

Round table discussion: What are we »developing« in the concept of development cooperation and what is the role of migration?

Thursday, 28 February 2013 at 18.00 in atrium of the City Museum, Gosposka ul. 15, Ljubljana

The understanding of the concept of development is changing through time. Once we understood development only as an economic development and even industrialization. Today we speak about different »new« concepts of development cooperation, education for development and global learning. Migrations are still mostly discussed separately even though they are very closely connected with development: on one side migrations enormously contributed to the global development, and on the other side migrations are consequence of unequal global development.

The concept of international development cooperation, which is more and more present also in Slovenian public discourse, officially represents the assistance that “developed countries” – countries of the global “centre” or “North” are donating to the political, economic and social development of the “developing countries” – countries of the global “periphery” or “South”. Discourse, within which we often uncritically speak about the “donor countries” which contribute their share of the GDP for more equal and balanced global development, often completely ignores the colonial past that caused the situation of radical inequality between states, and the neo-colonial present that further perpetuates this situation, only with different means – one of them being also development aid. This kind of discourse is preserving imperialistic belief about evolutionary, linear, one-way development of civilization.

Falseness of development aid should also be pointed out – on one side “developed countries” are sending their experts to the “developing countries”, and on the other side they (especially EU and USA) prevent or make travelling in other direction difficult with their restrictive migration politics. Migrations are completely instrumentalized and economically over-determined; people from “developing countries” are only able to move around as working force or even as goods, and not because they would simply “want to”. Migrations from “developing” to “developed” countries are therefore constantly causing moral panic which produces and maintains the fear of migrants that come from the global “periphery” or “South”. Extreme selfishness instead of solidarity, own interests before common ones and masking true issues of inequality in the concepts of humanitarian aid are typical for the capitalist modus of society functioning which is becoming global also through development aid.

We will critically discuss these topics with **Vlasta Jalušič** from the Peace Institute, **Franci Zlatar** from Slovene Philanthropy, **Max Zimani** from Zavod Global, **Nikolai Jeffs** from the Faculty of Humanities Koper and **Gertrude Fester** from Centre for Gender, Culture and Development from Rwanda. The discussion (in English language) will be moderated by **Maja Ladić** from the Peace Institute.

This round table discussion is an activity of an international project *Coherence of Migration and Development Policies* (CoMiDe) implemented by the Peace Institute together with partner organizations from Austria, Slovakia and Italy.

Within this project we are hosting prof. **Gertrude Fester** who will give a lecture ***Options for positive development, immigration and gender equality in Africa: a utopian dream or a possible objective?*** (in English) on Wednesday, 27 February 2013 at 14.00 at the Faculty of Social Sciences, room 3.

More about the project: www.comide.org.



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