



The Migration Laboratory

Going beyond “us” and “them”: Towards a Migration that benefits all

The Migration Laboratory brings together international thought leaders from different sectors to enable new perspectives and to facilitate the co-creation of ideas and innovative practices towards a migration that benefits all actors in society.

Rationale

The Agenda 2030 and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) make numerous explicit and implicit references to migration. They urge governments and societies to find new paths towards sustainable development – ways based on dialogue and cross-sectoral-partnerships – bearing in mind that migration links origin and receiving societies and has great influence on the lives of millions, migrants and non-migrants alike.

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Human mobility is an increasingly important global reality that affects the present and future of both developing and developed countries. International migration and brain circulation offer significant development opportunities for origin and receiving societies as well as for the migrants themselves. At the same time there are also risks, especially if migration is not properly managed. This raises the questions of what can be done to avoid adverse effects and how the enormous development potentials can be used to ensure benefits for all actors involved. To achieve a so called multiple-win effect, all actors involved need to work together guided by a fair and mutual consideration of interests. Since a cooperative, coherent and participative policy development is often difficult to implement, governmental and societal actors require a reciprocal dialogue over

their specific needs and experiences, in order to elaborate new ideas towards an inclusive and development-sensible migration management.

The New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants acknowledges that multi-stakeholder dialogues on migration and development are of particular importance, especially in light of the SDG 17 – “Revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development”. The Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) has in the past been successful in trust-building between and among stakeholders, international organizations, the civil society and private sector. Within the framework of the GFMD and on behalf of the Federal Government of Germany – as Co-Chair of the 2017 GFMD Summit – the Global Leadership Academy and the Sector Project Migration and Development of German Development Cooperation (GIZ) are launching the unique Migration Laboratory.

Between the GFMD Summits 2017 in Germany and 2018 in Morocco, the Migration Lab will provide safe spaces for exchange outside of the structural and power-related limitations that mark most institutional and systemic contexts. The Lab brings together a broad range of international thought leaders from different sectors to enable new perspectives and to facilitate the co-creation of ideas and innovative practices guided by the core question: **“How can we act together across sectors so that migration is beneficial for all actors in society?”**

Our Approach

The Migration Lab is based on the understanding that the question above needs the collective experience from diverse perspectives in order to comprehensively work towards a migration that benefits all.



Building on this understanding, this multi-stakeholder dialogue process makes space for new perspectives, enables mutual understanding and builds bridges beyond institutionally and sector-specifically defined responses. It aims at providing opportunities to explore critical challenges and stakeholder relations in the field of migration and development, allowing for a new and systemic understanding of the field.

The Migration Lab will foster profound reflection, experiential learning, and tangible action to empower participants to significantly further their work and that of their home organizations. Peer-circles will enable reciprocal support to participants in relation to their own specific challenges within their work, organization or region. The whole process is geared to promote and enable change.

Between the three face-to-face Lab meetings, professional reflection sessions will enable participants to review lessons learnt from the meetings and explore how these insights can grow in their contexts and be transferred into their work. Participants will further be encouraged to cluster regionally and to undertake self-led learning journeys into migration and development-related initiatives in their countries, irradiating parts of their own field of work that they are least familiar with and thereby uncovering blind spots and making space for innovation.

The Migration Lab aims at providing a space for dialogue, experimentation and collaboration aiming at five key objectives:

- To engage critically with the challenges and potentials of ensuring that migration is beneficial for all actors in society
- To bring diverse interests in the migration system into dialogue and support a better understanding of mutual perspectives
- To encourage cross-sectoral collaboration and new forms of cooperation on concrete change initiatives tackling critical issues in the field
- To foster a global network of change agents
- To impact upon national and global discourses on migration

Participants

The Migration Lab will bring together 30 thought leaders from different sectors. Participants will represent the governments of Bangladesh, Ecuador, Egypt, Germany, Greece, Indonesia, Mexico, the Republic of Moldova, Morocco, the Philippines, Sweden and Switzerland, the civil society (including diaspora) and the private sector relevant to these countries. Furthermore, stakeholders from different Sub-Saharan African countries will be invited. The experiences and perspectives participants bring to the Lab promote a creative exchange across continents and strengthen cross-sectoral thinking.

Dates and Locations

The Migration Lab will take place in three face-to-face meetings between October 2017 and May 2018, thus spanning a time at the heart of the German-Moroccan GFMD Co-Chairmanship in 2017/18. To enable maximum use of the Lab's potential for the GFMD efforts in support of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, a review of its impact and of lessons learnt will be presented at the GFMD Summit in December 2018.

Module 1: Berlin, Germany: 19th to 22nd October, 2017

Module 2: Rabat, Morocco: 15th to 18th February, 2018

Module 3: Location tbd collectively: 11th to 13th May, 2018

The Global Forum on Migration and Development

The Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) is an initiative of the United Nations Member States to address the migration and development interconnections in practical and action-oriented ways. It is an informal, non-binding, voluntary and government-led process that marks the culmination of more than a decade of international dialogue on the growing importance of the linkages between migration and development. In view of the societal implications of these issues, civil society representatives have also been involved from the outset in this process.

The convening partners

The Sector Project Migration and Development

The GIZ Sector Project Migration and Development has been commissioned by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) to develop concepts, tools and strategies to better harness the potentials of migration for sustainable development and to reduce its risks. The Sector Project has the role of pioneering migration and development approaches in the German development cooperation context and providing advisory services to the BMZ.

www.giz.de/migration

The Global Leadership Academy

The Global Leadership Academy, commissioned by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), addresses global issues and works with its international partners to provide reflective dialogue spaces ('Leadership and Innovation Labs'). Based on new perspectives and insights, leaders and change agents from the fields of policy-making, business, academia and civil society develop innovative approaches and solutions to challenges in their areas of influence.

www.we-do-change.org

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