driver of migration and emphasizing the need to integrate environmental sustainability considerations into brain circulation strategies;

Commit, the respective parliamentarians represented in this declaration will exercise their parliamentary voices to support the actions contained in the name of the resolution and pursue-

- Inviting young parliamentarians to actively take part in the discussions and work of the OSCE PA, as well as its General and Ad-Hoc Committees, in line with OSCE values;
- Co-ordinating efforts to promote the formation of cross-party Youth Caucuses or similar structures within legislative bodies in OSCE PA participating states, strengthening parliamentary dialogue on youth migration and brain circulation policies;
- Encouraging the discussion of brain circulation policy within Youth Caucuses or similar structures, Parliaments and OSCE PA bodies;
- Enhancing the collection and monitoring of reliable data on youth migration dynamics, particularly in sectors such as healthcare and education to shape evidence-based policies and retention strategies that strengthen societal stability in the OSCE region;
- Working towards considering establishing national action plans and objectives within the government programs to support brain circulation, including follow-up mechanisms to assess impact;
- Supporting concrete brain circulation initiatives, which could include science grants for returning nationals, tax incentives, business incentives and information points to facilitate the administrative processes for professionals willing to return;
- Promoting the active role of civil society and the business communities in fostering expat networks, developing support structures, bilateral chambers of commerce and strengthening ties through return opportunities or long-distance collaboration;
- Highlighting the importance of integrating brain circulation policies with EU initiatives such as Talent Partnerships and Erasmus+ to create sustainable mobility pathways;
- Enhancing interregional cooperation to foster circular migration through bilateral agreements, university partnerships, and professional exchange programs;
- Reinforcing the work towards enhancement of cooperation and collaboration between OSCE PA and the OSCE participating States, OSCE Institutions and Field Operations,

while ensuring alignment with regional frameworks, including relevant EU policies and instruments, to address demographic challenges in relation to youth migration;

- Encouraging the exchange of best practices among OSCE participating States on strategies to mitigate brain drain and enhance brain circulation, including through partnerships between governments, academia, private sector, and international organizations.

Signatories:

Member of Parliament David Stögmüller, Austria

Member of Parliament Andy Pieters, Belgium

Member of Parliament Michalis Yiakoumi, Cyprus

Member of Parliament Levan Makhashvili, Georgia

Member of Parliament Liz Braz, Luxembourg

Member of Parliament Jevrosima Pejović, Montenegro

Member of Parliament Boban Karapejovski, North Macedonia

Member of Parliament Monika Zajkova, North Macedonia

Member of Parliament Aleksander Stokkebo, Norway

Member of Parliament Radoslaw Fogiel, Poland

Member of Parliament Lucija Tacer, Slovenia