



COUNTRY REPORT



Aspiring migrants' behaviour in mobility policies: the case of the Philippines

Maruja M. B. Asis^{*}

Bernard Allan V. Garcia^{**}

Eunice V. Tejada^{***}

^{*} Scalabrini Migration Center | marla@smc.org.ph | ORCID no. 0000-0003-3442-0161

^{**} Scalabrini Migration Center | bernard@smc.org.ph | ORCID no. 0000-0003-4163-6710

^{***} Scalabrini Migration Center | eunice@smc.org.ph | ORCID no. 0009-0008-6352-6161

AspirE – Asian prospects in (re)migration to/within the EU – is a three-year research project (2023-2025) that examines the decision making of aspiring (re)migrants from selected Southeast and East Asian countries (China, Japan, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam) to and within selected EU member countries (Belgium, the Czech Republic, Finland, Germany, Italy and Portugal).

Consortium partners:


Université libre de Bruxelles (ULB), Belgium (coordinator)
The Education University of Hong Kong, China
Masarykova univerzita, Czech Republic
Tampereen korkeakoulusäätiö sr, Finland
Johann Wolfgang Goethe-Universität Frankfurt am Main, Germany
Università degli Studi di Milano (UniMi), Italy
Waseda University, Japan
Scalabrini Migration Center Inc., Philippines
Iscte - Instituto Universitário de Lisboa, Portugal
Mahidol University, Thailand
Foundation for Isaan Education and Popular Media, Thailand
Institute of Sociology – Vietnam Academy of Social Sciences (VASS), Vietnam
Vietnam Asia Pacific Economic Center (VAPEC), Vietnam

Collaborators:

Centre for European Policy Studies (CEPS), Belgium: Sergio Carrera, Miriam Mir & Anjum Shabbir
External Experts Advisory Board: Elisa Fornalé (World Trade Institute, Switzerland), James Farrer (Sophia University, Japan), Stefan Rother (University of Hamburg, Germany) & Sureeporn Punpuing (Mahidol University, Thailand)
External Ethics Advisor: Roderick G. Galam (Oxford Brookes University)

Contact:

Asuncion Fresnoza-Flot
Laboratory of Anthropology of Contemporary Worlds (LAMC)
Institute of Sociology, Université libre de Bruxelles
Avenue Jeanne 44, 1050 Brussels, Belgium

 aspire@ulb.be | <https://aspire.ulb.be/>

 https://twitter.com/AspirE_EU_Asia

 <https://www.facebook.com/AspirE2023EUproject>

Authors:

Maruja M.B. Asis, Bernard Allan V. Garcia & Eunice V. Tejada

Publication date:

February 2024

Citation suggestion:

Asis, M. M. B., Garcia, B. A. V. & Tejada, E. V. 2024. *Aspiring migrants' behaviour in mobility policies: the case of the Philippines* (Country report). Brussels: AspirE. Available at: <https://aspire.ulb.be/impact/reports/mobility-policy-report-philippines>

Editorial design:

Asuncion Fresnoza-Flot & Catherine Gonzalez



This project receives funding from the European Union's Horizon Europe research and innovation programme under the call HORIZON-CL2-2022-TRANSFORMATIONS-01-04 – Grant Agreement n°101095289.



<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/>

The contents of the document are the sole responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Union. The European Union is not responsible for any use that may be made of the information it contains.

Executive summary

The beginnings of Philippines-Europe migration corridor started in the 1970s, alongside the start of the more organised and state-facilitated labour migration of Filipino workers to oil-rich countries in the Gulf region. Comparatively, migration from the Philippines to Europe was of smaller scale and was highly feminised, comprised mainly of the labour migration of women who entered the domestic work and care sector in destination countries. Marriage migration further contributed to the participation of women in Filipino migration to Europe. This report carried out a content analysis of the migration/mobility policies of the Philippines as an origin country, and on the destination side, it considered the policies of three European countries: Italy, an established and major destination of Filipinos in Europe; Germany, also an established destination but emerging in actively recruiting Filipino workers; and Czechia, a new and growing destination of Filipino workers. As an origin country, the Philippines has measures and requirements in place to promote the legal departure of international migrants and travellers out of the country. A review of the destination countries' policies on labour migration, marriage and family reunification, student migration, and tourism reveal the onus on applicants to provide various documents to support their claims about education, skills, and financial capacity, among others, to secure a visa to enter the intended destination country. In general, long-term visas provide aspiring migrants with the possibility to convert their status from one visa category to another, although this is not the same in all three countries. Short-term visas are more restrictive as they do not offer the possibility to convert to another migrant status. The report suggests that the trend towards more flexible conditions to meet the demand for workers in the three countries need to consider not just migrants' aspirations and behaviours, but also the voices of other stakeholders, and the impact of destination countries' migration policies on origin countries.

Keywords

migration policies, Philippines-Europe migration corridor, Philippines, Italy, Germany, Czechia

Abbreviations

CFO	Commission on Filipinos Overseas
DFA	Department of Foreign Affairs
DMW	Department of Migrant Workers
DSWD	Department of Social Welfare and Development
EU	European Union
IACAT	Inter-Agency Council Against Trafficking
MWO	Migrant Workers Office
OEC	Overseas Employment Certificate
OF	Overseas Filipino
OFW	Overseas Filipino Worker
OWWA	Overseas Workers Welfare Administration
POEA	Philippine Overseas Employment Administration
PSA	Philippine Statistics Authority
RA	Republic Act
TCN	Third Country National

Table of contents

Introduction.....	7
International migration from the Philippines: Trends and policies	7
The Philippines-Europe migration corridor	13
Methodology	16
Migration policies of Italy, Germany and Czechia.....	18
Labour migration policies	19
Italy.....	20
Germany	22
Czechia	23
Marriage and family migration policies of Italy, Germany and Czechia.....	25
Student migration policies of Italy, Germany, and Czechia	26
Tourism policies of Italy, Germany, and Czechia.....	28
Discussion and conclusions	28
References.....	32
Annexes.....	37
Annex 1 – Employment Visa Policies.....	37
Annex 1.1. Employment Visa Policy (Subordinate Employment) of Italy for Filipinos	37
Annex 1.2. Employment Visa Policy of Germany for Filipinos	38
Annex 1.3. Employee Visa Policy of Czechia for Filipinos.....	39
Annex 2 – Family Reunification Policies	41
Annex 2.1. Family Reunification Policy of Italy for Filipinos.....	41
Annex 2.2. Family Reunification Policy of Germany for Filipinos	43
Annex 2.3. Family Reunification Policy of Czechia for Filipinos	45
Annex 3 – Student Visa Policies.....	47
Annex 3.1. Student Visa Policy of Italy for Filipinos	47
Annex 3.2. Student Visa Policy of Germany for Filipinos.....	48
Annex 3.3. Student Visa Policy of Czechia for Filipinos	49
Annex 4 – Tourism Policies	51
Annex 4.1. Tourism Policy of Italy for Filipinos	51
Annex 4.2. Tourism Policy of Germany for Filipinos.....	52

Annex 4.3. Tourism Policy of Czechia for Filipinos..... 53

List of tables

Table 1. Annual deployment of documented OFWs, by sector and type of hire, 2005-2023	8
Table 2. Stock estimate of overseas Filipinos by region and status, 2020-2022	9
Table 3. Stock of overseas Filipinos in AspirE countries as of December 2013	15
Table 4. Total number of Filipinos in alleged trafficking/illegal recruitment cases and the share of cases in Europe, various years	15
Table 5. Visa applications, visas issued, and percent of visas not issued: Selected EU countries, 2022.....	18
Table 6. OFWs deployed to AspirE countries, 2015-2017	19

Introduction

Despite the march of globalisation, the circulation of people continues to be subject to border control in many parts of the world. For aspiring migrants, one of the major reasons why their migration dream may not be realised is due to migration policies, especially the migration policies of destination countries. The right of individuals to leave and return to their home countries is provided by international law, but there is no corresponding right to enter another country. In this regard, sovereign states, particularly destination countries, have the right not to grant a visa and to decide on who to admit. The national interests on which migration policies are based may change and this can lead to recalibrating migration policies accordingly.

The transnational research project, “Decision making of aspiring (re)migrants to and within the EU: the case of labour market-leading migrations from Asia” (AspirE for short), aims to explore three inter-related questions: 1) How do migration regimes in the countries of origin and destination consider (aspiring) (re)migrants’ behaviour in their policies; 2) Why do people decide to (re)migrate or to stay; and 3) When do individuals’ migration decisions evolve?

As the key questions suggest, AspirE draws attention to aspiring (re)migrants’ perspective as they go through the decision-making process of their plans and intentions of migrating to Europe. The AspirE Project focuses on the Asia-Europe migration corridor, specifically, the following origin countries in Asia—China (Hong Kong), Japan, the Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam—and the following destination countries in Europe—Belgium, Czechia, Finland, Germany, Italy and Portugal. This report is based on a case study of the Philippines as an origin country and three destination countries in Europe—Italy, Germany and Czechia. The case study sought to address the first research question: How do migration regimes in both origin and destination countries consider (re)migrants’ behaviour in their migration policies? The examination of migration policies is useful in understanding the articulated principles or motivations that may serve as guidelines for decision-making aimed at achieving specific outcomes. The case study also hopes to understand similarities and differences in the policies of the origin and destination states which play an important role in shaping mobility opportunities (or immobility constraints).

International migration from the Philippines: Trends and policies

On May 1, 2024, it will be 50 years since the enactment of the Labor Code of the Philippines on May 1, 1974, the law which enabled the Philippine state to embark on international labour migration. Although planned as a temporary measure to address economic challenges at the time, international labour migration flourished, driven by a combination of factors and forces: The globalisation of labour markets and the continuing demand for Filipino workers, and domestically, decades of economic instability, the institutionalisation of structures and policies facilitating overseas employment, and the expanding transnational connections between Filipinos overseas

and those at home (International Organization for Migration [IOM] & Scalabrini Migration Center [SMC], 2013; Asis, 2017). Following the launch of the overseas employment, preliminary data in 1975 reports that only 36,035 Filipino workers were deployed, but since then, annual deployment generally followed an increasing trend. The figures breached the one-million mark in 2009 (IOM & SMC, 2013), and prior to the pandemic, the annual deployment of overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) had reached more than 2 million. The closing of borders and the slowdown of the global economy sharply reduced OFW deployment by 70-75 percent in 2020 compared to historical data (BusinessWorld, 2021; Department of Migrant Workers [DMW], 2023). As shown in Table 1, labour migration picked up in 2021, but is still markedly smaller compared to pre-pandemic levels (see also Santos, 2023). The increase continued in 2022, when it posted a million-mark, and in 2023, when it appears to approximate pre-pandemic deployment levels.¹

Table 1. Annual deployment of documented OFWs, by sector and type of hire, 2005-2023².

Year	Total	Land-based	New Hires	Rehires	Sea-based
2005	988,615	740,632	289,981	450,651	247,983
2006	1,062,567	788,070	317,680	470,390	274,497
2010	1,470,826	1,123,676	338,966	784,710	347,150
2015	1,844,406	1,437,875	515,217	922,658	406,531
2016	2,112,331	1,669,511	582,816	1,086,695	442,820
2017	2,044,877	1,595,414	459,080	1,136,334	449,463
2018 ^p	1,988,980	1,506,587	420,639	1,085,948	482,393
2019 ^p	2,156,742	1,649,012	486,306	1,162,706	507,730
2020 ^p	549,841	332,618	100,318	232,300	217,223
2021 ^p	742,796	397,279	268,028	129,251	345,517
2022 ^p	1,205,668	820,429	298,225	522,204	385,239

¹ Flow statistics on labour migration from DMW include data on land-based and sea-based workers. Workers in the sea-based sector used to refer to seafarers working on merchant vessels; in recent decades, sea-based workers include those working on cruise ships and fishers working on international fishing vessels. The sea-based sector is traditionally male, but female workers became part of this sector because of employment opportunities in the cruise ship industry. Sea-based OFWs typically comprise 20-25 percent of total OFWs deployed every year. During the pandemic, 2020-2022, the share of sea-based workers (excluding cruise ship workers) increased to 32-46 percent of total deployment, reflecting the continued demand for seafarers. Seafarers were counted among essential workers, recognized for their role in ensuring the uninterrupted transport of goods during this critical period.

² Land-based OFWs are classified into *new hires* (those who will serve their employment contract in a new jobsite) and *rehires* (those who renew their contracts with the same principal/employer—i.e., they are returning to the same employer in the same jobsite or returning to the same employer in a different jobsite). In general, the share of rehires is larger than new hires, suggesting the tendency of OFWs to renew or extend their contract rather than to return to the Philippines for good.

2023 ^p	2,028,307	1,539,701	426,007	1,113,694	488,606
-------------------	-----------	-----------	---------	-----------	---------

Source: Own representation based on DMW (2023)

Notes: *p* = Preliminary data; While DMW acknowledges that OFWs or migrant workers include those in an irregular situation, deployment data specifically refers to OFWs whose contracts had been processed and documented by the Department.

The 1970s was also the starting point of increasing permanent migration from the Philippines, initially towards the traditional countries of settlement (the United States of America, Canada, Australia and New Zealand) following immigration reforms towards family reunification, skills-based migration and humanitarian grounds. Later, other destination countries in other regions—including Europe—became destinations for permanent migration from the Philippines, of which one pathway is marriage migration (e.g., Asis & Battistella, 2012). The different migrations undertaken by Filipinos to different destinations have created a huge and widely distributed diaspora. The stock estimate of the overseas Filipino population as of 2022 stands at 10,689,052, comprising of permanent migrants, temporary migrants, and those in an irregular or undocumented status.³ As Table 2 shows, in 2022, by status, permanent migrants account for almost half of overseas Filipinos, and by region, the Americas (particularly the singular predominance of the United States of America) has the largest share at 47.34 percent.

Table 2. Stock estimate of overseas Filipinos by region and status, 2020-2022.

2020					
Region	Permanent	Temporary	Undocumented	Total	% Region
Americas	5,070,177	41,662	9,642	5,121,481	49.42%
Asia and Pacific	320,329	1,326,616	643,842	2,290,787	22.10%
Europe	174,360	314,915	46,295	535,570	5.17%
Middle East	8,696	2,327,760	48,823	2,385,279	23.02%
Africa	2,761	23,635	4,042	30,438	0.29%
Total	5,576,323	4,034,588	752,644	10,363,555	
% Status	53.81%	38.93%	7.26%		100.00%

³ Data on international migrants from Philippine government sources use the term Overseas Filipinos (OFs) to refer to Filipinos based abroad, covering permanent residents and immigrants, temporary migrants (those abroad for employment and non-employment reasons), and those abroad in an unauthorized or irregular situation. The term Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) refers to Filipinos temporarily working and residing abroad. There are many issues affecting the quality of international migration data in the Philippines, and these are outside the scope of this report. There had been efforts to improve international migration data. To improve the counting of overseas Filipinos, in 2017, the Philippine Statistics Authority (2017) approved the amended framework for counting OFs and international migrants, but this framework has yet to be used in producing stock estimates of OFs.

2021					
Region	Permanent	Temporary	Undocumented	Total	% Region
Americas	4,176,945	555,947	375,020	5,107,912	48.52%
Asia and Pacific	727,742	1,103,702	661,768	2,493,212	23.68%
Europe	167,778	361,382	42,618	571,778	5.43%
Middle East	4,704	2,232,542	86,736	2,323,982	22.08%
Africa	2,720	23,573	4,049	30,342	0.29%
Total	5,079,889	4,277,146	1,170,191	10,527,226	
% Status	49.02%	40.63%	11.12%		100.00%

2022					
Region	Permanent	Temporary	Undocumented	Total	% Region
Americas	4,131,732	521,485	456,295	5,109,512	47.34%
Asia and Pacific	687,288	1,284,443	659,325	2,631,056	24.38%
Europe	171,133	408,621	74,210	653,964	6.06%
Middle East	2,991	1,685,466	686,299	2,374,756	22.00%
Africa	996	22,548	1,007	24,551	0.23%
Total	4,994,140	3,922,563	1,877,136	10,793,839	
% Status	48.19%	36.34%	17.39%		100.00%

Source: Department of Foreign Affairs' *Report to Congress, July-December 2022*. Data provided to the research team upon request and on the condition that the data will be used for research purposes only.

The rise of the Philippines as a major origin country of international migrants went hand in hand with the development of institutions, laws, policies, and practices that marry facilitation of migration and the protection of migrants (Asis, 2008; Asis & Roma, 2010; IOM & SMC, 2013; OECD & SMC, 2017).⁴ Initially, finding overseas employment opportunities for Filipino workers was apparent in the early years of the overseas employment program. Protection concerns

⁴ The Philippine state's commitment to promote the protection of overseas Filipinos is articulated in RA No. 7157, the Philippines' Foreign Service Act, which mentions the protection of the rights of overseas Filipinos as the third pillar of the country's foreign policy. The two other pillars are the promotion of national security and economic security. Every administration from the time of Ferdinand Marcos to the present has been constant in the promotion of the rights of Filipino migrant workers and the broader population of overseas Filipinos.

increasingly assumed significance with rising deployment. The participation of women in international labour migration intensified the attention to protection because of women's concentration in the unregulated sectors of domestic work and entertainment. In 1995, the Philippines enacted Republic Act (RA) 8042, the Migrant Workers and Overseas Filipinos Act, a law which seeks to provide a higher level of protection to migrant workers and overseas Filipinos at all stages of migration: Before migration, while they are abroad, and upon their return to the Philippines. This comprehensive approach has served as a framework in designing programs and policies promoting protection at all stages. These programs encompass the regulation and accreditation of private recruitment agencies;⁵ the processing of workers' contracts and documentation of workers; workers' education programs (which include pre-employment orientation seminars, i.e., prior to applying for overseas employment; pre-departure orientation seminar, which is required for all OFWs before they leave; and post-arrival orientation seminars, which are offered by some embassies or consulates); the deployment of labour attaches and welfare officers to destination countries with large numbers of OFWs;⁶ the provision of legal and psychosocial services, shelter and training programs while workers are abroad; and repatriation services and reintegration support to returnees.

Amendments to RA No. 8042 were introduced in 2010 under RA No. 10022 to further strengthen the protection provisions of the earlier law. The most recent RA No.11641, the Department of Migrant Workers Act, was passed in 2021 for the purpose of creating a single department that would subsume the functions and roles performed by migrated-related government agencies. The Department consolidated under one roof the following agencies which were previously part of several agencies—the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration⁷ (POEA, previously under the Department of Labor and Employment or DOLE), the Office of the Undersecretary of Migrant Workers Affairs (DFA), Philippine Overseas Labor Offices (DOLE), International Labour Affairs

⁵ The Philippine government could not keep up with the increasing demand for Filipino workers by foreign employers, and this paved the way for the participation of private recruitment agencies in the recruitment and placement of Filipino workers. The Philippine government then focused on the accreditation, licensing, and monitoring of the activities of private recruitment agencies. Currently, there are 1,090 licensed recruitment agencies consisting of 790 agencies recruiting land-based OFWs and 360 manning agencies recruiting sea-based OFWs (DMW, 2022: 16).

⁶ Before RA No.11641, these were known as Philippine Overseas Labour Offices (POLOs). Under the Department of Migrant Workers, the POLOs have been renamed into Migrant Workers Offices (MWOs). The services provided by MWOs include legal assistance, counselling, employment contract verification, dispute resolution, and financial assistance. Among the AspirE countries in Europe, MWOs are present in Italy (Milan and Rome) and Germany (Berlin). Other European countries which have MWOs are Cyprus, Greece, Spain, and the United Kingdom. Countries which do not have MWOs are under the jurisdiction of the most proximate MWOs (see <https://migrantworkersoffice.com/mwo-offices-abroad/>).

⁷ The Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA) is the key government agency responsible for the promotion of the welfare of OFWs and their families. It was not absorbed by the DMW and is instead attached to the DMW. OWWA is a chartered institution which administers the OWWA Trust Fund from OWWA membership fees and intended to fund programs and services for OFW OWWA members and their families. OFWs are enrolled as OWWA members either by their employers as part of the processing of their work contract or by way of voluntary contributions in the destination countries where they are employed or by electronic registration. OWWA membership fee is USD 25 per contract.

Bureau (DOLE), National Reintegration Center for OFWs (OWWA), National Maritime Polytechnic (DOLE), and Office of the Social Welfare Attache (Department of Social Welfare and Development or DSWD). This marked a shift from a multi-agency governance of labour migration towards a single agency dedicated to promoting the protection of Filipino migrant workers (and in the process, relegating the protection of non-OFWs, such as immigrants, to other government agencies).⁸ The Department was established on 3 February 2022 (DMW, 2022) and became fully operational in 2023. The change in the governance model did not alter the priority of worker protection. The Declaration of Policies in RA No. 8042 and RA No. 11641 maintains “the duty of the State to protect the rights and promote the welfare of Overseas Filipino Workers and their families” at OFWs at all stages of the migration process. Both laws emphasise that the State “does not promote overseas employment as a means to economic growth and national development and shall continuously aim to make it a choice and not a necessity.”

If the DMW is the government agency responsible for OFWs, the Commission on Filipinos Overseas (CFO), established in 1980, is mandated to attend to the concerns of Filipinos leaving the Philippines for long-term stay or permanent resettlement in other countries. Later, CFO extended programs and services to other types of migrants—Filipinos migrating to marry foreign nationals in non-traditional settlement countries, J-1 (exchange visitors) to the United States and au pairs. For permanent migrants, CFO’s programs are aimed at continuing the emigrants’ (and their descendants’) ties to the Philippines. CFO provides pre-departure orientation seminars to all its target clients to help them adjust to their new life in their intended destinations.⁹ The inclusion of marriage migrants as a target group for pre-departure seminars arose in response to reports of domestic abuse and violence committed against Filipino women (who overwhelmingly comprise marriage migrants) by their foreign spouses. Also, concerns about the use of marriage for trafficking came up because of the participation of marriage brokers.¹⁰ The orientation for marriage migrants covers topics such as realities of intercultural marriages and information on programs and support services available in the destination countries.

⁸ RA No. 8042 and RA No. 10022 covered OFWs (temporary migrant workers) *and* OFs more broadly. As explained earlier, OFs includes permanent migrants, temporary migrants (mostly temporary migrant workers in the Philippine context), and those in an irregular situation while RA No. 11641’s mandate is focused on OFWs, both those in legal and irregular situations.

⁹ J-1 visa holders are participants in international exchange programs for academic training, research or internship conducted in the United States, while au pairs are those participating in cultural exchange in Europe. Au pairs are mostly women aged 18 to 30 years old, not married and without children, who live with host families who provide accommodation and allowance, in exchange for au pairs performing light household chores. Au pairs can stay for up to two years in host countries. Germany ranks fifth among the top ten destinations of au pairs for the period 2012 to 2020 (CFO, n.d.-a: 49).

¹⁰ All Filipinos migrating as spouses, fiancé(e)s and other partners of foreign nationals, former Filipino citizens or dual citizens must undergo the Guidance and Counselling Program conducted by CFO. The legal basis for this intervention derives from RA No. 9208 or the Anti-Trafficking Act as amended by RA No. 10364 or the Expanded Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act of 2012, RA No. 11862 or the Expanded Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act of 2022, and RA no. 10906 or the Anti-Mail Order Spouse Act of 2016 (which repealed RA No. 6955 or the Anti-Mail Order Bride Act of 1990) (see <https://cfo.gov.ph/cfo-hybrid-frontline-services-for-guidance-and-counseling-program/>).

In terms of documentation requirements, the assessment rests more on the part of embassies or consulates of destination countries that decide on the visa applications. Currently, there are only 37 countries and territories where Filipino passport holders can travel to without a visa. Most countries (including those in Europe) require Filipino nationals to apply for a visa to gain entry. Within the Philippines and before they leave the country, the government has set in place processes to ensure that Filipinos leave the country with proper documentation. Those leaving the country as temporary migrant workers must present an Overseas Employment Certificate (OEC) issued by the DMW to immigration authorities. This certificate serves as proof of their legal status as OFWs, that their employment contract has been verified, and that they are documented by the DMW. Those leaving as immigrants, marriage migrants, J-1 exchange visitors to the US, and au pairs must not only have the appropriate visa issued by the embassy of their intended destination, but they must also present a certificate issued by the CFO to indicate that they have attended the pre-departure orientation seminar. Due to concerns about illegal recruitment, irregular migration, and trafficking, scrutiny by immigration authorities had led to some passengers being subjected to further questioning or being “offloaded” (in the Philippine context, this means not being allowed to travel) if immigration authorities deem the travel questionable.¹¹ The Philippine government’s emphasis on migrant protection has been seen by some sectors (such as migrant workers, foreign employers and private recruitment agencies) as overregulation resulting to the detriment and burdens on other stakeholders (including migrants themselves) (see, for example, SMC, 2021). While recognizing the importance of paying attention to protection issues, increasing regulation and requirements may be out of step in the context of globalised and digitised realities.

The Philippines-Europe migration corridor

The Philippines-Europe migration corridor quietly started even before the Philippines launched the overseas employment program in 1974. Migration to Western Europe was pioneered by women. Notable examples include the recruitment of nurses and seamstresses to the Netherlands in the 1960s (Maas, 2011; Flores-Valenzuela, 2007), the first wave of nurse migration to Austria in the late 1960s (Reiterer, 2008), and the arrival of nurses and mid-wives to Germany (Positively Filipino, 2013). Filipino migration expanded to Southern Europe with the migration of women who found employment in domestic work in Spain (with which the Philippines has ties, having been a Spanish colony for more than 300 years), Italy and Greece. By the 1990s, Filipino communities were thriving in the Nordic region. In Denmark, Andersen’s (2019) work traced the

¹¹ The 1987 Constitution of the Philippines guarantees Filipinos the right to travel, both within and out of the country, except at the risk of national security, public safety, or public health. However, RA No. 9208, or the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act of 2003, allows the Bureau of Immigration (BI) to set guidelines on international travel to prevent human trafficking cases. Among others, BI personnel are on the lookout for fraudulent documents and establishing reasons for travelling (e.g., it is important to distinguish bona fide tourists from those using a tourist visa for work) (GMA News Online, 2023). The Department of Justice (DOJ) and the Inter-Agency Council against Trafficking (IACAT) planned on implementing revised guidelines for screening departing Filipino travellers—prompted by incidents of Filipino tourists falling victim to working for crypto scam hums in Southeast Asia—but this did not push through because of public reaction and the intervention of senators who considered the guidelines as violating the constitutional right to travel (Navallo, 2023).

beginning of Filipino migration to Denmark between 1960-1973, wherein Filipinos were recruited to work in hotels. By the 2000s, nurses and students were migrating to Finland, adding to the Filipino community pioneered by marriage migrants. Until the 2000s, Filipino migration to these parts of Europe was predominantly made up of women, majority of whom were recruited to work in the care sector or migrated for marriage. In addition, those who initially migrated for employment intermarried with locals, resulting in their transition from workers to settlers. Norway and Denmark are distinctive as the primary destinations of au pairs (CFO, n.d.-a). The emergence of Eastern and Central European destinations, such as Czechia, Poland, Romania, and Hungary is relatively recent, and the gender composition is less female-predominant as the demand for workers in these countries is not so much on the care sector, at least for now.

As shown in Table 2, Europe ranks fourth after the Americas, the Middle East, East and Southeast Asia as a region of destination of Filipino migrants. Note, however, the larger share of permanent migrants than temporary migrants in Europe, which contrasts with the much larger share of temporary migrants in the Middle East, and East and Southeast Asia. This suggests that as a region of destination, Europe provides a pathway for permanent residence, while migration to the Middle East, and East and Southeast Asia is mainly for temporary migration.

While Philippine government sources on the stock estimate of overseas Filipinos in the AspirE are available for the years 2020-2022, it is difficult to make sense of the data, and for this reason, they are not presented here. The stock estimate as of 2013 reported by CFO, as shown in Table 3, provides data on the OF population in the six AspirE countries. Although this stock estimate also has problems—in addition to being dated—the information provides some indication of the magnitude of the Filipino presence in these countries. The 2013 stock estimate indicates that Italy hosts the largest Filipino population in Europe, followed by the United Kingdom, and Germany. Except for Italy and Germany, the Filipino population in Belgium, Czechia, Finland, and Portugal is smaller. However, future migration prospects suggest a potential increase of the Filipino population, which will be mainly driven by the need for workers as population ageing advances in Europe.

Table 3. Stock of OF in AspirE countries as of December 2013.

Country	Permanent	Temporary	Undocumented	Total
Belgium	7,011	408	5,000	12,419
Czech Republic	99	574	10	683
Finland	1,936	641	0	2,577
Germany	36,020	8,194	3,000	47,214
Italy	89,742	127,814	54,390	271,946
Portugal	661	1,600	390	2,651

Source: Own representation based on CFO (n.d.-b)

As to the conditions of Filipinos in the region, Europe is generally considered migrant-friendly because it has existing laws that protect migrants, and most of all, it offers a pathway for residence to qualified migrants that allows family reunification, unlike destination countries in Asia and the Gulf region which maintain a policy of temporary labour migration (Asis et al., 2019). Data on Filipino nationals assisted by Philippine foreign service posts indicate the small number of cases of Filipinos in distress in Europe compared to other regions (Table 4) (Inter-Agency Against Trafficking [IACAT], 2016, 2018, 2019, 2020).

Table 4. Total number of Filipinos in alleged trafficking/illegal recruitment cases and the share of cases in Europe, various years.

Year report was published	Total number of alleged trafficking victims	Total number of cases in Europe	Share of cases in Europe to total (%)
2016		40	11.5
2018	3,475 (inc. illegal recruitment)	97	2.8
2019	8,118 (4,479 were illegal recruitment cases)	126	1.6
2020	2,575 (2,547 were illegal recruitment cases)	34	1.3

Source: Own representation based on IACAT (2016, 2018, 2019, 2020)

The presence of civil society organisations, including faith-based organisations, and labour unions, and the freedom of association that workers enjoy in Europe are additional factors that contribute

to the protection of migrants' rights. Filipinos have organised themselves and formed associations, which are important sources of support (Asis et al., 2019; Asis & Liao, 2018; Anderssen, 2019; Maas, 2011; Zanfrini & Sarli, 2010; Villaroya Soler, 2010), although the tendency to rely on ethnic networks may limit full integration in destination societies. That is, the safety net provided by ethnic networks may prevent migrants from building connections with other groups and in participating in the social and political life of the broader society. Also, social networks encompassing ethnic and family-based networks can also be harmful—they can be channels of disinformation and irregular practices, including irregular migration and trafficking in persons, as will be discussed later in this report.

Methodology

AspirE-Philippines adopted the common blueprint and standardised project guide for the content analysis of mobility policies for studies, employment, tourism, marriage/family reunification, and investment developed by the Université libre de Bruxelles and then University of Milan. The common guidelines provide a framework for comparison across countries and specifically across migration corridors.

For participating countries in Asia, considering their position as origin countries, it is important to mention the relevance of exit policies by origin governments vis-à-vis the admission policies of destination states in Europe. Participating countries in the AspirE Project were organised into dyads representing specific migration corridors (e.g., migration of berry pickers from Thailand to Finland, or the migration of investors from Hong Kong, China to Portugal). The Philippines and Italy were identified as a case study in view of the established migration corridor between these two countries. However, Filipinos are not only present in Italy, but also in the five other participating AspirE countries in Europe. Considering recent trends and growing migration to Germany and Czechia, the Philippines extended the analysis of migration policies to these countries.

Like Italy, Germany ranks among the top 10 destinations of registered Filipino emigrants¹² for the period 1981-2021. Of the more than 1.5 million registered emigrants who left the Philippines between 1981 and 2021, four countries in Europe are among the top 10: Italy (5th), UK (6th), Germany (7th), and Spain (10th). For the more recent period of 2010-2020, data on registered emigrants show the same four European countries among the top 10, but the ranks have shifted for some countries—Italy is still 5th, but the rest slipped downward: UK (8th), Spain (9th), and Germany (10th) (CFO, n.d.-c).

¹² Filipino emigrants are permanent migrants who leave the Philippines for family reunification (which comprises the majority), marriage migration or skills-based migration to resettle overseas.

Marriage migration to Germany is quite significant (see also Positively Filipino, 2013). For the period 1989-2020, Germany is the sixth country of origin of foreign spouses of Filipino nationals in marriage migration (CFO, n.d.-d). In the last decade, Germany restarted labour migration agreements with the Philippines, beginning with the signing of the government-to-government agreement for the recruitment of nurses from the Philippines in 2013. Known as the Triple Win program, it sought to promote a win for Germany's access to nurses, a win for the Philippines in terms of the equal treatment of Filipino nurses, and a win for the nurses who will have access to decent employment opportunities in Germany. Since the program's inception in 2013, it has recruited some 2,000 nurses (Valmonte, 2023), but more importantly, the program paved the way for the private sector recruitment which has overtaken the Triple Win program in recruiting large numbers of nurses. Germany is also eyeing the Philippines for the recruitment of skilled Filipino workers in fields beyond the health sector. Following the signing of a Memorandum of Agreement between the two governments in June 2022, recent discussions were aimed at streamlining technicalities for the recruitment of skilled Filipino workers in various occupations (Rocamora, 2023). These developments suggest the growing role of migration for employment in the Philippines-Germany migration corridor.

Czechia is a new labour market for Filipino workers. The Philippines and Czechia started the discussions on the recruitment of Filipino workers in 2017-2018 (Verite, 2021). The pandemic temporarily interrupted the migration of Filipino workers to Czechia and resumed by 2021-2022, which is when the pandemic eased and economic activities restarted. The prospects for increased labour migration from the Philippines to Germany and Czechia call for a closer look at these developments and provide a comparison with changing migration patterns from the Philippines to Italy.

The analysis of migration policies from the Philippines to Italy, Germany and Czechia is based on a review of the relevant literature and a review of migration policies—as indicated by application procedures and requirements for visa application—published by the embassies of Italy, Germany and Czechia in the Philippines. As Third Country Nationals (TCNs) to the European Union, Filipino passport holders do not enjoy visa-free entry to Europe and as such, they must apply for a visa appropriate to their purpose of travel to their intended destination country in the EU. While the Philippines has policies governing the authorised travel of its nationals to other countries, the admission of Filipino nationals to EU destinations rests on the evaluation and decision of the EU country on the admissibility¹³ of Filipino applicants.

¹³ The embassies as sources of information on migration policies limited the team to what was available online. It was not possible to obtain additional information beyond what were posted on their websites.

Migration policies of Italy, Germany and Czechia

In this section, the report turns to the migration policies that Filipinos aspiring to migrate to Europe need to navigate. The information provided by the embassies or consulates of European countries is crucial in understanding the process and requirements. Since visa applications for the three European countries have been outsourced to a service provider (VFS Global for Germany and Czechia and VIA for Italy), their website is also an important source of information.

As will be detailed in the succeeding discussion, the visa application process is an arduous process. If the Philippine government is concerned about Filipinos being illegally recruited or victimised by traffickers, destination countries are equally, if not more vigilant in vetting who to accept in their territory. For the 27 countries in Europe¹⁴ which are part of the Schengen area—an area which does not have internal borders thereby allowing their nationals freedom of movement and having harmonised external border controls—the entry of TCNs is governed by a common visa policy. The latter has a dual function: To facilitate the entry of TCNs into the area, and to strengthen internal security. Once a visa is granted to TCNs, they can move freely within the Schengen area, as do TCNs residing in the Schengen area.

Based on data from Schengen statistics, in 2022, Schengen visa applications from Filipinos reached 152,817, of which 143,649 or 94.2 percent were approved.¹⁵ The top five countries which received the most number of visa applications from the Philippines and their corresponding approval rates are as follows: (1) Netherlands – 45,354 (95.7 percent); (2) France – 24,330 (91.5 percent); (3) Spain – 16,309 (94.8 percent); (4) Italy – 15,607 (94.7 percent); and (5) Germany – 14,474 (96.2 percent) (Aguila, 2023). For five of the AspirE countries, the visa applications received and approved are summarised in Table 5. In the absence of other information, the information based on number of visa applications and approvals (or non-approvals) shows variability among the five destinations. On one end of the spectrum is the high approval rate by Czechia, and at the other end is the very high non-approval rate by Finland.

Table 5. Visa applications, visas issued, and percent of visas not issued: Selected EU countries, 2022.

Schengen State (a)	Consulate	Uniform Visas applied for (b)	Multiple entry uniform visas (c)	Total uniform visas not issued	% of uniform visas not issued (d)
Belgium	Manila	7,179	6,477	492	6.9
Czechia	Manila	1,196	1,176	20	1.7
Finland	Manila	1,587	1,127	430	27.1

¹⁴ Of the 27 countries, 23 are EU member countries and four are non-EU—Norway, Denmark, Iceland, and Switzerland.

¹⁵ The original report cites an approval rate of 68.9 percent (see Aguila, 2023); the authors recalculated the approval rate based on the information provided.

Germany	Manila	14,474	13,921	447	3.1
Italy	Manila	15,607	14,781	824	5.3

Source: Own representation based on the Schengen Visa Statistics (2022)

Notes: a) There were no visa applications recorded for Portugal for the year.

b) Uniform visas refer to all applications lodged to the embassy or consulate.

c) Multiple uniform visas are long-term visas, such as for study, employment or family reunification.

d) The rates for Belgium and Finland have been recomputed by the authors.

In addition to official sources of information on the visa application requirement and process, visa applicants access a variety of online resources, such as YouTube tutorials, vlogs and blogs, as well as online communities where members share tips and experiences in securing a Schengen visa.¹⁶

In the succeeding discussions, the report tackles four types of mobility/migration policies: Labour migration, marriage/family reunification, student mobility, and tourism. Investment-related migration from the Philippines is not known (there is hardly any academic literature on Filipinos migrating for investment purposes) and is not covered in the report.¹⁷

Labour migration policies

Labour migration from the Philippines in the last five decades has been largely towards Middle East and Asian destinations. In more recent years, when several European countries are turning to the Philippines as a source of workers, the scale of the demand is still much less compared to the scale of worker recruitment to the Middle East and East and Southeast Asia. Available data before the pandemic show that OFWs leaving for the AspirE countries involve not only small numbers, but also, the numbers recorded per years overwhelming comprise of rehires (those renewing their work contract to the same employer or destination) than new hires (those signing a contract with a new employer in a new destination). As detailed below, the unfolding of labour migration to the three European destination countries proceeded differently and under different migration regimes.

Table 6. OFWs deployed to AspirE countries, 2015-2017.

	2015	2016	2017
Belgium	112	103 (4)	86 (6)
Czechia	127	227 (104)	292 (196)

¹⁶ For example, see <https://ph.video.search.yahoo.com/search/video?fr=mcafee&ei=UTF-8&np=tips+for+applying+for+Schengen+for+Pinoys&dtype=E210PH739G0#id=3&andvid=cf02a9937148a1b696f28f3c2a8796a0&andaction=click> and <https://filipiknow.net/schengen-visa/>.

¹⁷ A feature article about Portugal's Golden Visa was published in a national daily in the Philippines (e.g., Philstar.com, 2022). The research team wrote to the consulting company to request for information on the number and profile of Filipino investors, but there was no response. Portugal does not have an embassy in the Philippines. Filipinos applying for a visa to Portugal apply through the Embassy of Greece in Manila.

Finland	220	360 (132)	376 (95)
Germany	261	460 (227)	753 (318)
Italy	14,024	8,909 (45)	8,114 (21)
Portugal	51	33 (01)	40 (1)

Sources: Own representation based on DMW (n.d.-a; n.d.-b)

Notes: Data on new hires and rehires are not available for 2015. For 2016 and 2017, data in parentheses refer to new hires.

Italy

Filipino labour migration to Italy was eclipsed in the 1970s by the documented, state-facilitated labour migration to the Middle East. Back then, it was predominantly of male migration due to the massive infrastructure projects undertaken by governments in the region. The women migrating to Italy were not visible because they did not leave the Philippines on work visas. Upon arrival in Italy, they found work as domestic workers and (over)stayed. Social networks played an important role in expanding the participation of other Filipino women in migration to Italy and in channelling later migrants into the same sector (Zanfrini & Sarli, 2010). Worker recruitment for Italy was in stark contrast to what became an established pattern in the Philippines where licensed private recruitment agencies recruited suitable candidates and matched them with employers overseas. The private recruitment-mediated mode played a minor role in labour migration from the Philippines to Italy.¹⁸ While many started out as undocumented, the regularisation programs in Italy allowed migrant workers to be part of mainstream society. The regularisation programs Italy offered between 1986 and 2020 (1986, 1990, 1995-1996, 2002, 2009, and 2020¹⁹) (McGovern, 2014; Human Rights Watch, 2020) were instrumental in providing a pathway towards the legalisation of the migrants' stay, employment, and eventually paved the way for family reunification.

Thus, between the 1970s and 2010s, Filipinos in Italy went through different phases of incorporation in Italy: (1) 1970s-1980s, arrival as tourists, overstaying, and finding work in private households—Italy at this point was seen by migrants as a transit place; (2) mid-1980s, increased

¹⁸ Data on *new hires* recruited for Italy for the years 1993-2010 and 2016-2017 show modest legal deployment of OFWs. The most was in 2007, when the number reached 5,253. It is interesting to note that *rehires* comprise the great majority of OFWs deployed to Italy every year. The high share of rehires points to the tendency of OFWs to continue extending their work contract. For all years, service workers accounted the largest share. (see Deployment Per Country Per Skill, 1992-2010, 2016-2017, <https://www.dmw.gov.ph/statistics>)

¹⁹ After a long lull, the regularisation program during the pandemic was initially hailed as a good practice that would provide undocumented migrants the possibility for residency, but it was later viewed as a missed opportunity to protect vulnerable workers, especially those in the agricultural sector. Only about a third—220,000 out of an estimated population of 690,000—applied for regularisation. Among others, limiting the program to three types of workers (those in agriculture, domestic work, and care work), exploitative practices, such as the selling of work contracts, and unclear rules, are instances pointing to the flaws in the program (Human Rights Watch, 2020).

migratory flows and towards more settlement; (3) notable increase in family reunification, growth of the second generation; and (4) towards the end of the 1990s, some movement into self-employment (Zanfrini and Sarli, 2010: 144-150). Presently, the Filipino population in Italy has largely become a settled population, with a sizable young generation comprising those born in Italy as well as those born in the Philippine who reunited with family members in Italy before they reached adulthood.

Despite the modest yearly number of *new hires* to Italy, the Philippines and Italy entered into an agreement on bilateral labour cooperation that would allow the “entry of Philippine citizens to Italy for seasonal and non-seasonal employment, including professionals.” The agreement covered various aspects, including worker protection, the assignment of preferential quote to Philippine citizens, crafting of an employment contract that complies with relevant legislation in Italy, language and skills training at no cost to workers, integration, the role of Philippine associations in Italy in promoting the social integration of new migrants, and development initiatives in the Philippines. The agreement was signed on 9 December 2015, initially valid for three years, and will be automatically renewed every three years unless otherwise terminated.²⁰ Not much was heard about the outcomes of this bilateral agreement. Usually, following the signing of an agreement, the partner countries would create a technical working group that will work on the details of the implementation and monitoring of the agreement. There were no other reports that came out on the progress of the agreement.

For the most recent years, 2022-2023, Filipinos ranked 8th among the top ten non-EU citizens regularly residing in Italy, with around 150,000 (ISTAT, 2023: 4). The Filipino population in the country may increase under Italy’s *decreto flussi* (flows decree) program, an immigration policy that states when, how, and how many immigrants are allowed to enter Italy from each country. As of the latest Prime Minister’s Decree, a total of 425,000 foreign citizens will be admitted to Italy in the years 2023-2025 for seasonal and non-seasonal subordinate employment, and self-employment. The yearly numbers are as follows: 2023 – 136,000; 2024 – 151,000; and 2025 – 165,000. Filipinos are among the non-EU citizens who will be allowed to enter Italy as workers under the flows decree (Montemayor, 2023). The need to bring in foreign workers to meet the need for workers in a variety of sectors under the non-seasonal subordinate employment may provide opportunities for Filipinos to find work in sectors other domestic work.

The announcement of Italy’s need for foreign workers may have triggered interest in seeking employment opportunities in Italy which some enterprising individuals wanted to exploit. An unfortunate development was the massive irregular recruitment of an Italy-based company, Alpha Assistenza SRL, which victimised around 400 Filipinos. The company’s scam came to light when

²⁰ Agreement on Bilateral Cooperation on Labor Migration Between the Government of the Italian Republic and the Government of the Republic of the Philippines (see <https://www.dmw.gov.ph/archives/laborinfo/agreement/ITALY%20SIGNED%20AGREEMENT%20ON%20BILATERAL%20LABOUR%20MIGRATION...pdf>).

the Italian Embassy in Manila rejected the application of the victims because they provided bogus *nulla osta* (work permits) (Garner, 2023). The victims paid 3,000-5,000 euros each for the promised work permits.

Setting aside the Philippine government's requirements to exit the country on a work permit for overseas employment, Filipinos applying for a work visa to Italy *from* the Philippines invest considerable time to gather the needed documents posted by the Italian Embassy and VIA (see [Annex 1.1](#)). The most important document is the work contract from an Italian employer or company, which starts the documentation process in the Italian Embassy. Before reaching this stage, both employer and prospective workers must have access to vital information to enable both parties to meet the requirements. For aspiring Filipino workers, the job offer is preceded by access to information on job opportunities in the Italian labour market. Typically, job openings overseas are disseminated by private recruitment agencies (on their website, Facebook page, or both), or they hold or participate in job fairs. For job openings in government-to-government arrangements, these are disseminated through the website and/or social media platforms of DMW. Until recently, not much was heard about job opportunities in Italy. The opening of Italian labour to non-EU nationals from 30 countries, including the Philippines, under the *decreto flussi*, is a new development. Except for general information on the number of job openings per year and the sectors of work, there are still no details on what these developments mean for Filipino jobseekers.

The rest of the requirements are documents that must be accomplished or secured in the Philippines. The required documents are aimed at establishing the validity of the jobseeker's credentials and qualifications. Visa applicants are warned about committing perjury which will negatively impact on their application if no decision has been made yet, and the possibility of revoking the visa in case it has been mentioned. At the application process, the onus lies on the applicant to prove that his or her claims are genuine. Upon admission to Italy on a work visa, the visa holder needs to apply for a residence card (*permesso di soggiorno*). The work visa allows the visa holder to stay in Italy for the purpose of employment and a stay of more than 90 days.

Germany

Germany is one of the few countries with which the Philippines has forged a government-to-government agreement for the recruitment of Filipino nurses. The so-called Triple Win program was launched in 2013, and as a model of nurse recruitment, it was framed as a sustainable model because it provided pre-departure language training, had no-placement fee, and had provisions for worker protection, pathway for recognition, and integration upon admission to Germany. Under the Triple Win program government-to-government arrangement, Filipino nurses must be registered and must have had at least six months of experience to be eligible. Applicants are provided with free German language classes (A1 to B1), free document translation, cash incentive of EUR 250 each for those who pass the German language A and B1 exams, free medical, visa,

health insurance and flight ticket. Nurses will receive a gross monthly salary of EUR 2,300 (before recognition) and EUR 2,800 (after recognition).²¹

The government-to-government model could not keep up with the high demand for nurses in Germany, hence, private sector participation was allowed. The ongoing experience of the government-to-government arrangement of the Triple Win program and private sector participation raises some questions—the former may be strong on preparation and worker protection but slow in terms of recruitment, while the latter may be more efficient in hiring more nurses but may be less attentive to preparations and worker protection. Germany’s labour migration policies are outlined in [Annex 1.2](#). The guarantees or requirements for applicants emphasise basic German language proficiency and recognition.

Germany’s labour migration policies for skilled workers from non-EU countries are moving towards easing restrictions and facilitating the admission of non-EU workers in labour-short sectors in Germany (IT, health care, and logistics, among others).²² The first stage of the envisioned three-stage changes to the Skilled Immigration Act took effect on 18 November 2023; further changes will take effect on 1 March 2024 and 1 June 2024. The changes are aimed at relaxing barriers for the entry of needed workers. Among the immediate changes to the EU Blue Card, which allows non-EU nationals with academic and equivalent training to work in Germany, are waiving the German language requirement (although this still holds for nurses, this has been lowered to B1), lowering the annual salary limit to under EUR 40,000 (from EUR 43,000) for entry-level and in-demand jobs, and waiving German recognition of skills for experienced workers whose skills are already recognised in their home countries (Grunau, 2023). Skilled workers who meet the requirements will be entitled to residence permit rights, which in the past was decided by embassies or immigration authorities. Further changes (such as family reunification) will be introduced in 2024.²³ The new changes to Germany’s labour migration policies may attract Filipino professionals to consider building a future in Germany.

Czechia

Verite (2021: 13) identified Czechia as an emerging destination for OFWs, and because of this new experience, it characterised the Philippines-Czechia migration corridor as an “evolving governmental regulation and oversight.” The risks to workers in this new situation are excessive

²¹ From the brochure, “Government to Government Arrangement: Triple Win Programme,” produced by GIZ.

²² In addition, the Goethe Institute in the Philippines produces resources, such as the *Juan01 Guide to Germany*, which provide information on how migrants can navigate their new environment when they arrive in Germany.

²³ For further details and updates, see <https://www.make-it-in-germany.com/en/>, a one-stop official website dedicated to providing information on jobs, immigration, and living in Germany for qualified professionals.

recruitment fees, contract substitution, barriers to reporting of grievances, and potential for irregular migration.

Between 2014 and 2018, the number of Filipino workers in Czechia grew from 400 to 1,500 (Verite, 2021: 13, 69). As mentioned earlier, more male Filipino workers are recruited to Czechia to fill the need for workers in manufacturing and the automotive sectors. Acknowledging the labour shortage and the need to bring in foreign workers, Act No. 101/2014 came into effect in June 2014, which amended several laws regarding the employment of foreign workers, particularly the enactment of a single work permit system, in line with the European Parliament and Council Directive 2011/98/EU. The single permit system authorises the permit holder to stay in the Czech Republic on a long-term basis for work and it provides a framework to define the relationship between migrants and their employers. This was followed in June 2015 by the government's Strategy on Migration Policy of the Czech Republic and the Communication Strategy on the Benefits and Impacts of Migration, which promotes legal migration into the country. The Verite report (2021) cited the "2020 US Trafficking in Persons Report," which mentioned Filipino workers among foreign nationals who were exploited into forced labour.

There were also instances of Filipinos being hired from a third country (i.e., outside the Philippines). This means that they did not go through the documentation process in the Philippines that was previously done by the POEA and since 2022, by the DMW. The introduction of the Philippine Regime for Migrant Workers Project by the Czech government in 2018—for the purpose of fast-tracking the processing of work visas of 1,000 per year—accounted for the increase of issuance of work visas by 2018. Philippine Ambassador to Prague Ombra Jainal anticipated the further increase in the number of Filipino workers in Czechia, citing the pull factors of quality of life, safety, and high labour standards, but also cognizant of the labour-related issues that need to be addressed (Rocamora, 2019). In the visit of Czech Prime Minister Petr Fiala to the Philippines in April 2023, he reaffirmed the possible increase of Filipino migration to Czechia: "We also highly appreciate the Philippine system of recruiting workers for work in other countries. Czech companies are very satisfied with Philippine citizens. We are discussing the possibilities to expand migration for work" (Galvez, 2023).

The labour migration policies of Czechia as implemented in the Philippines are summarised in [Annex 1.3](#). Further coordination between the Philippines and Czechia is needed to harmonise policies and practices to facilitate recruitment, and promote the protection of the rights of Filipino workers in Czechia. Among others, recruiting workers *from* the Philippines (rather than from third countries) will ensure the proper documentation of Filipino workers to enhance their protection and access to grievance and support systems. Establishing a Migrant Workers Office (previously, the POLO) in Czechia will also improve the verification of work contracts and the monitoring of the Filipino workers conditions in Czechia.

Marriage and family migration policies of Italy, Germany and Czechia

All three countries allow family reunification. Family-based migration played an important role in the evolution of Filipino communities in Italy and Germany, while this type of migration is not yet that evident in the nascent stage of Filipino migration to Czechia.

Most notably, family reunification contributed to the growth and diversification of the profile of Filipinos in Italy. The female-predominant character of Filipino migration in the first wave gave way towards a gender- and age-diverse profile when women migrants were able to petition their family members to join them in Italy. [Annex 2.1](#) presents an overview of the dimensions and themes of Filipinos joining an immediate family member based in Italy (i.e., one with or has acquired Italian citizenship or someone who has a residence permit in Italy). The table is largely populated by guarantees or requirements which are intended to establish a valid family relationship between the petitioner in Italy and the petitioned family member in the Philippines. The actors involved on both the Philippine and Italian sides also focus on evaluating the proof of relationship between the TCN in Italy and immediate family members in the Philippines. The guarantees and characteristics are particularly protective of minors, ensuring that the migration of minors has the consent of parents, particularly when they must travel on their own. No mention is made about language requirements or preparations while the petitioned family members are still in the Philippines (although in the expert interview, as will be discussed in a separate paper, family migrants have some basic language preparation). As family migrants, they have the benefit of long-residence (more than 90 days) in Italy.

Similarly, family reunification and, significantly, marriage migration, contributed to the formation of the Filipino community in Germany. Compared to Italy, however, the impact of family reunification to the enlargement of the Filipino community in Germany is less pronounced because Germany did not implement regularisation programs. Guarantees or requirements to meet under Germany's family reunification policies require finer details (e.g., where the marriage took place, or whether the child was born within marriage). Some level of German proficiency is among the guarantees that applicants must meet—language requirement is not specifically mentioned for family reunification in Italy and Czechia. As to the characteristics of the applicants, the age definition of children is higher, below 21 (rather than 18), and the policy gives due consideration to children above 21 years old who are dependent on family members because of health conditions, including other circumstances (e.g., economic dependence on family members). Under these characteristics, it is also interesting to note that Germany's policies provide a pathway for reunion with non-married mother of an unborn child as long as the German father acknowledges paternity of the yet-to-be-born child. Successful marriage or family reunification applicants can enter and stay in Germany for more than 90 days (see [Annex 2.2](#)).

Family reunification policies in Czechia are anchored on establishing a valid family relationship with a Czech national or a foreigner who has a residence permit in the country. The guarantees are

similar to those required by Italy and Germany. Czechia, however, differs in requiring (or mentioning) clearance from the National Bureau of Investigation (i.e., to certify that the holder does not have a criminal record). Under certain characteristics, Czechia is similar to Germany in providing leeway for major-age family members to reunite with family members holding a residence permit in Czechia, as shown in [Annex 2.3](#). No age is mentioned as denoting the age of minority or majority; what is notable is the consideration of need or dependence of a TCN applicant on the Czechia-based national or foreigner residence card holder. Those approved for family reunification can stay in Czechia for more than 90 days.

After securing marriage or family reunification visas from the respective embassies, family migrants need to attend a pre-departure orientation seminar (for those reuniting with family members) or Guidance and Counseling Program (specifically for marriage migrants) by the CFO. To reiterate, this was made mandatory to prevent trafficking and to equip migrants with information that will help them adjust to living in a new country and a new culture. Beyond the adjustment stage, the CFO nurtures transnational links with permanent migrants through dialogues with OFs and Filipino associations, overseeing Philippine Schools, youth programs, awards, and recognition programs to outstanding OFs and associations, and providing support in matching diaspora philanthropy with development projects in the Philippines (see also, www.cfo.gov.ph).

Student migration policies of Italy, Germany, and Czechia

Student migrants pursuing further studies abroad are among the sub-groups included under the category of temporary migrants. Compared to emigrants, marriage migrants, au pairs, J-1 exchange visitors, and OFWs, those leaving the Philippines to study abroad are not under the purview of a specific government agency. Their numbers are also not recorded. Data on the number and distribution of student migrants from the Philippines are available from the website of UNESCO International Statistics (see <https://uis.unesco.org/en/uis-student-flow>). From this source, as of 5 December 2023, the Philippines has 26,219 students abroad, with some two-thirds (68.5 percent) studying in English-speaking countries—Australia, Canada, the United States, and the United Kingdom, in rank order (UIS, n.d.) Five of the six AspirE countries are figured as destinations of Filipino international students (ranked in order): Germany (n=394), Finland (n=142), Belgium (n=115), Italy (n=102), and Czechia (n=45). The current number represents an increase from the 17,597 reported in an earlier report (Liao and Asis, 2020: 406). Indeed, although the numbers are small, they are growing over the years. The turn to non-English speaking countries in Europe is an interesting development, and in part, this may be due to the (re)discovery of Filipino students of educational opportunities in Europe that may be sparked by the annual European Higher Education Fair—an event that features information on academic programs offered by European universities. Erasmus Mundus scholarships have also contributed to raising awareness about educational possibilities in Europe.

The application requirements for Filipinos aspiring to study in Italy, Germany, or Czechia are outlined in [Annex 3](#). Across all three countries, information available in the Philippines mostly pertain to guarantees or requirements, and very little is provided concerning benefits, penalties, forgiveness, and referrals. Germany also stipulates more guarantees or stricter requirements. Language proficiency, for example, tends to be higher in Germany. While proof of financial means is a common requirement, Germany specifically requires EUR 11,208 as bank deposit. International students may also work part-time, for a maximum of 20 hours per week. However, income from part-time employment cannot be the main source of funds.

Although this is not mentioned on the website of the embassies, non-EU international students who completed their studies may apply to remain in the country where they graduated from to gain work experience for varying durations. In the case of Italy, an international student may adjust his or her visa to what is known as *permesso di attesa occupazione* or “temporary stay permit” for up to 12 months. In Germany, the period of stay for employment after completion of studies can be from at least six months. Graduates may avail of a jobseeker’s visa, which gives visa holders up to six months to find employment in the country—if they can find work, they can then apply for a regular visa, but they must leave Germany if they do not find employment within the six-month period. In Czechia, after completion of university education from a Czech university, non-EU graduates may apply for an employee card, which would allow residence for the purpose of employment. Foreign nationals who have completed their studies in Czechia can access labour market opportunities, and interestingly, knowledge of Czech language is an advantage, but not always required for employment.

Germany and Czechia tend to offer more facilitation to non-EU students to transition to employment compared to Italy (see [Annex 3.2](#) and [Annex 3.3](#)). International students-turned-workers can meet several objectives of destination countries. They fill the need for human resources in different fields. Moreover, having experienced living and studying in the destination countries, these migrants have already hurdled some integration challenges. On the part of student migrants, as long-term visa holders, they may flexibly manage the dimension of temporality. They can extend their stay as needed, their visa allows freedom of movement within the Schengen area, and their residence permit for study may be converted to a residence permit for employment.

In an earlier study, Filipinos who had studied in Europe said they did not encounter difficulties in gaining admission as students. While the paperwork was rather heavy, for as long as their documents were in order, they did not encounter questioning at the embassy or with immigration authorities in Europe (Asis et al., 2019). Upon returning to the Philippines, they considered their academic and life experiences in Europe as not only personally rewarding (Asis et al., 2019), but the cultural capital, contacts and networks, and learnings can be social remittances that can benefit their workplaces (Liao & Asis, 2020).

Tourism policies of Italy, Germany, and Czechia

Migration for employment, marriage and family reunification, and education requires a period of residence because it entails a longer stay in destination countries in contrast to travelling for tourism or business-related purposes which is of shorter duration. Under Schengen visa rules, a short-term visa for tourism means a maximum stay of 90 days. As indicated in the earlier discussions, applications for long-term stay are highly selective because they need to meet requirements specific to the purpose of stay in destination countries. Travel for tourism is a key factor driving mobility, greatly facilitated by easier and affordable travel. However, concerns over using tourist visas for other purposes have prompted many countries to adopt stricter screening in evaluating tourist visa applications.

Applying for a Schengen tourist visa is time consuming due to many documentary requirements. [Annex 4](#) presents the requirements for Italy, Germany, and Czechia. Overall, the requirements are similar—they aim to establish the applicant’s financial capacity (to fund his or her travel and living costs) and to demonstrate the applicant’s links or ties to the origin country to ensure that the applicant does not overstay in the destination country. Some variations can be noted. For example, for both Italy and Germany, the passport must be valid for at least six months. But for Czechia, the required minimum validity is three months. The issue of temporality clearly distinguishes short-stay vs. long-term stay visa holders, with the former being restricted to staying in the destination country (and Schengen area) for a maximum of 90 days. Moreover, the country (through the embassy) which issued the visa can impose other conditions, such as limiting the entry to one time and/or the number of allowable days. Unlike long-term visas, short-term visas do not allow the holder to adjust his or her status to other purposes (e.g., for employment or study).

Discussion and conclusions

The content analysis of the migration policies of the Philippines as an origin country, and Italy, Germany, and Czechia as destination countries reflects the primacy of state interests. As an origin country, the Philippines’ migration/mobility policies emphasise the legal and safe exit and international travel of its nationals. Having established a legal and institutional framework of migration governance, particularly for labour migration, and to some extent, marriage migration, the Philippines tends to have a regulatory approach to the departure of its nationals. Filipinos applying for employment, marriage, and family reunification visas have to comply not only with Philippine regulations and requirements, but also with the regulations and requirements of their intended countries of destination. When Filipinos go abroad for employment, they must be documented by the DMW and must show proof for it; or when Filipinos leave to marry or join their foreign spouse, they must present a certificate that they have attended an orientation seminar. Filipinos travelling for tourism may not be allowed to leave if immigration authorities deem them as possible victims of human trafficking. Practices such as these are aimed at protecting Filipinos

from irregular migration, particularly trafficking—from the state perspective. However, these “protective” measures may be seen by migrants as burdensome or even curbing their right to travel.

When Filipinos apply for a visa to EU countries, they encounter the challenging and costly process of complying with the many requirements of their intended destination countries. The right to enter EU countries, particularly of Italy, Germany, and Czechia, rests on a vetting process that evaluates the admissibility of applicants in meeting education, relevant skills, and preparedness for labour migrants; family ties to an EU national for marriage and family reunification; educational credentials for student migrants; or financial capacity in the case of tourists. Given specific requirements for labour, marriage, and family reunification, and student migration, the application process can take considerable time. Once they qualify for a visa, these long-term stay migrants may have some flexibility of converting their status, such as a student visa holder, who may be able to transition to a work visa. A tourist visa, which allows for short-term stay (maximum of 90 days), is more restrictive because it does not allow visa holders to convert or adjust their status to long-term stay. The tourist visa as a potential channel for irregular employment of irregular migration (because tourists may work, which violates the terms of their visa, or they may overstay, in which case they become unauthorised migrants) or trafficking can lead to tighter screening of applications.

Across all types of migration policies (employment, marriage or family reunification, studies, and tourism) considered in this report, all three AspirE destination countries are the arbiters on the visa application of aspiring Filipino (re)migrants. As had been noted, the visa policies primarily reflect the interests of the State, and rarely, if at all, the aspirations or interests of migrants. The gatekeeping function of the visa application process allows destination states to exercise selectivity on who to welcome, how many, for how long, and under what conditions. Applicants who are rejected simply accept the decision, without any recourse to appeal, or they may reapply and go through the process all over again. During the visa application stage in the Philippines, applicants seem to be “presumed” suspect unless proven otherwise. Much scrutiny is given to ensuring that the documents submitted are genuine and to detect applicants providing fraudulent documents. Particularly for tourism policies, the embassies of the three countries explicitly warn applicants against committing perjury, otherwise their application will be revoked (if they have not been issued a visa yet), or they will be subject to the laws of the destination countries (if they had been granted a visa).²⁴ In general, the larger volume of tourism visa applicants, and the suspicion that this channel may be used as a stepping stone to enter and remain or work in the destination countries disadvantage applicants who may be wrongly deemed as not providing sufficient and acceptable evidence to travel to the destination country as tourists. Furthermore, for tourist visa applicants, destination countries seek to ensure that tourist entrants will not be a burden to them.

²⁴ The penalties are not stated explicitly in the information provided in the embassy websites for applicants of other types of visas, but in the application form, visa applicants certify and sign that the information they provided is correct to the best of their knowledge.

At least in the visa application stage, the decision on “acceptable” vs. “unacceptable” migrants depends on applicants providing true and verifiable documentary evidence to show that they have the necessary resources and links (financial, especially for tourism applicants; credentials for work or employment applicants; and family relationship to a national or citizen). In general, the destination states do not consider the amount of time, money and efforts of visa applicants, and as stated earlier, there is no appeal process for applications which were rejected. From the point of view of the destination states, some language preparation will ease their adjustment and help new arrivals navigate the host societies. Some aspiring migrants (e.g., marriage migrants) may find this useful, while others (especially those migrating for employment) may find this requirement burdensome and may incline them to consider other destinations. Thus, state interests and perspectives and those of migrants may not always coincide.

For long-term visa applicants (i.e., except tourists), destination countries tend to have policies that lessen the gap between their nationals and foreign nationals. In the case of Germany, for example, the triple-win program for the recruitment of nurses from the Philippines reserves one of the wins to migrants through protection of their rights and equal treatment vis-à-vis local nurses. It is also interesting to note that Germany and Czechia acknowledge the importance of language for the preparation of migrants for employment or family reunification.

Based on recent and emerging socio-demographic changes, migration will increasingly figure as one of several strategies to meet labour shortages and to sustain the development of European countries. With a population attuned to the global labour market and the country’s vast experience in migration governance, the Philippines is in the radar of European countries in need of workers, particularly health care workers. Among the six AspiE countries in Europe, Germany, Finland, and Czechia had already started or resumed recruiting workers from the Philippines since the 2010s. Germany and Finland initially recruited nurses but have since expanded to recruit other skilled workers from the Philippines, while Czechia, a recent destination for OFWs, has been recruiting skilled workers, but is also eyeing the Philippines from where to recruit nurses. Although labour migration to Italy has been underway since the 1970s, much of it was undocumented (especially before the 2000s) and was concentrated in the domestic work sector. Italy’s several regularisation programs were instrumental towards Filipinos legalising their work and residence in the country and the opportunity to petition their immediate family members to join them in Italy.

Labour migration is likely to emerge and to grow in importance between the Philippines on the one hand, and Italy, Germany, and Czechia on the other. Italy, which has long depended on Filipinos to meet the care needs of private households, has also come up with a recent labour migration policy to recruit foreign workers. But Germany and Czechia appear to be strengthening the groundwork in relation to the Philippines, as indicated in discussions between government counterparts and the sending of delegations to the Philippines to understand the Philippines’ overseas employment framework.

All other types of migration and mobility—marriage and family migration, student migration, and tourism—are also likely to grow in the future. In part, this pattern may be linked to an increase in one type of migration, which can lead to other pathways of migration. For example, increased labour migration can result in more family reunification, especially in countries such as Germany, which is making further policy reforms to attract and facilitate skilled workers and professionals. Likewise, initiatives to facilitate international students' options to find employment in the host country (e.g., Germany's job-seeking visa). This kind of policy may resonate with student migrants' post-education career plans and life aspirations. Germany's approach towards more facilitation to attract more needed workers entailed relaxing requirements whose impacts are yet to unfold. More facilitative measures may bring in more workers, but what about the migrants' integration in the German labour market and society? Also, with the participation of private recruitment agencies in the recruitment process, how will this affect worker protection and integration in the destination country? The roles of government—both national or federal and local governments, and other stakeholders—employers, industry, private recruitment agencies, migrants and migrants' associations, and other relevant actors—in addressing the challenges of labour market shortages, the integration of migrants, and the making of just and cohesive societies are important to consider. Migration policies should not just be attentive to the aspirations, behaviours, and decision-making of migrants but they should also be inclusive of the voices of other stakeholders. Finally, the impacts of migration policies of destination countries on origin countries cannot and should not be ignored.

References

- Aguila, N. (2023, November 27). Which countries approved the most number of Schengen visa applications from Filipinos?. Esquire. <https://www.esquiremag.ph/life/travel/schengen-visa-applications-filipinos-a2512-20231127>.
- Andersen, N.T. (2019). *Labor pioneers: Economy, labor and migration in Filipino-Danish relations, 1950-2015*. Ateneo de Manila University Press.
- Asis, M.M.B. (2017, July 12). The Philippines: Beyond labor migration, toward development and (possibly) return. *Migration Information Source*.
<http://www.migrationpolicy.org/article/philippines-beyond-labor-migration-toward-development-and-possibly-return>
- Asis, M.M.B. (2008). How international migration can support development: A challenge for the Philippines. In S. Castles and R.D. Wise (Eds) *Migration and Development: Perspectives from the South*. International Organization for Migration
- Asis, M.M.B. & Battistella, G. (2012). Multicultural realities and membership: States, migration and citizenship in Asia. In. Lai Ah Eng et al., *Migration and Diversity in Asian Contexts*, (pp 31-55). Institute of Southeast Asian Studies.
- Asis, M.M.B. & Roma, G.M. (2010) Eyes on the prize: Towards a migration and development agenda in the Philippines. In F. Baggio, *Brick by Brick: Building Cooperation between the Philippines and Migrants' Associations in Italy and Spain* (pp. 35-138). Scalabrini Migration Center.
- Asis, M.M.B., Battistella, G., & Liao, KAS (2019). Temporary migration in the Philippines: Changes and constants in this continuing saga. In P. Pitkänen et al. *Temporary Migration, Transformation and Development* (pp. 55-77). Routledge.
- BusinessWorld (2021, January 8). OFW deployments estimated to have fallen up to 75% in 2020 — POEA. *BusinessWorld*. <https://www.bworldonline.com/editors-picks/2021/01/08/337633/ofw-deployments-estimated-to-have-fallen-up-to-75-in-2020-poea/>
- Commission on Filipinos Overseas (n.d.-a) *CFO statistics on Philippine international migration (Permanent residents, marriage migrants, US J-1 visa holders and other CFO programs for the period 2010-2020)*. https://cfo.gov.ph/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/compendium-2020_Feb-14-2023_smaller.pdf
- Commission on Filipinos Overseas (n.d.-b) Stock estimate of overseas Filipinos as of December 2013. <https://cfo.gov.ph/statistics-2/>

- Commission on Filipinos Overseas (n.d.-c). Number of registered Filipino emigrants by major country of destination: 1981-2021. <https://cfo.gov.ph/statistics-2/>
- Commission on Filipinos Overseas. (n.d.-d). Number of Filipino spouses and other partners of foreign nationals by major country: 1989-2020. <https://cfo.gov.ph/statistics-2/>
- Department of Migrant Workers (2023, October). Historical data per type of hiring. https://www.dmw.gov.ph/statistics/overseas-employment-statistics?fbclid=IwAR0B-uN8xWDCjG3UgxbR6zE93c5-0C975_RcdYUTnDW5N1j3-t0DC1uNOA4 Department of Migrant Workers (2022). *Annual Report 2022*. <https://www.dmw.gov.ph/annual-report-2022>
- Department of Migrant Workers (n.d.-a). Deployed Overseas Filipino Workers by Country/Destination: 2015 vs 2016. <https://www.dmw.gov.ph/archives/ofwstat/compendium/2015-2016%20OES%202.pdf>.
- Department of Migrant Workers (n.d.-b). Deployed Overseas Filipino Workers by Country/Destination: 2017 vs 2016. <https://www.dmw.gov.ph/resources/dsms/POEA/Externals/Statistics/Compendium-Statistics-2016-Deployment-by-Country.pdf>.
- Flores-Valenzuela, O. (2007, August 31). History of the Filipino community in the Netherlands. Munting Nayon [Little Village]. <https://muntingnayon.com/100/100214/index.php>.
- GMA News Online (2023, April 11). BI offloaded over 6k passengers from January-February 2023. GMA News Online. <https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/topstories/nation/866532/bi-offloaded-over-6k-passengers-from-january-february-2023/story/>
- Galvez, D. (2023, April 18). Czech Republic eyes expanding migration for Filipino workers. *Inquirer.net*. <https://globalnation.inquirer.net/213525/czech-republic-eyes-expanding-migration-for-filipino-workers>.
- Garner, J. (2023, September 18). Italy ‘slams’ predatory Alpha. *Daily Tribune*. <https://tribune.net.ph/2023/09/italy-embassy-slams-predatory-alpha/>
- Grunau, A. (2023, November 18). Changes to Germany’s skilled immigration rules take effect. *DW*. <https://www.dw.com/en/changes-to-germanys-skilled-immigration-rules-take-effect/a-67458940>
- Human Rights Watch (2020, December 18). Italy: Flawed migrant regularization program. <https://www.hrw.org/news/2020/12/18/italy-flawed-migrant-regularization-program>
- Inter-Agency Council Against Trafficking (2020). Annual Accomplishment Report. <https://iacat.gov.ph/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/2020-IACAT-Annual-TIP-Report-2.pdf>.

- Inter-Agency Council Against Trafficking (2019). Annual Accomplishment Report. <https://iacat.gov.ph/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/2019-IACAT-Annual-TIP-Report-2.pdf>.
- Inter-Agency Council Against Trafficking (2018). Annual Accomplishment Report. <https://iacat.gov.ph/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/2018-IACAT-Annual-TIP-Report-2.pdf>.
- Inter-Agency Council Against Trafficking (2017). Annual Accomplishment Report. <https://iacat.gov.ph/?p=5998>.
- Inter-Agency Council Against Trafficking (2016). Accomplishment Report. <https://iacat.gov.ph/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/2016-IACAT-Annual-TIP-Report-1.pdf>.
- International Organization for Migration (2023). Returning during the pandemic: How overseas Filipino workers navigated reintegration in the Philippines. (Prepared by Maruja MB Asis and Melissa Garabiles). (97 pp) International Organization for Migration.
- International Organization for Migration & Scalabrini Migration Center (2013). Country Migration Report: The Philippines 2013. (Principal authors: Graziano Battistella and Maruja MB Asis) (291 pp) International Organization for Migration and Scalabrini Migration Center.
- Istituto Nazionale di Statistica (2023, October 17). Cittadini Non comunitari in Italia | Anni 2022-2023: Record di nuovi permessi di soggiorno. <https://ec.europa.eu/migrant-integration/system/files/2023-11/REPORT-CITTADINI-NON-COMUNITARI-2023.pdf>.
- Liao, K.A., & Asis, M.M.B. (2020). Back to the Philippines: Connecting aspirations, return and social remittances in international student migration. *Asian and Pacific Migration Journal*, 29(3), 402-421. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0117196820964999>.
- Maas, M. (2011). Filipino immigrant entrepreneurship in the Netherlands: Beyond business. PhD thesis, Radboud University. (319 pp)
- McGovern, C. (2014). Regularization programs within the European Union: An effective tool to manage irregular migration? <https://i.unu.edu/media/gcm.unu.edu/publication/1313/CLAIREreport.pdf>
- Montemayor, M.T. (2023, November 14). Filipino workers preferred for Italy's decreto flussi system. Philippine News Agency. <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1213661>
- Navallo, M. (2023, August 31). DOJ, IACAT suspend new anti-trafficking travel rules. ABS CBN News. <https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/08/31/23/new-anti-trafficking-travel-rules-suspended?fbclid=IwAR0znUKuzpASgVj7FKB7n4kNXfS8n50khWrp9v5E4w8p5Vuvm-7638UbqRg>

- Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development & Scalabrini Migration Center (2017). *Interrelations between Public Policies, Migration and Development in the Philippines*. (179 pp) Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development & Scalabrini Migration Center.
- Philippine Statistics Authority (2017). Approving and Adopting the Operational Framework for Counting Overseas Filipinos and International Migrants. PSA Board Resolution No. 07, Series of 2017. <https://psa.gov.ph/system/files/psa-board/scan0127.pdf>.
- Philstar.com (2022, April 12). How to become a resident and citizen of Portugal. <https://www.philstar.com/business/biz-memos/2022/04/12/2171010/how-become-resident-and-citizen-portugal>
- Positively Filipino (2013, September 25). Know your diaspora: Germany. *Positively Filipino*. <https://www.positivelyfilipino.com/magazine/know-your-diaspora-germany>
- Reiterer, G. (2008). Filipino Austrians: Transforming identities and changing selfhood in transition. *Philippine Sociological Review*, 56, 36-55
- Rocamora, J.A.L. (2023, Germany, PH in talks to streamline recruitment of OFWs. *Philippine News Agency*. <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1213305>
- Rocamora, J.A.L. (2019, February 22). Filipinos working long term in Czech Rep grows 43%. *Philippine News Agency*. <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1062664>
- Santos, R. (2023, January 30). OFW deployment dips below 1 million for 3rd year. *The Philippine Star*. <https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2023/01/30/2241159/ofw-deployment-dips-below-1-million-3rd-year>
- Scalabrini Migration Center (2021, May 26). *The ban on direct hiring of overseas Filipino workers: Policy review and moving forward*. Final report submitted to the International Organization for Migration (Prepared by Maruja MB Asis). https://philippines.iom.int/sites/g/files/tmzbd11651/files/documents/iom_direct-hiring-report.pdf.
- Valmonte, K. (2023, January 17). German envoy: Hiring health workers part of agreement with Philippines, not 'piracy.' *Philstar.com*. <https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2023/01/17/2238233/german-envoy-hiring-health-workers-part-agreement-philippines-not-piracy>
- Verite (2021, March). Assessing Labor Risks for Workers Migrating from the Philippines to Europe. *Verite*. https://verite.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Labor-Risk-Philippines-to-Europe_Verite-March-2021.pdf

Villaroya Soler, E. (2010). Filipino Migrants in Spain as Potential Agents of Change. In F. Baggio, *Brick by Brick: Building Cooperation between the Philippines and Migrants' Associations in Italy and Spain* (pp. 255-336). Scalabrini Migration Center.

Visa Guide.World (2023). Visa Free Countries for Filipino Passport Holders. <https://visaguide.world/visa-free-countries/filipino-passport/>

Zanfrini, L., & Sarli, A. (2010). What Are the Opportunities for Mobilizing the Filipino Diaspora in Italy Lessons from the MAPID Project. In F. Baggio, *Brick by Brick: Building Cooperation between the Philippines and Migrants' Associations in Italy and Spain* (pp.139-254). Scalabrini Migration Center.

Annexes

Annex 1 – Employment Visa Policies

Annex 1.1. Employment Visa Policy (Subordinate Employment) of Italy for Filipinos

<i>Guarantees</i>	<i>Actors</i>	<i>Characteristics</i>	<i>Temporality</i>
<p>Applicants for an Italian National Visa-D must submit the following: a duly filled application form; recent ICAO biometric photos with white background; old and current travel documents (expiry date of the current valid passport must be at least three months longer than the visa requested; photocopies of the biographical page of the valid passport, previous visas, and immigration stamps from all countries; a proof of flight reservation; Nulla Osta al Lavoro Subordinato (Authorisation, permit) issued by competent Italian authorities, in this case, the Sportello Unico Immigrazione.</p>	<p>In the Philippines:</p> <p>Visa Information and Application Center (VIA)</p> <p>Italian Embassy in Manila</p> <p>In Italy:</p> <p>Sportello Unico Immigrazione (SUI)</p> <p>Employer</p> <p>The Philippine Embassy and the Migrant Workers Office in Rome</p> <p>The Philippine Consulate General and the Migrant Workers Office in Milan</p>		<p>A National Visa-D visa holder can enter and stay in Italy for more than 90 days.</p> <p>Once the visa holders are already in Italy, they have to apply for Permesso di Soggiorno (temporary residence permit) card or the residence permit within 8 days.</p>
<i>Themes</i>			
Benefits	Penalties	Forgiveness	Referrals
<p>Visa holders can stay in Italy for more than 90 days and can work</p>			

Compiled from:

Ministero degli Affari Esteri e della Cooperazione Internazionale: https://www.esteri.it/en/servizi-consolari-e-visti/ingressosoggiornoitalia/visto_ingresso/tipologie_visto_durata/
 Visa guide: <https://visaguide.world/europe/italy-visa/long-stay/work/>

Annex 1.2. Employment Visa Policy of Germany for Filipinos

<i>Guarantees</i>	<i>Actors</i>	<i>Characteristics</i>	<i>Temporality</i>
<p>Applicants for employment in Germany (Long-Term) Visa must submit the following documents: a valid passport; duly filled application form; biometric photos; proof of payment of visa fees; birth certificate issued and certified by the PSA; Diploma and Certificate of Recognition from German Authorities; employment contract; pre-approval document for accelerated procedure for skilled workers; proof of health insurance.</p> <p>For Nurses with professional credentials already recognised by German authorities, at least B2 level of German language is required.</p> <p>The residence and work permits shall be secured once the visa holders are already in Germany.</p>	<p>In the Philippines:</p> <p>German Embassy in Manila</p> <p>Philippine Statistics Authority</p> <p>In Germany:</p> <p>German Immigration Authority Office (Ausländerbehörde).</p> <p>German Federal Ministry of Education and Research and the Central Office for Foreign Education ("Zentralstelle für ausländisches Bildungswesen" or ZAB)</p> <p>Employer in Germany for the issuance of employment contract</p> <p>The Philippine Embassy and Migrant Workers Office in Berlin</p> <p>The Philippine Consulate General in Frankfurt</p> <p>The Philippine Consulate General in Hamburg</p>	<p><i>Age</i></p> <p>If the applicant is over 45 years old with a gross monthly salary below EUR 4,015, he or she may need to submit proof of appropriate pension.</p> <p><i>Education</i></p> <p>The applicant's education and professional credentials must be recognised by German authorities before or during the application. Applicants whose foreign degrees are recognised as comparable to vocational studies in Germany may apply for a "Visa for qualified labour with vocational education." Applicants whose foreign degrees and education units are comparable to Germany's and are recognised may apply for a "Visa for qualified labour with academic education."</p>	<p>Long Term National Visa holders are allowed to enter and stay in Germany for more than 90 days for the purpose of work.</p>
<i>Themes</i>			
Benefits	Penalties	Forgiveness	Referrals
<p>Long-term National Visa holders can enter and stay in Germany for more than 90 days for the purpose of work.</p>			<p>Long Term National Visa holders whose vocational education and credentials have been certified by German authorities as equivalent to professional degrees in Germany can acquire a visa for qualified labour with academic education and EU Blue Card.</p>

--	--	--	--

Compiled from:

German Embassy in Manila: <https://manila.diplo.de/ph-en/service/visa/-/2536778>

Germany Visa: <https://www.germany-visa.org/immigration/working-germany-getting-german-work-permit/#:~:text=You%20don't%20have%20to,German%20Embassy%20or%20Consulate%20abroad.>

Annex 1.3. Employee Visa Policy of Czechia for Filipinos

<i>Guarantees</i>	<i>Actors</i>	<i>Characteristics</i>	<i>Temporality</i>
<p>Applicants for an Employee Card (Employment visa) must submit the following: a valid travel document; proof of accommodation; passport-sized photos; employment contract from Czech employer and authorised by competent Czech authorities; documents proving professional qualifications; education certificates; NBI clearance/ criminal record; medical certificate; and payment application fee and the employment card</p> <p>All documents must be original.</p> <p>All documents must be in Czech or English</p> <p>A minimum of EUR 60,000 insurance plan is required before the issuance of the visa; this will cover the applicant's transit and first 40 days in the country.</p>	<p>In the Philippines:</p> <p>The Czech Embassy in Manila</p> <p>National Bureau of Investigation</p> <p>In Czechia:</p> <p>Employer</p> <p>The Philippine Embassy in Prague</p>	<p><i>Education</i></p> <p>The applicant's education certificates must be comparable with the education requirements in Czechia, particularly for those applying to "regulated occupations" (mostly high-skill jobs).</p>	<p>Employee Card (Long-Term Visa) visa holders can stay in Czechia for more than 90 days for the purpose of employment.</p> <p>A Blue Card is given to foreigners who acquired or had been promoted to a job that requires professional and high qualifications</p>
<i>Themes</i>			
Benefits	Penalties	Forgiveness	Referrals

<p>If granted an Employee or Blue Card, the visa holder can enter and stay in Czechia for more than 90 days for the purpose of work. The validity of the Employee Card or Blue Card depends on the contract submitted to the Embassy.</p>		<p>If their contracts have already expired, they can renew their employment cards by renewing their contracts with the same companies they have worked with or in another company.</p>	
---	--	--	--

Compiled from:

Ministry of Interior of the Czech Republic: <https://www.mvcr.cz/mvcren/article/employee-card-682810.aspx>

Embassy of the Czech Republic in Manila:

https://www.mzv.cz/manila/en/visa_and_consular_services/visa_information/long_term_visa_stay_of_more_than_90_days/employee_card/index.html

Official Web Portals for Foreigners Who are Living, or wish to live, in the Czech Republic:

<https://frs.gov.cz/en/visa-and-residence-permit-types/third-country-nationals/long-term-residence-permits/blue-card/>

Ministerstvo Vnitra Ceske Republiky: <https://www.mvcr.cz/docDetail.aspx?docid=21672758 anddocType=ART andchnum=3>

Annex 2 – Family Reunification Policies

Annex 2.1. Family Reunification Policy of Italy for Filipinos

<i>Guarantees</i>	<i>Actors</i>	<i>Characteristics</i>	<i>Temporality</i>
<p>Applicants for a long-term visa to unite with family members in Italy must submit the following: a duly filled application form; biometric photos (passport size); valid travel document that has a longer validity period than the visa requested; old travel documents if available; a photocopy of the biographical page of the valid travel document; certificate of no impediment (nulla osta) from the Sportello Unico; a photocopy of the valid residence permit of the family member in Italy and other proofs such as Carta d'Identita and the biographical page of the petitioner's passport;</p> <p>Proof of relationship with the petitioner such as the birth certificate of the applicant issued by PSA must be apostilled by the DFA; the marriage certificate issued by the PSA must be apostilled by the DFA</p> <p><i>For Minors</i> If the applicant is travelling to join one parent in Italy, a signed affidavit of consent form by the other parent will be required and must be apostilled by the DFA; if the minor will travel</p>	<p>In the Philippines:</p> <p>Italian Embassy in Manila</p> <p>Visa Information and Application Center (VIA)</p> <p>Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA)</p> <p>Commission on Filipinos Overseas (CFO)</p> <p>Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA)</p> <p>Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD)</p> <p>In Italy:</p> <p>Sportello Unico per l'Immigrazione</p> <p>Municipality of residence by the Petitioner</p> <p>The Philippine Embassy and in Rome</p> <p>The Philippine Consulate General in Milan</p>	<p><i>Petitioned's Age</i> Minors need to meet specific guarantees (see Guarantees).</p> <p><i>The Petitioner</i> A TCN that holds a residence permit in Italy.</p>	<p>Long-Term Visa holders allow entry and stay in Italy for more than 90 days.</p>

<p>alone, a DSWD Travel clearance will be required.</p> <p><i>For Parents</i> Original birth certificate/s of the petitioned and petitioner issued by the PSA and should be apostilled by the DFA; marriage contract by the petitioned issued by the PSA and should be apostilled by the DFA; for widow and widower, a photocopy of the late wife/husband's death certificate issued by the PSA and should be apostilled by the DFA; notarised and DFA apostilled Affidavit of Family Composition</p> <p>Additional documents depending on circumstances include a certificate of pension and proof of remittances, proof of business registration and land titles, and statement of no income from the municipality of residence.</p> <p><i>For Spouse</i> Marriage contract issued by the PSA and apostilled by the DFA; birth certificate issued by the PSA and apostilled by the DFA.</p>			
<i>Themes</i>			
Benefits	Penalties	Forgiveness	Referrals

	<p>If the applicant has been proven to have committed perjury during the application process, it will be a basis for the application to be rejected by the embassy. If discovered and proven after the visa has already been granted, the visa holder will be liable to prosecution under the law of the Member State that processed the visa application.</p>	<p>If the petitioner's residence permit has already expired, he/she must provide a copy of the renewal receipt.</p>	
--	--	---	--

Compiled from:

National Visa (D) Application Form (Italy) [http://www.via.ph/wp-content/uploads/online-application/National-Visa-application-Form-\(fillable\)-Long-Term.pdf](http://www.via.ph/wp-content/uploads/online-application/National-Visa-application-Form-(fillable)-Long-Term.pdf)

Checklist for Family Reunion (Parent/s): http://www.via.ph/wp-content/uploads/CheckList/Longterm-Family-Reunion-Parents_rev.pdf

Checklist for Family Reunion (Minor): http://www.via.ph/wp-content/uploads/CheckList/Longterm-Family-Reunion-Minor_rev.pdf

Checklist for Family Reunion (Spouse): http://www.via.ph/wp-content/uploads/CheckList/Longterm-Family-Reunion-Spouse_rev.pdf

Annex 2.2. Family Reunification Policy of Germany for Filipinos

<i>Guarantees</i>	<i>Actors</i>	<i>Characteristics</i>	<i>Temporality</i>
<p>Applicants for Long Term National Visa for the purpose of family reunification must submit the following: A valid passport; duly filled application forms; biometrical photos; birth certificate issued by the PSA</p> <p><i>If the applicant is the spouse of the sponsor</i> Marriage certificate--if married in the Philippines, a PSA CRS Form No. 5 will be required; if married abroad, PSA CENOMAR will be required; death</p>	<p>In the Philippines:</p> <p>German Embassy in Manila</p> <p>Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA)</p> <p>Commission on Filipinos Overseas (CFO)</p> <p>German Language School in the Philippines</p> <p>In Germany:</p> <p>Federal Printing Office or Municipal/Local Authorities for the German Identity Card for</p>	<p><i>Family Relationship and Age</i></p> <p>Family members are eligible to apply for a family unification visa so long as they are the:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Spouse (2) Children under 21 (major dependents above 21 may be considered for health and other reasons that render them dependent on family support) (3) Parents 	<p>Long-Term National Visa holders are allowed entry and stay in Germany for more than 90 days.</p>

<p>certificate of the deceased spouse if previously married; A1 language certificate; German Identity Card of the German spouse in Germany; If the spouse is not German but an EU national, a copy of passport plus current residence certificate will be required; if non-EU citizen, a copy of the residence permit card.</p> <p><i>If the applicant is applying to unify to or with a German child</i> If the child is born within marriage, a certificate of marriage is required; the child's birth certificate if born in the Philippines; if the child is born outside of marriage, a CENOMAR from PSA and recognition of paternity shall be submitted; the mother's consent of paternity; proof German nationality of the father when the child was born</p> <p><i>Family reunion with unborn child</i> If married and mother of the unborn child, CRS Form No. 5 or Form No. 4 (if married abroad and did not register in the Philippines; if not married, a CRS Form No. 4 and certificate of recognition paternity of the German parent,</p>	<p>German citizens and holders of resident visas in Germany</p> <p>The Philippine Embassy in Berlin</p> <p>The Philippine Consulate General in Frankfurt</p> <p>The Philippine Consulate General in Hamburg</p>		
Themes			
Benefits	Penalties	Forgiveness	Referrals

Long-Term National Visa will allow holders to stay in Germany for more than 90 days.			
--	--	--	--

Compiled from:

German Embassy in Manila. Long Time National Visa applications for the purpose of family unification.

<https://manila.diplo.de/ph-en/service/visa/-/2439020>

Note: In the Philippines’ Civil Registry System, CRS Form No. 4 refers to the Certificate of No Marriage (CENOMAR); CRS Form No. 5 refers to Advisory on Marriage (AOM). CENOMAR certifies that an individual is single and free to marry while AOM “indicates the instance/s when the owner of the certificate was married, to whom, and where. Both certificates are issued by the Philippines Statistics Authority (see <https://psahelpine.ph/blogs/all-the-facts-you-need-to-know-about-the-psa-certificate-of-no-marriage>)

Annex 2.3. Family Reunification Policy of Czechia for Filipinos

<i>Guarantees</i>	<i>Actors</i>	<i>Characteristics</i>	<i>Temporality</i>
Applicants must submit the following: application form; travel document; biometric photos; visa fee; proof of family relationship; monthly income; proof of accommodation; copy of the family member/s’ residence permit in the Czech Republic; Filipino NBI clearance to be apostilled or superlegalised by the Czech Embassy; medical record; and travel health insurance.	<p>In the Philippines:</p> <p>Czech Embassy in Manila</p> <p>Department of Foreign Affairs</p> <p>Commission on Filipinos Overseas</p> <p>National Bureau of Investigation (NBI)</p> <p>In Czechia:</p> <p>Ministry of Interior</p> <p>The Philippine Embassy in Prague</p>	<p><i>Eligible to apply</i></p> <p>Husband/wife of a foreigner who holds a residence permit in Czechia</p> <p>Minor or a major dependent of a Filipino holding a residence permit in Czechia</p> <p>A minor whose parent/s, legal guardian, or a foreigner holding legal custody is in Czechia and hold/s a residence permit.</p> <p>A lone foreigner (Filipino) who is dependent on a family member in Czechia due to health reasons.</p>	Long-term residence permit holders allow stay in Czechia for more than 90 days.
<i>Themes</i>			
Benefits	Penalties	Forgiveness	Referrals

Long-term residence permits will allow applicants to stay in the Czech Republic for more than 90 days.			
--	--	--	--

Compiled from:

Czech Embassy in Manila:

https://www.mzv.cz/manila/en/visa_and_consular_services/visa_information/long_term_visa_stay_of_more_than_90_days/family_unification/index.html#:~:text=If%20you%20want%20to%20apply,relationship%2C%20e.g.%20birth%20certificate

Note: Superlegalised means high ordered validation of documents undertaken by the embassy.

Annex 3 – Student Visa Policies

Annex 3.1. Student Visa Policy of Italy for Filipinos

<i>Guarantees</i>	<i>Actors</i>	<i>Characteristics</i>	<i>Temporality</i>
<p>Applicants for student visas in Italy are expected to submit the following documents to the Visa Information and Application Center (VIA):</p> <p>Duly filled application forms; passport size photos; old and valid passports or travel documents; a photocopy of the biographical page of the valid passport; copy of the travel itinerary, including accommodations; certificate of enrolment in an Italian study course; proof of financial means; travel health insurance of at least EUR 30,000 coverage.</p>	<p>In the Philippines:</p> <p>Italian Embassy in Manila</p> <p>Visa Information and Application (VIA) Center</p> <p>In Italy:</p> <p>Italian university that will provide a certificate or proof of enrolment to a language or professional course</p> <p>The Philippine Embassy and in Rome</p> <p>The Philippine Consulate General in Milan</p>		<p>Long-term visa holders stay in Italy for more than 90 days</p>
<i>Themes</i>			
Benefits	Penalties	Forgiveness	Referrals
<p>Long-term visa holders can stay in Italy for further education.</p>			<p>International students are allowed to have part time work in Italy for a maximum of 20 hours a week for 12 months and shall not exceed 1,040 hours in a year.</p>

Compiled from:

VIA Student visa application link: <http://www.via.ph/wp-content/uploads/CheckList/Longterm-Study-Visa-Long.pdf>.

Annex 3.2. Student Visa Policy of Germany for Filipinos

<i>Guarantees</i>	<i>Actors</i>	<i>Characteristics</i>	<i>Temporality</i>
<p>Applicants for student visas to Germany are required to submit the following documents:</p> <p>Valid passport; duly filled application form; biometrical photos; visa fee; birth certificate issued by the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA); letter of admission of study issued by the German University; confirmation of German language preparatory program or a B2 German language certificate, if the applicant already earned one; high school diploma and diplomas from university/ies; curriculum vitae; motivation letter; proof of finance; proof of blocked account; scholarship from German public funds; proof of health insurance</p>	<p>In the Philippines:</p> <p>German Embassy in Manila</p> <p>Language in Manila (only if the applicant already earned their language in the Philippines prior to the visa application);</p> <p>Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA)</p> <p>In Germany:</p> <p>German university to which the applicant is enrolled.</p> <p>The Philippine Embassy in Berlin</p> <p>The Philippine Consulate General in Frankfurt</p> <p>Annex 1.2. The Philippine Consulate General in Hamburg</p>	<p><i>Proof of Financial Means</i></p> <p>Proof of a blocked bank account under the name of the applicant must provide proof of at least EUR 11,208 in the account.</p> <p>If under a scholarship program, a proof of scholarship grant will be required.</p> <p><i>Health Insurance</i></p> <p>A German statutory health insurance with indicated validity; private health insurance with a validity period; or health insurance coverage for the period between arrival and the start of the semester.</p>	<p>Long term visa holders can stay in Germany for more than 90 days.</p>
<i>Themes</i>			
<p>Benefits</p> <p>Long-term visa holders can stay in Germany for further education.</p>	<p>Penalties</p>	<p>Forgiveness</p>	<p>Referrals</p> <p>TCN students in Germany can work for full-time in 120 days or part time in 240 days.</p> <p>International students who have graduated during their stay in Germany can apply for a “job-seeking visa” to find employment in Germany.</p>

Compiled from:

German Embassy in Manila: <https://manila.diplo.de/ph-en/service/visa/-/2439020?openAccordionId=item-2574696-1-panel>

Schengen Visa: <https://www.schengenvisainfo.com/news/which-eu-countries-allow-non-eu-students-to-work-while-studying-what-are-the-rules/>

German visa: <https://www.germany-visa.org/student-visa/student-visa-visum-zu-studienzwecken/philippines/#:~:text=The%20requirements%20for%20a%20German,a%20student%20health%20insurance%20policy>

Annex 3.3. Student Visa Policy of Czechia for Filipinos

<i>Guarantees</i>	<i>Actors</i>	<i>Characteristics</i>	<i>Temporality</i>
Applicants for student visas to Czechia must submit the following documents: duly filled application form; travel document; biometric photos; proof of visa fee payment; proofs of the purpose of stay, accommodation and financial means; proof of school admission or letter of acceptance; NBI Clearance; parent/legal guardian's consent; travel health insurance; medical records	<p>In the Philippines:</p> <p>Czech Embassy in Manila</p> <p>National Bureau of Investigation (NBI)</p> <p>In Czechia:</p> <p>Czech University</p> <p>The Philippine Embassy in Prague</p>	<p><i>Proof of acceptance in Czech university/institution</i></p> <p>School acceptance letter, proof of enrolment, and other related documents.</p> <p><i>Proof of accommodation</i></p> <p>Such as but not limited to rent agreement, address and proof of ownership of a property, and others.</p> <p><i>Proof of financial means</i></p> <p>It includes bank statements, bank certificates, and credit lines.</p>	Long-term visa holders can stay in Czechia for more than 90 days.
<i>Themes</i>			
Benefits Long-term visas allow visa holders to stay in Czechia for more than 90 days for further education.	Penalties	Forgiveness	Referrals TCN students are allowed to have part-time work in Czech Republic if they are at least 26 years old and currently enrolled to a professional course/program in a university. Part-time work shall not be seven consecutive days or 30 consecutive days in a single year.

Compiled from:

Czech Embassy in Manila:

https://www.mzv.cz/manila/en/visa_and_consular_services/visa_information/long_term_visa_stay_of_more_than_90_days/study_long_term/index.html

Appointment form:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc8IUxdmrMe6r2PMgwOdNdjp86c7YMULYqNBrIreXIMVgs0Bw/closedform>

Study in Czechia: [https://www.studyin.cz/live-](https://www.studyin.cz/live-work/work/#:~:text=Third%2Dcountry%20students%20who%20come,days%20within%20a%20calendar%20year)

[work/work/#:~:text=Third%2Dcountry%20students%20who%20come,days%20within%20a%20calendar%20year](https://www.studyin.cz/live-work/work/#:~:text=Third%2Dcountry%20students%20who%20come,days%20within%20a%20calendar%20year).

Annex 4 – Tourism Policies

Annex 4.1. Tourism Policy of Italy for Filipinos

<i>Guarantees</i>	<i>Actors</i>	<i>Characteristics</i>	<i>Temporality</i>
<p>Applicants for a Schengen Short-Term Visa must comply with/submit the following: standard passport-size photos; travel document with at least 6 months of validity from the target date of departure; birth certificate; bank certification and statement proving the economic means of the applicant and their family (if applicable); leave of absence; copy of income tax return; proof of accommodation in Italy; travel health insurance with at least EUR 30, 000 coverage</p> <p>For minors travelling alone, clearance from the DSWD; for those travelling with the mother, the father’s consent is not required if the father is not on the child’s birth certificate; otherwise, a child travelling with one parent must have a written consent form from the non-travelling parent is required.</p> <p>For families travelling together: marriage contract and birth certificates issued by the PSA.</p>	<p>In the Philippines:</p> <p>Visa Information and Application Center (VIA)</p> <p>Italian Embassy</p> <p>Department of Social Welfare and Development</p> <p>Philippine Statistics Authority</p> <p>In Italy:</p> <p>The Philippine Embassy and in Rome</p> <p>The Philippine Consulate General in Milan</p>	<p><i>Age</i></p> <p>Minors need parental consent and/or DSWD clearance (see Guarantees)</p> <p><i>Financial capacity</i></p> <p>Applicants must have financial means – as shown by their bank statement, credit card, and income -- to cover their stay in Italy and health coverage should they require medical care in Italy.</p>	<p>Short-Term Schengen Visa allows a stay of up to 90 days within 180 days i or every 180 days in Italy for multiple entry visas (and the Schengen area)</p>
<i>Themes</i>			
Benefits	Penalties	Forgiveness	Referrals

Those granted a Short-Term Schengen Visa are allowed free mobility within the Schengen area	For applicants who committed perjury in their application: the application will be revoked for those who have yet to receive their visa; those who were granted a visa will be subject to the laws of Italy.		
---	--	--	--

Compiled from:

Visa Information and Application Center (Italy) <http://www.via.ph/italy/>
Harmonized Application Form for Schengen Visa [http://www.via.ph/wp-content/uploads/online-application/Nuovo-Modello-Visto-Uniforme-EN-\(Application-form-for-Schengen-fillable\)-Short-Term.pdf](http://www.via.ph/wp-content/uploads/online-application/Nuovo-Modello-Visto-Uniforme-EN-(Application-form-for-Schengen-fillable)-Short-Term.pdf)

Annex 4.2. Tourism Policy of Germany for Filipinos

<i>Guarantees</i>	<i>Actors</i>	<i>Characteristics</i>	<i>Temporality</i>
<p>Applicants for a Schengen Short-Term Visa are required to submit the following: standard passport-size photos following the conventions set by the European Union; a travel document with at least 6 months of validity from the target date of departure; bank certification and statements proving economic means of the applicant and their family (if applicable); sponsorship letter (if applicable); if employed: certificate of employment; leave of absence from employer or company; certificate of income tax return if self-employed; proof of accommodation in Germany; travel health insurance of at least EUR 30, 000 coverage.</p> <p>For minors travelling with only one parent, a written consent form from a non-</p>	<p>In the Philippines:</p> <p>VFS Global Center (VFS)</p> <p>German Embassy in Manila</p> <p>Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD)</p> <p>Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA)</p> <p>In Germany:</p> <p>The Philippine Embassy in Berlin</p> <p>The Philippine Consulate General in Frankfurt</p> <p>The Philippine Consulate General in Hamburg</p>	<p><i>Financial capacity</i></p> <p>The applicant must have enough financial means to cover their stay in Germany. Financial means will reflect on the presented bank statements, credit records, and regular income.</p> <p><i>Civil Status</i></p> <p>If travelling with spouse and/or children, a copy of the marriage contract and/or birth certificates proving family relationship.</p> <p>If the applicant is married, a certificate of marriage issued by the PSA must be submitted to the Embassy</p> <p><i>Sponsor in Germany</i></p> <p>If the travel expenses will be sponsored by a family member who is a TCN, German, and/or EU citizen living in Germany, a copy of the sponsorship letter will be required and</p>	<p>A Schengen Short Term visa allows a stay of up to 90 days within 180 days or every 180 days for multiple entry visas in Germany (and the Schengen area)</p>

travelling parent or the death certificate of the other parent will be required. If the minor is travelling alone, a DSWD clearance will be required. Additional requirements for families travelling together: marriage contract and birth certificates issued by the PSA.		birth certificate and/or marriage certificate issued by the competent authorities in Germany or a third country.	
Themes			
Benefits Those granted a Short-Term Schengen Visa are allowed free mobility within the Schengen area	Penalties For applicants who committed perjury in their application: the application will be revoked for those who have yet to receive their visa; for those who were granted a visa, they will be subject to the laws of Germany.	Forgiveness	Referrals

Compiled from:

German Embassy in Manila <https://manila.diplo.de/ph-en/service/visa/-/2543948>

Application form portal: <https://videx.diplo.de/videx/visum-erfassung/#/videx-kurzfristiger-aufenthalt>

VFS Global Center's Portal: <https://visa.vfsglobal.com/one-pager/germany/Philippines/english/>

Note: The embassy has the following visa fee schedule for accompanying children: no visa fee for children below six years old; EUR 40 for children 6-12 years; and EUR 80 for 13 years old and above.

Annex 4.3. Tourism Policy of Czechia for Filipinos

Guarantees	Actors	Characteristics	Temporality
Applicants for a Short-Term Schengen Visa must submit the following: standard passport-size photos; travel document with at least 3 months of validity from the target date of departure; birth certificate; bank certification and statement proving economic means	In the Philippines: VFS Global Center (VFS) Czech Embassy Department of Social Welfare and Development	<i>Financial capacity</i> Applicants must have financial means – as shown by their bank statement, credit card, and income -- to cover their stay and health coverage should they require medical care in the Czech Republic. <i>Ties in the Philippines</i>	A short-term Schengen Visa allows a stay of up to 90 days within 180 days in Czechia and every 180 days for multiple entry visas (and the Schengen area)

<p>of the applicant and their family (if applicable); proof of accommodation in Czechia; travel health insurance with at least EUR 30, 000 coverage; roundtrip flight reservation</p> <p>For those employed: certificate of employment; leave of absence; copy of income tax return</p> <p>For business owners: Business papers (SEC/DTI Certification)</p> <p>For minors travelling alone, clearance from the DSWD; for those travelling with the mother, the father’s consent is not required if the father is not on the child’s birth certificate; otherwise, a child travelling with one parent, with only one parent, a written consent form from a non-travelling parent will be required. If the minor is travelling alone, a DSWD clearance will be required. The applicant will also be asked to provide a copy of legal guardian or parent/s’ passports, and birth certificates certified by the PSA.</p> <p>For families travelling together: marriage contract and birth certificates certified by the PSA.</p>	<p>Philippine Statistics Authority</p> <p>In Czechia:</p> <p>The Philippine Embassy in Prague</p>	<p>For students: the applicant must submit a certificate of enrollment</p> <p>For those employed in the Philippines: the applicant must submit a certificate of employment</p>	
Themes			
Benefits	Penalties	Forgiveness	Referrals

<p>Those granted a short-term Schengen Visa will be eligible to travel within the Schengen Area.</p>	<p>For applicants who committed perjury in their application: the application will be revoked for those who have yet to receive their visa; for those who were granted a visa, they will be subject to the laws of the Czech Republic.</p>		
--	--	--	--

Compiled from:

Czech Embassy in Manila Consular Office:

https://www.mzv.cz/manila/en/visa_and_consular_services/visa_information/schengen Visa stay of up to 90 days/tourism health spa tourism medical/index.html

VFS Czech Republic: <https://visa.vfsglobal.com/one-pager/Czechrepublic/Philippines/English/pdf/Documents-Required.pdf>

Application form: https://www.mzv.cz/jnp/en/information_for aliens/visa_form/index.html