

Conclusions

of the International Workshop

MobilizeDiaspora4SD

Mobilization of Intellectual and Financial Resources from Diaspora for Knowledge Based Sustainable Development in SEE

<http://www.glocha.info/index.php/events/upcomingevents/sarajevo-workshop1>

12 October 2011, Sarajevo, Parliament of Bosnia and Herzegovina

The aim of the workshop has been to explore in a **multi-stakeholder partnership approach** (diaspora representatives (e.g. from science and private sector), public administration, research and educational institutions, civil society organizations, international organizations, etc) ways to (re-)connect highly skilled emigrants from SEE countries with **sustainable (long term future oriented) development efforts** in their countries of origin in order to equip **science, education and innovation systems in Southeast Europe** with the resources (**knowledge, funding, civic engagement**, etc.) needed for their functioning and their future oriented improvement.

At the workshop it has been agreed to communicate following **list of recommendations** to the

- **MHRR/TAIEX conference 'Linking Migration and Development of the Western Balkans Countries'** Sarajevo, 13 and 14 October 2011 and
- to the preparatory process of **"Western Balkans Regional Strategy on Research and Development for Innovation"**

The workshop participants (a list of participants can be found here: <http://www.aso.zsi.at/aktuelles/3863.html>) recommend that

1. a SEE regional **"Task force on Mobilization of Intellectual and Financial Resources from Emigrants/Southeast Europeans abroad"**¹ for Knowledge Based Sustainable Development in SEE" (*working title*) shall be established under the leadership of Regional Cooperation Council RCC with representatives of relevant ministries (science, education, economy, finance, information society, ..), universities, educational institutions, diaspora representatives, private sector, Civil society organizations and other potentially interested parties/stakeholders. The task force shall
 - o facilitate a **regional dialogue and mutual learning** regarding **lessons learned from existing programs** and regarding the creation of **incentives** (e.g. tax incentives, etc.) for linking resources of migrants with SEE innovation systems on local, regional and national level,
 - o identify **obstacles** (e.g. accreditation issues, cross-border giving, ..) for diaspora resources mobilization and discuss approaches to overcoming them by learning from good practice cases from around the world
 - o encourage regional scientific research, mapping and policy research to inform decision making processes
 - o explore **needs and potentials** for programs, projects and institutions on SEE regional level
2. a **regional competence center/research center on "Migration and knowledge based sustainable development in SEE"** shall be established which will support the work of the Task force and provide evidence based advice to policy making processes. Albania (and the Brain Gain program; contact: Mr. Bernard Zeneli) might be a good place for such a center as Albania does not host any SEE regional

Strategy
&
Policy
development

Knowledge
base

¹ Note: some workshop participants suggest to avoid use of the term 'diaspora' because of its political connotations and other conceptual shortcomings of 'diaspora' and to refer to members of diaspora on an individual basis with migration/mobility focus. An appropriate terminology shall be developed by the task force.

competence center yet. The work of EPFL (contact: Gabriela Tejada) with Academy of sciences of Moldova can guide the establishment of a **research consortium** that would jointly advance empirical and policy oriented research on skilled mobility, diaspora engagement and development impact in the SEE/EE region and **links with international organizations** like IOM, ICMPD, ILO, UNESCO, World Bank, UNDP, EU programs (e.g. wbc-inco.net) and competence centers (ETF, ..), etc. shall be developed.

Institution building

3. The suggestion of establishing a network of SEE **“Global Challenges centers” as a new institutional framework for local multi-stakeholder partnerships for knowledge based sustainable development** including emigrants, promotion of civic engagement and **resource mobilization from private sources** shall be explored further with the task force and the competence center mentioned under point 1 and 2 of these recommendations. The GloCha Centers network shall organize participatory local **foresight** (shared vision building) activities including emigrants, **pool** and **document** the different contributions to sustainable development efforts and facilitate the **channeling of these resources to public and private sustainable development initiatives on local and regional level in a participatory and transparent way**. Ways shall be explored to link the development and monitoring of GloCha centers network with Regional School of Public Administration (ReSPA)

Funding

4. Regarding **funding** of activities in the field of “Migration and knowledge based development” **national and local public financial resources** shall be pooled with funding from **official development assistance, EU funding** (e.g. there are potentials for EU funding for promotion of international mobility of researchers towards SEE countries within 7th EU RTD Framework program COFUND) and **funding from international and individual philanthropic sources** like e.g. foundations and funding from individual donors (precondition: developing a **culture of philanthropy and research and education funding**). **Tax incentives** as specific form of public funding in support of ‘migration and development’ efforts as well as public **matching funds for investments** deserve special attention and policy learning processes in these fields shall be facilitated by the task force and assessed by the competence center and research consortium presented in point 1 and 2 of the recommendations.

Embedding in global change and social innovation concepts

5. It is recommended to embed efforts for ‘resource mobilization in the context of migration and knowledge based sustainable development in SEE’ in **broader societal efforts for systemic change towards building in SEE local, national and regional innovation systems that are able to respond effectively to grand challenges and resilient to disasters and other disruptive events and large scale crises** (see documentation of the 4th Seville Foresight conference of Institute for Prospective Technological Studies for most recent trends in this field http://foresight.jrc.ec.europa.eu/fta_2011/intro.html). Methodological foundation for ‘SEE Migration and knowledge based sustainable development’ efforts can be found also in **the “Knowledge, Learning and Societal Change”** research initiative of ‘International Human Dimensions Program on Global Environmental Change’ <http://www.ihdp.unu.edu/article/read/klsc>. Links between KLSC and with GloCha centers network have already been established at international conference **“Knowledge, Youth and Global Commons”** in Klagenfurt/Austria September 15&16 2011.

Global Governance and new STI Indicators

6. With the starting preparatory process of “Western Balkans Regional Strategy on Research and Development for Innovation”, the planned Global Challenges center network and the existing effective and innovative regional governance structures of Regional Cooperation council, Regional Cooperation process et al. **SEE region** has the potentials to develop **globally relevant innovative multi-stakeholder partnerships** that can be presented at **United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20)** in Rio de Janeiro in June 2012 www.uncsd2012.org and can provide innovative methodological input to **UNESCO Science, Technology and Innovation Global Assessment Program** http://www.unesco.org/new/fileadmin/MULTIMEDIA/HQ/SC/pdf/SC_PSD_Science_Technology_and_Innovation_Global_Assessment_Programme_%28STIGAP%29_en.pdf

Contact:

Miroslav Polzer

coordinator of MobilizeDiaspora4SD workshop

head of **Austrian Science Office (ASO)** Ljubljana www.aso.zsi.at and

Secretary general of **International Association for the Advancement of Innovative Approaches to Global Challenges** www.glocha.info

Address: Dunajska 104, SI 1000 Ljubljana/Slovenia, tel.: +43 664 4203648, email: polzer@glocha.info