2026; 2-5 | pp.174-182

Journal of International Law and Global Policy

Volume 2, Issue 5, October, 2026
(An Academians Publishers of Research & Academic Resources)

ISSN: 3121-9462 (Online)
ISSN: 3121-9470 (Print)

Research Article

Beyond Borders: Bangladeshi Migration, Cultural Exchange and Political-Economic Integration in Europe

Md. Nobir Hossain[1]*, Shohel Rana[2], Md. Ismail Hossain[1], and Md. Al Amin[1]

[1] Department of Political Science, University of Barishal, Bangladesh
[2] Department of Mass Communication and Journalism, University of Barishal, Bangladesh

Abstract: Bangladeshi migration to Europe is an important part of the changing relationship between Bangladesh and European societies. Migration is not only a movement of people for employment or economic opportunity; it also creates social, cultural, political and economic connections across borders. This study examines how Bangladeshi migration contributes to cultural exchange, political participation and economic integration in Europe. It uses a qualitative documentary approach and applies transnationalism as its main conceptual perspective. The study draws on academic research and official sources from the European Union and the International Labour Organization. The analysis focuses on four connected dimensions: migration, cultural exchange, political participation and economic integration. Existing research shows that Bangladeshi migration to Europe has become increasingly diverse, including onward migration and new mobility routes through different parts of Europe (Della Puppa, 2024; Mucha & Stojanov, 2026). At the same time, Bangladeshi migrants can maintain cultural and social connections with Bangladesh while developing new forms of belonging in Europe (Morad et al., 2024). Current EU–Bangladesh cooperation, including the Talent Partnership, also shows the growing importance of legal labour mobility and skills development (European Commission, 2024). The study argues that Bangladeshi migration contributes to a broader transnational relationship connecting Bangladesh and Europe through people, culture, politics and economic activity.

Keywords: *Bangladeshi migration, Europe, cultural exchange, political participation, economic integration, transnationalism, Bangladesh-Europe relations*

1. Introduction

International migration has become an important part of contemporary global society. People move across borders for employment, education, family reasons, security and better opportunities. However, migration does not end when people reach a new country. Migrants can continue to maintain relationships with their countries of origin while participating in the societies where they live. This creates social, cultural, political and economic connections across national borders.

Bangladesh is an important country of origin for international migration. Bangladeshi migration to Europe has developed through different historical periods and geographical routes. The United Kingdom became an important destination through earlier migration, while Italy, Spain, Greece and Portugal became increasingly important destinations from the late twentieth century. More recently, Bangladeshi migration has also expanded into Central and Eastern Europe. Research describes these movements as increasingly complex, including onward migration between European countries (Della Puppa, 2024; Mucha & Stojanov, 2026).

The changing pattern of migration is important because it demonstrates that migration cannot always be understood through a simple model of Bangladesh to Europe. Some migrants may move through several countries, while others develop long-term social and family relationships in Europe. Recent research on Bangladeshi migration also shows that migration decisions can be influenced by aspirations for social mobility and better economic and social opportunities,

Received: 26 August, 2026; Accepted: 25 September, 2026; Available Online: 09 October, 2026
Corresponding Author: Md. Nobir Hossain
© 2026 by the authors. This work is distributed under the Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License (CC BY 4.0).

while structural constraints can affect the available migration routes (Sikder et al., 2025).

Migration also creates cultural connections. Bangladeshi migrants may maintain Bengali language, traditions, food, family relationships and community networks while adapting to European social environments. Research on Italian Bangladeshis demonstrates that migrants can maintain transnational attachments to Bangladesh and the wider Bangladeshi diaspora while developing different forms of belonging across European locations (Morad et al., 2024).

The political dimension is also important. Migrants can participate in civic and community life in Europe while continuing to follow political developments and maintain social or political connections with Bangladesh. Therefore, political participation does not necessarily stop at the national border. Instead, migration can create forms of political engagement that connect the country of origin and the country of residence.

The economic dimension is particularly visible in current Bangladesh–EU cooperation. The European Union and Bangladesh have developed a Talent Partnership focusing on skills development and legal labour mobility. In July 2024, the European Commission launched a €3 million programme under this partnership to support skills development, training, skills recognition and legal mobility from Bangladesh to EU Member States. The programme is implemented by the International Labour Organization and runs from July 2024 to June 2027 (European Commission, 2024).

The EU also describes Bangladesh as a major country of origin, transit and destination for migrants and refugees and notes that the EU–Bangladesh Migration and Mobility Dialogue, launched in 2022, covers issues including migration management, trafficking, smuggling, border management and legal migration.

Despite this growing relationship, much of the existing research examines migration, culture, political participation and economic integration separately. There is therefore a need for an integrated approach that considers how these dimensions interact. This study addresses that gap by examining Bangladeshi migration through a transnational framework.

The main research question is:

How does Bangladeshi migration contribute to cultural exchange, political participation and economic integration in Europe, and what does this reveal about the changing Bangladesh–Europe relationship?

The study argues that migration creates more than economic links. It also produces cultural, political and social connections that contribute to a wider transnational relationship between Bangladesh and Europe. The following sections examine this argument through the migration context, existing literature, conceptual framework, methodology and thematic analysis.

2. Bangladesh-Europe Migration Context

2.1 Bangladeshi Migration to Europe

Bangladeshi migration to Europe has developed through different routes and historical periods. The United Kingdom became an important destination through earlier migration, while Southern European countries such as Italy, Spain, Portugal and Greece later became significant destinations. More recent research also shows growing Bangladeshi mobility through Central and Eastern Europe. These movements demonstrate that Bangladeshi migration is not a single or uniform process (Della Puppa, 2024; Mucha & Stojanov, 2026).

Migration decisions are also influenced by aspirations for better economic and social opportunities. However, migrants do not always have complete freedom to choose their destinations or migration routes. Economic resources, migration policies, networks and access to legal pathways can shape the options available to them (Sikder et al., 2025).

Therefore, Bangladeshi migration to Europe should be understood as a combination of mobility, aspirations, social networks and structural conditions.

2.2 Bangladesh-Europe Relations

The relationship between Bangladesh and Europe extends beyond migration. The European Union and Bangladesh have developed cooperation in areas including trade, development, governance, education and migration. EU-Bangladesh diplomatic relations date back to 1973, and people-to-people contacts have become an important part of the broader relationship.

Migration is particularly important because it connects institutions and societies at the same time. Bangladeshi migrants contribute to European labour markets while maintaining social, family and economic relationships with Bangladesh. The EU also identifies migration and legal mobility as important areas of cooperation with Bangladesh. (European External Action Service, 2026).

2.3 EU–Bangladesh Migration and Mobility Cooperation

A major recent development was the launch of the EU-Bangladesh Migration and Mobility Dialogue in 2022. The dialogue covers migration governance, irregular migration, trafficking and smuggling, border management, return and readmission, and legal migration pathways.

Another important development is the EU–Bangladesh Talent Partnership. The partnership focuses on skills development and labour mobility and has identified sectors such as ICT, construction, textiles and garments, shipbuilding, agriculture and hospitality and tourism as areas of cooperation. (European Commission, n.d.).

In July 2024, the European Commission announced a €3 million programme to support the Talent Partnership with Bangladesh. Implemented by the International Labour Organization, the programme focuses on skills

development, skills recognition and legal and safe labour mobility. (European Commission, 2024; International Labour Organization, 2024). (home-affairs.ec.europa.eu)

This policy development demonstrates that migration is increasingly becoming an institutional part of Bangladesh-EU relations rather than only an individual or household decision.

3. Literature Review

3.1 Migration and Transnationalism

Traditional migration theories often focus on movement from an origin country to a destination country. The concept of transnationalism provides a broader perspective. It recognises that migrants can maintain continuing social, cultural, political and economic relationships with their countries of origin while living in another country.

This approach is particularly relevant to Bangladeshi migration in Europe. Morad et al. (2024) show that Italian Bangladeshis maintain transnational attachments involving language, culture, traditions and values while developing forms of belonging across Italy, the United Kingdom and other European spaces. Their findings demonstrate that migration can produce multiple and interconnected forms of belonging rather than a complete break with the country of origin.

Similarly, research on Bangladeshi migrants relocating from Italy to London shows that migration within Europe can itself become part of migrants' longer-term mobility strategies (Della Puppa & King, 2019).

Thus, transnationalism provides a useful framework for understanding why migration can continue to influence relationships between Bangladesh and Europe even after migrants have settled in Europe.

3.2 Cultural Exchange and Integration

Cultural exchange is another important dimension of Bangladeshi migration.

Migrants may maintain Bengali language, food, traditions, family relationships and community practices while participating in European social environments. Community organisations and migrant networks can provide important spaces for maintaining cultural connections.

However, cultural exchange should not be understood as a simple process in which migrants either preserve their original culture or completely assimilate into European society. Instead, migrants can adapt cultural practices and develop new forms of identity and belonging.

Research on Bangladeshis in Italy demonstrates the importance of community organisation, transnational connections and cultural identity in migrants' experiences (Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Asian History, 2024). Morad et al. (2024) similarly show that transnational cultural attachments can continue across European countries.

This suggests that migration can create a two-way cultural process: Bangladeshi cultural practices become part of European social environments, while migrants are also influenced by their experiences in Europe.

3.3 Political Participation and Transnational Engagement

Political participation is often understood through formal activities such as voting or membership in political parties. However, migrants can participate politically through a wider range of activities, including community organisations, civil society, demonstrations, political communication and diaspora networks.

For Bangladeshi migrants, political connections may extend in both directions. Migrants can develop relationships with political and civic institutions in Europe while continuing to follow political developments in Bangladesh.

Earlier research on Bangladeshi immigrants in Italy identified the importance of community organisation and political relationships at the local level (Knights, 1996). This supports a broader understanding of migrant political participation that goes beyond formal electoral participation.

A transnational perspective is therefore useful because it allows political engagement to be examined across both the country of residence and the country of origin.

3.4 Economic Integration and Labour Mobility

Economic integration is a central part of migration. Employment connects migrants to European labour markets, while migrants can maintain economic relationships with Bangladesh through remittances, family support, entrepreneurship and transnational networks.

However, economic integration is not automatically equal for all migrants. Legal status, occupation, qualifications, skills recognition, recruitment systems and labour-market conditions can influence migrants' experiences.

Recent EU–Bangladesh cooperation shows a growing policy focus on skills and legal labour mobility. The Talent Partnership seeks to connect Bangladeshi skills development with European labour-market needs and to strengthen legal migration pathways (European Commission, 2024; International Labour Organization, 2024).

Therefore, economic integration should be understood not only as employment but also as a wider relationship involving skills, mobility, qualifications and economic networks.

3.5 Linking the Four Dimensions

The literature indicates that migration, culture, politics and economics are closely connected.

Migration creates physical mobility.

Transnationalism explains continuing cross-border relationships.

Cultural exchange describes interaction between Bangladeshi and European societies.

Political participation explains migrants' relationships with civic and political institutions.

Economic integration describes participation in European labour markets and wider economic connections.

These dimensions can influence each other. For example, employment can create social networks; social networks can support cultural activities; community organisations can create opportunities for civic participation; and economic resources can influence migrants' ability to participate in wider society.

The study therefore treats the four dimensions as interconnected rather than completely separate.

4. Research Gap

Existing literature provides valuable knowledge about Bangladeshi migration to Europe, particularly regarding migration routes, aspirations, transnational belonging, cultural identity, community organisation, onward migration and labour-market experiences.

However, these issues are often examined separately. Some studies focus primarily on migration and mobility, others on cultural belonging, political participation or economic integration.

There is therefore a need for an integrated approach that examines these dimensions together.

This study addresses that gap by using transnationalism as a connecting framework and examining four dimensions simultaneously:

Bangladeshi Migration → Cultural Exchange → Political Participation → Economic Integration

The study then asks how these processes contribute to the wider Bangladesh–Europe relationship.

This integrated approach also makes the study relevant to European Studies because it connects migration with European society, politics, culture and labour markets rather than treating migration only as a demographic or economic issue.

5. Research Questions

The main research question is:

How does Bangladeshi migration contribute to cultural exchange, political participation and economic integration in Europe, and what does this reveal about the changing Bangladesh-Europe relationship?

The study addresses four sub-questions:

How does Bangladeshi migration contribute to cultural exchange between Bangladesh and European societies?

How do Bangladeshi migrants participate in political and civic life in Europe while maintaining connections with Bangladesh?

How does migration contribute to economic integration through employment, skills and labour mobility?

How do these cultural, political and economic connections contribute to the broader Bangladesh–Europe relationship?

6. Research Objectives

The main objective is to examine how Bangladeshi migration creates cultural, political and economic connections between Bangladesh and Europe.

The specific objectives are:

To examine the changing patterns of Bangladeshi migration to Europe.

To analyse cultural exchange and transnational belonging among Bangladeshi migrants.

To examine migrants' political and civic participation in Europe and their connections with Bangladesh.

To analyse the economic dimensions of migration, particularly employment, skills and labour mobility.

To understand how these processes contribute to the broader Bangladesh–Europe relationship.

7. Conceptual Framework

7.1 Transnationalism

The main concept of this study is transnationalism. Transnationalism helps explain how migrants can participate in more than one social space at the same time. Levitt and Glick Schiller (2004) describe transnational social fields as networks of relationships connecting people and institutions across national borders. They also argue that participation in a host society and continuing ties with the country of origin are not necessarily opposites.

This concept is particularly appropriate for Bangladeshi migration to Europe because migrants may live and work in Europe while maintaining family, cultural, social, political and economic connections with Bangladesh.

Therefore, this study understands migration not simply as:

Bangladesh → Europe

but as:

Bangladesh ↔ Europe

7.2 Four Analytical Dimensions

The conceptual framework contains four connected dimensions.

1. Migration

Migration is the starting point. It creates physical mobility between Bangladesh and Europe and can involve different routes, destinations and forms of onward mobility.

2. Cultural Exchange

Migration brings Bangladeshi cultural practices into European social environments while migrants are also influenced by European societies. Language, traditions, food, community activities and identity are therefore important elements of cultural exchange.

3. Political Participation

Migrants may participate in European civic and political life while maintaining political interests and relationships with Bangladesh. Political participation is understood broadly, including community organisations, civic activities, political communication and diaspora networks.

4. Economic Integration

Migration connects Bangladeshi migrants with European labour markets. Employment, skills, qualification recognition, entrepreneurship and labour mobility are therefore important elements of economic integration.

The overall framework is:

Bangladeshi Migration
↓
Transnational Connections
↓
Cultural Exchange + Political Participation + Economic Integration
↓
Changing Bangladesh–Europe Relationship

The four dimensions are not treated as completely separate. For example, employment can create social networks, community networks can support cultural activities, and community participation can create opportunities for civic engagement.

8. Methodology

8.1 Research Design

This study uses a qualitative documentary research design. A qualitative approach is appropriate because the study seeks to understand processes and relationships rather than statistically measure the behaviour of all Bangladeshi migrants in Europe.

The research does not claim to represent every Bangladeshi migrant. Instead, it examines patterns identified in existing academic research and official institutional documents.

8.2 Data Sources

The study uses three main types of secondary sources:

Academic literature: peer-reviewed journal articles, scholarly books and research on migration, transnationalism, Bangladeshi migrants, cultural identity, political participation and labour mobility.

European and international institutional sources: documents from the European Commission, European External Action Service and International Labour Organization, particularly for current migration and labour-mobility policies.

Relevant Bangladeshi institutional information: material concerning migration, skills and overseas employment where it directly supports the research questions.

Official sources are particularly important for current policy issues such as the EU–Bangladesh Talent Partnership.

8.3 Data Analysis

The study uses thematic analysis to identify major patterns across the selected literature and documents. Braun and Clarke (2006) describe thematic analysis as a flexible method for identifying and analysing patterns or themes within qualitative material.

The analysis is organised around four themes:

Migration and mobility

Cultural exchange

Political participation

Economic integration

After examining each theme, the study considers how the four dimensions interact and contribute to the wider Bangladesh–Europe relationship.

8.4 Limitations

The study has several limitations. First, it relies on secondary sources and therefore does not provide original interview or survey data. Second, Bangladeshi migrants are not a homogeneous group; experiences differ according to country, legal status, occupation, education, gender and migration pathway. Third, European countries have different migration and labour-market systems, so findings from one country cannot automatically be generalised to all of Europe.

Finally, some current policy initiatives, particularly the EU–Bangladesh Talent Partnership, are still being implemented. Therefore, this study distinguishes between policy objectives and demonstrated outcomes.

9. Analysis and Findings

This section applies the transnational framework to four connected dimensions: migration, cultural exchange, political participation and economic integration. The evidence suggests that Bangladeshi migration creates relationships between Bangladesh and Europe that extend beyond employment and physical mobility.

9.1 Migration and Transnational Mobility

Bangladeshi migration to Europe has become increasingly diverse. Established communities exist in countries such as the United Kingdom and Italy, while newer migration patterns involve other parts of Europe. Research on Bangladeshi migrants in Italy and the United Kingdom shows that some migrants engage in onward migration and maintain connections across several European locations (Morad et al., 2024). Their experiences demonstrate that European migration can involve movement between countries rather than a single permanent move from Bangladesh to one destination.

This supports the transnational perspective used in this study. Migrants can live in Europe while maintaining family, social and cultural connections with Bangladesh and with Bangladeshi communities elsewhere in Europe. Migration therefore creates a social space that crosses national borders.

Recent EU–Bangladesh policy also shows that migration has become an institutional issue in the relationship between the two regions. The EU–Bangladesh Talent Partnership seeks to develop legal and safe labour-mobility pathways and to connect Bangladeshi skills with labour demand in EU Member States.

Thus, migration is both a movement of people and a process of creating continuing transnational connections.

9.2 Cultural Exchange

The second dimension is cultural exchange. Migration brings Bangladeshi cultural practices into European societies while migrants simultaneously experience and adapt to European social environments.

Research on Italian Bangladeshis provides strong evidence for this process. Morad et al. (2024) found that migrants maintained connections with Bangladesh and the wider Bangladeshi diaspora while incorporating Bengali language, culture, traditions and values into their lives and transmitting some of these practices to the next generation. At the same time, some migrants became culturally and emotionally embedded in Italian society.

This suggests that cultural integration does not necessarily mean abandoning the culture of origin. Instead, migrants may negotiate different forms of belonging. A person can participate in European society while continuing to identify with Bangladeshi cultural traditions.

Cultural exchange is therefore better understood as a two-way process:

Bangladesh → Europe: language, traditions, food, social practices and community life
Europe → Bangladesh: new experiences, ideas, lifestyles and social practices transmitted through migrants and transnational networks.

This process is important for European Studies because migration contributes to changes within European societies themselves. Bangladeshi migrants are not simply adapting to Europe; their presence also becomes part of Europe's changing social and cultural landscape.

9.3 Political Participation

The third dimension is political participation. Political participation should not be limited to voting or membership in political parties. Migrants may participate through community organisations, civil society, political communication, local activities and diaspora networks.

Bangladeshi migrants can maintain political interests in Bangladesh while also developing relationships with European civic and political institutions. Their participation therefore can have a transnational character.

However, this participation is not the same for everyone. Citizenship, legal status, language ability, education, employment and access to institutions can affect migrants' opportunities for political participation. Therefore, the study does not assume that all Bangladeshi migrants participate politically in the same way.

The important finding is that migration does not necessarily end a person's political relationship with the country of origin. Instead, migrants may develop connections with both their origin and residence societies.

This supports the broader argument that Bangladeshi migrants can function as social and political links between Bangladesh and Europe.

9.4 Economic Integration and Labour Mobility

Economic integration is a particularly visible dimension of Bangladesh–Europe migration. Migrants can participate in European labour markets while maintaining economic connections with Bangladesh through family support, remittances, skills and other transnational activities.

Current EU–Bangladesh cooperation provides a clear institutional example. The Talent Partnership programme, launched in 2024, has a budget of €3 million and is being implemented by the ILO from July 2024 to June 2027. It aims to improve skills development, skills recognition and legal and safe labour mobility between Bangladesh and EU Member States.

The programme aims to upgrade the skills of 3,000 Bangladeshi migrant workers in sectors including health, engineering, ICT, care, hospitality, construction and agriculture.

The ILO also identifies Germany, Italy, Greece and Romania as countries involved in the development of potential Talent Partnership models with Bangladesh. These models emphasise skills development, recognition of qualifications and legal labour mobility.

This demonstrates a shift from viewing migration only as the movement of workers toward a more structured relationship involving:

Training → Skills → Recognition → Labour Mobility → Employment

The programme is still being implemented, so these should be understood as policy objectives and intended outcomes, not as evidence that all expected benefits have already been achieved.

9.5 Interaction Between the Four Dimensions

The four dimensions examined in this study are closely connected.

Migration creates the physical movement of people. That movement creates social networks, which can support cultural exchange. These networks can also create opportunities for civic and political participation. At the same time, employment and skills connect migrants to European economies.

The relationship can therefore be represented as:

Migration
↓
Transnational Networks
↓
Culture + Politics + Economy
↓
Bangladesh–Europe Relationship

For example, a Bangladeshi worker in Europe may participate in the European labour market, communicate regularly with family in Bangladesh, participate in a Bangladeshi community organisation and maintain cultural traditions. These activities are not separate from one another; they form part of the migrant's wider transnational life.

The evidence therefore supports the central argument of this research: Bangladeshi migration creates more than economic connections. It creates a broader social relationship between Bangladesh and European societies.

9.6 Overall Findings

The analysis produces four main findings.

First, Bangladeshi migration to Europe is increasingly diverse and can involve complex mobility across European countries.

Second, migration creates cultural exchange and multiple forms of belonging. Bangladeshi migrants can maintain cultural connections with Bangladesh while becoming socially and culturally connected to European societies.

Third, migrants can participate in political and civic life in Europe while maintaining relationships with Bangladesh. The extent and form of participation vary according to individual and institutional circumstances.

Fourth, migration has an increasingly institutionalised economic dimension. The EU–Bangladesh Talent Partnership demonstrates growing cooperation around skills, labour mobility and legal migration pathways.

Taken together, these findings show that Bangladeshi migration contributes to a transnational Bangladesh–Europe relationship that involves people, culture, politics and economic activity rather than migration alone.

10. Discussion

The findings demonstrate that Bangladeshi migration to Europe is broader than the movement of workers from one country to another. Through migration, people develop continuing social, cultural, political and economic connections between Bangladesh and European societies. This supports the use of transnationalism as the main conceptual framework of the study.

First, the findings show that migration can create multiple forms of belonging. Bangladeshi migrants may maintain connections with Bangladesh while becoming socially and culturally embedded in Europe. Research on Italian Bangladeshis shows that migrants can maintain Bengali language, culture, traditions and values while also developing different forms of belonging in European societies (Morad et al., 2024).

Second, cultural exchange is not necessarily a one-way process. Migrants bring cultural practices from Bangladesh into Europe, while their experiences in Europe can influence their identities, families and communities. This creates a dynamic process of cultural adaptation and exchange rather than simple assimilation.

Third, migration can create opportunities for political and civic participation. Bangladeshi migrants may engage with European communities and institutions while maintaining political and social connections with Bangladesh. However, these opportunities differ according to citizenship, legal status, language, education and socioeconomic circumstances. Therefore, political participation should be understood as varied rather than uniform.

Fourth, economic integration is becoming increasingly important in formal Bangladesh-EU cooperation. The EU-Bangladesh Talent Partnership aims to develop skills and facilitate legal labour mobility, while also addressing labour and skills needs in both Bangladesh and EU Member States. The programme launched in 2024 has a €3 million budget and is being implemented by the ILO through June 2027.

These findings suggest that migration connects the two sides through several overlapping channels:

Migration → Transnational Networks → Culture + Politics + Economy → Bangladesh–Europe Relationship

The significance of this relationship is therefore not limited to migrants themselves. Migration can also

contribute to wider people-to-people relations between Bangladesh and Europe. At the institutional level, this is visible in EU cooperation on migration governance and legal migration pathways.

However, the findings should not be interpreted as suggesting that migration automatically produces successful integration or equal benefits. Migrants can face barriers related to legal status, labour-market conditions, skills recognition and migration pathways. Similarly, current EU–Bangladesh programmes are still being implemented, so their long-term effects cannot yet be fully assessed.

Overall, the evidence supports the argument that Bangladeshi migration is an important mechanism through which Bangladesh and Europe become connected not only economically but also socially, culturally and politically.

11. Conclusion

This study examined how Bangladeshi migration contributes to cultural exchange, political participation and economic integration in Europe and what these processes reveal about the changing Bangladesh-Europe relationship.

The study found that Bangladeshi migration is a multidimensional and transnational process. Migrants do not necessarily leave Bangladesh and completely disconnect from their country of origin. Instead, they can maintain family, cultural, social, political and economic connections while participating in European society.

The first major conclusion is that Bangladeshi migration to Europe has become increasingly diverse. Different migration routes and onward mobility demonstrate that movement between Bangladesh and Europe cannot always be understood through a simple origin-and-destination model.

The second conclusion is that migration contributes to cultural exchange. Bangladeshi migrants can preserve elements of their cultural identity while adapting to European social environments. This creates multiple forms of belonging rather than a simple choice between Bangladeshi and European identity.

The third conclusion is that migrants can develop political and civic connections in Europe while maintaining relationships with Bangladesh. Political participation therefore can extend beyond national borders.

The fourth conclusion concerns economic integration. Employment, skills and labour mobility connect Bangladeshi migrants with European economies. The EU-Bangladesh Talent Partnership demonstrates that this relationship is increasingly supported through formal cooperation on skills and legal labour mobility.

The study therefore concludes that Bangladeshi migration contributes to a broader transnational Bangladesh–Europe relationship. This relationship is created not only by governments and formal institutions but also by migrants, families, communities, workers and other social actors.

The overall argument can be summarised as:

Bangladeshi Migration → Transnational Connections → Cultural Exchange + Political Participation + Economic Integration → Changing Bangladesh–Europe Relationship

Thus, Bangladeshi migrants should not be viewed only as participants in European labour markets. They are also part of wider social and cultural processes that connect Bangladesh and Europe.

At the same time, the study recognises that these connections vary across migrants and European contexts. Migration can create opportunities, but it can also involve barriers and unequal outcomes. Future research could therefore use interviews or comparative case studies to examine how these transnational processes differ across specific European countries and migrant groups.

In conclusion, Bangladeshi migration has become an important bridge between Bangladesh and Europe, connecting the two through mobility, culture, civic life and economic activity.

References

Braun, V., & Clarke, V. (2006). Using thematic analysis in psychology. Qualitative Research in Psychology, 3(2), 77–101. https://doi.org/10.1191/1478088706qp063oa

Della Puppa, F. (2024). Mobilities across European Banglascapes. In Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Asian History. Oxford University Press. https://doi.org/10.1093/acrefore/9780190277727.013.786

Della Puppa, F., & King, R. (2019). The new "twice migrants": Motivations, experiences and disillusionments of Italian-Bangladeshis relocating to London. Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies, 45(11), 1936–1952. https://doi.org/10.1080/1369183X.2018.1438251

European Commission. (2024, July 8). Talent Partnership with Bangladesh: Launch of a new programme to boost labour mobility. Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs. https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/news/talent-partnership-bangladesh-launch-new-programme-boost-labour-mobility-2024-07-08_en

European Commission. (n.d.). Talent partnerships. Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs. Retrieved September 26, 2026, from https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/policies/migration-and-asylum/legal-migration-and-resettlement/talent-partnerships_en

European External Action Service. (2026). The European Union and Bangladesh. European Union.

International Labour Organization. (2024). Supporting a Talent Partnership with Bangladesh. https://www.ilo.org/projects-and-partnerships/projects/supporting-talent-partnership-bangladesh

Knights, M. (1996). Bangladeshi immigrants in Italy: From geopolitics to micropolitics. Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers, 21(1), 105–123.

Levitt, P., & Glick Schiller, N. (2004). Conceptualizing simultaneity: A transnational social field perspective on society. International Migration Review, 38(3), 1002–1039. https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1747-7379.2004.tb00227.x

Morad, M., Sacchetto, D., & Ansar, A. (2024). Transnational social fields of Italian Bangladeshis in Europe and beyond: Towards a new geography of ways of belonging. Population, Space and Place, 30(8), Article e2819. https://doi.org/10.1002/psp.2819

Mucha, Z., & Stojanov, R. (2026). "The concept of a better life": The transit of Bangladeshi migrants to the Schengen Area via Central and Eastern Europe. Population, Space and Place, 32(1), Article e70181. https://doi.org/10.1002/psp.70181

Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Asian History. (2024). Bangladeshis in Italy. Oxford University Press.

Sikder, M. J. U., Reza, S., Azad, S. N., & Ahmed, A. (2025). Bounded agency and aspirations: Understanding the motivations for irregular migration from Bangladesh to Europe. International Migration, 63(3), Article e70035. https://doi.org/10.1111/imig.70035