"PROMOTING A TERRITORIAL APPROACH TO MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT: THE PRACTICES, FRAMEWORKS AND STRATEGIES OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES TO HARNESS THE POTENTIAL OF MIGRATION FOR DEVELOPMENT"

Through the various E-discussions that the Joint Migration and Development Initiative (JMDI) has launched and moderated throughout the first programme (2008-2012), the difficulties encountered by regional and local authorities (RLAs) to access knowledge and learn directly from other RLAs' accomplishments in the field of migration and development (M&D) has been clearly evidenced. This is the reason why the JMDI in collaboration with the UNDP ART Initiative (Articulating of Territorial Networks for Sustainable Human Development) and the EUNOMAD network (European Network on Migration and Development) have partnered up to launch this E-discussion. It aims at engaging RLAs and practitioners in meaningful discussions among themselves and with other development actors and exchange on the impacts that migration flows have on their territories. In the context of the new programme implemented by the JMDI '*Strengthening the contribution of migration for development by reinforcing its local dimension*', this E-discussion thus represents a new step towards providing RLAs and practitioners with an opportunity to exchange their knowledge and experiences drawn from the policies and initiatives that seek to capitalise on migrants' contributions to development in both, countries of origin and destination.

While there has been increased exchange of good practices and ideas at the international level, *inter alia* through the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) and the inter-state regional consultative processes (RCPs) on migration[1], regional and local authorities (RLA) generally work in isolation and have limited possibilities for exchange and access to information about what is happening elsewhere. Yet, as a recent report commissioned by the Joint Migration and Development Initiative (JMDI) titled "Mapping local authorities' practices in the field of migration development" has evidenced, RLAs are the first to be confronted with a multitude of challenges that are the result of rising migration flows, changing migration patterns and complex profiles of migrants.

More RLAS are also interested in harnessing the positive impacts that migration can bring to their territories by maximising the various contributions[2] that migrants bring to both their territories and

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[1] A Regional Consultative Process on Migration (RCP) is a restricted information-sharing and discussion forum for states with an interest in promoting cooperation in the field of migration.

[2] Within the JMDI experience, migrants' contributions include migrants' **human capital** (education, training, skills and knowledge), **financial and entrepreneurial capital** (foreign development investments, trade, remittances, savings, business investments, purchase of real estate and humanitarian support), **social capital** (networks, norms and values that facilitate cooperation within and among groups, awareness of social innovations); **affective capital** (commitment and goodwill derived from their emotional engagement in countries of origin); and *migrants' **local**

countries of origin and destination. They increasingly recognize that migrants can act as bridge builders between two territories, knowing both and forming part of transnational networks. A growing number of RLAs thus seek the explicit recognition of their role in policy-making and programming in migration related matters. Such an example is the [opinion](#) of the Committee of the Regions on the EU [Global Approach to Migration and Mobility](#) (GAMM) which calls in particular for RLAs to be taken fully into account in the implementation of the global approach, by building on existing decentralised cooperation projects and structured dialogues. Furthermore, the field of action of local authorities is widening through decentralization processes and transfer of competencies. In Morocco for example, local authorities have made an effort to integrate migration issues into the local development planning through the advanced regionalisation process characterised by the 'Plans Communaux de Développement'[3]. In this context, the E-discussion seeks to draw on more examples such as the abovementioned and expose the challenges that are linked to processes that aim at mainstreaming migration as a cross-cutting issue in territorial development planning. Furthermore, the articulation of migration and development related issues between the different levels of governance remains a challenge in most countries. As the efforts of RLAs must connect and be in line with national policies in both residence and origin countries of migrants, the E-discussion also aims to explore the coordination mechanisms between the different levels of governance in the field of migration and development and how these can be institutionalized.

Migration is essentially a local-to-local phenomenon, as the activities of migrants are felt through various resources, knowledge, capacities and remittances that are circulating between their territories of origin and destination. RLAs are progressively dealing with issues such as securing the departure and return of their population, supplying information and opportunities for migrants to make use of their resources in both territories, enabling them to take part in consultative processes or the recognition of their rights and qualifications. Co-development projects such as the ones initiated by the [City of Milan](#) in Italy or the longstanding twinning between the [City of Montreuil in France and Yélimané in Mali](#) represent promising initiatives, showing that city administrations and local authorities are well positioned to influence and frame the actions of migrants' communities in a positive way. The recommendations of a recent seminar organized by the members of EUNOMAD network titled "[Migration, Development and Integration. Complementary of the role and actions of local authorities and civil society in relation to the European Union](#)" concluded that in order to a) enable the effective functioning of the migration-development governance; and b) ensure the sustainability of migration and development projects, the planning and programming of decentralized cooperation should be constructed in close consultation with the civil society.

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capital, which is their willingness to act in certain regions that are overlooked by traditional development actors.

[3] In this context, the JMDI concluded a report 'Mainstreaming migration into local development planning strategies in Morocco', accessible [here](#).

The objective of the E-discussion is to illustrate how RLAs engage in dialogue and reach out to their migrant and diaspora population in both territories through targeted outreach and communications strategies. As research has evidenced, engaging migrant associations in the design and implementation of local development strategies can avoid duplication of efforts and ensure that migrant's contributions match the development needs and priorities of local communities. Contributions to this e-discussion would thus ideally document or propose how to formalise partnerships between RLAs and migrant and diaspora groups at the local level, thus making migration and development initiatives more sustainable in the long-tem.

The E-discussion will remain open over a period of **4 weeks (8 July – 4 August 2013)**. Each week will address a specific set of questions (see below). The responses to the E-discussion will be compiled into a **consolidated reply** which will be incorporated into and form the basis of discussions at major M&D events such as the 2014 Global Forum on Migration and Development, the EUROCITIES conference 'Integrating Cities VI' taking place in Tampere, Finland (September 2013), and the II World Forum of Local Economic Development which will take place in Foz do Iguassu, Brazil (October/November 2013).

Questions

Week 1: How can RLAS both in residence and origin countries better make use of decentralized cooperation frameworks to deal and manage issues related to migration and development? What type of coordination mechanism are available / or should be made available so that such initiatives are aligned with national strategies? What strategies can RLAs adopt to share lessons learned and best practices with other RLAs/national governments or other key stakeholders? Do you know of any examples/structures where migration was included into territorial development planning? What where the main factors and challenges for dealing with migration as a cross-cutting issue in development planning?

Week 2: Could you share some best practices carried out by RLAs both in residence and origin countries that specifically target the integration and social inclusion of migrants and potentially linked this effort with co-development projects? What are the main challenges for RLAs in making sure that migrants are active players in local governance and active citizenship and what can migrants themselves and /or other civil society organizations do to raise awareness about their needs and potentials and thus promote better service delivery specifically for migrants?

Week 3: How can RLAs be successful in their outreach strategy and communication with migrant communities in the country of origin and destination? Are you aware of consultative processes led by RLAs that engage diaspora groups so that the latter's activities are in line with local development needs and priorities? Are there concrete examples on how diaspora groups are involved in the definition of local development planning strategies in your community?

Week 4: What can RLAs both in countries of origin and destination do in order to provide diaspora groups with an enabling environment (according to the different capitals listed in footnote 2) and how can they facilitate further partnerships with key local stakeholders? What institutions are at the forefront in making sure that the initiatives of migrants are sustainable and potentially replicated at the local, national or regional level? What are the challenges to formalize partnerships between migrant and civil society groups and RLAs in the context of M&D initiatives?

Please feel free to respond to as many, or few, questions as you like–there is no requirement to provide responses to all the questions! Please participate by emailing m4d@groups.dev-nets.org or by posting your comments online in the Migration4Development forum here

We warmly encourage members to forward this message to your networks and invite those working in the areas covered by this e-discussion to participate. Please note that responses to the e-discussion are not automatically shared but are first directed to the facilitation teams for compilation.

We are looking forward to a rich and lively e-discussion and to receiving your contributions!
The JMDI, UNDP ART and EUNOMAD Teams