

Global Governance Programme and Return Migration and Development Platform

POLICY WORKSHOP

RETURN MIGRANTS AND ENTREPRENEURS: BEYOND ESTABLISHED PARADIGMS

Scientific Coordinators: **Jean-Pierre Cassarino** | EUI and **Anna Triandafyllidou** | EUI

Villa Schifanoia - Sala Europa
Via Boccaccio, 121 - Firenze

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■ PROGRAMME

09.30-09.40	Welcome remarks Anna Triandafyllidou Director <i>ad interim</i> , Global Governance Programme <i>Morning Session</i> Chair Anna Triandafyllidou
09.40-10.00	Return Migrant Entrepreneurs in Serbia Tanja Pavlov
10.00-10.20	Return Migrant Entrepreneurs in Albania Brikena Balli
10.20-10.30	Discussant Kosta Barjaba
10.30-11.15	Debate
11.15-11.30	<i>Coffee break</i>
11.30-11.50	Return Migrant Entrepreneurs in North Africa Jean-Pierre Cassarino
11.50-12.10	Return Migrant Entrepreneurs in Mali and Armenia Davide Calenda
12.10-12.20	Discussant Giorgia Giovannetti
12.20-13.00	Debate
13.00-14.30	<i>Lunch (Sala delle Bandiere)</i>
14.30-16.30	Roundtable Chair Jean-Pierre Cassarino Web-live streaming on: http://network.globalgovernanceprogramme.eu/return-migrants-and-entrepreneurs-beyond-established-paradigms
16.30-16.45	Closing remarks Anna Triandafyllidou Jean-Pierre Cassarino

■ PARTICIPANTS

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■ ABSTRACT

Not all return migrants become entrepreneurs back home and, conversely, not all entrepreneurs are return migrants. Admittedly, this assumption may sound like a truism if it were not for today's need to re-discover the factors as well as the overall conditions shaping the propensity and ability of some return migrants to invest in the creation and maintenance of business back home.

The RDP-GGP workshop sets out to address the entrepreneurship of return migrants to different countries and across various regions by laying emphasis on the conditions conducive to their economic and social action – conditions that are related to their material and human capital gathered during migration but also to the mobilisation of a transnational social capital between the country of destination and the country of origin. In addition we consider the impact of home country policies which should make return and investment viable, together with the role of destination countries.

“Entrepreneurship” involves more than the act of economically investing in given segments of industry, whether in the formal or informal sector. It also acquires a social dimension that, in turn, impacts on entrepreneurs' patterns of resource mobilisation and strategies for survival.

This dynamic vision deserves further attention, above all, when it comes to analysing the reasons for which some entrepreneur-returnees have invested their past experiences of migration in their business activities whereas others have not. Furthermore, the workshop will contribute to identifying various forms of “entrepreneurship” which may vary with market opportunities and conditions back home, migration itineraries, and with the vicissitudes inherent in the marketplace.

The Return migration and Development Platform (RDP, <http://rsc.eui.eu/RDP/>) at the Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies has carried out two field surveys (MIREM and CRIS) which, among others, deal with the entrepreneurship of return migrants to Algeria, Armenia, Mali, Morocco, and Tunisia. The Transnational Networks, Transnational Entrepreneurship and the Role of the State project studies returning migrant entrepreneurs in Serbia and Albania exploring the specific south eastern European dimension of the issue.

Field data from both sets of studies will be analysed with a view to a better understanding of the factors, resources and conditions shaping return migrants' entrepreneurship back home.

The workshop is addressed to academics and experts in the field with a special focus on national development agencies, international development agencies and intergovernmental organisations, NGOs and migration stakeholders.

Having addressed the entrepreneurship of various categories of return migrants in different national settings, the main objective of the roundtable is to foster a general discussion among participants about the aspects that need to be factored into migration and development policy-making with a view to properly responding to return migrants' entrepreneurship back home.