

Assessment of the existing services for skilled migrant workers in the Philippines

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A report prepared for the EU-ILO Project on “Decent Work Across Borders: A Pilot project for Migrant Health Professionals and Skilled Workers”, Manila, Philippines The migration of health professionals is a growing trend in a world where the health labour market is getting increasingly more global. For years, Filipino health workers, mostly nurses, have been working in hospitals and other health-care institutions around the world. Traditional destinations such as the Middle East and the United States are now being joined by newer destinations such as the United Kingdom, Ireland, Norway, Finland and the Netherlands as the main sources of employment for Filipino health professionals. Given the size and the importance of migration for the country over the past thirty years, the Philippines government has developed explicit policies geared toward the protection of its migration population. The private sector, especially the recruitment industry, has also developed services that cater to the needs of its clientele. For its pro-active stance on migration, the Philippines is often hailed as a good model in terms of migration governance. Services designed for a particular profile of migrants may not respond to the exact needs of skilled migrants. Skilled and health professional migrants in particular face specific migration issues. In this context, and as part of its European Union-funded Decent Work Across Borders project, the ILO commissioned this assessment of services to skilled migrants. The research makes an important contribution to the understanding of the services available to overseas Filipino workers, including migrant health professionals. It covers a wide range of services provided by state and non-state institutions, from pre-departure training to return and reintegration in the Philippines. It also offers a rich collection of information on the

mandate of all state institutions providing services, as well as selected non-state institutions and business enterprises. Particularly valuable are the details provided on the various legislations pertaining to migrant workers.

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