



## **MATERIAL**

THIRD EUROPEAN NETWORK MEETING ,MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT AT THE LOCAL LEVEL: SHARING EXPERIENCES AND CREATING IDEAS'

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In order to improve the readability of the text, this publication has not used multiple forms of address to highlight gender equality. All of the masculine forms used also address women and vice versa. Articles signed by the authors do not necessarily represent the opinion of the publisher.

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# 1. INTRODUCTION

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At the invitation of Engagement Global's Service Agency Communities in One World – and in cooperation with the City of Cologne – around 30 participants from various European countries met up in Cologne. Representing municipalities, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), academic institutions and international organisations, this year's participants came from Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Lithuania, Slovenia and Spain.

This third European Network Meeting on 'Migration and Development' gave participants an opportunity to engage in a transnational working level exchange with their peers, and so learn about different experiences, approaches and perspectives in the field of migration and development at the local level. It also enabled them to jointly map out ideas and gain new incentives for their day-to-day work. While day one got underway with keynote speeches, day two was given over entirely to working groups that focused on specific issues in the field of migration and development at the local level.

The Service Agency and the City of Cologne were pleased to be able to welcome participants from the last two events but also some new faces to this year's network meeting. Along with the speakers' presentations and the discussions, this document reports on the respective working groups' results, which corroborate how enriching this diversity of actors proved for the event.



All participants come together.

## 2. CONTEXT

Also held in Cologne, the first European Network Meeting on Migration and Development at the Local Level took place in November 2015 at the Service Agency's initiative. The objective was to familiarise participants with the situations and framework conditions in the respective countries and also with the various approaches employed by European actors. Furthermore, given the increased levels of forced migration to Europe, it also focused on topical developments and challenges in the field of migration and development at the local level. In addition to these objectives, the second European Network Meeting in November 2016 also provided space for the development of joint ideas and activities. Building on the two previous events, this third European Network Meeting again gave participants a two-day opportunity to network, share experience and jointly map out ideas.

### 2.1 Organisers welcome participants

#### 2.1.1 City of Cologne

This year's meeting was opened by Johanna Pulheim on behalf of the City of Cologne. This was the first time Cologne had co-hosted a European Network Meeting on Migration and Development at the Local Level with the Service Agency. In her opening speech, Ms. Pulheim, who is in charge of municipal development cooperation in the Department for International Affairs in the Mayor's Office of the City of Cologne, talked about her city's multifaceted commitment to development, focusing in particular on Cologne's projects with its Nicaraguan partner city of Corinto. Amongst the many actors involved in the city partnership is the chairwoman of the Cologne-Corinto/El Realejo twinning association, herself a native Nicaraguan and now a resident of Cologne. This chairwoman's contacts to her home country, her intercultural competence and knowledge of the language and country have contributed greatly to the success of the partnership between Cologne and Corinto – providing an example of the successful leveraging of links between migration and development.

Johanna Pulheim explained how the City of Cologne is also harnessing the potential of other Cologne-based migrants for the purpose of municipal development cooperation. A prime example is the establishment of the One World City Cologne which, according to Ms. Pulheim, brings together all actors in Cologne who are engaged in development activities. The associated Migration and Development working group specifically targets individuals who are keen to get involved in this field. The result is a platform that enables migrants and Cologne's civil society to engage in cooperation for global sustainable development. In 2016, for example, the project 'Bühne der Begegnung' (Stage of Encounters) was conducted in Cologne's public library. For one day, this project gave migrants an opportunity to discuss their ideas with various municipal development organisations.



The meeting is opened by a representative of the City of Cologne.

Another example that Johanna Pulheim gave of the interaction between migration and development featured Darlington Omoregbe, a refugee from Nigeria who, following an internship with the City of Cologne, today gives guided tours through the city's historical town hall. Now scheduled to be given to new refugee arrivals as part of their integration course, this tour will also inform them about their opportunities for getting involved in the One World City Cologne.

Ms Pulheim also reported on the City of Cologne's fair-trade activities which also draw on the knowl-

edge and contacts of migrants living in Cologne. Indeed, the Service Agency named Cologne the '2017 Capital of Fair Trade' for good reason!

### 2.1.2 Service Agency Communities in One World

Kevin Borchers greeted the participants on behalf of the Service Agency Communities in One World. Located in Bonn, the Service Agency is part of Engagement Global and has been working on future issues of local sustainable development since 2002 on behalf of Germany's Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). These include migration and development, strengthening municipal partnerships, fair trade and fair public procurement as well as the localisation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Service Agency's programme is dedicated to municipal governance and administration and also to civil society groups that cooperate with municipalities in an effort to identify and implement joint local solutions to global issues.

Looking ahead to the two-day workshop, Kevin Borchers pointed out that the focus of the event was not on migration and integration but on involving migrants in local development activities,

whereby the topic of integration would naturally also play a key role throughout.

## 2.2 Participants – Their backgrounds and expectations

The 30 or so participants at this year's event included representatives of municipalities, NGOs, academic institutions and international organisations.

To get to know each other, the participants used an imaginary map of Europe and took up a position in the room that represented the location of their countries or cities of origin. By doing so, they demonstrated just how heterogeneous the group was in terms of origin: from Europe's north, south, east and west. In this introductory phase, the participants gave a statement about their city's salient features along with information about their current work focus. One particular aspect they frequently noted was how multicultural their cities were and how many different nationalities lived there – often over 100. Furthermore, the participants also explained what they understood the topic of migration and development to mean and outlined the challenges they faced in their work. Furthermore,



The participants answer the questions in order to get to know each other better.

they talked about their expectations for this workshop, which can be summarised as follows:

- Have sufficient time and space to share experience and learn from each other
- Gauge where they stand as migration and development actors; specifically, how their activities compare on a European scale
- Transfer the experience shared to concrete projects, also against the backdrop of the 2030 Agenda
- Give the European network launched in 2015 a concrete thematic focus and continue working together on these topics

### 3. FROM INTERNATIONAL DISCUSSION TO LOCAL ACTION – ACADEMICS AND PRACTITIONERS REPORT ON THEIR EXPERIENCE



Dr. Stefan Rother

The first keynote speech at the beginning of the event aimed to provide an overview of the current status of the international debate on migration and development. The speaker was Dr. Stefan Rother, an academic research assistant at the University of Freiburg's Political Science Department. In his presentation on 'Migration and Development: Global Perspectives, Local Opportunities', he explained how the topic of migration and development had found its way into the international debate.

#### 3.1 'Migration and Development: Global Perspectives, Local Opportunities' (Dr. Stefan Rother)

At the start of this keynote presentation, Dr. Rother asked whether, globally speaking, we are in a new **age of migration**. Quoting statistics and global developments, he described why, since the end of World War 2, migration research talks about the 'age of migration': In 2015, it is estimated that some 244 million people were living outside their country of birth. Furthermore, he explained how, at the same time, a discussion has been ongoing for decades as to whether, and how, migration and development are mutually reinforcing. Labour migration, for instance, boosts economic development in the destination countries, say Germany, USA or Dubai. Furthermore, by emigrating to another country, people are often responding to inadequate developments in their home countries.



In turn, their links to their countries of origin provided them with a means of influencing development there.

In this context, Dr. Rother referred in particular to the importance and volume of migrants' remittances to their home countries. According to the World Bank, some 441 billion US dollars were sent to developing countries – almost three times the volume of official development assistance (ODA), which totalled 137 billion US dollars. Given that, in the international cooperation debate, these money transfers are regarded as having considerable potential for promoting development processes in the migrants' countries of origin, there has been talk since the early 2000s about a **new migration development mantra**. However, research has shown that remittances do not necessarily impact positively on development in the migrants' home countries. Also, major costs of migration are not included in the data, such as financial costs (training, loss of skilled workers) and also social costs (families living apart, cases of abuse and exploitation). The fees charged for finding job placements and for visa and travel expenses are not given either.

Dr. Rother went on to say that, in migration research, there is no straightforward correlation between migration and development. Indeed, the relationship may be negative or positive and is the subject of controversy, as is the role of the migrants themselves. He explained this using various concepts and terms, such as **brain drain/gain/regain/circulation, triple win, circular migration, diaspora engagement, national heroes or agents of development**. These key terms were linked to a variety of issues. For example: which development term is the linchpin on which everything revolves? He also referred to the various dimensions of development, from the economic to the social, political or democratic dimension. He stated that it is still not clear whether it was at all meaningful to invest private money in the form of remittances and thus to shore up political decision-makers in the countries of origin that were doing nothing to improve the institutional framework conditions and/or to meet their responsibility for development, for example with respect to land or labour market reforms or regarding the development of the education, health care and social systems.

Dr. Rother demonstrated that, since the turn of the century, such issues had increasingly formed part of the **international debate** and that growing interest in the globalisation-driven phenomenon of migration had spurred some key global actors to initiate measures. For example, in 2003, acting on the encouragement of Kofi Annan, the UN Secretary General at that time, the Global Commission on International Migration was established which published a report recommending the creation of a supranational global migration agency. The community of states discussed this proposal in September 2006 at a **High-level Dialogue (HLD)** by the UN General Assembly. However, the prospect of setting up a supranational global migration authority elicited different responses. While the Group of 77 (G77) – the developing nations and China – were in favour of strengthening the United Nations' role with respect to global governance of migration, many states that are hosts to large numbers of migrants pushed for an independent and non-binding forum outside the UN: **The Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD)**.

The first GFMD event took place in Brussels in 2007. Since then, it has convened almost every year in countries such as Mexico, Switzerland or Turkey. Dr. Rother explained how it works: The GFMD is an informal and non-binding, government-led forum that adopts resolutions but does not make any binding decisions. The host country shapes the forum to a decisive extent by setting the agenda and involving various actors. Countries such as Mexico or Bangladesh have focused on the rights of migrants and granted considerable space to civil society. In contrast, the meeting in Istanbul in 2015 was dominated by the representatives of governments and international organisations. At the core of the GFMD are two Government Days, a round table forum reserved for government representatives. As a rule, these meetings are attended by high-ranking government officials from departments that deal with migration issues. Smaller states also send ministers. Of growing importance is the so-called Common Space, a meeting within the forum at which government representatives engage in exchanges with civil society. This forum meets up at the start of the GFMD as part of the 'Civil Society Days' (CSDs).

For the first time in 2017, the GFMD in Berlin was co-chaired; in this case by Germany and Morocco,

with the next forum in 2018 scheduled to be held in Marrakesh. The overarching topic of the GFMD in the German capital city was 'Towards a Global Social Contract on Migration and Development.' Dr. Rother explained that this was a very ambitious title since it is suggestive of an internationally binding contract. However, the GFMD is unlikely to do this – and neither is the UN's Global Compact for Migration for that matter.

Dr. Rother then talked about the **UN's Global Compacts**. The second UN High-level Dialogue on Migration and Development took place in 2013 while, in September 2016, the UN General Assembly tabled two days for migration and displacement, culminating in the adoption of the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants, which constitutes a basis for the adoption of two Global Compacts – one for **displaced persons** and one for **safe, orderly and regular migration**. Both of these compacts are to be drawn up within the space of two years.

After presenting various activities by civil society at international level, Dr. Rother turned his attention to the **Mayoral Forum on Human Mobility, Migration and Development**. At the fourth forum of its kind, which took place prior to the GFMD in Berlin in 2017, municipal representatives from various

cities around the world came together to talk about measures for integrating newcomers.

Following on from this, Dr. Rother spoke about some Best Practices, i.e. proven procedures, at local level, such as the **'Solidarity Cities'** initiative founded in Athens, which is planning to relocate 100 displaced persons from Athens to Barcelona. He also talked about the **partnerships between local authorities in France and Morocco** for returning pensioners, citing the following key points for consideration:

1. Activities should be needs oriented and customised to the profile of the given city or cities; not all Best Practices are transferable
2. Financial support from an institutional partner and other potential sources of funding must be guaranteed
3. There is a difference between the immediate demands on capacity generated by a humanitarian situation and the longer-term demands of social integration. Cities increasingly need to take both into consideration.

Dr. Rother concluded with some further thoughts on the migration and development debate, asking whether the **development aspect** really needs to be at the forefront or whether we should prioritise the **rights, protection, empowerment**



Dr. Stefan Rother answers questions from the audience.

**and inclusion of migrants** instead. He provided various examples of how migrants are still socially excluded in their countries of destination. He pointed out that migrants did have the potential to act as **'agents of development'** but that this role is not, or does not have to be, inherently ingrained in them. What is more, the countries of origin cannot be allowed to shy away from their responsibility by transferring the task of development wholly to the migrants. Overall, he concluded that the **concept of development through migration remains blurred**. Acknowledging migrants' rights and giving them a chance to participate politically in their country of destination – which goes far beyond merely learning the language – could result in the migrants' everyday political experiences in their country of destination impacting their country of origin by kickstarting and supporting processes of democratisation there.



Participants engage in an exchange.

### 3.2 'Co-development from a Local Perspective: Involving Citizenship' (Montserrat Bosch Raurell)

Using a Best Practice, the second keynote speech demonstrated how the topic of migration and development can be implemented at the local level and explained what needs to be taken into account when doing so. It also examined the insights that can be gained from implementing a project of this kind. The speech was delivered by Montserrat Bosch Raurell from the International Cooperation Department of the Spanish town of Vic. Entitled 'Co-development from a Local Perspective: Involving Citizenship', Ms Raurell presented a project designed to strengthen the capabilities

and rights of migrants from Senegal and migrant organisations in Vic – the objective being to make them agents for development in their country of origin. At the same time, the project aimed to improve social cohesion and foster the integration of migrants in Vic.



Montserrat Bosch Raurell

One quarter of the 45,000 inhabitants of the town of Vic originate from different states, in particular Senegal, Morocco, Ghana, India and Nigeria. In keeping with the internationally agreed ODA target of 0.7 per cent GNI for development spending, the municipality of Vic adopted a project in 1995 that invests 0.7 per cent of local tax revenue in development cooperation projects or in development education. Most of Vic's development cooperation activities focus on Senegal, which therefore featured strongly in the co-development project presented. The prefix 'co' refers to the fact that the project both benefits the migrants themselves and also the people in their home country of Senegal.

The project consists of three phases, whereby it quickly became clear that the theory underlying the approach would not always be realisable as foreseen. Indeed, the responsible project stakeholders had to muster a high level of flexibility, creativity and frustration tolerance along with considerable staying power to make a success of the project.

By way of a **preparatory measure**, the situation of the Senegalese migrants in Vic was analysed in 2011. While migration and development often focuses on the migrants' strengths as agents of development, the strength-weakness analysis

essentially revealed that many of the migrants in Vic live in extreme poverty and have barely any income. Furthermore, they often lack official residence permits for Spain. The lack of pertinent documents means they are unable to access many social and other services. Other aggravating factors include illiteracy, poor Spanish language skills and, in places, discrimination by other inhabitants of Vic.

The situation analysis showed that the Senegalese migrants' contribution to development, if they can afford to make one at all, mainly consists of remittances to their relatives back home. Often the migrants themselves require assistance to meet their own basic needs. The analysis concluded that they were in need of measures that would foster their empowerment.

The status analysis of Senegalese migrants' living conditions formed the cornerstone for the launch of this three-phase project. **The first phase of the project** aimed to **improve the situation of Senegalese migrants living in Vic**, both with respect to their **participation** in local life and also with regard to **their socio-economic situation**. To this end, language courses were arranged as well as digital media training to enable them to communicate with their relatives and friends in Senegal. The migrants were also provided with professional counselling on legal matters and invited to use services. Various measures were organised to enable them to get to know public life in Vic and take part in local activities and festivities. The migrants were also encouraged to present their own initiatives or to contribute to public life with activities of their own. Montserrat Bosch Raurell emphasized how vitally important it had been to give the Senegalese migrants a mouthpiece and also to take the time and create space for them to tell their stories and explain their fears and expectations. Listening to the migrants' graphic accounts fostered a more direct understanding of the reasons for their displacement amongst the responsible project stakeholders.

After presenting the first phase of the project, Montserrat Bosch Raurell summarised the advantages of this approach, saying that overall they now had a more realistic idea of the Senegalese community's living conditions in Vic. First, because the needs and expectations in their country of destination had been identified in precise terms

and, second, because knowing more about the situation in their country of origin had nurtured greater understanding for their decision to migrate – which could also provide a basis for formulating key development measures in Senegal. On site, capacity development and empowerment of the Senegalese migrants are regarded as crucial.

The **second phase** saw the launch of **awareness-raising measures** that essentially aimed to sensitise the population in Vic, and also in Senegal, to the **topic of migration** while taking the Senegalese migrants **out of the shadows**. To this end, a video documentary was produced with the Senegalese migrants in which they explained why they had left their country and what problems they had encountered along the way and on arrival. The video was screened in the region of Catalonia and also in Senegal. Furthermore, based on the concept of 'education for sustainable development', Senegalese migrants were actively involved in awareness-raising measures in Vic through various exhibitions, workshops and seminars.

In a **third phase**, the Senegalese migrants living in Vic were actively involved in the **partnerships projects with Senegal**. Integrating migrants in the municipal council for cooperation meant they were able to gain an insight into ongoing development activities and municipal projects in this sector and also contribute their knowledge of the situation on the ground in the partner countries. Furthermore, this phase focused on promoting cooperation with NGOs engaged in project activities in Senegal, whereby the municipality acted as a platform and intermediary. The town of Vic also worked with local NGOs and migrant groups from Senegal to develop its own development cooperation projects with Senegalese municipalities, this time embracing new actors, such as students from a school of architecture, the university, sport clubs or citizens representing civil society. Various projects were then implemented at different locations in the education or water sector in Senegal. Political backing for these projects is very important and was on hand in this case: hence the visit by the Mayor of Vic to the projects in Senegal, for example.

After presenting her successful project, Montserrat Bosch Raurell did caution that no one should be under any illusion as regards fast-track results and hitch-free implementation. On the contrary,



A round of questions following Montserrat Bosch Raurell's presentation.

projects of this nature require staying power over a long path fraught with setbacks and difficulties. The upside: small and large milestones achieved in the course of such processes are all the more pleasurable and completely make up for all the effort involved.

The discussion that followed centred on project funding and also on project efficacy in Senegal. Direct impacts had mainly been generated in the field of education (including the construction of a school) and local agriculture, leading to immediate improvements in the population's living conditions. Montserrat Bosch Raurell said that harnessing the migrants' experience and their contacts had been of importance here. She then added that the offers of integration were also open to migrants from other countries, too. Moreover, certain aspects of the project had already been transferred to other areas, for example, migrants' involvement in round tables or measures designed to raise awareness amongst the people of Vic.

## 4. FUTURE TOPICS – SHARING EXPERIENCES AND CREATING IDEAS

Following the presentations and subsequent discussions, the participants had an opportunity to share their experience and ideas on the topic of migration and development at the local level in their first workshop. In working groups, the participants discussed the major challenges of their work. In summary, these mainly included:

- a) Political aspects
- b) Societal and development aspects related to the topic of migration and development at the local level as well as
- c) Aspects relating directly to migrants and migrant organisations

b) In societal and development terms, the working groups discussed solidarity with migrants and how to go about raising awareness of the topic of migration and development. Furthermore, they explored various effects of migration and/or cooperation projects in this field of action. The participants debated the importance of remittances, but also asked what positive, negative, intended or unintended impacts can arise as a result of migration and/or local development projects. Furthermore, they asked how best to implement a European awareness-raising campaign and how to foster empathy with displaced people/migrants and how to get their message across.



Small group phase.



Presenting the results.

a) Political aspects comprised international framework conditions, such as the significance of the 2030 Agenda/SDGs for migration and development, but also aspects affecting policy coherence, the local actors' political will or migrants' rights. Specifically, participants asked how political will can be stimulated at the local level; what role the municipal authorities play in the countries of origin/destination in this thematic field; how policy coherence can be achieved; what policies can be used to promote the inclusion of migrants; or how local development cooperation projects can be implemented on a sustainable basis; and what obstacles have to be overcome.

c) Aspects that related directly to migrants and migrant organisations included the diversity of migrant groups and matters relating to their participation, integration or empowerment. In particular, the discussions centred on how to foster migrants' engagement in the field of migration and development at the local level, how to leverage their specific expertise, how to accommodate the diversity of migrant groups/organisations and how to encourage migrants to participate in political life.

As part of a participatory process, various topics were prioritised and then worked on in new teams on the second day of the workshop – in line with

the participants' specific interests. The results are given below.

#### 4.1 Taking account of the diaspora communities' diversity



Exchange amongst participants.

On day one already, there was an intensive exchange about the fact that migrant groups cannot be regarded as culturally or politically homogeneous communities. The participants stated that the structure and organisation of diaspora communities vary widely in the countries of destination. Migrant organisations, for example, differ greatly depending on their prime objectives or orientations, which could be religiously, politically or culturally motivated. Also important in this respect is whether the activities are geared solely to the country of origin or country of destination or to both. The first working group was tasked with determining how the heterogeneity of migrants and migrant organisations can be taken into account in the field of migration and development at the local level.

The participants reported on the ways in which their respective towns or cities accommodate migrant diversity in their various projects. In Milan, for example, there is an annual 'Pane e Musiche' (Bread and Music) festival at which various migrant groups offer culinary specialities from their countries of origin accompanied by traditional music from their homeland.

This begs the question: What commonalities do migrant groups share? The workshop participants primarily regarded the shared experience of migration with its attendant risks, hopes and expectations for the future, and a life in a new country with a foreign language, as the links connecting migrants.

The working group's first result was to state that, when involving migrants in concrete projects in the field of migration and development, it is first necessary to establish a **shared identity: bonding**. However, given the diversity of the migrants, it is also necessary to formulate **overarching topics or a joint strategy**; i.e. bridging. In this context, one of the participants reported on a fair trade initiative in the German city of Saarbrücken which demonstrated how fair trade can build bridges between migrants. Remittances can also serve as a common denominator. Another participant reported on a project in which families in the countries of origin are trained to invest their remittances in small enterprises.



Small group phase.

This working group's central conclusion was that a project theme should ideally culminate in the emergence of a shared identity and a joint strategy. This works particularly well in those cases in which the concrete advantages have been made clear to the various parties concerned. For the hands-on realisation of a project idea, the working group recommended stakeholders start out small and gradually scale up activities. Furthermore, it

is important **to foster cooperation between local associations, clubs and migrant organisations and to identify any synergies**. The municipalities' function in this process is one of **steering**.

#### 4.2 Fostering diaspora engagement in migration and development at the local level

The second working group formulated a multi-stage procedure for promoting migrant engagement in the thematic field of migration and development at the local level. Analogous to the results of the working group on migrant group diversity, this working group also recommended **first analysing migrant organisations' socio-demographic features, needs, objectives and orientations** in order for the municipality to determine how to integrate them effectively in the thematic field of migration and development at the local level.

As a next step, migrants should be given **the infrastructure and resources they require** to secure their involvement in this field of action. One participant referred in this context to the Neighbourhood Offices in Antwerp where citizens can access the rooms or the IT resources they need to get organised and realise their projects. When implementing actual project ideas, this working group also recommended starting out with small, readily doable projects.

To encourage other migrants to get involved in the field of migration and development at the local level, the working group floated the idea of **'Diaspora Awards'** for particularly successful projects. One of the participants pointed out that awards of this kind already exist in other sectors, like the DIWAN AWARDS ([www.diwanawards.org](http://www.diwanawards.org)) which honour the professional achievements of people with Moroccan roots in the fields of health care, art, technology, education, sport and business in various countries across Europe. Award schemes like this create role models for the younger generation which they can readily identify with owing to their shared history and experience.

Furthermore, the working group also looked at the role of **social media** in promoting migrant engagement in the field of migration and development at the local level. Low-threshold social media inputs, such as sharing a post on Facebook,

can help nurture interest in this topic, leading to greater levels of engagement. Social media lend themselves particularly well to voluntary activities. Flexible and not subject to any time or locational restrictions, they enable sporadic, limited-term engagement. What is more, exchanges via social media are comparatively cheap.



Successful cooperation.

Of great importance for this group were the **social, political and cultural differences that exist between countries** and also the **occurrence of non-intended project side-effects**. Drawing on their personal work experience, the participants exchanged views on the way in which engagement can result in projects not generating the desired effect, either because insufficient attention is given to social, political or cultural aspects or because the project initiates a different sort of change to the kind envisaged, like corrupt behaviour, for example. In this context, the group discussed the negative impact of migration in general, focusing inter alia on the high rate of migration amongst women in Southeast Asia, resulting in the dissolution of traditional family structures and children being left behind and parentless in the country of origin.



### 4.3 Achieving vertical and horizontal policy coherence

The third working group formulated concrete ideas and proposals for action for achieving vertical and horizontal policy coherence in the thematic field of **migration and development**; i.e. an approach that is coordinated amongst the various levels of activity and various policy areas.

The group suggested establishing a committee on migration and development at the local level. This committee would have an advisory function and involve experts and stakeholders. The committee should collect pertinent information and know about the kind of activities required – and therefore eligible for implementation – in the field of migration and development. And it should also decide on how the financial resources are ultimately distributed. The working group focused in particular on the importance of the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs for the thematic field of migration and development. Against this backdrop, the working group concluded that the proposed committee's overarching objective should be to mainstream migration and social concerns in various areas of policy-making in connection with the 2030 Agenda / SDGs.

The group added that, when setting up a committee of this kind, the most important thing is for it to be rooted in **shared interests** and to ensure **effective communication** between the committee and the municipal administration or local policy-makers. To convince political decision-makers of the advantages of a migration and development committee, it is important to underscore the efficiency that an overarching committee has: Each individual stakeholder would have less work to do, but overall the results would be greater. One of the reasons why the working group considered it necessary to drive home this point was to ensure that the political side would provide a sufficient and sustainable supply of financial resources to fund the proposed committee. Finally, the working group pointed out that an effective communication strategy also involves convincing the political decision-makers to commit to monitoring political coherence in the field of migration and development, taking account of the 2030 Agenda. Furthermore, the influence had by other policy sectors on this topic should also be looked into.

### 4.4 Concepts/ networks/ campaigns: Starting a campaign involving all European countries

The fourth working group dealt with campaigns, concepts and networks as instruments for raising awareness in the thematic field of migration and development. In concrete terms, they looked at how a European campaign that strengthens solidarity with migrants can be initiated with the participation of all European countries. The aim was to go beyond the discussion phase and to develop a concrete proposal for action that can be implemented at the local level.

The working group suggested establishing and disseminating the **hashtag #We are all migrants** in various European languages in social media – starting with Twitter. All participants were encouraged to open a free Twitter account to take part in the campaign and to get started and directly link it to their own content. According to the working group, the central advantage of a low-threshold social media campaign like this is that it can be initiated anywhere and, from its grassroots beginning, grow to a national and even international scale. With respect to the campaign's contents, the working group aims to heighten public awareness of the topic of migration throughout all of Europe, foster greater understanding of the migration process and counteract fake news. Furthermore, the group also suggested using the existing hashtag **#Iamamigrant** to recount individual stories. Last but not least, the social media campaign could also make good practices from the field of migration and development accessible to a wider audience, encouraging their replication.



Jotting down notes for future work?

## 5. CONCLUSION AND OUTLOOK

The European Network Meeting has helped to strengthen the thematic field of migration and development at the local level and also the network of European actors. Over the course of the two-day event, participants shared a great many empirical insights they had gained in this field. They worked on implementation-oriented solutions and mapped out ideas for joint activities. The event format generated a particularly positive response. Participants praised the exchange of experience, especially the excellent framework for sharing best practices, the interlinkage of practical and theoretical contents, the many new and enriching insights for their daily work and, not least, the new contacts that have been forged. Some municipal authorities said that, moving on after the event, they were planning to visit each other and continue their exchange. Working together on topics across national borders and sharing different approaches to the challenges posed by the thematic field of migration and development were described as ‘the best learning method’.

Overall, the participants were all highly motivated to engage in further cooperation and requested that the European Network Meeting be continued in future to ensure an ongoing exchange. Furthermore, it was suggested that the participants use online platforms to intensify their exchanges beyond these annual networking events. Looking ahead to the next event, the participants asked that more time be allocated for the development and formulation of joint project proposals and that more migrants be involved in the network.

# ANNEX

## List of Participants

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# PUBLICATIONS OF THE SERVICE AGENCY COMMUNITIES IN ONE WORLD

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- No. 50: Agenda 2030 vor Ort. Kommunen in Niedersachsen zeigen, wie es geht. Bonn, April 2018
- No. 49: Rechtliche Aspekte der kommunalen Entwicklungszusammenarbeit im Ausland. Bonn, January 2018
- No. 48: Rechtliche Rahmenbedingungen des Engagements von Geflüchteten. Ein Praxisleitfaden. Bonn, October 2017
- No. 47: Kommune bewegt Welt – Der Preis für herausragende kommunale Beispiele zu Migration und Entwicklung 2016. Dokumentation. Bonn, September 2017
- No. 46: Kommunale Klimapartnerschaften. Dokumentation der vierten Projektphase. Bonn, April 2017
- No. 44: 2030 vor der Haustür. Kommunen. Fairer Handel und die neue Nachhaltigkeitsagenda der Vereinten Nationen. Bonn, January 2017
- No. 43: Network Meeting Migration & Development at the Local Level. 9-10 November 2015. Cologne. Report. Bonn, October 2016
- No. 42: Faires Beschaffungswesen in Kommunen und die Kernarbeitsnormen. Rechtswissenschaftliches Gutachten 2016. Bonn, October 2016
- No. 39: Globale Nachhaltige Kommune. Bonn, March 2016
- No. 9: Partner für Eine Welt – Gestaltung und Nutzen Kommunaler Partnerschaften. Bonn, March 2018

## 'Material' Series :

- No. 97: MiGlobe-Fachtagung. Interkulturelle Öffnung als Chance für kommunale Entwicklungspolitik in NRW. 7 November 2017. FORUM Volkshochschule. Bonn, May 2018

- No. 95: Zweite Konferenz „Kommunale Partnerschaften mit Asien“. 19th to 20th June, 2017 in Bonn. Bonn, November 2017
- No. 94: Dokumentation der Veranstaltung „Umsetzung der Agenda 2030 in Städten und Kommunen voranbringen“, 26th – 27th June in Hamburg. Bonn, November 2017.
- No. 90: 2nd European Network Meeting Migration & Development at the Local Level: Linking Actors and Policies. 29th -30th November 2016 in Cologne. Report. Bonn, August 2017.
- No. 89: „Kommunale Partnerschaften“ – Präsentation der Handlungsprogramme der vierten Projektphase. Internationaler Workshop vom 21st – 23rd November 2016 in Karlsruhe. Bonn, August 2017

## Other publications:

- Unsere Angebote. Bonn, 2017
- Über uns. Kurzprofil der Servicestelle. Bonn 2017
- Partnerschaftlich verbunden. Städte, Gemeinden und Landkreise engagieren sich gemeinsam in Deutschland, Nordafrika und im Nahen Osten – für eine lebenswerte Zukunft. Ein Dossier in Zusammenarbeit mit der Redaktion welt-sichten (Beilage zur Ausgabe 9-2018 von welt-sichten)
- Flucht und kommunale Entwicklungspolitik. Gemeinsam globale Verantwortung übernehmen. Angebote. Ein Dossier in Zusammenarbeit mit der Redaktion welt-sichten (Beilage zur Ausgabe 9-2017 von welt-sichten)
- Kommunale Partnerschaften mit der Ukraine. Deutsche und ukrainische Städte und Gemeinden setzen sich gemeinsam für ihre nachhaltige Zukunft ein. Ein Dossier in Zusammenarbeit mit der Redaktion welt-sichten (Beilage zur Ausgabe 12-2016 von welt-sichten)
- Global Nachhaltige Kommune. Kommunen engagieren sich für Nachhaltigkeit in der Einen Welt. Ein Dossier in Zusammenarbeit mit der Redaktion welt-sichten (Beilage zur Ausgabe 8-2016 von welt-sichten)

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