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# EMN CONFERENCE

## Circular migration schemes and initiatives for diaspora moving back home: Supporting economic development in countries of origin

### Agenda

8 December 2023, 09:00-16:15 (CET)

Belgrade, Serbia (Hybrid)

## 1. RATIONALE AND AIMS

The first EMN Serbia conference will be dedicated to the issue of Circular migration, focusing on different approaches and schemes in EU and non-EU Member States. The primary objective of this conference is to facilitate discussions about the various practices and initiatives concerning circular migration programs and efforts to encourage members of the diaspora to return to their countries of origin. Furthermore, the conference seeks to delve into the examination of how diaspora members contribute to the transfer of skills, knowledge, as well as social and cultural capital, and how these contributions impact the development of their countries of origin. Additionally, the event aims to discuss in which ways diaspora members - through the transfer of skills, knowledge, social and cultural capital - can contribute to the further development of their countries of origin.

At the EU level, circular schemes are also being promoted in the context of Talent Partnerships with key countries as one of the key aspects of the external dimension of the New Pact on Migration and Asylum.

The conference will bring experts from EMN Member and Observer Countries to discuss topics related to circular migration from the perspective of host countries and countries of origin.

The conference aims at:

- Introduce the EU definition and concept of circular migration to Observer Countries;
- Explore the potential of circular migration in the context of workforce shortage;
- Explore the possibility of engaging the diaspora in circular migration/temporary return to their home country;

The main questions that will be addressed during the event are:

- How is circular migration regulated in European and national legal frameworks?

- What practice is used by EMN Member and Observer Countries for monitoring and researching circular migration? What are the positive and negative aspects of different initiatives in EMN Member and Observer Countries related to circular migration?
- Do EMN Member and Observer Countries have experience with diaspora engagement in fulfilling labour needs in specific sectors?

The panel discussion shall enable the exchange of existing knowledge and experience among policy makers, practitioners, academia members, as well as representatives of international and civil society organisations.

## 2. PRACTICAL INFORMATION

The conference is organised as a hybrid event with in-person and online participation. It will be held in Belgrade on Friday, 8 December 2023, in Metropol Palace Hotel, Bulevar Kralja Aleksandra 69. The event will be held in both Serbian and English (interpretation is provided from Serbian-English and English-Serbian). Online access will be provided through WebEx application available for registered participants.

Welcome coffee and in-person registration start at 8.30.

### AGENDA

Date	
09.00 – 09.45	<p><b>Welcoming remarks</b></p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> <i>Dragana Simic, Commissariat for Refugees and Migration</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Zoran Lazarov</b>, <i>advisor to the minister for European integration on the Rule of Law, Ministry for the European integration</i></li> <li>▪ <b>Martin Taschner</b>, <i>Head of Unit, Migration Management Preparedness, DG HOME, European Commission (online intervention)</i></li> <li>▪ <b>Martin Klaucke</b>, <i>Head of Operations, DEU to Serbia</i></li> <li>▪ <b>Svetlana Velimirovic</b>, <i>Deputy Commissioner, Commissariat for Refugees and Migration</i></li> </ul>
09.45 – 10.00	<p><b>Group photo</b></p>
10.00 – 11.30	<p><b>Panel 1: Legal framework at EU and national level on circular migration and diaspora</b> – <i>Do we have the same understanding of the concept of circular migration? Is there a different perspective for the countries of origin and destination? Is the diaspora driver for the development in the EU countries the same as in observer countries?</i></p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> <i>Vladimir Petronijevic, migration expert, Team for the Population Issues, Government of Serbia</i></p> <p><b>Presentations:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Promises and Pitfalls of Circular Migration under EU Migration Law</b> – <i>Prof. Tesseltje de Lange, Professor of European Migration Law and Director of the Centre for Migration Law at Radboud University in Nijmegen</i></li> <li>▪ <b>Employment Agreement between Slovenia and Serbia</b> – <i>Katarina Bertonec and Dunja Matešič, Employment Service of Slovenia</i></li> </ul>

	<p><b>Moderated discussion around the following questions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; How are circular migrations reflected in the legal system of the EMN Members and Observer Countries?</li> <li>&gt; Do EMN Members and Observer Countries have formal inter-sectoral coordination between the authorities that deal with emigration and immigration and those responsible for social well-being (i.e. pensions, health insurance, education)?</li> <li>&gt; Is circular migration recognised as a possibility for slowing depopulation, specifically in the diaspora context?</li> </ul> <p><b>Moderated discussion, participants:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>Nikolina Milatovic Popovic, Acting Assistant Director of the Directorate for Cooperation with the Diaspora and Serbs in the Region</i></li> <li>▪ <i>Uroš Živković, Program Director, Returning Point</i></li> <li>▪ <i>Marko Pavlovic, Investment, Migration and Digitalization Expert, International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD)</i></li> </ul>
<p><b>11.30-12.00</b></p>	<p><b>Coffee break</b></p>
<p><b>12.00–13.30</b></p>	<p><b>Panel 2: Statistics and research on circular migration and diaspora return</b> – <i>Evidence based policy become “a must” in policy development. Do we have accurate data on circular migration? What are available tools and resources?</i></p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> <i>Prof. Danica Santic, PhD., Faculty of Geography, University of Belgrade</i></p> <p><b>Presentations:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Challenges in the Production of Migration Statistics</b> – <i>Gordana Bjelobrck, Head of Department for Demographic and Health Statistics, Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia</i></li> <li>▪ <b>Labour migration regulation in Georgia and interstate cooperation in the field of labour migration</b> – <i>Giorgi Bunturi, Head of Division for Labour Migration Issues, Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons from The Occupied Territories, Labour, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia (online intervention)</i></li> </ul> <p><b>Moderated discussion around the following questions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; Do countries have a system in place to measure and follow circular migration?</li> <li>&gt; Is there a way to monitor the contribution of returnees from the diaspora to social and financial investments?</li> <li>&gt; How could data on nationals going abroad for seasonal or other short-term employment be collected?</li> </ul> <p><b>Moderated discussion, participants:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>Jovana Gusic, Sub-regional project coordinator, International Organisation for Migration</i></li> <li>▪ <i>Tatjana Pavlov, PhD., Reasercher, Group 484</i></li> <li>▪ <i>Ana Milinkovic, Researcher, European Policy Centre (CEP) (online intervention)</i></li> </ul>

13.30 – 14.30	<b>Lunch</b>
14.30 – 16.00	<p><b>Panel 3: Initiatives on circular migration and return of nationals from diaspora</b> – <i>Which are promising initiatives launched by EMN Member and Observer countries to foster circular migration and return of diaspora to support national economic growth?</i></p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> <i>Svetlana Velimirovic, deputy commissioner, Commissariat for Refugees and Migration</i></p> <p><b>Presentations:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Intellectual and Expert Diaspora of Serbia: From Brain Drain to Brain Gain, through Brain Chain</b> – <i>Prof. Jovan Filipovic, PhD., Head of Department for Quality Management and Standardization, Faculty of Organizational Science, University of Belgrade</i></li> <li>▪ <b>Shaping development-oriented migration</b> – <i>Milica Ljesevic, Implementation manager, implementation manager, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH</i></li> <li>▪ <b>Sharing is Caring: Diaspora as Actors of Change</b> – <i>Anke Van De Velde, Project Coordinator O-REMIT, IOM Belgium and Luxemburg (online intervention)</i></li> </ul> <p><b>Moderated discussion around the following questions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; Are there successful initiatives?</li> <li>&gt; Are there obstacles and risks that minimise the positive effect of such initiatives?</li> <li>&gt; Did these initiatives have an impact on population trends?</li> </ul> <p><b>Moderated discussion, participants:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>Mariam Keburia, second secretary, Department for Diaspora Relations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Georgia (online intervention)</i></li> <li>▪ <i>Sanja Gavranovic, Head of Group for Normative and Administrative Affairs related to the employment of foreigners in the Ministry of Labour, Employment, Veterans and Social Affairs</i></li> <li>▪ <i>Jelena Maric Lukovic, Portfolio Analyst, UNDP Serbia</i></li> </ul>
16.00 – 16.15	<p><b>Concluding remarks</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>Uros Zivkovic, Head of Group for European Integration and Migration, Commissariat for Refugees and Migration</i></li> </ul>