



Policy dialogue: Leveraging Diasporas to Promote Innovation for Sustainable Development

In 2019, almost 272 million people - 3.5 percent of the world's population - were living outside their countries of birth, an increase of 9 percent over 2015 and of 23 percent over 2010.¹ About 45 million migrants around the world come from Eastern Europe and Central Asia, making this region the one with the largest diaspora in nominal value.² Roughly one third of all migrants have at least a tertiary education.³

While large-scale emigration of skilled people can reduce innovation and economic dynamism in countries of origin, the diaspora that arises from sustained migration may turn into assets. Emigrants and their descendants often acquire new skills, business connections, and capital. Systematically building on cultural and family ties to strengthen economic linkages between members of the diaspora and the home country carries substantial potential for channelling and increasing trade, investment, and, perhaps most importantly, the entrepreneurship, linkages and knowledge spillovers essential for promoting and sustaining innovation for sustainable development.

The webinar brings together leading expert and policy makers from the UNECE region to discuss policies to use the potential of diasporas for promoting innovation and entrepreneurship. The discussions will be guided by the following questions:

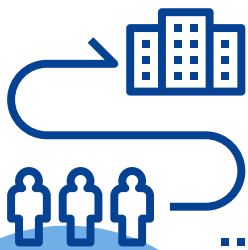
- What are the recent trends on migration and diaspora in the UNECE region? What are the skill profiles of migrants? What drives these trends?
- What is the impact of diasporas on innovation activity in the countries of origin in the UNECE region? What indicators can be used to measure this impact?
- What policies have been deployed in the UNECE region to improve the contribution of diasporas to innovative development? What policies have been deployed to facilitate positive innovation spillovers from the diaspora to the countries of origin? Which policies have been the most effective?
- What policies in particular can facilitate the diaspora's contribution to innovative solutions for sustainable development challenges?

The results of the webinar will be used to inform UNECE's policy advisory work in this area.

¹ UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs Population Division, International Migration, <https://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/data/estimates2/estimates19.asp>.

² United Nations Population Division 2019.

³ McKinsey Global Institute (2016), People on the Move: Global Migration's Impact and Opportunity, <https://www.mckinsey.com/~/media/McKinsey/Industries/Public%20and%20Social%20Sector/Our%20Insights/Global%20migrations%20impact%20and%20opportunity/MGI-People-on-the-Move-Executive-summary-December-2016.pdf>.



WEBINAR

**Monday, 31 May 2021
10:00 – 12:00 CET**

To register, click [here](#)



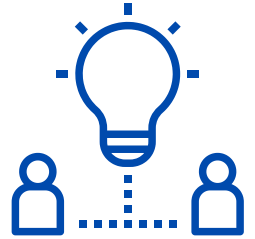
UNECE



COMMITTEE ON INNOVATION, COMPETITIVENESS AND PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS

Programme

31 May 2021



10:00 – 10:10 **Welcome and opening of the webinar**

- **Mr Dmitry Mariyasin**, Deputy Executive Secretary of UNECE

10:10 – 11:30 **Panel discussion**

Moderator:

- TBC

Panellists:

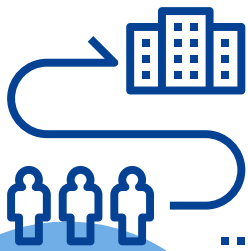
- **Ms Violina Donu**, National Diaspora Relations Bureau, Moldova
- **Ms Marina Manke**, Head, Labour Mobility and Human Development Division, International Organisation of Migration
- **Ms Shakhlo Turdikulova**, First Deputy Minister of Innovative Development of the Republic of Uzbekistan (TBC)
- Israel – government representative
- Armenia – government representative
- **Mr Selahattin Selsah Pasali**, Economic Affairs Officer, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
- **Ms Maria Elo**, Professor, University of Southern Denmark

Discussant:

- **Mr Aleksandr V. Gevorkyan**, Associate Professor, St John's University

11:30 – 11:50 **Q&A**

11:50 – 12:00 **Conclusions and final remarks**



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