



European Union
Global Diaspora Facility

DIASPORA CONSULTATION: NORTHERN EUROPE

Executive summary

The European Union Global Diaspora Facility (EUDiF) held its third of five Diaspora Consultations on 29-30 September online. Seven diaspora organisations from four Northern European countries took part in the event, representing countries of heritage from various regions of the world.¹

The main objectives of the consultation were to exchange on the opportunities and challenges linked to diaspora engagement for the development of countries of origin; to better grasp the profile and dynamics of diaspora organisations in Northern Europe; and to facilitate new connections between diaspora organisations.

Three main messages emerged from discussion with the participating organisations:



Empowerment is key to ensure sustainability of diaspora actions. It is essential to empower diaspora organisations and ensure the sustainability of their actions through providing: information on funding opportunities, capacity development in leadership, project management and professionalisation of diaspora organisations, along with awareness raising and advocacy highlighting the role of diaspora as development actors.



Sustained multi stakeholder dialogue, with actors in countries of heritage, countries of residence, and the EU is critical for effective coordination and network building. In this regard, participants requested support in forming networks and establishing effective coordination mechanisms for intra-country and cross-country diaspora interaction in Europe. A 'collectivisation of diaspora' is key to building networks and accessing partnership opportunities with different stakeholders.



Further efforts are needed to build enabling environments for diaspora engagement in their countries of heritage as well as countries of residence. This includes - inter alia - building trust, improving access to information, addressing issues linked to bureaucracy, corruption, and censorship. In addition, there was a call to address the issue of racism, xenophobia and discrimination in the country of residence, as well as to develop specific funding schemes for diaspora.

During the event, participants developed a set of operational recommendations. EUDiF will carry these recommendations through its dialogue, Capacity Development Lab and Diaspora Professionals for Development Mechanism. They will be combined with the operational recommendations from the other Diaspora Consultations to build a consolidated set of recommendations to be presented to authorities in countries of heritage or residence, and to the EU.

¹ Participants were selected based on the size of the diaspora community they represent and the fact that they implement development-related activities in their country of origin.



Recommendations

The participants generated the following recommendations in a participatory discussion.

- **Enhance professionalisation of diaspora organisations** through capacity development in advocacy, leadership, communication, and project management.
- **Develop specific local, national and regional funds for diaspora organisations in Europe**, paired with capacity development in fundraising and project proposal drafting. In the short-term, map existing funding schemes for diaspora organisations in Europe.
- **Support the development of strong diaspora networks and/or umbrella organisations** to facilitate inter-diaspora cooperation in Europe and pool resources.
- **Promote peer-to-peer exchanges between diaspora organisations to enhance learning opportunities** through sharing of best practices and lessons learnt (e.g. study visits).
- **Encourage and support structured and sustained multi-stakeholder dialogue between diaspora and various actors in countries of heritage and residence** (including private sector actors), as a key element to build trust, align priorities and develop partnerships. In this view, it is important to identify national focal points on diaspora issues.
- **Raise awareness of diaspora contributions to development.** Local level networking in both countries of residence and heritage can support integration, raise awareness of diaspora as development actors and help identify strategic allies.
- **Maintain flexibility in programming at national and European level** to keep up with changing needs and realities at local level in both country of residence and heritage.
- **Involve diaspora in migration-related and peacebuilding dialogues** to tap into their knowledge of local realities and enable diaspora engagement.
- **Foster realistic diaspora policy frameworks in countries of heritage** as well as good governance to enable diaspora engagement for development.

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