



# Improving cooperation on diaspora engagement

## Session 5 Report

Online session organized by Enabel, 17 June 2020 (11:00-13:00) - 30 participants (Annex 1)

**Moderator :** Christian Freres (AECID)

**External expert :** Sonja Fransen (UNU-MERIT)

**Speakers :**

**Beatrice Tschinkel** (SNV): GrEEn/ Boosting-Green-Employment-and-Enterprise-Opportunities-Ghana

**Ahmed Djamai** (Enabel): MBI/ Maghrib Belgium Impulse

**Habiba Addi** (Expertise France): MeetAfrica/ European Mobilisation for African Entrepreneurship

**Oula Tarssim** (GIZ): PMD/ Programme Migration and Diaspora

**Mirko Tricoli, Tana Anglana** (AICS): The National Summit of Diasporas

**Laila Jamil, Maryam Rab** (British Council): PDLP/ Pakistan Diaspora Leadership Programme

**Mélodie Beaujeu** (AFD): ProGres Migration

**Rapporteurs :** Christian Freres, Alina Orrico (AECID), Sonia Gsir and Raffaella Greco Tonegutti (Enabel)

**Coordinator:** Sonia Gsir (Enabel)

### Diasporas beyond assumptions

Sonja Fransen opened the workshop with a **challenging critique on the assumptions** underlying development interventions aimed at fostering diaspora engagement.

- 1. Development programmes often define diasporas as homogeneous groups and communities.** Literature and practice show that this is very rarely the case. There are huge differences across diaspora groups and even within them: reasons for migration, migration pathways and administrative statuses of individual migrants, historical ties with the country of residence and with the country of origin. Diaspora members are also diverse in terms of ethnicity, region of origin, political orientations, generations, organization mode, etc.
- 2. Diasporas have strong and exclusive ties to their country of origin.** Literature highlights that the ties with countries of origin change over time and that not all diaspora groups / members have the same relation with their country of origin which are linked to a variety of factors, including the reasons for migrating. Diaspora groups and communities develop transnational ties and have various bonds to their country of origin and to their country of residence.
- 3. Diasporas are well organized groups.** A wealth of research findings exist on the different factors that contribute to the organization of a diaspora group (resources, length of settlement in the country of residence, opportunities in terms of participation, etc.). The organization level can vary considerably and the interest in engaging in development initiative is not necessarily linked to the level of organization of a diaspora group.

4. **Diaspora engagement is welcomed by countries of origin.** Several studies on the relation between diaspora groups/members and their countries of origin show that this theoretical assumption proved wrong in many occasions. The perception of the contribution by diaspora members or groups depends on a variety of complex factors and sometimes diaspora members are resented in the homeland.

### **Diaspora for economic development in countries of origin**

Diasporas are recognized as a valuable source of funding through remittances and investment capital as well as a source of know-how and expertise. Engaging with them to build economic opportunities and social development projects in partner countries is important for any development agency aiming at leveraging the potential of (social, cultural and economic) remittances for development. However, several challenges remain, such as engaging with communities composed by first, second and third generations of diaspora groups; a generalized lack of trust in national governments in countries of origin; working on development issues with diaspora members when migration is increasingly conflictual in European societies; and the diversity and fragmentation of diaspora communities.

The speakers/representatives of projects identified some solutions and successful approaches that are proving effective in addressing some of these challenges, while recognizing the limits of time-bound initiatives faced with much longer and deeper societal processes.

#### **1. Identifying and meeting the needs and expectations of diaspora groups**

Identifying and meeting the expectations of diaspora groups in terms of development is key to engaging them, especially when it comes to **economic investments by diaspora's entrepreneurs**. This can be achieved through different approaches such as: developing communication strategies to reach the right diaspora members; offering technical as well as financial support; identifying investments and opportunities for potentially interested entrepreneurs; connecting diaspora groups through network-building.

These approaches are aimed at matching a specific kind of engagement (i.e. economic investment) with a specific public (diaspora members who are in a position to invest in their country of origin). In this framework, the contribution that development organization can give relates to minimizing risks and maximizing opportunities in terms of investment but also (and mainly) in terms of development potential of those investments. Projects such as MBI, GrEEn, MeetAfrica and PMD actively engage in developing platforms with reliable information related to investment opportunities, local needs, market situation, etc. as well as regarding the legislation and their rights as potential investors.

In particular, engaging with the Moroccan diaspora in Belgium, the project Maghreb Belgium Impulse (MBI) focuses on establishing a **Public Private Partnership as a central mechanism** to identify and respond to the expectations and needs of diaspora entrepreneurs. The project PMD experiences **cross-border training** starting in Europe and ending in the country of origin. The project MeetAfrica promotes the links between **entrepreneurial ecosystems in Europe and Africa** which allows it to meet the expectations of a broader set of actors. It has also built a network of diaspora for diaspora communities. The Italian National Summit of Diasporas has a special mechanism to identify the needs of diaspora associations serving as an institutional forum and channel for giving them voice.

The project GrEEn works on diaspora expectations on their investments which are not always realistic. ProGreS includes a **strong research component** to identify the expectations of diaspora

groups and those of the local actors involved in local development, as well as their evolution throughout the lifespan of the project.

## 2. Diaspora groups as development enablers

In some countries such as Tunisia, Italy or Pakistan, diaspora groups are recognized as actors of development. Tunisia and Pakistan, for instance, have incorporated them in their national migration strategy and/or public bodies. This contributes to giving diaspora groups a role in the discussions regarding local and national development. Yet this also introduces a further element of complexity as having multiple interlocutors/actors involved in the operationalization of projects engaging diaspora for the development of their communities of origin proved to be particularly challenging. Yet, in order for such projects to succeed there is a need to have several stakeholders around the table, such as the private sector, local governments, CSOs and NGOs among others.

The project GrEEen shows that having involved diaspora organizations since the needs' assessment phase was key to their engagement throughout the initiative, but it is also important to talk with associations of returnees in Ghana who are former diaspora members and who can bridge the gap between what diaspora members want to contribute and what the communities are ready to accept. The involvement of communities in countries of origin also contributed to generating a broader impact of the initiative.

Various projects highlighted that the role of the diaspora can include fundraising as well as sharing know-how and expertise. A major challenge is engaging civil society and government (national and local) in such initiatives, although opportunities are opening up because in several partner countries the governments have active policies to engage diaspora communities in their national development efforts.

One of the main strengths of the Programme Migration and Development (PMD) which has a long history and is active in 25 countries is its working agreement with the German Federal Employment Agency. This allows the programme to engage with a variety of actors in Germany and in the countries of origin, bringing together their different contributions. The success factor of the PMD has been being present in both countries: **proximity with key actors both in country of origin and host country.**

MBI stresses the importance in **partnering with the private sector's stakeholders** to develop a business-to-business approach. In various cases, successful diaspora entrepreneurs have been a good source of knowledge for development projects and contributed to facilitating linkages between actors in the host and origin countries. Developing **mechanisms for fluid communication** between diaspora members interested in investing in their countries of origin and the different public and private stakeholders may lead to improved effectiveness. MeetAfrica focuses on establishing a network of focal points in countries of origin to ensure effects are more sustainable and reach a broader set of actors. Carrying out research and linking the findings with face-to-face events is key to keeping countries within the PMD framework.

## 3. Partnering with Diaspora to achieve the SDGs

In light of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, there are multiple ways that projects tested to engage with diaspora groups and communities so that they act as true development connectors between the countries of origin and the countries of residence, both in the case of projects linking diaspora groups in one country of residence to one specific country of origin (UK and Pakistan (PDLP) or Belgium and Morocco (MBI)) and in the case of projects linking diaspora groups in

one specific country of residence to a variety of countries of origin (Italy / National Diaspora Summit).

The National Summit of Diasporas has taken a **“whole of society” approach**, seeking to engage diaspora groups in the overall national development cooperation system, and ProGreS promotes the role of diaspora groups in **local development** in Tunisia.

For diaspora groups and communities to fully deploy their development potential, trust was described by all speakers as a key ingredient, although it takes time to build relationships. As an example of the importance of relationships with different groups, the project PDLP presented its model based on a framework of mutuality, cultural intelligence and longstanding networks in the United Kingdom and Pakistan. In relation to that, the PDLP chose to set up a leadership programme to upscale mid-level volunteer-leaders who were keen on working in their communities both in their home country and country of origin (i.e. as an approach). In many cases, the diaspora acts as connectors of national and local levels of development (**multi-stakeholder approach**).

The National Summit of Diaspora started with a mapping of diaspora groups which form the basis for building links with the national development system, including regional and local governments, NGOs, the private sector and academia.

ProGreS explores engaging with migrant associations and NGOs to integrate the diaspora in the French development system.

## Concluding remarks

1. **The more diverse the diaspora is, the more diversified need to be the offers** to engage them with development initiatives.
2. A broader and deeper engagement of diaspora communities can be reached if **needs and interests** of diaspora members/groups/communities are **duly identified and met**;
3. **Expectations’ management** is a key element when building any project that entails diaspora organizations, not just for these groups, but for all actors involved. Expectations need to be realistic in terms of engagement and in terms of impacts achieved through it;
4. Building a **‘whole of society approach’** to ensure that the contribution of diaspora to the development of both their countries of origin and their countries of residence is a long, time-consuming and challenging process, yet it is a promising opportunity to meet the SDGs and to embed the engagement of diaspora groups and communities in the broader framework of building inclusive and cohesive societies;
5. Diaspora engagement projects should be aligned with **national development strategies** or long term visions.
6. Engaging with local actors in countries of origin and residence can increase **the trust of diaspora** members and groups that often suffer from lack of trust in national authorities and structures;
7. **Gender mainstreaming** and participation of women members of diaspora through specific actions designed to encourage their engagement prove to be a significant challenge across the different projects/countries/experiences that needs to be further explored. The engagement of new generations is a challenge that needs to be explored as well.

The final considerations highlighted the fact that the diaspora engagement is not just about having the diaspora involved with their countries of origin, but it’s also about different actors working together to build better societies, both in Europe and in the South.

**Session 5** is part of a series aiming at preparing the expert workshop *Migration and Development: an inclusive and comprehensive approach on human mobility* co-organized by Enabel & FIIAPP for the Crisis, Fragility and Migration Working Group (initially planned to take place in Brussels, on 23 & 24 April 2020) that had to be postponed at a later date owing to Covid-19 pandemic.

**Session 1:** Linking development and migration governance (13.05.2020)

**Session 2:** Inclusive social policies, with a focus on migrant youth and women (27.05.2020)

**Session 3:** Linking development and humanitarian aid: Education in emergencies (3.06.2020)

**Session 4:** Labour mobility and development (10.06.2020)

## ANNEXES

### Annex 1 – List of participants

| <b>Names</b>              | <b>Agency</b> | <b>Role or project</b>              |
|---------------------------|---------------|-------------------------------------|
| Katrin Fischer            | ADA           | Observer                            |
| Christian Freres          | AECID         | Moderator                           |
| Mélodie Beaujeu           | AFD           | ProGreS Migration                   |
| Mirko Tricoli             | AICS          | National Summit of Diasporas        |
| Tana Anglana              | AICS          | National Summit of Diasporas        |
| Francesco Mele            | AICS          | Observer                            |
| Maryam Rab                | BC            | Pakistan and the Pakistani diaspora |
| Laila Jamil               | BC (Pakistan) | Pakistan and the Pakistani diaspora |
| Ibrahim Kasso             | Eda/ ex SIDA  | Observer                            |
| Habiba Addi               | EF            | MeetAfrica                          |
| Paul Hedon                | EF            | Observer                            |
| Ahmed Djamai              | Enabel        | MBI                                 |
| Raffaella Greco-Tonegutti | Enabel        | Organizer                           |
| Kristien Bauduin          | Enabel        | Technical settings                  |
| Karina Widyani            | Enabel        | Technical settings                  |
| Sonia Gsir                | Enabel        | Coordinator                         |
| Ana Polanco Porras        | Enabel        | Observer                            |
| Florence Seeuws           | Enabel        | Observer                            |
| Myriam Erquicia León      | FIIAPP        | Observer                            |
| Javier Hervella           | FIIAPP        | Observer                            |
| Oula Tarssim              | GIZ           | PMD                                 |
| Lotte Nordhus             | GIZ           | Observer                            |
| Séverine Diallo           | GIZ           | Observer                            |
| Elena Hald                | GIZ           | Observer                            |
| Rocio Vazquez             | LuxDev        | Observer                            |
| Anda Anica                | RoAid's       | Observer                            |
| Beatrice Tschinkel        | SNV           | GrEEEn                              |
| Genevieve Parker-Twum     | SNV           | Observer                            |

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|                    |           |          |
|--------------------|-----------|----------|
| Benedicte Marcilly | SNV       | Observer |
| Sonja Fransen      | UNU MERIT | Expert   |

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## Annex 2 – Project Forms



# ProGres Migration

## Component 4 Local Governance of Migration

### Main objectives

**General objective:** Supporting the implementation of the Tunisian migration strategy at the local level.

**Specific objectives :**

1. Improving the local actors' knowledge of the migratory situation of their respective territories.
2. Reinforcing the inclusion of migration issues in the local development strategies.
3. Reinforcing the local services aimed at social integration and job entry for Youth.
4. Supporting local initiatives dedicated to the insertion of vulnerable population or to the relations between Tunisian territories and their diasporas.
5. Encouraging the transfer of experiences between the territories covered by the project and other Tunisian territories.

### Main features

The approach combines actions addressing the local governance of migration and concrete actions targeting both effective and potential migrants. The activities are structured around five areas :

- A range of diverse activities aimed at improving the local governance of migration and gathering all the stakeholders involved public, private and from the civil society.
  1. Collective elaboration of local migratory profiles.
  2. Facilitating territorial dialogues on the elaboration of Action plans of migration and development.
- Activities aimed at facilitating the integration into working life of young people « migrable » and the involvement of diasporas and all the actors in the local development of the targeted territories.
  3. Reinforcement of local ecosystem dedicated to professional integration: Training and networking of professionals, providing online mentoring and diaspora financing tools, mobilization on local authorities around "Clubs entreprendre". This is implemented by the NGO Mercy Corps.
  4. Contribution of the implementation of local Action plans « migration and development » by supporting projects (training and financing the projects holders). This support targets both small projects carried by vulnerable population and more challenging projects engaging both diasporas and local actors. The NGO GRDR is in charge of these activities.



EUTF in Tunisia



2018  
(36 months)



Tunisia  
(Médenine,  
Jendouba,  
Kasserine,  
Grand Tunis)



WITHIN THE  
MINISTRY OF SOCIAL  
AFFAIRS:

**DGCIM**  
Direction Générale de  
la Coopération  
Internationale en  
matière  
de Migration –  
General Direction of  
International  
Cooperation on  
Migration

## Main features - continued

- Activities for the capitalization and dissemination of local governance experiences in a research-action perspective.
- 5. Elaboration of a methodological tool on the process of integration of migration issues at the local level.
- 6. Partnership with a research center (IRMC) in order to support the operational team (GRDR, Mercy Corps) in a deep understanding of the context of local governance, socio-professional insertion issues (opportunities and challenges).

### Main expected results :

- 1200 young people enjoy support for access to employment or a professional integration project.
- 100 actors integrate the local concertation on migration issues in 4 Tunisian governorates
- The Tunisian government dispose of adequate tools to implement the national strategy on migration at the local level.

## How the project addresses the migration and development nexus

The project addresses the migration and development nexus at the local level and both its “positive” (how maximizing the added-value of migration for development throughout diaspora mobilization) and “negative” dimension (how minimizing the loss generated, throughout socio-economic integration of Youth). It aims at contributing to the emergence, in several Tunisian governments, of territorial approaches on migration issues. These approaches would integrate in a balanced manner the positive and negative dimensions, starting from the consideration that causes and effect of migration are much more pregnant at the local level.

## Key challenges faced during implementation

- Making work together very different partners (small and big NGOS, research center)
- The inclusion of research activities in the project : capitalizing this approach in the perspective of the phase 2
- The participation of desocialized and unemployed youth throughout the “Clubs entrepreneurs” by Mercy Corps.

## Key good practices that can be tested during implementation

- The dialogue between central and local authorities.
- The process of selection of the targeted territories as the result of the analysis of the migratory from the steering committee.

*“It was interesting to observe the responsiveness of local actors (example of the Clubs Entrepreneurs). They were able to implement quickly tangible measures targeting local population in the context of Covid-19, in partnership with the local authorities.”*

### During the COVID19 crisis

The operational team (GRDR and Mercy Corps) and the local actors have implemented specific activities related to the covid-19 crises, mainly in order to raise awareness among the local population. GRDR also led a review on the diasporas’ mobilization against the spread of the covid-19 in Tunisia.



# SUMMIT DIASPORAS

## The National Summit of Diasporas Project

### Main objectives

- Implement Law 125/2014 (Reform of National development System): Articles 2 and 26 give a prominent role to migrant organizations and associations in the Italian development system;
- Strengthen skills and competences of diaspora associations on development cooperation;
- Contribute to the definition of a new narrative on migration and development;
- Build an inclusive representation of diaspora associations within the Italian development system.

### Main features

- 20 territorial meetings held in several locations with diasporas, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), Private Sector, Local Authorities (about 300 organizations, of which 50 engaged in development activities) held;
- 3 National Events “National Summit of Diasporas” (the last took place in Rome on December 14, 2019, engaging 200 associations) held;
- Information about the development reform law (L.125/2014) and the opportunities offered provided;
- Migrant entrepreneurs involved in the process (public private partnerships);
- The Smart Way trainings (100 people trained);
- Technical assistance provided for 30 associations;
- Mapping diaspora organizations and their competencies (156 associations mapped);
- Creation of regional networks (Sardinia, Emilia Romagna, Milan, Genoa, Naples) supported

### How the project addresses the migration and development nexus

The project is built on the process of diaspora engagement, based on the Italian Law on International Cooperation identification of migrants' associations as subjects of cooperation.

The M&D nexus is addressed through the activities of empowerment of the associations (trainings, distance learning, meetings with experts, technical assistance); the promotion of partnerships with CSOs, private sector, and academia finalized to the design and implementation of development projects; fostering a new narrative on migration in Italy, by involving members of diasporas and journalists from different communities in cultural activities; gathering inputs and recommendations on how to enhance the Italian Cooperation's strategies and activities (political participation).



Italian Agency for  
Development  
Cooperation

Fondazioni for  
Africa

Fondazione  
Charlemagne



2018  
(18 months)



Italy



Fondazioni for  
Africa

Fondazione  
Charlemagne

Studiare e  
Sviluppo

Cespi

Ministry of Labour

Associazione Le  
Reseau

Agenzia DIRE

## Key challenges faced during implementation

- Maintaining relations and continuous feedback with the associations, at local and national level → the creation of local networks depends on the individual commitment;
- Heterogeneity of the associations and the need of specific support, according to the level of maturity, characteristics, mission, etc.
- The opportunities and challenges are many, and not exclusively related to International Cooperation. The National Diaspora Summit became a “brand”, a “space” for the associations and a “tool” to facilitate the dialogue with Institutions. The next steps needed are the set up of an independent and autonomous entity (at the moment the project is lead directly by AICS) and the promotion of more active participation from other Institutions (Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Labour).

## Key good practices that can be tested during implementation

- Active participation of CSOs during the technical assistance and an increasing collaboration among different entities;
- A link with journalists of the diaspora communities has been established;
- In the last call for proposals for local authorities (financing development projects lead by Municipalities and Regions) the regranting mechanism has been introduced. Municipalities and Regions can involve small associations of migrants (and other CSOs) at local level through subcontracts for the implementation of specific activities (in Italy and in the Countries of origin).

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*Spontaneously, some associations that took part to the technical assistance activities (focused on administrative rules, accountability, CSOs registration, etc.), organized meetings at local level in order to transmit the information to other associations*

*During the final National Diaspora Summits the migrant associations participation is always very active and emotional; many representatives underline the fact that there is no similar space for their voices..*

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### During the COVID19 crisis

The project was formally suspended at the end of March; the coordination team organized meetings with the associations in the period March-June in order to continue the process of creation of local networks.

### Project site:

<https://summitdiaspore.org/>



# PDLP

## Pakistan Diaspora Leadership Programme - UK

### Main objectives

#### Specific objective:

- The overall objective of the PDLP is to identify, bring together, and develop the leadership skills of a group of diasporas 'multipliers', to increase their impact as leaders within their communities in the UK and support Pakistan. To strengthen cultural relations between Pakistan and the UK.
- The project objectives are aligned to British Council's own objective of creating international opportunities for the people of the UK and other countries and building trust between them worldwide.

#### Expected results:

- Amplifying diaspora initiatives- the multiplier effect
- Building bridges between UK and Pakistan
- Building diaspora voice and confidence
- Developing diaspora leadership

### Main features

#### Thanks to the project:

- Developed a volunteer network of 112 emerging leaders- experts and professionals to work within their communities in the UK and in Pakistan with key stakeholders and government on social programmes.
- 54 women have been trained to date
- **Almost 60% of alumni are leading or supporting programmes in Pakistan**
- **90% are actively working on voluntary programmes in addition to their day jobs**
- The programme has an Advisory Board of senior professionals supporting in recruitment and selection of cohorts and sharing relevant opportunities through their personal and professional networks
- Increased interest from the diaspora community in the initiative with promising financial and technical support
- Engagement with Pakistani origin HNI (High Net Individuals) from business community, who are also well-respected mobilisers for their communities

### How the project addresses the migration and development nexus

Migration is an inherent part of the project and as with most diaspora community's migration - doesn't stop with one generation. The initial Pakistani Diaspora in UK (current grand-parent generation) were invited to be part of the workforce in UK in 1950s to contribute to the industry and economy.



British Council  
Pakistan

Rangoonwala  
Foundation UK



2015  
(60 months)



London, UK



British Council  
Pakistan

Common  
Purpose

The process remains alive and fluid in families for generations vis-à-vis marriages, work and study opportunities etc. The increased engagement of the diaspora in the country of origin through charitable and volunteer projects has resulted in encouraging the members of extended families in Pakistan to understand that there are opportunities available in Pakistan and they need not immigrate for jobs. Hence, changing perceptions about direction of migration. There is also an emerging trend of Diaspora investing and setting up businesses in Pakistan and opening new doors for the Pakistani population. This is also a positive indicator that skills and knowledge can be used for indigenous opportunities

## Key challenges faced during implementation

- Initial scepticism in the diaspora community. Trust deficit in the backdrop of government programmes perceived as watch dog programmes in the name of security, especially in the context of post Sept 2001 landscape.
- Recruiting relevant and motivated applicants for the programme, as the nature of the programme was 100% voluntary.
- Keeping the collective alumni group motivated and supporting them in the field of social action programmes without any financial funding.

## Key good practices that can be tested during implementation

- Ensuring diverse and cross sectoral cohorts with cultural relations approach to engage with the diaspora based on mutuality and cultural intelligence
- Post training Alumni network meet ups; engaging with eminent stakeholders from different sectors (public, commercial, charitable, arts) enhancing their personal networks and giving them a platform to share expertise and knowledge
- Introducing digital and social platforms for continued opportunity and knowledge sharing

### During the COVID19 crisis

The PDLP 2020 which was planned to be delivered in October 2020 might be delivered online. Since it is a programme where individual and group interaction is a key factor, consideration will be given to programme design and platform selection. The programme should be delivered to a lesser number and more intensive sessions should replace the physical visits to organisations and engagement with mentors. Since all alumni (in groups) develop project prototypes as the final outcome of the training programme some COVID-19 related initiatives are emerging from those projects.

We are also currently exploring how to adapt and scale this project for young people of the diaspora community. One of our Alumni shared as an example of adapting its activities to the Covid-19 crisis. Nadia Bokhari - an academic pharmacist from University College of London- is a member of the Pakistani diaspora community in the UK. She wanted to 'give back' and has done through professional and philanthropic routes. Appointed as the Global lead for gender equity at the International Pharmaceutical Federation, she worked to empower and support female pharmacists in Pakistan.

Through her pharmacy networks, she co-authored ten-step guidelines for the protection of frontline pharmacy teams during the pandemic. She has been doing my rounds in the media by advocating the role of the pharmacist during the pandemic on National TV and radio in Pakistan.

*“Alumni connecting through the programme organized three global development workshops in Islamabad demonstrating the potential of utilizing the network for greater impact. In March 2020, UPSIGN (UK-Pakistan Science and Innovation Global Network) in collaboration with UKRI (UK Research and Innovation), facilitated by the Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF), over 150 academics from the UK, Pakistan and South Asia, congregated in Islamabad to meet and develop consortia to address solutions to the global development challenges in Pakistan and the region on topics of Agri-tech, Healthcare and Clean Energy/Water, respectively. Activities were around consortia building to develop trans-disciplinary research solutions addressing development goals for Pakistan and the region. These activities also provided an opportunity for new connections to be established between the participants. The UPSIGN team were afforded a personal audience with Imran Khan (Prime Minister of Pakistan).”*



# MEETAFRICA

## European Mobilisation for African Entrepreneurship

### Main objectives

Supporting creation of economic activity in Africa through diaspora economic engagement and entrepreneurship in their countries of origin.

#### Specific objectives:

- Improving the ecosystem of organizations supporting diaspora entrepreneurship
- Supporting diaspora entrepreneurs through technical and financial assistance

### Main features

MeetAfrica II aims to implement innovative methodologies with a cross-border approach on a macroeconomic level as well as individual level through a transnational platform between Europe and Africa which goal is to promote European and African Entrepreneurship ecosystems, increase their collaboration and improve their communication to final beneficiaries.

#### Specific activities :

- Creation of an Euro-African digital platform
- Capacity building of public, non-profit or private organizations supporting entrepreneurs
- Training program for diaspora entrepreneurs (1000 entrepreneurs oriented, 140 supported)
- Setting up a contest and grants for diaspora entrepreneurs (170 grants)

The expected results of Meet Africa are essentially to build a European and African ecosystem for entrepreneurs through structured connections and partnerships within stronger and skilled organizations and tools contributing to better inform and orient entrepreneurs.

MeetAfrica I received 279 candidates, 80 entrepreneurs have been supported and 36 startups created. These businesses hired 272 temporary or permanent

### How the project addresses the migration and development nexus

MeetAfrica II is focused on developing economic activities in Africa by strengthening talents mobilization and diaspora entrepreneurship to launch new markets or develop opportunities.

The project provides support as well to the European and African ecosystem and to the entrepreneurs willing to launch business or already reinstalled in their countries of origin.



EUTF  
AFD



2020  
(36 months)



Tunisia  
Morocco  
Senegal  
Ivory Coast  
Cameroon  
Mali  
(Nigeria, Ghana  
by GIZ)



GIZ : as they will be operating a similar project and coordinating with us

Implementing Partners will be selected during inception phase

Thus, Meet Africa II aims to develop knowledge and know-how of the organizations supporting entrepreneurs in Africa and connecting organizations in both European and African spaces through training, bootcamps, specific support, funding, networking and a digital platform promoting efficient European and African initiatives.

Furthermore, the project contributes to support diaspora entrepreneurs on both spaces by enhancing their skills through specific trainings, coaching and mentoring by diaspora high talents and providing funding for early stage start-ups and for experienced entrepreneurs to scale up their activities

This approach aims to maximize the positive effects of migration on development by improving diaspora engagement and capacity to contribute to the dynamism of the African economy.

## Key good practices that can be tested during implementation

- Meet Africa II aims to create a unique digital Euro-African platform to improve information and orientation for diaspora entrepreneurs
- The project proposes to create innovative approaches to connect European and African ecosystems to build bridges, improve communication and imagine new collaborations
- Meet Africa II is willing to test cross-border technical and financial support to entrepreneurs through an equity-free grant to enable access to investments and fundraising

### During the COVID19 crisis

MeetAfrica contributes to the economic development of African countries by supporting entrepreneurship. The project will be focusing on startups in healthcare sectors facing public health issues or other essential sectors during this crisis. On a macroeconomic level, the project ambitions to support businesses and organizations supporting the private sector to maintain jobs and facing social and economic issues.

### Project site:

<http://meetafrica.fr/>



# MBI

## Support to the implementation of the national strategy for moroccans residing abroad (MEA) (Morocco)

### Main objectives

**Specific objective:** Moroccans living in Belgium are supported to achieve productive investments in Morocco.

**Expected results:**

Mobilization and individualized tutoring offered in Belgium and Morocco to support Moroccan project holders residing abroad (MRA) in the creation of businesses in Morocco.

The establishment of a MRA ecosystem of Belgian entrepreneurs in Belgium is supported.

### Main features

- Establishment of an innovative public-private partnership serving the needs of the target audience;
- Following the deployment of MBI action plan, 384 potential projects holders were prospected and informed about project's offer. Through the involvement of several stakeholders (The Ministry Delegate in charge of Moroccans Residing Abroad, AWEX, CRI, Forum Maroco-belge etc.) this communication plan was enhanced by adopting a digital strategy (emailing, social networks (LinkedIn)) and audio-visual approach (phoning and video conference);
- Launch of a post-creation coaching process. Following the development and deployment of an integrated communication/ action plan, 15 candidates of whom 5 women were interviewed and selected;
- Moroccan entrepreneurial ecosystem visibility has been enhanced with these two actions. Firstly, by the development of a digital guidebook on the creation of businesses (available on MBI web-based platform hosted by MeM by CGEM). Secondly, via the implementation of a global approach in order to support project holders in the post-creation phase both in terms of coaching (mentoring and coaching) and implementing a service information hotline program.
- Establishment of an ecosystem of MRA Belgian entrepreneurs in Belgium supported in the Brussels, Walloon and Flemish regions;
- Following 3 institutional exchange missions held in Belgium, a strategic partnership between Enabel and Hub Brussels/ 1819 was established. This partnership will help the implementation of a Hotline dedicated to informing project holders. These missions also allowed the project MBI to be aware of the various services offered by actors in the Belgian entrepreneurial ecosystem in order to provide an adequate support from the host country.



Belgian  
Ministry of  
Foreign Affairs



2018  
(48 months)



Morocco &  
Belgium



The Ministry  
Delegate in  
charge of  
Moroccans  
Residing Abroad

General  
Confederation of  
Moroccan  
Enterprises  
(CGEM)

## How the project addresses the migration and development nexus

In terms of emigration, MBI is in line with:

- The Moroccan Constitution: Articles 19, 17 18 and 169;
- The Royal Instructions of His Majesty: Speech by His Majesty King Mohammed VI and Speech by His Majesty King Mohammed VI of August 20, 2012.
- The objectives of sustainable development: Objectives 8 and 10, New York Declaration;
- The National Strategy for Moroccans Residing Abroad (NSMRA), which aims to mobilize the competences of Moroccans around the world;
- Creation by CGEM of the new region devoted to Moroccans entrepreneurs of the world- MeM by CGEM.

MBI is part of a global approach designed to strengthen the role of Moroccan diaspora, emigrants and descendants with the aim of developing their country of origin. Although money transfers come first, the creation of productive investments, proper jobs and the sharing of know-how are a real added value to the country. This specific approach will boost the socio-economic development of both host and origin country.

## Key challenges faced during implementation

- Identification and mobilization of the specific target group in Belgium. Because of economic issues following the Covid-19 pandemic, setting up a communication campaign to mobilize Belgian MAR is a real challenge;
- Partner country political situation;
- Providing support even in a crisis situation (i.e. Covid-19 pandemic, etc.) by using digital tools to facilitate support;
- Supporting the implementation of a diverse and multi-stakeholder entrepreneurial ecosystem in Belgium.

## Key good practices that can be tested during implementation

- Public-private partnership, B2B;
- Development of entrepreneurship support tools adapted to the Moroccan context;
- Mentoring entrepreneurs from their host country

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lpRkezLoIGM&t=8s>

### During the COVID19 crisis

After a needs' assessment developed with national partners, MBI identified different actions to better respond to the COVID-19 crisis such as:

- The implementation of a business intelligence tool (Digimind Intelligence);  
This tool allows screening potential business opportunities and providing information about the business climate in Morocco to project holders supported by the project MBI.
- Specific and adapted support for CGEM beneficiaries;  
Individualized support is tailored to serve needs of the entrepreneurs and their businesses. The CGEM supports its beneficiaries according to the priority actions identified upstream, through training and coaching sessions offered via computer and phone.

# PMD

## Programm Migration and Diaspora

### Main objectives

Key actors in partner countries are making greater use of regular migration and diaspora involvement to achieve their development goals.

### Main features

Focus on Knowledge Transfer Methods. We train migrants in how to use knowledge transfer tools to best guarantee the transfer of the knowledge acquired in Germany.

### How the project addresses the migration and development nexus

The program works on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development and is implemented by the Centre for International Migration and Development, a working group of the German Agency for International Cooperation and the Central Placement Office of the Federal Employment Agency.

The Global Pact on Migration, Agenda 2030 as well as the Skilled Migration Act and the National Action Plan for Integration provide the framework for the activities.

The project consists of three components, although not every component is implemented in all countries:

#### 1. Regular labour migration and mobility

Many migrants who have lived and worked in Germany later return to their country of origin, which benefits local employers. The PMD supports the transfer of know-how, e.g. through training and salary subsidies.

It also informs potential migrants about regular migration routes and the risks of irregular migration. When recruiting from abroad, it checks their acceptability for the labour market in the country of origin and in the country of destination.

Counselling centres are informed about the conditions for work and educational migration.

#### 2. Diaspora Cooperation

The program supports so-called diaspora experts in bringing their expertise to local institutions. It supports diaspora organizations that carry out their own projects with local partner organizations. Migrants also receive support in setting up businesses in their countries of origin.

Migrants also make a financial contribution by transferring money to their families. With the price comparison portal [geldtransfair.de](http://geldtransfair.de) they can easily get an overview of the transfer fees of different providers.



German Federal  
Ministry for  
Economic  
Cooperation and  
Development



2019  
(36 months)



Global Program  
implemented in  
25 Countries

### 3. Migration Governance

The PMD advises governments and international partners in their policy, organizational and strategic development on migration. Through training courses and the deployment of experts in the institutions, staff are given further professional training and the development and implementation of sustainable migration policy is promoted.

#### Key challenges faced during implementation

- The component returning experts relies on the migration profile of each and every country as well as labour market condition in both the host country and the country of origin. The Tunisian profile is very particular in terms of migration decisions. A return is seen as a failure. The decision for departure is mostly taking in the objective to stay for good. The Qualification of the Tunisians makes this happen. So incentives for return are every difficult to create.
- As most of diaspora members, Tunisians are very critical about how things should work in their country of origin. Getting rid of clichés is very challenging.

#### Key good practices that can be tested during implementation

- Transnational Assistance for entrepreneurs
- Working with a Team in the country of origin and the host country is a very efficient and authentic approach to best address the needs and the specificity of Diaspora Members
- We built close relations to the different diasporas and associations.

“

*Coinsence is a platform that provides a range of tools to empower people, organizations and communities to collaborate on initiatives that benefit society. Karim Chabrak is a German Tunisian living in Germany who is considered a transnational entrepreneur and who has successfully been accompanied by the PMD with its offer business ideas for development. This component of the program aims to assist impact entrepreneurs who want to contribute to innovation and the development of their countries of origin by setting up their businesses and creating jobs. We assist them with trainings, networks, coaching and a little financial support.*

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#### During the COVID19 crisis

There are huge challenges. We need to use digital formats of exchange. Mobility is very important for our project; eg. the diaspora members as short term experts need to travel to the country of origin to accomplish their missions. We are now trying to figure out how to proceed in the future with digital solutions as options but never as substitutes.

**Project site:**

[Cimonline.de](http://Cimonline.de)

PMD – a project by GIZ



# GREEN

## Boosting Green Employment and Enterprise Opportunities in Ghana

### Main objectives

#### Overall objective:

To contribute to addressing the root causes of irregular migration by supporting sustainable and climate resilient local economies, green jobs and development in regions of departure, transit and return.

#### Specific objectives :

1. To support the transition of local economies to green and climate resilient development.
2. To improve the employability and entrepreneurship capabilities of selected people, by matching them with market opportunities and mentoring them into (self-)employment and enterprise development (with a focus on green and climate resilient local economies).
3. To create and strengthen local ecosystems that support youth (self-)employment and the development of MSMEs.

### Main features

The GrEEn project is in its inception phase until 05/2020.

#### The overarching results of this action are:

- Employability and entrepreneurship capabilities of youth, women and returnees are improved in sectors of economic opportunities, for the benefit of green and climate resilient local economies.
- SMEs, offering decent and sustainable jobs to youth, women and returnees, are incubated and/or accelerated and contribute to green and climate resilient local economies.

#### Key targets for those two results include:

- At least 5,000 people trained and coached for employability and entrepreneurship (youth: 60% to 80%, women: 40% to 60% and returnees: 10 %);
- At least 3,500 people have created or developed self-employment opportunities (youth: 60% to 80%, women: 40% to 60%, and returnees: 5% to 10%);
- At least 100 M/SMEs have been incubated or accelerated to expand their business (disaggregated by number of employees, sector and district);
- At least 1,500 decent and sustainable jobs created by M/SMEs (youth: 60% to 80%, women: 40% to 60%).



EU



11/2019  
(48 months)



GHANA



UNCDF

Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development, Regional Coordinating Councils in two regions

Relevant line ministries

Private sector organisations, including incubation/acceleration hubs and training service providers

Civil society

## How the project addresses the migration and development nexus

GrEEn aims at contributing to addressing the root causes of irregular migration through green and climate resilient local economic development and improving future prospects of beneficiaries, by creating employment and enterprise opportunities in selected sectors and regions.

### Key challenges faced during implementation

Since we are still in the inception phase, it is too early to talk about challenges during implementation.

One challenge we faced is identifying returnees and returnee organisations in the two focal regions. Getting reliable data on returnees is difficult and is mainly done through coordination with other agencies such as IOM and GIZ.

### Key good practices that can be tested during implementation

Project is still in inception phase.

GrEEn wants to attract diaspora finance for incubation and acceleration of inclusive businesses in three sectors (agriculture, renewable energy, WASH). GrEEn will also mobilise Ghanaian diaspora to volunteer to mentor/coach young, women or returnee entrepreneurs and provide tailored business advisory support.

### During the COVID19 crisis

- Conducted survey among service providers to assess the impact of COVID-19 on their capacity and needs to provide continuous support to MSMEs, during the crisis and in the recovery period
- Delayed youth and MSME surveys and FGDs to be conducted during needs assessment due to restrictions; focus on Key Informant Interviews via phone and literature instead; looking into options for conducting FGDs remotely; surveys to be done online and through phone
- Organised virtual challenge in two regions to identify solutions by entrepreneurs to COVID-19
- Piloting mobile app to be used in skills development (for self-study and blended learning)
- Piloting platform for provision of online incubation/acceleration services to SMEs
- Organisation of webinars and calls to engage with stakeholders and partners

### Project site:

<https://snv.org/project/green-boosting-green-employment-and-enterprise-opportunities-ghana>