



WINTER SCHOOL REPORT

First Regional Winter School On Migration “Diaspora for Local Development”

Belgrade, 10-11 December 2019

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List of abbreviations

BiH	Bosnia and Herzegovina
CESS	Center for Economic and Social Studies
CREDI	Center for Development Evaluation and Social Science Research
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit
IMIN	Institute for Migration and Ethnic Issues
IOM BiH	International Organization for Migration in Bosnia and Herzegovina
KIRS	Commissariat for Refugees and Migration Republic of Serbia
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
UNDP	The United Nations Development Programme in Bosnia and Herzegovina
WB-MIGNET	Western Balkans Migration Network

Introduction

Western Balkans Migration Network (WB-MIGNET) organized the First Regional Winter School “Diaspora for Local Development”, in Belgrade, Serbia in a period of 10 - 11 December 2019 at ENVOY Conference Center.

The Innovative Winter School aimed to engage practitioners and researchers from Western Balkans to connect, share knowledge, and learn from best practices of diaspora engagement in local development. The main objective was to increase knowledge on theories and methodology to analyze (e)migration and diaspora from Western Balkans, Southeast Europe and the world. Specifically, this school was focused mainly to facilitate the exchange of ideas between practitioners and researchers in the areas with the most potential impact on the local development, while providing innovative and cost-effective solutions. The beneficiaries directly benefited through knowledge exchange and transfer and developed professional networks.

In other words, the Winter School succeeded to bring together scholars, practitioners and policymakers from the Western Balkans and create a forum for the exchange of ideas in the areas with the most potential impact on the local development, while providing innovative and cost-effective solutions. It was designed as a combination of lectures and workshops, as well as understanding best practices towards enabling diaspora engagement in the local context. The Two-day school provided participants with a series of lectures by distinguished speakers, interactive workshops, engaging debates but also with enough time set aside for getting to know each other, to network with professionals and for discussing common future projects and initiatives. Topics presented at Winter School included: migration and development; remittances; social remittances; diasporas externalities; migration and institutional changes; migration and demographic changes; brain circulation (brain drain/gain); labour market and mobility of labour force. Implemented Agenda is presented as [Annex 1](#) to this Report.

The Winter School gathered more than 40 participants from Western Balkan countries. The speakers at the Winter School were; Dr. Nermin Oruč (director of the Center for Development Evaluation and Social Science Research and coordinator of WB-MIGNET), Prof.Dr. Danica Šantić (Faculty of Geography, University of Belgrade), Dr. Sanja Klempić Bogadi (IMIN; Institute for

Migration and Ethnic Issues), Dr. Ilir Gedeshi (CESS; Center for Economic and Social Studies), Jovana Konjević (KIRS; Commissariat for Refugees and Migration Republic of Serbia, Ana Judi Galić (BiH Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees) and Vladimir Petronijević (Group 484). In addition, dynamic and rich design thinking workshops were moderated by Liza Gashi (founder of GERMIN) and Sihana Bejtullahu (Program Director at GERMIN); profiles of lectures and moderators provided in [Annex 2](#) to this Report. Besides researchers who presented their current research, representatives of many government institutions and international organizations, such as UNDP BiH, BiH Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees, KIRS, Ministry of Diaspora Kosovo, Ministry of State for Diaspora of Albania and Development Fund for the Diaspora of the Republic of Albania also participated actively at the conference. Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) financially supported participants from Albania and Kosovo. Discussions held during each session after presentations resulted in a list of conclusions and specific recommendations that are presented below and should be shared with partner institutions in the Western Balkans region.

Welcome Speeches :

The conference started with Welcome speeches with greetings to the audience and introductory words about migration from their view and expertise. Mrs. Danica Šantić, welcomed the audience and explained the aim and agenda of the conference, as one of the hosts. Welcoming notes were continued by other hosts; Liza Gashi and Nermin Oruč as well as Merima Avdagić, representative of Project “Diaspora for Development (D4D)”, a project of BiH Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees and Government of Switzerland in partnership with UNDP BiH i IOM BiH. More about the project can be found [here](#).

Photo 1. Welcome Speech



About Western Balkan Migration Network

WB-MIGNET as an umbrella organization was introduced to the audience by its coordinator, Mr. Nermin Oruč. It was a brief presentation about mission, vision and up to date achievements. WB-MIGNET is the regional network of leading institutions and experts in the field of migration research who are committed to contributing to improved evidence-based policymaking on migration relevant for the Western Balkans region by producing high-quality interdisciplinary research, capacity building, development of resources and dissemination of evidence. Namely, WB-MIGNET is currently developing a regional migration observatory. The Observatory for the Western Balkans is envisaged as an online platform for policy makers, researchers, and donors interested in the migration issues in WB countries.

Migration on the world stage: SDGs and Global Impact of Migration

Introductory presentation by Danica Šantić created a framework for further sessions. Dr. Šantić was talking about the newest World Migration Report 2020, presenting its key facts and figures. Furthermore, the question of how migration is reflected in the 2030 agenda for sustainable development was elaborated within a dynamic discussion. The emphasis of this session was on the Global Compact for Migration.

Migration and (re)integration – case study Croatia

Sanja Klempić Bogadi talked about the migration and reintegration processes of contemporary Croatia. During this session, the lecturer touched upon recent and current emigration from Croatia, migration policies as well as an immigration action plan and its advantages and disadvantages. Bogadi presented the new position of Croatia as an immigration destination emphasizing the need for immigration to compensate for emigration consequences with a focus on immigrants from BiH .

Photo 2. Participants at the Case Study presentation



Knowing your Diaspora Who. Where, What, When? The Case of Albanian scientific diaspora

Ilir Gedeshi presented his work on “The case of Albanian scientific diaspora”. The presentation is a result of a long on-going project that is focused on the Albanians who left in pursuit of (higher) education. The project is extended not only to Albanians from Albania but also from Kosovo and Macedonia. The results show increasing numbers but also differences in their intentions to return to the home country.

Practitioners view on migration – migration profile

Jovana Konjević presented the work of KIRS that published the Migration Profile of Serbia for 2017. The migration profile is a document that consolidates data on all categories of migrants in the country and is published for the eighth year in a row. The migration profile covers data from the field of general cross-border mobility, international migration, statistics related to the prevention of illegal entry and stay, statistics on forced migration and international protection, as well as statistics on internal migration.

Diaspora and Development – creating a new strategy

Joint session of Ana Juda Galić and Vladimir Petronijević presented activities of BiH Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees in defining the strategic framework of diaspora cooperation. The focus was on the Strategy for Cooperation with Diaspora, as a framework document, an important step in the process of establishing and regulating the relationship between BiH and diaspora.

Design thinking workshops

Diaspora in Local Development: Innovation in Business, Education, Culture and Tourism through Diaspora Engagement

Linking communities with their diaspora for local development

Mapping Balkan Diaspora and potential for regional cooperation: What needs to be done next?

The very essence of innovative Design Thinking workshops lies in collaboration and thinking outside the box. The concept was to divide the audience into international groups in order to exchange knowledge as well as to create new conclusions and opportunities for collaboration. During these workshops, participants were divided into internationally mixed groups. Groups were assigned to do various tasks, from exchanging best practices to defining what diaspora means to them. The workshop provided an initial forum for gathering information about the perception of diaspora on the local level, and pleasant space for sharing experiences and best practices of ideas that worked in the past and could be replicated.

These groups activities were envisaged to further stimulate the capacity development of selected partner organizations and professionals that displayed strong motivation for the cooperation with diaspora based on activities of diaspora mainstreaming, diaspora engagement, institutionalized communication with diaspora, diaspora mapping, diaspora service provision, etc. In other words, the activities enabled partner organizations and present institutions an opportunity for knowledge exchange through networking that will ultimately lead to improved capacities of practitioners to engage the diaspora in local development in general.

Photos: Group Discussions



Conclusions and recommendations

The organizational team discussed and agreed with the participants that the following results were achieved during the Winter School:

- Raised awareness about the positive role and contributions of diaspora and migrants towards development in their countries of origin and residence, in particular, related to local economic development and job creation;
- Enhance potential for the engagement of diaspora in the local development through the exchange of knowledge and expertise of the most directly impacted individuals;
- Examples of the engaging diaspora into migration development nexus presented and shared on a regional basis;
- Gathered and shared tools and resources (project ideas) that could be replicated and adapted in other contexts to effectively make an impact in these areas;
- Collaboration between practitioners and researchers in order to learn about creative solutions that address local economic growth by engaging diaspora facilitated and achieved;
- A mechanism that allows practitioners and researchers to network beyond their local communities; including an understanding of the best practices and potential programs that could be replicated in their institutions established.

Among the above presented results, the two-day creative and innovative discussions during lecturing sessions and design thinking workshops produced following list of conclusions and recommendations:

- There is a need for disaggregated local-level data in a standardized form, where all government, NGO and private sectors must together work to systemize data collection process and analysis. This implies numerical or non-numerical information that has been broken down in component parts or smaller units of data in order to have a basis for any eventual policy initiation, research studies and similar.
- Linking data/evidence with the decision making process i.e. relying on data for policy development and development of practical diaspora engagement mechanisms.

Policies based and on data/evidence received and later developed can be called effective and efficient ones.

- There is a need to establish closer cooperation with practitioners and research communities to support relevant data collection mechanisms and evidence-building for the purpose of creation policies, measures, and mechanisms on a regional level.
- The best approach toward diaspora mainstreaming would be to constantly develop new and innovative channels of communication - as well as cooperation channels in order to create needed reliable diaspora data collection.
- There is a need to improve regional cooperation in diaspora engagement - with special focus on challenges, good practices, and practical mechanisms – especially related to diaspora engagement at the local levels, such as supporting regional peer learning, exchange of best practices, regular communication, and even focal points establishment. In other words, high number of diaspora is common for all Western Balkan countries, therefore it should be focal point of regional cooperation and exchange of best practices and mechanisms.
- Regular discussion, review, and opportunities related to the transfer of knowledge, exploring new approaches and programs is a need as well – especially from diaspora toward localities of origin. There are very good examples presented on Transfer of Knowledge from several units of local self-government, thus more replication and creation of regional coherent approach in this manner would have a broader positive effect.
- Engage diaspora experts for further Western Balkan local government trainings/workshops because there is a need to make a synergy amongst promoters of the countries/localities with academics and practitioners, as well as government representatives, with the goal that the Diaspora is heard by all relevant actors at one place.

WB-MIGNET'S REGIONAL WINTER SCHOOL: DIASPORA FOR LOCAL DEVELOPMENT

AGENDA

Date: 10-11 December 2019

Location: Envoy Conference Centre, Belgrade

Opening Ceremony

10.12.2019

09:00 – 09:30 **Registration & Coffee**

09:30 – 10:15 **Welcome notes**

WB-MIGNET members and representative of the D4D

10:15 – 10:40 **Presentation of the WB-MIGNET**

Nermin Oruč, *Coordinator of WB-MIGNET*

10:40 – 11:15 Migration on the world stage: SDGs and Global Compact of Migration

Lecturer: *Danica Šantić, Dean of the Faculty of Geography, University of Belgrade¹*

11:15 – 11:45 Coffee Break

11:45 – 12:10 Migration and (re)integration – case study Croatia

Lecturer: Sanja Klempić Bogadi, IMIN²; WB-MIGNET

12:10 – 13:00 **Energizer:** Know your team?

¹ Faculty of Geography, University of Belgrade is a formal member of WB-MIGNET.

² Institute for Migration and Ethnic Issues is leading and only scientific research institution in Croatia and formal member of WB-MIGNET.

13:00 – 13:30 **Design Thinking Workshop (Part I):** Knowing Your Diaspora

Who, Where, What, When?

Moderator: *Ilir Gedeshi, Founder of CESS³*

13:30 - 14:30 Lunch

14:30 - 16:30 The World Café Model: Practitioners view on migration – transnational workshop towards the creation of a migration profile.

Moderator: *Jovana Konjević, KIRS; Commissariat for Refugees and Migration
Republic of Serbia*

20:00 -22:00 Dinner & Networking

Diaspora Engagement & Best Practices | DAY II:

11.12.2019

09:30 – 10:30 Diaspora and Development – creating new strategy

Lecturers: Representative from Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees
BiH and Vladimir Petronijević, Group 484

10:30 – 11:00 **Design Thinking Workshop (Part II):** Diaspora in Local Development:
Innovation in Business, Education, Culture and Tourism through Diaspora
Engagement

Moderator: *Liza Gashi, Founder of GERMIN⁴*

11:00 – 11:30 Coffee Break

Migration Narratives & Diaspora Mapping | DAY II:

³ CESS is a leading migration Think-Tank organization from Albania and a formal member of WB-MIGNET.

⁴ GERMIN is a leading Diaspora Cooperation Center from Kosovo and a formal member of WB-MIGNET.

11.12.2019

- 11:30 – 13:00** **Design Thinking Workshop (Part III):** Linking communities with their diaspora for local development
- Moderator:** Miloš Đurović, Institute of Strategic Studies and Forecasting (ISSP)⁵*
- 13:00 – 14:00** Lunch
- 14:00 – 15:00** Mapping Balkan Diaspora: What Needs to be done next?
- Moderator:** Sihana Bejtullahu, Director of Program, GERMIN Kosovo, WB-MIGNET*
- 15:00- 15:30** Wrap up session
- Discussion on next steps and cooperation
- 15:30-16:00** Certification Ceremony
- Closing of the Winter School

⁵ ISSP a leading socio-economic research institute in Montenegro and a formal member of WB-MIGNET.

Annex 2 Profiles of lecturers and moderators

Dr. Ilir Gedeshi is a well-known migration scholar and a founder of CESS, a leading migration think tank in Albania and formal member of WB-MIGNET. In 2006-2007, Ilir led a study with the ETF on migration and human resources in Albania (Patterns of Migration and Human Resources Development Issues-Albania). In the last three years, Ilir completed several studies and have published a series of articles on brain drain and brain gain in Albania, the relationship between potential migration and human capital, and the role of the scientific diaspora in the social-economic development of the home country. He also conducted surveys on potential migration among high-school seniors and university students in Albania, as well as with Albanian students abroad. These surveys help to analyze the correlation between migration, education and employment. Currently, he is in the process of finalizing two studies on the return of Albanian asylum seekers from EU countries and a study on the return of Albanian students who have studied in advanced OECD countries.

Prof. Danica Šantić is Associate Professor at the University of Belgrade – Faculty of Geography, Serbia with strong expertise in migration topics. Starting her career in migration issues in internal migration flows in City of Belgrade, she continued to research and practice spatial aspects of population phenomena through distribution characteristics, forms of spatial structures, connections and relationships between demographic elements, and other spatial systems as dynamic and temporally variable categories. Her research projects have focused on the Balkan migration route and migration flows in and from Serbia in the past, thus having practical experiences in economics of migration and local development. She is one of the founder of network: Migration, Inter-Connectivity and Regional Development (MiCaRD). She is Social Science Fellow, ECIA Fellow, expert in migration issues at ICMPD, research associate at Canada Research Chair in Global Migration Processes. Currently she is involved in H2020 project MIGREC – Migration, Integration and Governance Research Centre.

Liza Gashi is founder of GERMIN, a leading diaspora centre in Kosovo. Liza is a public policy professional with experience in project and campaign management, qualitative analysis and big data, and multi-stakeholder engagement in Kosovo, the United States, Costa Rica and Argentina. She has been a Commitment-Maker of the Clinton Global Initiative. Liza has also founded and currently leads the United World Colleges Committee in Kosovo, which has administered scholarships for Kosovo high school students to attend UWC colleges in 15 different countries.

Dr. Nermin Oruč holds a PhD in Economics from Staffordshire University and is currently Director at the Centre for Development Evaluation and Social Science Research of Bosnia and Herzegovina. He has worked for eight years at the Universities SSST and International University of Sarajevo, where he taught Econometrics, Economic Development and Labour Economics. He completed a number of research projects in the fields of migration, with a focus on return of highly skilled migrants in their countries of origin. He was engaged on mapping of BiH Diaspora and developed a study on the return of highly skilled individuals to BiH in cooperation and funding from the EU Commission. He was a Research Fellow at CERGE-EI, Prague (2012-2015) and is currently Visiting Atlantic Fellow at the International Inequalities Institute, LSE, London.

Miloš Đurović holds a master's degree in ethnology and anthropology from the Faculty of Philosophy, University of Belgrade. He works as a researcher at the Institute for Strategic Studies and Prognoses, primarily on issues of socio-economic inclusion, social policies and migration topics. He is a member of the Executive Board of WB-MIGNET. At the University of Donja Gorica he has been engaged in courses in Cultural Anthropology (Faculty of Culture and Tourism) and Anthropology (Faculty of Applied Science), as well as on socio-cultural topics within the course History of Sport (Faculty of Sport Management).

Dr. Sanja Klempić Bogadi is a Senior Research Fellow at the Institute for Migration and Ethnic Studies in Zagreb. PhD Klempić Bogadi received her PhD from the Department of Geography, Faculty of Natural Sciences, University of Zagreb. Her main interests are demogeography, migration, aging, quality of life, island geography. Dr. Klempić Bogadi has published dozens of scientific and professional papers and participated in the preparation of projects mainly in the field of impact of migration (specifically on Croatia).

Sihana Bejtullahu holds a Master Degree in School Psychology (at the University of Prishtina - Faculty of Philosophy) and has a combined experience in psychology and project management for over 5 years. Sihana works at GERMIN as a Program Director. She has worked as a Project Manager at Peer Educators Network - PEN, in the field of empowering youth in political participation and electoral processes, transforming ideas of social impact into concrete projects in more than 24 municipalities in Kosovo.

[Annex 3 List of members of Western Balkan Migration Network](#)

Germin is a non-governmental organization that uses technology and virtual channels to connect and engage Diaspora in advancing the development and democratization of their home countries. Germin has a wide network of professionals and part-time collaborators, currently residing in 24 countries including the Balkans, Western Europe, and North America.

Internationally recognized, South East European University (SEEU) provides a set of unique study and research opportunities, shaped by a dynamic faculty. With more than 70 study programmes, we offer modern teaching methods, backed by certified quality management and advanced IT services. These opportunities are further enhanced by an active collaboration with the community and an integrated, ecologically sustainable campus.

The Center for Economic and Social Studies (CESS) is an independent, non-partisan and nonprofit organization dedicated to the study of economic and social issues in Albania following the democratic changes of 1990. Naturally areas like migration, issues related to marginalized societal groups like Roma and Egyptians, economic and social development as well as regional and European integration, became the main areas of CESS research activity.

The Centre for Development Evaluation and Social Science Research (CREDI) is an independent, non-profit and non-partisan think tank aimed at strengthening the evidence-based culture in BiH and the Western Balkans region. CREDI expect that our work will contribute to improving the efficiency of a wide range of projects, programs, policies and organizations.

The Institute for Migration and Ethnic Studies (IMIN) is the only scientific research institution in Croatia, as well as in the wider environment, that by systematic and interdisciplinary observation of all forms of population migration and mobility, by studying national/ethnic minorities and various aspects of ethnic

issues, with special tasks to stimulate their comparative examination, improves scientific and public understanding of their complexity and reality.

The Institute of Strategic Studies and Prognoses (ISSP) was founded in 1998 with the vision of creating an open market society with a high level of economic, political and individual freedom. ISSP is first independent economic think tank in Montenegro, with 20 years of experience in conducting high quality research and analysis. ISSP is scientific research institution accredited by Montenegrin Ministry of Science.

University of Belgrade – Faculty of Geography is the main initiator and the key factor of development of the Serbian school of geography. Ever since its foundation, the Belgrade school of geography occupied a leading position in the development of scientific geography and in the application of scientific results in diverse areas of social practice, such as: spatial planning, urban planning, rural planning, environmental protection and enhancement and others.