

CONTENTS (click to go to the relevant Section)

European Development Days 1

TandEM – Study and Webinar on higher education..... 2

COMMIT – Regional Event..... 3

A.MI.CO Training..... 4

Project in the Spotlight..... 4

Interesting publications..... 5

Project Endorsement..... 6

Events calendar 7

EUROPEAN DEVELOPMENT DAYS

On June 18-19 the European Development Days took place in Brussels, organized by the European Union, under the theme ‘Addressing inequalities: Building a world which leaves no one behind’. This forum was notably **a chance to discuss the complex linkages between migration and development**, especially within the scope of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). As Antonio Vitorino, Director General of IOM stated: “Migrants can be agents of change at local, national, and global levels. Safe, orderly and regular migration can be a powerful force to reduce inequalities and truly ensure that no one is left behind.”



At this occasion, a **high-level panel** was organized by IOM, UNHCR, the International Rescue Committee (IRC) and the Danish Refugee Council (DRC). The debate “***In Search of Equality: Migration, Forced Displacement and the SDGs***” gathered António Vitorino; David Miliband, President and CEO of the IRC; Kelly T. Clements, Deputy High Commissioner of UNHCR; Stefano Manservigi, Director General of European Commission – DG for International Cooperation and Development (DEVCO); Saadatou Mallam Barmou, Deputy Head of Cabinet of the Office of the Prime Minister, Government of Niger; and EDD Youth Representative Judicaelle Irakoze, Executive Director of Choose Yourself.

The panellists discussed the **relationships between migration and inequalities**. Antonio Vitorino stressed the importance of mainstreaming migration into international development, and in particular the implementation of the SDGs. He went on to identify three key elements to reduce inequalities in relation to migration and to contribute to the overall development: to put **migrants’ skills** to the benefit of migrants themselves, of their country of destination and of their country of origin; to assess the **impacts of climate change on people’s mobility**; and to focus on **integration and reintegration**.

You can see the recording of the high-level panel [here](#).

Moreover, a **lab-debate** was organized by IOM and the European Commission under the EU-IOM Joint Initiative for Migrant Protection and Reintegration which debated the **sustainable reintegration of migrant returnees in Africa** regarding four themes: labour market access, education, mental health and psychological well-being, and culture.

TANDEM LAUNCHES STUDY ON HIGHER EDUCATION FOR MIGRANTS & REFUGEES



[TandEM - Towards Empowered Migrant Youth in Southern Europe](#) is a regional EU-funded project led by IOM. It aims to **build a bridge between migrant and local youth**, to promote dialogue, mutual understanding and cohesion. The project is implemented in Croatia, Cyprus, Greece, Italy, Malta and Spain.

As a component of the project, IOM and the European University Association (EUA) recently published a [study](#) on “*Higher education for TCN and refugee integration in Southern Europe*”. The comparative, **cross-country study reviews the links between integration and higher education policies**. It documents the conditions and circumstances for access, retention and completion of higher education for migrants from third countries, including those with a refugee status.

Concrete recommendations to remove barriers and to promote integration are provided for the European and national policy levels, as well as for higher education institutions.

To disseminate the results of the study, the EUA organized a [webinar](#) with presenters from the project countries and from IOM.

For more info on the Tandem project, you can access the project's website [here](#).

COMMIT - REGIONAL EVENT IN LISBON

On June 18th and 19th, IOM organized a meeting in Lisbon, Portugal to kick off the [COMMIT](#) regional project. The COMMIT project seeks to contribute to **ensuring the sustainable integration of resettled refugees in their new communities** in Croatia, Italy, Portugal and Spain, with a **specific focus on women and youth**.

The project's overall objective will be achieved by:

- Enhancing pre-departure orientation (PDO), including by mainstreaming vulnerability in PDO curricula, strengthening PDO trainers' knowledge on reception contexts, and enabling contacts with reception community members from the predeparture phase;
- Systematizing community support, including capacity building for key stakeholders in receiving communities and piloting community mentorship schemes with specific attention to supporting vulnerable groups;
- Fostering transnational exchange between newer and more experienced resettlement countries and disseminating lessons learnt and best practices beyond the project's geographical scope.

Government delegations and partners from Croatia, Italy, Portugal and Spain attended the event and are expected to continue their support and participation in the project.



A.MI.CO TRAINING COURSE



From 5 to 8 June 2019, 13 representatives of as many Georgian associations from several European countries (Germany, Spain, Estonia, Greece, France, Italy) gathered in Rome to take part in the *A.MI.CO.* training course.

A.MI.CO. stands for ***Migrant Associations for Co-development***, a specific training for representatives of migrant associations who wish to promote development projects. During four days of training, participants learned about project development and implementation, monitoring and evaluation, budget management, partnership development and communication. The course also represented a networking opportunity for Georgian associations from across Europe, thus enhancing mutual learning and sharing of experiences.

A.MI.CO. is a training format that IOM Italy has been running since 2011. Over the course of 10 editions, the *A.MI.CO.* training courses have been attended by more than 200 diaspora associations across Italy.

A.MI.CO. has evolved throughout the years and has now started to broaden its geographical scope. The *A.MI.CO.* training for the Georgian diaspora was a good opportunity to take the *A.MI.CO.* format beyond Italy, thanks to the collaboration with IOM Georgia. The two IOM missions jointly organized the training as part of the project “EU Innovative Action for Private Sector Competitiveness in Georgia” (EU IPSC).

More information about *A.MI.CO.* can be found [here](#).

PROJECT IN THE SPOTLIGHT

IOM Austria, WIR – Workshops for integration and prevention of radicalization

With the “WIR” project IOM Austria aimed to **support young people with Chechen background in the development of their multicultural identity and their integration within Austrian society** through various workshops, outdoor events and video production sessions. The project built up the beneficiaries’ competences to reflect on their identity, to critically question media and to recognize radicalization propaganda.

The project “WIR” was implemented from March 2018 to February 2019 and the final report, which was submitted to the donor a few weeks ago, assesses its **fruitful results**.

Despite a high level of mistrust among the target group, 21 youngsters with Chechen background were reached via outreach visits to youth centres and evening schools, together with Chechen intercultural mediators and Austrian youth workers, where IOM informed them about the project and invited them



to join. A total of 13 **workshops were organized on identity, religion, media, violence and conflict management**, etc. Moreover, the participants produced several **media products and a trailer**. On top of gaining digital literacy and awareness, this enabled them to **develop self-confidence and a critical perspective on sources of media information**. There was a high interest among the Chechen community to disseminate the videos online. You can see one of the videos produced [here](#).

INTERESTING PUBLICATIONS

CEPS: An EU-Africa Partnership Scheme for Human Capital Formation and Skill Mobility

Current migration management along the Mediterranean serves neither European nor African countries well. It is based on this assessment that the CEPS, within the Mercator Dialogue on Asylum and Migration, published a [report](#) presenting an **EU-Africa partnership scheme for human capital formation and skill mobility**.

The authors observe that most of those migrating from Africa to the EU apply for asylum but are **not eligible for international protection**. Besides, following these rejections, there is a significant difficulty to effectively **enforce the return decisions**. Furthermore, on the European side, there is a **lack of legal migration options available to nationals of African countries** (existing pathways mainly target highly skilled individuals and seasonal workers). Indeed, from 2008 to 2017, the number of residence permits issued by the EU-28 to nationals of African countries has decreased by 70%.

Overall, the report depicts a lack of EU-Africa effective cooperation depriving the two regions from the benefits of migration. Therefore, the authors propose a human capital and skill mobility scheme consisting of three steps:

- EU funded **vocational training programmes** in African countries based on the European and African labour market needs;
- The issuance of **work permits** by EU Member States with the flexibility to implement the scheme according to their national needs; and
- An active **involvement of the EU private sector** to facilitate hiring and job search procedures across the Mediterranean.

MPIE: Social Innovation for Refugee Inclusion: From Bright Spots to System Change

In 2015-16, as Europe faced a high increase of asylum seekers, the region also saw a **burst of social innovation** aiming at tackling the challenges of receiving and integrating newcomers into European societies. Even though the arrivals of refugees to Europe have decreased, a number of challenges remain and new solutions are still being developed.

The Migration Policy Institute Europe (MPIE) published a [report](#) analyzing the evolution of social innovation in the field of refugee inclusion over the three years following the peak of the crisis. Overall, the report addresses the question **‘What can social enterprises, funding bodies and policymakers do to maintain the momentum and turn promising initiatives into broader system change?’**.

Overall, the report observes that social innovation initiatives have been successful in counteracting government blind-spots and biased, and in offering solutions to the social challenges of immigration. However, many efforts have failed because of **lack of funding, shifting focus or rapid creation without attention to what solutions were already in place**. Therefore, the authors identify areas that demand greater attention from civil-society organisations, tech start-ups, social enterprises, NGOs and the private sector to fulfil social innovation’s promise of refugee inclusion.

Knowing that in the decades to come, European societies will have **to grapple with a number of fundamental structural challenges** (from changes in the world of work to new pressures on housing and health-care systems),

the authors conclude that much will depend on **governments’ ability to build on and extend the reach of the current surge in innovation, and to make the case that “innovation for refugee inclusion can be innovation for all.”**

OECD: The Road to Integration – Education and Migration

Migration flows can create some challenges for host communities, but they also represent an opportunity for countries that face an ageing native-born population to **overcome the associated threat of labour and skills shortages**. In this context, **education and training are key elements** to help individuals with immigrant background to be integrated in their new communities, and host communities to adjust to migration and enjoy all its benefits.

Within the scope of its project *Strength Through Diversity: Education for Inclusive Societies*, the OECD published a [report](#) in June 2019, ***The Road to Integration – Education and Migration***, in which it identifies **eight policy pillars that can help actors at different levels of decision-making** (policy makers, local officials, school leaders, teachers, teacher educators, school inspectors, etc) **design and implement effective policies and practices**:

- Consider the heterogeneity of immigrant populations;
- Develop approaches to promote the overall well-being of immigrants;
- Address the unique needs of refugee students;
- Ensure that motivation translates into a key asset for immigrant communities;
- Provide comprehensive language support;
- Organise resources to reduce the influence of socio-economic status on the outcomes of immigrants;
- Build the capacity of teachers to deal with diversity; and
- Break down barriers to social cohesion while ensuring effective service delivery.

The report acknowledges the fact that the ever-changing landscape of social and demographic diversity requires **continuous adjustments**, but one of the key strengths of inclusive integration systems is their **ability to adapt to new changes and needs, and reject rigid structures in favour of innovative responses**.

PROJECT ENDORSEMENT

Projects endorsed in June 2019

IOM Mission	Project title	Project type
IOM Netherlands	CD4D2: Connecting Diaspora for Development through Knowledge Transfer and Entrepreneurship	TR
IOM Austria	ASYL-TRAIN II	PX / IS
IOM Lithuania	European Migration Network – National Contact Point for Lithuania 2019-2020 (re-endorsement)	PR
IOM Romania	INTERACT+: Integrated Services for Migrants, Social and Intercultural Dialogue (re-endorsement)	FM

IOM Spain	Support to the implementation of the legal migration pilot project between Morocco and Spain “Young Generation as Change Agents” (re-endorsement)	LM
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EVENTS CALENDAR

Key events – June 2019

Date	Place	Organizer	Event
28	Online	EUA	Webinar to launch the TandEM report on “Higher Education for TCN and Refugee Integration in Southern Europe”
11-12	Brussels	ETUC	LABOUR-INT Conference
12	Brussels	EUA	Stakeholder meeting on refugee integration
12-13	Zagreb	IOM	Final conference resettlement project Croatia
18-19	Lisbon	IOM	COMMIT regional event: exchange of good practices in linking Pre-Departure and Post-Arrival support measures in order to enhance refugee integration
18-19	Brussels	EU	European Development Days
25	Brussels	Committee of the Regions	Integration of migrants and refugees in small territories: A factor for local developments
25	Brussels	IOM/EC	Meeting of the Regional Director with the Director General of DG EMPL, Joost Korte
25	Brussels	EPC	Roundtable on ‘Fair treatment of third-country nationals’
25	Windhoek, Namibia	IOM, SADC	Migration Dialogue for Southern Africa (MIDSA) – presentation on SDGs and Migration Mainstreaming

Upcoming events – July 2019

Date	Place	Organizer	Event
4	Brussels	Joint Research Centre, Bahá’í International Community	Working towards the Global Compact on Migration: What role for agricultural policies?
5	Brussels	CEDEFOP	2nd Expert workshop and Technical Advisory Group Meeting for the Refugees Project
9	Brussels	EESC	Hand in Hand: Social and economic inclusion of newcomers
11	Brussels	IOM	ACP-EU Migration Action Closing Event
11	Brussels	IOM	LINK-IT after-action review
12	Brussels	IOM	LINK-IT Closing Event
12	Brussels	IOM	Breakfast Briefing with EUMS on IOM’s Migration and Sustainable Development Strategy

12	Brussels	IOM	IOM-FAO Consultation: Migration & Rural Development Sector Guide
12	Brussels	IOM	UNBT Brownbag lunch on Migration & Sustainable Development

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