

MobilizeDiaspora4SD

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

12 October 2011, Sarajevo, **Parliament of Bosnia and Herzegovina**

(Pre-Conference event of the TAIEX conference “**Emigration Issues in the Western Balkans - joint approach to linking migration and development of the countries of origin**” of Ministry for Human Rights and Refugees of Bosnia and Herzegovina (Department for Emigration/Diaspora))

Co-organizers:

- Austrian Science and Research Liaison Office Ljubljana www.aso.zsi.at
- Regional Cooperation Council, Sarajevo
- UNESCO Venice Office www.unesco.org/venice
- Center for e-Governance Development in SEE CeGD Ljubljana www.cegd.eu/
- Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL) <http://cooperation.epfl.ch/>
- International Association for the Advancement of Innovative Approaches to Global Challenges Vienna - Ljubljana www.glocha.info
- Ministry for Human Rights and Refugees of BiH - Department for Diaspora

Background and Objectives of the Workshop:

This workshop is a follow-up to the International Workshop “Scientific Diaspora and ICT- Using Modern Information and Communication Technologies to Harness the Potential of Southeast Europe's Scientific Diaspora” organized June 2009 by ASO Ljubljana, RCC, UNESCO Venice Office and CeGD (see <http://www.aso.zsi.at/bg/veranstaltung/3184.html> for agenda, list of participants, presentations etc.).

The rationale of the workshop is based on the fact that

- highly skilled professionals from the fields of science, technology and business have emigrated from Southeast European countries in extremely high numbers
- this “brain drain” is a substantial systemic problem for science, education and innovation systems in Southeast Europe and therefore
- ways have to be found to reconnect highly skilled emigrants with sustainable development efforts in their countries of origin

At the 2009 workshop the focus has been on Brain gain programmes, virtual mobility and diaspora knowledge networks, Web 2.0 opportunities for cross sectoral and international e-collaboration and Web 2.0 applications in RTD governance as a new way / new culture of participatory and interactive delivery of public services. There has been strong consensus at 2009 workshop that involving the human resources of diaspora in economic and social development of SEE countries is extremely important and that projects, programs and institutions need to be developed to facilitate the mobilization of intellectual and financial resources as well as social capital of diaspora for sustainable development of their countries of origin.

At the 2011 follow-up workshop we aim at outlining concrete project initiatives on regional level related to diaspora resources and sustainable development in SEE

- explore collaborative ways through which a research consortium gathering researchers and other key actors from different EE countries could be established. The aim of it would be to identify funding

opportunities to jointly advance empirical and policy oriented research on skilled mobility, diaspora engagement and development impact in the EE region¹.

- discuss the proposal of forging a multi-stakeholder partnership with diaspora on knowledge based sustainable development in Southeast Europe,
- looking at the feasibility of establishing a network of Global Challenges (GloCha) centers in SEE countries as new institutional framework for organizing such a multi-stakeholder partnership for sustainable development that would include diaspora
- outlining a common information and documentation system for documentation and collaborative (web 2.0) assessment of the relevance of the different types of contributions (knowledge, volunteerism/time, funding, in kind contributions, ..) for sustainable development and
- discuss the role of public finance instruments (matching funds, tax benefits, etc.) that would encourage engagement of foreign/diaspora and domestic stakeholders in such collaborative sustainable development efforts.
- discuss possibilities to involve the private sector in diaspora related development efforts in SEE

The Sarajevo workshop “MobilizeDiaspora4SD - Mobilization of Intellectual and Financial Resources from Diaspora for Knowledge Based Sustainable Development in SEE” and the plan of establishing a network of GloCha Centers in SEE have strong links with the preparatory process for **United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20)** in Rio de Janeiro in June 2012 www.uncsd2012.org and shall provide 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

With the initiatives that will be discussed at MobilizeDiaspora4SD workshop in Sarajevo, Southeast European countries can develop a role model of an innovative and inclusive (diaspora!) multistakeholder partnership for sustainable development which can be presented at Rio+20 conference and later on replicated in other parts of the world.

The potentials of GloCha centers as local focal points of a multilevel governance multi-stakeholder innovation system towards sustainable development have been discussed also at IAAI & ASO Ljubljana international conference “**Knowledge, Youth and Global Commons - Orienting Knowledge Systems and Inter-Generational Relations towards Sustainable Development and Rio+20**”, 15. & 16. September 2011, Maria Loretto Palace, Klagenfurt am Wörthersee (Austria) <http://www.glocha.info/iaai/index.php/conference2011> with very favorable assessments from leading experts in the fields of knowledge and management of societal change processes.

Another test of IAAI/GloCha concepts – with favorable outcome - has been the workshop “**Rio+20 – A Window of Opportunity for a Multi-Stakeholder Partnership on Global Commons Growth**” at 64th UN DPI NGO conference “**Sustainable Societies; Responsive Citizens**” Bonn/Germany, Monday, 5 September, 2011 <http://www.glocha.info/index.php/latest-news/149-bonn-2>

¹ The current joint research project on the scientific diaspora of the Republic of Moldova including the creation of a website for exchange with the scientific and skilled professional communities in the home country carried out by the Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL) and the Academy of Sciences of Moldova (ASM) could be taken as a good starting point to extend collaboration for further research in other countries of the EE region.

Program of MobilizeDiaspora4SD workshop

12. October, venue: Trg BiH 1 (the Parliamentary Assembly of BiH)

09.00 **Welcome & Tour de table**

- **Miroslav Polzer** (IAAI & ASO Ljubljana)
- **Aiša Telalović**, Ministry for Human Rights and Refugees of BiH - Department for Diaspora
- **Mario Scalet**, UNESCO Venice Office
- **Mladen Dragašević**, Regional Cooperation Council

09.40 **Overview/Introductory presentation - The Role of Diaspora for Development in SEE and the need for regional cooperation**

Bernard Zenelli, UNDP Albania

10.00 **Diaspora and knowledge based sustainable development – The EU context**

Alan Craig European Commission DG Education and Culture (EAC) "People" programme; Marie Curie actions

10.20 **Scientific diasporas and skilled mobility as drivers of S&T and innovation in benefit of home country development - EPFL Research with the Academy of Science of Moldova and potentials for further partnerships from the SEE and EE region**

Gabriela Tejada, Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL)

10.40 **introduction to interactive session with all workshop participants included:** Case studies for mobilization of diaspora resources for sustainable development in SEE countries, both at academic level (research on skilled migration from several countries from a transnational perspective), as well as at policy level (which institutional settings both in countries of origin and of destination –mainly EU?- strengthen the transnational mobility of human capital and scientific diaspora resources), exploring possibilities of research partnerships with diverse actors.

11.00 Coffee break

11.30 **Continuation of interactive session with all workshop participants**

- public finance instruments (matching funds, tax benefits, etc.) that would encourage engagement of foreign/diaspora and domestic stakeholders in SEE sustainable development efforts
- envisaged SEE brain gain excellence center in Albania

12.30 Lunch

14.00 **Presentation and discussion of IAAI/GloCha ideas and concepts that combine local, national and SEE regional governance levels in the field of diaspora resources mobilization**

Miroslav Polzer, International Association for the Advancement of Innovative Approaches to Global Challenges (IAAI)

- multi-stakeholder partnership (including diaspora) for knowledge based sustainable development in Southeast Europe,
- network of Global Challenges (GloCha) centers in SEE countries as focal points for multistakeholder (including diaspora) resource mobilization for sustainable development in SEE
- common information and documentation system for the different types of contributions to sustainable development (with a focus on documenting the contribution of science and education)

14.30 Coffee break

- 15.00 Operationalizing Workshop Objectives - main outcomes, next steps and follow up
- 16.30 discussion of recommendations of the workshop to the MHRR/TAIEX conference 'Linking Migration and Development of the Western Balkans Countries' Sarajevo, 13 and 14 October 2011
- 17.00 end of workshop

First draft suggestions for Input from workshop to be included in the final recommendations of the MHRR/TAIEX conference on 14 October:

- Multistakeholder partnership approach needed
- Mainstreaming the concept of „Shared social responsibility“ (see related EU efforts at http://www.coe.int/t/dg3/SocialPolicies/SocialCohesionDev/Source/progconf_en.pdf)
- Social innovation needed – SEE has great potentials in this respect (this issue has been addressed also at ASO Ljubljana capacity building on Social Innovation Research and Management in Ohrid May 2011 <http://www.aso.zsi.at/aktuelles/3793.html>)
- Future orientation on sustainable development as a global challenge can help mobilize resources from diaspora for collaborative wealth generation in countries of origin
- Aiming for a specific SEE input to UNCSD Rio+20 conference and UNESCO STI GAP

Additional info:



IAAI plans to establish a network of GloCha Centers in SEE countries as pilot case for a global initiative. The GloCha centers network management concept is “Management by shared vision, trust, financial transparency, common performance information system and long-time accountability”. Key elements of the evolving GloCha center network system are:

- a vision on collaborative wealth generation based on shared (global) social responsibility
- decentralized open innovation and collaboration processes for knowledge based sustainable development wealth generation/accumulation (= “sustainable development (global) commons growth”)
- global citizenship ethics,
- new global commons concepts/new sustainable development commons concepts,
- new wealth indicators (which can document the contribution of science and education to sustainable development) and
- common financial and impact assessment reporting information system as the elements providing cohesion among the different GloCha systems elements.



Contact: Miroslav Polzer

head of Austrian Science Office Ljubljana www.aso.zsi.at which is part of **Centre for Social Innovation, Vienna** – and Secretary general of **International Association for the Advancement of Innovative Approaches to Global Challenges** www.glocha.info, member of **Academic Council on the UN System** www.acuns.org
Address: Dunajska 104, SI 1000 Ljubljana/Slovenia, tel.: +43 664 4203648, email: polzer@zsi.at