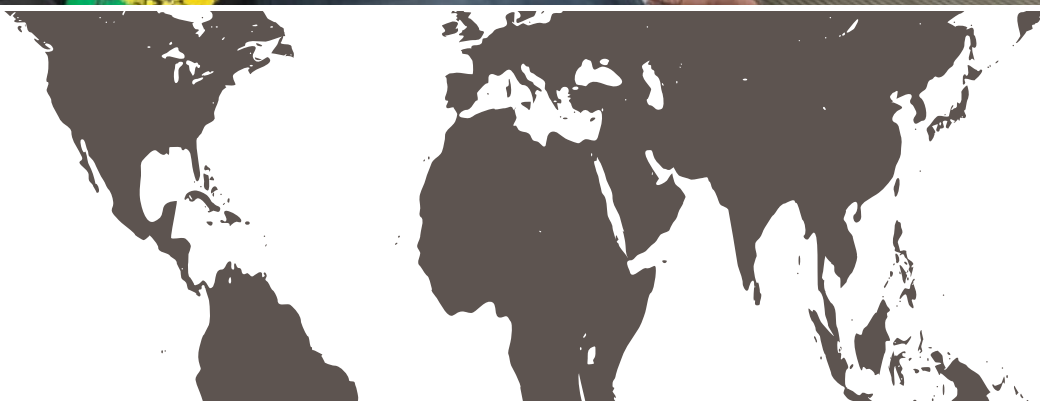


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## **DIALOG GLOBAL**

NETWORK MEETING

MIGRATION & DEVELOPMENT AT THE LOCAL LEVEL

**9 – 10 November 2015 – Cologne, Germany – Report | Nr. 43**

**Service Agency Communities in One World (SKEW)**

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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. For all of the masculine forms used, naturally, women are also addressed and vice versa.

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# 1. FOREWORD

**Dear reader,**

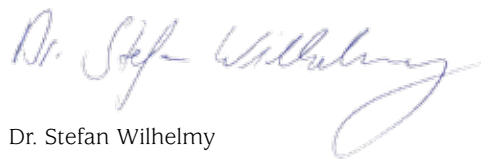
Europe is a diverse place – a banal insight that applies equally and indeed especially to the migration-development nexus. In many countries, these two terms are already used in tandem and in most cases we are told we should regard them as interconnected. Migration and development have thus merged into a single policy area that is considered full of potential. Very often in this context we hear calls for a coherent policy. However, it would seem that it is easier to aspire to policy coherence than it is to actually achieve it. Skimming the surface, we can easily get the impression that programmes and priorities in the field of migration and development are similar from one country to the next. However, on closer inspection, it becomes clear that there are some substantial differences between them.

Engagement Global's Service Agency Communities in One World (SKEW) has been engaged in the field of migration and development at the municipal level for many years now. During this time, we have seen the group of stakeholders in Germany grow in size and we have been able to gather some valuable experience. Furthermore, we have also seen how the issues and debate surrounding the topic of migration and development have changed and evolved, too. Most recently and emphatically, this topic's relevance has been underscored by the inflow of refugees from many different parts of the world. In response, we must undertake even greater efforts to intensify Europe-wide exchanges and to foster mutual sharing and learning, as this will not only help us to meet the development-policy challenges we face, but also to raise awareness and educate people, and so offset xenophobic tendencies.

With this in mind, and in view of the fact that the EU Parliament declared 2015 the European Year for Development, we felt it was time to take a look at the bigger picture and engage in an exchange with experts from other European countries. Just as we do with our events in Germany, we wanted the concept behind this international event to reflect and incorporate our participants'

expectations. The result was a highly varied programme that gave the 30 experts from Austria, Belgium, France, Greece, Italy, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and Germany enough time and space to get to know each other and to further their knowledge and discussions.

Of course, this exchange forum merely represents a small municipal-level contribution to the successful networking of development-policy actors – with and without a migratory context. At any rate, it certainly marked a beginning and we at SKEW will endeavour to continue strengthening such exchanges across Europe.



Dr. Stefan Wilhelmy

Director of the Service Agency Communities in One World

## 2. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION



Dorea Pfaffert, Service Agency Communities in One World, Germany  
© Katrin Riß

Dear ladies and gentlemen,

I am very pleased to welcome you to the European Expert Workshop on Migration and Development at the Local Level here in the City of Cologne. Several months of research and participatory workshop preparation lie behind us. Indeed, we were delighted by the interest and inputs we received from so many different actors from across Europe.

### Rationale and motivation for the network meeting

The idea for this workshop first came up last year when we heard that 2015 had been declared the European Year for Development. The EU chose the topic of development cooperation for 2015 not least because of the post-2015 process. Only a couple of weeks ago, the United Nations ratified the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which now include strong references to our field of activity: namely, migration and development (M&D) at the local level.

Having already worked with different European partners before, we at the Service Agency for Communities in One World (SKEW) were already aware of the fact that approaches differ from one country to the next. However, we believe we can learn a great deal from each other by sharing and exchanging ideas, by discussing various possible angles of approach, and by involving actors from different backgrounds. For us, this was a great opportunity for an inter-European exchange on the local dimension of M&D.

### Different countries means different concepts and approaches

In preparation for this workshop, we examined various approaches to migration and development at the local level that are currently being applied in various European countries. Initially, a key challenge was the realisation that, across Europe, not only do the conditions for and approaches to the three basic points of M&D differ, but they do so widely. This applies not only to the migration and development nexus but to the role of local governments in development cooperation and last but not least to the approach towards migrants, diasporas and integration. Here are some brief examples:

First: One approach to the migration and development nexus is to try and reduce the causes of migration by means of development policy. However, an alternative approach would be to regard migrants as key cooperation partners in development education and as active members of civil society, both in Germany and in their countries of origin. In this way, they could help build bridges between the two nations and harness their skills, networks and insights to improve development cooperation. Of course, the approach could combine both aspects, i.e. an attempt to reduce the causes of migration while engaging with migrants as cooperation partners.

Second: The role that local governments play in development policy also differs greatly. This has to do, for example, with the different administrative structures in force in each country and with the role of local self-government, or the role of inter-municipal partnerships with partners from the Global South.

Third: Each country has its own history and migration policy and diaspora groups (countries of origin, level of self-organisation etc.) differ from country to country. These factors influence and shape the way people perceive migrants. However, they also determine the way in which a given country approaches the concept of a multi- or pluricultural society and thus its efforts to realise (or

not realise) integration. In Germany, for example, a person's migration background legally defines him or her. This societal and political perception would seem to tie the respective person to their (families') migration history, often over several generations. In contrast, France, for all intents and purposes, does not entertain this notion of a migration background or history. Migrants therefore only become labelled as such if, for example, they choose to highlight their migration background themselves, say by declaring their allegiance with a certain diaspora or by becoming actively engaged in a diaspora community that organises projects in their country of origin. The concept of 'diaspora'

is thus decisive when it comes to migration and development contexts.

The various countries' differing semantics, traditions, and policies have clear consequences for development policy in that they determine whether migrants are addressed as a separate group or are automatically included in development efforts on an equal footing with the rest of society.



© Katrin Reiß

### **Current refugee-related challenges – impetus from the field of migration and development**

Today's date, 9 November, marks the anniversary of the Nazi regime's 'Kristallnacht'. It is a date that reminds us of the importance of welcoming refugees throughout Europe and of supporting them in their attempt to seek safety in our countries.

From current discussions within the EU about how best to deal with the ever-rising numbers of refugees, we can see once again how important it is for us to re-invoke such fundamental European human values as human dignity, solidarity, and respect for human rights. Welcoming and integrating refugees is a challenge and one that all member states will be continuing to address for many years. This applies to the local level especially, where new ideas are most easily developed and tested. I believe that experts from our field will be able to contribute valuable experiences and ideas that

will enable this challenge to be seen as an opportunity, both for our societies and for development cooperation. I am sure that we will also share our thoughts about this issue during our workshop.

### **Workshop goals**

Why did we decide to hold this workshop? First of all, this workshop is intended to be a European network meeting. In other words, this is your opportunity to get to know more about the respective M&D contexts of your peers in various European countries and so build up a network of contacts. We hope this event will give us all a chance to learn more about the different approaches employed at the local level in the M&D nexus and about best practices and expertise from other countries.

Of course it would also be great to identify common challenges as well as any issues that might be a good starting point for future networking and cooperation. The current challenges raised by the arrival of refugees from different crisis regions again show that migration cannot be dealt with purely from a national standpoint. European cooperation and the sharing of expertise across borders constitute a quite obvious necessity but we are also presented with an opportunity here, too. Therefore, we hope that this workshop will become a springboard for wide-scale and mutually beneficial collaboration in the field of migration and development at the local level.

In closing, may I just say we are looking forward to exchanging ideas with so many different actors and wish you all an inspiring two days!

Thank you for your attention!

### 3. PARTICIPANTS

The workshop brought together a broad range of actors dedicated to the field of migration and development at the local level throughout Europe. The nine countries represented were Austria, Belgium, France, Greece, Italy, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and Germany.

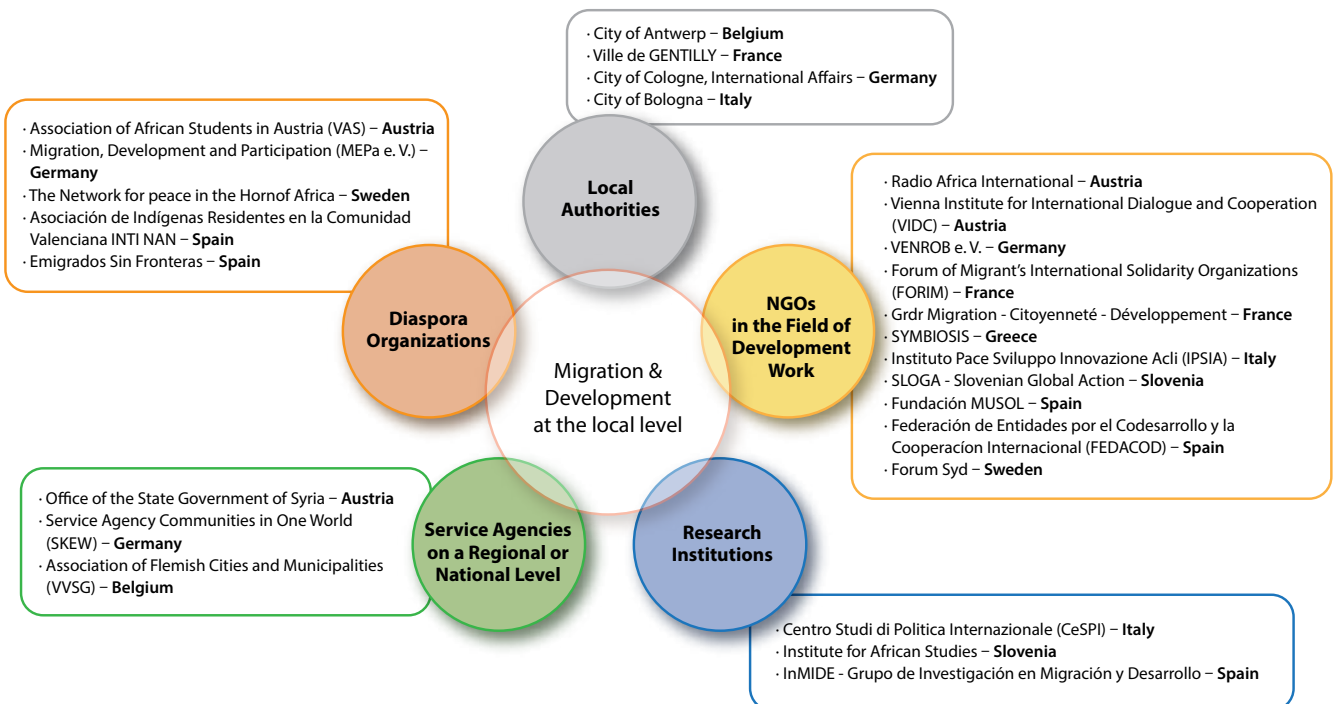
The workshop primarily targeted organisations with a practical focus in that its overriding goal was to bring together practitioners from various groups of actors currently addressing the topic of migration and development at the local level in a bid to learn about the general situation in their specific country and to explore various options for networking and cooperation.

In terms of the variety of actors, the meeting certainly fulfilled its objective. The following chart indicates five different categories of participating organisations: local authorities, diaspora organisations, NGOs in the field of development work, service agencies on a regional or national level, and research institutions.

service agencies operating at regional or national level and research institutions.

Of course this ‘classification’ is purely pragmatic and is mainly intended to provide an overview of the actors engaged in the M&D nexus. Indeed, some of the organisations could fit into two or even more categories. The present chart shows where the participants see themselves and their organisations.

Contact information for all workshop participants and their organisations is given at the end of this brochure.





## 4. THE WORKSHOP

### 4.1. The Workshop – Information, discussion and networking

**Information:** For the participants, this workshop was a chance to learn about the different realities of migration and development work at the local level across Europe. The two-day event enabled them to talk about settings, political frameworks and strategies with representatives of the various countries taking part. Some of the participants gave brief presentations so as to provide an overview of the M&D debate in their country along with the different approaches employed. These contributions revealed a great deal about the diverse (political) attitudes towards migration and the role of migrants within the respective societies, all of which of course frames and shapes the setting for M&D activities.



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This report aims to capture the essence of the participants' presentations (see chapters 2, 5, 7 and also the examples).

**Discussion:** Enriched with this broader view, the participants focussed on the issues and discussion points that are currently dominating the debate on M&D work at the local level, for example, various questions surrounding the current refugee inflow to Europe, the funding of diaspora organisations or the need for policy coherence at the local level in order to ensure the consistency of inputs in M&D contexts. These lively group discussions quickly showed the potential of cross-boarder debate, with participants gleaning plenty of insights (which are listed in Chapter 5 of this report). Looking ahead,

the participants also identified a number of topics for future exchanges. They discussed the framework conditions and likelihood of a prospective European network on M&D at the local level and talked about possible thematic fields of future cooperation (see Chapter 8).



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**Networking:** In addition to the actual workshop programme, the meeting offered various opportunities for informal conversations and discussions. In terms of its atmosphere, the event was characterised by a very high level of motivation, with participants eager to learn about other countries or other actors' expertise and keen to discuss and debate the questions and issues at stake. The participants seized this opportunity to get to know their European 'colleagues', exchanging professional contact details and sounding out potential fields of cooperation and exchange.



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## 4.2. Reception at Cologne's Historic Town Hall

During the two-day workshop, participants made use of every opportunity they could to continue their professional conversations and discussions and also to generally chat about related issues. As a consequence, the reception at Cologne's Town Hall also proved a very enjoyable and professionally beneficial get-together, one that gave people the chance to engage and network outside the workshop setting.

Cologne's Mayor and Councillor, Andreas Wolter, welcomed the European guests in the 'Hanseatic League Hall' (Hansasaal) at the heart of Cologne's historic Town Hall. In his speech, he talked about the high regard he had for the participants' professional commitment. He also introduced his guests to Cologne as an international and intercultural city. Indeed, just a few months previously, Cologne was declared winner of the Engagement Global competition 'Kommune bewegt Welt' (Municipalities Move the World) under the aegis of Dr. Gerd Müller, Germany's Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development. The objective of this competition is to seek out municipalities in which the local authorities, NGOs and diaspora organisations work well together on migration and development projects.



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The relaxed and communicative atmosphere of the evening's event culminated in a stunning juggling performance by an artist from the youth project 'Circus Radelito' which came about as part of the city partnership between Cologne and the Nicaraguan city of Corinto.



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After the performance, the participants made the most of the time remaining to further their informal contacts, network and engage in discussions.

## 5. MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT – ABOUT OSCILLATING POLICIES AND THE ROLE OF DIASPORA ORGANISATIONS

### 5.1. Migration & Development Policies and Interventions at the Local Level: Genealogy and Issues at Stake<sup>1</sup>

Petra Mezzetti (CeSPI<sup>2</sup>, Italy)

In this note we wish to unravel what is understood as the Migration & Development nexus (M&D). After a brief genealogy of the key concepts linked to the Migration & Development paradigm, we will contextualize this topic in the new 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Concluding we will highlight issues at stake and current challenges.



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#### Genealogy

##### *Between optimistic and pessimistic views*

Migration and remittances became the new 'development Mantra' in early 2000 (Kapur, 2003). At this time remittance flows bypassed Official Development Aid (ODA). This way migration started being conceived as a potential

development resource by various governments both in the North and in the South and also by development agencies, etc. (Nyberg-Sørensen et al. 2002; Ratha, 2003; United Nations, 2006). In this framework also 'migrant diasporas' attracted attention as potential contributors to social, economic and political development (de Haas, 2006). As a direct consequence after 2000 in different continents Ministries for Diasporas abroad have been established such as in Senegal, Morocco, Ecuador, Philippines just to mention a few (Mendoza, 2009).

It is important to note that Migration & Development instead is not a new topic. As Hein de Haas clarified (2012), the debate on migration and development rather swung back and forth like a pendulum between optimistic and pessimistic views since postwar II. It went from optimism in the 1950s and 1960s to pessimism, scepticism and relative neglect since the early 1970s, and back towards more optimistic views since 2000' (de Haas, 2012: 11). In early 2000 as mentioned above we assisted to the sudden 'rediscovery' and the rapid shift towards optimistic views of 'migration and development'. Today again, as we write, the pendulum seems to move towards less optimistic views around the concept.

##### *Impacts of Migration on the Sending Countries*

The reason however why pessimistic and optimistic views interestingly coexisted is that their focus differs. This in particular applies when looking at the impact of migration in terms of development on the sending countries. On the one hand, it is affirmed that migration has enabled millions of families around the world to improve substantially their incomes and living conditions. On the other hand, migration may actually reinforce existing

1 Please find the bibliography to this text in Annex I.

2 Centro Studi di Politica Internazionale (CeSPI), [www.cespi.it](http://www.cespi.it)

inequalities and dependencies. What is today clearer than before is that migration (or migrants) alone does not enable processes of structural reform and social transformation that generate 'development'. In fact, the causal link can be reversed. Not migration but rather development - generated by structural, political and economic reform - can unbridle the development potential of migration. This can mean that development in origin countries takes a positive turn, countries stabilize politically, and migrants recognizing such new opportunities start investing, circulating and returning to their origin countries. Such dynamics have occurred in several former emigration countries as diverse as Spain, the Republic of Korea, India and Taiwan (de Haas, 2012: 19).



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### Effects at the local Level

Looking at the opposite end of migratory paths, migrants' integration in European countries is a long standing process. It especially at the local level, generally benefited from migrants' cohesive organisational patterns (namely through hometown, mutual help, diaspora, etc. organisations). Migrant's organisations have been both engaged in processes of integration in their destination country and in transnational actions – such as financial support towards small community projects in villages in countries of origin. This in some cases allowed them to act in the public sphere in both contexts (Mezzetti, 2011; Ceschi and Mezzetti, 2012; Pirkkalainen et al., 2013). Spontaneous co-development projects/initiatives 'here' in the country of residence, and 'there' in the country of origin were built since the early 1980s for example in France, the UK etc. (Quiminal 1991; Daum, 1994; Gardner, 1995; Garbaye 2000; Al-Ali and Khoser 2002). Insofar migrant organisations have been providing funds for building a well or

electricity in a village in Senegal, Mali, Somalia or Morocco. At the same time they have been interacting with civil society organisations and public authorities in Europe and this way have been gaining recognition and legitimacy as 'political' and/or 'developmental' actors (Mezzetti 2011; Mezzetti et. al., 2014).

Within this dynamic, it appears clear that also the 'local' dimension concerning Migration & Development issues – that has become a hot topic only very recently – is not new (IOM-JMDI 2015; IOM 2015).

### **Country Insights on France – A Pioneer in Co-development**

In France for example co-development on the one hand has been a 'governmental policy' since early 1980s. It was realized especially with Senegal and Mali and was strongly opposed and criticised as it mainly supported return (Lacroix, 2010). On the other hand co-development has also represented a spontaneous engagement dynamic between migrant organisations and local authorities occurring at the local level (Quiminal, 1991; Garbaye 2000; Lacroix 2005;).

At the national level a process for re-launching co-development as a positive policy started in 1998. It was supported by several ministries, and ended after two years of consultations, that saw the involvement of multi-level stakeholders (including Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), local authorities (LAs), diaspora organisations). This consultative process led to the creation of a Forum of migrant organisations (Forim); the establishment of a 'Co-development Ambassador' within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; institutional support to several initiatives not linked to return (Lacroix 2005; Lacroix, 2010). Today despite the long tradition and pioneering role of France in co-development, less resources are reserved to this pillar and target countries remain very specific (Khoudour-Castéras, 2010).

## Country Insights on Italy – Effects of a Strong Local Commitment

In Italy, on the contrary a National Policy on Co-development was never put in place. In 2014 the revised Development Cooperation Law,<sup>3</sup> finally recognized migrants' organisations as potential developmental actors. In the last decade, some interesting dynamics occurred in particular at the local level.

### The example of Milan

The municipality of Milano for example launched a programme named Milano for Co-development in the period 2007-2014. This programme included capacity building and training courses for migrants and their organisations as well as three calls for projects (amounting to more than 4 million Euro) supporting partnerships between migrant organisations and NGOs that lead towards learning by doing practices (i.e. towards programming, fund raising; communication etc.). 66 projects were funded, mostly implemented in Africa (Senegal) and in Latin America (Ecuador), only two in Asia. All of them included a component implemented in the local context of Milano.<sup>4</sup>



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### What results were achieved?

If we look at the Milanese context (Italy), we can observe that increased capacities exercised by migrant organisations allowed these actors to gain a degree of visibility in the public sphere. Also they gain legitimacy to act as new actors both for integration policies as well as for development cooperation initiatives.

Secondly, NGOs typically working on development started also working on their territories of residence. This way their work on awareness raising and campaigns on typical development initiatives became more visible, reaching out to a broader public, forcing them to work closely together in the context of residence, by exchanging and learning from each other's' practices.

Thirdly, at the municipal level joint work was undertaken between different municipal sectors that rarely, if never, were used to work together. For example, the Welfare-social policy sector worked jointly with Culture to concretely set up the 'City World Forum' (Forum della Città Mondo), a platform for migrant organisations.<sup>5</sup> International Relations and Welfare-social policy sectors worked jointly to build the Center for the Cultures of the World. This one stop shop, launched in October 2015, is underway to achieve good cooperation between different public services, together with the creation of new services to meet the concrete needs of migrants.

### Critical Points

Concerning the countries of origin instead, in terms of development, interventions remain very dispersed, although some sectors resulted well receptive such as agriculture; awareness concerning migration challenges and responsible tourism.

In addition as a critical point, too little linkages were established between diasporas' initiatives and National Development Policies. Furthermore, no true engagement of diasporas interventions was fostered in highly relevant sectorial policies. And finally, too little direct work was promoted

3 Law 125/2014, which replaced the one dated back to 1987. This old and dated Law however recognized Local authorities as development cooperation key actors (Grillo, Riccio 2004)

4 See: Milano for Codevelopment: [http://mediagallery.comune.milano.it/cdm/objects/changeme:43106/datastreams/dataStream20627641262958408/content?pgpath=/SA\\_SiteContent/SEGUI\\_AMMINISTRAZIONE/ATTIVITA\\_INTERNAZIONALI/Progetti/Cosviluppo](http://mediagallery.comune.milano.it/cdm/objects/changeme:43106/datastreams/dataStream20627641262958408/content?pgpath=/SA_SiteContent/SEGUI_AMMINISTRAZIONE/ATTIVITA_INTERNAZIONALI/Progetti/Cosviluppo)

5 For more details check (in Italian): [http://www.comune.milano.it/wps/portal/ist/it/parteci-pa/foruminiziative/Forum\\_Citta\\_Mondo](http://www.comune.milano.it/wps/portal/ist/it/parteci-pa/foruminiziative/Forum_Citta_Mondo)

and realized with homologue institutions (i.e. local authorities, in third countries that would have allowed for more continuity and sustainability of the initiatives, guaranteed through well established and functioning institutional relationships.

## Conclusions and Challenges

Migration is a dynamic phenomenon, which changes rapidly direction and form and thus needs to be continuously observed, updated, analysed, and understood. Insofar attention rather needs to be paid for building inclusive processes than finding 'one solution fits all' easily replicable. This for example regards public policies that favour development through transnational linkages between country of origin and diasporas, etc.

### Political Requirements

What can be observed in years of experience working with diaspora organisations especially in migrants' countries of residence is that political opportunities are often locally based. In general it is crucial for succeeding, to act within contexts that provide well-functioning multi-level governance, coherent policies between sectors and levels of government. Furthermore, sustainability is only guaranteed through a serious engagement of public authorities, that should support migrants' organisations engagement beyond calls for projects/programmes, with policies established with medium-long terms objectives. Both in the North and in the South what can make the difference is building policies and initiatives through validation that takes place through participative and consultative processes with civil society and diaspora organisations involved.

However, what is happening today is that resources are so limited that there is a risk to undermine any serious work. Other major convictions and challenges may refer on the one hand to the need to re-affirm the clear responsibility of countries of origin for political and economic reforms to be established that can unleash development. Secondly there is the profound question on what idea underlies development, for whom, with which objectives, etc.

### Paradigm Shift

We are assisting to a new paradigm shift, whereby emergency and protection rather than just mobility/migration needs to be connected with development. This shift is also sustained in the 2030 Agenda for Development. The so-called Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are universal goals and targets which involve the entire world, developed and developing countries alike (...), they are integrated and indivisible and balance the three dimensions (economic, social and environmental) of sustainable development' (United Nations, 2015). This is to underline that development is not only needed or should take place in the developing/ Southern world, nor that poverty is there confined or mobility and migration affects only the North. The world is one and it is more complex, and the Migration & Development paradigm is affected by all these new challenges. In this sense the word co-development could/should be pulled out from North/South asymmetric relationships and finally re-shape its meaning regarding a real and shared interchange between distant territories.

To conclude this very brief note, we think that in this specific domain - whether we are speaking of migrants or refugees, emergency, integration or development - there is space today for different actors and stakeholders to act. This action could go in the direction of advancing and promoting lessons and results specific to the 'local' dimension in all areas mentioned above. Local authorities and their territorial partners (which include diasporas, refugees etc.) then do play a key role both in the North and in the South.

Dr. Petra Mezzetti (Ph.D. in Sociology and Urban Studies) is the Coordinator at CeSPI of the Area of Studies on International Migration and Development Cooperation. She has previously worked for international organisations in particular with the United Nations Development Programme (Human Development Report Office, New York) and at United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in Geneva. Her research work focuses on international, regional, and national migration policies, international and territorial cooperation, diasporas and transnational studies. Her geographic work has focused on Africa, and in particular Senegal, Morocco, the Horn of Africa (Somalia), Egypt, and Cote d'Ivoire. Email: [petra.mezzetti@cespi.it](mailto:petra.mezzetti@cespi.it)

## 5.2. Organisations of Global Identity in Development Cooperation and Development Policies

Abdou Rahime Diallo (MEPa<sup>6</sup> VENROB,<sup>7</sup> Germany)



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### Retrospection, Background and State of Affairs

#### Past Perceptions and Influencing Factors in Development Policies

During the past 15 years, actors and initiatives working on migration and development have been remarkably influenced by political agreements and decisions on the general, global and supra-national level, such as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), Millennium Development Goals (MDG), and the High Level Dialogue on Migration and Development (HLDM).

The awareness building processes and discourses on migration and development during the nineties remarkably empowered the position of diasporas and their development engagement from a development factor to a development actor. This process was initiated by remittances studies of the World Bank, which shocked and shattered the development scepticism and pessimism of the 70', 80' and early 90'. As a consequence, especially on UN-Level, actions, processes and policies have been initiated, such as the Migration & Development Nexus, the Global Forum on

Migration and Development (GFMD), or the High Level Dialogue on Migration and Development.

Although diaspora remittances exceeded the Official Development Aid (ODA) more than three times, this fact did not eradicate the paternalistic and top down character of global development policies of that time. Still the policy and decision makers, the initiators, donors and designers of development policies, processes and rules of actions had in general a Global North perspective. This attitude becomes visible in the conception of the Millennium Development Goals (MDG), where the Global South was defined as the development area while the Global North played the role of the developing area. Many intercontinental development agreements, such as the Joint Africa Europe Strategy (JAES), were deduced from and influenced by this tenor, and so were national development policies.

#### The Current Shift of Development Policy Perspectives

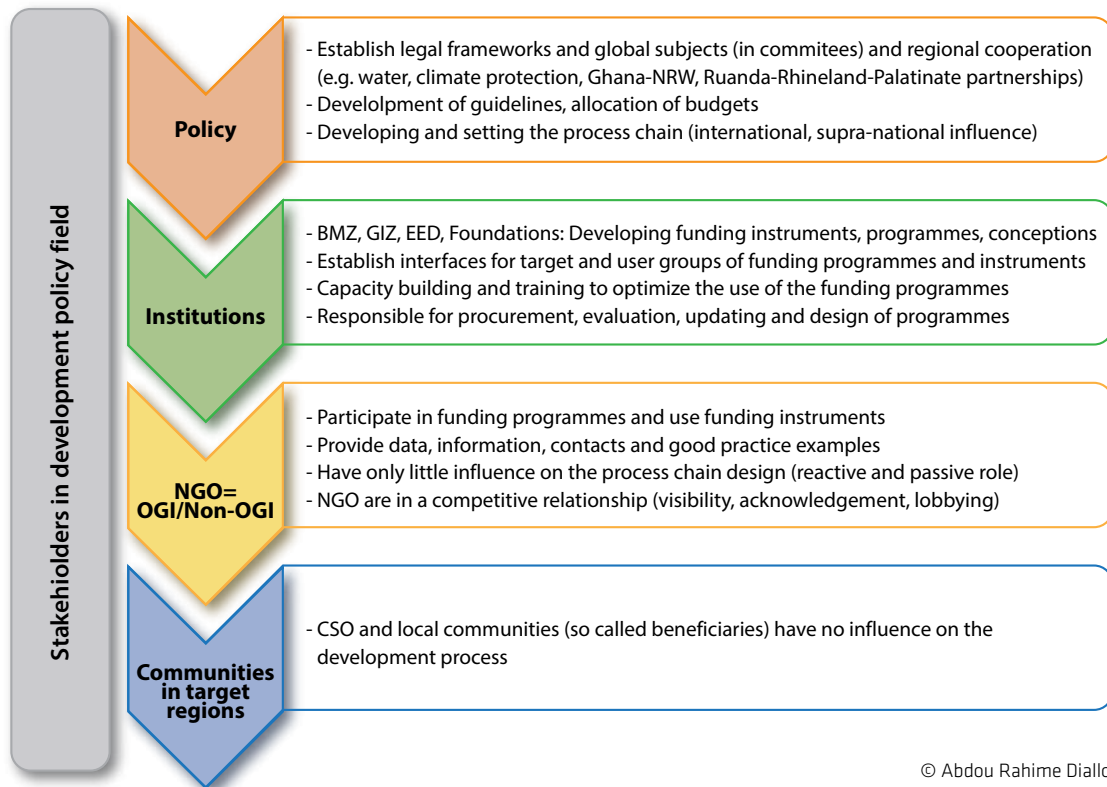
With the ongoing intensive post-MDG-discourses stronger global-south perspectives were integrated into development conceptions. These were concretised in the setup of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). The perceptions shifted from development aid to development co-operation, from donor-receptor-relationships to partnerships of equal level, and for the first time the Global North became part of the development areas. At the same time actors and organisations of global identity<sup>8</sup> (AGI/OGI) increased their consciousness, roles and competences in the development field, also in Germany. While in the past decade their role as bridge builder was more and more recognised by the German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), and the related organisations like the GIZ and Engagement Global, they highlighted their self-image of bridge builders and crossers.

On top of that an increasing differentiation and multi-perspective self-understanding and acting of Organisations of Global Identity (OGI) could be observed, accompanied by corresponding

6 Migration, Entwicklung und Partizipation" e.V. / Association for Migration, Development and Participation

7 Verbund Entwicklungspolitischer Nichtregierungsorganisationen Brandenburgs e. V. / Association of developmental non-governmental organisations in Brandenburg; www.venrob.org

8 The term "migrant/migrant organisation" tends to be politically negatively connoted, which is why the author replaces it by the terms Actors of Global Identity (AGI) or Organisations of Global Identity (OGI)



developments in the specific fields. Today many OGI link sustainability, social business, social participation and inclusion, global education, global media with development cooperation. The interlinking of Organisations of Global Identity (OGI) from different national backgrounds and the building of regional and federal umbrella organisations is increasing as well. Today many Organisations of Global Identity (OGI) are aware that they are not only participants of development programmes but political actors in the field of development policies.

In addition the considerable inflows of refugees in the past three years in Germany had remarkable effects. On the one hand numerous civil society welcoming initiatives sprang up. On the other hand also right-wing-initiated anti-refugee-initiatives influenced development policies. Thematic areas like decolonisation, antiracism, postcolonial studies were driven into the development discourses and action fields and triggered and strengthened the active role of Organisations of Global Identity (OGI) more and more.

### Stress Fields / Challenges for Organisations of Global Identity

Organisations of Global Identity (OGI) carry out their activities in development policies and development cooperation confronted with quite some challenges. Their range of activities is determined and delimited by structural facts of the development participating process, specific needs for capacity building, education and trainings, challenges in managing diversity, and the competitive situation of different stakeholder groups in the development area (Organisations of Global Identity, one-world-net-organisations, implementing institutions and federal, communal and local administrations).

OGI still understand the development policies process as a top down process. They claim for more inclusion, sovereignty and participation regarding specific thematic areas. This includes the following aspects and challenges:

- OGI need to develop their identity as development actors and take over responsibility for this role
- OGI are challenged to initiate political discourses and to participate
- In the role of political acting stake- and sharehol-



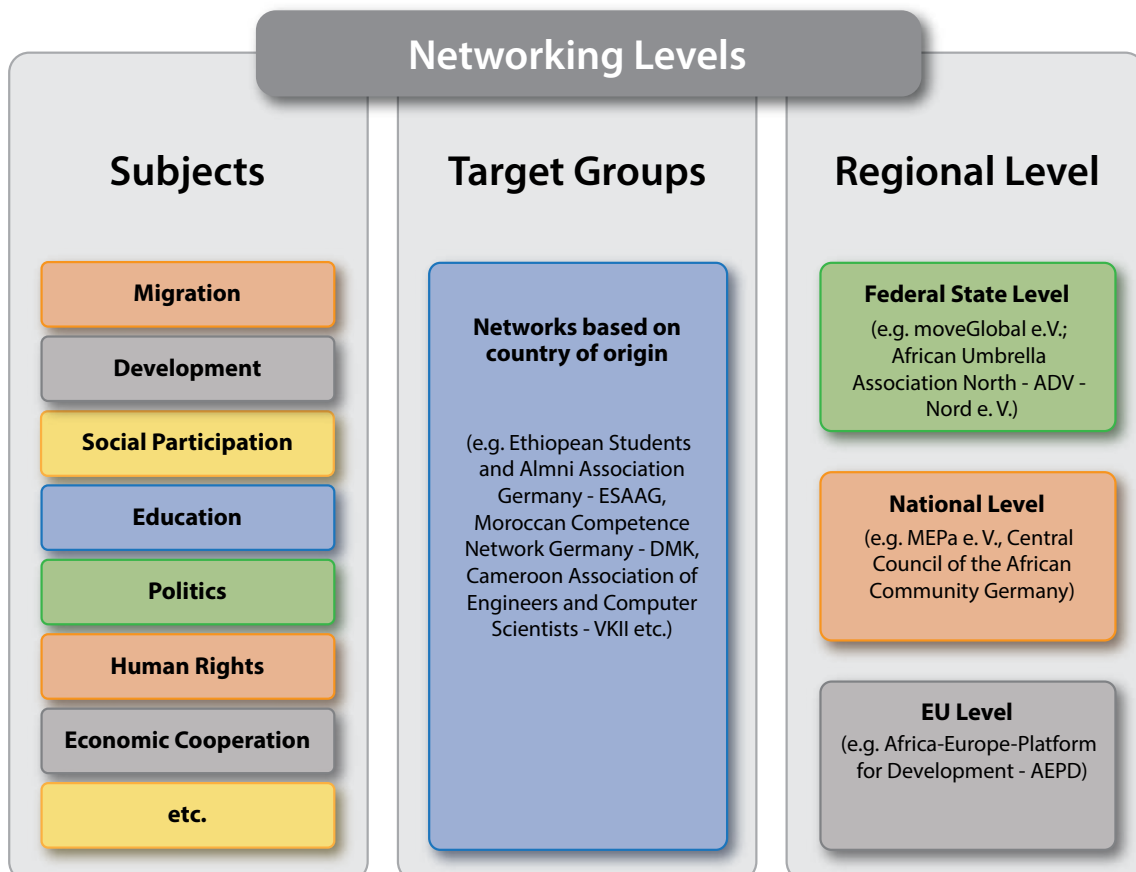
- der this includes identifying individual political positions and defending these within the discourse
- OGI are challenged to place particular stimuli and impulses for a better recognition and a better interaction with other stakeholders
- OGI need to revise their goals and develop new ones in a changing post MDG-field influenced by new principles: Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), Global Citizenship, current global migration, increase of right wing movements, increase of civil rights movements in the Global South

**Future Trends**

In the future networking is an essential strategy for Organisations of Global Identity (OGI) in order to strengthen their position in the field. More Organisations of Global Identity (OGI) that acted so far delimited to their own community, are reaching out to cooperate with other Organisations of Global Identity (OGI) with corresponding and common goals. We observe e.g. Somali refugee associations

in Bremen, which establish partnerships with Guinean umbrella organisations to learn from their experience. More Pan-African associations and networks spring up and occupy various action fields. The Iranian student community of Germany is interacting with African Diaspora experts to exchange social business and development experiences. At the same time the number of politicians with a global identity is increasing. Cities of North Rhine-Westphalia see the diversity of chairpersons of councils for integration steadily growing. Before the majority originated from Turkey. Now we see Tunisian, Guinean, Cameroon, Sri Lankan and other countries represented. We observe as well in the field of Organisations of Global Identity (OGI), the interlinking of so far separated policy areas, like integration, education, and development politics. Also the OGI-networks of tomorrow will more

and more cross national borders. Already existing examples are the EU-wide networks and think tanks such as the Africa Europe Platform for Development – AEPD, The African Diaspora



Youth Network Europe (ADYNE), African Diaspora Policy Centre (ADPC), African Foundation for Development (AFFORD), or nation-wide platforms like Forum des Organisations de Solidarité Internationale issue des Migrations (FORIM) in France, the Dutch Consortium of Migrant Organisations (DCMO), Coordination générale des Migrants pour le développement (CGMD) in Belgium and many more. On top of that these networks develop tight links with civil society organisations and institutions in the Global South and hence foster their position and importance in the development policy fields.



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### **Example I: Service Agency Communities in One World – Germany’s competence centre for local development policy**

*Kevin Borchers (SKEW, Germany)*

The Service Agency Communities in One World (SKEW), a division of Engagement Global – Germany’s Service for Development Initiatives – became Germany’s competence centre for local development policy in 2001. Funded by Germany’s Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), and by the German federal states of Baden-Württemberg, Bremen, Hamburg, Lower Saxony, North Rhine-Westphalia and Rhineland-Palatinate, SKEW provides advisory and other key services to local development actors. These include federal ministries, federal states, local authorities and their associations, as well as NGO umbrella

organisations and other German organisations involved in international development.



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The key goal of SKEW is to strengthen hands-on engagement in international development by municipalities (policy-makers and administrators) and local communities (civil society) in areas such as local sustainable development, local level M&D, fair trade and municipal partnerships while also forging international municipal links for development. SKEW works closely with municipalities, providing recommendations on the formation of initiative groups, for example, or advising on the compilation of participant groups or the organisation and implementation workshops and conferences. Standard activities with municipalities include support for mainstreaming processes, sustainability reporting and monitoring and evaluation. When advising municipalities, SKEW aims to assist them to develop their own specific local sustainability strategies that also embrace overarching priorities of sustainable development, i.e. it aims to network the strategies pursued by the German government and its federal states with the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

### **Migration and development at the local level - Perspectives, projects and the current focus**

It was in 2007 that SKEW incorporated the topic of ‘migration and development at the local level’ into its programmes. One of the main ideas behind this move was to assist migrant organisations engaged in development work to link up with other local development initiatives. SKEW’s approach revolves around three key M&D principles:

The first is local development cooperation itself. I.e. migrant actors can get involved in local

development projects and contribute their experiences and knowledge of the Global South. The second aspect relates to the effects of development in the migrants' countries of origin which can benefit from existing networks and mutual exchanges with Global North. The third principle concerns successful integration and communication within the municipality. Successful cooperation between the diaspora and local development actors can make for a positive contribution to integration and thus nurture greater intercultural sensitivity in the local community.

SKEW-backed projects in the field of migration and development include:

- Network meetings on migration and development at the local level. In order to foster cooperation and dialogue between M&D players, SKEW organises regular network meetings on a federal as well as a regional level.
- Pool of advisors to help open up municipal development cooperation in intercultural terms. Migrants and their organisations can advise municipalities and thus help strengthen local development work, thereby boosting intercultural expertise within local authorities and promoting integration.
- 'Municipalities Move the World': This nationwide competition for municipalities aims to seek out the most outstanding local contributions to migration and development.
- SKEW is presently working out how to involve refugees in municipal development cooperation.
- Studies and surveys, including, by way of example, research into the landscape of municipal actors or recommendations for successful cooperation between local authorities and civil society actors.

### **Example II: People and structures - Best practices from the City of Antwerp's Zuidwerking**

*Daan Sanders (City of Antwerp, Belgium)*

In 2009 and 2010, the City of Antwerp developed a new development cooperation vision. With this new programme, the city council wanted to do justice to the city's diverse and varied civil society and the diversity of its migrant communities. The new policy was named 'Zuidwerking'.

As a port city, Antwerp has always had a large inflow and outflow of migrants. Today, more than 170 nationalities call Antwerp their home. Some of them have joined migrant or ethnic-cultural minority organisations, or - more specifically - diaspora organisations with a link to their country of origin. Often these diaspora organisations have remarkable intercultural competences as well as invaluable access to networks. In addition to these diaspora organisations, there are other organisations and institutions that contribute their expertise in the field of development cooperation, education, healthcare and local economic development (university, university colleges, NGOs, hospitals, the Institute for Tropical Medicine, companies and so on).



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The City brings these partners together, forming and facilitating Antwerp-based networks through which stakeholders implement small-scale projects designed to strengthen education, healthcare and the local economy in their various countries of origin (Congo, Ghana and Morocco). At present, the City is overseeing the development, implementation and funding of 26 projects within these networks. The Congolese, Ghanaian and Moroccan diaspora organisations in Antwerp contributed to the City's 'Zuidwerking' from the start, thanks directly to the City's bottom-up approach. By listening to diaspora organisations, providing advice and giving them responsibility, these organisations have become an indispensable link between partners in Antwerp and the countries of origin. At the same time, the City is indirectly helping to improve social cohesion in Antwerp by building bridges between diverse Antwerp stakeholders engaged in development cooperation in these countries (including diaspora organisations).

Social cohesion and the City's 'Zuidwerking' programme are illustrated in a documentary launched in September 2015 called "De Wereld in Antwerpen" (The World in Antwerp, available for online viewing at [www.antwerpen.be/zuidwerking](http://www.antwerpen.be/zuidwerking) with French and English subtitles). Following eight people from Antwerp with Flemish, Congolese, Ghanaian and Moroccan roots, the film shows how they all contribute to projects in the City's three partner countries. For some of the participants this is also the country of origin of their parents or grandparents. This documentary is screened in community and cultural centres and in university colleges, but is also shared with various other city-based organisations as well as with interested organisations elsewhere in Belgium or even further afield.

### Example III: Thinking differently – Approaches and tools by Grdr Migration-Citoyenneté-Développement

*Olivier Le Masson (Grdr,<sup>9</sup> France)*



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In his presentation, Olivier Le Masson provided some insights into a toolbox developed by Grdr Migration-Citoyenneté-Développement. This implementation is designed to facilitate projects at the local level by NGOs and local authorities in African and European territories by helping to analyse the complexity of influencing factors and thus the chances of project success within the M&D context.

The toolbox derives from the approach used and developed by the French NGO which provides for a broad and reflective view of the implications

deriving from projects and activities within the M&D context. One of its key features is the way it contextualises problems, starting from the concept of mobility. Instead of distinguishing between migrants and non-migrants, between people, things, ideas and money, or between here and there, this approach seeks to capture the whole picture. It aims to make us aware of the fact that we are living in an inherently mobile world in which migrants only account for part of the mobility issue.

In keeping with this concept, projects should always have a positive impact on (1) the countries of origin, (2) the countries of destination and (3) and migrant integration into the receiving societies, for example, as regards their rights and active citizenship.

Olivier Le Masson presented two tools – 'Project Cycle' and 'Radar of Competences' – which offer a broader perspective on mobility in project planning and evaluation processes. The tools are available in French in the Report "La dimension locale de la dialectique Migration - Développement - Le cas France -Sénégal" on Grdr's website ([www.grdr.org](http://www.grdr.org)).

<sup>9</sup> Grdr Migration-Citoyenneté-Développement, [www.grdr.org](http://www.grdr.org)

## 6. WORKSHOP DISCUSSIONS AND RESULTS

On its second day, the workshop focussed on topics and questions that are shaping the current debate on migration and development at the local level.

By way of a springboard for further networking, workshop discussions concentrated in particular on those topics that warrant further discussion and cooperation within a future European network. The groups were essentially tasked with revealing the main facets, challenges and chances of each subject tabled for debate. Nevertheless, in some cases, discussions already went so deep as to identify a number of key details or even map out ideas for potential solutions. In other instances, the discussion did not get any further than the initial problem outline, as the participants realised that, in order to go deeper into the given issue and identify any solution strategies, they would need to talk more and also involve the respective policy and decision-makers (on the different levels).



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The main results of the various discussion groups are outlined below.

Overall the discussions showed that across Europe different **terminology** is used to address persons coming from another country. This also applies to their descendants and to organisations formed by these persons. These different semantics, labels and terms reflect different perspectives

on migration and more importantly generate the framework and orientation for the different approaches.

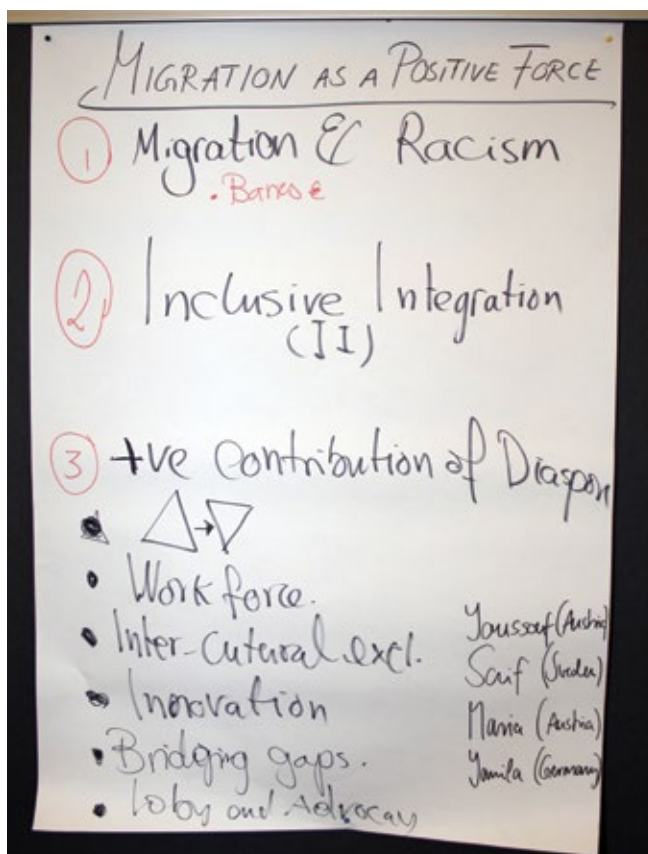
Each of the terms highlights certain aspects and shows specific underlying concepts.

For example, the term diaspora emphasizes the engagement of migrants in their countries of origin. Although used quite broadly, it was criticised by the participants who felt it derives from another context (minority situation of religious groups). While participants from Belgium suggested the term ethnic-cultural minorities, the term used in Germany is 'people with migrant background'. While this term does underscore the fact that the people referred to are German citizens, it also tends to tie persons to their migratory history or – in plenty of cases – to their families' migratory history. The Swedish discourse generally intends to avoid labelling any members of its population as having a migrant background. In other words, all people who live in Sweden are considered to be members of Swedish society – whatever background they have. Hence, all members of civil society can be experts for migration and development and promoters of respective projects. Whether or not an organisation merits supports depends on its individual contribution and on the way it impacts Swedish society or the people and society in the countries it is cooperating with, and not on criteria such as 'migratory background'. The focus thus lies on developing the capacity of Swedish civil society in general – including diaspora organisations.

All in all, the discussion showed that adequate terminology – especially for organisations founded and managed by migrants – still has to be developed. Moreover, the terminology has to reflect migrants' legal status .

## 6.1. Supporting migration as a positive force for development

In many contexts, migration and its effects are still essentially debated in terms of the problems and challenges posed. In contrast, the chances and opportunities of migratory movements still tend to be neglected or dismissed. The first discussion group was therefore keen to emphasize the need to change this negative point of view and to foster a positive and resource-oriented attitude to migration at the political level but also throughout civil society. Accordingly, this resource orientation also needs to provide the framework for discussions centring on migration and development at the local level.



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The experts first focused on the positive effects of migration for the receiving societies. In many European countries, for example, migrants fill a demographic gap, especially in terms of the workforce. Generally speaking, they also have the potential to bring new perspectives and innovative ideas to the receiving societies. Also, migrants can potentially bridge gaps in relations between two

countries (personal contacts, language skills, expert knowledge about needs and requirements or about cooperation opportunities in their countries of origin). People with a migrant background could also engage in lobbying and advocacy as part of the current challenge posed by the inflow of refugees to Europe (for more details on 'Refugees – opportunities and challenges for migration and development work' see chapter 6.4).

On the other hand, the participants highlighted the challenges and barriers migrants are still often confronted with. These range from obstacles at the personal level, such as a lack of language skills, to political obstacles to integration, such as restrictions on labour-market access. These barriers often prevent migrants from engaging in pro-active citizenship or from supporting their country of origin.

## 6.2. Coherent policies and networks at the local level

### Mainstreaming mobility and diversity

Local-level commitment to migration and development is shaped and influenced by local politics and the topics it prioritises. These can vary from areas such as integration, international cooperation and sustainable local development, but also include all other policy areas such as social issues, economy, education etc.

To find a common denominator for the various M&D commitments and to ensure effective and coordinated work, the workshop participants championed the idea of mainstreaming mobility and diversity into all local policies. Achieving this necessitates a long-term strategy on mobility and diversity – embedded in a respective long-term policy. It is also vital to have key persons within the local authorities who are committed to this mainstreaming process and who will thus work to advance this cause. Platforms, dialogue frameworks (virtual or face-to-face meetings) are also necessary as they create a space for stakeholders to map out possible ramifications and then decide which action to take.



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### Local networks – Benefits and requirements

During discussions, some of the participants went deeper into the requirements and chances of local networks as an effective strategy for supporting and fostering development work at the local level. Local networks can ensure the coordination and effective cooperation of all the different players in a municipality or region. In order for these networks to work, the following has to be taken into consideration:

1. First of all, the participants stressed that the respective local authorities do play a key role in local networks and that their ongoing presence and commitment is vital to their success. The authorities' main task within the network was seen as its coordinatory role, which has a content-related as well as an organisational dimension.
2. In order to make local networks sustainable and effective, it is necessary to clarify and consider the various objectives of the different actors involved. Owing to the variety of players, local networks are usually faced with quite a large range of perspectives. These can be determined, for example, by a focus on a certain country or topic. However, at other times, the respective organisation's background, size and scope of activity may be decisive. For instance, there are huge differences between volunteer or fully professional organisations. As a consequence, care has to be taken to ensure the network generates (mutual) benefit for all members. It is necessary to work out converging interests and to discuss them in respective sub-networks or working groups.
3. The discussion showed that local networks need a certain amount of fostering and maintenance in order to be effective. For example, it is important

to constantly monitor the area of activity and to invite potential new members to the network. It is also important to create and maintain a respective database.

To keep local networks alive, a certain 'rhythm of animation' is needed, like regular network meetings that provide a forum for all participating players, enabling them to share information about their respective goals, fields of work and current projects, thus facilitating mutual learning as well as options for cooperation. Also regular meetings help to identify existing problems and network-member needs. In turn, this enables the local authorities to take corresponding action in response. On the other hand, inputs and training for network partners can help to professionalise operations and make the network more attractive - especially for newcomers and small initiatives.

Finally, the discussion group focussed on a trans-regional and trans-national perspective for local networks, discussing the chances that arise from connecting with similar local networks in countries of the Global South or from helping to build such networks in the respective partner countries. Local networks in the Global South are seen as important catalysts that support civil society organisations (CSOs), especially ones that are weak or still under development. Examples of best practices (from different countries) were singled out as a potentially helpful incentive that might encourage local authorities in Europe to start engaging in this kind of cooperation.

### 6.3. Financial crisis & social challenges as a chance for innovation

One of the discussion groups dealt with crisis situations as a general challenge for migration and development work at the local level.

The financial crisis that ripped through various European countries is still having a huge impact on organisations working in the field of migration and development. As is the current European refugee crisis. This is the kind of scenario that reveals the strengths as well as the weaknesses of M&D organisations and this field of work in general.

In terms of 'weakness', there is the vulnerability caused by the generally small financial basis involved. Players in the field of migration and

development usually depend on public funding and are easily affected by cutbacks in government spending. The financial crisis in Greece and Spain, for example, led to a severe shortfall in public funding, causing the dissolution of a huge number of civil society organisations (CSOs). Sweden is currently discussing whether to shift grants from the development sector to the pay for the costs of accommodating and integrating refugees. This too would impact heavily on development organisations there.

On the other hand, crisis situations often produce a number of opportunities and new openings for development. They can lead to new insights, ideas and innovative approaches. For example, the Spanish representatives now acknowledge they have a chance to professionalise and evolve, in spite of the general restructuring mentioned above.

The so-called refugee 'crisis' for its part showed just how flexible development work at the local level is. Indeed, it was the local level that was able to react most easily to the huge influx in refugees. In addition, there was a massive upturn in civic engagement with new civil society organisations literally springing up everywhere. The different paces at which the authorities and civil society players on the various levels were able to react became clear very quickly. Field workers and players at the local level can launch into action much faster than higher levels of decision-making.

On the other hand, pro-active institutions and organisations need a clear mandate and framework for their work. As a result, the participants stressed the need for more lobbying in order to bring about more effective decision-making, especially on the EU level.

#### 6.4. Refugees – Opportunities and challenges for migration and development work

The various crisis regions worldwide, the resultant migrant and refugee inflows and the consequences for Europe as one of the regions of destination significantly affect and challenge the development and migration nexus. The participants thus showed a special interest in the question as to how to include refugees and the causes of refugee movements in their development work.



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The discussion group agreed on three main headings – networks and coordination; information education and awareness-raising; role and engagement of refugees – for their discussions on the interlinkages between migration and development and their debate on refugee inflows and causes.

#### Networks and coordination

The participants attached special emphasis to the importance of networking. They saw a strong need to connect all actors at the local level in order to guarantee the coordination of different activities. Possible network partners include the municipalities/local authorities, civil society organisations (CSOs), community-based organisations (CBOs), charity organisations, but also actors such as universities and business. The move to get committed companies on board was seen as a particularly innovative step. The huge variety of self-organised networks that has sprung up in recent months is proof of civil societies' potential for dynamic crisis solution. The participants concluded that M&D actors especially can help to bridge local work and international activities in the field of refugee assistance and integration.

According to the participants, cooperation between all possible players involved with the issue can result in innovative and successful strategies to improve the reception of refugees and their integration into society.

#### Information, education and awareness-raising

According to the participants, the arrival and integration of refugees in European countries has created a huge need for political and development education throughout all parts of civil society but



also amongst politicians, too. At the same time, they commented on the public's remarkable openness and interest in the respective issues. Major social developments have awakened people's interest in global issues and the global interrelations surrounding migration. Thus, it is now up to the players in the field of migration and development to seize this opportunity and build on existing public interest in order to develop and extend their awareness-raising activities.

This, of course, also affects ongoing Development Education and Awareness Raising Programmes (DEAR), including school programmes, youth work and public seminars.

The hike in public interest has already led to a greater need for programmes and seminars. It may also present an opportunity for smaller organisations / providers to expand and strengthen their standing. Established curricula have to be adjusted to include the topic of refugee flows while also cultivating people's interest in other global issues.

At the same time, 'new' target groups, such as the various departments of local government outside integration and development (labour, environment education, urban development etc.), can and need to be addressed via information services and awareness-raising activities. In this context, the participants discussed the need to develop new concepts for corresponding programmes. The resulting 'curricula' should help the target groups to reflect on the implications of refugee and migratory movements. For this purpose, it is necessary to raise awareness of the situation and of people's personal experiences in order to foster mutual understanding. Also, learning about the causes of refugee movements should enable the participants of such programmes to reflect on global interrelations in general, including the political role that European countries should be playing with respect to conflicts around the world or the global impact of consumer habits in the Global North. Furthermore, we need to address the resulting opportunities and challenges for the receiving countries as well as the consequences for the countries people are leaving behind. Topics of interest, for example, include demographic challenges and the resulting strategic investments as well as our legal and moral obligation to provide assistance to refugees.

As things stand, local authorities currently have a huge need for, along with a great interest in, programmes and projects that foster understanding between parties at the local level. This of course presents an opportunity to direct their attention to other pressing issues in the migration and development context (at the local level) and thus for profiling migration and development issues within communities.

### Role and engagement of refugees

Last but not least, the participants discussed various strategies and enabling conditions that would empower refugees to play an active role within receiving societies, especially within the context of migration and development. In the public debate, refugees are, to all intents and purposes, still only seen as recipients of welfare. The participants emphasized that this 'paternalistic' view needs to be replaced by a positive and resource-oriented one.



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In general, politicians, civil society and refugees have to work together to identify the gaps that refugees can successfully fill. Besides impacting on the labour market, this also influences refugees' general chances of participating in civil society.

Development work opens up opportunities for refugees to engage. By addressing and connecting issues in the countries of origin and issues in the receiving countries, M&D projects capture the interest of this target group and so provide an easy opening for social engagement. In this way, refugees can take on a pro-active role within their receiving societies, giving them a starting point for successful integration and active citizenship in general.

It is therefore incumbent on players in the field of migration and development to discuss how refugees can be rapidly and effectively integrated into networks and development activities at the local level. Corresponding training programmes (e.g. inter-cultural trainer, facilitator specialised in the causes of refugee movements etc.) are of course vitally important in this context.

Another possibility for participation discussed was that of having refugees act as ‘advisors’ to local authorities in a bid to design a more adequate integration framework for refugees. If such advisory structures are to be effective, successful and beneficial to all parties concerned, it is necessary to develop pertinent guidelines. By working closely with local authorities and other NGOs, diaspora organisations could play a special role here. Depending on their focus and background, they can contribute their expert knowledge of the countries or regions of origin, apply their language skills or even share any experience they may already have with integration work or consultancy in the context of integration. On the other hand, we need to be aware that just because an organisation is a diaspora organisation, it does not necessarily follow that it has the requisite expertise. In each case, NGOs, diaspora organisations and other experts etc. are only qualified to provide advice if they are proven to have the professional expertise and experience required.

Refugees wishing to self-organise need to gain support for their projects or set up corresponding organisations and associations. Here again, it is important to develop guidelines detailing the support options for new refugee organisations. It goes without saying that existing experiences with migrant organisations can be harnessed as a basis and that ongoing migrant organisations can assume a coaching or advisory role.

Looking ahead, refugees’ commitment within the context of migration and development might even become the basis for future North-South cooperation at such a time when peacebuilding and reconstruction work in the countries of origin becomes possible once more.

## 6.5. Remittances

Economic remittances by migrants to their countries of origin make up a significant proportion of international capital flows. Since the turn of the millennium, the amount of remittances has rapidly overtaken official development assistance (ODA), making it a point of interest in the development debate.



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At the same time, however, the flows and usage of remittances are difficult to influence. Remittances are first and foremost a private matter that is outside public interests. Nevertheless, the discussion revealed that a great many migrants are hugely interested in investing their remittances in the sustainable development of their countries of origin (to start up economic activities or companies, to fund educational projects etc.). According to the participants, the development cooperation stakeholders need to create options that will enable them to engage and donate. And the way to go about it is to build up trust among diaspora communities. Migrant organisations already active in development work naturally have a special role to play, as they present a self-organised opportunity to invest in their own country of origin and in their heritage. Their potential to operate as ‘managers’ of remittance flows is a major reason for fostering their general engagement in development work.

The participants also discussed strategies that would facilitate the remittance process and thus reduce the generally high costs and fees involved. They stated that, unfortunately, websites that compare transaction fees are not that well known and thus measures need to be taken to increase their visibility.

## 6.6. Funding of migrant organisations

Last but not least, the European experts discussed the 'living conditions' of diaspora organisations and the support they need in order to work effectively.

Migrant organisations are often financially weak. Many of them have no or only project-related access to funding and operate mostly on a volunteer basis. Furthermore, these organisations usually work within strict local confines and are not yet connected to the respective local M&D networks.



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Thus, the discussion showed that support for diaspora organisations always comes down to a question of access: access to existing networks and structures on different levels (local, regional, national, European, international) and also access to funds and grants for migration and development projects, as well as sustainable structural funding. The participants therefore pointed out the need to identify the respective (hidden) barriers and to develop strategies to overcome or deal with them.

For diaspora organisations, networking and cooperation is a vital strategy for getting better access to grants. An interesting and promising approach in this context are the so-called 'tandem projects' in which migrant organisations cooperate with bigger NGOs that have long-standing experience with funding structures and thus know the challenges involved and can share their expertise. Experience has shown that the established tandem partners also benefit greatly from this kind of cooperation and undergo a process of 'intercultural opening'. Local networks and stakeholder databases offer a good strategic starting point for tandem projects (see also chapter 6.2)

Since diaspora organisations generally have a local focus, it follows that local authorities have a special responsibility to support them and hence set up advisory and support structures that will enable these organisations to professionalise their work, and their outreach, too. The discussion participants stated that new refugee organisations especially rely on such support. However, support strategies like this require public funding and therefore form part of the general debate on the funding of development work.

Once again, attention was drawn to the fact that diaspora organisations have impressively increased their competences within the field of development work over the last decade (see also input of Abdou Rahime Diallo in this report). Networking and interlinking are on the increase, enabling diaspora organisations to gain importance as actors in the field of development work and development policy.

## 7. THE USE AND BENEFIT OF NETWORKS AND NETWORKING – COMIDE

*Michael Fanizadeh (VIDC,<sup>10</sup> Austria)*

Networks are a strong strategy and tool not only for connecting players in the field of migration and development but especially for bringing small and as yet unnoticed players out into the open. This applies in particular to diaspora organisations that are still not adequately recognised as players in the development arena.



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### Why network?

The need for networking is born out of the lack of visibility and recognition. Cooperation between migrant and civil society organisations (CSOs) in the field of development, but also with respect to anti-racism and diversity, is still quite rare. In professional development cooperation institutions, diasporas are underrepresented. In Austria, diaspora organisations in state and privately funded development projects constitute rare exceptions. In addition, diaspora/migrant CSOs' (mostly) volunteer-based work does not get any recognition and consequently is not promoted.

Besides having positive effects on diaspora organisations, networks can help to establish effective know-how transfer and foster the politicisation of development cooperation.

### CoMiDe - The 'Initiative for Migration and Development'

CoMiDe – a network and project implemented from 2011 to 2014 – had the overarching goal of bridging the gap between development and diaspora organisations and of supporting the formulation of coherent migration and development policies at national and EU level. The network was initiated and implemented by the following development cooperation actors in Austria, Italy, Slovenia and Slovakia:

- Vienna Institute for International Dialogue and Cooperation (VIDC) – Austria (lead agency)
- Suedwind – Austria
- Cooperazione per lo Sviluppo dei Paesi Emergenti (COSPE) – Italy
- Peace Institute – Slovenia
- Society Development Institute (SDI) – Slovakia

CoMiDe has managed to raise awareness about the links between migration and development and the importance of engaging migrants in development cooperation. Moreover, the network has encouraged concrete opportunities on regional, national and international levels that foster political debate with ministries as well as with international and inter-governmental organisations (International Organisations for Migration - IOM, International Centre for Migration Policy Development - ICMPD, European Commission, ADEPT Africa-Europe Development Platform) and also with universities and municipalities, too.

<sup>10</sup> Vienna Institute for International Dialogue and Cooperation (VIDC), [www.vidc.org](http://www.vidc.org)

## CoMiDe activities

In the beginning, the CoMiDe initiators were keen to develop an overview of the M&D nexus at the European level (in Italy, Slovenia, Slovakia and Austria). This led them to research examples of good practice and thus to compile a good practice database for all the different levels of the CoMiDe website. Furthermore, the network organised conferences and debates in all four project countries in order to create possibilities for NGOs and diaspora organisations to meet and learn about each other's activities and so build networks. These meetings involved European experts as well as non-European intellectuals.

Partnership fairs were also held to promote networking, learning and information sharing. The accompanying workshops facilitated cooperation while an online networking platform was also launched.

To build capacity for M&D work, the network offered a wide range of training courses and workshops for development NGOs and diaspora organisations – including training for journalists – in a bid to enhance cooperation. These activities were framed by work at the political level. The network has organised lobby meetings to explain the need for coherent migration and development policies to the most important stakeholder groups.

## Recommendations for networking

The following recommendations for networking are taken from the Position Paper on Migration and Development drafted by the Working Group Migration and Development in the Global Responsibility - Platform for Development and Humanitarian Aid, and adopted by the General Assembly (3 Dec. 2013).

- More workshops and training courses for diaspora and development organisations at all levels in order to propagate the benefits and synergies of migration and development and in order for them to get to know and understand each other better. Here it is important that the concept of development remains broad and is not pre-defined.
- More networking and partnership opportunities in order to get to know the other side better and to initiate joined-up cooperation at the local, national and international level. It is important here that

diaspora organisations not be instrumentalised by established development organisations.

- Diaspora organisations' knowledge, and especially that of organisations engaged in their countries of origin, should be recognised and harnessed for development-policy purposes. Not only would this foster diversity, but it would also enable broader and more effective development cooperation.
- Diaspora organisations and their umbrella associations should be included programmatically at all levels of development cooperation (three-year programme on development policy, country strategies at the federal level, but also in funding lines for development assistance from the federal states). A first step would be to set up round-tables where representatives from the relevant diaspora and their organisations could come together to map out specific strategies for the target countries.
- Diaspora organisations have a right to be recognised as actors in development cooperation in the same way as development NGOs. They should be given equal access to funding and assigned rights to participate. In this context, equal treatment also means corresponding funding and support.
- Funding opportunities: Public authorities and NGOs grant diaspora organisations recognition as development cooperation actors and help strengthen them. The main aim here is to facilitate access to existing budget lines through more flexible structures and capacity building. Also, it would be expedient to establish a small pool of projects by diaspora organisations and to get them, and their umbrella associations, involved in the establishment of pertinent instruments.
- Development assistance projects should mainstream the involvement of and cooperation with experts from diaspora organisations by way of an additional criterion for funding.



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## 8. VISION OF A EUROPEAN NETWORK

### Seeds for a future network

The discussions and conversations during the workshop highlighted the potential for further networking and expert exchanges amongst the actors present. Besides individual commitments to engage in further exchange or even cooperation, the participants showed a huge interest in promoting a European network for all players interested in the field of migration and development. At present there are several project-based and temporary networks, but each of them only covers certain countries or facets (e.g. EU project AMITIE Code, EU Nomad etc.). In short, we do not have an adequate platform for a long-term European network. The meeting in Cologne was therefore considered as the starting point for such a network.

According to the participants, potential network members could include:

- Local authorities dedicated to migration and development work
- NGOs committed to migration and development
- Migrant organisations and their networks
- Refugees and their networks
- Service agencies on a regional or national level
- Universities and other research institutions dedicated to the field
- Local authorities in the Global South
- EU Directorates with a focus on authorities, territorial approaches and development cooperation
- Interested partners from the private sector and
- Representatives of media engaged in this field

To establish a network of this kind, the contacts have to be concretised and communication structures established. Hence the decision to set up a mailing list or mailing group. Following the workshop, SKEW quickly made available the participants' respective profiles and disseminated the contact list to the participants who quickly made use of it to spread information (e.g. about new publications). As a next step and in order to sort out further network options and measures for a European network, the participants came up with the idea of a webinar.

In the long-term, the European network could serve different needs and purposes. For example, it could serve as a

- Communication structure and platform for discussions
- Platform for M&D lobbying work (see also below Diaspora empowerment and Mainstreaming mobility into European policies)
- Database for best practices, lessons learnt, tools, instruments, guidelines and workings materials on migration and development contexts as well as issues at the local level
- Database for players and actors (e.g. to help organisations find suitable project partners for EU projects such as youth exchange experiences through ERASMUS or other cross-border programmes on migration and/or refugee issues)
- Database for research results

Besides all virtual possibilities for staying in contact, participants also stressed the need for face-to-face meetings (seminars, conferences) and considered dates for a follow up meeting to the one in Cologne.

### Issues for further discussion and common activities on a European level

The meeting in Cologne revolved around four main topics (or fields of action) best suited to promotion by the envisaged European network.

#### Exchanging experiences and best practices for the local level

It would appear that a promising field of future cooperation could be exchanges of expertise concerning cooperation between players at the local level.

This knowledge transfer relates to the practical level where knowledge sharing allows participants to learn about each other's hands-on experience and the respective conditions for success and failure, all of which can serve players as an inspiration and support for their own project work. For example, best practices from well-functioning

local networks involving local authorities, diaspora organisations, NGOs, and possibly even refugee organisations and other actors such as local businesses or research institutions would be of great interest to all participants.



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Other fields of interest are guidelines on advisory programmes and pools of advisors at the local level, materials development for Development Education and Awareness Raising Programmes (DEAR) with a special focus on the topic of refugees (see also below Relationship between refugees and development work) as well as best practices on how to link the recently published UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with the migration theme at the local level.

On the other hand, knowledge transfer within a European network could involve the research level. The participants suggested establishing a specific exchange of expertise among research institutions in order to collect data, combine study results and thus promote insights into the conditions of local networks and development work at the local level.

#### Diaspora empowerment

The participants showed a major interest in further exchanges and cooperation on the topic of diaspora inclusion and empowerment in general as this impacts several dimensions.

Generally speaking, it includes the definition or discussion of the role and potential of diaspora organisations in the context of co-development.

Seen from a political dimension, it relates to lobbying activities for diaspora organisations and their inclusion in existing migration and development

networks at various levels (local, regional, national, European).

On a practical level, it can concern exchanges of effective, innovative strategies that foster diaspora organisations and their commitment to development. The discussion already concretised three supporting strategies for diaspora organisations that might well become the subject of further exchanges. First, the participants regarded the programmes and curricula of certain capacity-building programmes for diaspora organisations as a fruitful field of cooperation. Second, the participants were interested in learning about and discussing the chances and challenges of so-called 'tandem projects'. Close cooperation with big and/or experienced NGOs can help to professionalise new diaspora organisations or even facilitate access to more funding (see also discussion results above). And third, the participants are keen to follow up on experience and knowledge concerning local level advisory and support structures that need to be established, especially in order to support upcoming diaspora organisations.

The participants also discussed the need to remain aware of (hidden) barriers preventing the effective inclusion of migrants and diaspora organisations (societal, political, administrative and individual barriers). These barriers need to be identified and potential solutions devised.

With regard to the diaspora organisations, the participants emphasized the general need for networking and cooperation – also with other diaspora organisations - in order to improve their status and integration in M&D networks. Creating a European network might help to exchange pertinent experience and foster networking across borders as well.

#### Relationship between refugee movements and development work

The discussions by the working groups have already shown that a possible European network could generate beneficial ideas and impetus that will help meet the challenges posed by the current refugee inflow to Europe in terms of migration and development at the local level. The discussions revealed three main challenges concerning this relationship: (1) the participation and active role of refugees in contexts of migration and development, (2) information, education and

awareness-raising about the reasons people are forced to flee and the challenges they face, and (3) the need to connect the different players.

The second aspect in particular was regarded as a highly expedient topic for further exchanges. The participants advocate a joint approach to integrate the 'refugee crisis' in programmes of Development Education and Awareness Raising (DEAR), especially regarding the development of the respective curricula and materials.

The network could generate a database for curricula, materials, guidelines and best practices which could help the different local level players to establish and professionalise their respective programmes and activities. Knowledge transfer can also help to develop effective and suitable learning formats for 'new' target groups (e.g. representatives of different policy areas within local authorities) thus enabling them to react quickly to the huge demand for education and sensitisation programmes at the local level.

#### *Mainstreaming mobility into European policies*

Aside from knowledge-sharing, participants also considered various options for a joint political commitment on the European level. They emphasized the general need to influence European policies in favour of migration and development activities and advocated the mainstreaming of mobility in all European policies. One possible strategy the participants put forward to promote this idea involves the organisation of a 'policy conference' at the European level.

In particular, they stressed the need for diaspora organisations' intensive involvement in the policy-making process on the European level – a move that, of course, would also have a knock-on effect on every other level of policy-making (local, regional, national, global). In this way, lobbying work on behalf of migrants becomes lobbying work by migrants who are thus able to pro-actively champion their own engagement and interests.



## 9. ANNEX

### 9.1. List of Abbreviations

ADEPT:	..... Africa-Europe Development Platform
ADPC:	..... African Diaspora Policy Centre
ADYNE:	..... The African Diaspora Youth Network Europe
AEPD:	..... Africa-Europe Platform for Development
AFFORD:	..... African Foundation for Development
AGI:	..... Actors of Global Identity
AMITIE:	..... Awareness on Migration, Development and Human Rights through Local partnerships
BMZ:	..... Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development
CBO:	..... Community-Based Organization
CeSPI:	..... Centre for Studies in International Policies
CGMD:	..... Coordination générale des Migrants pour le développement
CODE:	..... Capitalizing on Development
CoMiDe:	..... Initiative for Migration and Development
COSPE:	..... Cooperazione per lo Sviluppo dei Paesi Emergenti
CSO:	..... Civil Society Organization
DCMO:	..... Dutch Consortium of Migrant Organisations
DEAR:	..... Development Education and Awareness Raising Programmes
ERASMUS:	..... European Region Action Scheme for the Mobility of University Students
EU:	..... European Union
FORIM:	..... Forum des Organisations de Solidarité Internationale issue des Migrations
GFMD:	..... Global Forum on Migration and Development
HLDM:	..... High Level Dialogue on Migration and Development
ICMPD:	..... International Centre for Migration Policy Development
IOM:	..... International Organization for Migration
JAES:	..... Joint Africa Europe Strategy
JMDI:	..... Joint Migration and Development Initiative
M&D:	..... Migration and Development
MDG:	..... Millennium Development Goals
MEPa:	..... Migration Entwicklung und Partizipation
NGO:	..... Non-Governmental Organisation
NOMAD:	..... Novel Materials Discovery Laboratory
ODA:	..... Official Development Assistance
OGI:	..... Organisations of Global Identity
OGI:	..... organizations of global identity
SDGs:	..... Sustainable Development Goals
SDI:	..... Society Development Institute
SKEW:	..... Service Agency Communities in One World
VENROB:	..... Brandenburg Association of NGOs Involved in Development Policy
VIDC:	..... Vienna Institute for International Dialogue and Cooperation

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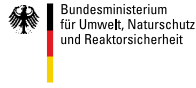
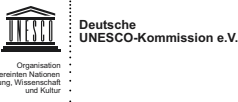
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