

Research program on migration corridors and diasporas as a driver of development and wealth creation in both countries of origin and residence.

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Introduction

The following is a road map for a broad research program; to investigate, evaluate and compare different migration corridors, describe some best practices and research an ICT-platform to support and facilitate the role of diaspora/origin cross-border entrepreneurship and small businesses as a driver of development and wealth creation in both countries of origin and residence.

The concept of migration corridors is a very diverse concept, that describes transnational connections related to historic and ongoing migrations and is based on varying conditions in the sending and receiving countries and also on the history and maturity of the migration corridors.

Research topics on migration corridors

The concept of migration corridors is a very diverse concept based on varying conditions in the sending and receiving countries and also on the history and maturity of the migration corridors.

Most prior research as be focused on general migration and integration issues in the receiving countries and on development and policy issues in the sending countries. A common research topic is also the effect of money, remittances sent home to kin. It is also known that diasporas are motivated to maintain contacts to their kin and home country through visits, organized support (e.g. townships), investments, and cross-border enterprising.

Lately the development potential of migration corridors have been recognized and different actions have been taken to develop and promote this potential:

- Circular migration allowing diasporas to temporarily engage themselves in social, educational or commercial activities in their home countries
- Systematic enrolment of diasporas as volunteers or experts in Official Development Assistance, ODA

- Investment programs supporting diasporas own investments and entrepreneurial activities in their home country

Very little research has been done on studying and classifying the migration corridors and their potential, with the exception of remittances which have been well researched. There are a number of factors that determine the developmental and entrepreneurial potential of migration corridors and a sample is given below without claiming to be complete:

- Maturity or age of the corridor
- Driver of the migration in terms of political instability or opportunity seeking
- Level of integration in the receiving country
- Infrastructure and industry in the sending and receiving countries
- Education and skill in the sending country
- Diasporas political attitude towards the home country
- Financial and training capacities to support diasporas engagement
- Legal and commercial framework in the sending and receiving countries
- The corridor innovation system

There is a great span between the potential of migration corridors. In one extreme we have old established corridors driven by opportunity seeking, such as e.g. Chinese, Indian, Scottish and Irish migration, where forms of diasporas engagement are well established. In the other extreme we have new, turbulent corridors driven by political conflicts and with unstable contacts between diasporas and the home countries.

It is suggested that a broad research program; to investigate, evaluate and compare different migration corridors and describe some best practices will bring new valuable knowledge and also meet the purpose to support and facilitate the role of diaspora/origin cross-border entrepreneurship and small businesses as a driver of development and wealth creation in both countries of origin and residence.

The role of information technology and social media in migration corridors

Connecting stakeholders, informing on supporting resources and fulfilling a tutoring role across and in migration corridors, face special problems. Very different institutional and business environments must be connected, and especially when connecting highly developed and developing countries an effective connection link is required. link, The rapid development of the information society holds promises for ICT-solutions as a strong facilitator and supporter

Such an efficient ICT link should facilitate and support:

1. Linking entrepreneurs, mentors and investors.
2. Learning and tuition supporting the cooperation-formations and based on proven experience in tutoring and initiating diaspora North/South business and trade.
3. Information on financial and business development services for North/South startups.

4. Support information and transaction services, related to finances, administration and legislation and including also lending, guarantees and regulated reporting.

Recent developments in the information society gives a good base for such an efficient ICT platform and should be further researched.

Selective information retrieval is increasingly based on Semantic Web. Semantic Web provides better possibilities to deliver content that is more relevant for the reader and to integrate various data sources delivering information difficult to access.

Social media such as Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn and YouTube connect to different communication media such as internet forums, blogs, micro blogs, wikis, images, video, etc., and based on a range of tools, software and platforms. The importance of social media and networking is also apparent from the comprehensive range of literature and symposia presenting strategies for how to best use social networks in marketing, policy, campaigns and the mass media. The last year's Arab spring has demonstrated a well thought-out media strategy: scheduling in Facebook, Twitter for coordination and YouTube for publicity.

Web-based learning, has grown, especially in the higher education sector. In 2009 every fifth student at Swedish universities and university colleges was in whole or in part using net-based distance education. One challenge for e-learning is to follow up that the students have absorbed the curriculum. This is in particular true, when e-learning is applied to transnational diaspora entrepreneurship, where the background and motivation is very diverse. One solution is to create a tutoring and learning package that targets entrepreneurs and mentors, giving mentors a follow-up role. Web-based learning is mostly based on learning platforms, which integrate web-based functions of learning, such as: bulletin boards, discussion forums, chat, wikis, blogs and e-meetings. The challenge is to provide opportunities for communication between teachers and students in real time.

Research program

A group connected to DataSystemVetenskap, DSV, at Stockholm University has for some time been working on a broad research program; to investigate, evaluate and compare different migration corridors. The objective is to create a multidisciplinary program that also can develop tools for driving development and wealth creation in both countries of origin and residence. The following relates present status:

1. A Swedish Institute project addresses the problem of lack or inadequate integration of the entrepreneurship education in higher education institutions in Baltic countries with focus on the area of information and communication technologies which are playing the most important role in providing knowledge based services. The project is hosted by DSV and involves three Baltic countries (Sweden, Ukraine and Georgia)
2. A study on content and technology for an ICT-platform DiasporaLink, "Network for Transnational Diaspora Entrepreneurship as a Development Link between Home and Residence Countries". The study is made by DSV; Stockholm University, department of Computer and System Sciences with SPIDER, focused on ICT for development, with project team leader associate professor Christer Magnusson and professor

emeritus Bengt Henoch. Contributions from teachers at Kista Folkhögskola and as experts professor Klaas Molenaar and MBA Sennai Mebrathu.(pending application Sida Business4development)

3. Partner in a Nordic network in formation on “Innovation, Diversity, Superdiversity & Transnational Entrepreneurship” exploring the flow of people across national boundaries in and how migrants build and sustain border-crossing connections and networks; focus the key concepts of transnationalism perspectives, like ethnicity, community, locality, sovereignty, loyalty and multiple membership led to emergence of Transnational Entrepreneurship (TE). The network is hosted by Nordvux and supported by Nordiska Ministerrådet
4. Forming a Swedish research network; to investigate, evaluate and compare different migration corridors and describe some best practices will bring new valuable knowledge and also meet the purpose to support and facilitate the role of diaspora/origin cross-border entrepreneurship and small businesses as a driver of development and wealth creation in both countries of origin and residence. The network will be hosted at DSV and partners at present are Socialantropologi at Stockholm University and Kulturgeografi at Uppsala University. Partners connected to the Nordic network (Mälardalens Högskola, intercultural pedagogic) have also been approached. Support will be applied for from FAS.
5. Connection to outside experience through professor Klaas Molenaar, (also board member of European Microfinance Network) at Haag university and IntEnt Foundation carrying out EU-funded research studies on ethnic entrepreneurship and implemented services for cross-border entrepreneurship. A FAS funded guest professorship working in the Swedish network will be sought. Contact is also established with MPI and George Washington UNI to extract knowledge and discuss cooperation
6. The intention is also to connect the Nordic and Swedish network to a Marie-Curie proposal “Network for Transnational Diaspora Entrepreneurship as a Development Link between Home and Residence Countries”, an exchange program between twenty universities and research institutes representing Sweden, Denmark, the Netherlands, Portugal and UK in EU and Australia, Brazil, Chile, China, India, Mexico, South Africa and USA. The partners have running research programs on Transnational Diaspora Entrepreneurship, TDE, on ICT for development and on methods for Global Entrepreneurship Monitor (GEM). The focus is on migration corridors and intra-corridor entrepreneurship and the overarching objective of the joint exchange program; to investigate, evaluate and facilitate the role of diaspora/origin cross-border entrepreneurship and small businesses as a driver of development and wealth creation in both countries of origin and residence. Positive indications have been received from Marie-Curie.

Appendix: Background

Historically diasporas and their links to their country and culture is an ancient phenomenon that can be tracked back in history. After the second world war Europe and especially western and northern Europe has experienced and increasing flow of people across national borders.

Diasporas in Europe.

Diaspora, refers to any people or ethnic population who are forced or induced to leave their traditional homeland. Europe has a population of roughly 830 million, or about 11% of world population. In 2007, the EU-27 population continued to grow, and reached 497 million.

European history has always been associated with movement of people from a variety of reasons from colonialism and slave trade, changing borders between countries to an opened labor market. The first black diaspora community was actually established in UK in mid 1700's. In the last hundred years several events have had significant influence on the diaspora pattern:

- The disintegration of the Ottoman Empire in the period 1830-1920 have significantly changed borders between countries in South East Europe
- The end disintegration of the Austrian Empire after World War I had similar effects.
- Colonial politics especially from France and UK has brought diaspora to Europe from all major continents, which has been further accentuated when colonies became independent after World War II.
- World War II also brought new frontiers between countries and new diaspora groups.
- French efforts in the 1950s and early 1960s to keep Algeria and French Indo China within its empire has led to diasporas from these regions.
- The 50's and 60's showed a significant shortage of labor, with the result that massive migration from Greece, Italy, Portugal, Spain and Turkey to the Central European and Scandinavian countries.
- The 70's has shown a large migration from Yugoslavia in particular to Germany and totaling almost one million in mid 70.
- The military coup in Chile resulted in a Chilean diaspora in Europe, especially Sweden
- The close and aftermath of the Vietnam war has resulted in a large Vietnamese diaspora especially in Germany, France and the Nordic countries.
- The destruction of the Berlin Wall in 1989, the disintegration of the Soviet Union and the successive enlargement of EU has brought new migration patterns within Europe.
- As an aftermath Yugoslavia broke apart with civil war and unstable frontiers as results.
- Finally in the last decades unrest, poor living conditions and war fare in the Middle East and Africa has brought streams of refugees and migrants into Europe.

The underlying reasons for diasporas are very different, the time for the diaspora origin and different policies and existence of citizenship vary largely. Thus it is very difficult to get exact figures and figures published vary largely. The percentage of diaspora within EU can be estimated to 10% with a large variation within the countries. Major diaspora groups are:

- Turks 5 Million, mostly in Germany, France, the UK, the Netherlands, Austria and Belgium
- Arabs (mostly from Magreb), 5 million, France, the Netherlands, Belgium, Sweden
- Black Africans and Afro-Caribbeans, 5 million, mostly in France, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands and Germany.
- South Asians, approx. 4 million, mostly in the United Kingdom, Germany, the Netherlands and Italy
- Latin Americans, 2.2 million, with the largest groups in Spain, Italy and Portugal.
- Kurds, 1.5 million, mostly in Germany
- Chinese, 1 million, mostly in France, the United Kingdom and the Netherlands
- Filipinos, 500,000, mostly in the United Kingdom, Italy and Germany
- Vietnamese, 420,000, mostly in France and Germany

Diasporas in Sweden

Migrants in Sweden are following SCB statistics 1,4 million, which corresponds to 15% of the whole population. If we add people with foreign born parents the diaspora is close to 2 million of which 50% are of European origin with a dominance of Nordic countries, especially Finland. Major groups are:

- Middle East North Africa, MENA with 282 thousand and major groups from Iraq and Iran
- Balkan with 155 thousand reflecting labor migration in the 50's and 60's and the Balkan wars
- East and South Asia with 107 thousand with Thai as the major group and Vietnamese
- SubSahara with 85 thousand and Somalis as the major group followed by Ethiopians
- Turkey with 80 thousand reflecting the labor migration in the 50's and 60's
- LatinAmerica 68 thousand, where 40% are from Chile

The concept of migration corridors

These continuous waves of immigration have added a new demographic complexity to Western societies. The early post-war migration pattern of replacement labor from a clearly defined handful of sending countries has been overtaken by what we today call “super-diversity” (S.Vertovec , 2006, M. Ram 2011). New wave migrants originate from dozens of locations throughout the globe and are driven by labor import, migrants strife for better life and by conflicts. This has transformed the social landscape of Western societies and the emphasis on integration is being complemented by efforts to emphasize the potentials for transnational diaspora based relations both for supporting export from the Western countries and for supporting diasporas in their efforts to develop their home countries and enrich themselves.

This has led to a focus on the potential inherent in “*migration corridors*” implying both the migration flow and the diasporas link to their home countries. Relevant topics are:

- Developmental effects of diasporas remittances
- Organized contributions from diasporas to Official Development Assistance, ODA
- Migration connected to current labor market
- “Circular migration” creating possibilities for diasporas to be active in two countries
- Diasporas as entrepreneurs in their home countries

Current research

Current research (e.g. Nimwegen and Erf, 2010) puts international migration as one of the most critical challenges facing Europe and, indeed, many countries of the world. Essentially migration has become a phenomenon profoundly impacting the modern world. Globalization and advancements in transportations, communication have now fostered the movement of people around the world at a far greater pace than ever before. According to International Organization for Migration (IOM), in 2005, 192 million people, which accounts for 3 percent's of the world population, were living outside their home countries.

Migration and growth of diaspora and transnational spaces especially in Europe are driven by a range of factors, with economic conditions among the major push and pull factors (Schoorl et al, 2000). Paradoxically, there is still limited understanding of the economic impacts of this phenomenon. Recently, however, co-development effects have been acknowledged (Hatton and Williamson, 2011). This has initiated effort from migrant sending countries to attract diasporas and from diaspora networks to support and develop the country of origin. Different mature or burgeoning approaches to diaspora support have been seen (Kutnetsev, 2006).

In the recent time there has been strongly expressed intentions to involve diasporas as partners in global development policy (Newman et al 2010). In addition to the well documented kin-support in the form of remittances, gifts and educational and social support diasporas role can include:

- Diaspora entrepreneurship
- Diaspora investments
- Diaspora tourism
- Diaspora philanthropy
- Diaspora volunteerism
- Diaspora advocacy

There are numerous examples of mobilization of diaspora and diaspora entrepreneurship for development as is reviewed by Newland and Tanaka (Newland et al, 2010) offer services with varying commitments:

- Networking (the Africa net, US)
- Mentoring (the Indus Entrepreneurs, US)
- Training (IntEnt, NL)
- Investment (Afford, INAFI)
- Venture capital and partnerships (homestrings)

Such initiatives usually offer at least one of these services, and are usually supported by web-sites. it is possible to see an increased integration. We will in the following go into some more details for a few examples.

The concept of diaspora or ethnic entrepreneurship.

The concept of diaspora or ethnic entrepreneurship has developed within a particular ideological context (capitalism), accepting the basic idea that social processes are the product of the intersection between supply (cultural resources) and demand (opportunity structures). Early studies applied an “ethnic” theoretical lens, arguing that certain ethnic and racial groups show a propensity to concentrate in business. The Chinese in East Asia, the Koreans in the United States, the Indians in Burma and East Africa, the Lebanese in West Africa and Jews in historical Europe are among the frequently used examples of entrepreneurial migrant groups. Several hypotheses as to why certain groups become ethnic entrepreneurs have been forwarded, of which the two extremes are: 1. a cultural approach arguing that in-group solidarity including family and co-ethnic bonds are instrumental in the growth of ethnic enterprise, and 2. a structural approach arguing that the context in the country of reception (level of integration) is a prime cause for migrants’ engagement in entrepreneurial activities (Peccod 2000, Kloosterman and Rath 2001, 2003). Focusing on the human and social capital as a comparative advantage (Brenner and Kiefer 1981, Light and Gold 2000), the cultural approach has placed the diaspora entrepreneur in a continuum between innovator and intermedator (Kirzner 1973, Casson 1997). A later transnational approach, leading more towards structural explanations, have furthermore directed attention to the fact that migration in itself generates business opportunities, in particular the ways in which migrants, through their demand for so-called ethnic nostalgic products (Waldinger et al 1990), serve as spearheads for the globalization of national industries (Guarnizo 2001, Landolt 2001, Portes et al 2002).

The bulk of this research has been carried out in the US, e.g. the Comparative Immigrant Entrepreneurship Project by Alejandro Portes and his associates. Less systematic research has been carried out in a European context.

In Europe ethnic entrepreneurship is an area of growing public concern in relation to concepts of circular migration and concepts of how migrants can take part in development assistance programs. In particular the area of ethnic entrepreneurship linked to the countries of origin is an area. Which is heavily under-researched and an where systemized knowledge is heavily needed.

The research area includes knowledge circulation, business support, mentorship as regards trans-border enterprising. Migration is usually driven by a wish to improve the life individually and for the family/kin. This implies that migrants mostly are more entrepreneurial and educated than the rest of the population.

This can be described as different ways for knowledge/brain circulation:

- Brain drain, where young educated people leave their country and endanger the countries investment in education.
- Brain waste, implying that diaspora cannot use their education and skills, but are often restricted to unqualified labor.
- Brain gain, diaspora return to their home region with acquired skills and knowledge

These factors also imply that there is an entrepreneurial reserve in the diaspora that can result in the creation of different micro and small enterprises. To a large extent these micro and small enterprises are ethnic and embedded in the diaspora community and thus do not contribute fully to wealth creation in the diaspora and home regions. One objective of the exchange program is to investigate and propose

how business support, mentorship and an improved economic base can make these micro and small enterprises more cross-national and link diaspora with home and residence regions.

The challenge of transnational or intra-corridor diaspora entrepreneurship

Transnational diaspora entrepreneurship has an enormous potential for social transformation in both home and host countries. This potential is not fully realized because of lack of transnational support, because of restrictions from regional support agendas and because of weak transnational team building.

Institutional programs to promote entrepreneurship, business start-up and self-employment are since long time seen as instruments for development, employment and growth and implemented in most EU-states and frequently in neglect in ethnic minorities. Usually programs for diasporas entrepreneurship and for entrepreneurship in developing and emerging economies are seen as remedies for unemployment with a focus on self-employment and necessity entrepreneurs. Such programs also usually lack trans-national links and are managed by institutions and organizations with different and unconnected agendas. Thus support for cross-border entrepreneurs require new tools for cross-border linking and support.

The linking of entrepreneurship in the diaspora communities and home regions faces some specific obstacles. Transnational diaspora entrepreneurs (Riddle, 2010) often must link starkly different institutional and business environments, particularly accentuated when linking between one highly developed and one developing country. This difference in environments put an emphasis on the need for efficient linking, referred to as North/South linking.

To overcome these obstacles a couple of actions seems necessary:

- Review research on diaspora cross-border entrepreneurship
- Explore and describe all mechanisms for entrepreneur support in migration corridors
- Create a methodology for monitoring and evaluating entrepreneurial conditions in migration corridors
- Create awareness among policy and decision makers of the potential of transnational diaspora entrepreneurship
- Build tools for systematic transnational team building for entrepreneurs, mentors and financial and business services and support interactive training of team partners

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Equally strong demands are put on tools for facilitating and supporting, diaspora entrepreneurs in start-up of businesses in the complex environment of trans-regional or cross-corridor innovation systems. Field research on business development in ethnic communities and on cross-border enterprising show that such entrepreneurial development programs are becoming more and more practically oriented and take into account tuition of professional skills, development of entrepreneurial competence, practical experience and the creation of favourable start conditions. An underlying reason is that such development programs must cater for participants with different backgrounds and also in countries with different infrastructures.

Such practice base knowledge is systematized and documented in “Enterprising Migrants in the Drivers’ Seat” (K. Molenaar 2008) and previous publications, in European Commission Conference and Report, March 2008. “Entrepreneurial Diversity in a Unified Europe, Ethnic Minority Entrepreneurship/Migrant Entrepreneurship” and in expert meetings on “Relation Entrepreneurship-(Circular) Migration and Development” – laid done in book “A challenging future for Enterprising Migrants”.

A particular demanding challenge is to understand and promote the creation process of TDE SME's and some approaches can be considered:

- A proven way is to encourage and support established diaspora entrepreneurs to invest in trade or enterprising in the home region.
- A largely unproven way is to match seed mini enterprises or plans in diaspora and home region. This untapped resource would require North/South linking of financing, tutoring and mentoring.

Entrepreneurial "temperature" or innovation system

The entrepreneurial "temperature" in developed and developing countries has been measured by the Global Entrepreneurship Monitor (GEM), an academic research consortium based in 80 countries. The countries infrastructure is taken into account by grouping into factor-driven, efficiency-driven and innovation-driven economies. The 2010 GEM Global Report discusses how differences in entrepreneurial attitudes, activities and aspirations depend on the category of the individual country. One finding is that economic growth is more positively related to a high opportunity- than necessity-driven entrepreneur ratio. Nonetheless most institutional programs continue to support necessity-driven entrepreneurship.

Entrepreneurship or "entrepreneurial temperature" in the context of innovation system, used to describe how a country, a region, a network or an industry functions as a system promoting the transfer of innovations and business concepts into profitable enterprises or organizations in national or global economy. In a regional innovation system we identify three major elements (trade and industry; education and research; the political structure) interacting (triple helix) in the field between demands from the market and boundary conditions in the infrastructure.

In the field of innovation systems numerous contributions and scientific papers discuss various aspects of innovation systems, e.g.

- National and regional innovation systems ([Lundvall 92], [Kuhlmann, et al 01])
- Relationships in elements of national innovation systems [Nasierowski, et 99]
- Connection between national and regional innovation systems [Chung 02]
- Models for industrial innovation systems and processes [Padmore et al 98]
- Measuring success of innovation systems ([Evangelista 00], [Gerstlberger 03])
- Connection between business strategy and innovation systems [Ritter, et al 02]

When addressing linking diaspora and the home region, also referred to as migration corridors, the concept innovation system becomes considerably more complex and we are obliged to discuss around interlinked or intra-corridor channels, described as a trans regional diaspora-driven innovation system linking two regional innovation systems: the home and the host community (Henoach, 2007).

The concept of a trans regional diaspora-driven innovation system serves as road map for discussing transnational diaspora entrepreneurship and in particular how ICT and ICT-platforms can support Transnational diaspora entrepreneurship. This will be further discussed.

Two aspects on the diaspora and the trade channels are important:

- The trade channel contains business inquiries and statistics show that in trade channels open for developed and developing countries the interest in the developed countries for trading with developing countries is rather weak.
- The diaspora channel contains via remittances a considerable capital flow, directed to consumption or investments in the home region. The tendency or ambition is to manage remittances through diaspora saving and credit associations in building up an investment potential in the home regions.

It is also of interest to discuss the universities role, considering that universities constitute a real multiregional and multicultural system. Traditionally a university has three overlapping responsibilities:

- Education
- Research

- Actor in its society for continued education and supplier of new knowledge

Seen in the context of an innovation framework for diaspora/home-country development it can be observed that universities have high-quality education and research in all areas related to diaspora, developing countries and associated social, economic and technical aspects. It is possible to add some mobility and multi-ethnic aspects:

- Universities are involved in student and teacher mobility programs, where students make part of their curriculum in other countries.
- Most universities are located in multicultural regions and have varying shares of diaspora students.

Added together this makes universities important actors in the innovation framework. If it is realized that strong and dynamic diaspora/home-country relations are competitive tools for a host region, it can enhance the universities society actor role, but also increase the universities role in recruiting national and international students. Means can be mobility programs and new curricula addressing the diaspora home country aspect. Such reformed entrepreneurship curricula are also beneficial for corridor stakeholders.

In Sweden as well as internationally there has for the last years been a growing trend to recognize and facilitate diasporas important role in the development of their home countries. This has resulted in different programs to engage diasporas as investors, mentors and entrepreneurs and in political actions to facilitate diasporas engagement through promoting “circular migration”.

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Linking entrepreneurship in the diaspora and home countries face special problems. Transnational diaspora entrepreneurs must combine very different institutional and business environments, especially in connecting highly developed and developing countries. This difference in environments, requires an effective link, a North/South link.