

Diaspora support programmes in development cooperation

Examples from Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, Switzerland
and from the European level

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Water Revolution in Africa: the project that the Austrian diaspora initiatives CHIALA and Radio Afrika TV are implementing in Cameroon in cooperation with the Austrian company Vitalaris aims to provide the general population with access to clean drinking water and at the same time create a source of income. More information:
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Basic issues: discussion papers on development policies, international cooperation and south-north cultural exchange, as well as anti-racist campaigning.

The views expressed in this publication are those of the author, and not necessarily those of the editor/VIDC.

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Abbreviations

ADA	Austrian Development Agency
ADDO	African Diaspora Development Organisations
ADEE	Afghan Diaspora Engagement in Europe
ADEPT	Africa-Europe Diaspora Development Platform
AFD	French Development Agency
AICS	Italian Agency for Cooperation and Development
AU	African Union
AUC	African Union Commission
BER	Berliner entwicklungspolitischer Ratschlag e.V.
BiH	Bosnia and Herzegovina
BiHD4D	Bosnia and Herzegovina Diaspora for Development
BMZ	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development
CIDO	Citizens and Diaspora Organisations Directorate
CIM	Centre for International Migration and Development
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
DANIDA	Danish International Development Agency
DiPS	Diaspora Project Support
DO	Diaspora Organisation
DP4D	Diaspora Professionals for Development
DRC	Danish Refugee Council
EU	European Union
EUDiF	European Union Global Diaspora Facility
FDFA	Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (Switzerland)
FMD	Expert Fund Migration and Diaspora
FORIM	Forum of Migrants' International Solidarity Organisations
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für internationale Zusammenarbeit
GPMD	Global Programme Migration and Development
IOM	International Organisation for Migration
LEZ	Die Landesstelle für Entwicklungszusammenarbeit
MPFA	Migration Policy Framework for Africa
NGO	Non-governmental organisation
OSIM	Migrants' International Solidarity Organisations
PASPED	Programme to combat illegal migration through support to the private sector and job creation in Senegal
PLASEPRI	Support Platform for the Private Sector and the Promotion of the Senegalese Diaspora in Italy
PMD	Programme Migration and Diaspora
PRA-OSIM	Project Support Programme of Migrants' International Solidarity Organisations
SDC	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
VIDC	Vienna Institute for International Dialogue and Cooperation
ZAV	International Deployment Services (Germany)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This study on diaspora support programmes in development cooperation is part of the Vienna Institute for International Dialogue and Cooperation's focus on diaspora policies and is financially supported by the Austrian Development Agency (ADA). It aims to provide practical guidance to institutional actors on the development of a diaspora support mechanism for Austria and to stimulate innovative forms of funding. The study examines current European Commission diaspora support programmes and focuses on those in five European countries: Denmark, France, Germany, Italy and Switzerland, based on which recommendations are developed.

The literature and policies of the aforementioned countries show that diasporas are recognised as development actors due to their transnational characteristics which enable them to establish relations between their countries of origin and residence and to play important roles in transferring knowledge and skills. Diasporas, individually and collectively, help improve the living conditions of their families and communities in their countries of origin through remittances and investments. Development agencies have thus created support mechanisms to enable diasporas to realise their potential and increase the effectiveness of their development activities. Diasporas are also active in integration processes in their host countries; this study however focuses exclusively on development cooperation and humanitarian aid.

Research for this study was conducted during April and May and the report was finalised in June 2021. The report consists of four sections: firstly, an introduction which describes the subject and research methods; secondly, definitions of diaspora and Diaspora Organisations (DOs), their potentials for development, and support approaches in the selected countries. The third section presents examples of current initiatives; this is based on a desk study, and both uses pre-existing data and reviews the policies of the selected countries. In the fourth section, the study provides recommendations related to diaspora engagement in development cooperation.

A review of examples in Austria's neighbouring countries and other EU member states showed that the countries covered in this report are particularly active

in this area and involved in a range of initiatives. Examples in which diasporas play key roles, or are the main beneficiaries, are included in this report. France and Switzerland also consider gender dimensions in their initiatives. In France, for instance, funding for particular projects is available in the fields of education and health for women and girls.

The initiatives and level of support vary from country to country and depend on the focus of the projects. Most fall within the policy frameworks of the selected countries and include capacity building programmes, networking and advocacy, project funding, diaspora entrepreneurship, and partnerships with the Global South to pave the way for diaspora engagement in their countries of origin. In the following, we present initiatives and support approaches on European level and in five selected countries.

Denmark

The Danish Development Cooperation engages diasporas as actors in development and humanitarian aid. Two examples of such engagement are the Diaspora Program and the Diaspora Emergency Action & Coordination (DEMAC) initiative.

Diaspora Programme

Diaspora Programme is a diaspora-specific initiative established by the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) and funded by the Danish International Development Agency (Danida) to support Afghanistan and Somalia DOs. It provides financing for diaspora-led development projects, networking, capacity building and support for diaspora entrepreneurs. The programme has a funding mechanism called 'Action Track', which provides small grants of up to DKK 100,000 (EUR 13,500) to less experienced DOs and larger grants of DKK 100,000-500,000 (EUR 13,500-67,240) to DOs with more experience. Applicants for large projects are expected to contribute 15 to 20 per cent of the project budget, either as cash or in kind.

Diaspora Emergency Action & Coordination

DEMAC is an initiative promoting diaspora engagement in humanitarian actions. It is funded by the Unit-

ed States Agency for International Development (USAID) and run by the DRC. The budget for the 2020-2022 phase of DEMAC is USD 1.48 million (EUR 1.22 million). The initiative seeks to involve DOs in humanitarian responses and to facilitate coordination between DOs and humanitarian institutions. To this end, DEMAC works to strengthen the capacities of DOs, to raise awareness of their capabilities, and to advocate for their engagement in humanitarian activities.

France

In France, diasporas are supported as partners in the development process. This report addresses two different initiatives which are currently being implemented: firstly, an umbrella organisation for DOs, and secondly, a diaspora entrepreneurship initiative:

Forum of Migrants' International Solidarity Organisations

The Forum of Migrants' International Solidarity Organisations (FORIM) is an umbrella organisation connecting DOs in France, through which the French Development Agency (AFD) provides capacity building programmes for DOs. Each year, FORIM sponsors DOs to implement more than 75 micro-projects - contributing EUR 15,000 per project - in the fields of education, health, water supply, agriculture and diaspora entrepreneurship.

European Mobilisation for Entrepreneurship in Africa – MEET Africa

MEET Africa is a platform supporting African diaspora entrepreneurs, co-funded by AFD and the EU, and implemented by Expertise France, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) and the Anima Investment Network. MEET Africa connects diaspora entrepreneurs, provides counselling, workshops and grants for business start-ups in Africa. MEET Africa's total budget from 2020 to 2023 is EUR 8.5 million, and it is expected to fund 150 projects in 2021.

Germany

With regards to diaspora engagement, Germany has the most diverse and extensive initiatives in Europe, at both federal and state levels. These include a funding mechanism for DOs, the moveGLOBAL e. V. umbrella organisation, and support for individual diaspora

members in the form of diaspora entrepreneurship and training for diaspora experts.

Programme Migration and Diaspora

Programme Migration and Diaspora (PMD) has a budget of EUR 69 million from the German Federal Ministry of Economic, Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and is being implemented by GIZ and its partners between 2019 and 2022. The PMD provides a fund of up to EUR 44,000 for DOs to implement projects, as well as capacity building programmes and consulting. DOs must contribute 10 per cent of the project budget. The PMD also supports diaspora members who want to start businesses, in addition to diaspora experts who carry out short-term development assignments in their countries of origin.

The Expert Fund Migration and Diaspora (FMD)

The FMD is being carried out by GIZ during the period 2019-2024. It has a total budget of EUR 19 million and helps diaspora experts through training and salary top-ups to return and contribute to the development of their countries of origin in the Global South. This programme has been running since the 1980s and has enabled around 15,000 specialists to return.

WIDU.africa online platform: Promoting direct investment in Africa

This project is being implemented between 2018 and 2021 by GIZ. With an estimated budget of EUR 2 million, the platform helps African diasporas living in Germany, Austria, France and Switzerland to invest in Africa. Since the platform's launch, around 9,000 sponsors and entrepreneurs have registered and 1,300 projects have been approved and are currently being implemented.

Support to the African Union on Migration and Displacement

This project is funded with a grant of EUR 6 million from BMZ and is being implemented by GIZ in partnership with the African Union (AU). It supports the AU to lead migration governance in Africa through training and assistance in the implementation of the Migration Policy Framework for Africa (MPFA), as well as promoting the MPFA at the regional and national levels in AU member states and strengthening the focus areas of diaspora cooperation, labour migration and protection regimes.

State Level: moveGLOBAL e. V.

moveGLOBAL e.V. is an example of networking between DOs. It is an umbrella association of the Entwicklungspolitischer Ratschlag e.V. (BER) in Berlin, which enables coordination between its 31 DO members. moveGLOBAL e.V. supports and empowers these DOs through counselling, networking, workshops and conferences, as well as advocating for their recognition and visibility at municipality and national levels.

Italy

According to Italian law (No. 125, adopted in 2014) the diaspora is recognised as a development partner alongside other development organisations. Following are two examples of initiatives that are currently being implemented in Italy, mainly focused on diaspora entrepreneurship, mapping and mobilisation.

Invest in Senegal

'Invest in Senegal' is a programme which supports the Senegalese diaspora to establish small and medium-sized businesses in their country of origin. The programme is funded by the EU with a grant of EUR 1.2 million and is being implemented by the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS) in Dakar and its partners. In 2021, fifty applicants will receive between EUR 5,000 to 30,000 - depending on their capabilities and experience - to set up businesses in six regions of Senegal.

Connect Albania

This project is funded by AICS and implemented by the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) in Albania and the UN Migration Agency. The project maps the Albanian diaspora in Italy, France and Belgium, connects them through the Connect Albania online platform, and encourages them to invest in Albania and to attract foreign investment.

Switzerland

The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) has established a framework for diaspora engagement in countries of residence and origin. Below are three examples that focus on advocacy and the creation of a framework for diaspora involvement in development cooperation.

The Africa-Europe Diaspora Development Platform

The Africa-Europe Diaspora Development Platform (ADEPT) is a network of more than 200 African DOs and individuals based in the EU, including in Norway, Switzerland and the UK. ADEPT is co-funded by the SDC and the EU and aims to professionalise African Diaspora Development Organisations (ADDOs) and to influence policies and practice in order to increase their development activities in Africa. The budget for the current phase of the project, which began in early 2018 and will continue until the end of 2021, amounts to CHF 1.85 million (EUR 1.7 million).

Bosnia and Herzegovina Diaspora for Development

The Bosnia and Herzegovina Diaspora for Development (BiHD4D) project is in its second phase (2016-2022) and is co-funded with grants of USD 5.05 million (EUR 4.15 million) from SDC, USD 461,513 (EUR 380,09) from the UNDP and USD 180,529 (EUR 148,68) from the IOM. BiHD4D aims to increase socio-economic opportunities for the people of BiH and to improve their living conditions by increasing diaspora engagement. The project's three main activities comprise liaising with the diaspora and government agencies through the Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, assisting municipalities to include the diaspora in development policy, and encouraging diaspora entrepreneurship in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Moldova – Making the Most of Migration

The aim of this project is to help the Moldovan diaspora to mobilise and cooperate with the Moldovan government in migration and development policies, as well as to encourage diaspora engagement in development and policy implementation. It also enables the Moldovan diaspora to help improve reintegration services for returning migrants. The project has a budget of CHF 7 million (EUR 6.38 million) and is currently in its second phase, which began at the start of 2019 and will continue until the end of 2022.

The European Union

The EU recognises diasporas as partners in development cooperation and sponsors diaspora support programmes in various countries. The EU Global Diaspora Facility (EUDiF) is an example of a diaspora-specific

project at the European level funded by the European Commission.

The EU Global Diaspora Facility

EUDiF is a pilot project currently being implemented by the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) with a budget of EUR 5 million for the period 2019-2022. EUDiF maps and publishes information about diasporas in 100 countries. It also provides capacity building programmes, networking and dialogue between DOs, and supports diaspora professionals who want to share their knowledge and experiences with their countries of origin.

Recommendations

After studying these initiatives, the author has concluded that with the necessary facilities and conditions, diasporas can effectively contribute to economic growth in their countries of origin. The researcher has developed four recommendations in relation to Austria:

R#1: A survey or community-specific surveys should be conducted on the backgrounds, capabilities, activities, and structures of DOs, as well as on opportunities and challenges faced in developing diaspora support policies in Austria.

R#2: Based on the findings, a support mechanism should be developed on state and regional levels in Austria that provides the right conditions and necessary resources to engage DOs in development cooperation and humanitarian aid. The proposed mechanism could cover the following approaches for DOs and individuals:

DIASPORA ORGANISATIONS

Networking: there should be a platform to connect DOs, other development NGOs and the ADA, in order to provide opportunities to exchange knowledge and experiences, as well as to build partnerships. The platform could be in the form of a government body dedicated to diasporas, or an umbrella organisation.

Capacity building programmes: The needs of DOs should be identified and based on these requirements. Trainings, workshops and conferences on various issues should be offered in order to enhance organisational and operational skills.

Funding development projects: A funding mechanism should be established to support small and medium-sized development projects in partnership with DOs, or led by DOs and their local partners in order to conduct development activities in countries of origin.

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS OF DIASPORAS

Diaspora entrepreneurship: Financial support and advice should be provided to diaspora entrepreneurs to create small businesses in their countries of origin and contribute to the economic growth of those countries in the Global South.

Mobilising diaspora experts: Support and advice should be provided to diaspora experts who wish to voluntarily share their knowledge and experience with organisations in the Global South. This support can be both for experts who would like carry out short-term projects, or those who wish to return to their country of origin.

R#3: Cooperation and coordination with diaspora countries of origin should take place in order to remove internal barriers to the development activities of diaspora members and organisations. This can be in the form of awareness campaigns for relevant departments in those countries, or through cooperation to create a strategy for the diaspora to be included in the development cooperation.

R#4: Partnerships with donors from other countries should be developed. This will help to share the costs of diaspora support programmes and development projects, as well as to enable diasporas to share experiences.

1. INTRODUCTION

In recent decades, development policymakers have recognised diasporas as actors with the potential to contribute to the development process (SDC, 2018). Diaspora members have helped reduce poverty and create opportunities for economic growth in their countries of origin, through remittances, entrepreneurship and knowledge transfer, as a result of which their role in development has been acknowledged in international debates (Padovan & Stocchiero, 2017). This means that migrants are not only considered as people in need, but also as development actors who can play a role in the economic growth of these countries. The starting point for the recognition of diaspora communities as development actors is their remittances to their countries of origin. This has led to the establishment of government bodies for DOs and individuals in various countries in order to support and mobilise these diasporas to effectively take part in the development process (SDC, 2018). As structured institutions, DOs are well placed to carry out wider development activities for communities in the Global South. European countries have therefore initiated various programmes, such as capacity building, networking, and funding mechanisms for development projects and diaspora investment, in order to boost and realise this potential for development in their countries of origin.

This study provides information related to current diaspora support programmes and documents examples of diaspora engagement in development cooperation and humanitarian assistance at the European level in five European countries: Denmark, France, Germany, Italy and Switzerland, and from the European Commission. After researching and reviewing the development policies and examples of diaspora-related initiatives in these countries, it was concluded that the selected countries are very active in supporting diasporas and their involvement in development cooperation and humanitarian assistance, and that various related initiatives are currently being implemented.

In line with the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) outlined in the 2030 Agenda, development policy must contribute to a decent and good life for all. This is to be achieved by advocacy for fair political, economic and social frameworks, as well as through the use of operational instruments. While humanitarian aid provides emergency assistance to people during and immediately

after disasters and conflicts, development cooperation has a more long-term effect. Its goal is to reduce poverty and hunger, to improve people's living conditions and to give them prospects for the future. Humanitarian aid and development cooperation are to be understood as a continuum, i.e. humanitarian aid measures or projects sometimes merge smoothly into development cooperation measures and projects. Some DOs and individuals are also active in integration activities in their countries of residence, however this study focuses only on diaspora involvement in development cooperation and humanitarian assistance. It aims to provide practical recommendations, inspired by examples in European countries, to various institutional actors to enable the development of a diaspora-funding programme for Austria and to stimulate innovative forms of funding.

Methodology

This is a desk study based on analysis of pre-existing data. The author carried out online research on diaspora support programmes in a number of European countries, including data published by governments, reports on development and humanitarian projects in which the diaspora has been involved, and articles published on diaspora engagement policies.

The internet was the main source of data for this study. Initially the researcher created a list of keywords with synonyms, as well as phrases using the title and objectives of the research. As there is a wealth of information on the internet, the researcher then tried to identify credible and relevant sources. To this end, the websites and reports preferred were those published by the development cooperation institutions of the selected countries, as well as websites of DOs that have benefited from diaspora-specific projects.

Additionally, the researcher used database sources through the online library of the University of Vienna, including the Electronic Journals Library and e-books. Google Scholar was also used as a search engine to locate relevant scientific publications. After defining the concepts, and reviewing and summarising the examples of existing initiatives in diaspora engagement and humanitarian aid in the selected countries, recommendations were developed to include in this report.

2. BACKGROUND

Diaspora definition

The term ‘diaspora’ is derived from the Greek word meaning ‘scattering of seeds’, and refers to groups of people who have experienced forced or violent expulsion (Anthias, 1998, p. 560). It has long been used to refer to the displacement of Jewish people, as well as to the Armenian, Greek, and African Diasporas. The term has been utilised extensively since the 1980s and its definition has been revised over time (Butler, 2001). At present however, ‘diaspora’ is widely applied to migrant groups and their descendants by academicians, politicians and development agencies (Kleist, 2017).

Various definitions of diaspora have been proposed to date, the simplest of which, according to Butler (2001), is the ‘dispersal of a people from its original homeland’. Grossman (2019, p. 1267) has compared and analysed the definitions of diaspora from different disciplines and defined it as ‘a transnational community whose members (or their ancestors) emigrated or were dispersed from their original homeland, but remain oriented to it and preserve a group identity’.

A more relevant definition to this study and to diaspora and development is provided by the European Commission (2020) in the European Union Global Diaspora Facility (EUDiF) project, according to which diaspora refers to ‘those emigrants and their descendants who actively maintain links with their country of heritage’.

Diaspora organisations

Diaspora organisations refers to organisations set up by migrants and diaspora groups in their host countries. According to Kleist (2017), DOs include cultural, migrant youth, and hometown associations, who are active in social service provision, humanitarian assistance, advocacy, political lobbying, or civil society involvement in the country of origin, as well as cultural integration activities in the country of residence.

In some cases, migrant associations are active in development cooperation, even though they are not formally registered. An example of this is an informal network of migrant workers from the author’s village in Hazarajat, Afghanistan, who have established a charitable fund through which they distribute food to poor

families in the village. They also supported the villagers to build their first ever school in 2002, where the author of this report began his education.

Diasporas as agents of change

Due to their simultaneous affiliations to both their countries of origin and residence, diasporas are able to act as agents of change (Kleist, 2017). They have information about the general situations in both countries and speak both languages (Kleist & Vammen, 2012). These transnational characteristics enable them to communicate effectively and facilitate collaboration between their countries of origin and residence. Their knowledge of culture, regions and general conditions help in identifying development priorities, procedures and contribute to the effectiveness of development activities.

In terms of resources for engagement in development cooperation, the IOM (2013) categorises the potential of diasporas into human, social, economic and cultural capital:

Human capital: Members of diasporas living abroad have been able to improve their knowledge and skills and they can share these skills and experiences with their country of origin.

Social capital: This refers to the networks and communication of diasporas. They connect with their countries of origin, with members of the same diaspora in other countries, and with friends and relatives. This is made easier by social media.

Economic capital: Diaspora-led trade initiatives between countries of origin and residence, small and medium-sized investments, and remittances to families and relatives lead to job opportunities and poverty reduction in their countries of origin.

Cultural capital: With its transnational character, diaspora can act as a bridge to establish cultural relations and mutual understanding between countries of origin and residence (IOM, 2013).

In comparison to the activities of individuals, DOs, according to Kleist (2017), generally carry out projects

on a wider scale by initiating development projects, social services, infrastructure and civil society initiatives. European development agencies have recognised this potential and have launched supporting initiatives to maximise the capacity of diasporas to take part in development processes in their countries of origin.

Diaspora in development policies

A range of initiatives for diaspora support exist within the frameworks of the development policies of the EU and the five selected countries, and these vary from country to country. The most common are capacity building, networking and advocacy, project funding and diaspora entrepreneurship. Partnerships with the Global South have also been considered as an attempt to pave the way for diaspora engagement in their countries of origin.

CAPACITY BUILDING

Capacity building is one of the most common diaspora support approaches in Europe. It is offered in the form of trainings, workshops, conferences and seminars to enhance the skills of DOs in project and financial management, application and report writing, as well as in various other topics related to migration and development.

NETWORKING AND ADVOCACY

Networking between DOs and other development actors takes place through 1) umbrella organisations, such as FORIM in France, or 2) connecting diaspora from the same country, such as mobilising Moldavian and Bosnia and Herzegovina diasporas in Switzerland. Networks create dialogues between DOs, development agencies and other development NGOs to exchange

knowledge and experience. Umbrella organisations play roles in creating awareness of the capabilities and experiences of DOs and making them visible to policy makers and donors.

FUNDING FOR PROJECTS

Based on the study of examples, budget mechanisms in selected European countries are allocated to DOs, supporting them to implement small or medium-sized development projects in the Global South, together with other development NGOs or their local partners. DOs registered in the selected countries and operating in accordance with their laws can apply for funding with a percentage of co-financing. This varies from country to country.

DIASPORA ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Development agencies also support diaspora entrepreneurs to invest in their countries of origin, which leads to the creation of job opportunities and economic growth. A major example of this initiative is Programme Migration and Diaspora in Germany, which has funded more than 700 start-ups and established more than 100 companies since 2009 (p. 17). Similar initiatives are currently underway in France, Italy and Denmark.

PARTNERSHIP WITH THE GLOBAL SOUTH

By partnering with the Global South, European countries are attempting to overcome barriers for diaspora engagement in those countries by supporting them. For example, GIZ's 'Support to the African Union on Migration and Displacement' project (p. 17) helps partner countries to provide a platform for diaspora engagement through building and evaluating national diaspora policies.

3. EXAMPLES OF CURRENT INITIATIVES

This section presents examples of diaspora support programmes in development cooperation and humanitarian aid from Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, Switzerland, and in the EU. After reviewing examples and policies of a number of European countries, it was concluded that the selected countries are the most active and currently support initiatives for strengthening and including diasporas in development policies. Among these initiatives are examples in which diasporas play key roles, or are the main beneficiaries, and about which sufficient information has been available to the researcher.

It is worth remembering that these examples were not selected based on evaluation, therefore there may be other related, ongoing initiatives and projects in the countries mentioned in this report, as well as in other European countries at different levels. With the exception of the EU, the countries are listed alphabetically and do not prioritise the examples.

Denmark

Civil society organisations (CSOs) in Danish development policy are generally recognised as important partners in development cooperation, alongside other national and international partners such as United Nations' entities, the European Union, the World Bank, Danish business organisations, and the governments with which Denmark cooperates (Lundsgaarde, 2019). Diaspora organisations, as parts of CSOs, are mentioned in particular, and are engaged and supported by the Danish Development Cooperation (DRC, n.d.).

Support programmes for DOs in Denmark are available via different mechanisms, including the Diaspora Programme, a special initiative for diasporas provided through the Danish Refugee Council (DRC), and Diaspora Emergency Action & Coordination (DEMAC).

Diaspora Programme

The Diaspora Programme is a special initiative supporting DOs of Afghanistan and Somalia and aims to engage them in development cooperation and humanitarian responses in their countries of origin. This pro-

gramme was established by DRC in 2010 and funded by the Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA). Through this programme, Denmark-based Afghani and Somali DOs serve as effective partners in development and humanitarian projects in those countries (DRC, 2019). The annual budget of this programme is around DKK 5.5 million (EUR 739,694). Between 2018 and 2021, the programme received around DKK 22.2 million (EUR 2.98 million) through a strategic partnership with DANIDA (S. Jarvis, personal communication, June 2021).

Support approaches

Support for the Diaspora Programme includes funding for projects through Diaspora Project Support (DiPS), capacity building, and consulting and networking:

PROJECT FUNDING

DiPS provides grants for Afghani and Somali DOs in Denmark to build their own capacities and to implement projects in Afghanistan and Somalia. The funding mechanism for these diaspora-led projects is called 'Action Track'. This includes two funding opportunities: 'Small Grants' of up to DKK 100,000 (EUR 13,500) for less experienced DOs, and 'Impact Grants' of DKK 100,000 to DKK 500,000 (EUR 13,500 to EUR 67,240) for larger projects to be carried out by more experienced DOs (DRC, 2021). Since the programme's inception, 60 DO projects have been funded, 38 of which are currently being implemented. For DiPS projects, DOs are expected to contribute 15 per cent of the total budget, of which 5 per cent should be cash and 10 per cent in kind. Sometimes exceptions are made for DOs which are unable to contribute at that level. (S. Jarvis, personal communication, June 2021).

CAPACITY BUILDING

DiPS offers trainings and workshops on various topics, including developing project proposals, report writing, project cycle management, finance and procurement in order to improve the capacities of DOs and their local partner organisations. It also provides indi-

vidual counselling on preparing project proposals for potential applicants (DRC, n.d. -a).¹ The DiPS ‘Small Grant’ is mainly for capacity building programmes of diaspora CSOs, and will increase from 2021 according to organisations’ needs and types of projects implemented (DRC, 2021).

HUMANITARIAN COORDINATION

This activity is carried out in collaboration with the Diaspora Emergency Action & Coordination (DEMAC) in countries other than the two covered by the Diaspora Programme. These activities enhance the capacity of DOs for humanitarian response and further coordination in Syria, Somalia, Nigeria, and Sierra Leone. (DRC, n.d. -b).

NETWORKING AND ADVOCACY

Voice Track is a new DiPS grant mechanism to support diaspora CSO actors across Europe and empower them to contribute to the betterment of the situation in their countries of origin, namely in Somalia and Afghanistan. This initiative includes facilitating participation in conferences, cooperation between different DOs on specific issues, dialogue with international stakeholders as well as with the governments of Somalia and/or Afghanistan (DRC, 2021).

Examples of current projects

Two DRC projects in diaspora entrepreneurship and networking are outlined below:

DIASPORA BUSINESS ENTREPRENEURS

The project is funded by the EU and is being implemented by the DRC’s Diaspora Programme in collaboration with the DRC Country Office in Ethiopia. The project aims to boost diaspora investment in the Ethiopian-Somali region. Through this initiative, DRC offers trainings for diaspora entrepreneurs residing in the EU, UK, US and Canada on developing individual business plans, accessing risk capital, obtaining Ethiopian ID, and providing advice on Ethiopia’s legal framework for investment (DRC, n.d. -b). The operating budget for the Diaspora Business Entrepreneurs Project is EUR 472,000 over a three year period. Senders and recipients of investments can receive a 50 percent markup as co-financing to get their businesses running. (S. Jarvis, personal communication, June 2021).

AFGHAN DIASPORA ENGAGEMENT IN EUROPE

Afghan Diaspora Engagement in Europe (ADEE) is funded by GIZ and implemented by DRC in cooperation with VIDC. ADEE aims to promote dialogue between various Afghan diaspora groups in Europe, as well as between these groups and the Afghan government in order to assist them to collaborate and thus engage more effectively. To this end, DRC has established the Afghan Diaspora Advisory Board to facilitate online workshops and events for the diaspora, in addition to online consulting on the Afghanistan National Diaspora Interaction Policy (ANDEP). A three-day conference was held in December 2019 in cooperation with the VIDC in Vienna, Austria (DRC, n.d. -c).

Diaspora Emergency Action & Coordination

DEMAC is a global initiative currently funded by USAID and run by DRC. It aims to identify and open up potential spaces for DOs to enhance their engagement in humanitarian responses, and to establish coordination between aid providers and DOs. DEMAC facilitated the participation of DOs at the 2016 World Humanitarian Summit in Istanbul. As part of the pre-summit meetings, DO representatives met the UN Secretary-General and presented a joint statement of diaspora commitment, endorsed by 43 organisations. In order to improve coordination, DEMAC has formalised Diaspora Liaisons within the United Nations Assistance Mission in Mogadishu and the Syrian NGO Alliance in Gaziantep since March 2018. (DEMAC, n.d.).

One of DEMAC’s initiatives is ‘diaspora mentoring’ for local aid actors. DEMAC selects mentors from the diaspora to help local organisations active in the field of humanitarian assistance in Syria, Nigeria, Sierra Leone and Somalia. The initiative is designed to provide an opportunity for diaspora members and organisations to utilise the skills, knowledge and expertise they have acquired in their new countries of residence in order to support humanitarian organisations operating in their countries of origin (DEMAC, n.d. -a).

The DEMAC budget for the 2020-2022 phase is USD 1.48 million (EUR 1.22 million) (S. Jarvis, personal communication, June 2021) and the initiative intends to focus on the following activities:

- Providing awareness on the current impacts and methods of DOs in humanitarian intervention;

¹ See events and workshops at drc.ngo/our-work/what-we-do/civil-society-engagement-cse/diaspora/events-and-workshops

- Organising events and workshops for DOs and humanitarian institutions to enhance knowledge and capacity on “systems and mechanisms that govern the provision of aid on both sides”;
- Furthering coordination and cooperation between diaspora and humanitarian institutions in humanitarian responses (DEMAC, n.d.).

The current phase of the DEMAC project is focused on Ukraine, Pakistan and Somalia. DEMAC strives to develop guidelines, tools and operational frameworks for DOs and humanitarian institutions in order to enhance the effectiveness of their humanitarian actions (DRC, n.d. –a).

France

There are two examples of diaspora support initiatives, networking and entrepreneurship in France, both supported by the French Development Agency (AFD): the umbrella organisation, Forum of Migrants’ International Solidarity Organisations (FORIM), which connects DOs to official French development cooperation with the AFD; and the European Mobilisation for Entrepreneurship in Africa (MEET Africa) project, which supports the African diaspora living in France and Germany to encourage entrepreneurship in their countries of origin.

Forum of Migrants’ International Solidarity Organisations

FORIM was established in 2002 as the representative body of Migrants’ International Solidarity Organisations (OSIM). AFD’s diaspora support programmes are mainly coordinated through FORIM, which represents 1,000 DOs in France originating from 70 countries in Africa, Asia, and Latin America. These DOs are active both in the integration of migrants in the host country and in the implementation of development projects in their countries of origin (AFD, 2019).

Support approaches

AFD support programmes, through FORIM, include funding development projects, capacity building, networking opportunities, and advocacy:

FUNDS FOR PROJECTS

AFD funds over 75 micro-projects annually in the fields of education, vocational training, access to health

services, clean water, sanitation, agricultural development and entrepreneurship, contributing EUR 15,000 per project through the funding mechanism of PRA-OSIM (AFD, 2019). Projects take the gender dimension into account, and in particular, those related to education and health focus on women and girls (FORIM, n.d.).

CAPACITY BUILDING

FORIM provides training programmes for DOs ‘in the fields of association management, networking, project development, knowledge of co-financing and partnership mechanisms in the fields of integration, in the fight against discrimination, gender mainstreaming in the project cycle etc. communication and leadership’ (FORIM, n.d. –a).

NETWORKING AND ADVOCACY

FORIM establishes connections between its member organisations, other French CSOs, local and public authorities and organises meetings for the exchange of information and experiences. It also creates a space for exchange and advocacy at national and international levels, participates in conferences and raises awareness of migration and development through the organisation of campaigns, which include publishing stories and short videos to highlight the positive impact of migration and the role of the diaspora in development cooperation (ibid).

The current phase

In 2021, AFD launched another initiative for FORIM members called Mésoprojet. Organised through PRA-OSIM, this initiative provides an amount of EUR 100,000 for projects with total budgets of EUR 120,000 to EUR 300,000, i.e. around 70 per cent of the total budget for each project. In previous years, funding was only EUR 15,000 per project. The application deadline for this year was the end of May 2021 (FORIM, 2021).

European Mobilisation for Entrepreneurship in Africa (MEET Afrika)

The *MEET Africa* programme is co-funded by the EU and the French Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs and is being implemented by Expertise France in partnership with GIZ and Anima Investment Network (MEET Africa, n.d.). The total budget for this programme between 2020 and 2023 is EUR 8.5 million. It aims to empower the African diaspora in France and Germany through networking, capacity development and fund-

ing to contribute to the economic growth of their countries of origin by investment and creating job opportunities (MEET Africa, n.d. –a).

Support approaches

The programme supports African diaspora entrepreneurs in three stages: networking, capacity building and start-up funds.

NETWORKING

Those with business ideas and plans will be connected with supporting organisations in France and Africa through the MEET Africa platform. The digital platform also informs potential diaspora entrepreneurs about opportunities, effective entrepreneurial methods and conditions (MEET Africa, n.d. –b).

CAPACITY BUILDING

Through this programme, diaspora entrepreneurs are provided with coaching, workshops and training courses, both before starting businesses in Europe and after starting businesses in Africa (ibid).

START-UP FUNDING

After building the network and strengthening the capacities of diaspora entrepreneurs, the programme will provide funding for start-ups. (ibid).²

The current phase

The programme's current phase began in early 2021 and intends to support up to 150 projects of African diaspora entrepreneurs living in France and Germany. In addition, MEET Africa offers other services, such as providing entrepreneurial network membership and capacity building programs which include drafting business and financial plans, legal structures and entrepreneurial technical knowledge. The application deadline for this year was the end of February, and the deadline for the next phase of the programme is the end of 2021 (MEET Africa, 2021). During the first phase, 80 projects were approved and supported (MEET Africa, n.d. –a).

Germany

The programme 'Returning Experts' ('Rückkehrende Fachkräfte') was developed in the 1980s as the first

element of diaspora engagement policy in Germany. Through this programme, migrants who had acquired expertise in Germany were assisted to return as experts, entrepreneurs or vocational instructors to contribute to development of their countries of origin (Haas, 2006, p. 85). In the 2000s, diaspora engagement received more attention. In 2003, two conferences were held by GIZ to discuss opportunities and the potential of the diaspora for development cooperation (Ragab, 2019, p.4). In 2006, GIZ conducted studies on the activities and development cooperation capacities of DOs in Germany. This was followed by a conference, as a result of which a pilot project, 'Migration and Development', was developed over a period of three years (Keusch & Schuster, 2012, p.36-37).

Germany currently has a wide range of diaspora support programmes at both federal and state levels. The examples from Germany listed in this report include support mechanisms for DOs, diaspora professionals, diaspora entrepreneurship, and assistance to countries of origin in the Global South to develop policies for diaspora involvement policies in development cooperation.

Federal level

PROGRAMME MIGRATION AND DIASPORA

The Programme Migration and Diaspora (PMD) is funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and implemented by GIZ in cooperation with International Deployment Services (ZAV) and the Centre for International Migration and Development (CIM), in partnership with the employment agencies of 23 partner countries from the Global South. PMD is being implemented between 2019 and 2022, with a budget of EUR 69 million (Köcher & Hellweg, 2019).

The aim of PMD is to enable the main actors in the partner countries to make more effective use of 'regular migration and diaspora engagement to achieve their development goals'. It has three components: a) diaspora cooperation, b) diaspora expert funding, and c) migration governance (GIZ, n.d.). 'Migration governance' includes advice for governments and international partners on migration policies, development

² The MEET Africa website does not show the amount of grants offered for diaspora entrepreneurs. The author asked this question via email, but unfortunately received no response.

of organisational frameworks and strategies, as well as capacity building for relevant institutions for the implementation of migration policies (Köcher & Hellweg, 2019). The author will focus on the first two components as they are more related to the diaspora.

Diaspora cooperation

This component has three priority areas: project funding for DOs, funding for diaspora investment and support for diaspora experts to undertake short-term assignments in their countries of origin.

DIASPORA EXPERTS

PMD supports diaspora experts to carry out short-term development-focused assignments in their countries of origin. The assignments can last from three weeks to six months and the experts receive financial assistance for travel, expenses incurred during the assignment, and an initial insurance package. It is open to managers, financial advisors, organisational developers, engineers, legal specialists, doctors, vehicle mechanics, skilled manual workers and health care professionals (CIM, n.d.). As a result of this project, 360 diaspora professionals have volunteered for short-term work to offer their expertise to partner organisations since 2016 (GIZ, n.d.).

DIASPORA ORGANISATIONS FUND

PMD supports DOs working with local partner organisations to implement development projects in 25 countries. The service includes annual funding of up to EUR 44,000 with a 10 per cent co-financing share for small-scale development projects. This includes the preparation of applications and a project plan, training in project implementation, as well as networking. The proposed projects could be new educational projects, modern technology, training of teachers and specialist staff, or awareness-raising programmes on topics such as HIV/AIDS, energy efficiency and environmental protection. (CIM, n.d.- a). As a result of past programmes, more than 150 DOs have received funding and assistance for their projects since 2011 (GIZ, n.d.).

DIASPORA'S ECONOMIC CONTRIBUTION

Diaspora members who establish businesses in their countries of origin can apply for grants. PMD provides individual coaching in the preparation and implementation of business plans, grants of up to EUR 5,000 to cover costs and services such as market analysis, legal

and technical advice and travel expenses. PMD aims to transfer business knowledge through migrants who invest in their countries of origin in order to stimulate economic growth and create job opportunities in the Global South (CIM, n.d. –b). Since 2009, PMD has supported more than 700 start-ups and established more than 100 companies, creating numerous jobs in partner countries (GIZ, n.d.).

Expert Fund Migration & Diaspora

The Expert Fund Migration & Diaspora (FMD), although within the framework of the PMD, is a separate project with an additional budget and schedule. It aims to strengthen the development impact of migration in countries of origin through knowledge transfer. With a budget of EUR 19 million, the project is being implemented between April 2019 and March 2024 in 22 partner countries in the Global South (Köcher & Hellweg, 2019).

The 'Returning Experts' initiative supports migrants who want to return and contribute to the development of their countries of origin. It facilitates "know-how transfer" through trainings and salary top-ups. Currently, FMD is deploying and training 500 returning experts and 7 integrated experts in the 22 partner countries. Through this initiative, 15,000 specialists have returned to contribute to the development of their countries of origin since the 1980s (GIZ, n.d. –a).

WIDU.africa online platform: Promoting direct investment in Africa

The project 'Employment promotion in the informal sector in Africa by leveraging diaspora money transfers' (WIDU platform) is being implemented by GIZ between 2019 and 2021 in Ghana, Cameroon, Kenya, Ethiopia, and Togo, and has an estimated budget of EUR 2 million. The project is being carried out through the WIDU.africa online platform and provides opportunities for members of the African diaspora in Germany, Austria, France and Switzerland, as well as their friends and relatives living in partner countries, to apply for grants to establish businesses (GIZ, 2021).

The project focuses on small businesses in the informal economy. In addition to financial support, GIZ provides entrepreneurs with three free coaching sessions tailored to their individual needs. All project support, such as registration and identification, project description, submission of documents, approval and monitor-

ing is carried out through the WIDU.africa online platform (ibid).

Since November 2019, around 9,000 sponsors and entrepreneurs have registered on WIDU.africa, and more than 1,300 projects have been approved. In early 2020, the project added EUR 250 to each individual grant to reduce the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on small businesses. At the same time, WIDU.africa initiated a 'Corona Business Grant', which gave grants of EUR 2,500 to businesses to reduce the impact of Covid-19 pandemic. As of March 2021, around 400 Corona Business Grants had been approved (ibid).

Support to the African Union on Migration and Displacement

Funded by a EUR 6 million grant from BMZ, the project is being implemented between 2018 and 2021 by GIZ in partnership with the African Union (AU).³ It aims to support the AU to lead and improve migration governance in Africa and to implement the Migration Policy Framework for Africa (MPFA), developed in 2018 (Mukurarinda, 2020).⁴ The project includes three fields of action:

CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT AND COORDINATION

Capacity development and coordination includes training for actors involved in organisational development, as well as support for a coordination mechanism within the AU Commission (AUC) to enable consultations about the most effective way to implement the MPFA Action Plan (ibid).

DISSEMINATION AND IMPLEMENTATION

The project provides financial support and advice to promote the 'dissemination and implementation' of the MPFA at regional and national levels, to inform AU member states and economic associations about the MPFA (ibid).

TECHNICAL SUPPORT

The third action involves strengthening AU technical capacity in MPFA thematic areas, such as diaspora cooperation, labor migration and protection regimes. To this end, a flexible fund has been set up through which AU institutions and departments can apply for support (ibid).

GIZ provides expertise and logistical support for diaspora engagement in coordination with the Citizens and Diaspora Organisations Directorate (CIDO), an institution of AUC that promotes cooperation between African diasporas, civil society and governments, and ensures the participation of diasporas in the development of Africa (CIDO, 2020). The diaspora engagement-related achievements and activities of CIDO, supported by GIZ, are as follows:

African Diaspora Professional and Business Network

CIDO has created a business platform for the African Diaspora Network in Europe (ADEPT) to mobilise the human and capital resources of the African diaspora in Europe for investment in Africa. It has also designed and implemented a campaign entitled 'Scaling Up of the African and Diaspora Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises' (ibid).

DIASPORA MAPPING

CIDO has conducted a study on the African diaspora in Germany, France, the United Kingdom (UK), Belgium and the Netherlands to be used by the AU member states to develop diaspora engagement strategies (ibid).

DIASPORA ENGAGEMENT

CIDO has developed out a Diaspora Engagement Self-Assessment tool to evaluate diaspora engagement policies in member states, provide examples of good practices and develop recommendations (ibid).

AFRICAN DIASPORA INVESTMENT FUND

Through the African Diaspora Investment Fund (ADIF), CIDO attempts to develop strategies to effectively utilise diaspora resources for development as well as to facilitate diaspora investment via marketing, issuances and management of diaspora bonds. (ibid)

State Level

As an example of networking between DOs, moveGLOBAL e.V. is active at the state level in Berlin, building and strengthening coordination and cooperation. Similar programmes exist in many federal states in Germany.

³ Read about the achievements of the project at www.giz.de/en/worldwide/64184.html

⁴ MPFA: www.giz.de/en/downloads/2018%20Migration%20Policy%20Framework%20for%20Africa%20ENG.pdf

moveGLOBAL e.V.

moveGLOBAL e.V. is an umbrella association of the Berliner Entwicklungspolitischer Ratschlag e.V. (BER) and has 31 DOs members.⁵ Founded in 2013, the association focuses on connecting and empowering DOs, supporting them to professionalise, representing their interests at the national level, and promoting their engagement. At the municipal level, it works to ensure the equal participation of the diaspora in society, as well as to ensure the recognition and visibility of their experiences and perspectives in policy areas. It offers services for DOs such as counselling, networking, seminars, workshops and conferences on migration, global learning, and anti-racism. The association is financed by Engagement Global, Stiftung Nord Süd Brücken, Die Landesstelle für Entwicklungszusammenarbeit (LEZ), and BMZ (moveGLOBAL, n.d.).

Based in Berlin, BER is a network of organisations and NGOs active in development policy. Members work towards a vision of ‘One World City of Berlin’ (*Eine Welt Stadt Berlin*) which is focused on diaspora, sustainable development, climate, global learning and decolonisation. Since 2013, moveGLOBAL e.V. has been one of the promoters of this vision, organising events to connect people with different backgrounds, especially migrants, to encourage co-existence and networking. moveGLOBAL e.V. also empowers DOs and individuals to fight discrimination (*Eine Welt Stadt Berlin*, n.d.).

In May 2021, a call for tenders for the ‘One World Promoters Programme 2022 - 2024: Developing Berlin - for One World’ was announced, with the aim of selecting six organisations to promote BER’s vision for this period.⁶ Each project to be funded will receive the amount of 18,000 euros (6,000 euros annually, for the years 2022 to 2024 inclusive) to cover personnel and project operating costs. Part of the programme’s focus is a vision of migration and diaspora that includes capacity development and advice for migrants and diaspora organisations. CSOs, including DOs in general and organisations of black communities and people of colour in particular, are given preference for this programme (*Eine Welt Stadt Berlin*, 2021).

Italy

Diaspora engagement in development cooperation is enshrined in Italian law (No. 125) adopted in 2014, on International Development Cooperation. According to Padoan and Stocchiero (2017), under the new legislation, diasporas are recognised as crucial partners in development cooperation, along with local authorities, universities and other NGOs. As a result, the National Diaspora Summit project was launched in 2017, funded by the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS).⁷ Through this project, 710 DOs were involved in training programmes and networking which provided an opportunity for meetings and dialogues between DOs and AICS. During the most recent ‘National Diaspora Summit’ held in Oct 2020, participants discussed the establishment of a ‘National Diaspora Forum’ (Sergi, 2021).

Two initiatives currently being implemented in Italy are mainly focused on diaspora entrepreneurship mapping and mobilisation. ‘Invest in Senegal’ is part of the EU-funded PASEP project and ‘Engage the Albanian Diaspora to the Social and Economic Development of Albania’ receives funding from the AICS.⁸

Invest in Senegal

‘Invest in Senegal’ calls for projects as part of the PLASEPRI/PASEP Programme.⁹ It is managed by AICS in Dakar and coordinated by Amref Health Africa Onlus-Italia, in collaboration with partner organisations, including DOs.¹⁰ The platform provides technical and financial assistance to the Senegalese diaspora to establish small and medium-sized businesses in Dakar, Diourbel, Kaolack, Louga, Saint Louis, and the Thiès regions of Senegal. It aims to enhance the social and professional skills of the diaspora residing in Europe in general, and in Italy in particular, to contribute to the socio-economic growth of their country of origin through entrepreneurship (Invest in Senegal, 2021).

PLASEPRI and PASEP have been running in parallel since 2019 and have the same objectives. Both aim to promote Senegalese diaspora investment, in order to

5 English: Berlin Development Policy Council. Read more at <https://eineweltstadt.berlin>

6 Ausschreibung Eine Welt-Promotor*innen-Programm 2022 – 2024: Berlin entwickeln – für Eine Welt: <https://eineweltstadt.berlin/ausschreibung-promotorinnen-programm-2022-2024/>

7 Read more at summitdiaspore.org

8 PASEP: Programme to combat illegal migration through support to the private sector and job creation in Senegal

9 PLASEPRI: Support Platform for the Private Sector and the Promotion of the Senegalese Diaspora in Italy.

10 See the list of partner organisations at investinsenegal.org/comunicato-stampa/

engage them in Senegal's economic growth and ultimately prevent illegal immigration. The first phase of PLASEPRI ended in 2015. The second phase is co-funded by the Italian and Senegalese governments (using the remaining funds from PLASEPRI-1) and began in 2019, in cooperation with the PASPED programme, which is funded by the EU Emergency Trust Fund for Africa (ibid).

The Senegalese diaspora is provided with information on opportunities offered through the PLASEPRI/PASPED programmes via a capillary information network active in the region in cooperation with the Senegal Consulates in Milan and Naples (Invest in Senegal, n.d.).

The Invest in Senegal platform plans to fund at least 50 businesses this year. Successful applicants for existing businesses or start-ups can receive between EUR 5,000 to EUR 30,000, depending on their level of experience and competence. Grants for applicants with minimal experience and competencies are between EUR 5,000 to EUR 20,000, with a sub-total budget of EUR 750,000. Applicants with an excellent level of competences and experience can receive between EUR 20,001 to EUR 30,000, with a sub-total of EUR 450,000. The total project budget is EUR 1.2 million, which will be paid from the EU Emergency Trust Fund through the PASPED Programme (Invest in Senegal, 2021).

Connect Albania

This programme is funded by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and implemented by the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) in Albania, along with the UN Migration Agency in coordination with the Albanian State Minister for Diaspora, Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Finance and Economy, and the AICS. It aims to support, encourage and engage the Albanian diaspora in the development of Albania (Connect Albania, 2021).

Support approaches

The project has three components: supporting the Albanian government in diaspora engagement; supporting the Albanian diaspora through knowledge transfer, and encouraging them to invest:

Support for Albanian Government

The programme helps the State Ministry of Diaspora

of the Albanian government through providing capacity building initiatives and physical infrastructure, as well as funding to implement effective approaches regarding diaspora engagement for sustainable development (Connect Albania, n.d.).

KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER

This component facilitates the participation of the Albanian diaspora in the development of their country of origin through the transfer of knowledge and skills. Currently, the programme 'Mapping and profiling of the Albanian Diaspora - an economic and social survey in five regions of Italy and an overview in France and Belgium' is being carried out and will be used as the basis for the development and implementation of diaspora policy. It also facilitates fellowship programmes for Albanian diaspora members in Italy, in addition to fellowship programmes for Albanian government institutions in Italy, France and Belgium (ibid).

DIASPORA ENTREPRENEURSHIP

The third component is attracting diaspora and foreign investment. To this end, the online boosting mechanism, 'Connect Albania', was created on December 18, 2020, in order to encourage and direct diaspora entrepreneurship (ibid).

11 Connect Albania is currently focused on connecting the Albanian diaspora in Italy and aims to encourage diaspora members to attract both diaspora and foreign investment (Connect Albania, 2020). Diaspora members who attract investment are called 'Development Agents', and will be awarded a 'Successful Development Agent' certificate if they 'contribute to the establishment of a successful business in Albania'. They will also be rewarded with a bonus of EUR 1,000 for each job they create through investment (Connect Albania, n.d. –a).

Switzerland

The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA) recognises the potential of diasporas. Through the Global Programme Migration and Development (GPMD), the SDC provides conditions for diasporas to increase their capacities and contribute to sustainable development in their countries of origin. GPMD is

11 Read more at www.adbc.al/en/connect-albania-eng/

a thematic unit within the SDC that engages in global and national policy dialogues and manages projects to influence international, regional and national policies on migration, development and diaspora (FDFA, 2021). According to the GPMD's strategy 2018-2021, it seeks to improve the framework conditions for diaspora engagement in development cooperation, along with the promotion of coordination and exchange between different diaspora groups in the same host countries (SDC, 2018).

The SDC considers gender dimensions at different levels in its diaspora support programmes. The GPMD has consistently focused on gender issues in needs assessments and in the implementation of its migration and development projects, as well as in issues related to gender in policy discussions (ibid).

Support approaches

The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation's diaspora support initiatives include advocacy, capacity building, and implementing projects with DOs, as outlined below:

IMPROVING CONDITIONS

GPMD seeks to create political, legal and social conditions for diaspora participation in development cooperation. It works with national and local authorities in the Global South to develop strategies in which diaspora groups are included as development players. The initiative also addresses the role of diasporas in development in global political dialogue and manages projects to influence related international, regional and national policies (FDFA, 2021a).

DEVELOPING CAPABILITIES

GPMD provides trainings and awareness programmes to strengthen the organisational and project management skills of members of Swiss NGOs and DOs, in order to ensure the feasibility of their ideas and plans. It also provides awareness programmes on the importance of migrants' roles in development cooperation (ibid).

WORKING WITH DIASPORAS

GPMD connects NGOs, including DOs, through the Swiss Civil Society Immigration and Development Platform, and develops projects in collaboration with se-

lected DOs to assess their potential for collaboration in development cooperation (ibid). The SDC provides ADEPT, for example, with part of its funding.

Examples of the current projects

SDC projects focus on advocacy, diaspora mobilisation, and cooperation with countries of origin in the Global South to develop diaspora policies. Following are three examples of projects which mobilise and connect diasporas from the same region or country:¹²

The Africa-Europe Diaspora Development Platform

Founded in 2017, The Africa-Europe Diaspora Development Platform (ADEPT) is a network consisting of more than 200 African DOs and individuals based in the EU, including Norway, Switzerland and the UK. ADEPT, co-funded by the SDC and the EU, seeks to promote the influence of the African Diaspora Development Organisations (ADDOs) in development cooperation (ADEPT, n.d.). ADEPT aims to professionalise ADDOs and to influence policies and practices in order to increase their development activities in Africa.

The current phase of the project began in 2018 and will continue until the end of 2021. The SDC contribution in this phase amounts to CHF 1.85 million (EUR 1.7 million) (FDFA, 2021b). ADEPT's four main activities include capacity development, communication and engagement, policy and advocacy, and impact and evaluation:

CAPACITY BUILDING

This programme consists of training, as well as technical and financial support for ADDOs. Technical support includes providing expertise through a set of consultants, jointly responding to proposal calls, and discussions among members. Financial support refers to funding to enhance the skills of ADDOs through trainings in organisational and project management, fundraising, communication, lobbying and advocacy, as well as diaspora engagement (ADEPT, n.d.).

COMMUNICATION AND ENGAGEMENT

These activities includes media campaigns, ADEPT Mag, and organising events. Media campaigns include sharing articles, videos, and images of change makers, as well as raising awareness of gender equality, lead-

¹² Read on SDC projects with diasporas: www.eda.admin.ch/deza/de/home/themen/migration/diaspora.html

ership, entrepreneurship, and youth engagement etc. ADEPT Mag publishes stories about the diaspora, in addition to articles on migration and development. It also creates networks between ADDOs through online and in-person events (ADEPT, n.d. -a).

POLICY AND ADVOCACY

ADEPT conducts research and publishes articles on migration and development to influence policy-making. The network also participates in discussions, high-level panels, forums, government meetings, interactions, and negotiations to represent African diasporas.

IMPACT AND EVALUATION

The fourth category of ADEPT activities includes monitoring and evaluating ADDO programmes and projects, as well as reporting and documenting the progress and impact of projects being implemented in Africa and Europe.

Bosnia and Herzegovina Diaspora for Development

The first phase of the project 'Mainstreaming the Concept of Migration and Development into Strategies, Policies and Actions in Bosnia and Herzegovina: (BiH) Diaspora for Development (D4D)' was carried out between 2013 and 2015.¹³ The second phase began in 2016 and will run until the end of 2021 (FDFA, 2021c). It is co-funded by a grant of USD 5.05 million (EUR 4.15 million) from the SDC, USD 461,513 (EUR 380,096) from the UNDP and USD 180,529 (EUR 148,681) from the IOM (UNDP, n.d.).

The BiHD4D aims to increase socio-economic opportunities for the people of BiH and improve their living conditions by increasing diaspora engagement (FDFA, 2021c). This will be achieved through the implementation of the following objectives:

The Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs work with other relevant government agencies at various levels to actively communicate, exchange and engage with DOs and individual diaspora members.

Fifteen municipalities have aligned their development strategies with the diaspora strategy of BiH to provide more and better services to diaspora members,

and to strive to attract diaspora knowledge and investment.

Diaspora members transfer business knowledge and skills to their BiH counterparts and co-invest with private sector actors in BiH, with the aim of creating job opportunities (ibid).

In the first phase of BiHD4D, migration and development was integrated into the development strategies of 10 municipalities. Several projects were implemented in partnership with diaspora, leading to an increase in the income of 430 households in the agriculture sector and the creation and/or maintenance of 70 jobs. Government agencies were informed about migration and development, and those 10 municipalities and 7 cantons have improved cooperation and diaspora connection by designating focal points or opening Diaspora Cooperation Offices (ibid).

Moldova – Making the Most of Migration¹⁴

The project is funded by SDC with a budget of CHF 7 million (EUR 6.38 million) and is being implemented in partnership with UNDP and Helvetas between 2019 and 2022. It aims to maximise the positive impact of migration on the economic development of Moldova both through diaspora engagement and improving the country's institutional framework. The project pursues the following objectives:

Coordination and coherence between national and local authorities to implement diaspora, migration and development policies and programmes.

Providing employment support services to Moldovan labourers, as well as to potential, current and returnee migrants, by strengthening local public and private employment services.

Involving diaspora and community members in **local development processes**.

The first phase of this project was implemented between 2014 and 2018 (FDFA, 2021d). Among its achievements were the inclusion of migration in government policies, support for the National Labour Office of Moldova to reintegrate migrant workers, involvement of diaspora professionals with Moldavian government initiatives through temporary returns, establishment of Home-Town Associations in 38 municipalities, and the

¹³ Read more at Phase 2 (admin.ch)

¹⁴ Read more about the Moldova project: Phase 2 (admin.ch)

mobilisation of more than 10,000 immigrants for community projects (ibid).

European Union

The EU sponsors various projects related to strengthening diaspora involvement by international organisations and European development agencies. The EU Emergency Trust Fund for Africa is one example of the EU funding mechanism and provides support and engagement programmes for the African Diaspora in Europe. Initiatives such as Diaspora Business Entrepreneurs in Denmark, MEET Africa in France, Invest in Senegal through the PAsPED Programme in Italy and ADEPT based in Brussels are funded or co-funded by the EU. Each of these is described in the previous pages. The European Commission-funded EU Global Diaspora Facility (EUDiF) is an example of a wide-ranging, diaspora-specific initiative that is currently being implemented at the European level.

The EU Global Diaspora Facility

EUDiF is a pilot project funded by the EU and implemented by the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD). The project has a budget of EUR 5.00 million and is being implemented between June 2019 and December 2022. Its main objective is to support diasporas and their countries of origin to engage effectively and collaborate with each other and the EU. To this end, the project informs important stakeholders in European countries about diasporas' potential for development, and generates knowledge on diaspora policies, priorities and challenges. It also facilitates dialogue between DOs, partner countries and the EU, offers capacity-building programmes, and supports diaspora-led development initiatives (European Commission, 2020).

Support approaches

This project carries out activities such as generating knowledge about diaspora engagement in development cooperation, capacity building programmes, networking and promoting the expertise of diaspora development.

CONSOLIDATING KNOWLEDGE

Consolidating knowledge includes research and mapping of diaspora engagement policies and practices

in partner countries, as well as diaspora-led initiatives, in order to generate and provide open access knowledge on diaspora and development cooperation. Research findings and updated information are published through the EUDiF Project Online Library (EUDiF, 2020).

CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

EUDiF's capacity building programmes for DOs comprise three levels 1) individual skills, experiences and knowledge, 2) organisational procedures, structures and frameworks, and 3) creating an enabling environment through institutional, systemic and behavioural change (EUDiF, 2020a). Capacity building programs for ADDOs through ADEPT are examples that include training in communication, project management, lobbying, advocacy, and diaspora engagement (ADEPT, n.d.).

EXCHANGING IDEAS

EUDiF identifies DOs and networks in Europe to build partnerships and organises regional meetings with partner countries. This is currently being carried out online due to the Covid-19 pandemic. EUDiF also organises an annual EU Global Diaspora Forum on different diaspora engagement-related topics, as well as meetings between development agencies in the EU (EUDiF, n.d.).

MOBILISING DIASPORA PROFESSIONALS

The Diaspora Professionals 4 Development (DP4D) initiative supports diaspora experts from partner countries who wish to share their skills and experiences in development projects in their country of origin, through virtual or short-term assignments. Those with at least five years of specialised experience in the fields of digitalisation, education, environment, entrepreneurship, and health can register for short-term assignments through DP4D. The project also provides internship opportunities for young immigrants from partner countries based in Europe to enable them to gain experience in the field of migration and development (EUDiF, 2020b).

According to the European Commission (2020), by spring 2020 a number of objectives had been achieved. These include diaspora policy mapping in 50 countries, consultations with 24 DOs in 19 European countries, the development of a network of DOs in Europe, diaspora recommendations to address challenges and needs, as well as a diaspora youth internship programme.

Current activities

A number of activities are currently being carried out as part of this project, which has been running from 2020 into 2021. These activities include the mapping of diaspora policy in 50 other countries, capacity building for DOs and their countries of origin, diaspora consultations in 18 more European countries, continuing regional meetings in the Global South, organising the EU Global Diaspora Forum, and providing internship programmes for diaspora youth (ibid).

4. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

A review of the literature and current examples of support programmes in the selected countries shows that the potential and engagement of diasporas in development cooperation, both individually and organisationally, in academic discussions and for policy makers, is of particular importance. Efforts are being made in the selected European countries in the form of support programmes, and in the countries of origin in the form of developing national diaspora engagement policies and attracting diaspora investors.

DOs and migrants living in Europe have been able to improve their knowledge, skills and experience levels through education and work. They have established connections with various organisations in their host countries, while simultaneously maintaining networks in their countries of origin. They also play roles in changing the living conditions of their families, relatives and communities in their countries of origin through private funding and investments. Their knowledge and experience of culture in both countries of origin and destination enables them to act as bridges, and this is being utilised by European countries and development agencies.

DOs are often run by volunteers with limited resources and as such, they face financial, administrative and capacity constraints. In order to give DOs and individuals a chance to realise their potential, they must be mapped and recognised. Based on this, a policy framework can be developed in order to provide the necessary facilities for their initiatives. With this in mind, European development agencies have allocated budgets to support these DOs through capacity building, networking, and providing funding for investment, as well as implementing development-oriented projects in the Global South.

As a result of examining the current initiatives, it can be concluded that with the necessary facilities and the right conditions, DOs and individual members of diasporas can effectively participate as partners in development cooperation, both in their countries of origin in the Global South and in their destination countries. The study of examples of initiatives in different countries and learning from their past successes and failures can therefore help to strengthen existing programmes and develop new strategies.

Inspired by the existing initiatives and programmes in five European countries, and on the European level, the researcher has developed the following four recommendations for diaspora engagement in development-oriented activities and humanitarian assistance for Austrian policymakers and other stakeholders. The recommendations presented here are general, and each varies according to the individual country context. Some may not be implementable or may have less effect in some contexts due to issues such as war and insecurity etc.

Diaspora mapping

Creating a diaspora support policy first requires research and the possession of relevant information. Policymakers should collect and analyse data on the backgrounds, structures, activities, and capacities of DOs, in order to identify their potential as diverse and qualified partners. They should also study the challenges and opportunities for engaging diasporas in development cooperation and humanitarian assistance, as well as review the initiatives of other countries. This will help both countries of origin and destination to build diaspora engagement policies.

Developing a policy framework

Based on information gathered via mapping, as well as examples of initiatives in other countries, a policy framework and supporting mechanism can be developed in order to create the right conditions, provide the necessary resources, and mobilise diasporas to contribute effectively in development cooperation. Development cooperation bodies can also consult with DOs to develop and reform the required policies, which may result in more effective initiatives. The proposed mechanisms can provide a range of support for DOs and individual diaspora members:

Diaspora organisations

Networking: Networking provides an opportunity for diaspora institutions to connect, share knowledge and

experience, learn from each other, and find potential partners for the next stages of development projects. They can also connect and collaborate with CSOs and development organisations in the host country. Networking is a major component of these initiatives to support the diaspora in the EU in general, and in the selected countries. This can be achieved through the establishment of an umbrella organisation, such as moveGLOBAL e.V. in Berlin (p. 18), or through the establishment of a division dedicated to migration and development similar to the GPMD in Switzerland (p. 19), which promotes migration and diaspora programmes.

Capacity-building programmes: In order to achieve optimal results from diaspora engagement, it is necessary to identify their needs, according to which training courses, workshops, and conferences can be organised in order to enhance their organisational and operational skills. Trainings and workshops on issues related to migration and development, as well as on executive skills required to carry out development projects, such as writing proposals and reports, etc. are included in all the examples of initiatives in this report. These programmes can be facilitated and organised through a government body for diaspora-related issues or by an umbrella organisation.

Development project funding: Donors are encouraged to allocate funds for qualified DOs and their local partner organisations for small and medium-sized development projects. The examples also show that grants for development projects by DOs are one of the most common models of diaspora support. In project financing, transparency in the selection of partners, monitoring and evaluation during the project, adherence to the principle of balanced development in different regions of the partner countries, as well as gender equality are important for the effectiveness, accountability and transparency of projects. Different regions and groups in the countries of origin, in Afghanistan for example, can be either advantaged or deprived, and receive different levels of benefit from their national development programmes depending on their ethnic, political, and gender affiliations and their share in power.

Individual members of diasporas

Diaspora entrepreneurship: Supporting diaspora members to establish enterprises in their countries of origin will lead to job creation and ultimately to economic growth. This initiative is being implemented in many

European countries, including in Germany, France, Italy and Denmark. Implementing diaspora entrepreneurship initiatives through online platforms similar to GIZ's WIDU.africa, AFD's MEET Africa and AICS/IOM's Connect Albania seems very practical.

Mobilising diaspora professionals: Volunteer professionals from diaspora communities can be supported and mobilised to perform short-term duties in their countries of origin. Development and non-profit institutions and organisations in countries of origin of these experts can benefit from such programmes. The EU and GIZ support diaspora professionals (pp. 22 & 17) who are willing to volunteer for short-term development-oriented assignments in their countries of origin, and to share their knowledge and experience with development institutions and NGOs.

Coordination with partner countries

Dialogue with partner countries on diaspora inclusion and the removal of administrative barriers and obstacles created by corruption can pave the way for diaspora cooperation with their countries of origin. If necessary, awareness raising programmes on the important role of the diaspora in development can be provided to the institutions of partner countries, or they can be assisted in developing diaspora engagement strategies. One of the main activities of GIZ through the 'Support to the African Union on Migration and Displacement' project (p. 17) is to help establish a diaspora engagement policy in AU member states, and to remove barriers to diaspora access in their countries of origin.

Partnership with other donors

Establishing partnerships with development cooperation institutions in other countries can help share the financial costs of diaspora initiatives. It will also be useful in terms of adapting existing initiatives and using their experiences. Some projects cited as examples in this report have been funded and/or implemented by donors and partners such as EU and GIZ that are funding diaspora programmes of international organisations or national institutions of other countries.

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