



European Union  
Global Diaspora Facility

# FUTURE FORUM

CONFERENCE REPORT  
22-24 JUNE 2021

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Implemented by



**ICMPD**

International Centre for  
Migration Policy Development

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Written by Charlotte Griffiths, Dr Fanny Tittel-Mosser and Hala Tarabay, with thanks to the note-takers for each session.

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For any queries, please contact: [EU-diaspora@icmpd.org](mailto:EU-diaspora@icmpd.org)

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# FOREWORD

Since its inception, the EU Global Diaspora Facility (EUDiF) has been striving to be informed, inclusive and impactful in order to foster diaspora engagement for development globally. EUDiF is the very first EU-funded project on diaspora-engagement for development on a *global* scale. It was born out of the necessity, *inter alia*, to engage with diasporas, governments of countries of origin and destination and other relevant actors in all regions of the world and so pilots a holistic approach to diaspora engagement.

It was against this background that we held the first edition of the Future Forum in June 2021, coinciding with EUDiF's second anniversary. Staying true to the Facility's nature, the Future Forum offered an inclusive platform for exchange, via which to explore what the impact of diaspora engagement may be in the years to come.

Discussions during the three days of the conference demonstrated that there is a wide range of opportunities and solutions, a lot of optimism and goodwill, positive energy, genuine involvement, and even more determination to advance the diaspora engagement agenda with a view to catalysing sustainable development. To move this agenda forward globally, three dimensions are to be considered:

First of all, inclusiveness and diversity are crucial to innovate and generate knowledge. We need to acknowledge, celebrate and tap into diaspora diversity!

Secondly, the 'diaspora engagement puzzle' (with its huge range of stakeholders and topics) can benefit from targeted reflections that spark forward-looking solutions. In this respect, the Future Forum successfully addressed key topics that will continue transforming our societies in the decades to come.

Finally, when aspiring to a sustainable future for people and planet, progress can only be achieved by joining efforts, investing and strengthening leadership, channelling knowledge and connecting the global with the local level. Herein, diasporas – who have global minds and local hearts – represent a huge wealth of potential as partners for change. Moreover, true impact on global issues can only be achieved by fully involving youth – including youth diaspora – as they bring fresh perspectives and creativity to develop concrete solutions for the future.

From joining sessions and witnessing the live discussions, as well as hearing feedback afterwards, for me the Future Forum corroborated one simple but essential fact: Creating and offering more opportunities to engage

in meaningful interactions around diaspora-engagement and sustainable development generates valuable connections and ideas. Dialogues and exchanges which combine the dynamic potential of diaspora-engagement with sustainable development topics of global importance can complement – and even catalyse – existing thematic or national dialogues. Bringing together perspectives from different profiles and regions is the perfect way to inspire innovation, that elusive ingredient so important for generating solutions to global challenges.

I often refer to diaspora engagement as an 'unfinished business' that requires more joint efforts, concerted actions and multi-stakeholder partnerships. Indeed, the Forum reiterated that working together is not a burden, but an opportunity that brings creativity and strengthens legitimacy and impact. We have to practice partnerships more often, always remembering that our most important allies are time and patience.

I wish to express my gratitude to all the participants and speakers of the Future Forum for their interest and participation in the event, the European Commission's Directorate General for International Partnerships for guidance and funding EUDiF, as well as the project team for organising the event so enthusiastically and professionally.

On behalf of the team, I invite you to get in touch with us about anything related to the Future Forum or our other project activities. We look forward to cooperating with you to truly maximise the potential of diaspora engagement for a sustainable future!

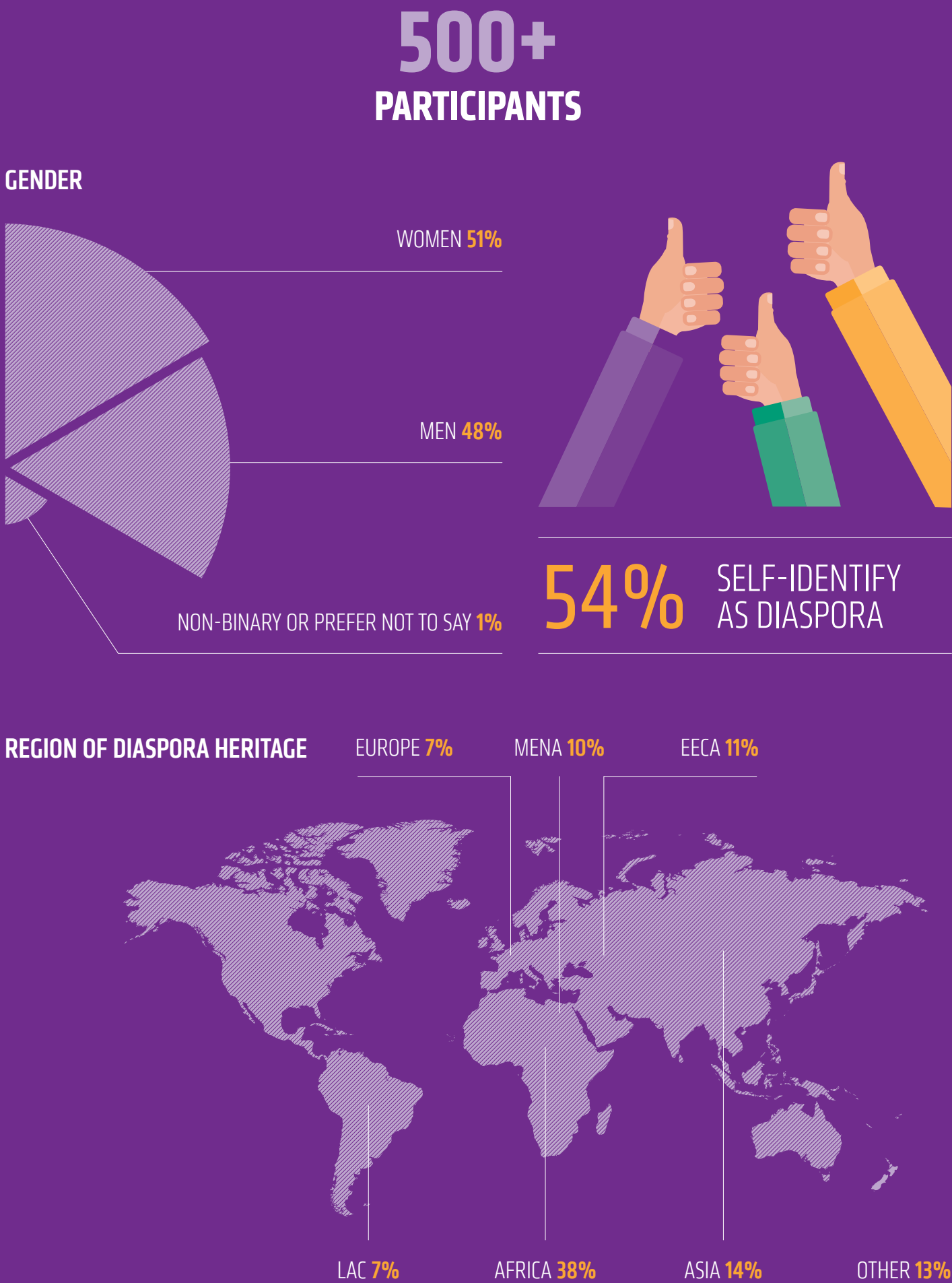
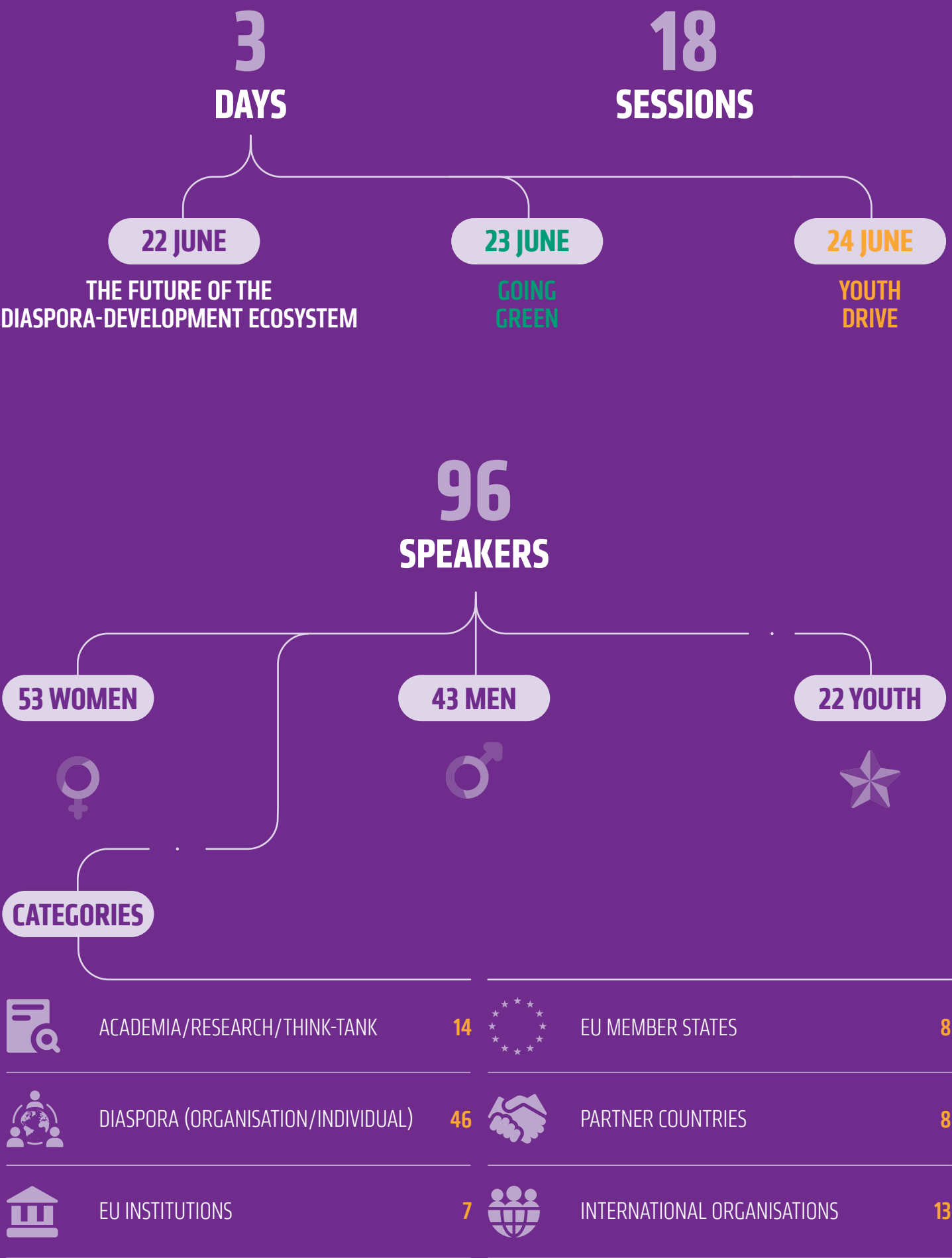
**Oleg CHIRITA**

*Head of Global Initiatives*

*ICMPD*



# FUTURE FORUM @ A GLANCE





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22 JUNE

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THE FUTURE OF  
THE DIASPORA-  
DEVELOPMENT  
ECOSYSTEM

# OPENING CEREMONY

*On the first day of the Future Forum, we were privileged to welcome five high level speakers to open the event with perspectives from different parts of the diaspora-development ecosystem. Here are their main insights:*

## MARTIN SEYCHELL

**Deputy Director-General, Directorate General for International Partnerships, European Commission**

While EUDiF is the first *global* EU-funded project on diaspora engagement, the EU has been involved in this field for a long time, taking a two-track approach. Firstly, by empowering the diaspora and in parallel by developing enabling environments in countries of origin, especially for diaspora investment.

Looking at the 15 diaspora recommendations that emerged from the EUDiF diaspora consultations over the past 18 months, many are not completely new but are important to reiterate, including the need for funding, capacity building and professionalization, diaspora skills and knowledge, and peer exchanges. According to Mr Seychell, the priorities and expectations of diaspora groups are increasingly being taken into account in multi-stakeholder platforms and the European Commission (EC) hopes that the Future Forum will become one of the key venues for making advancements on the overall diaspora engagement agenda. Indeed, as of 2019, diaspora development organisations are members of the Policy Forum on Development (PFD), the Commission's permanent dialogue forum on all development matters with civil society and local authorities. DG INTPA is also eager to do more on dialogue and peer exchanges, capacity building and deployment of diaspora experts.



## AMBASSADOR VLADIMER KONSTANTINIDI

**Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Georgia**

Georgia is strongly committed to diaspora communities. The role of the government is to facilitate the engagement process (E.g. through the young Ambassador Programme and small grant scheme to empower diaspora networks). Ambassador Konstantinidi reiterated that there is no one-size-fits-all style of engagement and underlined the importance of peer learning. He emphasised the key role played by the diaspora in the development of the country of origin.



GEORGIA FACTSHEET



### SONIA PEREIRA

**High Commissioner for Migration, Portugal**

Mirroring Ambassador Konstantinidi's words, Ms Pereira highlighted the importance of integration as a key step to diaspora engagement. The Portuguese Presidency put integration of migrants on the political agenda, which is in line with Portugal's long standing effort to foster the positive contributions of migrants to societies. Migrant integration is at the core of the Portuguese implementation plan for the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM), as is and strengthening migrant community leadership and capacities. Along these lines, Portugal has created a special unit to work with migrant associations and to provide them technical and financial support.



### OUJDANE MEJRI

**Migration for Development Director, Pontes Ricerche e Interventi**

Passing the baton from the final edition of EUDiF's diaspora consultations, Ms Mejri presented **15 diaspora recommendations** put forth by diaspora representatives participating in the four diaspora consultations organised across Europe. She divided them into two main categories: those that focus on today's issues and that can be acted on relatively quickly (e.g. funding, professionalisation and capacity development, peer learning etc.) and those that are more forward-looking (e.g. on youth diaspora engagement, the creation of a platform to give visibility to diaspora action, the development of a structured multi-stakeholder dialogue etc.). Ms Mejri argued that EUDiF fills a gap as it provides a space for collective reflection and action on diaspora engagement at EU level.



*We absolutely need diaspora communities in our efforts to implement the United Nations 2030 Sustainable Development Goals. Diaspora communities have a crucial role to play in our collective efforts to build a more sustainable future for all.*

– Martin Seychell, DG INTPA



### RALPH GENETZKE

**Director, International Centre for Migration Policy Development**

EUDiF capitalises on and reflects the rich work of ICMPD in the field of diaspora engagement. The project was born out of the necessity to develop inclusive approaches to diaspora engagement, moving away from national or regional perspectives. Within two years, EUDiF has built a public knowledge hub, held 20+ consultations and thematic exchanges and kicked-off several operational interventions to empower diaspora and governments. While a lot has been done, diaspora engagement remains a fairly young policy area. Therefore, more interventions are necessary when it comes to building confidence, empowering diasporas, strengthening institutional capacities and policies, and ultimately creating common spaces of reflection and exchanges.



DIASPORA RECOMMENDATIONS

# HOMELAND DIASPORA STRATEGIES – MEASURING & SCALING IMPACT

*With the great diversity in diaspora engagement policies, can we mainstream the policy development process? In this session, we discussed 20 years of Azerbaijan's diaspora policy and two different approaches to updating recent diaspora policies in Guyana and Zimbabwe, sharing tips on how to adapt to an ever-changing landscape.*



The graphic is a promotional poster for the EUDIF Future Forum session. It features a brown background with a grid pattern. At the top left, the EUDIF logo is displayed next to the text 'FUTURE FORUM'. To the right of this, there are two logos: the European Union flag and the ICMPD logo (International Centre for Migration Policy Development). Below these, a central white box contains four circular portraits of the speakers, each with their name and affiliation underneath. On the left side of the poster, there is a calendar icon, the date '22.06.21', a clock icon, the time '11:00-12:30 (CEST)', a speech bubble icon, and the language code 'EN/FR/ES'.

**EUDIF | FUTURE FORUM**

**Speakers:**

- Oleg Chirita**  
ICMPD
- Rosalinda Rasul**  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Guyana
- Paul Matsvai**  
Zimbabwe Diaspora Nation Building Initiative
- Ilqar Majidli**  
State Committee on Work with the Diaspora, Republic of Azerbaijan

**22.06.21**  
**11:00-12:30 (CEST)**  
**EN/FR/ES**

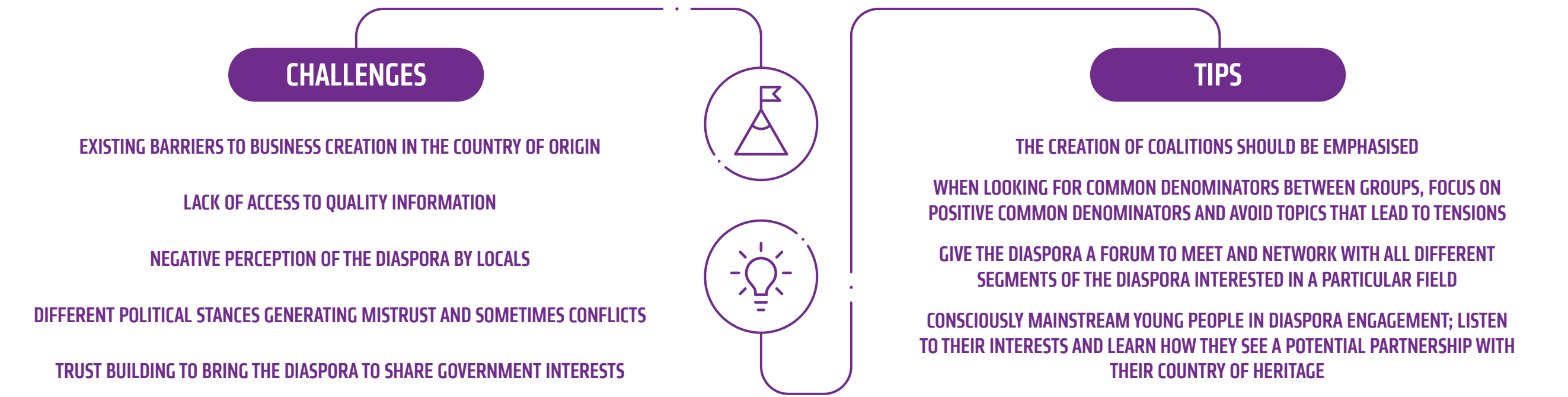
Government priorities can be very different from one country to another. Azerbaijan, for example, centres its diaspora engagement on the preservation of national identity, the promotion of culture and the strengthening of the geopolitical position of the state, while in Guyana the focus lies more in business opportunities and return. The main purpose of a diaspora engagement policy needs to be clearly stated from the start. Governments need to pursue strategies that are practical and relevant to current challenges and interests of the diaspora. It is important to keep updating diaspora engagement strategies because the landscape changes constantly. As the case of Zimbabwe shows, it is important to frequently assess the existing policies in order to identify gaps.

Despite coming from three different continents, with very specific national and diasporic contexts, the speakers unanimously considered knowing your diaspora as an essential first step to develop impactful engagement strategies and policies. Authorities have to understand the complexities and uniqueness of their diaspora in order to identify common areas of interest for authorities and diaspora; shared interests provide the most fertile ground for impactful engagement. This means that there is no one-size-fits-all approach and diaspora engagement policies need to be carefully adapted to each country's particular context and needs; copying and pasting policies from other countries is not effective.

One mistake to avoid when drafting diaspora engagement policies is to not sufficiently consult all segments of the diaspora. Guyana, for example, launched a comprehensive series of conferences to listen to different diaspora groups on different thematic areas. The information gathered through these conferences will feed into drafting the new diaspora engagement policy, it will also be used to make sure that Guyana has the knowledge and expertise to operationalise the strategy.



The three speakers identified the following recurrent challenges in diaspora policy development and proposed some tips to improve the process:



When a diaspora grows more structured and more engaged, the need to coordinate becomes increasingly important. Coordination is not only needed within the diaspora, but also between national authorities, particularly those that are not directly involved in diaspora affairs. In Guyana, for example, in order to improve the enabling environment for business creation, all state actors involved in the business sector came together to find practical solutions to make business creation more attractive and easier for the diaspora.

Politics can play a complex role in state-diaspora relations. National authorities should have an inclusive mind-set when it comes to the diversity of the diaspora and avoid politicising engagement so that all groups can be included in policy-making processes. Guyana strives for depoliticised engagement, whilst acknowledging the relevance of politics for all involved.



*People can be patriotic without being partisan.*

– Dr Paul Matsvai, Global Zimbabwe Diaspora Nation Building Initiative



# DESTINATION DIASPORA: HOST COUNTRY SUPPORT MODELS

*Diaspora are often described as a bridge, but we too rarely think about the ground at each end of that bridge. In this panel we explored the less-discussed end: the host country. What are the different approaches, frameworks and trends in diaspora engagement in EU Member States?*

**EUDIF | FUTURE FORUM**

22.06.21  
11:00-12:30 (CEST)  
EN/FR/ES

**Malin Frankenhaeuser**  
Head of Policy, ICMPD

Belgium, Italy, Norway, European Union, ADNE, MPI

An enabling environment in host countries is just as important as in countries of heritage. Although integration is often considered as a prerequisite to development work, development and integration programmes too often evolve in silos. This disconnect creates issues for diaspora organisations in terms of access to funds, consistency in action and identification of priorities. While recent efforts have been made on the integration front in Europe, we have seen that diaspora support models vary greatly. There is no one entry point for diaspora support and host countries' support can come in various guises: diaspora organisations; consultations and dialogues; return of talent programmes; grants; support to diaspora entrepreneurship.

Fostering multi-level coordination came out as a key area for improvement on several levels:

- Between European countries, including through more peer learning opportunities;
- Among diasporas: United, structured and empowered diaspora are pivotal to enter into partnerships;
- Between countries of origin and host countries, to align priorities and programmes with local and national development plans.

Simultaneously, countries of destination should keep in mind that their resident diasporas are diverse and that diaspora members usually wear multiple hats, hence the complex picture and the need to unpack diaspora dynamics.



*We need to have the right partners at the table and know how they are connected to the ecosystem.*

– Raffaella Greco-Tonegutti, Enabel



*In the covid-era, a key challenge is to bounce back. European countries should facilitate access to funds for diaspora organisations and involve them in the global chain of development.*

– Marie Chantal Uwitonze, ADNE



## TIPS TO HOST COUNTRIES

KNOW THE DIASPORAS

BUILD TRUST

ESTABLISH PERMANENT DIALOGUE

FOLLOW RESEARCH AND CONSULTATIVE PROCESSES WITH JOINT ACTION: *TALK THE TALK, WALK THE WALK!*

TOLERATE AND LEARN FROM FAILURES

ENSURE CONSISTENCY AND SUSTAINABILITY

BE PATIENT AND SET REALISTIC EXPECTATIONS REGARDING WHAT DIASPORA CAN/WISH TO ACHIEVE

WORK ON THE NARRATIVE ON MIGRANTS ACROSS EUROPE TO PROMOTE THEIR POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION TO SOCIETIES

GOLDEN RECOMMENDATION: **LISTEN!**



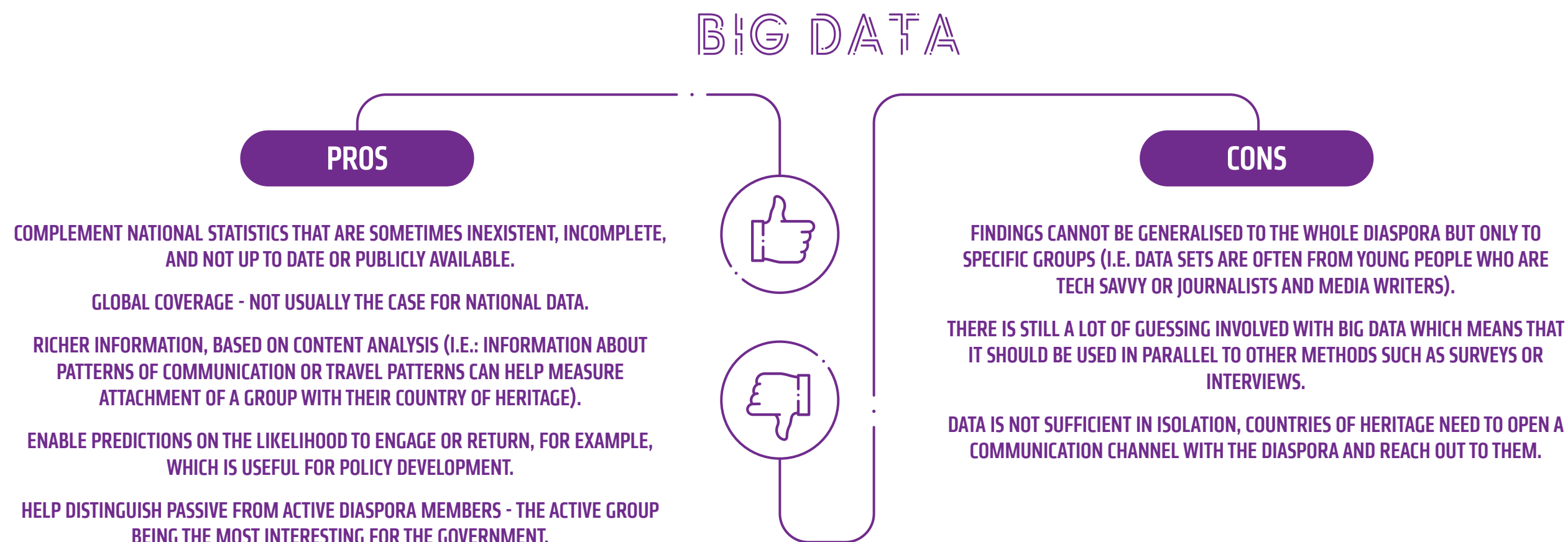
- Summit Nazionale delle Diaspore: Esserci › Conoscerci › Costruire ([summitdiaspore.org](https://summitdiaspore.org))
- Brochure-MBI.pdf ([mbimpulse.org](https://mbimpulse.org))
- Annoncer la couleur
- Missing Ingredients in Diaspora Engagement in Development: Destination-country policies and integration

# MAPPING & PROFILING – A DIGITAL FUTURE

*Diasporas are not monolithic and there is no 'one-size-fits-all' style of engagement, so knowledge is key. But in our world of big data and bigger aspirations, how can we combine digital tools with decades of experience to map and profile diaspora in all their diversity?*

No one data set can answer it all and there is not a single way to know one diaspora. A multitude of methodologies can be used in a complementary manner but the most effective way to learn what is relevant to the diaspora remain surveys and interviews because this is when you start having a conversation. The most policy-relevant information for governments comes from going beyond mappings and are linked to understanding the diaspora's interests and how to involve them.

Big data is an important tool and is usually mined from social media or company websites. Big data has a huge potential over national data but it also has its limitations...









*When big data is complemented with other data from surveys and interviews, which are irreplaceable, then it can be very useful.*


– Ljubica Nedelkoska, Growth Lab at Harvard University, Complexity Science Hub Vienna






FUTURE FORUM






22.06.21



13:30-15:00  
(CEST)




EN/FR/ES




Ana Feder  
ICMPD



Sandrine Maziyaateke  
Uwimbabazi  
MFA Rwanda



Ljubica  
Nedelkoska  
Harvard University



Aboubakar Lalo  
CoNiF

Ethics is a key point in all types of data collection but increasingly so when it comes to big data. Universities are very careful when it comes to handling data and there are many procedures on how to use them. When it comes to big data, only public data can be used. Everything that is posted on social media is public data, like a tweet for example.

Ethics are related to the question of trust, which is central to data collection. Embassies and diaspora organisations play a key role as gatekeepers in data collection exercises. However, even though diaspora organisations can play an important role in data collection, they often have neither the competences, means or infrastructures to do so. In addition, they also have the hardest and most important task of ensuring the buy-in of the diaspora and convincing them to share their data. To conduct the [mapping of the Rwandan Diaspora in the United Kingdom](#), the Rwandan MFA worked with embassies as well as with diaspora organisations tasked to help mobilise their communities. In this exercise, non-Rwandan experts were also hired. Speakers agreed that a combination of diaspora and non-diaspora experts is useful to conduct such data collection exercises, as trust dynamics are complex. While hiring an ‘independent’ expert can help circumvent trust issues when the diaspora is polarised or in opposition to the government of the country of origin, in some cases it can be easier for diaspora members to access respondents. It is important to take into account the context in each country in order to propose the most efficient combo of researchers/ data-collectors.

# VOTING MATTERS: DIASPORA PARLIAMENTARY REPRESENTATION

*The right to vote and stand for election is a powerful tool for citizens and nation states. How do these rights affect diaspora engagement and sentiment in Europe and countries of heritage? In this session we tried to connect the dots between diaspora voting and parliamentary representation in and from Europe.*

Access to greater political rights, such as the right to vote and to be elected, is a key concern for diaspora engagement. These political rights give nationals abroad the possibility to enjoy full citizenship of the country of heritage. Over the past two decades, with the rise in external voting rights, diasporas are being given the

opportunity to play a role in their homeland’s politics. Several countries, such as Cabo Verde, Tunisia and Senegal, have established diaspora representation in national parliaments; reserving parliamentary seats for the diaspora plays an important role in strengthening diaspora identity.



*Diaspora communities should encourage the political participation of their community members, including by giving those eligible the opportunity to stand for election.*

– Pablo Pisco, PACE



FUTURE FORUM

22.06.21

15:30 – 16:30  
(CEST)

EN/FR/ES

Violeta  
Moskalu  
Global Ukraine

Pablo Pisco  
Parliamentary  
assembly of the  
Council of Europe

Selina Adedeji  
Mortoni  
#Diasporavote!

Isabel Borges  
National Assembly of  
Cabo Verde

Organised in collaboration with the Parliamentary Network on Diaspora policies

Diaspora representation is not only important in the country of heritage, it is also essential in countries of destination. Diversity and representation in political bodies, including at EU level, is critical to building more inclusive societies and particularly important for second and third generation diasporans. The [#DiasporaVote!](#) initiative promotes the participation of youth diaspora members in political structures at EU level and is an interesting regional example of awareness raising, capacity development and proactive inclusion of youth diaspora in policymaking.



*We live in a multicultural Europe and it is time that we see that reflected at the highest political levels.*

– Selina Adedeji Mortoni, #DiasporaVote!

Nevertheless, diaspora representation is not yet widespread and there is still a low level visibility of the diaspora in countries of origin and destination alike. To collectively fight such challenges, international organisations such as the Council of Europe (co-host of the session) and European Parliament can play an important role. In 2017, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) set up a [Parliamentary Network on Diaspora Policies](#). On 24 June 2021, PACE adopted a [new report](#) spelling out a series of recommendations for governments in devising policies for diasporas, aimed at enriching cultural diversity, boosting economic development and contributing to more inclusive societies.



### KEY GAPS ON WHICH PARLIAMENTS CAN ACT

RACISM AND DISCRIMINATION TOWARDS MIGRANTS

RIGHTS TO DUAL NATIONALITY

LOW KNOWLEDGE AND RECOGNITION OF DIASPORAS BY A NUMBER OF COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN AND DESTINATION



COUNTRIES WITH DIASPORA PARLIAMENTARY REPRESENTATION



# DIASPORA NETWORKS: HOWS AND WHYS

Networks can build community, access resources, share knowledge and generate ideas. They can grow organically or be constructed with external guidance – what models work and when? In this session we listened to ADEPT on their journey from consortium to autonomous platform, and discussed with Comdu.it and Mujer Diáspora on post-conflict diaspora community and network building.

Building networks and transforming diaspora into national assets do not happen overnight. It is important to understand the process of network building as developing human capital through networks of diaspora associations is a process that needs time and patience. The [Africa-Europe Diaspora Development Platform](#)


(ADEPT) recommends to all looking to formalise diaspora networks to assess motivations, understanding individual and organisation expectation is crucial in order to avoid disappointment and formulate networks to which all are committed from the beginning.





*Diaspora network building is a non-competitive industry: we should share with each other.*

– Kingsley Aikins, [Networking Institute](#)




 | FUTURE FORUM





22.06.21




15:30-16:30  
(CEST)



EN/FR/ES



Kingsley  
Aikins  
The Networking  
Institute



Carine  
Nsoudou  
ADEPT



Freedanz  
Ferdinandz  
Comdu.it



Helga  
Flamtermesky  
Mujer Diáspora

Trust and local ownership are at the base of successful knowledge and resource transfer between diaspora and local communities. In post-conflict contexts, some examples of approaches that help build trust with local partners include showing genuine interest in empowering local partners, ensuring clear communication and enabling local ownership of the projects. Network models based on grassroots alliances may offer a meaningful way of contributing to post-conflict reconstruction. They can provide their diaspora members with effective means to translate their commitment and resources into sustainable development efforts that serve vulnerable local communities, without a political agenda.

Networks centred on peace-building processes connect the past with the present and not just the diaspora’s transnational experience. These networks can be compelling social and political empowerment tools, particularly when they amplify underrepresented voices such as women in the peace-building world. For example, [Mujer Diáspora](#) enables members to tap into the collective memory for healing while rebuilding their own stories in ways that they can participate socially and politically in both their host country as well as back in their homeland.





**CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT PLAYS A KEY ROLE FOR DIASPORA NETWORKS THAT CONNECT DIVERSE ORGANISATIONS AND INDIVIDUALS.**

From ADEPT's experience, providing technical and financial support tailored to suit diverse member needs help it build trust and preserve the unity of its member organisations, in parallel with transparent communication on what the network does on behalf of its members.

**APPLY PRIVATE SECTOR PRACTICES IN PUBLIC SECTOR SETTINGS TO MAXIMISE EFFICIENCY AND RETURNS.**

Comdu.it is a volunteer-run network that sees its core strength in its operational efficiency based on best practices from the for-profit sector (e.g. project management, agile workflows and teams, etc.) which it combines with continuous engagement at local level in Sri Lanka and with aspiring diaspora changemakers to build sustainable relationships.



GRAPHIC RECORDING

The background is a solid teal color. It features a pattern of numerous thin, white, radiating lines that originate from the center and spread outwards, creating a sunburst or starburst effect. The lines vary in length and angle, giving a sense of dynamic movement.

23 JUNE

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GOING GREEN

# GOING GREEN KICK-OFF

*How do we find synergies between diaspora grassroots initiatives and global strategies to better achieve common green goals? An intimate discussion between an EDD Youth ambassador and DG International Partnership's (INTPA) Head of Unit Climate Change and Sustainable Energy; Nuclear Safety offered insights on DG INTPA's vision on the implementation of the Green Deal with partner countries and the potential role that can be played by diaspora at different levels.*



The Going Green kick-off session confirmed the strong link between diaspora and global green goals. From global strategies to grassroots initiatives, the session walked us through the initiatives and steps that place diaspora as a key partner in achieving the [European Green Deal](#) at global and at local level.

Building multi-stakeholder partnerships is central to achieving the Green Deal and to successfully mainstream environmental protection, combatting climate change and disaster risk reduction. Due to diaspora efforts, the EU has recognised the special role they can have in generating solutions and opportunities for development, confirming their place as a key player in multi-stakeholder partnerships approach to build a more sustainable future.

Diaspora efforts have been gaining visibility as they have shown their ability and interest in acting as a bridge between the EU and grassroots initiatives in countries of heritage, as well as in countries of destination. Diaspora can – and already are – supporting the ethos “think globally, act locally” through advocacy in countries of origin and destination, knowledge transfers to countries of heritage, green business creation and remittances.

Kishore Reddy, a diasporan who co-founded an NGO in India called [Youth for Sustainable Impact](#) (YSI) shared the work of his organisation which provides skills development and capacity building to communities to develop green businesses and green jobs in the textile and fashion industry in India as an example of successful practices to achieve sustainable green goals.

Initiatives like that of Kishore demonstrate how the diaspora can be a key partner in reaching green goals and advancing a pro-climate agenda beyond the EU. Kishore highlighted possibilities for diaspora to further support his and other initiatives, including investing more money in technology and infrastructure, providing capacity development and training to the local communities, and providing networks and ideas to local communities.

Local communities know best the environmental problems they face and are therefore key in responding to global challenges. In working with international partners, Stefano Signore, head of Climate Change and Sustainable Energy; Nuclear Safety, stated that DG INTPA attaches great importance to the role local communities play, and acknowledged that diaspora organisations can be a bridge between the EU and local organisations.

The EU has thus been seeking to make full use of diaspora capital to combat climate change. For example,

as of 2019, diaspora development organisations are members of the [Policy Forum on Development](#) (PFD), the Commission's permanent dialogue forum on development issues. Diaspora organisations are encouraged to contribute to this forum, in particular to programmes such as the [Partnerships for Sustainable Cities Program](#). Building the skills and capacities of local communities with diaspora support is an essential tool to catalyse green transitions and to mitigate not only the environmental issues, but also the social and economic ramifications of climate change.

## BONUS PUZZLE PIECES

### DIGITALISATION

DIGITALISATION IS A GREAT FACILITATOR OF DIASPORA CONTRIBUTIONS AND DIASPORA ARE OFTEN EARLY ADOPTERS OF TECHNOLOGY. EQUALLY, TECHNOLOGY'S ROLE IN ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND COMBATTING CLIMATE CHANGE IS VAST AND GROWING.

DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC, DIGITAL TOOLS HAVE ENABLED DIASPORA TO CONTINUE TO SUPPORT LOCAL COMMUNITIES IN THEIR COUNTRIES OF HERITAGE FROM A DISTANCE. THIS IS PREDICTED TO CONTINUE AND DIVERSIFY IN THE FUTURE AS TECHNOLOGIES DEVELOP, BECOME MORE ACCESSIBLE AND INTERNET PENETRATION INCREASES.



### YOUTH

YOUTH AND EDUCATION ARE ALSO AN IMPORTANT ELEMENT IN GREEN TRANSITIONS. THE NEIGHBOURHOOD, DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION INSTRUMENT (NDICI), THE NEWLY ADOPTED SINGLE INSTRUMENT OF EU EXTERNAL ACTION FOR 2021-2027, AIMS TO INCREASE FUNDING IN EDUCATION FROM 7% TO 10% FOR DG INTPA COUNTRIES. EDUCATION CAN (A) HELP RAISE AWARENESS ABOUT ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES AND THE IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE; (B) HELP BUILD KEY COMPETENCES, SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE, ENABLING YOUNG PEOPLE TO GRASP NEW JOB OPPORTUNITIES IN THE TRANSFORMATION TOWARDS A GREEN ECONOMY; AND (C) HELP FACILITATE SOCIETAL CHANGE TOWARDS MORE SUSTAINABLE PRODUCTION AND CONSUMPTION PATTERNS.



# DIASPORA 4 GREEN: A RESEARCH AGENDA

*Kicking-off a new EUDiF case study on mobilising diaspora for green transitions, in this session the researchers presented their preliminary findings and discussed practical examples with the panelists. The final product will contribute to building a blueprint for harnessing diaspora potential in the green economy.*

**EUDiF | FUTURE FORUM**

**DIASPORA 4 GREEN: THE RESEARCH AGENDA**

**23.06.21**  
11:00-12:30 (CEST)  
EN/FR/ES

**Speakers:**

- Kag Sanoussi, Moderator
- Guillaume Quelin, FORIM/GRET
- Stella Opoku-Owusu, AFFORD
- Epiphane Kilimou, #DiasporaVote!
- Emmanuel Ntiranyibagira, RICA Foundation

**Logos:** EUDiF, European Union Global Diaspora Facility, &, FORIM, ICMPD (International Centre for Migration Policy Development)

Centring the discussion on green economy investments at national level, our speakers Emmanuel Ntiranyibagira from [RICA Foundation](#), Stella Opoku-Owusu from [Afford UK](#), Epiphane Pyalo Magnoudewa Kilimou from [#diasporavote!](#), and Guillaume Quelin and Juliette Darlu from [GRET](#) reflected on the case study's key questions.

In terms of policy priorities, our speakers emphasised that promoting coherent and aligned national programmes and policies for green investments is essential to succeed in facilitating diaspora engagement and to drive green transitions. Coupling enabling conditions for green economy investments with awareness-raising on these opportunities could amplify diaspora involvement.



This session was inspired by the forthcoming EUDiF-FORIM case study which aims to answer the question: How to build partnerships with diasporas and facilitate diaspora engagement to drive inclusive green transitions in countries of origin?

## CASE STUDY QUESTIONS

- What are the policy priorities, enabling conditions and potential initiatives conducive to diaspora engagement in the green economy?
- What are the possible roles and contributions for the various actors of the diaspora ecosystem?
- How can we upscale and replicate successful practices in this area?

Green economy investments in countries of origin are an important tool for development that diaspora can make use of to support their countries of heritage. Some barriers hinder a wider use of these investments, such as the lack of coherent programmes at national level and a lack of awareness about green economy investments within diaspora communities.

In order for green economy investment to be considered as a sustainable economic growth solution, it is important to promote coherent national programmes and policies for such investments and to ensure a favourable business environment. Green investments are cross-sectoral opportunities and collective efforts should be made to

develop and promote them to the diaspora, especially second and third generations. Targeted awareness-raising campaigns on green investment incentives, policy advancements and investment projects should be run to spark and capitalise on diaspora interest and resources.



*Second generation diaspora and beyond invest more for opportunities and return on green economy, and tend to be more business-minded.*

– Stella Opoku-Owusu, Afford UK

In order to upscale projects and generate more sustainable green economy investment from diasporas, there is no need to create new entities within or for diaspora, but instead to make good use of existing diaspora structures and scale them up or reinforce them as needed. The panel insisted on this as a more effective way of learning and benefiting from knowledge and platform structures and as a more sustainable use of resources.



# DIASPORA PARTNERSHIPS FOR CLIMATE RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

*With climate change-induced mobility moving to the centre of political debates, this workshop explored how diaspora can be involved beyond humanitarian-response in the forward planning to build more resilient communities. The panel was multi-stakeholder, with representatives from academia, governments and civil society.*

Despite the growing urgency of the climate crisis and the scale of its effects on vulnerable regions around the world, not a lot of work has been done to establish links between diaspora action and long-term post-disaster recovery. The session discussed how diaspora groups could play a greater role in reducing climate change-induced displacement and building climate resilience. Speakers John Marazita III, Director of the Environmental Mobility

Research Unit at the [University of Geneva](#), Pefi Kingi QSM, Founder of [Pacificwin](#), and Anare Leweniqila, Deputy Permanent Representative at the [Permanent Representation to the UN in Geneva, Fiji](#) touched upon existing practices, as well as future opportunities for action and research.

**EUDIF | FUTURE FORUM**

**23.06.21**  
11:00 – 12:30 (CEST)  
EN/FR/ES

**Panelists:**

- Aurélié Sgro** (ICMPD)
- Anare Leweniqila** (Fijian Permanent Mission to the UN in Geneva)
- John Marazita III** (Environmental Research Mobility Unit)
- Pefi Kingi QSM** (Pacificwin)

Funded by the European Union. Implemented by ICMPD International Centre for Migration Policy Development

## FIJI: EFFECTIVE POLICIES TO ENGAGE THE DIASPORA DURING POST-DISASTER RESPONSE AND RECOVERY

- ✓ Established a disaster trust fund into which diaspora could contribute remittances, to be used for food rations and for transportation of relief goods.
- ✓ Improved coordination mechanisms between diaspora communities and operators on the ground during emergency operations.
- ✓ Allowed the diaspora to import goods duty-free within the emergency period of 30 days.



### FIJI FACTSHEET

*The case of Fiji illustrates how nurturing an enabling environment for diaspora and relevant partners in countries of heritage can make the difference in saving lives during climate emergencies.*





*Recovery is part of the way we live as communities. We work with diaspora and civil society partners [after disasters] to make sure help is delivered on time, and this makes a difference in the lives that we save.*

– Anare Leweniqila, Deputy Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Fiji to the UN in Geneva



It is important to provide spaces for diaspora groups to contribute to climate-related dialogue and advocacy in their countries of destination. Diaspora from the Pacific Islands constitute a small group within Europe, and so additional support is needed to help them pool resources, establish networks and connections, such as creating spaces for them in honorary councils and building their capacity to support operations on the ground.

It is equally important to empower local communities to lead reconstruction processes, as well as allow them to participate in the entire process of building back from climate emergencies. The session emphasised how local knowledge about the environment should shape academic research and as well as interventions from international actors during times of disaster. The panel emphasised the need for inclusivity and ownership for populations residing in climate-vulnerable regions.



*Do not study us; study with us. That is a much more reciprocal and constructive arrangement. Let us co-design, co-develop and co-work with you. Treat us with the dignity that we deserve.*

– Pefi King, Pacificwin





# DIASPORA 4 GREEN: CATALYSING ACTION

*Inspiration from around the world of diaspora-led green initiatives with remote and in-person projects: What does it takes to get involved and how can the diaspora-development ecosystem catalyse environmental protection and combat climate change?*



There is a growing body of diaspora-led green initiatives, including in the areas of sustainable organic farming, waste management, renewable energies, and education on climate change. Four speakers in this session from [Comdu.it](#), the [GrEEEn Project](#) in Ghana the [Global Research Forum on Diaspora and Transnationalism](#) (GRFDT) highlighted initiatives and emerging trends from Asia and Africa to show how diaspora play a role in catalysing action. The lively discussion can be summarised in five observations based on the speakers' experience in implementation and research:

- 1. Building trust with the diaspora will bring in both monetary (e.g. investment) and non-monetary (e.g. time and loyalty) commitments to green transitions.** Professor Binod emphasised trust as a basic requirement to engage the diaspora in green action, starting with the trust in governments of countries of heritage. In particular, when it comes to green investment, maintaining an enabling environment fosters trust and secures investment.
- 2. Transfer and adapt successful green business modules to the country of origin – don't reinvent the wheel!** Since there are already successful green-transition initiatives, countries can capitalise on this knowledge and adapt it to the local context. [Comdu.it](#)'s [Climathon](#) encourages knowledge sharing by opening the space for young entrepreneurs and students to access information about existing projects in Europe. This platform also allows them to then pitch their own ideas and solutions to climate challenges at the local level.
- 3. Go beyond sharing ideas and institutionalise them to ensure their sustainability.** While giving the space for learning and sharing ideas is important, it is only the first step. Institutionalisation is necessary to build sustainable green initiatives in the long run. Creating and supporting local organisations was one of the ingredients for the success of local initiatives in Sri Lanka.
- 4. Empower early adopters at the local level, they then cascade their knowledge and skills and help boost uptake within the community.** Local community leaders are skilled individuals in the sector and can be a link through which diaspora transmit knowledge and capacities to vulnerable local communities. The foundation of green initiatives should always be in the country of heritage with strong ownership to empower individuals on the ground.



GRAPHIC RECORDING



*We can bridge the gap between diaspora and the local community by communicating with and empowering community leaders.*

– Suthan Kethees, Comdu.it



5. **Be patient! Building trust and partnerships is a long journey that starts with an assessment of local needs and continues and grows by constantly engaging with different stakeholders in a holistic manner.** Adopting a holistic approach to green agendas increases its chances of success. The GrEEEn Project found that including the governments, the private sector, academia, incubators and others means that local needs are assessed more accurately and the priorities of green agendas can be better aligned across those actors.

While an explicit role for diaspora in green action is relatively new, it is already evident that there is a wealth of action and knowledge in this field. Future green initiatives could build on the successes of existing initiatives to incorporate diaspora as facilitators of resources, financial and non-financial, taking into account that young diasporans are particularly engaged in the subject area and therefore a source of ideas and energy to push green agendas forward around the world.



COLLECTION: GREEN INITIATIVES

A large, stylized sunburst graphic in a light orange color, centered on a solid orange background. The sunburst consists of numerous thin, radiating lines of varying lengths, creating a dynamic, star-like effect.

24 JUNE

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YOUTH DRIVE



# YOUTH DRIVE KICK OFF

*An open discussion between two [diaspora] youth leaders and DG International Partnership's Head of Section Youth on the meaning of youth engagement, its potential and its pitfalls, set the scene on how and why to listen to, support and collaborate with youth diaspora actors for sustainable development.*



From the principles and potential of youth involvement in policy making and programme implementation, to practical reflections on the barriers specific to diaspora-youth and celebration of young diasporans' unique multi-cultural perspectives, the youth drive kick-off covered a lot.

Involvement and engagement are abstract concepts until we define them. Is 'youth involvement' access to a certain space, forming an opinion, or having that opinion listened to and acted upon? There is a recurrent need for shared definitions and understanding in order to take different needs, expectations and objectives into account, especially when striving for meaningful relationships between young people and institutions at local, national, regional or even global level.

The speakers discussed how meaningful relationships and engagement can come from embedding youth consultation within broader processes. Yet such inclusion is not simply a question of adding a seat at the table, it must be accompanied with training and skills development to ensure youth actors are equipped with the tools to contribute their full potential. Furthermore, the full spectrum of young people in Europe should be factored into this, with a long-term perspective on education and participation. This challenge also requires awareness raising and consideration of how young people are compensated for their time.



*At EU level, youth is considered as an actor and not just a target. Youth participation and empowerment is a personal priority of Commissioner Urpilainen; she has really embedded this in EU external action.*

– Agata Sobiech, DG INTPA





Both youth speakers, Adel Ramdani and Elana Wong, stressed the importance of engaging with young people on issues that affect and interest them at local level, seeing this as the best opportunity to both tap into their creative solutions and to accompany young people in building interests and skills that will enable them to engage in other subjects and contexts. Local engagement means thinking beyond youth groups in urban areas and specific educational backgrounds and can be a building block for the critical skills and interest necessary to empower broader youth-involvement in decision making at national, regional and global level.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

- ✓ A whole-of-youth approach is needed to ensure *all* young people are empowered with the skills, awareness and confidence to take a stance on issues of importance to them.
- ✓ Young people must be systematically considered and integrated in decision making across the board, and not as a secondary consideration or target, both because all policy decisions impact youth and because young people prove time and again their ingenuity, commitment and capacity to contribute to addressing global issues.
- ✓ Young diasporans should be encouraged to contribute to all sectors, rather than be pigeon-holed into discussions related to their heritage and migration – though they should be welcomed in these discussions too.

When narrowing the focus to *diaspora youth*, their unique perspectives should be celebrated, whilst their specific challenges need respect and support. According to Adel, we must not box youth diaspora into conversations on multiculturalism or related to their personal background, but bring them into discussions on topics they are passionate and informed about. This chimes well with a systems approach to sustainable development.



*Not only are youth going to inherit this world and society, we are going to be politicians and future business owners. It is only fair that youth start to be engaged in decisions early. We need to inherit a world that we have control over.*

– Elana Wong, MGCY



COLLECTION: YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

# YOUTH ENTREPRENEURSHIP & HERITAGE TOURISM

*Introducing an upcoming research project between EUDiF and the University of Winchester, the session looked to generation 1.5, 2 and beyond, discussing the potential of youth entrepreneurship and highlighting digital heritage tourism as a fascinating growth trend.*

How can entrepreneurship in the heritage tourism sector influence youth diaspora identity and long-term engagement? – This is the key research question of the forthcoming EUDiF-University of Winchester research collaboration. The dedicated session during the conference saw speakers debate concepts of tangible and intangible heritage, entrepreneurship frameworks and the potential of technology in tourism and entrepreneurship.

Discussing experiences in Moldova and various countries in Africa, the panel drew on academic and business experience to agree on core elements for heritage tourism to be made sustainable, identifying an essential government role. They flagged the importance of infrastructure, institutional frameworks and enabling environments to encourage entrepreneurship and investment in the sector, noting that whilst exploring heritage can be a powerful draw to young people and drive new business, it can only go so far before limited frameworks pose a barrier to expansion or stability. Arguably, this commentary is applicable to all sectors wishing to make full use of diaspora capital.

Youth-affinity for technology is a major point of interest for diaspora and institutions alike, and of great relevance to [heritage] tourism. With young people so-called ‘digital natives’, technology, including social media, continues to evolve as a tool of entrepreneurship that can be used to advance sustainable development by allowing entrepreneurs to test ideas and explore markets, as well as facilitating the ever-important data collection and market research. Technology is also lauded for the ways it can be used to preserve and share intangible and tangible cultural heritage and create virtual experiences – particularly relevant during the ongoing global health pandemic which has limited physical travel so dramatically. Millennials and Generation Z will accelerate technological solutions as heritage consumers and drivers of entrepreneurial innovation. As great consumers of digital tools and social media, the young generation in diaspora and in countries of origin are using various technologies to document their cultural heritage, at times bypassing challenges such as limited government support or capital.



*Heritage ought to be a tool for social justice; it ought to be a vehicle for empowerment and agency and making people's lives better economically, culturally and socially.*

– Niall Finneran, University of Winchester





## RECOMMENDATIONS TO GOVERNMENTS

- ✓ Recognise the potential of heritage tourism for local development and state-diaspora relationship building.
- ✓ Raise awareness with local populations to secure buy-in to take full advantage of heritage tourism opportunities by diversifying the local economy.
- ✓ Involve local communities in tourism planning and heritage preservation to strive for ethical commercialisation that can benefit local communities whilst being respectful of cultural, sustainability and environmental issues.
- ✓ Engage strategically with the diaspora, local communities and private sector actors to preserve and develop tangible and intangible cultural heritage.
- ✓ Create an institutional framework that encourages entrepreneurship and investment in the tourism sector.
- ✓ Tap into public-private partnerships to support heritage tourism strategies that are often underfunded. For example, large companies can play an important role in making costly digital tools more accessible.
- ✓ Build or reform [heritage] tourism around eco-tourism, responsible tourism, and sustainable tourism as this is the future of the tourism sector post-pandemic.

**EUDIF | FUTURE FORUM**

24.06.21  
11:00-12:30 (CEST)  
EN/FR/ES

 <b>Niall Finneran</b> University of Winchester	 <b>Emmanuel Akwasi Adu-Ampong</b> Wageningen University & Research	 <b>Viorica Olaru</b> Casa Mare	 <b>Joyce Sarpong</b> AfricaOracle
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# ENABLING YOUTH INNOVATION – A QUESTION FOR THE AGES

*Youth are the future, so how can systems and structures better help, motivate and work with youth actors to co-create an environment of creativity and collaboration? This inter-generational exchange explored motivations and modalities for enabling youth diaspora to innovate solutions for a sustainable future.*

In the course of EUDiF's research and consultations, the interest in collaborating with youth diaspora has been clear from all different actors across the regions, as have the challenges and limitations to doing so in a manner that does not unfairly raise expectations or create frustrations, for example because of the speed at which institutional decision making happens versus the speed and dynamism of youth actors, or due to intergenerational conflicts.

The panellists discussed concrete ideas on how established systems and institutions can support young people in the diaspora to contribute their creativity and skills to sustainable development efforts in Europe and countries of heritage. In order for such contributions to be effective for the individual and community, the speakers agreed on 10 key points:



The graphic is a purple rectangular banner with rounded corners. At the top left is the EUDiF logo and the text 'FUTURE FORUM'. At the top right are logos for 'Funded by the European Union' and 'Implemented by ICMPD International Centre for Migration Policy Development'. On the left side, there is a calendar icon with the date '24.06.21', a clock icon with the time '11:00-12:30 (CEST)', and a speech bubble icon with the text 'EN/FR/ES'. In the center, there is a white rectangular box containing five circular portraits of the panellists, each with their name and affiliation below it.

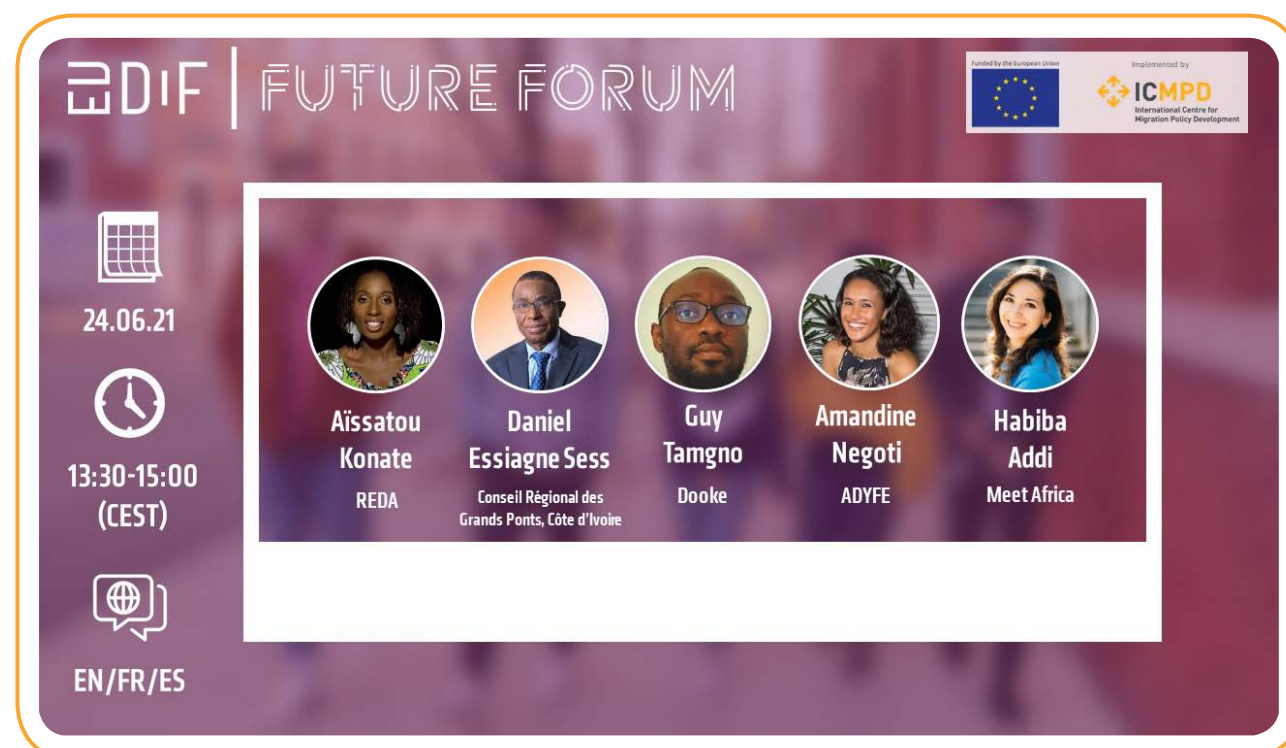
Portrait	Name	Affiliation
1	Erekle Koplatadze	Young Ambassador of Georgia to the Netherlands
2	Angela Naa Afoley Odai	CIDO-African Union
3	Youssouf Simbo Diakité	ADYFE
4	Alpha Nury Jamaafunding	
5	Chinwe Okoli	Grand Africa Initiative – GAIN

1. Empowered young people are key for a sustainable future.
2. Young people in the diaspora need to have a strong understanding and hands-on experience of local contexts in countries of heritage.
3. Young people can be supported with learning opportunities and cross-border exchanges that help them to see the world from different perspectives and arrive at innovative solutions for existing problems.
4. Entrepreneurial skills can be developed in the country of residence (Europe in this discussion), for which the support of EU Member States' national and local authorities is crucial.
5. Time is an element that cannot be underestimated in any element of engagement, entrepreneurship, innovation or relationship building.
6. Partnerships and communities built through multi-stakeholder engagement enable diaspora youth to innovate and provide peer-to-peer support opportunities.
7. Structures and institutions can play a role in bringing diaspora youth together, at local, national and intra or inter-regional level.
8. Institutions and longstanding intermediaries can sustain multi-stakeholder platforms and partnerships.
9. Support for youth entrepreneurs and innovators is useful at micro and macro scale, from CV-writing all the way to business coaching and developing Most Viable Products and bringing in investors.
10. Inter-generational exchanges are very valuable; young people can learn a lot from their seniors, get inspired and learn not to give up on their journey.



# YOUTH ENTREPRENEURSHIP & LOCAL DEVELOPMENT

*Aspirations, perceptions, challenges and success stories of youth diaspora entrepreneurship and local development, when business means much more than profit.*



The graphic is a promotional poster for the EUDIF Future Forum. It features a purple background with a white border. At the top left, the EUDIF logo is next to the text 'FUTURE FORUM'. At the top right, there are logos for the European Union and ICMPD (International Centre for Migration Policy Development). On the left side, there is a calendar icon with the date '24.06.21', a clock icon with the time '13:30-15:00 (CEST)', and a globe icon with the text 'EN/FR/ES'. In the center, there is a white rectangular box containing five circular portraits of the panelists, each with their name and affiliation below it:

Portrait	Name	Organization
	Aïssatou Konate	REDA
	Daniel Essiagne Sess	Conseil Régional des Grands Ponts, Côte d'Ivoire
	Guy Tamgno	Dooke
	Amandine Negoti	ADYFE
	Habiba Addi	Meet Africa

A dynamic panel with extensive experience in entrepreneurship and local development, particularly in West Africa, shared their perspectives as government authorities, diaspora entrepreneurs and entrepreneurship programme organisers. Several key messages came out, as well as practices of interest to optimise the potential of youth entrepreneurship for local development.

- **Local authorities with a youth-centred agenda are better equipped to attract youth diaspora entrepreneurs.** In most West African countries, existing diaspora businesses or aspiring entrepreneurs primarily target capital cities rather than regional hubs or rural areas. Encouraging diaspora to get involved in rural opportunities largely depends on the efforts of local authorities. For example, the Grands-Ponts Region of Côte d'Ivoire, which places youth and women at the centre of its development priorities, uses the 'Maison de l'entreprenariat' scheme to attract the skills and resources of youth entrepreneurs, as well as offering financial incentives.
- **Diaspora youth organisations are increasingly functioning as business incubators.** They are able to mobilise their network for support ranging from technical advice to mentorship, from sharing information to fundraising. One of the core services of both the [African Diaspora Youth Forum in Europe](#) (ADYFE) and [Réseau des Entrepreneurs de la Diaspora Africaine](#) (REDA) is facilitating diaspora access to markets and the entrepreneurial ecosystem in both the countries of residence and heritage.
- **Weak entrepreneurial ecosystems inhibit diaspora engagement.** Whilst giving back to the community of heritage is a strong motivator, it is insufficient to drive diaspora entrepreneurship and investment when obstacles can be incredibly difficult to overcome. Special attention should be given to removing obstacles such as the lack of trust, information, and inadequate business support mechanisms and services. Projects such as [Meet Africa 2](#) seek to address these challenges by strengthening the capacity of relevant support actors (public and private) and providing a platform for collaboration between Euro-African support actors and diaspora entrepreneurs.



## TIPS TO ASPIRING ENTREPRENEURS

HAVE A CRITICAL MIND-SET

PERFORM CAREFUL MARKET ANALYSIS

- GO ON-SITE
- UNDERSTAND THE LOCAL CONTEXT

JOIN PROFESSIONAL [DIASPORA] NETWORKS FOR PEER SUPPORT

MAKE USE OF TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES



COLLECTION: MENTORING INITIATIVES

# BETWEEN HERITAGE COUNTRY & HOME – BUILDING TRUST & IDENTITY

Generational differences take on new meaning and importance in the world of diaspora engagement. Diaspora Youth Interns Gia and Naomi organised an inter-generational exchange on identity building, communicating and understanding – the building blocks of trust and the future of multi-generational diaspora engagement.



*Our diversity differences are our strengths. Young people with multiple identities can seize many opportunities for developing their heritage countries.*

– Olivier Kaba, AFD



## BETWEEN HERITAGE COUNTRY & HOME: BUILDING TRUST & IDENTITY

24.06.21

13:30-15:00  
(CEST)

EN/FR/ES

**Jenny Mushegera**  
AU Diaspora Youth Initiative  
CongoExcellence

**Isoa Tupua**  
Fijian Youth UK

**Morse Flores**  
European Network of  
Filipino Diaspora  
(ENFID)

**Olivier Kaba**  
Agence française de  
développement (AFD)

European Union  
Global Diaspora Facility

&

AU DIASPORA YOUTH  
INITIATIVE

Although the experiences shared were from different generations of diaspora hailing from Asia, Africa and the Pacific, the panellists had a lot in common when it came to negotiating diasporic identity, communicating with different generations of their respective diasporas and building trust within the diaspora and with authorities in both their 'homelands'.

The speakers were generous with their personal stories and relating them to migration and diaspora-belonging more generally. All agreed that migration is an emotional experience, but the experiences differ greatly between diasporas and between generations across which there may also be differing social values. One suggestion was that the longer you are away from your country, the stronger the longing to go back is. However, young people who grow up in a host country may have less of an emotional connection to their heritage country. Whether this is a problem or not, is a matter of opinion, but digital technology was celebrated for how it can help later generations of diaspora to (re)connect with their heritage. Indeed, without active participation of young people, there is concern for the future of diaspora communities themselves.



*Young people have to be part of decision making within our communities. It has been proven that when young people are engaged in youth work and volunteer work, it builds their confidence. That is a resource for the community.*

– Morse Flores, ENFiD

In Olivier Kaba's opinion, the onus should be on institutions to make sure young people are integrated effectively into governance and at policy level. 70% of young people want to be useful, 59% want to know more about their heritage country, 40% are interested in developing new competences and capacities and 30% seek new professional experiences. This is a wealth of potential for a country of heritage that should not be underestimated, but needs help to transform from raw potential into tangible contributions.



*Identity is shaped by ourselves, but also by how others see you. In order to address it effectively, racism should be part of a discussion within diaspora communities.*

– Isoa Tupua, Fijian Youth UK



#### RECOMMENDATIONS FOR MULTI-GENERATIONAL ENGAGEMENT:

- ✓ Intergenerational dialogue between communities should be part of diaspora organisations' activities.
- ✓ Safe spaces are needed for sensitive conversations about identity and interests – this counts as much for within diaspora communities and organisations, as for state-diaspora relations.
- ✓ Make the most of technology to connect with different groups within the diaspora and reinforce heritage-based connections with the diaspora community and country of heritage.
- ✓ Young people should be included in decision-making processes and governance of diaspora organisations to demonstrate trust and share ownership across generations.
- ✓ Technology can facilitate access to culture and build connections between communities in the diaspora and country of heritage. Young people embrace such technologies and their input is hugely valuable on how to make more of digital resources for diaspora engagement.
- ✓ Young people in the diaspora are strongly influenced by the country they live in, which should be taken into account when addressing how to engage them from outside.
- ✓ Acknowledge that, when exploring opportunities in their country of heritage, young diasporans also consider it as an important professional experience – speak to this desire and build it into engagement.
- ✓ Consider how questions of identity and generational divides can affect mental health.



# FUTURISTIC NETWORKING

In partnership with



UN Major Group for  
**Children and Youth**  
childrenyouth.org

Keenly aware that one of the most memorable parts of most conferences is the people you meet in the corridors, we decided to experiment with a virtual networking session – a ‘futuristic’ endeavour, if you will.

In partnership with the **UN Major Group for Children and Youth (MGCY)**, we selected themes that would provide a structure for meeting and greeting like-minded participants. Each themed space was hosted by ‘special guests’, experts in the topic from a variety of backgrounds. We used **Wonder**, a platform that puts networking participants in full control of the experience, choosing who to speak to about what, and for how long – the only thing we couldn’t provide were the coffees!

Over 60 people joined the networking experiment. Although it was only scheduled to last an hour, many stayed an extra 30 minutes, they were so engaged in conversation. On behalf of EUDIF and MGCY, we would like to thank all special guests and participants for stepping into the future of networking with us. We have been delighted to learn that some of the conversations started during the networking session have continued off-screen.

## EUDIF | FUTURE FORUM

### NETWORKING FOR THE FUTURE



23.06.21



15:30-16:30  
(CEST)



EN/FR/ES

#### Humanitarianism & post-Covid recovery



Alexandra



Raphaël



Roberta



Abigail



Bashaïr



Paul

DEMAC

IOM

Shabaka

## EUDIF | FUTURE FORUM

### NETWORKING FOR THE FUTURE



23.06.21



15:30-16:30  
(CEST)



EN/FR/ES

#### Youth collaboration



Elana

MGCY



Anjuli

MGCY & CoE



Jenny

CongoExcellence &  
AU Diaspora Youth



Maisie

ASEAN Youth  
Organisation- UK



Michael

ASEAN Youth  
Organisation- Germany

## EUDIF | FUTURE FORUM

### NETWORKING FOR THE FUTURE



23.06.21



15:30-16:30  
(CEST)



EN/FR/ES

#### Diaspora representation



Camilla

ICMPD



Vannary

US-ASEAN  
Youth Council



Ibrahima

ADYFE &  
ICMPD



Kékéli

Quakers Council for  
European Affairs



Rasheed

Nexo Ajans





FUTURE FORUM



NETWORKING FOR THE FUTURE



23.06.21



15:30-16:30  
(CEST)



EN/FR/ES

Technology & community building



Suthan  
Comdu.it



Freedanz



Theresa  
Diaspora Digital  
News



Alankrita  
Program yoUr  
Future (PUF)



Timothy  
GrowHome



FUTURE FORUM



NETWORKING FOR THE FUTURE



23.06.21



15:30-16:30  
(CEST)



EN/FR/ES

Investment & remittances for development



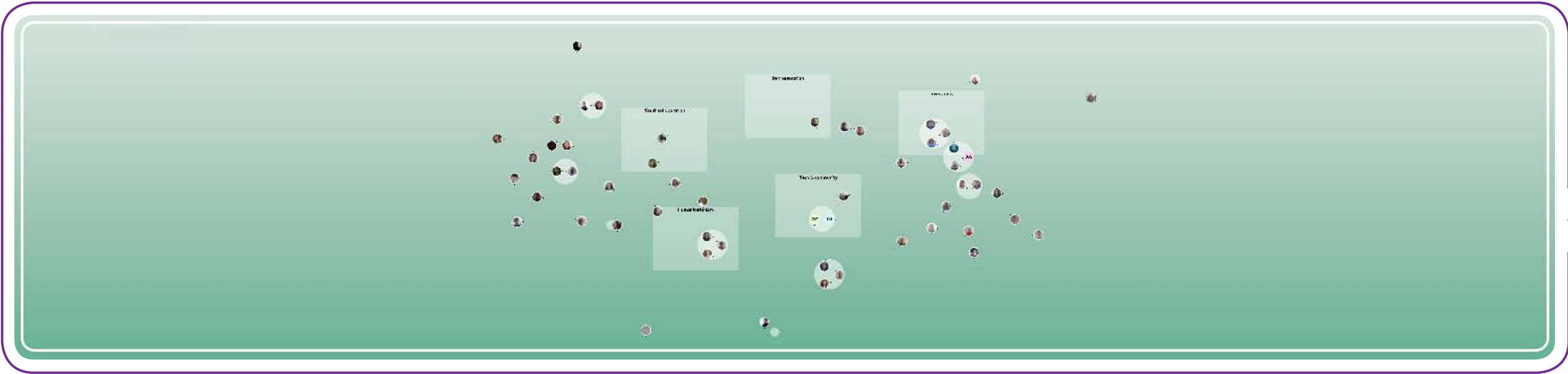
Simon  
EC Joint Research Centre



Sona



Stephen  
ODI



# AFTERWORD

By convening a global multi-stakeholder audience to assess progress and reflect on diaspora engagement, the Future Forum was a milestone. The enthusiastic participation at the event underlined the need to move forward in an inclusive way in order to achieve sustainable development and demonstrated the active interest in both traditional areas of diaspora engagement, as well as in expanding action to respond to emerging global issues less traditionally factored into the field.

As illustrated by this report, the Future Forum provided a much-needed space to share practices, ideas and recommendations to inform and inspire future actions that enhance and make the most of diaspora engagement. Concrete follow-up initiatives are already taking place, including joint activities and peer exchanges between organisations that met during the event.

For the rest of 2021 and 2022, the priorities of EUDiF will be to continue generating knowledge on diaspora engagement; to sustain multi-stakeholder dialogue; and to facilitate effective engagement.

To do so, we will scale up action on our four strands of work:

- **Research and knowledge:** EUDiF will continue to expand its unique public knowledge hub on diaspora engagement. New studies on topics discussed at the Future Forum will soon be published, including on the role of diaspora to drive green transitions and on youth entrepreneurship and heritage tourism. The **interactive map** will be expanded by adding diaspora-led practices. In this regard, we will call upon diaspora organisations to share information about their projects in order to promote and learn from them.
- **Dialogue, partnerships and outreach:** Dialogue must be ongoing. As such, we will organise regional thematic meetings, technical webinars and bilateral consultations. EUDiF will strive to connect actors in the diaspora-development ecosystem to develop partnerships, enhance peer learning and support operational cooperation. The **diaspora recommendations** which serve as inspiration for EUDiF's activities, and a progress monitoring system will be considered.
- **Capacity Development Lab:** A second wave of technical assistance actions will be launched early 2022, joining the actions currently underway. The objectives of CDL support are to: empower diaspora organisations and step up our work with EU partner countries and regional organisations to enhance diaspora engagement.

- **Mobilisation of diaspora expertise:** EUDiF will continue its efforts to mainstream diaspora expertise in development projects via the Diaspora Professionals 4 Development mechanism. In the coming months, we will facilitate a number of short-term assignments for diaspora professionals to support institutions in their country of heritage in the sectors of health, education, entrepreneurship, climate change & environment, and digitalisation.

The Future Forum took place at a time when the global Covid-19 pandemic, climate change and persistent inequalities are heavily disrupting our world and exacerbating the challenge of meeting the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals. More than ever, it is a critical time to celebrate the roles diasporas play in our societies as bridges between cultures and countries, and as catalysers of action. At EUDiF we talk of the *diaspora*-development ecosystem, emphasising and recognising diasporas as actors of development both within and alongside institutional development structures. In order to work better together to address societal and development challenges, we must consider the connections between all actors in the diaspora-development ecosystem as opportunities for listening, learning and collaboration.

The EUDiF Team look forward to strengthening collaboration with all partners in the ecosystem and to meeting you – hopefully in person – at the second edition of the Future Forum in 2022. In the meantime, please stay tuned and keep in touch.

**Aurélie Sgro**  
Senior Project Manager  
EUDiF



# SPEAKERS

SURNAME	NAME	POSITION	ORGANISATION
Addi	Habiba	Project Manager	Meet Africa
Adedeji Mortoni	Selina	Team Human Rights	#diasporavote,
Ahmed	Bashair	Executive Director	Shabaka
Aikins	Kingsley	Founder & CEO	The Networking Institute
Akwasi Adu-Ampong	Emmanuel	Assistant Professor in Cultural Geography	Wageningen University
Asquith	Paul	Research & Advocacy Manager	Shabaka
Bechara	Charly	Founder & CEO of SCALNYX; General Secretary of AFPI & Cedars Tech	Association Franco-libanaise des Professionnels de l'Informatique (AFPI)
Budiarto	Michael		ASEAN Youth Organisation- Germany
Capony	Raphaël	Coordinator (Diaspora Emergency Action & Coordination, DEMAC)	Diaspora Emergency Action & Coordination (DEMAC)
Chirita	Oleg	Head of Global Initiatives Programme	ICMPD
Darlu	Juliette	Energy project manager	GRET
Dayal	Alankrita	Founder & Executive Director	Program yoUr Future (PUF); North America Focal Point Lead of UNMGCY
Dickinson	Jen	Senior Lecturer in Human Geography	University of Winchester
Djguine	Ibrahima	Finance Officer, ICMPD); Head of Finance, ADYFE	
El Habouchi	Camilla	Associate Project Officer, Communications	MIEUX+, ICMPD
Erdis	Leila	Senior Adviser, Department of Integration	Norwegian Ministry of Education and Research
Feder	Ana	Regional Portfolio Manager	ICMPD
Ferdinandz	Freedanz	Co-Founder Comdu.it Deutschland; Board Member Comdu.it Global	Comdu.it
Fianko	Theresa	Founder & Managing Editor	Diaspora Digital News
Finneran	Niall	Reader in Heritage and Historical Archaeology	University of Winchester
Flamtermesky	Helga	Coordinator	Mujer Diáspora



Flores	Morse	Youth, Human Rights and Human Trafficking Committee Coordinator	European Network of Filipino Diaspora (ENFiD)
Frankenhaeuser	Malin	Head of Policy	ICMPD
Furtado Dos Reis Borges	Zenaida Isabel	Députée suppléante pour le cercle de l'Europe et du reste du monde	
Gedamu	Yohannes	Director of Research & Publication	Wollo University
Gelb	Stephen	Principal Research Fellow	ODI
Genetzke	Ralph	Director	ICMPD
Geraci	Giada	Public Officer, Directorate General for Migration	Italian Ministry of Labour and Social Policies
Greco Tonegutti	Raffaella	Lead Expert Migration and Development	Enabel
Hagstrom	Camilla	Deputy Head of Unit, Migration and Forced Displacement	DG International Partnerships, European Commission
Hamwi	Rasheed	Executive Manager	Nexo Ajans
Hendrix	Ron	Programme Manager Migration	DG International Partnerships (European Commission)
Hincu	Diana	Capacity Development Specialist	EUDiF
Hincu	Diana	Capacity Development Specialist	EUDiF
Kaba	Olivier	Responsable d'équipe projets Migrations	Agence Française de Développement (AFD)
Kalantaryan	Sona	Project lead: Partnerships for Knowledge on Migration in Africa (PKMA)	European Commission Joint Research Centre
Kassahun	Ayalew	Assistant Professor	Information Technology group of Wageningen University
Khadria	Binod	former Professor of economics, education and international migration	Global Research Forum on Diaspora and Transnationalism (GRFDT)
Kilimou	Epiphanie Pyalo Magnoudewa	Team Environment	#diasporavote!
Kingi	Pefi	Founder	Pacificwin
Konaté	Aissatou	TV presenter	Réseau des Entrepreneurs de la Diaspora Africaine (REDA)
Kong	Vannary	Founder	US-ASEAN Youth Council
Konstantinidi	Vladimer	Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Georgia	
Koplatadze	Erekle	Young Ambassador of Georgia to Netherlands (2018-2019)	Young Ambassador Program of Georgia
Kpognon	Kékéli	Head of Human Rights Programme	Quakers Council for European Affairs
Lalo	Aboubakar	Vice president	Conseil des Nigériens de France (CoNiF)
Leweniqila	Anare	Deputy Permanent Representative	Permanent Mission of the Republic of Fiji to the United Nations in Geneva

Majidli	Ilqar	Chief Advisor	International Relations and Youth Affairs Department, State Committee on Work with Diaspora of the Republic of Azerbaijan
Marazita	John	Director	Environmental Mobility Research Unit
Maristela	Abigail	Project assistant	IOM (International Organization for Migration)
Matsvai	Paul (Dr)	President & CEO	Global Zimbabwe Diaspora Nation Building Initiative
Mazyateke Uwimbabazi	Sandrine	Director	Rwanda Community Abroad
McMahon	Simon	Project lead: Migration, youth and development	European Commission Joint Research Centre
Mejri	Ouejdane	Migration for Development Director	Pontes Ricerche e Interventi
Mol	Anjuli		UN Major Group for Children and Youth (MGCY)
Moskalu	Violeta	Head of Board Honorary President, Echanges Lorraine-Ukraine (France)	Global Ukraine
Motte	Timothy	Founder	GrowHome
Mushegera	Jenny	Deputy Secretary General President	AU Diaspora Youth Initiative CongoExcellence
Naa Afoley Odai	Angela	Desk Officer Europe	CIDO-African Union
Nedelkoska	Ljubica	Senior Research Fellow	Growth Lab at Harvard University, Complexity Science Hub Vienna
Negoti	Amandine	Project Manager	African Diaspora Youth Forum (ADYFE)
Newland	Kathleen	Senior Fellow & Co-Founder	Migration Policy Institute
Nicolini	Giuseppe	Officer	Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS)
Nsoudou	Carine	Executive Director	Africa-Europe Diaspora Development Platform (ADEPT)
Ntarangwi	Fridah	Founding & Managing Partner	Zidicircle
Ntiranyibagira	Emmanuel	Founder and Director General	RICA Foundation
Nury	Alpha	Founder & CEO	Jamaafunding
Okoli	Chinwe	Founder & Executive Director	Grand Africa Initiative - GAIN
Olaru	Viorica	Leader	Casa Mare
Opoku-Owusu	Stella	Deputy Director	African Foundation for Development (AFFORD)
Parker-Twum	Genevieve	Incubation & acceleration specialist	SNV Netherlands Development Organisation Ghana - Project GrEn – Boosting Green Employment and Enterprise Opportunities in Ghana

Pereira	Sónia	High Commissioner for Migration of Portugal	
Pisco	Paolo	Deputy, PS,	Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe
Quelin	Guillaume	Climate referent	GRET
Ramdani	Adel	EU Youth Ambassador	
Rasul	Rosalinda	Head of the Diaspora Unit	Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation in Guyana
Reddy	Kishore	EDD youth Ambassador	
Romano	Roberta	Senior Migration Policy Officer	International Organisation for Migration(IOM)
Sanoussi	Kag	Président	Institut International de Gestion des Conflits- IIGC
Sarpong	Joyce	Founder & CEO	AfricaOracle
Sess	Daniel	Président	Conseil Régional des Grands Ponts, Cote d'Ivoire
Seychell	Martin	Deputy Director General	DG International Partnerships, European Commission
Sgro	Aurélié	Senior Project Manager	EUDiF
Signore	Stefano	Head of Climate Change and Sustainable Energy; Nuclear Safety	DG International Partnerships, European Commission
Simbo Diakité	Yousseuf	Founder & CEO	African Diaspora Youth Forum (ADYFE)
Singpiel	Alexandra	Co-Coordinator	Diaspora Emergency Action & Coordination (DEMAC)
Siyanga Knudsen	Paddy	Migration Governance Analyst	GRFDT
Sobiech	Agata	Head of Section Youth	DG International Partnerships, European Commission
Tamgno	Guy	CEO	Dooke
Thiruketheeswaran	Achsuthan	Co-Founder Comdu.it Deutschland; Board Member Comdu.it Global	Comdu.it
Tongson	Maria Regina	Capacity Development Intern	EUDiF
Tupua	Isoa	Education and Mental Health Representative	Fijian Youth UK
Uwitonze	Marie Chantal	President	African Diaspora Network in Europe (ADNE)
Wong	Elana	Global Focal Point	UN Major Group for Children and Youth (MGCY)
Wumba Bisengo	Naomi	Research & Communication Intern	EUDiF
Zheng	Maisie		ASEAN Youth Organisation- United Kingdom



**European Union Global Diaspora Facility**  
ICMPD  
Rue Belliard 159  
1040 Brussels  
Belgium



[www.diasporafordevelopment.eu](http://www.diasporafordevelopment.eu)



[EU-diaspora@icmpd.org](mailto:EU-diaspora@icmpd.org)



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