

Draft Background paper RT 2.2

Facilitating positive development impacts of diaspora engagement in skills transfers, investments and trade between countries of residence and origin

Expected outcome

Expected outcome of this Roundtable would be a list of possible measures to be taken by governments of both countries of origin and residence and through public-private partnerships in order to facilitate positive development impacts from diaspora skills transfers, investments and trade.

Background

Diaspora contributions to development have been discussed in all GFMD Meetings since 2007. This Roundtable will build on that experience and move ahead with an in-depth discussion on previously less explored issue areas such as the links between diaspora and trade. The Roundtable will focus on viable measures that can improve the development contributions of diaspora with a focus on skills transfers, investments and trade. The Roundtable should not duplicate previous work, and discussions should not be too wide-ranging e.g. about overall investment conditions or preconditions for diaspora engagement in general. Duplication with other Roundtables, such as e.g. 2.1. on circular forms of labour migration and 3.2. on brain drain in health and education, should be avoided.

Main issue areas

Transnational diaspora communities, especially entrepreneurs and networks of expatriate professionals, can enhance development thanks to voluntary individual or collective initiatives. Members of diaspora communities are involved in skills transfers and transfers of social norms, send remittances, make investments or promote trade based on their personal ties or insider knowledge of a particular source country. In addition to financial remittances; social remittances recently became an important dimension of diaspora and the phenomena of transmigration. Migrants who have economic, social, political and cultural linkages with both host and source countries are the transmitters of values, ideas, norms and behaviours as well. Non-financial remittances are of great importance and their role in development could be further elaborated. Attractive investment climates as well as good governance, rule of law, democracy and respect for human rights in countries of origin, are important preconditions for such engagement. Governments are important actors in framing these conditions and need to assume a comprehensive approach. Moreover, migrants and citizens of foreign origin who

benefit from sound integration policies and respect for human rights in countries where they reside are often in a better position to contribute to their countries of origin or ancestry.

This background paper will first focus on the role of governments in engaging the diaspora in development and subsequently on the diaspora itself, in particular as transnational entrepreneurs and as part of professional networks.

Government outreach to diaspora skills and investments

Governments are increasingly aware of the importance of legal and institutional frameworks that can facilitate and support the private engagement of diasporas for development. Legislation and policies that officially recognize emigrants/members of the diaspora as an integral part of the national development plan can boost diaspora contributions. Countries of origin of diaspora are putting in place government diaspora institutions – dedicated units, departments, ministries and agencies, or reinforce their embassies in order to maintain links with their diaspora communities. Meanwhile, host countries of diaspora communities put in place dialogue or consultation platforms or engage diaspora groups in development cooperation projects, knowledge transfer through twinning projects and virtual return, or investment and trade promotion. Efficient coordination mechanisms, trust-building and sharing of lessons learnt are of key importance in both cases. Policy coherence and close cooperation among relevant ministries and authorities will be useful.

Definitions of diaspora, entrepreneurs and networks of expatriate professionals will help to focus the policy-oriented discussions and policy-formation. A universally accepted definition of ‘diaspora’ is lacking, but the working definition proposed by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the Migration Policy Institute is useful: “Emigrants and their descendants, who live outside the country of their birth or ancestry, either on a temporary or permanent basis, yet still maintain affective and material ties to their countries of origin”.¹ While diaspora communities are usually very heterogeneous, available data and knowledge about them, their own initiatives, and the effects of government support, is still limited and needs to be further assessed and regularly updated. It is also important to take into account how diaspora engagement increasingly becomes an issue for both developing and developed countries. The mapping and profiling of diaspora communities is becoming more common and an overview will be useful also for this discussion, e.g. based on the OECD’s Database on Immigrants in OECD and non-OECD countries (DIOC) as well as recent work in KNOMAD. Also the IOM has for instance conducted a number of such mapping studies which can help to refine outreach policies and better understand diaspora communities. Women play an increasingly significant part by remitting their earnings, coordinating social networks and maintaining cultural ties. In line with feminization of migration, the particular role of women in diasporas could be analysed.

Diaspora host and source country governments are exploring a range of tools and instruments for diaspora to engage in country of origin development. These could be reviewed in order to find efficient models that could be replicated or up-scaled elsewhere. They include temporary return of qualified nationals programs; diaspora bonds, collective investment instruments such as mutual funds; investment and training programs. There are, however, often certain bottlenecks in terms of limited government resources, capacities and know-how that need to be addressed. Legal frameworks and regulatory reform is a key challenge in many countries.

¹ IOM/MPI (2012) *Developing a Road Map for Engaging Diasporas in Development. A Handbook for Policymakers and Practitioners in Home and Host Countries*, p. 15.

A growing number of governments enable diaspora members through dual citizenship or portable benefits, particularly relating to pensions and medical and life insurance, in order to facilitate their visits to countries of origin, access credit and loans, and make investments (e.g. Kenya, several Latin American and European countries). Flexible residence and visa requirements, or special property rights, such as allowing members of the diaspora to purchase land and other properties that are off-limits to foreigners, could also be of relevance to explore. For instance, Georgia started issuance of a compatriot certificate which enables its holder, including diaspora members, to travel in Georgia without visa and to enjoy other benefits.

In order to encourage investments and trade, governments also introduce tax incentives or tax exemptions, e.g. exempting customs duties and fees on the importation of household goods of returning citizens; targeted housing schemes, temporarily reducing income tax rates for returnees; lower tariffs on imported raw materials and equipment; or tax deductions on charitable contributions. The potential of these measures to create tension and be considered unfair vis-à-vis non-migrants not benefitting such advantages could be considered when assessing such measures. Other tools include the organization of trade fairs or national diaspora forums bringing together senior government officials, finance and labour ministries to talk about investment opportunities (e.g. India, Ethiopia, Kenya), facilitating the setting up of global diaspora networks (e.g. Georgia based on EU-funding) or arranging for policymakers to meet with diaspora members before foreign trade missions (e.g. USA).

Measures could also include facilitating access to information, networks and joint ventures to encourage investments (e.g. information on how to obtain business loans or programs that match local entrepreneurs or business owners with their diaspora counterparts). More broadly it is also useful with cultural events, festivals and bilateral training arrangements whereby diaspora and migrants can contribute with sharing knowledge about their countries of origin.

Transnational entrepreneurs and trade

A focus on transnational entrepreneurs and their role in generating trade is a key issue. Transnational entrepreneurs are a special category of entrepreneurs, because they employ their bicultural skills and ethnic networks when seeking opportunities beyond national boundaries. As such, they impersonate the connection between countries of origin and residence. Diaspora and migrants can be regarded as consumers generating a market for products from their countries of origin in the country of residence, bringing development benefits both to the country of origin and country of residence. Diaspora also experience some advantages as entrepreneurs and investors in their countries of origin. They often have emotional ties and may be quicker to see opportunities and less risk-averse than other investors in emerging markets or less developed countries. They can often take advantage of their insider knowledge, language and cultural skills of a particular country.

Analysis of the efficiency of tax exemptions for diaspora and transnational entrepreneurs will be relevant. For instance, certain countries have more favourable policies for foreign investors in general than for member of the diaspora. Meanwhile, some governments have significant initiatives to attract diaspora investors. Ethiopia e.g. offers investment incentives for both foreign investors and the diaspora that include income tax exemptions for a period of 2-7 years and 100 percent duty exemption on the import of machinery and equipment for investment projects. Such policies have encouraged many in the Ethiopian diaspora to invest

in small businesses in Ethiopia. Potentially negative consequences for non-migrants could be considered as could the potential for distortion of competition.

In view of facilitating trade, the potential for partnerships between national investors and entrepreneurs and those of the diaspora, could be explored in order to facilitate market access for investors from the country of origin in the country of residence of the diaspora. As it is often harder for national entrepreneurs on their own to break into the markets of developed countries, creating partnerships with diaspora entrepreneurs who have already established themselves in these markets could be worthwhile strategies.

Specific training targeting diaspora entrepreneurs and investors usually need to take into account the role of project management skills, and that diaspora members often have a limited access to seed funding and credits in their countries of origin. Assessments of collective investments and matching funds projects could be further reviewed. While experiences from the “tres por uno” projects in Latin America have been broadly published, similar initiatives elsewhere could be explored, e.g. diaspora contributions to infrastructure projects (e.g. Moldova) or through home town associations in other regions such as in North Africa (Maghreb countries) and Eastern Europe (e.g. Moldova). There are also recent examples of networking initiatives that bring together diaspora with national investors seeking to overcome trade barriers such as lack of information on specific foreign markets through making use of migrant’s knowledge of the business culture and other relevant parameters of their former home countries (Sweden).

Networks of expatriate professionals, networks of excellence and the transfer of innovations and technology among the highly skilled diaspora should also be explored, including successes and failures. Networks of expatriate professionals are characterized by bringing together individuals with technical, managerial or creative talent of high impact, in the areas of science and technology, business, culture or politics. Their internal dynamics and potential for longevity often influence their impact on economic development. While some of these professional networks have been highlighted and specific cases in the IT and engineering sector are well known (e.g. Indian and Chinese diaspora in Silicon Valley), they have only received limited attention in the GFMD context. Recent studies have also shown high prevalence of patents among diaspora members in e.g. the US, which point towards promising cases for further discussion.

It should be noted that in many cases, diaspora have been successful in promoting skills transfers, investments and trade without the assistance from any government policies or frameworks. The potential for such contributions could however be further analyzed in order to form an element in possible public-private partnerships, involving governments and donor agencies, the private sector, microfinance institutes and commercial banks, regional and international organizations, academic and other institutions.

Key questions to address

- How can governments contribute to facilitating skills transfers or temporary return of diaspora entrepreneurs e.g. by supporting micro enterprises and SMEs, offering financial literacy and management training, micro-funding schemes and access to credits and seed capital?
- How can government measures, such as providing information on investment conditions, offering tax breaks, adapting trade policy, or offering special nationality status or dual citizenship, work as incentives for diaspora investments and trade?

- What are the key elements in private-public partnerships to facilitate novel investment vehicles such as diaspora bonds, diaspora investment funds or matching-funds instruments?
- How can governments and diaspora associations cooperate efficiently on trade and investment, for example through dialogue and networking platforms and other mechanisms?

Possible measures

Possible measures to be taken by governments of both countries of origin and residence and through public-private partnerships in order to facilitate positive development impacts from diaspora skills transfers, investments and trade:

1. Support migrant associations' and professional networks' capacities to involve in trade and investments in countries of origin for example through partnerships with financial institutions which can help migrants to invest in their home country and increase financial literacy.
2. Provide information, for example through ICT tools, on investment and trade possibilities as well as information on accessible financial instruments such as diaspora bonds.
3. Recognise the potential offered by temporary return opportunities and the removal of barriers of circular mobility for example by allowing portable benefits, particularly relating to pensions and medical and life insurance, in order to facilitate visits or temporary return to countries of origin.
4. Recognise the impacts of allowing dual citizenship or permanent residency in order to increase the contribution of the diaspora as bridge-builders enjoying benefits deriving from such legal status.
5. Considering tax systems and investment conditions that gives incentives to circular mobility and diaspora engagement in countries of origin.
6. Mapping diasporas in order to help to refine outreach policies and better understand diaspora communities.

ANNEX

This Annex contains descriptions and references to examples of relevant frameworks, policies, programmes, projects and other experiences in relation to the issues raised in the policy part of the Background paper. This second part of the Background paper aims to form the basis of an evolving catalogue of policies and practices with a view to be stored and displayed on the GFMD Pfp website in a Policy and Practice Database.

Title: Program on Attracting of Remittances in Economy “PARE 1+1”	
Country: Republic of Moldova	Partner(s): EU, International Organisation for Migration
Thematic Area(s): Remittances; Strategies for minimizing costs/maximizing human development; Civil society and the private sector	Tags: Diaspora empowerment and engagement; Diaspora investment and entrepreneurship; Migration, trade and investment; Private sector and public-private partnerships; Remittances; Local development; Return and reintegration.
<p>Summary: The Program “PARE 1+1” is intended to attract investments and remittances to rural development, create new businesses and provide human and financial resource of the Moldavian migrants in the economic development of Moldova, through a grant equivalent to the contributions of migrants, but not more than 200.000 MDL (~16.000 USD), supplemented by consulting and entrepreneurial training and information activities. The Program “PARE 1+1” aims to make remittances “work” and bring value and may become an effective tool to stimulate the creation of new businesses in rural areas by contributing to regional development. At the national level it contributes to solving such problems as: low level of remittances investments, especially in rural areas, limited Small and Medium Enterprises’ access to financial and informational resources, low level of entrepreneurial and financial education, huge number of emigrants, especially from rural areas, low level of start-up survival, etc. The results of the program include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increased volume of investments in national economy - Increased volume of remittances invested in national economy - New businesses created and /or developed by migrants or their relatives, from which 70% in rural regions - Decreased level of emigration and unemployment, by creation of new jobs - Increased number of migrants and their first grade relatives ready to start their businesses; etc. - Local and national economy reanimated; - Decreased level of poverty in rural areas; - Export of local products and services improved; - Increased start-up survival rates; - Improved level of information of migrants on business development opportunities in Moldova. 	
Web Links : http://odimm.md/en/menu-types/about.html	

Title: Supporting diaspora productive investment programme (currently being developed)	
Country: France, Sénégal, Cameroun, Mali	Partner(s): French Development Agency, government of Senegal, Cameroun, Mali
Thematic Area(s): Policy coherence and mainstreaming, Diasporas, Remittances	Tags: Capacity Building, Diaspora investment and entrepreneurship, Migration trade and investment, Private sector and public-private partnerships
<p>Summary: The program intends to foster linkages between migration issues and private sector development, with a specific focus on financial services. Until now, many activities to foster diaspora investment in CoO have focused on capacity building of relevant state institutions and non financial services for migrant entrepreneurs. A major component of this programme is dedicated support the development of financial services that take into account the needs and specificities of diaspora members (remittances transfer, access to loans, savings products).</p> <p>The general objective is to support productive investments (collective and individual) of the diaspora in country of origin with i) a dedicated support mechanism for entrepreneurs in France and country of origin ii) activities with public institutions and private sector institutions to improve the investment climate in countries of origin. Target population : not only migrants but diaspora members. In order to maximize the impacts on job creation, expected scale is SMEs with initial investment around 30 k€with owner's equity around 10k€at least.</p> <p>Activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support national authorities to design and implement a strategy to attract productive investment from diaspora - Development of a specific business development support mechanism with targeted packages depending on the project status. Activities in France will be centred on information, advice and selection of most relevant projects and in CoO on technical expertise and follow-up after business creation. - Promote access to existing financial services (banks, MFIs) and tries to develop innovative mechanisms and strategies that would target diaspora members, including for savings mobilization through investment funds. 	
Web Links :	

Title: The Ghana Investment Promotion Centre	
Country: Ghana	Partner(s):
Thematic Area(s): Diasporas, Remittances, Strategies for minimizing costs/maximizing human	Tags: Diaspora Empowerment and Engagement, Legal Framework on

development	Migration, Livelihood and Job Creation, Migration and Entrepreneurship, Migration, Trade and Investments
Summary: The Ghana Investment Promotion Centre (GIPC) is a one-stop-shop for diaspora who wishes to invest in Ghana. It encourages Diaspora members to set up small and medium size enterprises (SME's) in Ghana to generate employment and reduce poverty.	
Web Links : http://www.gipcghana.com/	

Title: The Co-development Programme	
Country: France, Mali	Partner(s):
Thematic Area(s): Civil society and the private sector, Diasporas, Remittances, Strategies for minimizing costs/maximizing human development	Tags: Capacity Building, Legal Framework on Migration, Livelihood and Job Creation, Migration and Entrepreneurship, Migration, Trade and Investments
Summary: This practice facilitates the investments of individual Malians or Malian Diaspora associations in France in local community development projects or enterprise creation in Mali. Participation in this programme by Malian migrants in France is not conditional on permanent return. This programme addresses all aspects of migration, including annual consultations between France and Mali and twinning arrangements between villages.	
Web Links : http://www.ilo.org/dyn/migpractice/migmain.showPractice?p_lang=en&p_practice_id=4 http://www.pseau.org/codev_mali	

Title: Mobilization of Moroccans in Belgium for the Development of Morocco (MEDMA 2)	
Country: Morocco, Belgium	Partner(s): IOM; Govt of Morocco Ministry of Moroccans Residing Abroad; Hassan II Foundation
Thematic Area(s): Diasporas, Strategies for maximizing human development; private sector; economic and social development through productive investment	Tags: Migration and Entrepreneurship, Livelihood and Job Creation, Migration, Trade and Investments
Summary: Pilot two-year programme to encourage Moroccan expatriates to invest their savings, knowledge and expertise into the setting up of private ventures that will further the development of impoverished regions in the north and east of the country. The programme is based on the findings and recommendations of a 2007 IOM/Government of Belgium study, which showed that	

Moroccans in Belgium were keen to invest in their home region, but often lacked sufficient information to do so. Over 250,000 Moroccans, mostly from Morocco's northern regions, currently live in Belgium. The project is carried out with the support of public and private partners in Morocco and Belgium, including the Solvay Brussels School of Economics and Management. It aims to provide potential investors with up-to-date technical, financial and administrative information. It will also provide them with insights into how best to access existing national mechanisms to facilitate their investment

Web Links: <http://www.iom.int/cms/en/sites/iom/home/news-and-views/press-briefing-notes/pbn-2012/pbn-listing/moroccan-expatriates-back-development-in.html>

Title: Web portal for entrepreneurs looking at developing their business in Africa

Country: global website targeting Algeria, Benin, Burundi, DR of Congo, Mali, Morocco, Mozambique, Niger, Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda

Partner(s): Fondation Abeo (Belgium); and local partners in 13 countries of origin including: IOM (Morocco); Federation des Chefs d'Entreprises (Algeria); Burundi Business Incubator (Burundi); Centre for Business Solutions (Rwanda)

Thematic Area(s): Diasporas, Strategies for maximizing human development; private sector; economic and social development through productive investment

Tags: Migration and Entrepreneurship, Livelihood and Job Creation, Migration, Trade and Investments; SMEs (small and medium enterprises)

Summary: In September 2011 the Abeo Fondation launched a web portal to inform potential entrepreneurs of financial and technical resources available in particular countries. The aim of the project is to boost investment in the private sector in Africa through providing information to access of financing products in African countries. The website also explains financial products specific to the SME sector; and suggests relevant business ideas/niches adapted to the economic and social environment.

Web Links: www.guide-entreprise.org

Title: Diaspora Financial Bonds

Country: Ghana

Partners:

Thematic Area: Diasporas, Policy coherence and mainstreaming, Remittances

Tags: Diaspora Empowerment and Engagement, Mainstreaming Migration into Development Planning, Migration, Trade and Investments

Summary: In order to assist the Government in financing development, Financial Bonds have been offered targeting the Diaspora. The Ministry of Finance has been working with the Bank of Ghana to reduce the cost of remittances while enhancing its use for investment (as opposed to mainly for consumption). Currently, there is a World Bank project being coordinated by the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning looking at remittances in Ghana.

Web links: <http://gfmd.org/pfp/ppd/1590#sthash.jSiplvln.dpuf>

Title: Ghana Revenue Authority	
Country: Ghana	Partners:
Thematic Area: Diasporas	Tags: Diaspora Empowerment and Engagement, Migration, Trade and Investments, Return and Reintegration
Summary: The Customs Division of the Ghana Revenue Authority (GRA) grants tax incentives to diaspora, including through lower customs duties and fees, reduction in income tax rates, lower tariffs on equipment for investment, and tax deductions on charitable goods.	
Web links: http://www.gra.gov.gh/ http://www.ghanaiandiaspora.com/wp/wp-content/uploads/2012/11/robert_men... http://gfmd.org/pfp/ppd/1589#sthash.Jcalo2CE.dpuf	

Title: Promoting permanent and temporary return of Moldovan overseas graduates	
Country: Republic of Moldova	Partner(s):
Thematic Area(s): Strategies for minimizing costs/maximizing human development; Diaspora	Tags: Addressing push-factors of migration; Brain drain; Migration and education; Return and reintegration; Skilled migration.
Summary: The objective of the Program was to address brain-drain through permanent return of overseas young graduates for promoting the circulation of innovative ideas and skill transfer and developing trans-border relations. The target group of the Program was the Moldovan graduates of overseas universities of up to 35 years old who wished to come back to the Republic of Moldova and be employed in the public or private sector. The program offered support to overseas graduates in the identification of employers, logistical and administrative assistance,	

financial support in covering transportation costs from the destination country to the country of origin and a monthly living allowance as a top-up to the salary offered by the employer from the Republic of Moldova to the beneficiaries for a period of up to six months.

Web Links : http://iom.md/attachments/110_succes_stories_eng.pdf

Title: OECD database on migrants in OECD countries

Country: OECD

Partner(s): France (AFD) and Switzerland (Swiss Development Cooperation)

Thematic Area(s): Data and research, diaspora, labour migration and mobility

Tags: Brain drain, data and research, migration profiles, policy coherence

Summary: This database is based on censuses of OECD countries and provides comprehensive and comparative information on a broad range of demographic and labour market characteristics of immigrants living in OECD countries. It is helpful to better understand migrant characteristics and inform policy development in this regard: highly qualified migration and brain drain issues, available skills and qualifications among diaspora members, localization and so on. The Database currently contains detailed information on the size and characteristics of Diasporas for up to 200 countries of origin in 2000 and 2005/06. The current update of database is based on census data around 2010/11 and will be released in June 2014.

Web Links : <http://www.oecd.org/els/mig/dioc.htm>

Title: Research program “Reducing the costs of migrant remittances to optimize their impact on development- financial tools and products for the Maghreb and Franc zone”

Country: France, Tunisia, Morocco, Comoros, Cameroun, Senegal

Partner(s): African Development Bank, Epargne sans frontière, French government

Thematic Area(s): Civil society and the private sector, Diasporas, Remittances

Tags: Policy coherence, Private sector and ppp, Diaspora investment and entrepreneurship, Migration, Trade and Investments.

Summary: Remittances from migrants are a major source of financing for the economies of developing countries and of the recipient populations. They are of great benefit to large segments of the population which, without these resources, would live in conditions of abject poverty. Consequently, remittance flows tend to remain stable even when the migrants’ countries of residence are beset by economic and financial crisis. They seem to be less volatile than official development assistance and foreign direct investment. This is true for countries of the Maghreb

and the Franc Zone especially those that form the core focus of this study, namely Morocco, Tunisia, Senegal, Cameroon and Comoros. Furthermore, remittance costs are currently stabilising at a high level. This has spurred states to national, bilateral and multilateral action.

This research program has been based on case studies and workshops organized at country level with financial institutions, governments, diaspora members and entrepreneurs to issue a number of specific recommendations (regulatory framework changes, financial technological and products innovations) to optimize the impact of remittances on development. As an exemple, four types of financial and technological products and services are considered:

- Improved “classic” remittance products and services,
- Linked bank account products and services,
- Products for collective investments by migrant associations and long-term institutional investment products (stock market, bank and financial products),
- Products and services using ICTs for North/South mobile banking transfers and the development of automated payment and e-banking.

Web Links : <http://www.migration4development.org/fr/content/reducing-cost-migrant-remittances-optimize-their-impact-development-financial-products-and-t>

Title: Temporary Return of Qualified Nationals (TRQN, 2006 – ongoing)	
Coordination: IOM Netherlands. Target Countries: Afghanistan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Ethiopia, Georgia, Kosovo, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Sudan, Cape Verde, Morocco, Iraq, Armenia, Ghana, Somalia	Partner(s): IOM missions and government institutions in the target countries. Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the Netherlands (funding)
Thematic Area(s): Diaspora, Remittances, Strategies for minimizing costs/maximizing human development, Governance of migration and coordination of dialogue	Tags: Diaspora Empowerment and Engagement, Brain drain, Capacity building, Migration and health, Migration profiles, Migration management, Temporary and circular labour migration, Transfer of values, ideas, knowledge and skills.
<p>Summary: The TRQN project contributes to the development of selected countries by facilitating the temporary return of qualified nationals residing in the Netherlands. The project is now in its 3th phase and is operational in nine countries. The project focusses on capacity building in sectors and areas identified by the target countries. The required knowledge and skills are made available by temporary return assignments by qualified nationals.</p> <p>IOM the Netherlands is coordinating the project and closely cooperates with IOM offices and government stakeholders in the target countries. The TRQN project also offers internships and training opportunities in the Netherlands for selected staff of host institutions and government agencies.</p>	
Web Links : http://www.iom-nederland.nl/nl/migratie-en-ontwikkeling/temporary-return	

Title: Diaspora Bonds – linking economic potential of diaspora with the development of the country of origin	
Country: Republic of Moldova	Partner(s): Diaspora Relations Bureau, Ministry of Finance, National Bank of Moldova and international organizations
Thematic Area(s): Diasporas, Strategies for minimizing costs/maximizing human development	Tags: Diaspora Empowerment and Engagement, Legal Framework on Migration, Migration and Entrepreneurship, Migration, Trade and Investments, Local development, Diaspora investment and entrepreneurship, Local development, Private sector and public-private partnerships
Summary: The initiative aims at harnessing and linking the economic potential of diaspora with the country's sustainable development opportunities. Diaspora Bonds will be designed a secured financial mechanism, which will serve both as a reliable and secure saving/investment opportunity for members of diaspora and migrants and as an alternative financing source for the local business and local projects. <i>Status of initiative: draft concept.</i>	
Web Links:	

Title: Migrants Savings and Investment Trust Fund	
Country: Republic of Moldova	Partner(s): Diaspora Relations Bureau / State Chancellery / Republic of Moldova. International Agency for Source Country Information / Austria
Thematic Area(s): Diasporas, Strategies for minimizing costs/maximizing human development, Civil society and the private sector	Tags: Diaspora Empowerment and Engagement, Migration, Trade and Investments, Local development, , Diaspora investment and entrepreneurship, Private sector and public-private partnerships
Summary: The Migrant Savings and Investment Trust (MSIT) is a financial intermediation mechanism for attracting substantial migrant savings and directing them towards productive investments in both private and public spheres. It offers a practical means for mainstreaming migration and development, engaging the private sector, and enhancing the positive impacts of mass migration. It does so by facilitating more successful personal migration practices, and at the same time moving Moldova from its remittance-dependent and consumption-led model to one	

that is more balanced and development-oriented. *Status of the initiative: concept.*

Web Links :

Title: Economic Excellence Community

Country: Republic of Moldova

Partner(s): Diaspora Relations Bureau

Thematic Area(s): Diasporas, Governance of migration and coordination of dialogue

Tags: Skilled migration, Transfer of values, ideas, knowledge and skills

Summary: The economic excellence community is a group of well-known economic professionals, consultants and experts from diaspora and from Republic of Moldova. Among the members of the group is an economist working at IMF, professor from the Business School of Rotterdam, Erasmus University, director of an economic think tank, financial analysts. The aim of the group is to create connections, exchange ideas and opinions, share best practices and experiences, participate in joint programmes and projects, contribute to the development of Government's strategic documents and policy papers. The active participation and engagement of the members contribute to consolidating the diaspora and strengthening the connection with the Republic of Moldova. The members of economic excellence community have engaged actively and contributed to the development and endorsement of two important initiatives MSIT and diaspora bonds.

Web Links :

Title: Diaspora Business Forum

Country: Republic of Moldova

Partner(s): Diaspora Relations Bureau, Investment Attraction Team, Moldovan Investment and Export Promotion Organization (MIEPO)

Thematic Area(s): Civil society and the private sector, Diasporas, Strategies for minimizing costs/maximizing human development

Tags: Diaspora empowerment and engagement, Diaspora investment and entrepreneurship, Local development, Migration, trade and investment, Private sector and public-private partnerships, Transfer of values, ideas, knowledge and skills

Summary: The action aims at improving the business-enabling environment at the national level by organizing an event and follow-up platform for effective dialogue between the diaspora business community and Government, as well as facilitating information-sharing with potential

investors. Also the event will focus on developing business partnerships between diaspora investors, entrepreneurs, managers and national stakeholders, providing feedback on various Government policies and draft laws involving the private sector, engaging diaspora business leaders as agents of development. *Status of initiative: draft concept.*

Web Links:

Title: Programme d'appui aux initiatives de solidarité pour le développement (codevelopment program)

Country: France, Sénégal	Partner(s): French government, Senegalese government
---------------------------------	---

Thematic Area(s): Civil society and the private sector, Diasporas, Remittances, Strategies for minimizing costs/maximizing human development	Tags: Civil society, Diaspora empowerment and engagement, diaspora entrepreneurship, local development, remittances, return and reintegration
---	--

Summary: This bilateral program aims at facilitating actions undertaken by Senegalese diaspora members living in France for the economic and social development of their country of origin. It has four main components: i) support diaspora entrepreneurs willing to create businesses in Senegal through technical assistance; ii) mobilize highly qualified diaspora members for short expertise missions in Senegal; iii) co-fund local development projects undertaken by Senegalese migrants associations in regions of origin (health facilities, schools etc); iv) mobilize 2nd and 3rd generations of Senegalese diaspora to participate in voluntary missions for development projects in Senegal.

An evaluation of this programme has been conducted in 2013. It underlines the positive results achieved: between 2009 and 2012, 485 diaspora entrepreneurs have been supported, 62 experts mobilized and 132 businesses created. Some improvements are nonetheless necessary to increase access to financial services for diaspora entrepreneurs and ensure a better follow-up after business creation (business development services, training etc).

Web Links : <http://www.codev.gouv.sn/>

Title: Diaspora Business Centre

Country: Netherlands, Kenya, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Ghana	Partner(s):
---	--------------------

Thematic Area(s): Civil society and the private sector, Diasporas, Remittances, Strategies for	Tags: Capacity Building, Legal Framework on Migration, Livelihood and Job Creation, Migration and
---	--

minimizing costs/maximizing human development	Entrepreneurship, Migration, Trade and Investments
<p>Summary: This objective is to make diaspora investment and remittances more productive and effective and to connect western markets and emerging markets. The diaspora Business Centre is a one stop shop that combines business and social interests, paired with professional know-how by diaspora experts.</p> <p>Their activities entail the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Business development and sales planning - Project development, including financing and funding issues - Project development and project management o Business partner search and match making - Developing strategies for marketing, sourcing and distribution including import and export. o Project management, including assistance in implementation and on operational issues. - Determination and management of cross border budgets and sales - Advising commercial companies on social entrepreneurship and investment into social returns through Corporate Social Responsibility at local and international level. - Policy studies, evaluations and implementation. - Business process outsourcing - Supporting Diaspora in business development and business start-up in countries of origin - Joint venture creation - Acquisition: both in the private sector (European and African), and in the public sector (national and EU levels). Includes Benelux and UK. 	
<p>Web Links : http://www.diasporabusinesscentre.com/</p>	

Title: Envoidargent.fr website	
Country: France	Partner(s): Remittances operators
Thematic Areas Diasporas, Remittances	Tags: Remittances, private sector and public partnership
<p>Summary: This website offers both to compare remittances costs on 26 corridors since France but also has editorial space for diaspora to communicate on their activities and exchange ideas on the blog. It has contributed to foster competition between remittances operators through increased transparency and information. It is also widely used by diaspora members as a platform to share information.</p>	
<p>Web Links : http://www.envoidargent.fr/</p>	

Title: Spark	
Country: Netherlands (Spark is situated in the Netherlands, but employs activities in Ghana,	Partners:

Morocco, Surinam, Afghanistan, Iraq and Somalia)	
Thematic Area: Circular Migration and Brain Gain	Tags: Capacity Building, Economic development, Empowerment, Investment, Creating new jobs
Summary: Spark is an NGO that develops higher education and entrepreneurship so that young ambitious people are empowered to lead their post-conflict societies into. Spark recently started a project financed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands to increase economic development in countries of origin through supporting migrant entrepreneurs to start enterprises in their home countries.	
Web links: www.spark-online.org	

Title: Supporting the establishment of the Moldovan Diaspora Relations Bureau	
Country: Republic of Moldova	Partner(s): International Organisation for Migration
Thematic Area(s): Policy coherence and mainstreaming; Remittances; Rights of migrants; Strategies for minimizing costs/maximizing human development; Civil society and the private sector; Data and research; Diaspora; Governance of migration and coordination of dialogue	Tags: Brain drain; Capacity building; Diaspora empowerment and engagement; Diaspora investment and entrepreneurship; Local development; Mainstreaming migration into development planning; Policy coherence; Protection, empowerment and rights of migrants; Remittances; Return and reintegration; Skilled migration.
Summary: Improved institutional, normative, procedural and technical capacity of the Government of Moldova to engage with the Moldovan Diaspora, so as to harness the Diaspora resources for the homeland development through supporting the establishment of a permanent public institution possessing adequate capacity to meet the challenges posed by the Diaspora-engaging mandate. The established Diaspora Relations Bureau ensures coordination of the state policy in the field of relations with Diaspora, including citizens of the Republic of Moldova established temporary or permanently abroad, persons originating from Republic of Moldova and their descendents, as well as communities established by them. It coordinates the process of policy making in the field of relations with the Diaspora, thus contributing to keeping and affirming Moldovans' ethnic, cultural and linguistic identity abroad, capitalization of the human and material potential of the Diaspora. It also coordinates activities of cultural, educational, economical and social nature developed by ministries and other public authorities aimed at supporting and collaborating with the Diaspora representatives.	
Web Links:	

Title: Addressing brain-drain and strengthening Moldova as a Research & Development hub through temporary return of expatriated Moldovan scientists	
Country: Republic of Moldova	Partner(s):
Thematic Area(s): Strategies for minimizing costs/maximizing human development; Diaspora	Tags: Addressing push-factors of migration, Brain drain, Migration and education, Return and reintegration, Skilled migration.
<p>Summary: The goal of the program was to expand Moldova’s capacity in increasing the impact of circular migration on the development of research and development (R&D) sector through temporary return of representatives of the Moldovan Scientific Diaspora (MSD). The program supported the identification of leading Moldovan diaspora scientists to undertake a temporary assignment in Moldova at a local research/academic institution. These returnees were of symbolic importance, and were featured in an anti-brain drain public information campaign, which aimed to stem the migration culture, especially the sentiment among young Moldovans that there is “no future” in Moldova. Additionally, a database featuring all interested candidates was designed and which formed the basis for designing follow-up programming. The activity was implemented in cooperation with the Academy of Sciences of Moldova, which developed terms of references for the temporary placement of the Moldovan experts. As a result of the visits, MSD have (re)-initiated research collaborations with colleagues from Moldovan Institutions; delivered lectures and guidance to license, Master’s and PhD theses students and shared their knowledge and experience; joint publications were published in national and international journals, and discussions on the possibility of joint projects development to apply to different national and international programs including the EU’s FP7 were held.</p>	
Web Links : http://iom.md/attachments/110_temp_return_eng.pdf	

Title: FORIM- Forum des organisations internationales de solidarité issues des migrations	
Country: France	Partner(s): migrant associations in France- members of the platform. Support from French Development Agency
Thematic Area(s): Civil society and the private sector, Diasporas,	Tags: Capacity Building, civil society, diaspora empowerment and engagement
<p>Summary: Following requests from migrant associations in France to be considered as development actors, the French government has provided support for empowerment and capacity building of diaspora organizations. This has led to the creation in 2002 of a national platform of more than 700 migrant association that undertake development activities in Sub-Saharan Africa, Maghreb, South east Asia, the Caribbean and the Indian ocean. The FORIM is now widely</p>	

recognized as an important actor in the migration and development field, including at EU and international level.

The following activities are being undertaken, with a specific focus to increase accountability and monitoring, increase visibility and support greater structuration of the platform.

- Capacity building to reinforce the FORIM structure
- Through the PRA-OSIM mechanism: build capacities and provide support for professionalization of migrant associations; provide co-funding for development projects
- Foster exchanges and dialogues in France and at European and international level with other diaspora organizations and initiatives

An evaluation of the PRA OSIM has been undertaken in 2013 and has highlighted great achievements in building capacities of migrants associations and co-funding local development projects. Fostering linkages with other development actors (including for co-funding purposes), increase exchange of experiences and capitalization, as well as harmonization of practices regarding support provided to migrant associations are among proposed recommendations.

Web-links: The evaluation can be accessed there: http://www.forim.net/sites/default/files/Rapport_Final_Evaluation_PRA%20OSIM.pdf

FORIM website: <http://www.forim.net/>

Title: Organising Congolese diaspora in France - Réseau International des Congolais de l'Exterieur (RICE).	
Country: Congo	Partner(s):
Thematic Area(s): Diasporas	Tags: Capacity Building, Diaspora Empowerment and Engagement, Migration and Entrepreneurship, Migration, Trade and Investments
Summary: Congolese diaspora in France is organised in association called Réseau International des Congolais de l'Exterieur (RICE). In october 2013 it launched of a call for a business plan of 50.000 Euros for financing local projects or creation of enterprises to the benefit of entrepreneurs from Democratic Republic of Congo, Gabon and Republic of Congo.	
Web Links: The Association "Le RICE" can be contacted through Mme Edwige-Laure Mombouli, Maison des Associations 38 Boulevard Henri IV,75004 Paris. E-mail: contact@le-rice.com	

Title: Strengthening African and Middle Eastern Diaspora Policy through South-South Exchange (AMEDIP)	
Countries: Algeria, Cape Verde, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Lebanon, Mali, Morocco, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal and Tunisia	Partner(s): ICMPD, IOM Funder(s): France, Italy, the Netherlands, Switzerland
Thematic Area(s): Diaspora, migration policies, South-South cooperation,	Tags: Diaspora engagement, capacity building, dialogue
<p>Summary: 'Strengthening African and Middle Eastern Diaspora Policy through South-South Exchange' (AMEDIP) is developed and implemented within the framework of the Dialogue on Mediterranean Transit Migration (MTM). More specifically, AMEDIP builds directly upon the previous MTM initiative 'Linking Emigrant Communities for More Development - Inventory of Institutional Capacities and Practices', implemented by ICMPD and IOM in the period 2009 - 2010. Whilst this inventory provides an overview of institutional capacities and practices in Focus Partner States, AMEDIP seeks to address the particular institutional gaps and needs identified herein through concrete capacity building measures.</p> <p>The overall objective of the project is 'to enhance the institutional capacities of national authorities charged with migration and development to better harness the contributions of their diaspora communities'. Reflecting the overall objective, the specific objectives of the project are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to support the creation and/or further development of comprehensive diaspora policies in Focus Partner States • to strengthen South-South technical cooperation and regional expert exchanges • to enhance institutional and technical capacities of government agencies/local authorities involved in diaspora policy • to strengthen South-North cooperation through knowledge sharing and enhanced institutional dialogue. 	
Web Links: http://www.icmpd.org/AMEDIP.1821.0.html	

Title: Strengthening the Development Potential of the EU Mobility Partnership in Georgia through Targeted Circular Migration and Diaspora Mobilization	
Country: Georgia and Germany	<p>Partners:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Centre for international Migration and Development – CIM on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and the European Commission (EC) • Public Service Development Agency (PSDA) / Secretariat of the State Commission on Migration Issues • Georgian Small and Medium-sized Enterprises

Thematic Area: Labour migration and mobility

Tags: Brain drain, Capacity building, Diaspora empowerment and engagement, Diaspora investment and entrepreneurship, Enabling regular migration, Labour-market matching, Migration management, Policy coherence, Recruitment, Return and reintegration, Skilled migration, Temporary and circular labour migration, Transfer of values, ideas, knowledge and skills.

Summary: The overall objective of the project is to strengthen Georgia's capacities to harness the development potential of its Mobility Partnership (MP) for the benefit of migrants, the sending and receiving country. This shall be achieved by means of activities in four components:

- 1) **migration policy advice** with regard to a development-oriented and migrant-centred approach: providing expertise to relevant Georgian policy makers in form of placement of a long-term international expert; conducting workshops and events in order to allow for knowledge-exchange
- 2) developing and testing a **pilot scheme on skilled circular migration** that matches Georgia's and Germany's needs: Analysing labour market demands and identifying suitable occupational groups, subsequently placing up to 40 Georgians in education-oriented employment in Germany and offering reintegration arrangements to them.
- 3) **mobilising Diaspora** for return, employment and start-ups: Facilitating return-migration of up to 35 returning experts trained in Germany into the Georgian public or private sector and of up to 10 returning entrepreneurs into setting up small- or medium-sized businesses in Georgia; providing information on return migration/Georgian labour market opportunities and diaspora engagement opportunities
- 4) identifying project-related **best-practices and guidelines**: Producing a manual with guidelines for replication, detailing outcomes and best-practices of the action

Though focused on in the separate project components, the above objectives are chiefly reflected in the activities and direct migrant support measures related to the pilot circular migration scheme (PCMS). Purpose of the pilot circular migration scheme is to generating evidence (lessons learned) for the future development-oriented management of labour migration. The pilot circular migration scheme shall thus give the opportunity to exploring and gaining experiences with regard to the feasibility and opportunities of a circular migration scheme with respect to its triple win outcome (benefitting the migrants, the countries -and societies- of origin and of destination). On the basis of preparatory assessments with regard to a promising positive triple win outcome, the pilot circular migration scheme will apply to specific professions in the health care and hospitality sector. Up to 40 qualified Georgians will be offered pre-departure training in Georgia, placement and continued education in Germany, and re-integration support upon return to Georgia, including the support in transfer of skills upon return as well as counselling and support in start-up endeavours.

The project is bundling the core expertise of CIM's portfolio on migration and diaspora (returning experts, migrant entrepreneurs, diaspora cooperation) and has at the same time a strong pilot character in developing and testing a circular migration scheme in Georgia as well as developing a business start-up scheme.

The project is implemented in close cooperation with the State Commission on Migration Issues represented by its Secretariat, thereby creating a spirit of strong ownership by the relevant Georgian Ministries and stakeholders. Cooperation with the GSMEA and involvement of

additional private sector representatives in the course of the project moreover ensures a market-relevant private sector development-oriented approach to the reintegration and start-up activities supported in the project.

The project's duration is 36 months, starting in 2013. The project is funded by the EC (Thematic Programme for Migration and Asylum (TPMA)) and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development.

Web Links: <http://www.cimonline.de/de/2312.asp>; <http://www.geschaeftsideen-fuer-entwicklung.de/die-laender/georgien/>; www.returning-experts.de; www.migration.commission.ge

Title: ERGEM – Enhancing the Role of Georgian Emigrants at Home

Country: Georgia

Partner(s): DRC-Danish Refugee Council; ICMPD-International Centre for Migration Policy Development; Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkey, Public Service development Agency, Ministry of Justice of Georgia, Office of the State Minister of Georgia for Diaspora Issues, Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Refugees and Accommodation of Georgia, and the Ministry of the Interior of Poland.

Thematic Area(s): EC Thematic Programme of Cooperation with Third Countries in the Areas of Migration and Asylum

Tags:

Summary: The project "Enhancing the Role of the Georgian Emigrants at Home (ERGEM)" is funded by the European Union and implemented by the DRC and ICMPD in cooperation with project partners. The main aim of the project is to contribute to strengthening the ties between Georgians abroad and Georgian institutions in order to increase diaspora contributions to Georgia's economic development. The project targets Georgian diaspora in the three countries considering the size and specifications of diaspora: Turkey, Greece and Germany.

With regard to the specific objectives, the activities within the project will directly address the contribution of Georgian diaspora and will aim at:

- Enhancing of the institutional knowledge on Georgian emigrant and diaspora communities, with a focus on their needs, interests, remittances and propensity to invest;
- Improvement of information, support and services by Georgian institutions to their emigrant and diaspora communities abroad;
- Transfer of structured knowledge from diaspora representatives to Georgian business actors and pilot support to returnees.

The activities of the project will be implemented in three consecutive phases (inception, implementation and closing) and under three complementary components: 1) collection and analysis of information, 2) services to diaspora abroad and 3) services in Georgia.

Web Links: Information about the ERGEM project on ICMPD webpage: <http://www.icmpd.org/Enhancing-the-Role-of-Georgian-Emigrants-at-Home->

ERGEM.2464.0.html

ERGEM Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/ERGEMProject>

Title: SEVA Network Foundation	
Country: Netherlands	Partners:
Thematic Area: Diasporas, Strategies for minimizing costs/maximizing human development	Tags: Livelihood and Job Creation, Migration, Trade and Investments
Summary: Seva is an ISO-certified international organisation for sustainable development. Seva's strategy is to stimulate entrepreneurship among the poor and marginalized in developing countries. As of 2011, Seva received funding from the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs for the project 'Migration and Development 2011-2013', which is an continuation of a previous, successful project. For the moment, 25 enterprises have already been established in among others Ghana, Rwanda, Burundi, India and Surinam.	
Web links: www.seva-group.org	

Title: African Diaspora Policy Centre (ADPC)	
Country: Netherlands	Partners: The Network University (TNU)
Thematic Area: Diasporas	Tags:
Summary: The ADPC programme is called <i>Strengthening Policy Making Capacities of African Diaspora Ministries</i> (SEDIMA). This programme runs from July 2012 to July 2015. The objective of the programme is to contribute to strengthening policy making capacities and practical operations of African government officials serving at the newly-formed Diaspora Ministries and related institutions tasked with overseeing diaspora and development-related matters. The countries that are targeted in this programme are: Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Chad, Gambia, Ivory Coast, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia ,the Republic of South Sudan, South Africa, Tanzania and Zambia. These twelve countries have been selected as they have a (recently established) Diaspora Department that deals with drafting and implementing national migration policies. These countries do represent also the different regions in Africa, except the North African region.	
Web links: www.diaspora-centre.org	

Title: Programme for the International Assessment of Adult Competences (PIAAC)	
Country: selected OECD countries (20 OECD countries, 3 OECD sub-national entities and 2 non-	Partner(s): OECD and non-OECD participating countries

OECD countries)	
Thematic Area(s): Data and research, Diasporas, labour and skills matching.	Tags: Skills of migrants, labour market outcomes.
<p>Summary: This is a new survey conducted by the OECD and a unique data source for the study of the labour market outcomes of immigrants. First, it contains the results of the assessment tests on literacy and numeracy proficiency as well as problem solving abilities in technology-advanced environments, which are direct measures of skills of migrants and native-born persons. Second, it contains a rich labour market module which provides detailed information about each individual's current job and wages. Finally, PIAAC allows accounting for a number of important characteristics of migrants, such as their duration of stay in the host country, the country where their highest qualifications was acquired, the age at which they migrated, their origin and the languages they speak. It allows examining the determinants of over-qualification separately for migrants and natives and measuring the remaining gap in key labour market outcomes between the two groups once all relevant and usually not measurable factors have been taken into account.</p>	
<p>Web Links : http://www.oecd.org/site/piaac/</p>	