



FUTURE FORUM

CONFERENCE REPORT 2023



CONTENTS

03	FOREWORD FROM ICMPD
04	FRAMING THE FUTURE FORUM
04	THE PARTNERSHIPS EDITION
05	HOST PERSPECTIVES
07	LIGHTNING TALKS
10	FF23 AT A GLANCE
12	A WELCOME ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF BRUSSELS
13	PARTNERING FOR SUCCESS
16	DIVERSIFYING PARTNERSHIPS
18	MAXIMISING THE DIASPORA-DEVELOPMENT VALUE CHAIN
20	BRINGING FF23 OUTCOMES TO THE GLOBAL FORUM ON MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT
22	DIASPORA YOUTH PITCH COMPETITION
24	CLOSING CEREMONY
26	AFTERWORD
27	SPEAKER LIST



FOREWORD FROM ICMPD

The third Future Forum was a truly unique experience and a triumph. I was delighted to be in the room and filled with gratitude for the presence of over 170 participants from all corners of the world, representing every type of actor in our dynamic diaspora-development ecosystem.

I would like to express my thanks to our donor the European Commission, to the Advisory Committee, to each speaker and moderator, the finalists in the Diaspora Youth Pitch Competition, the audience and - of course - the EUDiF team and alumni as well as all ICMPD colleagues involved.

The theme of the conference was partnership, and the richness of the Future Forum is thanks to the many fruitful partnerships which EUDiF has been part of in the last four years.

From the inspiring practices shared, to the hard discussions around defining diaspora and measuring impact, the Future Forum was a wonderful space to learn and connect.

I was particularly impressed by finalists in our youth pitch competition; their energy, perceptiveness and innovative ideas were outstanding.

Although the two online previous editions allowed us to foster global discussions despite the pandemic, it was very special to finally bring so many people into the room together. We know that in-person connection is vitally important for laying partnership foundations and are excited to see what new collaborations may come out of the coffee breaks or while sharing exquisite African cuisine during the evening event.

ICMPD is proud of its past, present and future work on diaspora engagement for development - and the stories and discussions shared during the Future Forum made it clear that the future is indeed bright for all in the diaspora-development ecosystem if we continue to work together.

Under its forthcoming second phase, EUDiF will continue to work hard to explore new areas of diaspora engagement and diversify its own partnerships.

I, for one, look forward to sharing what we learn at the next Future Forum.

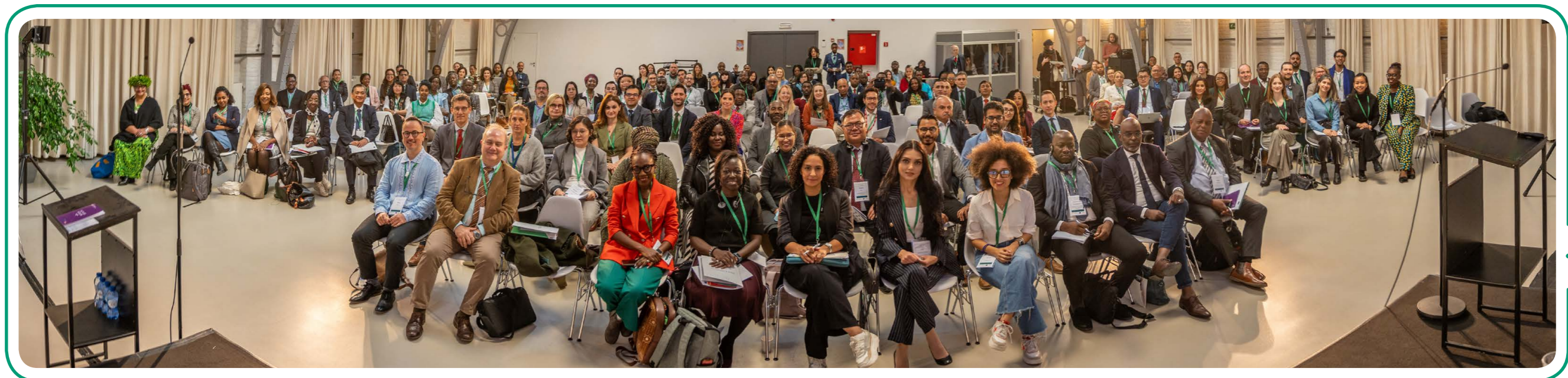
Ralph Genetzke
Director, ICMPD



FRAMING THE FUTURE FORUM

THE PARTNERSHIPS EDITION

The 2023 Future Forum (FF23), the third edition of the European Union's flagship conference on diaspora engagement for development, took place on 17 and 18 October in Brussels. Organised by the European Union Diaspora Facility (EUDiF), it was the first time that EUDiF convened such a large and specialised international audience in person, after the first two editions took place online during the Covid-19 pandemic. It was the perfect opportunity to celebrate the diversity and impact of diaspora partnerships for development, as well as to mark the final months of EUDiF's first phase and for the European Commission to announce a second phase to start in 2024.



Partnership is the cornerstone of successful diaspora engagement for development. It is therefore at the core of EUDiF's work, present in everything from research, to dialogue, to technical support. There is no diaspora engagement without an element of partnership, be that between individuals, organisations, or authorities – and everything between and besides. Partnership comes in myriad and ever-evolving forms, but true partnership presents the promise of achieving something greater than the sum of its parts.

Focusing on this theme, FF23 delved into success factors, diversification, and maximising value in diaspora partnerships. Throughout the event, there was a strong focus on the shared responsibility of nurturing and sustaining relationships within the diaspora-development ecosystem. FF23 aimed to inspire meaningful work

by highlighting the value of partnerships, connecting people with new ideas, and recognising outstanding efforts in the diaspora engagement field. The discussions highlighted how partnerships can break down institutional barriers, allowing us to achieve more together.

The event strongly reinforced the importance of partnerships in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and underscored the invaluable role played by diaspora communities as key actors in this global pursuit. The main success of FF23 is in the insights and connections that will be starting points for future partnerships for development.



For a longer reflection on diversifying partnerships, dig into the [EUDiF Partnerships Fundamentals Guide](#).

HOST PERSPECTIVES

EU

At European level, the institutions have long been supportive of diaspora engagement for development and sought a truly global approach with the creation of EUDiF. Indeed, as the Commissioner for DG INTPA highlighted in her video speech, diaspora have a unique position and enormous potential to create momentum for the SDGs. Moreover, there are many avenues for diaspora partnerships to support topic and region-specific activities facilitated by the European Union. As diaspora is both a “cross-cutting” topic, and a hyperdiverse community with skills and interests across the breadth of the European Union’s work, it is important to find opportunities where diaspora partnerships can add value, from youth engagement to gender equality, to the green transition and much more besides.

The continued support of the European Union to EUDiF and bilateral diaspora engagement initiatives demonstrates the strategic importance of the topic and appreciation of all the actors involved in the partnerships explored throughout the conference.



Partnerships are at the heart of EU cooperation with our partner countries. Diasporas have a unique position in these partnerships. The key vehicle is the Global Gateway investment strategy: digital, climate and energy, transport, health, education and research are all areas where diaspora can make a difference.

– Commissioner Jutta Urpilainen, [DG INTPA](#), European Commission



“With partnership and working together we will be able to reach the SDGs. No single actor can reach them, it has to be a collective effort and in this diasporas have a major role to play.”

– Erica Gerretsen, Director, DG INTPA Directorate G, Human Development, Migration, Governance and Peace, [DG INTPA](#), European Commission



One can have a dialogue without a partnership. But one cannot have a partnership without a dialogue. We dialogue with diasporas to design partnerships.

– Julien Simon, Head of Mediterranean Region and Head of Regional Office for the Mediterranean, [ICMPD](#)

ICMPD

Since its inception, ICMPD has been at the forefront of addressing the complexities of migration, with a strong emphasis on diaspora-related matters. The organisation has been instrumental in developing diaspora-related policy frameworks and strategies, contributing to the establishment of an institutional landscape that recognises the value of the diaspora in the context of migration and development in various regions including Africa and Central Asia. Aiming at consolidating fragmented efforts on diaspora engagement for development, ICMPD's work on diaspora engagement evolved into a truly global force through the creation and implementation of EUDiF.



The EUDiF journey 2019-23

ICMPD places partnership at the centre of its collaborations across migration-related topics, including in diaspora engagement. Addressing the challenges and opportunities in migration governance necessitates closer cooperation, creativity, and innovation. ICMPD advocates for joint leadership and shared responsibility to co-create sustainable solutions that address real needs.

Embodying the mantra that “migration is about people,” ICMPD places a human-centric focus at the core of its endeavours. This philosophy is not only reflected in its programmes but also in taking a storytelling approach, emphasising the narratives and experiences that shape the broader discourse on migration.



Stories bring people together, stories about our human condition. They teach about the world we live in and about ourselves and they facilitate collaboration and partnerships.

– Oleg Chirita, Head of Global Initiatives, [ICMPD](#)

LIGHTNING TALKS

Diaspora engagement and the Future Forum are about and driven by people, purpose and partnership. These driving forces are both tangible and intangible and therefore sometimes challenging to measure, deconstruct and analyse. This is where the power of story is vital...

Storytelling is a powerful tool that helps us understand and relate to a topic in a way statistics cannot. A story is accessible, relatable and - crucially - personal. As Oleg said in his speech, "stories bring people together, tell us about our human condition, teach us about the world and ourselves and facilitate cooperation and partnerships." This was why we introduced the lightning talks to this edition of the Future Forum: a space to spotlight the incredible stories of diaspora individuals and organisations from around the world.

Big picture thinking with **Gibril**, set out how thirty years ago diaspora engagement was in the margins of development discourse. Yet the unrelenting drive of diaspora actors at all levels has ensured diaspora engagement is now in the mainstream. The next challenge is to institutionalise and ensure diaspora is central to development policy and programming. This will be no mean feat, but **Paddy** set out that proactive trust-building through active listening and a constant exchange of ideas will allow diaspora to fully participate in such exchanges, whilst cautioning intermediaries against speaking for diaspora.



We have to mainstream diaspora, and that means we have to reduce marginalisation... What we need is to be in the center.

– Gibril Faal



Focus not on building something that's perfect, focus on building something that works.

– Paddy Siyanga Knudsen, Vice-President, [GRFDT](#)

Zoning in on specific crisis contexts in the Pacific, Sudan, Syria and Ukraine with **Pefi**, **Bashair**, **Hafiza** and **Marta** respectively, the stories shared were equal parts devastating and inspiring, with threats from war to the climate crisis driving diaspora engagement worldwide. Between them, the speakers called for a seat at the

table, mutual respect and decolonisation of the humanitarian and development sectors, as well as the need to build cross-generational partnerships. They also demonstrated how collaborative governance can overcome seemingly insurmountable barriers, and the power of in-kind support to catalyse an organisation's work.



We need solidarity across borders and philosophies. If you want us at the table, the table has to be redesigned! Relationships are founded on mutual respect.

– Pefi Kingi, Pacific Regional Climate Migration Focal Point, Pacificwin & Pacific Civil Society Climate Migration



It's not about what the diaspora can do, but what a collaborative approach can truly look like.

– Hafiza Hamoud, the Union of the German-Syrian Organisations in Germany ([VDSH](#))



Work with diaspora, but don't take their space.

– Bashair Ahmed, [Shabaka](#)



Be responsible for the promises you make. Do not give up, and do not give in... Remember you have: skills, passion, connections, experience and reputation.

– Marta Barandiy, [Promote Ukraine](#)

The final stories from **Denise** and **Maureen** gave us the principles and practicalities of diaspora partnerships. Herein, there is great potential for diaspora individuals to contribute in their respective fields - far beyond questions of migration - but such work requires sensitivity and a willingness to learn from all involved. Indeed, to nurture a truly impactful and equitable partnership requires: faith, consistency, patience, respect and appreciation.



Diaspora professionals can help even when not working on migration.

– Denise Margaret Matias, Professor, BRI of the Eberswalde University for Sustainable Development



The Iroko tree only thrives in a diverse ecosystem, even the thorn bush has its role.

– Maureen Duru, [The Food Bridge vzw](#)



Each story was powerful in its own right, sparking ideas for scale up, replication and learning, but together, the lightning talks gave us the essence of diaspora engagement: people, purpose and partnership. Diaspora engagement is a sector and premise which is constantly evolving and adapting to overcome the world's greatest challenges with determination, integrity and modesty. The stories shared at the Future Forum are just a glimpse of the incredible power of diaspora engagement for development, a glimpse I hope will stick in your memories as much as it does in mine, and encourage every reader to share their own stories to inform and inspire new partnerships.

Charlotte Griffiths
Communications officer, EUDiF



[Speaker biographies](#)

FF23 AT A GLANCE

17-18

OCTOBER



3

PANELS



8

DIASPORA LIGHTNING TALKS



1

DIASPORA YOUTH PITCH COMPETITION



44
SPEAKERS



31 WOMEN



25 MEN



NON-BINARY OR PREFER NOT TO SAY 1%

MEN 42%

180
ATTENDEES

WOMEN 57%



PARTICIPANTS



ACADEMIA AND THINK TANKS

5%



PARTNER COUNTRIES

15%



DIASPORA ORGANISATIONS AND INDIVIDUALS

32%



INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL ORGANISATIONS

22%



EU MEMBER STATES AND INSTITUTIONS

16%



PRIVATE SECTOR

6%



NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS (NON-DIASPORA)

4%

60%
SELF-IDENTIFY AS DIASPORA

EUROPE 7%

MENA 9%

EECA 16%



LAC 12%

AFRICA 41%

ASIA AND THE PACIFIC 15%

A WELCOME ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF BRUSSELS



Today, we are able to work together to find real solutions to develop our countries in different ways... In addition to development, the European Union Global Diaspora Facility works to preserve and promote the culture and knowledge left as a legacy.

– Lydia Mutyebele Ngoi, Alderwoman for Housing, Public Patrimony and Equal Opportunities, City of Brussels

There was no better place to have the first in-person edition of the Future Forum than in Brussels, the home of ICMPD and the European Commission. The EUDiF team carefully handpicked the beautiful Royal Flemish Theatre as the venue, honouring its celebration of culture and its reflection of the rich history found in the city EUDiF calls home.

Lydia joined us on the first day of the Future Forum to celebrate Brussels. Home to over 180 nationalities, it is the second most cosmopolitan and multicultural city in the world. Driven by her own experience as a member of the Congolese diaspora, she is working to preserve these different cultures and support organisations that promote the diaspora, including EUDiF. Her work as Alderwoman for Equal Opportunities spans different initiatives, including:

- Diversity, a day to discover and rediscover cultures that shape the city of Brussels, highlight cultural diversity, and combat stereotypes;
- A partnership with the non-profit organisation LABA, which organises cultural events on Algerian literature;
- Support for the Jewish Museum of Belgium, which aims to preserve Jewish history;
- Espace Magh, a cultural centre that promotes Maghreb and Mediterranean culture;
- The establishment of a Congolese cultural centre, a space where the cultures and traditions of Sub-Saharan Africa can come together and discover each other's richness, and share them with the rest of the city.

EUDiF is thankful for the support shown by the City of Brussels during the Future Forum, and their continuous commitment to promoting diaspora identities, histories and cultures in the city's everyday life.



If you ever visit Brussels again, use our diaspora-themed [guide](#) as a starting point to exploring the city!

PARTNERING FOR SUCCESS

Lilit Khachatryan

Advisor, IGORTS Programme, Office of High Commissioner for Diaspora, Armenia (OHCD)

Fernando J. Diaz Lopez

Head of Research, Partnerships and Programmes at EIT Climate KIC

Nahid Benani

Communications Officer, #DiasporaVote!

Oula Tarssim

Senior Project Manager, GIZ

Moderator: **Raphaël Capony**

Head of the Diaspora Programme, Danish Refugee Council



Successful partnerships are lasting partnerships. In this panel discussion, the experts explored the nuances of fostering sustainable partnerships, emphasising three critical success factors, whilst recommending anyone considering a partnership to step back if an ingredient is lacking...



SHARED VISION:

Recognising resource disparities, clearly defining each partner's roles, strategic capitalisation of individual strengths, and recognising the complementary nature of their skills are crucial to start any partnership.

- OHCD Armenia, the implementer of iGorts Programme called to build strong cooperation with diaspora members i.e. iGorts literally meaning 'let's do it together' in Armenian.
- Climate KIC: moving from the receiving end to a partner role can change everything. Oftentimes, shared vision and values are more important than resources and funding.
- #DiasporaVote!'s first step is to consider a partner's organisational goals and interests and evaluate if there is an alignment in objectives. For them, shared values are vitally important, and they pay particular attention to representation and inclusivity among others.
- In GiZ's experience the "soft" side of partnership is key, including trust building, closeness and understanding each others' values and vulnerabilities.



ROBUST COMMUNICATION:

Regular, open, and clear communication cultivates an atmosphere of mutual respect and trust. It enables all parties to speak the same language and provide feedback.

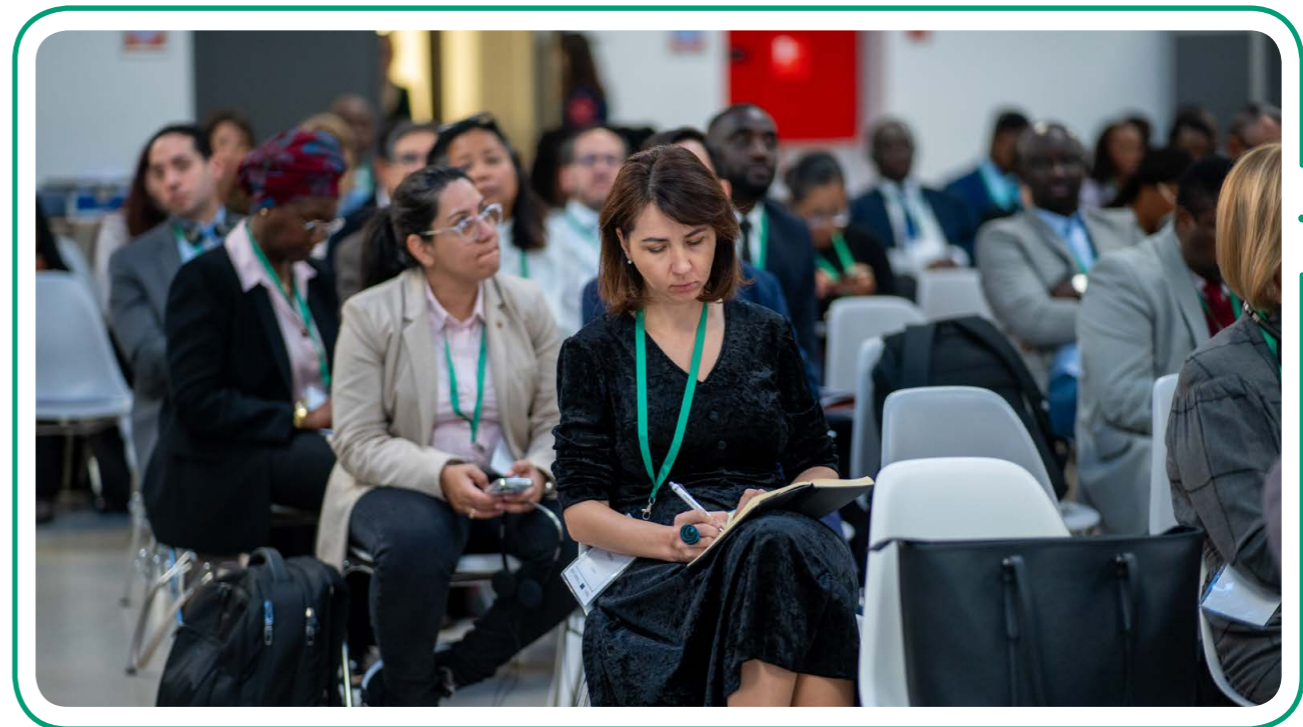
- The iGorts Programme has established transparent criteria, regular feedback loops and monitoring mechanisms. It recognises the skills of diaspora and their value whilst encouraging open discussions about the challenges they encounter during the integration process.
- #DiasporaVote! ensures potential partners are aware that all its members are volunteers as this influences their time availability; this helps with expectations and planning how to work together.



EXIT STRATEGIES:

It is key to build exit and sustainability strategies from the start. Doing this late in the process is a recipe for disaster.

- Climate KIC observed that many projects based on EU funding require early inclusion of such strategies in the initial stages of project development which helps organisations build resilience.



CRISIS & HUMANITARIAN CONTEXT

Unlike in development, partnerships in humanitarian response are often short term. Diaspora respond rapidly to crisis contexts to provide support in diverse ways; this often evolves over time in post-crisis contexts into development work.

There is much that more 'traditional' humanitarian agencies and NGOs, as well as governments in countries of origin and settlement, can learn from diaspora humanitarians' adaptive strategies across the humanitarian-development nexus. However Diaspora organisations are not always recognised as conventional partners by governments when addressing crises. Recent data revealed that diaspora communities receive a disproportionately low percentage of direct funding.



Case study: [Diaspora engagement in times of crisis](#)



The sense of urgency can bring a diaspora community towards a shared purpose or mission resulting in a swift mobilisation that evolves into a coalition of action. But this alone does not suffice to ensure the long-run of a partnership.

– Fernando Diaz Lopez, Head of Research, Partnerships and Programmes at EIT Climate Kick



Don't do diaspora without diaspora at the table.

– Oula Tarssim, Programme Manager, GIZ

SUCCESSFUL PARTNERSHIP CHECKLIST

DO:

- ✓ Acknowledge differences, including in resources
- ✓ Understand & respect your role and that of your partner
- ✓ Network to understand and analyse the ecosystem you operate in
- ✓ Adopt an intersectional approach that combines accessibility, gender sensitivity and antiracism
- ✓ Prioritise communication
- ✓ Employ diasporans in institutions - they bring credibility and embed lived experience in programming
- ✓ Develop exit and sustainability strategies from the start
- ✓ Try to plan for best and worst case scenarios, linked to data where possible



DIVERSIFYING PARTNERSHIPS



Eiman Kheir

Public Policy Manager / Diaspora Engagement, [Meta](#)

Stella Opoku-Owusu

Deputy Director, [AFFORD](#)

Mariam Keburia

Attachée, Department for Diaspora Relations, [Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia](#)

Nupur Kohli

Medical doctor, healthcare and women leadership Specialist

Moderator: **Elvina Quaison**

Diaspora engagement specialist, EUDiF

In diaspora engagement, as in all sectors, broadening the partnership portfolio is a way to explore new possibilities, reach a wider audience, scale up initiatives and avoid over-reliance on “traditional” partners.

In a panel which sought to reflect the ever growing diaspora-development ecosystem - with government, diaspora, and private sector speakers - we addressed the theoretical questions of why and how to diversify partnerships, as well as growth sectors and how digital tools can help build and amplify partnerships.

Our diverse speakers were united in their advice...

1. UNDERSTAND THE NEEDS OF ALL PARTNERS.

Taking the time to really understand the motivation and desired outcomes of each partner allows you to identify synergies and shared interests which are foundations for a strong partnership.

2. LEVERAGE DIFFERENCES.

The strength of partnership often comes in combining different resources. By acknowledging and determining how to use your respective resources for collective benefit you can:

- Achieve greater reach and take on bigger projects.
- Access different spaces and platform each other’s voices.



3. FOCUS ON ONE AREA AND ESTABLISH YOUR EXPERTISE.

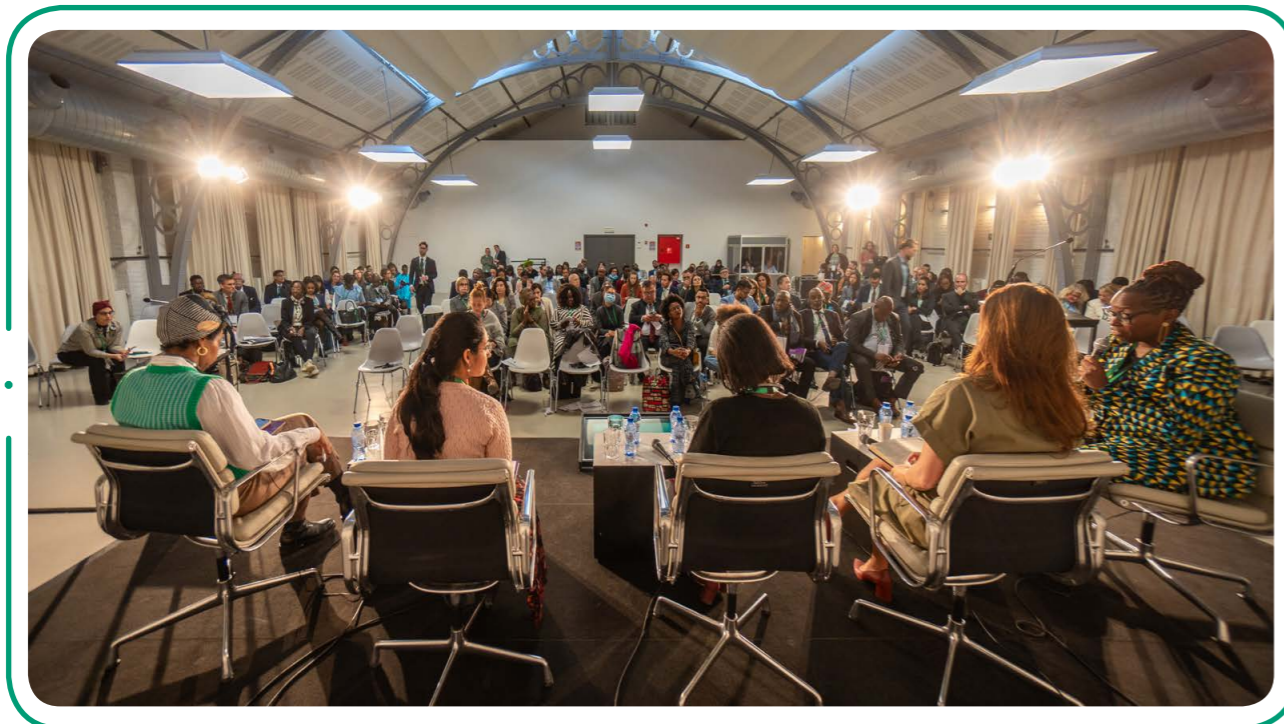
The last point was addressed more to diaspora organisations seeking paths to engage with other actors. Focusing on an area and demonstrating experience and expertise enables potential partners to more easily identify aligned areas of interest.

- Partnership in focus: AFFORD has focused on diaspora investment and job creation and partnered with impact investors, governments, institutional partners and specialists. This has led to a partnership to create a crowd-investment to maximise diaspora skills & remittances.

4. USE DIGITAL TOOLS EACH PHASE OF PARTNERSHIP.

Online platforms offer opportunities to identify and connect with future partners, to build community and rapport and, of course, to raise awareness of your work and share stories that inspire. Social networks are also great places to listen to what your community needs, whether you are a government, a diaspora organisation, or a technical partner. These digital tools allow for different ways of communicating your message, Nupur recommended video to capture personal experiences which speak more strongly than statistics.

- Build your social media skills with META's [learning resources](#) - there are lots of useful case studies and instructional videos, including on digital security.



You need a constant feedback loop with the diaspora. The Department for Diaspora Relations positions itself as human-oriented and prioritises dialogue with the diaspora.

– Mariam Keburia, Mariam Keburia, Attachée, Department for Diaspora Relations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia

MAXIMISING THE DIASPORA-DEVELOPMENT VALUE CHAIN

Raffaella Greco Tonegutti

Team Leader for Migration and Development, Enabel

Freedanz Ferdinandz & Suthan Kethees

Co-founders, Comdu.it

Mauro Martini

Senior Technical Specialist, IFAD

Angela Naa Ofoloey Odai

Acting Head of the Diaspora Division, AU-CIDO

Moderator: Fanny Tittel-Mosser

Research and Knowledge Management officer, EUDiF



The objective of the last panel was to talk about the value impact of diaspora partnerships – the starting point being that we all have the same goal: to make a tangible impact and to overcome global challenges. Starting from this premise, panellists discussed how to measure impact in diaspora partnerships, with the following takeaways...

1. THERE IS A NEED TO REVISE THE INDICATORS AND EXPAND THE INCLUSION OF DIASPORA CONTRIBUTIONS IN SDGs.

As mentioned during the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) summit in September 2023, migrants contribute to development in myriad ways. Panellists explored how the diaspora plays a crucial role in achieving all SDGs, including SDG 13, which focuses on climate action. However, diaspora contributions are only specifically referenced in relation to SDG (10) related to remittances.



We have to streamline all diaspora assets into socio-economic frameworks.

– Angela Naa Ofoloey Odai, Acting Head of the Diaspora Division, AU-CIDO

Quantitative targets are easier to conceptualise - but are these real indicators of development?

– Mauro Martini, Senior Technical Specialist, IFAD

2. THERE IS A CRUCIAL GAP: THE DISPARITY BETWEEN INTERNATIONAL AND LOCAL FRAMEWORKS.

Comdu.it argued that localization of global indicators is essential for measuring impact on sustainable development. This requires infrastructure and processes for data collection, storage and analysis. The current absence leads to inaccurate needs assessments and accelerates ineffective distribution of international & national funds, especially harming vulnerable communities. It is important for those frameworks to make sense at every level.



[Diaspora-driven green partnerships – Curated practices from Comdu.it and Zidicircle](#)

3. UNIFORMITY IS NECESSARY IN IMPACT MEASUREMENT.

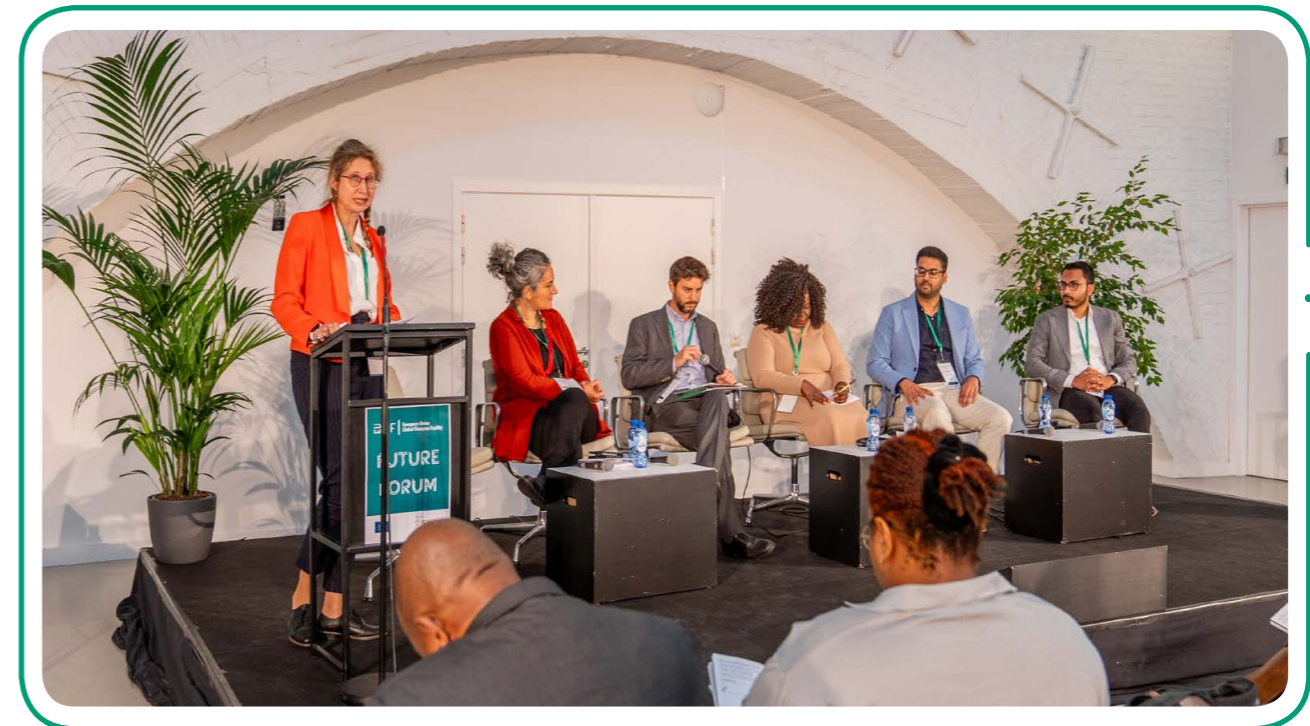
It not only enhances accountability but also fosters equal, win-win, and fair partnerships. There is a pressing need to measure impact carefully to bridge the gap between partners and the diaspora has taken a historical role in bridging that gap. The key question remains who should set the indicators and how?

4. WE NEED TO CONTINUE TO IMPROVE COMMUNICATION ABOUT RESULTS AND SHARE GOOD PRACTICES.

This is a key objective of EUDiF, through our open dialogue channels and shared knowledge hub, but needs to be done across the ecosystem.

Remember, in order to gather data that can better capture the role of migrants and diaspora in reaching the SDGs, all actors in the diaspora-development ecosystem need to:

1. Reflect regularly on indicators,
2. Connect to local and international frameworks
3. Adapt tools to the appropriate level
4. Develop capacities in data collection and analysis
5. Be consistent, meticulous and transparent
6. Share good practices & communicate results.



When looking at partnerships, even though the expected result is the same, the perceived impact can be different for all actors involved. How do we reconcile different perceptions of impact and what are the consequences for those that need to measure impact?

– Raffaella Greco Tonegutti, Team Leader for Migration and Development, Enabel

BRINGING FF23 OUTCOMES TO THE GLOBAL FORUM ON MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT

At EUDiF we strive to ensure no dialogue takes place in vacuum because dialogue has the greatest impact when designed to feed directly into other activities. It was with this in mind that we put together this handover session as a way for the EU-led discussions at the Future Forum to link directly to the next edition of the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD). In this way, we hope that the conversations of the Future Forum will continue and expand in the global level discussions in January in Geneva - knowledge generation and sharing at macro level.

– Dr Fanny Tittel-Mosser, Knowledge management & research officer, EUDiF.

The GFMD stands as a pivotal platform that is consistently at the forefront of integrating diaspora engagement into substantive policy discussions. Its annual agenda has highlighted the topic and delved into diverse diaspora perspectives since 2007. The imminent 14th GFMD Summit, slated for 23-25 January 2024, in Geneva and under the chairmanship of France, will hone in on the theme “The impact of climate change on human mobility.” This summit aims to scrutinise the pioneering contributions of diasporas in climate action, the strategic use of digital tools, and effective responses to crisis contexts.

The 2023 Future Forum, held a week prior to the 3rd Preparatory Meetings for the 14th GFMD, offered invaluable insights and best practices, enriching the groundwork for the forthcoming summit. Co-chairs of GFMD Roundtable 3, representing Moldova and Mexico, actively engaged in discussions, sharing knowledge garnered from the conference. This collaborative effort bridges the gap between global and national levels, accentuating synergies between European Union and GFMD priorities in diaspora engagement. Notably, the EU Global Gateway investment strategy aligns with the GFMD’s focus on digital advancements and climate action.

Throughout these discussions, speakers passionately emphasised the transformative role of diasporas in addressing both crises and climate change. Jorge González-Mayagoitia, First Secretary, Migration and forced displacement expert, Permanent Mission of Mexico in Geneva, stressed the imperative of cultivating an enabling environment for practitioners, stating, “*Diaspora are gamechangers, from crisis to climate, but practitioners need to create the right enabling environment.*”

Violina Donu, Deputy Head, BRD, Moldova, underscored the intricate nature of impact, incorporating elements such as interaction, awareness, mandate, and resource allocation. Simultaneously, Caroline Dumas, Ambassador, Representative of the French Chairmanship of the GFMD, highlighted the vast potential inherent in diaspora partnerships for combating climate change through adaptive measures and resilience building.





For those preparing to engage with the GFMD, active participation is encouraged. Attendees are advised to familiarise themselves with the framing texts and arrive equipped with responses and innovative ideas. For those unable to attend, we suggest reaching out to individuals present at the summit and proactively engaging with national authorities to share your insights in advance.

EUDiF is pleased to link the Future Forum to the GFMD and thereby promote collaborative efforts in advancing diaspora involvement in the discussions as well as knowledge transfer between regional and global levels in line with our aim to consolidate diaspora engagement knowledge and avoid fragmentation.



DIASPORA YOUTH PITCH COMPETITION



The future belongs to the young. Young, skilled and motivated people have great ideas and competencies.

– Commissioner Jutta Urpilainen, DG INTPA, European Commission

Across its work and at every Future Forum, EUDiF strives to create opportunities to showcase youth – who are drivers of innovation and the leaders of tomorrow – and to amplify their voices. This year, the Diaspora Youth Pitch Competition was launched to provide diaspora youth-led organisations in Europe a chance to present their bright ideas on how to leverage the potential of youth diaspora to address SDG 4 (quality education) and/or SDG 13 (climate action).

EUDiF warmly congratulates all three finalists for a job well done! To support them in bringing their bright ideas to life and partner with them, please reach out to them directly.



Did you know...Youth is a priority partner for the European Union's external action, as set out in the Youth Action Plan, the first ever policy framework for a strategic partnership with young people around the world.

Stowarzyszenie “Danaker”

Aitolgon Boronbaeva

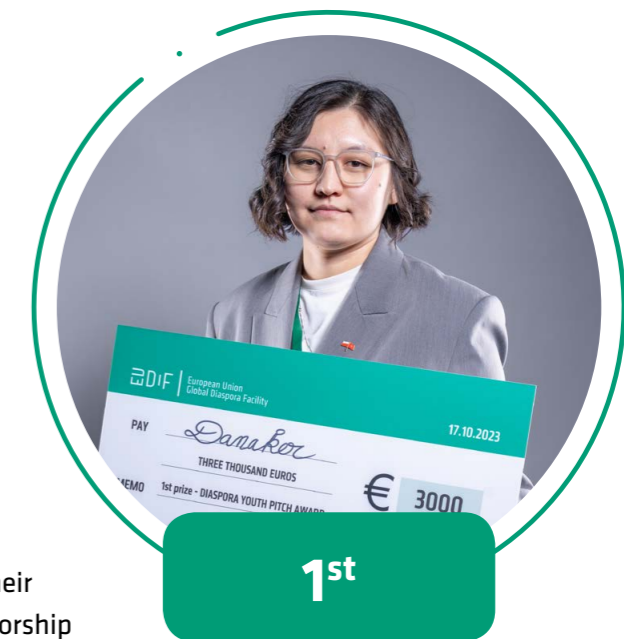
Danaker is a diaspora association that promotes the integration and development of Kyrgyz women in Poland through the celebration of the cultural heritage of Kyrgyzstan and women empowerment.

PROJECT:

Aitolgon presents “MentorAiyM”, a digital mentorship programme, aiming to unlock the potential of young migrant women from the Kyrgyz Republic who have made their homes in Poland, empowering them in their educational and work journeys. It is the very first mentorship program exclusively dedicated to the women from Kyrgyzstan in Poland and across the European Union.

MentorAiyM contributes significantly to the achievement of SDG4 by promoting equitable quality education and lifelong learning opportunities for young migrant women from Kyrgyzstan in Poland. However, the programme does not just focus on professional skills. It will also address soft-skills, fostering networking, and building a supportive diaspora community.

More information and contact via www.danakerdiaspora.eu



#DiasporaVote!

Taman Mhoumadi

#DiasporaVote! is a citizens' initiative to support greater representation and inclusion of racialised communities in politics and voting, bringing members of the diaspora to the tables of high-level decision makers in EU-policy.

PROJECT:

Taman presents the "African Loop," an initiative to empower African youth who often risk their lives migrating to Europe due to limited job opportunities and climate-related income loss. The African Loop focuses on creating sustainable jobs in Africa, emphasising locally driven climate solutions and providing technical support to climate entrepreneurs.

This program connects entrepreneurs with experts, enabling them to scale their projects, addressing issues like recycling plastic for paving and repurposing rice bags into reusable totes, with a global waste management perspective. The African Loop is not just practical; it's an artistic endeavor aimed at educating the public about climate solutions and integrating them into the collective imagination of Africa and Europe. By doing so, the initiative seeks to make climate solutions more relatable and relevant to the people in these regions.

Taman seeks support for an upcoming artistic residency and envisions the African Loop as a prototype for a new economic model in the age of climate change, urging others to join this innovative movement.

More information and contact via www.diasporavote.eu



1.2 Diaries

Jennifer Kwao

A platform for diaspora and African youth to learn about and engage in climate action and carve a bigger stake in climate policy discourse.

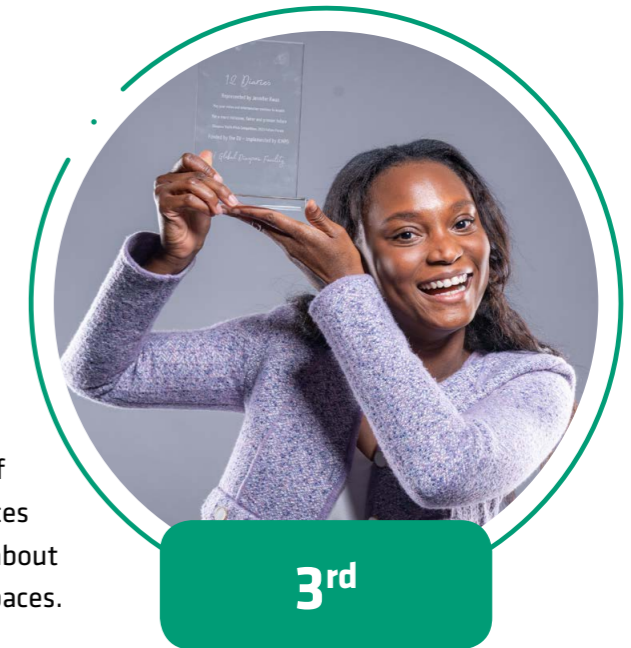
PROJECT:

Jennifer is co-founder of 1.2 Diaries, and their project 'Frontline speaks' focuses on the need for the voices of the people at the frontline of climate crisis, be the voices that come through front and centre when thinking about and responding to climate action in decision making spaces.

The frontline speaks project will work with diaspora communities, and civil society networks in Europe and Africa to document and represent local realities. Use exhibitions and media campaigns to spotlight frontline voices and stories. Not only will such a project help build partnerships between Europe and Africa and amplify frontline voices, it would contribute to SDG 13.3 which calls for the awareness to be raised about climate change and peoples capacities to respond to it.

Jennifer is looking for partners to provide support in locating venues for the exhibition, enabling awareness raising visits from frontline activists and responders and generally supporting young diaspora develop and grow an initiative they care deeply about.

More information and contact via [LinkedIn](#) and [Instagram](#)



Youth diaspora & sustainable development



CLOSING CEREMONY

Francesco Luciani

Head of Unit, Migration and Forced Displacement, DG INTPA

Tamar San Miguel Garcia

Counsellor and Coordinator for Justice and Home Affairs, Permanent Representation of Spain to the EU

Maria Regina Tongson

Diaspora Youth Community, EUDiF

Ralph Genetzke

Director, ICMPD

In the closing ceremony, the panellists wrapped up the fruitful discussions held over 1.5 days, inviting the audience to take the insights and new connections they gained during the Future Forum and turn them into stronger partnerships and impactful action. To add an element of interactivity, the audience members answered a poll and shared one word that summarises the future of diaspora engagement, and the panellists used the results to launch the discussion of the closing ceremony.

Francesco Luciani reaffirmed the European Commission's commitment to cooperating with the diaspora, acknowledging the importance of unlocking their full potential and mobilising them as agents of development. He encouraged the diaspora in the room to continue leveraging available avenues, such as EUDiF and its upcoming second phase, to build their capacity and showcase their added value, as these will help solidify their contributions to the development agendas of both their countries of heritage and residence.



We should continue working to have larger connections and to go beyond, to wake up the potential [of the diaspora] that still exists and that is not yet mobilised enough in certain countries.

– Francesco Luciani, Head of Unit, Migration and Forced Displacement, DG INTPA

Tamar San Miguel Garcia reiterated the role that the diaspora play in achieving SDG 10 and in building a more equitable and sustainable world. She highlighted the importance of recognising the various ways that diaspora contribute to development, including through remittances, but also through investment and knowledge building. She situated the Future Forum within the framework of the Spanish Presidency of the Council of the European Union, where she says there is great opportunity to promote legal and safe migration as a way to strengthen more empowered and resilient diasporas.



The Forum has proven to be a unique collaborative space for multiple stakeholders to network, discuss partnerships, and celebrate diaspora engagement in development... [It] has brought to the forefront the importance of the diaspora in fostering global and regional prosperity, as well as the need to work together to harness this full potential.

– Tamar San Miguel Garcia, Counsellor and Coordinator for Justice and Home Affairs, Permanent Representation of Spain to the EU



Maria Regina “Gia” Tongson spoke on behalf of the diaspora youth in the room, sharing with the audience several ideas that arose from informal conversations about their needs and desires as young leaders in Europe. While already widely acknowledged, Gia reminded the room of the promise that the youth hold in finding new solutions to age-old problems. She encouraged the audience to undertake concrete initiatives to empower diaspora youth leaders in Europe, such as by providing them with knowledge and capacity building opportunities, giving them easy access to flexible funding, and giving them a seat at the decision-making table. She highlighted the importance of ensuring that such initiatives are underpinned by the principles of representation and inclusion, considering identities, genders, religions, abilities and backgrounds.



Allow us to take up space... Youth consultations are really most useful and meaningful if you allow us to co-create with you from start to finish.

– Maria Regina Tongson, Diaspora Youth Community, EUDiF



Ralph Genetzke emphasised the importance of hard work in sustaining commitment to the diaspora and maintaining the momentum that was started in the first phase of EUDiF. He pointed out the need for decision-makers and political actors to make the active choice to render diaspora voices more visible and spread awareness about why they matter. Seats on the decision-making table must be offered to diverse groups from the diaspora, and must be guided by mutual respect and recognition of the value that different actors bring to the table. Returning to the importance of hard work, Ralph reaffirmed ICMPD’s commitment to designing decision-making tables in an inclusive way and promoting diverse, diaspora-led solutions to the world’s most pressing migration challenges.



What is important is to bring together different actors within ICMPD... Issues which come from migration [are] diverse and multifaceted, so the answer also has to be multifaceted, and that can only come from bringing together diverse actors.

– Ralph Genetzke, Director, ICMPD

AFTERWORD

At the time of writing, just over one month has passed since the 3rd Future Forum. The attention of the team is on processing and taking forward the learnings of the event.

*FF23 showed that global discussions on diaspora engagement have progressed significantly over recent years. Across the speakers and audience, the focus was not on questions of why or what for, but on **how** to take partnerships with diaspora for development to the next level.*

We are aware that diaspora and development practitioners alike can be frustrated by the lack of practical and concrete follow-up after large events. The EUDiF team will endeavour to integrate the insights gained at the Future Forum in its future work. It is hoped that more partners will reflect on these and contribute to putting words into action. Cross-actor and cross-sector efforts are required to make tangible progress.

Among the great number of takeaways of the 2023 Future Forum, I wish to underline the following six pivotal areas which we must address collectively:

- 1) Re-designing decision-making tables to include meaningful diaspora participation – especially youth – in policy and programming cycles and, more broadly, supporting diaspora to engage policymakers;*
- 2) Scaling up partnerships with diaspora beyond small-scale pilot and ad hoc initiatives;*
- 3) Moving beyond mainstreaming to institutionalise diaspora engagement across countries of origin and destination;*
- 4) Ensuring all segments of diaspora (beyond those actors used to engage with European and international partners) are at the table and supported;*
- 5) Enshrining a gender and generation-sensitive lens in all partnerships;*
- 6) Systematically and coherently capturing the added value of diaspora contributions to the SDGs.*

These questions offer critical guidance for the second phase of EUDiF, due to start in the spring 2024. The EUDiF team will remain dedicated to helping diaspora partnerships thrive through knowledge, network access, operational support and more.

Together, let's work towards an inclusive, fairer and greener global development.

Thank you,

Dr Aurélie Sgro

Senior Project Manager, EUDiF, ICMPD



SPEAKER LIST



Speaker biographies

SURNAME	NAME	POSITION	ORGANISATION
Afoley Odai	Angela Naa	Acting Head of the Diaspora Division	AU CIDO
Ahmed	Bashair	Executive Director	Shabaka
Barandiy	Marta	President and Founder	Promote Ukraine
Benani	Nahid	Communications Officer	#DiasporaVote!
Boronbaeva	Aitolgon	Executive Director	Danaker
Capony	Raphaël	Head of the Diaspora Programme	Danish Refugee Council
Chirita	Oleg	Head of Global Initiatives	ICMPD
Diaz Lopez	Fernando	Director of Research Climate Resilience and Regional Eco-innovation	EIT Climate KIC
Donu	Violina	Deputy Head of the Diaspora Relations Bureau	State Chancellery of Moldova
Dumas	Caroline	Ambassador	Representative of the French Chairmanship of the GFMD
Duru	Maureen	Founder & Director	Food Bridge
Faal	Gibril	Director	GK Partners
Ferdinandz	Freedanz	Co-founder	Comdu.it
Genetzke	Ralph	Director	ICMPD
Gerretsen	Erica	Director	DG INTPA Directorate G “Human Development, Migration, Governance and Peace”
González-Mayagoitia	Jorge	First Secretary, Migration and Forced Displacement Expert	Permanent Mission of Mexico in Geneva
Greco Tonegutti	Raffaella	Team Leader	Enabel
Griffiths	Charlotte	Communications Officer	EUDiF, ICMPD
Hamoud	Hafiza	Outreach and Partnerships Coordinator	Union of the German-Syrian Organisations in Germany

Hincu	Diana	Capacity Development Specialist	EUDiF, ICMPD
Keburia	Mariam	II Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia	Department of Relations with Diaspora
Khachatryan	Lilit	Advisor	Office of the High Commissioner for Diaspora Affairs of Armenia
Kheir	Eiman	Diaspora and Community Engagement Manager	Meta
Kingi	Pefi	Pacific Regional Climate Migration Focal Point	Pacificwin & Pacific Civil Society Climate Migration
Kingue	Rodrice	Diaspora Youth Intern	EUDiF, ICMPD
Kohli	Nupur	CEO	drnupurkohli.com
Kwao	Jennifer	Co-founder	1.2 Diaries
Luciani	Francesco	Head of Unit, Migration and Forced Displacement	DG INTPA
Martini	Mauro	Senior Technical Specialist	IFAD
Matias	Denise Margaret	Professor	BRI of the Eberswalde University for Sustainable Development
Mhoumadi	Taman	Climate Fellow	#DiasporaVote!
Mutyebele Ngoi	Lydia	Alderman of Housing, Public Patrimony and Equal Opportunities	City of Brussels
Opoku Owusu	Stella	Executive Director	AFFORD
Quaison	Elvina	Diaspora Engagement Specialist	EUDiF, ICMPD
San Miguel Garcia	Tamar	Counsellor and Coordinator for Justice and Home Affairs	Permanent Representation of Spain to the EU
Searle Vial	Agustín	Associate Project Officer	EUDiF, ICMPD
Sgro	Aurélie	Senior Project Manager	EUDiF, ICMPD
Simon	Julien	Head of Mediterranean Region and Head of Regional Office for the Mediterranean	ICMPD
Siyanga Knudsen	Paddy	Vice President	GRFDT
Tarabay	Hala	Project Officer	EUDiF, ICMPD
Tarssim	Oula	Senior Project Manager	GIZ
Thiruketheeswaran	Achsuthan	Co-founder	Comdu.it
Tittel-Mosser	Fanny	Knowledge Management & Research Officer	EUDiF, ICMPD
Tongson	Maria Regina	Diaspora Youth Community	EUDiF



European Union Global Diaspora Facility

ICMPD
Rue Belliard 159
1040 Brussels
Belgium



www.diasporafordevelopment.eu



EU-diaspora@icmpd.org



[@diaspora4devEU](https://twitter.com/diaspora4devEU)

Citation recommendation: EUDiF (2023). Future Forum 2023 Conference Report. EUDiF, Brussels: ICMPD.

© – 2023 – ICMPD. All rights reserved. Licensed to the European Union under conditions.

This publication was funded by the European Union. Its contents are the sole responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of ICMPD nor the European Union

Funded by
the European Union



Implemented by



ICMPD

International Centre for
Migration Policy Development