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*Linking Migration and Development of the Western Balkans  
Countries*  
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# **Migrations, EU and Integrations of Western Balkans: Bridging Internal and External Development Nexus?**

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# Defining Development

- Basic premise: People are the real wealth of nations.
- The basic objective: to create an enabling environment for people to enjoy long, healthy and creative lives- expanding choices that people have to lead full lives.
- Fundamental to enlarging these choices is building human capabilities —the range of things that people can do or be in life.
- By investing in people, we enable growth and develop human capabilities.
- Some of the most basic capabilities for human development: are to lead long and healthy lives, access to education (knowledge), to have access to the resources needed for living, including access to social services.



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# Internal and External Development

Internal (Domestically Oriented) development needs vis-a-vis  
External Development concerns.

Development associated with population and understood in  
relation to their basic social and welfare needs.

Internal (Domestic) Development: defined in relation to  
reproduction of health care, education, employment, and pension  
within a society over time.

External Development concerns with human development outside  
the society which is referent object of our analysis.

Nexus between EU's own development needs and development  
needs of the countries in Western Balkans



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# Contextualising Internal Development Needs of EU Member States

Aging Population, Pension Crisis, the shift in “support ratio”- ratio of workers to pensioners.

(OECD Countries) In 1950, 7.2 people aged 20-64 for every person of 65. In 1980, 5.1, and in 2010, 4.1.

(The EU average) 3.5 in 2010. Projected average for 2050 to reach 1.8 by 2050.

In Sweden, 30 per cent older than 60 by 2050. Support ratio 1,9.

Increase of population 80+ years by 50% in 6 out of 10 Swedish municipalities by 2040; aspects of welfare services (e.g. home assistance) needs to be expanded by 70 per cent (Swedish Bureau of Statistics).



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# Challenges and Solution

- **Challenges:** Reduction in fertility rates, reduction in the tax base, expansion of social and medical services.
- **Solutions:** Increase employment of those between 64-74 (in 2010, in Sweden 13% working comparison to 10% in 2005)
- Increase Tax Burden of those Working or Increase Tax Base
- Increase Fertility
- Make Labour Migrations More Efficient



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# Role of Migrations in the Internal Development of EU Countries

To keep the ratio of working ages/ above 65 constant, EU15 need to import 700 million immigrants between 1995- 2050 (UN 2001 as cited in Bengtsson 2010).

Problems with integrating migrants in labour markets: In Sweden actual unemployment rate (defined as those without employment/all those aged 20–59) is some 30% for immigrants and around 18% for natives (Bengtsson 2010). This associated with social costs and cost of education and training of immigrants.

Part of Solution: Increase proportion of skilled labour migrants, while regulating the flows of irregular (illegal) migrants.

(Skilled labour migrants: usually no major cost for higher education, recruitment often done by private firms, immediate contribution to tax base)



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# Impact on development of the countries of migrant origin

Challenges (countries of WB): low fertility rates, ageing population, narrow tax base, strained welfare and pension system, tough global competition for jobs.

Migration related challenges to development:

Migration skilled workforce (human, social and economic deficit),

Costs of regulating illegal flows of migrant /human trafficking through in the region,

How to attracting and harnessing and human and financial capital of own migrant communities abroad.



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## The migrants from Western Balkans in Sweden

125 000 members, 87 000 arrived (70%) after 1992.

54 000 BiH (43,2%), 71 000 (56,8%) other former Yugoslav countries  
(Swedish Statistic Bureau 2010).

Survey of 700 interviews by Hall and Kostic 2010

Survey stratified by region, ethnicity, gender.

Respondents origin: BiH (66,5), Serbia (21%), Croatia (9%), Other (3,5%).

75% arrived after 1992.

Data gives a good insight into trends regarding the attitudes and activities of migrants from Western Balkans.





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## Some insights into the structure and activities

In our sample: 50% came to Sweden with secondary education and 21% with a university degree.

Employment: experts and intellectuals (11%), higher and mid-level management (12%) civil servants (8%), qualified/skilled workers (requiring a professional degree) (33%), low qualified workers (10%), students (7%), pensioners (11%), other (8%).

Many voted in the latest Swedish general elections (69%), while less than a third voted twice or more in the country of their origin (26%).



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## Relation to the country of origin

Very few involved in diaspora associations (11%), but very many keep updated on weekly basis with news in the country of origin (57%).

Majority in touch with relatives by telephone, email, on monthly basis (72%), 42% reports sending remittances to relatives at least twice a year.

Half owns a house in the country of origin, but 15% goes back twice a year or more.

10% gives money for community projects, 20% invests in businesses, 16% travels to country of origin for business, 5% conducts trade with businesses in the country of origin 5%.

General attitudes trends (i.e. towards conflict in the past, own group, others): most respondents express moderation. Yet, statistically significant relation between level of education and employment, and moderation.



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## Diaspora associations in Sweden

- Funding from the Swedish government.
- Semi-professional leadership, the rest of members mainly volunteers.
- Focus primarily towards activities within own communities in the hostland (organise cultural activities, meetings, sport clubs, facilitating introduction and orienteering for newcomers).
- Youth exchange projects with schools in the countries of origin.



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## What could be done?

“Push and pull factors” work against the countries in Western Balkans. What could be done to remedy such situation and bridge gaps between internal and external development needs?

Awareness regarding links between own development and emigration (particularly skilled labour).

Exchange experience with other countries facing similar situation.

Developing contacts and frameworks for cooperation in this field with the countries that are recipients of large migrant flows.

Attracting diaspora’s investment potential and resources (informing about investment possibilities, providing institutional support)



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# Knowledge transfer

Map diasporas' potential,

Create incentives,

Define the models of cooperation between experts and their institution and educational institutions in the countries of origin,

Promote teaching and research project involvement,

Facilitate legal basis to support knowledge transfer and cooperation.

Currently ranking re. strategies to retain and attract skilled young experts:

Montenegro on 48 place, Slovenia 58,

BiH 126, Croatia 128, Macedonia 133, Serbia 139 (out of 142).

(ref. Global Competitiveness Report 2011-2012, World Economic Forum)



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Thank you!

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