

## Summary Report

### CoMiDe Conference: "Bridging the Gap"

## International Conference on Migration & Development

23 – 24 January 2012

Albert-Schweitzer-Haus, Schwarzspanierstrasse 13, Vienna, Austria



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Based on transcriptions



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## Introduction



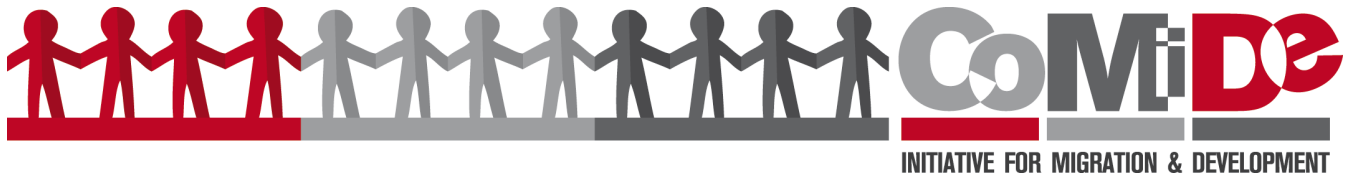
This international conference was organised as the project kickoff for the three-year European Initiative for Migration and Development (CoMiDe). It brought together more than 150 participants from the project partner countries Austria, Slovenia, Slovakia and Italy, as well as experts from Senegal, Ghana and Germany for one and a half days of intensive discussions about the complex issues related to the conference theme.

The conference was opened by **Brigitte Öppinger-Walchshofer** from the Austrian Development Agency (ADA), who underlined the importance of the conference topic for ADA and said that there should be more coherence between migration and development policies at the EU level. **Walter Posch** from VIDC welcomed the interest expressed by ADA (despite financial constraints), and **Elfriede Schachner** from Südwind Agentur pointed out in her opening remarks that the public debate treats migration as a phenomenon somewhere between threat and potential.

In her input statement, **Madjiguène Cissé** from the Réseau des femmes pour le Développement durable en Afrique, Senegal, said that parallels between migration and development can be seen throughout the history of humanity, and that there is a contradiction between the “problem” of migration on the one hand and increasing global integration on the other. **Thomas Faist** from the University of Bielefeld, Germany, outlined how the public debate about migration and development has evolved since the 1960s. **Gabriel Kramarics** from the Austrian Ministry of European and International Affairs spoke about the role of UN organizations with respect to migration, **Tanja Dedovic** from the International Organization for Migration (IOM) described the activities of the IOM, which was originally established for refugees from Europe, and **Marjan Huč** from Slovenian Global Action (SLOGA) discussed the situation in Slovenia and the visa problems of partners wishing to travel to Europe in the context of exchange programmes.

**Mignane Diouf** from Conseil des ONG d’Appui au Développement, Senegal, underlined that migration is a human right. He said that African governments are primarily responsible for creating opportunities for the African people and for involving them in local decision-making. **Alex Asiedu** from the Department of Geography and Centre for Migration Studies, University of Ghana, described migration flows from and to Ghana.

**Nadja Schuster** and **Marlene Keusch** from VIDC presented a study which they prepared in the context of the CoMiDe project, entitled “European Good Practice Examples of Migration and Development Initiatives with a Particular Focus on Diaspora Engagement”. **Andrea Riester** from Deutsche Gesellschaft für internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) presented a pilot programme which GIZ has run since 2007 to support associations that are mainly led and represented by migrants. **Alexis Nshimiyimana Neuberg** from the Afrika Vernetzungsplattform (AVP) remarked



critically on the conditions for public subsidies, saying that high requirements for own contributions make it impossible for diaspora organisations to successfully apply for public co-finance. **Bernardo Venturi** from the University of Bologna emphasized the importance of local authorities in his remarks and said that a human-rights-based approach is essential to avoid paternalism.

Following these input presentations, **three workshops** were held on specific topics: **“Southern Perspective on Migration & Development”**, **“Diaspora Engagement in Development Cooperation”**, and **“Public Authorities’ Role in Migration and Development”**.

*This report is based on the transcriptions of the speakers’ contributions recorded during the Conference on 23<sup>d</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> of January 2012 in Vienna.*

## **Welcome Session**

*Brigitte Öppinger-Walchshofer, Austrian Development Agency*

*Walter Posch, VIDC – Vienna Institute for International Dialogue and Cooperation, Austria*

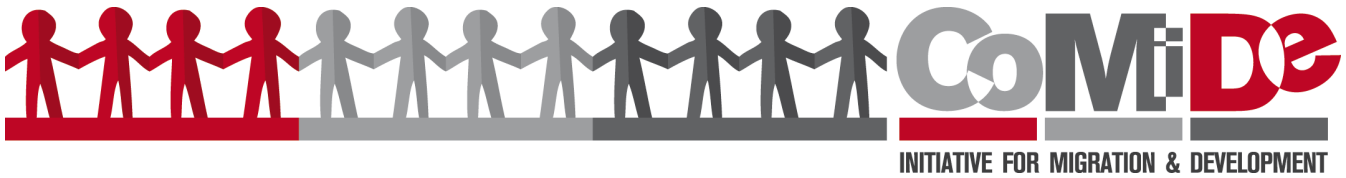
*Elfriede Schachner, Südwind Agentur, Austria*

### ***Brigitte Öppinger-Walchshofer, Austrian Development Agency***



It is with pleasure that I address you this morning for the opening of the international conference on migration and development. This event is part of the transnational Initiative for Migration and Development, COMIDE.

The initiative, which is aimed at enhancing coherent migration and development policies, is supported by the Austrian Development Agency through cooperation with our long-standing partner, the Vienna Institute for International Dialogue and Cooperation. We do this because we are committed to making migration work for development. Having said that as an introduction, let me now give you a quick outline of where we stand today regarding migration and development and reflect upon Austria's contribution in this regard. 215 million people worldwide are considered migrants. That means we are talking about around 3% of the world's population. Around 60% of these migrants reside in the EU, the US, Canada, Russia, and Australia. Most of them come from Asia and Africa, from countries with high population growth. Their host countries quite often are confronted with a declining population with an increasing life expectancy and less and less children. This creates a challenge: Estimates show that absence of migration to the EU would lead to a labor force gap of 63 million people by the year 2050. On the other hand, the potential labor force in South Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa will continue to expand. As you are aware, commitments to development vary from country to country, and countries are affected differently by migration flows. Let's take our own country as an example: Austria is – according to the Commitment to Development Index – recognized for accepting the most migrants for its geographical size and is in the upper half of the list of the 22 wealthiest countries in terms of its overall commitment to help poorer nations. Although not mentioned in the millennium development goals, migration has direct or indirect impacts on all MDGs. It is therefore crucial to examine the complex links between migration and development. Let me use the issue of remittances as an example: Remittances are a relevant factor for achieving MDG 1 to eradicate poverty and hunger, since 60% of remittances are spent on social safety matters such as food, shelter and clothing. It is therefore necessary to maximize their impact through the promotion of cheaper, faster and more secure flows of remittances. Additionally, the promotion of good governance in countries of origin is another important factor, which is also supported through various projects of the Austrian Development Agency. Brain drain is another example: We know how damaging brain drain can be for the respective countries of origin. In parts of Africa



up to 60% of highly skilled staff in the health care sector emigrates. On the other hand, research findings indicate that up to a certain level, brain drain can also have positive impacts, since more people decide to gain skills inspired by those leaving the country and in sum, they can outnumber those who actually depart. It is therefore necessary to find tailor-made solutions for each context and country by facilitating the return and reintegration of migrants and supporting the development of local employment, education and vocational training. In this area, the Austrian Development Agency is active through, for example, the support of the socio-economic reintegration of voluntary returnees to Moldova, a project carried out in cooperation with our partner, IOM. Furthermore, the gender dimension of migration and development needs continued attention. Migration can contribute to women's empowerment, greater economic and financial autonomy and self-esteem but also increase their vulnerability. We know that women and children are often victims of forced labor, exploited as domestic workers or become victims of trafficking. The Austrian Development Cooperation has a long history of supporting projects that aim at combating trafficking in human beings, such as in Albania, Serbia, and Bosnia and Herzegovina and is also involved in supporting regional strategies of the Economic Community Of West African States (ECOWAS) to combat organized crime in Sierra Leone, Liberia, as well as in the Southern Africa Region. Another initiative is currently taking place in Nepal, where female migrants receive support in choosing safe paths for labor migration to the Gulf States and get informed about their rights as migrants. Unfortunately, the financial crisis coupled with rising levels of unemployment has led to an increase in anti-immigration sentiments in many societies. It has raised the risk of exclusion, discrimination and violence against migrants. The recent developments in North Africa have especially shown how vulnerable migrants can be. Integration and awareness-raising is therefore crucial, and I am proud that the awarded joint initiative "Ke Nako, Afrika!" carried out by the Austrian Development Agency, the VIDC and the Africa Network Platform (AVP-Afrika Vernetzungsplattform) sparked interest from all over Austria and helped establish a diverse image of Africa in Austrian society, differing from stereotypes, prejudices and racism. Considering the issues mentioned above, enhanced coherence of national as well as European policies with development objectives is an essential factor. According to the EU Consensus on Development and the related Work Program, innovative approaches such as mobility partnerships and circular migration are pursued. Additionally, partnerships with non-state actors and diaspora organizations are an important element to maximize their role in building bridges between home and host countries as well as the benefits of migration through transfers of knowledge and skills – an aspect which is also considered in the COMIDE project.

In conclusion, I would like to refer to the words of the UN Secretary General who said at the Global Forum on Migration and Development in December last year that "Millions of migrants are bold and courageous in their search for a better life". He encouraged the audience to "be equally brave in finding ways to make migration work for development."

With these words in mind, I wish you all a fruitful dialogue! Thank you!

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**Walter Posch, VIDC - Vienna Institute for International Dialogue and Cooperation, Austria**



*After welcoming the audience and acknowledging the project and financing partners (EuropeAid and ADA), Mr. Posch pointed out that the VIDC wanted to make migration a topic before.*

As migration in Austria is a delicate issue, getting funding, especially from public institutions, was a challenge. This goes hand in hand with a long debate on whether Austria is an immigration country or not, despite the fact that about 1 million out of 8 million inhabitants are migrants. Although migrants are confronted with a relatively negative attitude from the Austrian public and years of denial and ignoring the migration issue, there is now a positive rethinking taking place in that field – at least at this conference.

Today global migration movements are considered to be a major challenge, but they have not often been linked to development policies and objectives. Cooperation between the two political fields at state and non-state level is – at least in Austria – rare. But in the end, the understanding of migration as a result of global inequalities shall be enforced in the development and integration policy discourses. Therefore we are pleased that the ADA will make migration & development a major topic for 2013. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the ADA for the constructive and open cooperation – despite financial cutbacks of 37% – but without their co-financing, this project could not be carried out.

Today's conference will deliver a status quo about the migration & development issue with international participation. A European good practice guide and initial results from the partner countries of the CoMiDe initiative will be presented. *At the end, Mr. Posch thanked everybody for coming and wished a successful conference and joint projects.*

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**Elfriede Schachner, Südwind Agentur, Austria**



*Elfriede Schachner from Südwind Agentur pointed out in her opening remarks that the public debate treats migration as a phenomenon somewhere between threat and potential.*

Recently a small survey was published in Vienna by 40 chief editors from Austrian media. The outcome was that migration is perceived in the context of problems, delinquency, conflict and threat. This probably has to do with the fact that only half a percent of Austrian journalists have a migrant background. But the same goes for

many politicians, who perceive migration as a threat. They believe that through development migration can and will be avoided: 'We give development aid, then people down there do well and they'll stay where they are. If this does not work, we still have our politics of bulkheading, our fortress Europe'. We know this concept will not be successful. Migration has existed for centuries, migration is a fact and has to be accepted as a human behavior. Concerning the positive aspects, the potential of migration, the famous remittances are often pointed to. According to the World Bank, up to US\$351 billion (2011) in remittances have made, a sum that represents threefold the official development aid. But we should be careful not to idealize remittances as *the* solution for all problems, since governments or financial institutions in the respective countries may be invited to not to do reforms because some family incomes increased. And migration is always accompanied by high human costs: disrupted families, pressure on migrants from family expectations, discrimination and even racism in the host country. Secondly I'd like to bring the topic of migration & development to the concrete level of cooperation, namely the development NGOs and migrant organizations. In my former job I was involved in a seminar organized by development policy NGOs. A position paper was formulated and one of the results was: Yes, the cooperation between NGDOs and diaspora organizations has to be enforced and intensified. Some years have passed and we still have chances to make it better and to develop further. One proposal could be, for example, a specific personnel policy within NGDOs for promoting migrants. Südwind tries to do this by explicitly addressing migrants in their job announcements. But results are not encouraging. We have to find the reasons for this and maybe discuss it in the coming days. All in all, much has to be done from the side of the NGDOs, the Federation of NGDOs and the migrant organizations. My third and last point concerns coherence or the lack of it. If we want to eradicate poverty – which also influences migration – we need a structural change of the general conditions. Development projects – even if they make sense – can only patch these wounds created by incoherent politics. That's why we need a change in economic policy, trade policy, environmental and climate policy, agricultural policy and migration policy. All these political fields should – unfortunately they are not – be examined for their negative impact on the people in the South. One cornerstone of a coherent migration and development policy would be a coordinated economic and development policy based on human rights standards. I wish us two interesting and perceptive days, many questions and hopefully also many answers.

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## **Opening Session: Dynamics of Migration and Development Cooperation**



### Lectures:

*Madjiguène Cissé*, Réseau des femmes pour le Développement durable en Afrique, Senegal

*Thomas Faist*, University of Bielefeld, Germany

### Discussants:

*Gabriel Kramarics*, Department for Multilateral Development Cooperation, Austrian Foreign Ministry

*Tanja Dedovic*, IOM – Regional Office for Eastern Europe, South Eastern Europe and Central Asia

*Marjan Huč*, SLOGA – Slovenian Global Action

Chair: *Michael Fanizadeh*, VIDC, Austria

## ***Madjiguène Cissé*, Réseau des femmes pour le Développement durable en Afrique, Senegal**



Bridging the gap – I like this title, it is strong, but I asked myself how to do this “bridging the gap”? Because this is a structural gap, we have to admit, and this has to be addressed. Second point: The theme migration & development is actually “a la mode”. I have been invited very often to conferences to talk about migration & development and I feel like I repeat myself constantly. We repeat the same ideas, the same situations, we make the same propositions. I hope at this conference we will not be limited to discussion, but that we will leave with concrete results we share.

In the first part of my contribution I will start to talk about the situation in our African countries. In the second part I want to talk about the North-South relations in migration & development. What are possible synergies, what are the challenges? In a third part I will talk about African women, particularly about REFDAF. REFDAF is a women’s network for sustainable development within which I am working. And in the fourth and final part, which is the most difficult one, we should talk about concrete things we want to do for a better understanding, cooperation based on mutual respect and for equal rights.

1) Why is a certain environment less favorable for development? African migrants today are leaving their countries because they are forced to do so. Despite enormous progress all over the world, Africa benefits neither from technological progress nor from scientific findings. Despite an accumulation of prosperity never seen before in human history, a majority of people is living in extreme and alarming poverty. In Africa today – where 70% of the countries are agricultural – farmers work with only very rudimentary means. In our women’s network we go to the countryside of Senegal, and it is a pity to look at the peasants. Farmers in 2012 work with the same tools as our grandparents 70

years ago! So the young African farmer does not believe that agriculture will bring promise, because he already watched his grandfather working hard on the land, but he stayed poor and died begging. He watched his father working hard on the land but die begging. And this young person does not want to work hard and die begging. Our young rural people see only very poor perspectives on the countryside. Therefore the countryside becomes deserted of human beings. In Senegalese villages you just see some women doing domestic work and elderly persons, who cannot move away anymore, and the rural exodus ends in the big African cities. Nobody – not even the best statisticians – is able to count the exact number of Dakar’s inhabitants, estimated at 3-4 million people, living today in promiscuity, in youth delinquency, in precarious situations. Women are especially victims of this poverty; they lack everything, means, qualifications, serious organizations, land to cultivate, houses to live in. This is the alarming situation but this reflects reality.

2) Migration is a global phenomenon and – as I understand – Europeans want to make a central problem out of it. Paradoxically, at the moment everyone is struggling for opening, for putting their hands together, Europeans are struggling for closure. However, the two concepts of migration & development have always been linked together in human history. In the introduction of my book about the fight of Sans-Papiers – Parole des Sans-Papiers – I reflected upon the questions of migration. Human populations were always facing the most difficult situations – crossed deserts, oceans, mountains – to get together. We get the impression that migration has only existed since the 60s, the 70s. That is not true. The immigrants have not created migration. Are Asians, Latin Americans, Africans more “nomadic” than the explorers, who – centuries ago – left Bordeaux, Nantes or Lisbon? Are there people who never migrated? In fact the evolution of civilization became what it is today because people migrated, traveled, they left, came back and returned. Producing and crossing borders to sell goods was one essential modality for the construction of societies.

Humanity in the 21<sup>st</sup> century faces a crisis of multiple forms: financial, economic, environmental and mainly values. Migration becomes a global phenomenon and Europeans want to make a central problem out of it for many reasons. At the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century we note an explosive development of communication and information technology, the shortening of distances due to modern transport facilities. The Internet connects people around the globe, breaks down borders, the SMS connects young people across different continents, Twitter, Facebook even help coordinate the struggles of the people, mainly driven by the youth. In this period of putting hands together, Europe wants to block, wants to separate. This reminds me a period in our African history of rejecting and separating people – slavery: the most valuable are singled out for America; the weak and sick stay in Africa. But migration is caused by extreme poverty, provoked by actions and activities of the Occident in our countries. They subsidize their products with ours; our accomplice-states deliver import licenses secretly. Our barriers for development are also our barriers for free movement, barriers that Western countries built on our freedom of movement, despite all human tragedies and frustrations caused by it. If you want to develop, you have to leave, to go away, and to come back. You have to learn over there, to teach, leave something there. You have to exchange and acquire knowledge and expertise. We do not develop by staying at home.

Describing our situation concerning migration & development – as businesswomen or men, university professors, human rights activists, students, salesmen – to make a visa request you have to make a veritable course of combat and undergo all sorts of trouble and humiliation to your human dignity just to gain a little entrance visa to the European territory. This creates frustration, which does not level the relationship between Europe and countries in the South.

Still today we are suffering from hard economic adjustment programs from the World Bank and the IMF. And by following ultraliberal politics, Europe finds itself in the same situation today, suffering from structural adjustment programs they imposed upon our countries in the 1980s.

3) Concerning REFDAF: We tried to create a women's network of associations in order to promote a new vision of economic and social development in Africa and to reflect upon women's role in the creation of new conditions. In this sense we started a project called "space of exchange" aiming to open market stands and cantines within big marketplaces, allowing women to sell their products. The women bring their goods produced on the countryside to the big urban centers. This allows them to have an income to improve their situation. Another important project is a social habitat called "Cité des femmes". Women do not possess land in rural or urban areas; the rate of women homeowners in Senegal – and Africa in general – is only 2%. We created a cooperative to allow women to gain land and assist them in building this habitat for themselves. They also have a common parcel where they construct the social center of REFDAF, which will be their meeting place in the future. All these projects are accompanied by a national formation program. REFDAF wants to start a big women's movement in order to create a strong female civil society, capable of organizing activities and advancing society. Since independence in the 1960s we have been ruled by men, but – and my brother Mignane will not contradict this – the result is a disaster. Therefore we said, give women information, give them power, maybe it will get better. And REFDAF's ambition is to educate citizens who assume responsibility for their society.

4) The 4<sup>th</sup> and concluding point is what I titled "recreate hope" by creating a new basis of cooperation. How can we rethink development cooperation, how does the European crisis affect North-South relations? What does coherent migration mean in a situation of multiple crises, of lack of reference points, of conflict? REFDAF fights for an exchange of knowledge and best practices as well as for effective solidarity translated into concrete action. Co-development for us means that every entity may develop itself. The North can develop in itself but it should not hinder the South from profiting from progress made in the North for accelerating its own development, such as profiting from special organizations and appropriate tools. Concerning health, what can we do to stop our children in Africa from dying from Malaria? Or building infrastructure, sophisticated machines may dig a water well in one day, where we take a month to do so in the villages with our rudimentary tools. How can we benefit from these new technologies, how can we reduce this gap? The rich Arabian petrol countries keep their money in Northern banks, and the Northern banks lend this money to us. As African countries, why not diversify channels of cooperation to other countries like China, India,

and Brazil? How can we find new, more efficient teaching methods? In Senegal we still have the French teaching system, although we do not have the same realities. How can we assure a certain transparency in the administration of funds? The money given by the North is also the money of the people of the North; how can we assure that this money is administered transparently although it is actually completely opaque? Governments know, but people don't know what these funds may change in our countries. How can we create more solidarity, more equal relations, relations that favor a South-South dialogue, but also a North-South dialogue; relations between subjects, not subjects-objects? Without circulation, without transfer of knowledge, without constructive exchange all development is difficult, even impossible.

I talked about free circulation, which is very important for me as a right, and this right must remain a universal principle; it's a human right. Without this right, there is no harmony between cultures; this right induces open-mindedness, and without cultural exchange there will be no peace in the world. The European crisis appeals with acuity to question the mode of development we want. Already in Africa crises have taught us how to cope with everyday living in order to initiate a holistic development that is aware of a reasonable exploitation of our resources and investing not only for the present but also for the future. The modes we observe today are still in an empirical phase, on a theoretical basis and to be invented. We invite all intellectuals, researchers from the South and from the North, to engage with us in this process of reflection, cultivating solidarity and *acceptance* of the other, because we are one unique humanity. And a final question: what kind of humanity do we want for ourselves and our future generations? Thank you!

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**Thomas Faist, University of Bielefeld, Germany**



I want to speak very briefly on 3 issues now: 1) Why are we again discussing migration & development? 2) The relationship between migrants' organizations and NGOs and 3) public policies and migrant associations.

1) We have been having this discussion about migration & development for about 60 years now, and I see 3 conjunctions: the 1<sup>st</sup> conjunction in the 60s, remember the guest worker recruitment in Europe. There already was the hope that remittances would improve economic development in countries such as Turkey. And what nowadays is called social remittances, the Turkish government said, well, they bring back human capital, skills, but also the right work ethic. Social remittances in those days were not gender equity but the right work ethics. But still migration contributes to development. In the 70s the discussion died. Contributed to by the second phase in the 1980s, the causality was reversed, more critically: underdevelopment causes migration. The discussion was about brain drain. And again since the 1990s – propelled by the early 2000 World Bank initiative – you have a celebration of migration again, of circular migration, of circulation. But how can we implement circular migration in an age of restrictive migration? The causality has *again* reversed! It's like a pendulum; it swings back and forth and you find new arguments. I don't want to make fun of it, but this is really a *déjà vu* in lots of ways. But there is no *déjà vu* in the fact that migrants have now been discovered as development agents; after peasants, after women, it's now migrants. This offers of course a new opportunity for a broader discursive change in what's understood by development, namely that state, family, market, and civil society are the pillars of social organization. In the 1960s we put our hopes in the national development state. Nowadays the hope is not in the national development state, the hope is in the local state, in international organizations, in NGOs, or even migrants. This is also the approach of *co-développement*. It originated in France and we find it in Spain and Italy, to a lesser degree in the Netherlands but also in the UK, much lesser in Germany. Civil society has now become much more important as well as markets and transnational societies. And the success of the migration & development nexus is the following: some people focus on the entrepreneurial migrant, sometimes described as a neoliberal approach, and on the left you have the faith in collective remittances. Think of all the discussions about hometown associations, which are not only found in the case of the US and Mexico, you also find them in Egypt, Jamaica or the Philippines. Wherever you stand ideologically, you pick your migrant. But the problem is remittances in families are totally different from collective remittances or investment. Other problems are less talked about, namely the role of remittances in violent conflicts. Think of the Tamil Tigers, the Kurdish liberation movements and other national autonomy movements. And you have – of course spurred originally in the early 2000s – the World Bank being concerned about its own role, picking up on migrant remittances as a new way to get into business again. But much of the policy focus has been on how to improve the efficiency of remittances. And this is where organizations can get involved. I am not saying that it's wrong to bring down the costs of remittances, but if that's the only thing, it's very

little. Is it really a counter weight to the focus on security and control in European immigration policy? If circular migration is good for remittances, how on earth would you implement that? What is really important, that there are restrictive migrations policies, but you cannot legitimate restrictive migration policy through the migration & development discourse. I think there is a point of entry, where you can criticize very constructively.

2) Concerning NGOs and migrant associations (MAs): Migrant associations have been around for as long as we can think, but their role in partnering with other organizations is somewhat new. At times NGOs were considered magic bullets in the development field, but the coopting of some NGOs by governments and donors has exactly the same risks that migrant associations face. Eva Østergaard-Nielsen – in her case study from Catalonia, Spain – is talking a lot about how migrant associations try to steer in between NGOs and government agencies without being co-opted or being eaten up or being changed. Very similar to the experience by NGOs, MAs now sometimes have vis à vis NGOs. I really think that sustainable what's called development – and here I mean development efforts to address the relationships of global inequalities regarding economic resources, regarding status, regarding who is taking the decisions –, that sustainable development needs other types of reform. All these expectations cannot be put on migrant associations, in NGOs or in development associations. I think the danger in really pushing MAs is that it promulgates the myth of how progress can be achieved. The issue is how to constitute a level playing field. How MAs keep organizational identity, how mutuality is to be enforced? We were involved in a study in North Rhine-Westphalia (NRW) on the role of what we called diaspora organizations on the state level. The representatives of MAs were quite suspicious when all of a sudden people from the ministries showed up asking what do you want from *us*? To build trust is not that easy, of course.

3) The 3<sup>rd</sup> part is public policies in migration & development. On all kinds of governmental levels migration & development has been seized upon and the EU has rhetorically instigated a migrant centered approach, building an EU wide network of MAs, trying to better access to EU sponsored funding. You see a real trickle down. There are real trickle downs at the state level in countries such as Germany, which I am most familiar with. The question is who benefits from that. Also on the governmental level you have emigration countries independent somehow of the migration & development nexus but spurred by it. The economist Albert O. Hirschman used the term "exit flows", saying if an organization fails or is decreasing in its efficiency, people can either exit – migrate out of that (country) – or you could raise your voice, you could try to change something politically. And he says the more loyal you are to the organization of the state the more likely you choose voice instead of exit. It's a very helpful point of departure, because [...] exit and voice nowadays are really to be thought of together. So migration abroad can be connected to voice. But voice where? In the country of immigration? In the country of emigration? And on whose behalf are MAs speaking, claiming to speak for migrants sometimes? You have this discussion especially in the US-Mexican context, where you find conflicts between MAs that are based in the US and those who stay at home in Mexico. You could find similar kinds of situations also in the African or Asian context. Who do you speak for? Nonetheless you find that in countries of emigration, it's integration there, development here. In the countries of immigration the motto seems to be integration here, development there. It's a kind of a reverse coin and there are all these measures: repatriation,

restoration of citizenship, dual citizenship, special tax incentives, investment incentives, using immigrant groups as a lobby, but also the exclusion from membership and repression. You find all these are instruments of emigration countries. And in the immigration countries some of the issues are those migrants who are more integrated – usually integrated here means speaking the language of the country of immigration very well, having a high social and occupational status – are more helpful. But what about all those migrants who are not, don't have a high social status – and that would be the majority – aren't they then involved in development? There was a widely publicized case – in Germany or in the Netherlands – of a woman who cleaned offices and built a company in Accra. And she would have never thought that this is development. So what is then the perception?

In conclusion, to start with migration and international migration as a prime mover, as a cause for change is a mistake. We have to identify causes of change and then think how can migration contribute to that. To put it somewhat provocatively – development – and here I mean development in the sense of addressing global social inequalities – drives migration, not vice versa. That's where the discussion has to start. And the potential of development – there is a development potential of international migration – these are the issues of *scaling out* and *scaling up* processes. And *scaling out* processes refer to how migrants, MAs, cooperate – if at all – with NGOs and governments, international organizations. There is a lot of anecdotal evidence about that, but that has not been analyzed systematically by researchers. What about scaling up processes? Specifically, what is the relevance of local initiatives for broader regional, national or international developments? These are issues that have to be discussed, not in the context of international migration as a prime mover but as *one* small element of how it can further change. And this change may not be the change we always wish for. Thank you very much.

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**Discussants:**



*The discussion, chaired by Michael Fanizadeh, VIDC, Austria, summarizes comments of the different institutional representatives working in the field – from ministries, international organizations to NGOs – and their views on the topic of migration & development. Furthermore, principal questions on the North-South relationship were raised and how an equal relationship between "rich" development NGOs and economically – thus logistically and administratively – much weaker migrant organizations could be installed on an operational level.*

**Gabriel Kramarics, Department for Multilateral Development Cooperation, Austrian Foreign Ministry:**

Austrian multilateral development cooperation is mainly linked to the big humanitarian UN organizations. Those organizations, like UNDP, UNFP, UNCDF and UNICEF are implicitly involved in migration in so far as they try to combat the root causes of migration. This is a more passive approach towards the dynamics of migration, because it is a dynamic process and has been debated for over 60 years. In fact, present day Europe emerged from migration, and now we have to accommodate with the notion of the Fortress Europe and migration as a global phenomenon. UNHCR has been in fact an idea induced by the Post-War-Situation in Europe; remember just the migratory effects of the 2nd World War. As far as my work is concerned, I unfortunately cannot contribute much to the practical discussion, but I will try to point out some general trends. Looking at the abovementioned UN organizations, migration is a topic in all of their reports (e.g. in relation to demographic change, to migration decisions, to the impact of migration for the sending and receiving countries, etc.). Or again the question of remittances: I worked in regions where remittances play an important role, like Mexico and the rest of Central America. Here again we have to face the North-South problem: people go to the North, money goes southwards. Thank you for the critical remarks on remittances; remittances can be incentives as well as disincentives. Locally you can perceive a huge difference between families who have relatives in the US, and those who do not. Socially they are differentiated, differently integrated and structured. One famous example is El Salvador, where more than half of the population lives abroad. The USA has 12 million non-documented migrants, this represents not only a small country that emigrated, but also a high economic potential, which has an impact in both directions. Migration and diaspora develop certain dynamics towards both countries. For example, migrants' reinvestments in their countries of origin are a special form of foreign direct investment, because every single US dollar is sent by a Salvadorian, Honduran or Guatemalan who in many cases



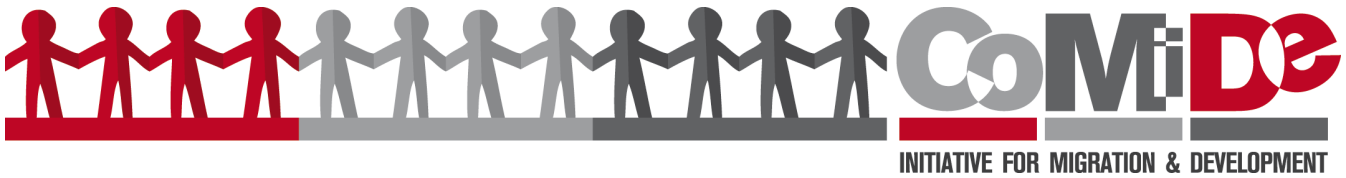
involves his family in his investment. And of course the personal relationship to the investment and the remittances are much stronger when diaspora is involved.

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***Tanja Dedovic, IOM:***

What are the reasons that IOM deals with the issue of migration & development and how long has IOM been involved? IOM is in fact a European construct – like the UNHCR – founded after the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War as a provisional interstate committee for European migration in order to assist war refugees and internally displaced people parallel to the UNHCR. The reason was a political one; at that time Russia did not accept any UN organizations on its territory. Very early in the 1960s IOM engaged in migration & development programs, originally in Latin America. At that time, the programs ran under the name “Return of Talent”, which was further developed in the 80s and called “Return of Qualified Nationals” (RQN). These programs were implemented in Africa for 10-15 years before IOM developed the “temporary return programs” in the early 2000s. These programs have developed out of the experience that the permanent return of highly skilled Africans was only partly successful. The socio-economic and political development in the countries did not take place and those people who were supported by IOM returned to the countries where they had studied or established themselves professionally within just a year. There were no opportunities to apply for and profit from their knowledge in their countries. The MIDA (Migration for Development in Africa) concepts developed further in the early 2000s – we look back upon 10 years of experience with MIDA concepts – and the last phases of these projects very much involve migrant associations and NGOs that settled in their home countries. If the focus was more on individuals before, today it is important to involve migrants’ associations from the host countries in the implementation of the projects. In practice, one migrant association (MA) in Austria tries to implement development projects in its home country. They are involved in the project, and experts will be chosen to put the project into practice on site. The “return of talent” or RQN has always been central to IOMs migration & development programs. But of course IOM also worked on remittances. I don’t know how many websites IOM put on the Internet on this topic to promote financial literacy among those who send remittances, to make them faster, cheaper, more secure. But research done by IOM and its partners shows that the topic of remittances is “outdated”. The question is not how to make remittances faster, cheaper, more secure, but how migrant savings and migrant wealth – to use the new catchwords of the World Bank – which mainly is saved in the destination countries, can be invested in the countries of origin and why. These are central questions today.

IOM is not working on these questions about migration & development alone but within the framework of the Global Migration Group, where several UN organizations are represented, too. In the context of this group, IOM published a report with practical information and best practices on how migration can flow into development planning and development policy. For the same reason, IOM has been involved in input on topics like remittances, diaspora engagement, and migration data since the High Level Dialogue on Migration and Development in 2006, initiated by



the UN and continued by several countries as the annual Global Forum on migration & development, because the collection of data on migration is essential to be able to build policies on it. The next High Level Dialogue will be held in 2013 and IOM will be present with policy advice and evidence, like on the Global Fora held just this and next year. Thank you!

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### ***Marjan Huč, SLOGA – Slovenian Global Action:***

Slovenia has been considered a very introverted country for a long period. But in recent years we got the first black mayor in Slovenia – the mayor of Piran, Mr. Peter Bossman, coming from Ghana, a quite interesting case. Another case is the former mayor of the capital of Slovenia, Ljubljana, Mr. Jankovic, who will probably become prime minister and who originally came from the southern part of Serbia. As an NGO platform we do not directly deal with migrants, but our members do. SLOGA is actually offering diaspora NGOs technical support for their promotions, such as co-organizations for the “Week of Africa”, the celebration and promotion of African culture in Slovenia, where diaspora and other Slovenian NGOs co-operate. This year will be the 3<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of that week and it is becoming more and more popular. We also promote events like the anniversary of the elimination of slavery in Africa. One very successful event, which started in 2010 and was co-organized between different diaspora groups and other ethnic minority groups in Slovenia, was a “football cup of peace and unity”. National TV picked it up and performed a 45-minute TV broadcast, showing the other sides of football and the positive consequences like promoting interculturalism.

In this panel I would like to pick up 3 practical topics or problems on a national, regional and European level. The first topic is the shift of focus among diaspora organizations, which is more nationally oriented and less linked with development. In Slovenia diaspora organizations associated mainly people from Western Balkans, but now there is a rise of African diaspora organizations. And they have different focuses. On the one hand, Western Balkan diaspora organizations were more oriented towards cultural promotion and – compared to the African organizations – towards the promotion of economic exchange. There is also a huge need to promote diaspora experts. So the national government is co-operating with the ministry forming the national policy towards different countries in development in the framework of the official development assistance. The second problem is a local one. Here I would like to focus on some border cities within the EU that were most afraid of the invasion of migrants from the other side of the border in the 70s, 80s, 90s of the previous century. This threat has actually not come true with the expansion of the Schengen area. But now those cities have many problems with international migrants, specifically migrants from China. For example the city of Trieste was afraid of migration from eastern countries, but that has not happened even with Slovenia entering the Schengen area. The third problem relates to the European Commission’s funding of exchange projects with southern countries in development. Quite a few of those projects cannot be implemented because of the visa refusal. Entering the Schengen area is very problematic and many Slovenian NGOs, but also NGOs from other European countries, are facing unmanageable problems in getting people from the South to the North to

exchange experiences. Even our partner organization, with whom we are exchanging best practices and experiences, even if they have already been issued visas in their passports, when coming to the Schengen border at the Paris airport or another one, those partners have been refused and sent back without any comment. One Slovenian colleague can explain those kinds of problems and the additional costs this means for NGOs. A fair trade representative from Ghana wanted to come to Slovenia. It was an EC funded project and of course that person received a visa from one of the EU country's embassies. When flying to Paris this person had to change airports in Paris. She was not allowed to do so and was sent back to Morocco. They bought another ticket from Morocco to Paris again and sent additional documents from the Slovenian embassy in Paris to the airport. But the result was the same, the person needed to travel back to Morocco and from there to Ghana again. Here smaller countries with fewer embassies in African countries are even more discriminated against. I am sure that the EU needs to put a stronger focus on legal migration and visa policies for short-term visitors, tourists, students, researchers, business people and families. Actually Europe wants foreign workers to ensure their prosperity. For example, by 2020 there will be an estimated shortage of about 1 million professionals in the health care sector alone. And migrants can help fill this and other gaps. But is this really the support for development? Would it be another incoherence among development and internal policy by supporting the influx of migration or selecting the migrants coming to Europe just because Europe's population is aging?

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### Questions & Answers & Comments:



*In the discussion visa politics, migration control and the denial of free movement of people that causes the death of thousands of people every year were highly criticized by the audience. Numerous representatives of NGOs working with partner organizations in Africa complained about having similar problems. Some comments on unequal economic power relations reminded of the extreme economic gap between salaries of European experts sent to the South who earn several times that of an African vegetable picker in Spain. It was also discussed how to answer to*

*financial cutbacks of the Austrian ODA and the role of Austrian cooperation in defining international solidarity.*

## **General Session: Migration Policies, Diaspora Communities and Development Cooperation**

Lectures:

*Mignane Diouf*, Groupe de Travail Migration – Développement du CONGAD – Conseil des ONG d’Appui au Développement, Senegal, et Coordonnateur du Forum Social Sénégalais

*Alex Asiedu*, Department of Geography and Centre for Migration Studies, University of Ghana

Chair: *Galya Terzieva*, Society Development Institute, Slovakia

### ***Mamadou Mignane Diouf*, Groupe Migration – Développement du CONGAD – Conseil des ONG d’Appui au Développement, Senegal, et Coordonnateur du Forum Social Sénégalais:**



*Mignane Diouf from Conseil des ONG d’Appui au Développement, Senegal, emphasized that migration is a human right. He said that African governments are primarily responsible for creating opportunities for the African people and for involving them in local decision-making; on the other hand, the fact that many Africans see no other chance than to migrate to Europe is caused by the difficult economic situation – and for this, negative effects of European policies are in part to blame. Citing the example of Senegal, Mr. Diouf said that droughts and over-fishing there were caused by industrialized agriculture relying on Western-style monocultures and the activities of EU fishery fleets.*

As a member of CONGAD, *Conseil des ONG d’Appui au Développement*, Senegal (Council for NGOs promoting development in Senegal) I had the chance to coordinate – with Madjiguène Cissé – the last edition of the World Social Forum (WSF) held in Dakar in February 2011. As part of CONGAD we installed a working group on migration & development (GMD) regrouping all associations, NGOs of civil society and researchers working on the issue of migration & development. The working group has been created to join all our forces and initiatives, our small resources and our reflections, because the issue of migration concerns the whole population and is linked to development issues. During the WSF, the GMD installed a “migration commission” coordinated by Madjiguene Cissé, and the issue of migration was present in all of the work and workshops during the WSF. That is why I have entitled my contribution: *Migration et Développement: enjeu et défis (problems and challenges)*. Viewpoint of a West African actor.

This morning it was said that people always migrated and will continue to migrate. All continents have known migration flows during the centuries; migration is a reality for most people. We have a saying: “If you do not travel, you do not know where life is wonderful”. In West Africa most of the people are mobile. This fact goes back to the big African empires like Ghana or Mali where most of the people in West Africa come from. When these empires

collapsed, people were dispersed everywhere in West and East Africa. The mobility of people in West Africa is linked partly to pastoralism, commerce, and partly to the colonial history with the construction of a big geographical region, the AOF (l'Afrique Occidentale Française – French West Africa) by the French. Within the AOF, the French constructed the longest railway, Dakar-Niger, which allowed people to continue to move, circulate, trade and exchange. Thus there are two elements to keep in mind: 1) the historical element and 2) the colonial element, which is also a historical aspect. All this has reinforced the migration dynamics of West African people. And during decolonization these migration realities were reinforced. For instance, the Burkinabés settled on the plantations in Côte d'Ivoire, the Malians in Senegal to cultivate peanuts, the people from Guinea Conakry in Senegal, too, in order to cultivate and trade. But with the first drought crisis in the 1970s certain farmers had to move. So taking human history into consideration, we will underline that migration is a human right and a factor of development, because the exchange of people is a factor of development. Even this reunion is a factor of development, because I will take many new ideas back to Senegal and I will develop my consciousness, my analyses, and my understanding.

Migration is a human right acknowledged by the UN, but many signatory countries – in the North as well as in the South – refuse to apply it and thus do not respect this acknowledgement. The same goes for the free movement of circulation acknowledged by the UN and the global system, but the majority does not respect these protocols. That is why our vision in GMD is that migration is a natural principle, a human right.

But why did migration become a challenge all of a sudden? What explains the escalation of migration in West Africa known as "l'affaire des pirogues", the dangerous embarkations from the Senegalese coast in the direction of the Canary Islands? How can this be explained? We wanted to understand these young people taking boats in thousands to cross the ocean – at least those who survived, because we are still unable to count the dead. We went to the families to ask how their sons, nephews, brothers traveled. There were women, mothers who said: "I sold my gold, my jewelry to give the money to my child so he can pay for the pirogue to cross the ocean." The mothers have done this. One elder brother said to us: "I made some money and gave it to my younger brother and told him to go to the owner of the boat." He paid the fee for the boat, which was at that time about 350 - 400 000 FCFA (€540 – 610), and the young traveled. We asked them one single question: why did you do this? Why did you, as mothers, sell your gold and tell your child to travel? And the mothers answered: "My child here, he does not work in the morning, he does not work in the evening, I feed him until the age of 35. He studied, did a bachelor's, he did a master's, he was in school, he was not in school, but he is here and cannot work. Every morning I give him coffee, I give him food, I pay for the clothes, and so we discussed and told him to take his chance elsewhere." Well, it is poverty that makes those young, those women, those mothers, those families organize themselves like that. This poverty comes from the big drought mentioned above. Because during the colonial period, France made Senegal its cash crop area for peanuts in order to produce oil needed for soap production. Thus the whole peanut crop area was transferred to French monocultures to supply their oil and soap industry and with the drought the land became unusable. Therefore the young who cultivated those lands left for the urban areas and later immigrated to Europe. Europe – especially France – used our land and the rural population moved to the coastal areas to fish. They started fishing on the pirogues to

feed their families left in the villages. Europe came to Senegal to sign a fishing agreement that allows European ships to fish along our coasts and to take out all our good fish. The young people said: "They used our land, we battled for the ocean to fish. You opened the sea for the big European trawlers and they fished for our fish. There are no more fish to eat; there are no more fish to sell. What shall we do?" To sum it up, after deforestation, after taking the fish from the mouths, the same pirogues which were used for fishing in the Atlantic Ocean allow the same young people to travel to the Canary Islands and from there to France, Italy or Spain. These are the fundamental reasons that came out after our inquiry. In Dakar there are 15,000 pirogues and every pirogue took at least 25-30 young people a day to fish and paid them. This shows how many people live off fishing, women who trade and transform fish into smoked or dried fish. This system has been disrupted and as a consequence the young people take the boats – often driven by false images of Europe. Some have been picked up by the Red Cross along the Mediterranean coasts, on the Canary Islands, others found dead. Besides this you also have the migration routes through the Sahara Desert with the worst conditions, risking imprisonment between 3 checkpoints without any chance to return or continue. With the help of FRONTEX – the EU border control agency – the EU has installed and sub-contracted its border security in collaboration with our governments, supplying them with about 20 helicopters, hundreds of boats and other means to localize migration movements on the coasts and in the Sahara. Here you can see a detention center in Mauritania, completely closed without any way of getting out or communicating with relatives. Here are some young people we found there in complete despair. Here are also graves, and CARITAS, which is working there, had the foresight to bury unknown people at least under Catholic rites. Others escaped and were repatriated via airplane and arrived at home completely depressed. Some commit suicide because they have been completely traumatized.

In the last 10 years 86 million migrants worked and have been economically active worldwide and thus contributed to the development of the host countries. If Sans Papiers in France would go on strike for one day, this would cause a loss of millions of euros for the French economy. But they are not paid according to the conventions, because they are illegally employed. Thus migrants' contribution is as beneficial for the host country as for the home country, not to forget their demographic contribution. In countries of origin, like Senegal, whole families in the peanut crop area, in the Fouta, in the Casamance are supported by the remittances from the migrants. Around US\$150 billion – and this is only money moving through official routes.

Why do people move? The differences in salaries, poverty, and unemployment rate are often cited, but what can be done? We think that nobody can stop peoples' movements. Therefore we should discuss the mechanisms of action and question the migration issue concerning tolerance, accepting differences, hospitality and leave aside all stigmatizations derived from racist and xenophobic national politics that are trying to feed a certain electorate without answering to natural human logic.

In Senegal we are actually creating a huge national platform on migration, because this issue became very serious for us. We want to encourage the establishment of a network of solidarity and hospitality between Europe and America. We must create bridges – not walls (*Des ponts – Pas des murs*). Thus we have launched the creation of an African observatory of migrations and displaced persons. This is not the same as the IOM, but has an adequate framework of

collaboration with institutions, with NGOs in Africa and in the North, with universities and researchers in order to create a dynamic which allows us to ask: what is migration, what does it provide, what does it favor, what are the problems, how many refoulements are there between Côte d'Ivoire and Burkina Faso annually, how many repatriations between France and Mali and Senegal annually, etc. I think this observatory may also be useful for institutions like the VIDC.

We should not forget, if the environment is not favorable for development, people are forced to leave. We should not ignore that the individual always leaves his family, her mother under tears and sorrow. Generally when the young people leave by taking the pirogue or the airplane to emigrate, everybody is crying. We do not enjoy the separation from family. We know young men who married and one week later they migrated. They did not return 10 years later. This also means unhappy spouses; a woman who marries a man who emigrates the next day and then she doesn't see him again. Last month 3 young Senegalese were shot in Italy, 2 of them died, the 3<sup>rd</sup> did not see his wife for 10 years. They married, 3 months later she was pregnant, the husband migrated to Italy, he never came back. He returned as a dead man. And this child never had the chance to know his father; the wife also did not see her husband for 10 years. Who could be more distressed than this woman who had to watch her husband leave?

In conclusion, to be able to live in a space between the North and the South you must be sure that this environment ensures the right to be happy, the right to development and that it provides the conditions to live as a human being, man or woman – as a citizen. Looking at globalization I ask the question, are all these factors ensured? The majority of those migrants have been forced to leave. Those children who leave carrying all of their mothers' or their families' fortune collected over years have been assassinated by those who are politically responsible for guaranteeing the

conditions to stay home. And the ones responsible are first of all the African governments that live in corruption, misgovernance and despotism. Thank you!



*Galya Terzieva made an interposed question asking Mignane Diouf for his opinion on the COTONOU agreement (endorsed in Benin 2000) between the EU and the so-called ACP countries, the equal opportunities of both sides and the possible linkage to poverty:*

**Mignane Diouf:** I had the chance to participate in the name of civil society at the reunion that signed the agreements in 2000 in Cotonou. I was designated by the Senegalese civil society to participate in the commission on negotiations and observation of the Cotonou agreements. I am also a member of the francophone working group of the Cotonou agreement, regrouping Senegalese and European NGOs through CONCORD and CNCD in Belgium. In the signatory hall of the Cotonou agreement we stated that these agreements were not advantageous for Africa. We already said this to the head of government. Coming back to Dakar the next day we had a press conference to start a campaign STOP EPAs (Economic Partnership Agreements), against the signing of the agreements. We kept this logic of non-signature from 2000 to 2007. Note: the Cotonou agreements are economic conventions between EU and the

ACP countries with the objective to open borders for a free exchange of goods, so that European products enter Africa without taxation, without customs duty and all African products can enter Europe under the same conditions. We said that day in Cotonou that these are two champions who do not box in the same category. As if they put one middleweight with one heavyweight together in the boxing ring. What kind of products is Africa selling in Europe? Not much! On the other hand, Europe will profit by sending EU products to Africa, benefiting from 300 million consumers in the CEDEAO! That is why we told our governments not to sign these agreements. That is why we launched the campaign against the signature of EPAs. EPAs are not good for Africa! After 7 years of campaigning we reached our goal. We won a battle – not a war – because we were constantly sending memorandums, analyses and statements to the Senegalese government via the Ministry of Commerce that was in charge of it. But also within the CEDEAO – among the chief negotiators was one spot for a representative of civil society – we were 6 Senegalese, including myself, co-opted to the commission of the negotiations on EPAs of the CEDEAO as experts of negotiation. Fortunately the ACP countries refused to sign the agreements, because a signature would have meant stopping all earnings from customs duties, but also weakening the African SMEs, which cannot compete against big European enterprises. And also stopping all tendencies to become sovereign in the food supply, which African states are on the way to building up, like Ghana or Nigeria that produce more and more small products now. These are all the reasons for the campaign to denounce the Cotonou agreements, especially the partnership agreements. However, certain countries signed partial agreements like Côte d’Ivoire during the last years of the Gbagbo regime or Ghana with cacao, a provisional temporary agreement, or others countries. But more or less the collection of ACP countries refused to sign, and in Dakar I was the coordinator of the STOP EPAs campaign in Senegal.

*At the end of his speech Mamadou Mignane Diouf answered questions from the audience regarding the responsibility of African governments and the NEPAD (New Partnership for Africa's Development):*

In some countries there aren't even real states but mafia networks and bandit groups that divide the countries' fortune, distributing benefits among their families and friends and leaving the people a part. One old peasant totally illiterate in Guinea Bissau said to me one day: "My son, there is no state in Africa! There has been no state since colonial times besides some exceptions; most of them are bandit groups." African states do not support their people, they do not support grassroots movements, and there is no civic education, because if people would wake up the governments could no longer cheat them. But our consortium of NGOs is informing people, and it is recognized by the government. We always invite the government to our meetings and seminars. They also often send us invitations to conferences – mostly a little late so that we will not be present *en masse*. But we know that not all the civil society initiatives are welcomed *de facto* by the state, much of published research results from universities bother the government because it often reveals realities. It happens that we receive threats or are insulted on the telephone, but we decided that we are actors of civil society; we have to live with it and continue to struggle. But to change the African states you sometimes need "stupid" men and women – like Madgiguène – to change the situation.

Let's take the example of NEPAD (New Partnership for Africa's Development). When Abdoulaye Wade, Tabo Mbeki and Olusegun Obasanjo launched the NEPAD, we were invited to a meeting in Dakar and Abuja. We said: "We do not



need the NEPAD.” And we reminded them of the LAGOS Plan which was already more consistent. The Lagos Plan was elaborated in the 1980s by researchers, academics, peasant activists’ federations, African producers, fishermen, male and female experts, and the result was the Lagos Plan, which was a more or less perfect plan. This plan has been sabotaged and stopped from inside and outside Africa. So we reminded our heads of state to redress the existing Lagos Plan and realize it under Lagos II or Africa Lagos II instead of the NEPAD, which was a sort of speculation between 3 African presidents looking for publicity. Competition and non-overt rivalry between those 3 leaders had made every single positive aspect within this NEPAD fail. All of them said they are the fathers of the NEPAD and presented themselves in front of the African public as initiators of it. But under these conditions we cannot move forward! I was happy when US president Obama pointed out that Africa has an institutional problem and a lack of charismatic leaders on his trip to Ghana, a lack of leaders able to gain confidence from the population. That is why the NEPAD has failed and even Abduolaye Wade admitted it once during a meeting. When the radio asked us for our opinion we said this was predictable, that a plan that was not adopted by the population would fail.

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**Alex Asiedu, Department of Geography and Centre for Migration Studies, University of Ghana:**



*Summary of the presentation: Migration Governance in Ghana – Emerging Challenges and Suggested Remedies:*

In recent times migration has become a major development strategy that is embraced by international institutions, nation states and social partners that are directly affected by it. Migration is a major agent for poverty alleviation among households, families, communities and nations (MDGs number one), despite some initial apprehensions that were associated with it e.g. brain drain, brain gain and brain circulation processes. Migration has largely received global acceptance in recent times as a major source of remittances, technology transfer and skills acquisition. Migration is a complex phenomenon involving several actors, different geographical spaces and institutions (e.g. public, private, civil society). Migration is also dynamic, which we can see for example in the increasing role of women in migration, new migration motives, e.g. soccer, education or the increase in the number of national and private institutions promoting it. But despite these complexities and dynamism, migration suffers from incoherent goals and ineffective cooperation, which are inherent in its governance system. This is a challenge as it hinders the full realization of its potential benefits, and this is what this study attempts to look at.

This study uses Ghana as a case study, and the study’s main objective is to assess Ghana’s current Migration Governance system, outlining some challenges confronting it and suggesting some remedies for overcoming these challenges.

Ghana provides a very unique Sub-Saharan African setting for this study, because it has experienced a large outflow of nationals to overseas destinations since the 1940s. These expatriates continue to play significant roles in the development of the country, and studies of the governance structure of the process are likely to provide useful insights that could help in making migration a more dependable development strategy.

Migration in Ghana is largely informal and undocumented and the type, volume and direction of the country's international migration can be largely explained by Ghana's history, political experience, and economic structures and fortunes.

Three main periods can be discerned in Ghana's migration history: 1) From the pre-colonial era to the immediate post independence era: During the pre-colonial era overseas movement was mostly undertaken by fishing communities to coastal areas of West Africa, Central and Southern Africa. Movement during the colonial period was mainly to Europe and North America for the pursuit of education, on-the-job training and Foreign Service postings. Ghana also hosted a lot of foreigners who came mostly from the West African region. Ghana's 1960 national population census indicated that 12% of Ghana's population was of foreign origin. The implementation of the Aliens' Compliance Order in 1969 led to the reduction of foreigners in Ghana to 6.6% of Ghana's population in 1970.

2) The second phase is the 1975-1992 period: The era was characterized by political instabilities, dictatorial rule and economic hardships. Many professionals, including doctors, university lecturers, secondary school teachers, nurses, lawyers and administrators immigrated to other African countries, like Nigeria (which was then enjoying an oil boom), Ivory Coast, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Zambia and South Africa. Emigration to West African countries was boosted by the ECOWAS protocol of 1979 on free movement of people and goods. Because of dictatorial rule then, some Ghanaians moved to Europe and North America as political refugees and asylum seekers. The UNHCR registered over 90,000 Ghanaians as asylum seekers over the 1982-1991 period.

3) Finally, the period 1992 to the present has witnessed a certain level of political and economic stabilities. Emigration to African countries has slowed down considerably, but movement to Europe and North America is still high. Most Ghanaian emigrants reside in the UK (96,650 in 2006) and the USA (67,190 in 2000). In continental Europe most of them are found in Italy (34,499 in 2005) and Germany (20,639 in 2004) according to official statistics. In 1983, between 900,000 and 1.2 million Ghanaians were expelled from Nigeria due to a slump in oil prices. Ghana Immigration Service (GIS) estimates that a total of 19,132 Ghanaians were repatriated from various countries during the 2001 and 2007 period. Concerning the incoming migrant remittances between 1980-2005, they increased from US\$1 million in 1980 to US\$1,555 billion in 2005.

Concerning the existing *migration governance and migration management system in Ghana*: Ghana currently lacks a well defined, well articulated and holistic migration policy as well as an efficient institutional framework for the management of migration. However, it regulates migration through a series of legal instruments, like through the

Aliens Act of 1963 that allowed easy entry into Ghana for people of African descent. Ghana's institutional framework for the management of migration involves various ministries, departments and agencies. The Ghana Immigration Service, for example, was set up to advise the government on issues pertaining to migration to and from Ghana and implements laws, policies and regulations on migration to and from Ghana. Through GIS, the Ministry of the Interior issues residence and work permit for immigrants in Ghana.

What are the *emerging issues and challenges* concerning the diaspora? The growing awareness of the potential for development represented by diasporas has, in fact, led a number of countries to initiate diaspora friendly policies. The bilateral arrangement between Ghana's government and the Ghanaian diaspora community in Germany with the German government and her institutions appears to be a more extensive example. Ghana enjoys a special relationship with the Germans, as it is one of the 23 partner countries benefiting from the German Networking Experts Program.

The role of the German government is threefold:

First, the German Development Cooperation (GIZ) pursues two main programs for the Ghanaian diaspora: One is labeled "Brain gain through returning experts" and supports the transfer of know-how through the provision of financial support for experts from Ghana; and second, the German government assists Ghanaian diaspora communities with organizing non-profit activities. Finally, the German Federal State of North Rhine-Westphalia has developed a partnership arrangement with Ghana.

As we can see from the Ghana – Germany experience, cooperation in global migration governance is not possible unless the policies of migrant sending countries are addressed at the same time as those of receiving states. The catchword here is 'cooperation' with both countries playing their respective roles towards mutually beneficial relationships.

With particular reference to Ghana, an important migrant sending country in sub-Saharan Africa, there are some areas of intervention in order to counteract some of the emerging challenges in the sector of migration and cooperation policies including the following:

There is the need for the Ghanaian government to 1) formulate a comprehensive migration policy that takes cognizance of the dynamics within the international migration arena. Specifically, complexities relating to the emergence of new forms of migration, new populations and destinations need to be studied and data on migration has to be collected. 2) The weak institutional framework characterized by numerous stakeholders and the lack of effective coordination among them has to be strengthened. Therefore collaboration with international institutions and foreign governments needs to be strengthened to help engender the sharing of experiences and resources.

Suggested remedies:

- The ongoing attempt at formulating a national migration policy should be given priority attention and the necessary resources needed for the completion of this exercise should be provided. This policy framework should be comprehensive and up-to-date, taking cognizance of the various types of new migratory systems and destinations that are in vogue as well as effectiveness of the governance system for migration.
- There is the need to ensure effective collaboration between institutions and agencies involved in migration management in Ghana. A migration reference point should be established among the various stakeholders to take lead roles in all migration related issues.
- Further, there is the need for the government and her institutions involved in migration to facilitate better working relationships with multinational as well as bilateral institutions involved with migration to help tap into their experiences and available resources.
- Avenues for increased remittances from overseas should be expanded and strengthened especially in terms of benefits accruing to money remitters.
- Laws enacted to strengthen relationships with the diasporas should be fully implemented i.e. the Dual Citizenship Regulation Act and the Representation of the People's Amendment Act (Act 669).

Thank you!

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**General Session: European good practice examples of migration and development initiatives with a particular focus on diaspora engagement**



Lecture:

*Nadja Schuster and Marlene Keusch, VIDC, Austria*

Discussants:

*Bernardo Venturi, University of Bologna, Italy*

*Alexis Nshimyimana Neuberg, Afrika Vernetzungsplattform-AVP, Austria*

*Andrea Riestler, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), Germany*

*Chair: Lana Zdravković, Mirovni inštitut, Slovenia*

***Nadja Schuster & Marlene Keusch, VIDC, Austria:***



*Nadja Schuster and her colleague Marlene Keusch presented the study entitled "European Good Practice Examples of Migration Development Initiatives with a particular focus on diaspora engagement". For the study an initial selection of nine good practice examples based on an extensive literature review, online research and expert interviews was made in order to give recommendations for the development of new initiatives to policy makers and practitioners. The study is embedded in the transnational initiative CoMiDe and can be downloaded from the project website [www.CoMiDe.net](http://www.CoMiDe.net).*

Since the year 2000 the development potential of international migration has come into consideration again. In the current period, migrants have emerged as key actors for development and are now considered to be crucial cooperation partners. Besides their role as development actors they are seen as civil society, market and political actors. The shift from a pessimistic view of the link between migration and development to a more positive one has undoubtedly been initiated by the substantial increase in remittances. While the discussion of migration and development focuses strongly on remittances, the effects of diaspora activity are gaining more and more attention from policy makers, politicians, and NGO representatives because of their potential for poverty reduction, development and economic growth. Although interest in the topic has grown, the quality of research has not grown along with it. The literature is vast, but most of it is conducted by international organizations and does not give profound insight into existing practices. The potentials and risks are therefore not fully explored. In addition, there is a lack of "evaluation culture", which is often related to financial constraints. However, this argument can hardly be used by large international organizations. As mentioned earlier, the study tries to fill this gap and to give recommendations for the development of new initiatives as well as for the re-adaptation of existing ones. It puts diaspora engagement at the forefront by analyzing good practice. The fact that it

is embedded in the transnational initiative CoMiDe is a great advantage, because it makes it possible to incorporate the results and lessons learned in future activities and follow-up projects. We would very much welcome it if the study results are not only considered by practitioners but also by politicians and policy makers. As the topic is under-researched, the study of good practice examples also aims to contribute to knowledge exchange, informed policy advice and learning.

We use the term diaspora engagement because it is widespread and frequently used in the policy and scientific context. However, the term refers rather to passivity than to activity and does not take the required ownership and partnership needed for a fruitful cooperation between governmental or non-governmental development and diaspora organizations into account. Diaspora can be very generally defined as people who have migrated and their descendants, who maintain a connection to their homeland. The plural form expresses the diversity and the plurality of diasporas, representing different realities determined by social status, political or religious beliefs, and the status in the country of destination.

The selected good practice examples can be divided into the following types of practice:

- awareness raising about migration-related issues in European countries
- diaspora organizations facilitating business investment start-ups in the country of origin
- actors promoting knowledge transfer
- offering capacity building
- and/or financial support



#### Selection criteria

Besides an extensive review of literature, interviews with experts and experiences of our partners, the good practice examples are based on the following criteria: First, a positive view of migration in terms of acknowledging and promoting the potential of migrants for development is an important selection criterion. It automatically excludes programs and projects aimed at the permanent return of migrants or at migration control. As mentioned by Thomas Faist in the morning, restrictive migration policies do not easily match with the broader goal of development. Second, migrants should be the key players and/or the main beneficiaries. This should be a crucial precondition for the development of migration and development projects or programs. Migrants need to feel ownership and be able to introduce their own perceptions of development and development cooperation. Often those perceptions do not coincide with those of governmental and non-governmental development organizations, donors and authorities. As a result, the quality of cooperation between diaspora and development actors is critical. Diaspora organizations should be seen as equal partners and should not be appropriated by other stakeholders in order to run

migration and development programs. Equal participation, ownership and self-determined development are key issues. Furthermore the study focuses on collective activities implemented by established organizations with a legal status. Collective activities are more likely to resolve structural constraints. However, it is important to emphasize that we highly appreciate the efforts made by individuals and loosely formed associations, as we know that there are a lot of such initiatives. But it simply exceeded our capacity to examine them, as most of them do not document their achievements.

Last but not least, the accessibility and availability of information was also a criterion. We found out that even among the more established organizations, some do not document well and information is fragmented. For example, some practices seemed to be quite interesting and innovative but had to be excluded due to a lack of information and documentation. In other words, there were no reports, evaluations and no website available. Moreover, the availability of information is also a precondition for exchanging and sharing information and for possible cooperation with other actors. Lastly, it should also be mentioned that the selection of good practices is exemplary. The study is not exhaustive. Therefore we would like to emphasize that many more examples may exist in the European context.

#### Good practice examples

The table shows the name of the program or project, the stakeholder and the implementing organizations – being either an international, governmental, non-governmental or a diaspora-led organization – and the type of practice, as mentioned earlier. Lastly, all countries involved in each program are listed. The organizational and institutional structures of the selected programs and projects are very different and they follow different goals. It is important to mention here that the examples cannot be compared as such.

	<b>Program/ Project</b>	<b>Stakeholder</b>	<b>Level</b>	<b>Type of practice</b>	<b>Countries involved</b>
1)	<b>JMDI</b>	UNDP, UNHCR, UNFPA, ILO, IOM	International organization	Funding of migration and development initiatives	EU member states and 16 target countries in the South
2)	<b>WMIDA</b>	IOM	International organization	Diaspora entrepreneurship	Italy, sub-Saharan African countries
3)	<b>TOKTEN</b>	UNDP, UNV	International organization	Transfer of knowledge	Global coverage (countries depend on certain program)
4)	<b>Program to Promote the</b>	CIM	Governmental organization	Funding of migrant organization initiatives	Germany and countries of origin of migrants in

	<b>Development Activities of Migrant Organizations</b>				Germany
5)	<b>Capacity Building Program</b>	Oxfam Novib	NGO/governmental organization	Capacity building	Netherlands
6)	<b>IntEnt</b>	IntEnt	NGO	Diaspora entrepreneurship	Surinam, Morocco, Turkey, Ghana, Cape Verde, Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Kosovo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Sierra Leone, Curaçao, France, UK, Germany and the Netherlands
7)	<b>Move Global</b>	BER	NGO	Capacity building	Germany
8)	<b>Ke Nako Afrika</b>	VIDC, AVP, ADA	NGO, governmental organization, diaspora organization	Awareness raising	Austria
9)	<b>Migration et Développement</b>	Migration et Développement	NGO	Hometown association	France, Morocco

The last chapter of the study tries to synthesize the lessons learned from the nine selected good practice examples and incorporates the results of the expert interviews. We provide recommendations for improved cooperation between non-governmental actors, diaspora organizations and governmental stakeholders.

#### Recommendations for better cooperation

→ Recognizing diaspora organizations as development actors

The first step toward fruitful cooperation is the recognition and appreciation of the existing development initiatives of migrant organizations. Migrants were involved in development cooperation long before the discussion of migration and development started.

→ Mobilizing development actors for diaspora engagement



Established governmental and non-governmental development organizations should adapt their approaches and structures in order to meet the needs and capacities of diaspora organizations. They should be mobilized to engage with diasporas in development cooperation and to learn from field experiences. A noteworthy example here is the non-governmental diaspora organization Migration et Développement, which consulted the Moroccan government on rural infrastructure development. Also, diaspora organizations should be encouraged to initiate cooperation with development organizations and governmental actors. AVP should be mentioned here as a good practice example.

→ “Unpacking the diaspora”

As mentioned earlier, “the diaspora” as a homogeneous group does not exist. Moreover, it is useful to differentiate between diaspora groups that are truly engaged in local development and those who do not have close relations with their country of origin. As a result, the distinguishing factors of different diaspora groups (size of the community, geographical distribution, gender, age, education, skills, networking activity and especially if an organization with a development objective already exists) should be studied, as was done before launching the GIZ Migration and Development diaspora pilot program and the WMIDA initiative.

→ Equal partnership and ownership

As already stated, the cooperation between governmental, non-governmental development and diaspora organizations can be successful if it is equal. Accordingly, migrant organizations should not be appropriated by established development organizations. Rather, governmental and non-governmental development organizations should enable diaspora organizations to implement their own projects according to their perception of development in their country of origin. Diaspora organization ownership is an important prerequisite for success and sustainability.

→ Open and broad definition of development

An equal cooperation between diaspora and governmental and non-governmental development organizations also means that the definition of development is not given a priori, and migrant actors should be able to bring in their own perspective and agenda. Evidence has shown that development concepts may differ significantly between different actors.

→ Awareness raising and knowledge transfer

In order to become aware of previous failures and successes and to share information of good practices in the nexus of migration and development, knowledge must be generated, documented and distributed. To provide an example, the already existing JMDI Migration4Development platform could serve as a transnational knowledge-sharing platform.

→ Capacity building and consulting for migrant organizations

Most migrants who are involved in migration and development work on a voluntary basis. Thus it cannot be expected that these volunteer-based associations and organizations become professional development organizations without capacity building and financial support. Capacity building for diaspora organizations related to proposal writing, fund raising, financial literacy and advocating should be promoted.

→ Promoting evaluation

Evaluation gives evidence about the outcome and impact of a project and is therefore crucial for learning and generating knowledge about what works and what does not. In the field of migration and development there is a lack

of “evaluation culture”, which is often related to financial constraints. However, this argument can hardly be used by large international organizations.

*A copy of the draft version of the study was presented at the information desk during the conference. The results of this panel and of the workshop are incorporated into the final version.*

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### Discussants:

**Andrea Riester** from *Deutsche Gesellschaft für internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)* presented a pilot program, which GIZ has run since 2007 to support associations that are mainly led and represented by migrants. **Alexis Nshimyimana Neuberg** from the *Afrika Vernetzungsplattform (AVP)* – regrouping 40 migrant associations in Austria – remarked critically on the conditions for public subsidies, saying that high requirements for their own contributions make it impossible for diaspora organizations to successfully apply for public co-financing. He also underlined the importance of knowledge transfers and presented the *Ke Nako Afrika* project, which sought to educate the Austrian public about the African continent, using the occasion of the 2010 Football World Championship in South Africa. *Ke Nako* was the first project in which migrants’ and development policy organizations from all over Austria cooperated in a joint effort. **Bernardo Venturi** from the *University of Bologna* emphasized the importance of local authorities in his remarks and said that a human rights based approach is essential to avoid paternalism.

### **Andrea Riester, Deutsche Gesellschaft für internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ):**



GIZ has been dealing with the issue of migration & development since 2003 and has emphasized diaspora contribution from the very start. At that time, there were neither information nor knowledge about the development involvement of migrant associations (MAs) in Germany. Consequently, GIZ commissioned a series of studies about different diaspora groups. This approach – saying what “the Ghanaians”, “the Serbs”, “the Afghans” were doing – implies a simplified view regarding the heterogeneity and different interests within these groups. However, it was a first step out of the actual situation of knowing nothing about the diaspora. We commissioned 12 different diaspora studies on their migration histories and activities. Soon it was clear that they were engaged in many sectors in their home countries, which were also relevant for German development cooperation: education, health, social infrastructure, energy supply. Activities in all those sectors are taking place, even if not necessarily under the heading of “development” but rather ‘we want to do something for our home country, our home region’. Thus a hospital, a school, infrastructure is built. All those activities are completely disconnected from the national development cooperation and, as a

consequence, have not been recognized or valorized by the German public. To change this situation we started the pilot program on diaspora cooperation in 2007, which lasted 3 years with temporary funding before it turned into a permanent program. The overall objective of the program was to make visible the development potential of migrant associations in their home countries and also to acknowledge migrant associations as development actors. Our hope was to produce synergies between the activities of national development cooperation and migrant associations. Additionally, it was our concern to further promote development-driven engagement and thus, there was also a component for migrant associations' qualification.

Concerning the procedure of the program, migrant associations could apply for funding with a project idea. Mainly non-profit and legally registered associations in Germany were eligible for funding. Unfortunately, this excluded a high number of informal associations, but for a public institution it is crucial to verify financial expenses, and so this was our baseline. The main criteria for funding was that the association has to be led and represented mainly by migrants; of course we were aware of the fact that there were not just pure migrant associations but also cooperation organizations between Germans and migrants or different nationalities. However, the criterion "mainly led and represented by migrants" was important for us, because various programs for normal NGOs already exist, but there, migrant associations are strongly underrepresented and face many difficulties entering those programs for NGOs. We wanted to change this and specifically gain experience in this area by concentrating on MAs. Another strong limitation at the beginning was that the projects were to contribute only to 1) the partner countries of the German development cooperation (actually around 70 countries worldwide) because of the above-mentioned synergies with existing GIZ activities; and 2) within the officially defined priority areas. In Ghana, for example, Germany is mainly active in the health sector, and MAs that applied had to present projects in the health sector. Another criterion was the existence of a partner organization in the home country, and the project implementation had to be carried out in collaboration with them. Finally, the MAs had to give their own contribution of a minimum of 50% of the overall project budget. This sounds like a lot, but we said the financial contribution should be only 10%, the rest could be met by manpower. So if representatives of the organization traveled to the country to lead or initiate some activity, this could be recognized as in-kind contribution. After all those conditions, GIZ's contribution was a grant of 50% of the whole project volume, max. €25,000. Additionally we provided advice to the organizations. Sometimes, it was not that easy to find out what exactly the focus of their project was. Many people came to us with a whole bunch of ideas and we tried to direct them towards a small set of activities to be more effective. And we provided trainings on drafting project proposals, on project management and organizational development. We also organized two big conferences on dialogue and networking where the different representatives of MAs could meet and exchange ideas. It was interesting for many people to meet others working in similar areas, because they came from all over Germany and originally from many different countries. The application procedure mainly started with a telephone call submitting a project idea. Then a discussion process with our team started. When the idea was well formulated it continued with the project proposal including a financial budget. Our part was then to promote this project among the German development projects abroad and to put them in contact with each other. Finally, GIZ made an official contract with

the organization. In 2010 – 2 ½ years later – we carried out an evaluation, and out of 100 submitted project ideas, 29 have been funded and implemented.

The evaluation showed very positive feedback from the MAs as well as from GIZ projects in the respective countries, who had been in contact with the MAs. The evaluators underlined that capacity building and advising the organizations play a crucial role and should be continued. For the MAs it is important to have contacts and trusted individuals in the countries who support them in the implementation of the projects. Another result was that the network building between MAs in Germany is still weak, and more activities in this regard could be initiated by the state. In 2011, the program turned into a regular program and was handed over to the Center for International Migration (Centrum für internationale Migration und Entwicklung – CIM). CIM is a joint activity between GIZ and the Federal Employment Agency (Bundesagentur für Arbeit). The program supporting the engagement of MAs now has a fixed budget, and MAs can apply for funding continuously. Max. grant size also increased to €50,000, and project proposals may focus on areas other than the defined priority areas of development cooperation (but should be related to the MDGs). CIM provides consultants in certain countries. They constitute an important structure and contact-point for local implementation. There are more public relations and marketing activities now to strengthen the visibility of MAs' contribution, and CIM supports the placement of qualified persons like returning migrants or trainees.

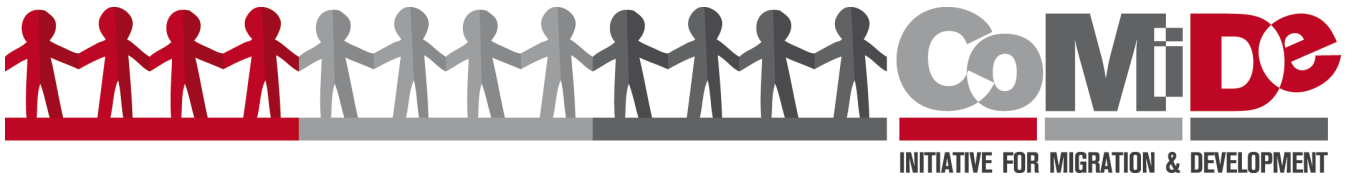
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**Alexis Nshimiyimana Neuberg, Afrika Vernetzungsplattform (AVP):**



I want to add a proverb to what Mignane Diouf said about the free movement of people. In Kinyarwanda we have a saying: The bird that does not fly, does not know where honey is sweet. When I talk about immigration, I compare it to water; he who drinks water in Austria does not know where it comes from! Those who want to fight immigration cannot fight the circulation of water on earth. Even the projects developed by the EU to build fences all around are amusing, because they know that immigration cannot be stopped.

The Africans who arrived in Europe 20 years ago find themselves in the following situation: their parents ask them when they will come back; the Austrians ask them when they will return to Africa. I am the head of my project Radio Afrika TV and I know that I cannot return home because I still do not have the necessary requirements to do so. I do not have enough money to build a house in Africa, whereas the people over there at my age are already ministers by now. So I need to build some savings. Many things are slowing us down here. We are not accepted, we were expelled from home and now they are talking about return. Well, before talking about all those problems we have to look at the essentials. Those who have been here for 20 years have tried many things. The organizations here organize national and cultural festivities, collect small sums to send over to brothers and sisters for transport, water, school, hospital, and they resist the



integration policies in the host countries. And because of a lack of skills and capacity building we are neither integrated here nor there.

For the World Cup 2006 we tried to change the image of Africa. Given the fact that Austrians like football, we had the idea to reorient public opinion via football to the *real* problems in Africa and of Africans in Austria. But we are weak, so how were we to do it? There are more than 800 small organizations, and no single one has a budget of €25,000, which was the assumed budget for a campaign. We said, let's unite and try to be more visible and compete with other organizations on an equal level. In this spirit we created the AVP, the African Connecting Platform. We initiated this platform to look for money and to design a program for the World Cup. We had a strong and experienced partner, the VIDC, who has the required means, and we wanted to cooperate with them. And there is the ADA from the government, perfect in administration and financing. We very quickly drafted a project proposal for about €250,000 and offered our own contribution of about €50,000. They said, ok, we'll give you €100,000 for the whole country and we redrafted our program. Some said, "it's time – KE NAKO." It's time for us to prove that if we have the means, we can do something. We launched a very hard, very rich campaign that made history in Austria, and it was the first time that we had 600 press articles about Africa that were not about drug dealers. The national radio station ORF organized 150 radio transmissions – one per day – where Africa was presented in a different way with positive perspectives, and in the municipalities we had many debates on the positive side of Africa. I was happy about this positive image of Africa but the result was not that terrific, because after the World Cup we found ourselves in the same position. But meanwhile we had received a national award for a good public relations campaign, and the money did not come from the funds for integration or asylum. For the first time Africans were considered equal partners and we learned a lot. The Africans learned how to apply for funding, how to make a project proposal, we founded our organization and in February we will open our own new office. This is very hard; surely they will let us fall again, but it was a very good beginning, and we will continue. Now we are fighting for a co-development policy in Austria with respect to each partner between the North and South, because the diaspora should be reinforced, even by sending diaspora experts to Africa without losing our visas to return. The struggle of AVP is to make people understand that the future of migration in Austria is not bad for the country. Austria is a good country, but it does not know Africa very well. They have never had colonies, they are afraid of war, etc. It is the duty of the Africans here to correct this image; it's the duty to resist dictatorship and corruption in Africa. I propose to organize a debate between the African diaspora and the Western diaspora, so that the people who are not corrupt may propose alternatives for development. Maybe in the future, people in Africa and in Europe should stop thinking about development; we should just sell Africa at fair value. We do not need development aid, we only need development aid for developing intelligence, knowledge transfer, and skills in organizing big projects. In the globalized world we cannot consider Africa as an island. We have to be competitive in the future, like Angola, which is now intervening to help its former colonial power Portugal. We could also sell goods in your countries. Imagine we were to keep our diamonds without selling them, die with them, sleep with them, keep them, like Europeans do it with their banks, keeping our gold as a reserve for meager times. But we give out our gold, and they keep it in their banks and make the politics of Africa. That's why our organization stays in contact with organizations here and in Africa to organize knowledge transfer and

a debate on the return of intelligence and knowledge, and not the return of persons. We should have the possibility to return here, because if they are closing the door, nobody will leave any more. But if I know that I can go and can come back, I would do it voluntarily!

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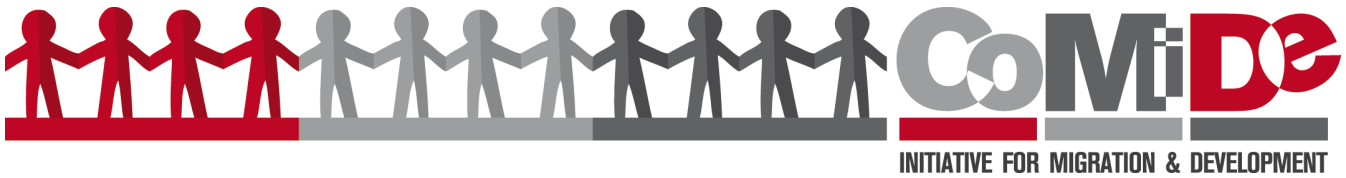
**Bernardo Venturi, University of Bologna:**



*Bernardo Venturi presented some experiences and concepts from the Context Report of the AMITIE project – Awareness on Migration, Development and Human Rights through local partnership, involving 5 countries and cities: Italy/Bologna, Latvia/Riga, Rumania/Bucharest, Spain/Seville and Malaga and Brazil/Recife (Context Report available here: [http://www.comune.bologna.it/amicie/browser\\_files.php?id=48](http://www.comune.bologna.it/amicie/browser_files.php?id=48)). Each of the countries and cities involved in the project shows specific risks and potentialities that revolve around the main question of how local authorities can work on the nexus of migration & development. Bernardo Venturi emphasizes the importance of connecting initiatives instead of working on a project for several years.*

We are trying to frame the migration & development nexus within a human rights context, within the triangle “development – migration – human rights” and this development, the human rights nexus, this human rights approach was extremely useful for overcoming the paternalistic view of development. This view enables people to consider themselves rightful and not as people to “be developed” or to “be empowered”. I think the concept of empowerment has some limits. The link between human rights and migration is an even more interesting point. If a government is working on migration without considering the rights of migrants, what are they doing? They are probably only working on meaningless multiculturalism without any social or political effects. Many governments are working that way. They consider migrants as a sort of folklore but not as people who participate in the political life of the country. We found one such example in our project in Latvia, for instance, some of the people who came to Latvia when it was part of the Soviet Union. Today about 15% of the people are considered non-citizens without several social and political rights. The idea of human development is therefore an extremely useful definition. At the same time, we were working on human security as well; we often heard how security issues create incoherence between human rights and migration, etc. But if we consider human security, this is not only related to the state, the border, the military apparatus, but to social security and environmental security.

Local authorities are useful in many contexts. They work closely with the people; they know the regional situation and can act with pertinent policies. One example can be seen with our Spanish partner in Andalusia, the FAMSI (Andalusian Fund of Municipalities for International Solidarity), a platform of municipalities working on international



solidarity. They have a big office and try to coordinate different activities of local authorities working on development & migration issues. They are also able to conduct excellent research and work with associations of migrants on development projects. On the other hand, it is not always possible to work with local authorities, as our experiences in Latvia or Rumania show. Local authorities there are simply not working on migration issues, because migration policy is only handled by national authorities and handled on the governmental level.

The last example is more focused on the concept of development shown by our partner, Brazil. Brazil is still considered a development country but it has one of the highest GDPs in the world. The Brazilian government refuses this dualistic approach of “development” or “developing” countries. They are focusing on South-South cooperation and furthermore, trying to create relationships between equal partners, from NGOs to NGOs in different countries without big discussions about the kinds of development. In my position as a professor at the University of Bologna I cooperate with an American university, so what kind of cooperation I am doing? If I am cooperating with a university from Moldova or Ghana am I doing international development? I think I am creating a partnership between equal partners, whatever university I am cooperating with. That’s the new approach Brazil is trying to push forward.

## **Summary of the Workshops**



*Following these presentations, three workshops were held on specific topics: "Southern Perspective on migration & development", "Diaspora Engagement in Development Cooperation", and "Public Authorities' Role in Migration and Development".*

*The workshop participants defined concrete demands that they addressed to all involved stakeholders:*

- "Development" needs to be redefined in a dialogue with the South; the "recipients" themselves should be the ones to define what improved quality of life means for them.
- NGOs and diaspora organizations have to cooperate systematically and in a structured manner.
- Public authorities are called upon to support campaigns and initiatives aimed at ensuring coherence between migration and development through appropriate immigration and residence laws and also by committing publicly to the creation of this coherence.

*The Presentation of the Workshops was chaired by Pietro Pinto, COSPE, Italy*

### **Workshop 1: Southern Perspective on Migration & Development**



*The Chair and facilitators of the Workshop 1 were **Saša Panić**, Mirovni inštitut, Slovenia and **Téclaire Ngo Tam**, Südwind, Austria. After an introduction of the Chair and the speakers, brief input was given by **Madjiguène Cissé**, Réseau des femmes pour le Développement durable en Afrique, Senegal, **Mignane Diouf**, CONGAD – Conseil des ONG d'Appui au Développement, Senegal and **Alex Asiedu**, Department of Geography and Centre for Migration Studies, University of Ghana.*

The workshop was organized around 3 topics: 1) the reasons for migration, 2) the challenges in this context and 3) what action can be taken to improve the situation. At the end of the workshop the participants moved on to the definition of "development" as a starting point.

Several reasons for migration have been stressed in the discussions: Besides historical reasons, like colonialism, already mentioned in the panels, current influences on migration range from environmental changes, the lack of efficient governance, EU subsidies policies for farmers, the ineffective policies of financial institutions like the World Bank and IMF or the problem of land grabbing were discussed. Individual desires to move – sometimes emphasized by inaccurate information about the North – are to be considered as well.



After elaborating the reasons, the discussants focused on the challenges that have to be tackled, including specific political challenges (lack of efficient governments) or what is still a very economic approach to development, which does not take into account social development in terms of the advancement of people instead of economic profit. Another challenge is to enhance policies that promote solidarity and tolerance. Other challenges viewed from a southern perspective include the efficient use of the resources by the people. A further challenge mentioned in the workshop concerned the lack of awareness raising and education (in schools) in the North about cultures of people in the South, which could contribute to more sensitivity, tolerance and better acceptance of migrants coming to the North. And in the context of development projects it is crucial to make beneficiaries and donors more transparent. Finally, the most important challenge is the campaign for the free movement of people and that migration has to become a human right for all (and not only for a select group of people).

Concerning practical action that could be taken in the North and in the South, it was agreed that there must be pressure from NGOs (joining together in networks) to ask for more transparency of the governments and their stakeholders and from the major political or financial institutions like the IMF and the WB. In all activities it is important that all discussions between North and South should be on equal footing. Northern actors should support grassroots movements in the South and respect local knowledge, because the people there know what best is for them.

One issue that was not planned but was highly claimed by the participants was defining **what is development?** The discussion around the definitions can be summarized as follows:

“Development” can have many different meanings depending on whose perspective it is and depending on who defines what “development” means. On the one hand, many people see the term as problematic because it has very often been used in the context of colonial or neo-colonial dominance. For instance, in former times there was the distinction between “colonizing” and “colonized countries” and as a result of anti-colonial resistance and liberation there was a shift of terms, replacing the term “colonizing countries” with the term “developed countries”, and the term “colonized countries” with “undeveloped countries”. At the same time, we have to consider that there is often a very different meaning of development for the people and movements from the South. For example, Madjiguène mentioned statements from women’s grassroots movements from Senegal, who were asked what development means to them and they gave very concrete examples connected to their local realities. For example, “for me development means to have a decent proper house or sufficient and good food.” Additionally there is often the discourse about MDGs, and states and institutions from the North mention that they care about HDI (Human Development Index) or poverty reduction. So we have to consider that there is a difference between “nice words” and the realities of the people, which are still very much shaped by very powerful economic interests that go in a very different direction.



#### Outcomes & Recommendations:

- Redefining the term "development"*: The quality and definitions of "development" vary a lot according to the different perspectives, especially if one is looking at this term from a Northern or Southern perspective also considering historical links of the terminology ("colonial"/"developed" or "colonized"/"undeveloped" country). One approach from activists from the South to reclaim the term is to use the word "transformation" instead of development.
- Economic-centered approach*: The term "development" is too related to economy and oriented towards economic growth, instead of focusing on the development of societies with an emphasis on exchanges and cooperation between North and South. A rethinking of the link between development and (economic) growth is necessary.
- Development is not limited to the South*: Migrants contribute to the social and economic development of their host countries and may take part in anti-racism development of Austrian (or European) society for example. Extreme poverty is also found in the midst of Western countries like the USA. We have to be aware of who is de facto benefiting from development.
- Importance of grassroots approach* instead of (a variety of confusing) intellectual definitions, which do not work in practice: Before starting a project, ask people about their specific needs according to the local context. For example, women from grassroots groups in Senegal defined development from a local perspective of their situations, which are connected to global relations. For them development means eating enough and having a good food quality, living in a good clean house, sending children to good schools, having adequate health conditions (including consultation of marabouts). It has been emphasized that development should not compromise the quality of life.
- Importance of local knowledge*: It is essential to consider local knowledge (e.g. from people in Africa), local cultures, the local demands and desires, the local way of doing politics, etc. Often there is a rift between Northern and Southern knowledge, which is confused and convoluted. It is time to listen to other experiences that have not been involved yet. Development should be endogenic: from the people, by the people, and for the people.
- Do not minimize the economic power relations* (with nice words). Many hard facts of economic power relations are connected to development: unequal economic relations (trade, land grabbing) including the subsidies policy of the EU on agricultural products and the policies of international financial institutions. Besides this, geopolitical reasons, climate change and environmental degradation worsen the unequal distribution of wealth.
- Campaign for the free movement of people*. Migration has to become a human right for all. Tackle migration policies by criticizing the antagonism of free circulation of money and goods versus restrictions on human mobility; put pressure on the governments through media that cooperate with migration policies; fight for transparency and efficient governance and against corruption (North and South); fight the reasons for migration

- *World development can be called solidarity*

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## Workshop 2: Diaspora Engagement in Development Cooperation



*In Workshop 2 the input was presented by **Eyachew Tefera**, Institute for African Studies, Slovenia and **Issi Ademi**, RAT – Network of Albanians in the Tuscan Region, Italy. The workshop was chaired by **Michael Fanizadeh**, VIDC, Austria and facilitated by **Lana Zdravković**, Peace Institute, Slovenia.*

Lana Zdravković summarizes Workshop 2, in which the participants had a very good debate regarding the development & migration issue. There was also a discussion about terminology, for example, what is a “country of origin”, why is it expected that migrants are doing development projects in “their countries of origin”, are migrants supposed to “go back to where they come from” or can they also develop somewhere else, etc.? The participants elaborated on two important general issues: 1) status is of course very important and crucial when thinking about migration & development and 2) if we want structural cooperation and links, then we need structural changes. From these more general issues the workshop participants arrived at 4 more concrete recommendations:

### Outcomes & Recommendations

1. *Permanent legal status* for migrants in the “host” countries. The granting of a permanent status for all migrants (not only for highly educated) is most important, because one cannot advocate circular migration without fighting for permanent status for all migrants in the countries where they live and work. Ideally this is achieved by granting dual citizenship in considering the social factor that circular migration and temporary return help to counter the fear of losing the link with the new country (voluntary return support; return from return?).
2. *Action plan for a better visibility of diaspora organizations* (on an institutional level): Awareness raising and public awareness raising campaigns are important in order to face discrimination and stereotyping regarding migrant issues in public discourse.  
*Recognition of migrants as active actors* (and not only passive objects) in development cooperation; dialogue and real cooperation (process, funding, experiences ...); advocacy from NGOs; integration of migrant experts; linking diaspora with funders/donors; public campaigns ...
3. *Capacity building for diaspora and NGOs*: Cooperation between migrant/diaspora organizations on one hand and development organizations on the other is crucial (problem of hierarchy). There are situations where NGOs implement development projects without communicating it to migrants and MAs. This can be recognized as bad practice. It is important that migrants and MAs are recognized and included in the whole

process of making migration & development projects. More networking and improvement of databases on migration issues and activities is needed to exchange and share knowledge, information and best practices.

4. *Institutional recognition of migrants as crucial actors in development cooperation* and integration of migrants in development policy and cooperation projects as experts.

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### Workshop 3: Public Authorities' Role in Migration & Development



*Input was presented by **Sandra Rainero**, Veneto Lavoro, Italy, **Andrea Riestler**, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), **Helmuth Hartmeyer**, Austrian Development Agency and **Petra Mezzetti**, CESPI – Centro Studi Politica Internazionale, Italy.*

*Chairpersons and facilitators were **Samanta Musarò**, COSPE, Italy and **Stefan Kerl**, Südwind, Austria.*

*In Workshop 3 the participants were dealing with public authorities on 1) the local level including local authorities, towns and villages and 2) public authorities on a regional and federal level. The workshop results and recommendations, which are not limited to public authorities, were presented by Stefan Kerl.*

#### Outcomes & Recommendations

- Closer cooperation between NGOs and migrant organizations is needed and should also be reflected in staff
- City partnerships (in North and South) can help local authorities understand issues of migration & development
- Training with Global Education methodology is needed for local authorities
- Considering the heterogeneity of migrant organizations (focus on different groups, resources, capacities)
- Consulting and capacity building for migrant organizations which are not yet in that position
- Migration policy formulation should consult with all relevant stakeholders (migrants, trade unions, employers, etc.)
- Call on local authorities with experience in migration & development to share experiences (e.g. in city networks)
- Public authorities should support campaigns on changing perceptions about migration
- Identifying synergies between different public authorities

- Enhance dialogue between different public authorities (mainly Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Interior)
- Awareness raising on benefits of integrated approach
- Capacity building to inform local authorities on the advantages of this integrated approach
- Migrants' skills/competences should be acknowledged
- Connecting migration and development (much more than development cooperation)
- Public authorities should work on promoting human development for migrants regardless of "status" (e.g. education)

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### **Closing Session: How to move forward?**



Chairs: *Michael Fanizadeh*, VIDC, Austria and *Téclaire Ngo Tam*, Südwind, Austria

*Following the conference, the CoMiDe initiative will work with all involved stakeholders to further elaborate these demands and objectives and to pursue strategies aimed at broader dissemination of the demands and acceptance of the need for coherence between migration and development policies. To this end, more workshops with stakeholders and decision-makers will be organized, as well as panel discussions and an event for the exchange of ideas and concepts.*

**List of Speakers (in order of appearance):**

Ambassador **Brigitte Öppinger-Walchshofer** is the Managing Director of the Austrian Development Agency. Öppinger-Walchshofer has been professionally involved in foreign affairs for more than 20 years with frequent assignments abroad. After studying economics at the University of Vienna and completing her training at the Diplomatic Academy of Vienna, she joined the Austrian Foreign Ministry in 1983. From 1994 to 1997, she headed its Africa Sub-Sahara Unit and then acted as Deputy Head of Mission in London. In 2001, she was appointed Ambassador to Ethiopia in Addis Ababa. Before taking over as Managing Director of the Austrian Development Agency, the Operational Unit of the Austrian Development Cooperation, in November 2007, Öppinger-Walchshofer headed the Department for Internal Audit in the Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs in 2006.

**Walter Posch** has been the Managing Director of the VIDC – Vienna Institute for International Dialogue and Cooperation, Austria, since 2007. From 1999-2006 he was the Human Rights Spokesperson for the Social Democratic Party, Member of the Austrian Parliament (1990-2006) and Member of the European Parliament (1995). After studying German philology and history at the University of Graz/Austria and organizational development at the University of Klagenfurt/Austria, he worked as a high school teacher and was a member of the Municipal Assembly at Spittal an der Drau/Austria. Between 1986-1990 he was the Head of Dr. Karl-Renner-Institut in Carinthia/Austria.

**Elfriede Schachner**, director of the Südwind Agentur, Austria, was born in 1963 in Salzburg. She studied Romance Languages and Cultural and Social Anthropology in Vienna. Since 1991 she has been working in the field of development policy. She was managing director of the AGEZ (Federation of NGOs) and worked as an expert in development policy at the VIDC – Vienna Institute for International Dialogue and Cooperation before taking over as director of Südwind in April 2011.

**Madjiguène Cissé**, born in 1951 in Dakar, studied German philology in Dakar and Saarbrücken. After working as a German teacher in Dakar she settled in France. In March 1996 she joined the movement Sans Papiers, which fights for the legalization of illegalized migrants, and soon became one of their speakers. Together with Les Collectifs des SANS-PAPIERS she was awarded the Carl-von-Ossietzky-Medaille of The International Federation for Human Rights in 1998. Since 2000 she has been living in Dakar, where she founded the women's network Réseau des femmes pour le développement durable en Afrique (Refdaf). The aim of Refdaf is to improve the living conditions of women by offering education, micro-credits and housing for women (Cité des femmes). In 2011 she received the Wilhelmine-von-Bayreuth prize for tolerance and humanity in cultural diversity from the City of Bayreuth.

**Thomas Faist** is a professor of transnational relations and development studies at the faculty for sociology of Bielefeld University. Prior to that, he was a professor of political science and political management and chair of the international course of study in political management at Bremen College. His research centers on the fields of international migration, the integration of ethnic and national minorities, citizenship, social policy and development

policy. Thomas Faist is author and editor of a variety of publications on the topic of migration and development.

Recent publications are:

*The Transnational in Migration. New York & Oxford: Polity Press (2012, forthcoming). Co-authored with Margit Fauser and Eveline Reisenauer.*

*Beyond a Border: The Causes and Consequences of Contemporary Immigration. Thousand Oaks, CA: Pine Forge Press (2010). Co-authored with Peter Kivisto (ISBN: 9781412924955)*

*Citizenship: Discourse, Theory and Transnational Prospects. Oxford: Blackwell (2007). Co-authored with Peter Kivisto (ISBN: 978-1-4051-0552-1)*

Ambassador **Gabriel Kramarics** works at the Department for Multilateral Development in the Austrian Foreign Ministry.

**Tanja Dedovic** is Labor Migration and Human Development Coordinator in the Regional Office for Eastern Europe, South Eastern Europe and Central Asia of IOM – International Organization for Migration. Ms. Dedovic studied Political Economy in Graz and Fribourg and holds a degree in Political Economy from the University of Fribourg, Switzerland. She also holds a Master of Humanitarian Assistance from the University of Bochum, Germany.

**Marjan Huč** is a representative of the Slovenian NGDO platform Sloga, which is active in the field of development cooperation, global learning and humanitarian aid. The aim of the platform is to join forces and strengthen the partnership between Slovene non-governmental and non-profit organizations (NGOs) that are active in developing countries and to raise awareness among the Slovene and European general public of the unequal division of wealth and the global solidarity and co-dependence related to it.

**Mamadou Mignane Diouf**, CONGAD (Council of NGOs supporting development). He is a human rights professor at the Cheick Anta Diop University of Dakar, former president of the very influential CONGAD and responsible for the RADI (African Network for Development) advocacy campaign. CONGAD's aim is to develop coaction and exchanges between NGOs, defend their interests, mobilize them for their activities and particular needs and those of civil society in general. CONGAD's mission is to play the role of an interface between the NGO movement, the government, civil society organizations and partners in development. It provides the framework for social, political, economic and cultural discussions. The above objectives focus on a vision: "to strive in Senegal for a democratic pan-African society of solidarity, economic and social justice based on our positive cultural values, open to the world and oriented towards sustainable human development". In 2011 he was Secretary General of the organizing committee for the World Social Forum in Dakar. He used his widely recognized expertise supporting international NGOs working in West Africa (Oxfam, Cimade), campaigning for a more coherent EU policy towards development and migration.

Prof. **Alex Boakye Asiedu** is a senior fellow of the Center for Migration Studies and also professor in the Department of Geography at the University of Ghana in Legon. One of his teaching areas is migration studies. Among others he has published:

*Asiedu A.B. (2010): Some Perspectives on the Migration of Skilled Professionals from Ghana, African Studies Review, Vol. 53, No:1 (April, 2010) pp 61-78.*

*Asiedu, A.B. (2005) "Some Benefits of Migrants' Return Visits to Ghana" Population, Space and Place, Vol. II, pp.1-11 (John Wiley and Sons, Ltd).*

**Nadja Schuster** works with the Vienna Institute for International Dialogue and Cooperation. She was in charge of the study "European Good Practice Examples of Migration and Development Initiatives with a Particular Focus on Diaspora Engagement". Regarding her scientific background, she holds a university degree in sociology and international development from the University of Vienna and a master's degree in development evaluation and management from the University of Antwerp. Besides migration and development, her main research topics are policy coherence for development, gender and development and human trafficking.

**Marlene Keusch** is a social scientist. She is studying international development, sociology and geography at the University of Vienna. Besides her engagement in the European good practice study, she is currently working on her thesis in the field of migration and development particularly focusing on diaspora engagement.

**Andrea Riester** works for the GIZ, the German development agency in the field of migration and development. She has a scientific background in social anthropology, political economy and political science. Ms. Riester conducts research on remittances, migration and gender, South-South migration, displacement and reintegration of migrants in West Africa. She has published books and articles on migration and development and on diaspora engagement.

**Alexis Nshimiyimana Neuberg** is the founder of Radio Afrika and chairman of the Afrika Vernetzungsplattform, an alliance of African communities in Austria that counts more than 40 partner organizations. AVP functions as a networking platform and offers capacity building for migrant organizations. Mr. Neuberg is an expert in media, journalism, migration and asylum. Since 2008 he has been a consultant for the UNIDO and also works as an adviser for refugees and asylum seekers. Mr. Alexis Neuberg and the AVP were one of the initiators of the project Ke Nako Africa that was implemented during the Football World Cup in South Africa.

**Bernardo Venturi** holds a PhD in Political Studies at the University of Bologna. Currently, he is a research fellow at the University of Bologna, Director of Centro Studi Difesa Civile (CSDC) and lecturer at Marist College, Florence Campus. At the University of Bologna he is working in the project AMITIE, co-financed by the European Union, which aims to link development, migration and human rights.



## **CoMiDe-Conference: “Bridging the Gap”**

### **International Conference on Migration & Development**

**23 – 24 January 2012**

Albert-Schweitzer-Haus, Schwarzspanierstrasse 13, Vienna, Austria

#### **23 January 2012**

Languages: English, French and German (simultaneous interpretation)

#### **10:00 – 10:30 Welcome Session**

*Brigitte Öppinger-Walchshofer*, Austrian Development Agency

*Walter Posch*, VIDC – Vienna Institute for International Dialogue and Cooperation, Austria

*Efriede Schachner*, Südwind Agentur, Austria

#### **10:30 – 12:45 Opening Session: Dynamics of Migration and Development Cooperation**

*Madjiguène Cissé*, Réseau des femmes pour le Développement durable en Afrique, Senegal

*Thomas Faist*, University of Bielefeld, Germany

##### Discussants:

*Gabriel Kramarics*, Department for Multilateral Development Cooperation, Austrian Foreign Ministry

*Tanja Dedovic*, IOM – Regional Office for Eastern Europe, South Eastern Europe and Central Asia

*Marjan Huč*, SLOGA – Slovenian Global Action

Chair: *Michael Fanizadeh*, VIDC, Austria

#### **13:45 – 15:45 General Session: Migration Policies, Diaspora Communities and Development Cooperation**

*Mignane Diouf*, CONGAD - Conseil des ONG d'Appui au Développement, Senegal

*Alex Asiedu*, Department of Geography and Centre for Migration Studies, University of Ghana

Chair: *Galya Terzieva*, Society Development Institute, Slovakia

**16:00 – 18:00      General Session: European good practice examples of migration and development initiatives with a particular focus on diaspora engagement**

*Nadja Schuster* and *Marlene Keusch*, VIDC, Austria

Discussants:

*Bernardo Venturi*, University of Bologna, Italy

*Alexis Nshimiyimana Neuberg*, Afrika Vernetzungsplattform-AVP, Austria

*Andrea Riester*, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), Germany

Chair: *Lana Zdravković*, Mirovni inštitut, Slovenia

**18:00 – 18:15      Closing Remarks Day One**

*Téclaire Ngo Tam*, Südwind, Austria

**24 January 2012 (Workshops)**

**9:30 – 10:00      Presentation of the Workshops** (only English-French)

Chair: *Pietro Pinto*, COSPE, Italy

**10:00 – 12:00      Workshops**

**Workshop 1: Southern Perspective on Migration & Development** (only English-French)

Input

*Madjiguène Cissé*, Réseau des femmes pour le Développement durable en Afrique, Senegal

*Mignane Diouf*, CONGAD – Conseil des ONG d'Appui au Développement, Senegal

*Alex Asiedu*, Department of Geography and Centre for Migration Studies, University of Ghana

Chair and facilitator:

*Saša Panić*, Mirovni inštitut, Slovenia

*Téclaire Ngo Tam*, Südwind, Austria

**Workshop 2: Diaspora Engagement in Development Cooperation** (only English)

Input

*Tefera Eyachew*, Institute for African Studies, Slovenia

*Issi Ademi*, RAT – Network of Albanian in the Tuscan Region, Italy

Chair and facilitator:

*Michael Fanizadeh*, VIDC, Austria

*Lana Zdravković*, Mirovni inštitut, Slovenia

**Workshop 3: Public Authorities' Role in Migration & Development** (only English)

Input

*Sandra Rainero*, Veneto Lavoro, Italy

*Andrea Riester*, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)

*Helmuth Hartmeyer*, Austrian Development Agency

*Petra Mezzetti*, CESPI – Centro Studi Politica Internazionale, Italy

Chair and facilitator:

*Samanta Musarò*, COSPE, Italy

*Stefan Kerl*, Südwind, Austria

**12:00 – 13:00**      **Report and feedback from the Workshops**

**Closing Session: How to move forward**

Chairs: *Michael Fanizadeh*, VIDC, Austria and *Téclaire Ngo Tam*, Südwind, Austria

**Contact:**

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