

## CoMiDE Manifesto on Migration and Development in Europe

### Priority 1: Diaspora Engagement

- I. Readily acknowledge migrants and diaspora organisations as development actors since they have experiential knowledge and possess intrinsic understanding of many development themes, thereby giving them special insights on the appropriateness of programme and project interventions as well as foresight for innovation and strategic development;
- II. Diligently raise knowledge and awareness of development actors among the general public on the development potential and impact of diaspora engagement, *inter alia*, through the promotion of diversity, inclusiveness, and multiculturalism in mainstream media;
- III. Formally declare commitment to work with migrant and diaspora organisations at all levels of development cooperation and international development, including for the conceptualisation, formulation, implementation and review of policies, strategies, programmes and projects;
- IV. Formally declare commitment to work with migrant and diaspora individuals by adapting recruitment policies and engaging migrants as development experts and professionals through employment, consultancy and other contractual positions and assignments;
- V. Formally declare commitment to enable and empower migrant and diaspora organisations by providing support and tailor-made, migrant-centred capacity-building programmes taking gender-specific needs and those of vulnerable groups into account;
- VI. Purposefully institutionalise a diaspora engagement structure in development cooperation and create appropriate (co-)funding options and schemes for diaspora organisations that supplement their existing voluntary contributions;
- VII. Systematically remove barriers that hinder diasporas' engagement and allow for dual or multiple citizenship, flexible visa and residence requirements, portability of social security rights permitting migrants, who are well integrated and productive within the socio-economic fabric of their countries of residence, to have better chances and greater ability to contribute to the development of their countries of origin;

- VIII. Deliberately strengthen the migration-development nexus through improved policy and institutional coherence at the international level by advancing cooperation between donor and aid-recipient countries which focus on the transfer of skills and financial resources (without linking to return programmes), and at the national level through a whole-of-government approach that is poverty- and gender-sensitive, and promotes diversity and women's empowerment at all levels.

## Priority 2: Diaspora Entrepreneurship

- I. Duly acknowledge skills, strengths and experiences of diasporas and migrants involved in entrepreneurship and tourism, whereby they create local jobs, contribute to national tax revenues and social security funds;
- II. Readily acknowledge that migrant and diaspora entrepreneurs contribute to the growth of trade in ethnic goods and cultural services, the strengthening of local and international supply chains, the professionalisation of business production and management systems, and the enhancement of economic multiplier effects leading to economic development in countries of residence and origin;
- III. Diligently seek knowledge and undertake appropriate analyses in order to better understand the types of enterprises that migrants and diasporas undertake, how they market and manage their enterprises, *inter alia* in tourism, and how socially and environmentally responsive diaspora-led (tourism) enterprises can be promoted;
- IV. Formally declare commitment, support and capacity building for entrepreneurship and tourism projects, small and medium enterprises, socially and economically responsible firms and investments, income generating activities initiated or implemented by diasporas and their members following an approach that is poverty- and gender-sensitive, and promotes diversity and women's empowerment;
- V. Purposefully institutionalise diaspora entrepreneurship and business support in development cooperation and international development, including for the conceptualisation, formulation, implementation and review of policies, strategies, programmes and projects and introduce adequate (co-)financing schemes;
- VI. Deliberately strengthen cooperation and establish partnerships between donor and aid-recipient countries for improving diaspora entrepreneurship through co-development policies, networking, tax exemptions and deductions on diaspora/development cooperation-related investments, improved access to credits, loans, financial products, internet, and mobile banking facilities.