

"The Diaspora of Bosnia and Herzegovina in Switzerland: Profile and potential contributions to development"

The purpose of this research by the Swiss Forum for Migration and Population Studies (SFM) at the University of Neuchâtel is to better understand the immigrant population of Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) in Switzerland and to explore its potential for the development of BiH.

The study is a mandate from the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and the Federal Office for Migration (FOM), and it is carried out in partnership with the Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees (MHRR) of BiH.

It consists of three lines of research:

- A historical perspective of the evolution of the BiH immigrant population, including a quantitative and qualitative analysis of its socio-demographic and economic characteristics;
- An analysis of the socio-cultural organization and existing networks of the BiH diaspora in Switzerland;
- A reflection on the resources and potential role of the migrant population for aiding development BiH. This aspect will allow the formulation of recommendations in order to maximize the contribution of the diaspora in the development of BiH.

As the links with the country of origin and integration into the host country are interdependent, this study will examine two aspects:

- a) Migration and development
- b) Migration and integration.

In this research, different methods will be used, both qualitative and quantitative, namely, a review of the literature, an analysis of statistical data, interviews with experts and migrants, and focus groups.

As part of this research, the design or creation of a platform for dialogue on the possibilities of involvement of the migrant population and the obstacles related to the contribution for development will be encouraged.