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MIGRATION
FOR DEVELOPMENT



How can Local and Regional Authorities facilitate Diaspora Contributions?

UNITAR Training
Joint Migration and Development Initiative (JMDI)
Brussels, December 2013





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Why focus on the Local Level?

- **Migration is frequently a local-to-local process**, i.e. migrants from the same town or region frequently concentrate in the same geographical areas in the host country. This presents unique opportunities for economic partnerships
- **Local Authorities are closer to the ground** and are able to design tailor made policies fitting the needs of the migrant entrepreneurs. Local Authorities are best placed to act as focal points to promote a multi-stakeholder approach in fostering local development and exploit the nexus between new information technologies, globalization, transnationalism and entrepreneurship
- **Local Authorities have de iure or de facto important competences** in the field of migration policies (receiving and integrating migrants) and local development (local planning, local economic development) and are therefore ideally placed to connect both





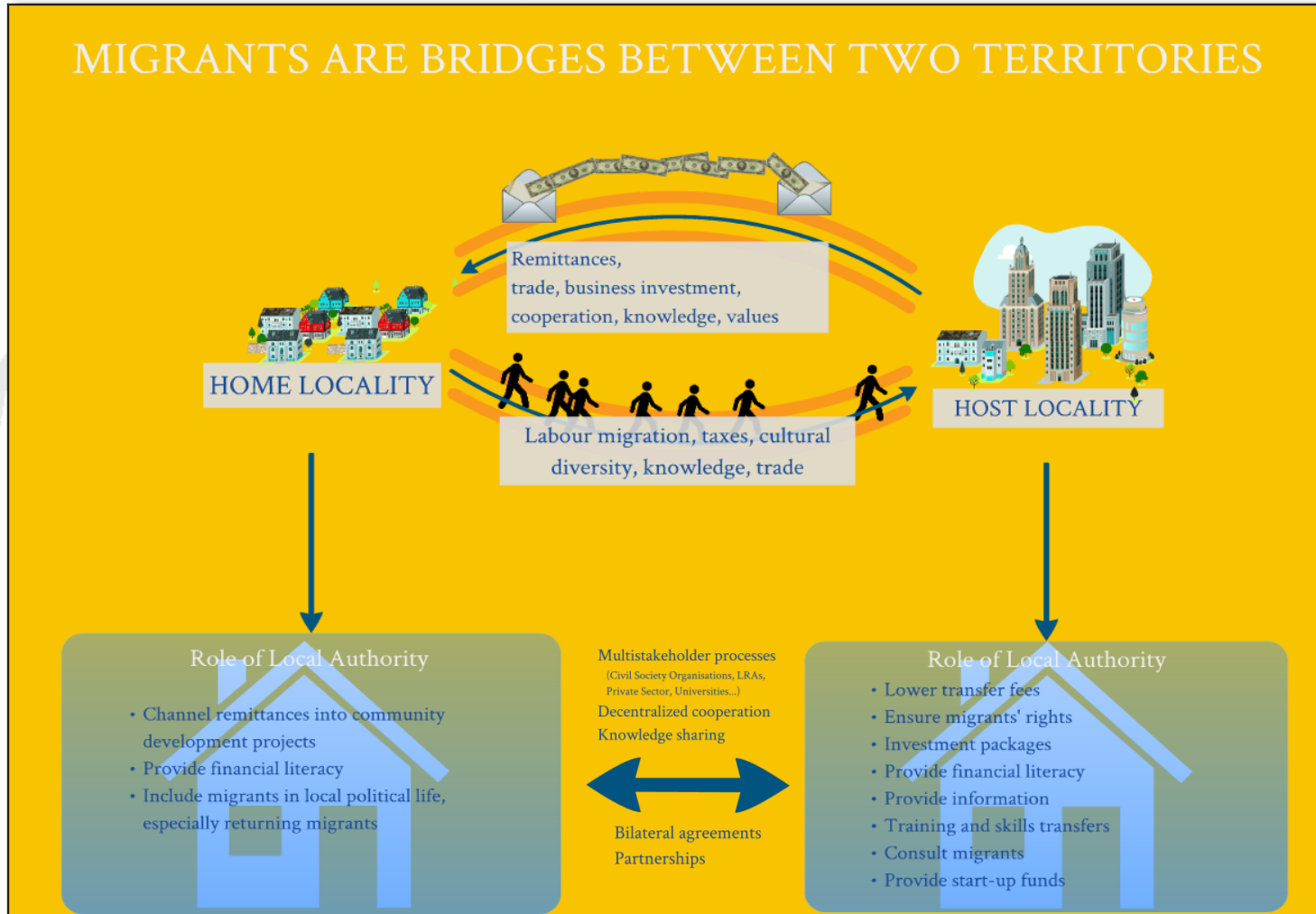
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MIGRANTS ARE BRIDGES BETWEEN TWO TERRITORIES





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LRAs' framework of action

- **Not all forms of entrepreneurship contribute to economic development:** need to distinguish between necessity and opportunity entrepreneurs (more likely to have a positive impact on economic development)
- Help migrant entrepreneurs to identify and exploit opportunities in value-added sectors rather than reproduce familiar businesses (corner shops etc.)
- Local authorities should limit their role to defining and implementing policies and regulations to spur investment and new businesses in accordance with their local development strategies. **Should not tell to the private sector what to do.**





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Role of LRAs to stimulate diaspora's contribution

- **Inform** - Have a centralized risk-sharing mechanism that all diaspora entrepreneurs should consult prior to invest or build a business
- **Consult** - Organizing regular consultations/forums with diaspora professionals where LRAs, together with local economic actors, can identify strategic economic areas that are attractive for diasporas.
- **Train and network** – provide the right set of tools and business skills to migrants through knowledge sharing
- **Partner up** – collaboration between many actors, both in public and private sectors





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Tools of LRAs in sending and receiving countries of migration to facilitate diasporas' contributions in LED

- **LRAs in countries of origin:**

- Remove red tape to overcome the financial and administrative costs related to investing from abroad
- Maintain good governance at local level: positive correlation between good governance, entrepreneurship and economic growth
- Provide technical assistance to migrant entrepreneurs
- Helping to bridge diaspora partnerships. Facilitate diaspora business fora
- Regular consultations with diaspora professionals
- Removing obstacles: tax break or tax credits (to be used with caution)

- **LRAs in countries of destination:**

- Encourage and link migrants with hot spots of technological and educational institutions
- Promoting migrants' rights and integration
- Identify small-scale businesses with potential to grow
- Facilitate access to financial capital through offering matching grants, risk-sharing mechanisms, strengthen remittance channels





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Concrete example

- “Migrants’ Supporting Tools for Economic Projects: S T E P ” Senegal, Belgium and Italy

Confédération Sénégalaise pour la promotion des petites et moyennes entreprises et l’entrepreneuriat des migrants, Agence Régionale de Développement de Diourbel, Coordination Générale des Migrants pour le Développement, Regione Veneto, and UnionCamere

Aim: introduce new tools to improve the quality of financial services, supporting migrant business creation, and reinforcing information exchange about migrant entrepreneurship.

How: Many helpdesks, the so-called ‘Centers for the Support of Migrant Initiatives’, were disseminated across Senegal, Belgium and Italy to follow and provide constant advice towards the migrants’ business initiatives. All migrants were with a business coach to identify, elaborate, formalize and create enterprises.





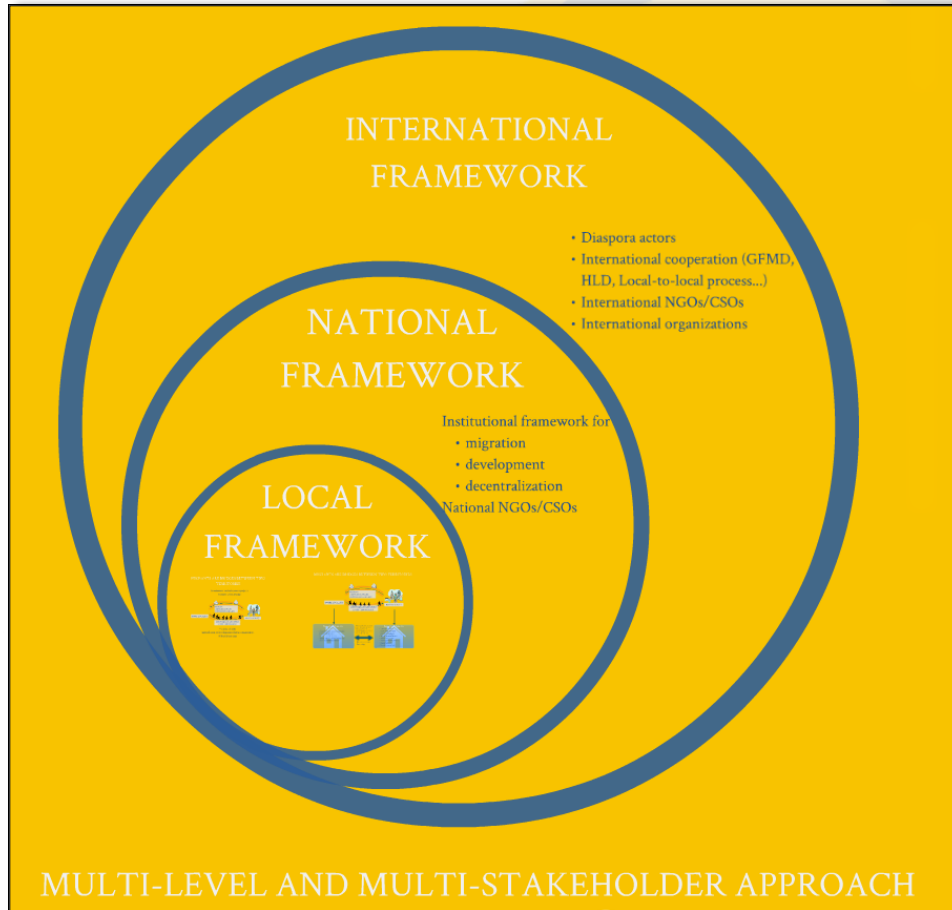
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A multi level approach is necessary



....But there can be a lack of coordination and risk of fragmentation with higher levels





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Debate questions

- What is your approach towards migrants' businesses and their role in local economic development? Can you identify some 'good practices' developed in your territory?
- Which are the main obstacles you have encountered while trying to develop migrant entrepreneurship in your territories?





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Thank you for your attention

