

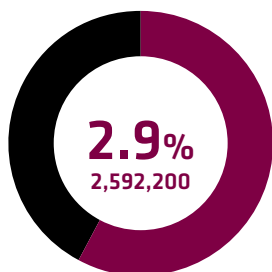


# Diaspora engagement mapping VIETNAM

## Facts & figures

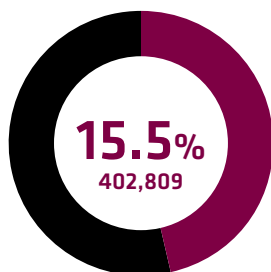
### Emigration

% of emigrants in total population



♂ 57.9%  
♀ 42.1%

% of which in the EU



♂ 46.6%  
♀ 53.4%



Remittances as a share of GDP: **6.5%**  
Remittances inflow (USD million): **17,000**



### Top countries of destination

|                          |           |
|--------------------------|-----------|
| United States of America | 1,352,449 |
| Australia                | 236,750   |
| Japan                    | 209,731   |
| Canada                   | 191,988   |
| France                   | 127,937   |



### Political rights



Dual citizenship<sup>1</sup>



Right to vote in national elections for citizens residing abroad<sup>2</sup>



Terminology: *Viet Kieu* refers to Vietnamese people living outside of Vietnam; those who left Vietnam prior to the Vietnam war, those who left as refugees during the war or the newer immigrants who grew up post-war. The term is used by people in Vietnam to refer to ethnic Vietnamese living outside the country.

**Vietnam does not have a diaspora engagement policy.**

<sup>1</sup> <https://vietnamlawmagazine.vn/tackling-the-issue-of-dual-citizenship-3591.html>

<sup>2</sup> <http://en.dangcongsan.vn/news-and-events/where-do-overseas-vietnamese-vote-389473.html>

## Overview of the policy and legislative framework



- 1986** ● **Doi Moi reforms** was a set of economic reforms to transition Vietnam from a command economy to a socialist market economy. The reforms saw the Vietnam government loosening up control of foreign trade and allowing consumer goods to be sent back home by Vietnamese who worked or studied in other socialist countries. After the collapse of the Soviet Union, the reforms emphasised that in a post-communist market economy, Vietnam should continue to keep its door open to foreign trade and investment.
- 2004** ● **Resolution 36<sup>3</sup>** was a law on the rights of the Viet Kieu, entitling them to certain privileges, such as incentives to buy property and invest in business and an exemption from visas. It was the first resolution of the Communist Party of Vietnam that addressed Viet Kieu issues. It aimed at creating favourable conditions and supporting them to “stabilise their life, integrate into the society of residing countries and maintain close links with the homeland”. As a result of this law, important legislation, such as visa exemption, home ownership, single price system and dual nationality, have subsequently been passed.
- 2018** ● **Law on Vietnamese Nationality** encourages and creates favourable conditions for persons of Vietnamese origin residing abroad to maintain close relations with their families and homeland and contribute to the building of their homeland. It also protects the lawful rights of Vietnamese citizens abroad through domestic state agencies and overseas Vietnamese representative missions.

### » Trends and achievements

The legal framework for diaspora engagement in Vietnam is not very developed. However, the government has increasingly recognised the critical importance of diaspora engagement through activities that promote Vietnamese culture and the provision of incentives to attract the diaspora back home. Incentives include facilitating buying property and investing in businesses, visa exemption, allowance for dual nationality and a single price system. Through such measures, Vietnam has benefitted from economic growth. In the early 2000s, there were only 50 listed companies in Vietnam, whereas today there are over 750 companies with market capitalisation of around \$150 billion.<sup>4</sup>

Vietnam has also focussed heavily on promoting its culture to the diaspora by inviting them to summer camps or cultural programmes in Vietnam. The private sector is also tapping into the fact that many overseas Vietnamese - encouraged by the government’s fight against Covid-19 - wish to come home. Companies are using this opportunity to encourage diaspora with academic qualifications and experience working in leading multinational corporations to return and work in Vietnam’s growing economy.<sup>5</sup>

## Obstacles



- Lack of policy framework: Vietnam lacks an overall policy framework for diaspora engagement, which prevents the various government ministries and private sector companies from working together more coherently. It also means that there is a lack of an overall guidance on what should be done to better the government’s diaspora engagement.

3 [http://viet-studies.net/kinhte/VietKieuComeHome\\_Sojourn.pdf](http://viet-studies.net/kinhte/VietKieuComeHome_Sojourn.pdf)

4 <https://www.euromoney.com/article/b11192v8p6q9bh/vietnams-diaspora-returns-with-attitude>

5 <https://e.vnexpress.net/news/business/vietnamese-diaspora-professionals-inspired-to-return-by-nation-s-covid-19-success-4131881.html>

- **Divisions within the diaspora:** More than 45 years after the Vietnam War, the Vietnamese diaspora remains divided due to the country's complex tapestry of migration.
- **Emphasis on financial linkages:** The State Commission for Overseas Vietnamese (SCOV) has focussed mainly on establishing financial linkages to Vietnam to speed up national development, but has not put in place activities or policies to heal emotional and political scars.

## SPOTLIGHT: effective practices



### Come Home Pho Good

The programme aims to attract high-skilled Vietnamese talent from the diaspora. Increased demand for talented professionals makes private sector companies keen to recruit from overseas Vietnamese professionals because they have a wide exposure to international experience and technology. The programme seeks to convince companies to attract Vietnamese diaspora professionals and provide the mechanism for companies to secure talent. For instance, the recruitment agency Robert Walters identifies and connects with Vietnamese diaspora professionals who are keen to return and potentially interested in jobs in Vietnam, based on their extensive database.

RETURN & REINTEGRATION;  
HUMAN CAPITAL

### Vietnam Summer Camp annual since 2004

The SCOV organises an annual camp in 10 localities across the country at which the diaspora comes to Vietnam to pay their respects to former President Ho Chi Minh at his mausoleum in Hanoi and visit other cultural and historical sites across Vietnam. There are also social activities, such as presenting gifts to relatives of martyrs, orphans and children in need, and interacting with local Vietnamese in several provinces. Since 2004, the camp has attracted 2,000 members of the diaspora from 30 countries and gives them a chance to connect with other Vietnamese in Vietnam and the diaspora.

IDENTITY;  
NETWORKING

### Xuan Que Hong (Homeland Spring) Programme annual

The Homeland Spring Programme brings together Vietnamese diaspora from around the world to strengthen solidarity between them and people in the homeland. It also seeks to inspire national pride and reiterate traditional cultural values amongst the diaspora. The programme includes a day of various activities, such as incense offering, ceremony for peace, and a food festival.

IDENTITY;  
NETWORKING

### Trip to Truong Sa (Spratly) archipelago Since 2011

This trip brings Vietnamese diaspora to the archipelago in the East Sea, which is also the nation's sacred territory. In 2019, the eighth such visit welcomed 50 diaspora members from 19 countries. The visitors attended commemorations events of martyrs and also donated gifts of essential food, equipment and cash to the soldiers and people in Truong Sa.

TOURISM;  
IDENTITY

## Annex:

# List of Actors

## Diaspora related institutions



- **At regional level**

### International Organisation for Migration (IOM) 1987

IOM operates under a cooperation agreement with the government of Vietnam. It has provided English training courses to migrant workers prior to departure overseas and more recently, it cooperated with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to implement a project to promote development friendly migration policies in Vietnam. It has also paid particular attention to the issue of human trafficking during migration out of Vietnam.

### International Labour Organisation (ILO) 1992

Vietnam rejoined the ILO in 1992 and an ILO Country Office was opened in Hanoi in 2003. The main aims of the ILO in Vietnam are to promote rights at work, encourage decent employment opportunities, enhance social protection and strengthen dialogue on work-related issues. The TRIANGLE in ASEAN programme is a part of the ILO's global efforts to promote fair migration. Through delivery of technical assistance and support to governments, social partners, civil society and regional bodies, TRIANGLE in ASEAN aims to create a set of policies, tools and services that enhance the contribution of labour migration to stable and inclusive growth and development. It involves six ASEAN countries, including Vietnam, and is funded by Australia and Canada.

- **National institutions**

- At ministerial level

### Ministry of Foreign Affairs 1945

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is the central government institution charged with leading the foreign affairs of Vietnam.

- Sub-ministerial level

The State Committee on Overseas Vietnamese Affairs is an agency under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which handles overseas Vietnamese affairs and its contribution to national development. The agency provides consultancy to the Party and the State by implementing policies related to the overseas Vietnamese. It also helps mobilise overseas Vietnamese to support the homeland.

The HCMC Committee for Overseas Vietnamese, a sub-division of the MFA, for matters pertaining to Viet Kieu based in Hoh Chi Minh City as it is the main destination for most returning migrants. The ministry offers reintegration assistance to returning migrants, including support for finding work and accommodation, and organises events for diaspora who return every year for the Vietnamese New Year celebrations. Returning Vietnamese are also taken on tours of central investment projects in Ho Chi Minh City in order to make them aware of the city's economic achievements.

## Diaspora organisations in Europe



**Deutsch-Vietnamesischer Freundeskreis e.V. (DVFAachen)** 1999 Germany

- ☑ Development activities
- ☑ Integration activities

DVFAachen aims to build and maintain friendships between people from Germany and Vietnam through cultural exchange, integration aid and promotion of education for Vietnamese youth. The organisation also provides support for people in need in Vietnam post-natural disasters. [ f ]

**Làm Cha Me CZ (LCMcz)** Czech Republic

- ☑ Integration activities

Làm Cha Me is a Vietnamese for “parenting”. LCMcz started as a Facebook group for Vietnamese parents in the Czech Republic to share useful information, explain issues that others might face and provide tips on how to educate children. At present, they find teachers to provide extra classes for children, help parents find suitable schools for their children, provide information on the healthcare system in Czech Republic, post useful information about traditional Czech festivals and holidays and basic knowledge about living in the Czech Republic and conduct community outdoor activities for children. [ f ]

**Reistrommel e.V. association** 1993 Germany

- ☑ Integration activities

Provides counselling for migrants and their family members, implements integration measures through language courses or migration advice, promotes Vietnamese culture, publicly educates and lobbies politically about living conditions of Vietnamese migrants. [ f ]

**Vietnamese Entrepreneurship Society in Finland (VietES)** 2019 Finland

- ☑ Integration activities

VietES guides Vietnamese arriving in Finland for higher education to embark on start-up ventures. The group incubates Vietnam-connected start-ups in Finland by combining the strengths and ecosystems of Finland and Vietnam. [ f ]

**Union Générale des Vietnamiens de France (UGVF)** 2016 France

- ☑ Development activities
- ☑ Integration activities

UGVF aims to promote social activities, studies and integration into French society while maintaining and developing the cultural identity of the Vietnamese community, including helping the younger generation to understand Vietnamese culture. It also participates actively in the development of Vietnam by providing humanitarian and emergency aid. Key activities include cultural activities, celebration of traditional Vietnamese festivals, Vietnamese and French language courses and trips to Vietnam. [ f ]

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