



Final conclusions and recommendations

International Research Workshop “Migration in the function of development“

- 1) Financial remittances: host countries' institutions currently do not hold precise and comprehensive data on financial remittances and investment (i.e. data on accurate number of investors or on the overall scope of their investment)**

A combination of a number of sources at both micro and macro level has been suggested as a way to overcome this problem. Also, labour market surveys (LMS) and household budget surveys (HBS) can be amended to include adequate questions on remittances and migration. Banks can be a valid additional source of information if they consider coding financial remittances from diaspora as a specific category of transactions, and if such information is made available in aggregated form to researchers and institutions that analyse remittances as a form of foreign capital inflow.

- 2) Creating business environment which motivates investment from diaspora: it is necessary to reduce obstacles impeding investment from diaspora**

Current bad business environment and numerous administrative obstacles often have destimulating effect on potential investors from diaspora. Therefore, it is necessary to create a set of measures which would contain specific exemptions and incentives for foreign investors who originate from Bosnia and Herzegovina. This would contribute to attracting transnational entrepreneurs' capital inflow to BiH. Generally, it is necessary to develop safer societies and better business environment in the countries of the region, which will lead to greater inflow of investment from diaspora (too). Also, it is necessary for the institutions to improve information flows and cooperation with both migrants and returnees from abroad.

It is necessary to establish mechanisms for gathering precise statistical data in BiH on investment originating from BiH migrants abroad, including both individual investors and members of ownership or management structures of foreign companies which invest in BiH.

Improving bad image of the state obviously imposes itself as an imperative. This issue should be included in the top priorities of BiH's (foreign policy) strategy.

3) Creating adequate policies on diaspora (which has been a weak spot in the countries of the region), with particular focus on scientific diaspora and entrepreneurs in diaspora

Generally speaking, development-related diaspora resources have been largely recognized as significant potential for development of each country of origin in the region. However, what is missing is a systemic approach to mainstreaming these resources into key development-related programmes.

It is necessary to develop research capacities and enhance cooperation between policy creators and researchers in the area of migration (and development), as well as cooperation between diaspora-relevant policy creators and diaspora itself.

Transnational entrepreneurs, who have already tried to invest in their countries of origin, are an important target group for research focused on economic impact of migration.

Diaspora itself (i.e. migrants abroad) and organizations in which they act must participate in related policy creation processes in their countries of origin. Such processes must be based on dialogue between homeland (home country) and migrants abroad. Requests and suggestions provided by migrants abroad must be taken into consideration and included in all relevant policies.

Discussion also focused on the impact of bilateral agreements on employing BiH citizens with adequate qualification profiles abroad, given that high percentage of them wish to stay and actually do stay in the host countries beyond their employment contracts' duration. It is in this way that temporary migration gains permanent/definitive character. In this regard, it is possible to follow some instances of good practice in the area of statistics of migration, and statistics of emigration in particular, and follow the impact of such actions in relation to financial remittances or chain migration.

4) It is necessary to create adequate environment enabling retention of the current cadre, including its highly educated segment in particular, while enhancing knowledge transfer from diaspora

Policies which will lead to establishment of such environment should be created as a result of cooperation among all key stakeholders (i.e. policy creators in the countries of origin, migrants abroad themselves, researchers, development agencies, key strategic partners such as the European Union, etc.).

The importance was underlined of home countries' institutions to understand seriously huge intellectual capacities of their diasporas. Their knowledge, networks, social capital, impact in scientific, political and other circles are such resources that are (often) underused. In order to enhance brain circulation, it is necessary to design or implement such exchange (i.e. temporary return) programme models which have been proven successful.

Current pieces of research have indicated that, regarding education, it is, almost exclusively, thanks to scholarships provided by foreign donors that exchange and circulation for academic purposes has been carried out. Initiating joint graduate or doctoral studies within the EU programmes would enhance a more intense exchange of academic staff. It is recommended to create more study programmes in English in BiH in order to increase mobility of students, scientists, and lecturers, which would enhance the overall transfer of knowledge and experience, as well as improve global knowledge networks.

It was underlined that the processes of recognition of foreign degrees have not been arranged adequately in the countries in this region, which has not contributed to mobility of people, capital, goods or services.

5) Regional cooperation, which would enhance access to EU mechanisms for development and cooperation in the area of migration (and development)

EU Development Strategy (Europa 2020), and, in particular, EU policies of migration and of development, should take into account positions of the Western Balkans' countries, whose strategic objectives have been to join the EU respectively. Given that the countries in our region are those of origin and transit of migrants, they share problems and interests on introduction of systemic solutions for linking migrants' resources to development. EU countries' migration policies, on the other hand, that are migrants' host countries, should be compatible with migration (and development) policies in the Western Balkans region. Such dialogue is necessary between countries of origin and destination of migrants, which will lead to a comprehensive policy of migration (and development) (management) beneficial for all stakeholders involved. It would be ideal if the countries in the Western Balkans would harmonise their positions in this area, and then jointly address adequate EU mechanisms.

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