**Roundtable on Migration and Development:**

**Return Migration and Re-Integration into Croatia and Kosovo**

**May 11- 12, 2015**

**Croatian Heritage Foundation, Hrvatska Matica Iseljenika,**

**Trg Stjpepana Radica 3**

**Zagreb / Croatia**

**CONCEPT NOTE & AGENDA**

**CONFERENCE FOCUS**

The global debate on international migration has, over the past five years, devoted a great deal of attention to the relationship between migration and the state of development of homeland economies. Whereas the dominant focus was once on under-development as a cause of migration outflows, today's discussion emphasizes how international migration can enhance the economic development of countries of origin. So pronounced has the discussion become that the United Nation’s post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals will include explicit goals related to migration, which was omitted entirely from the previous Millennium Development Goals.

Recent discussion of the migration-development relationship has given priority to the remittances that migrants send to their families and communities in the homeland, monies that now far exceed the value of foreign aid. Considerable progress has been made to understand and measure remittance flows, to study their uses, and to examine the effects that remittances have on family poverty and national economic development. But as the discussion continues and deepens, other issues have been brought to the table, among them the role that migration plays in human capital enhancement and the effects that this has on homeland development.

The World Bank has, in partnership with the governments of Switzerland, Germany, and Sweden, launched a Global Knowledge Partnership on Migration and Development, or *KNOMAD* for short. KNOMAD is a global hub of **knowledge and policy expertise** on migration and development issues and draws on experts from all parts of the world to synthesize existing knowledge and generate new knowledge.

Among the policy-research projects supported by KNOMAD is one on the development effects of the continuum of emigration, host society integration, return migration, and re-integration in the country of origin. The hypothesis being explored through this project is that host society integration enhances the human capital of the migrant whose return migration and re-integration into the homeland can transfer this enhanced human capital for development benefits to the homeland economy.

This roundtable will take the cases of Croatia and Kosovo to try to learn about their émigrés’ integration in their host societies, about their return to their countries of origin, about their re-integration experiences in the homeland, and whether these processes have contributed to economic development. The roundtable will consider contemporary conditions and conclude with a discussion of how government policy can best take advantage of the development opportunities offered by the re-integration of return migrants.

Each session of the roundtable will be introduced by expert speakers, but the organizers will put a premium on open discussion of the issues following the presentations. This event has been organized as a working roundtable rather than as a formal conference. Our ambition is to reach some conclusions on managing emigration, return, and re-integration for optimal development benefits.

**SUNDAY, 10 MAY 2015**

**19.00 h**

Welcoming party and light dinner, Hotel Dubrovnik

**MONDAY, 11 MAY**

**9.00 – 9:15 h**

**Welcoming remarks**

Dr. Marin Sopta, Centre for Culture and Information, Zagreb

**9:15 – 11:00 h**

**Migration as a driver of development**

Chair: Marin Knezović, Director, Croatian Heritage Foundation

Introductory remarks on the conference themes:

Dr. Howard Duncan, Chair of KNOMAD’s Thematic Working Group “Integration Issues in Host Communities”, and Metropolis Project , Ottawa

Introduction to KNOMAD:

Hanspeter Wyss, KNOMAD Secretariat

The importance of the issues for Croatia and Kosovo:

Dr. Marin Sopta, Centre for Culture and Information, Zagreb

Shkendije Geci Sherifi, Ambassador of Kosovo to Croatia

Dr.Vlado Sakic, Director Ivo Pilar Institute of Social Sciences

Flaka Braha, Kosovo Ministry of Diaspora

Marin Knezović, Director, Croatian Heritage Foundation

Discussion

**11.00 – 11.30 h: Refreshment break**

**11.30 – 13.00 h**

**The history of emigration, return and re-integration to Croatia and Kosovo**

Chair: Mihaela Vieru, Metropolis Secretariat, Ottawa

Emigration and return migration to Croatia and Kosovo: an historical description of the phenomena with statistics

Dr. Katica Jurčević, Ivo Pilar Institute of Social Science, Zagreb

Alejtin Berisha, Universum University College, Pristina

Dr. John Čizmić, Ivo Pilar Institute for Social Sciences (retired), Zagreb

Sefadin Kuçi, Ministry of Interior, Kosovo

Discussion

**13.00 – 14.30 h**: **Lunch at Restaurant of the Croatian Heritage Foundation**

**14.30 – 16.00 h**

**The relationship between emigration, return migration, and development**

Chair: Hanspeter Wyss, KNOMAD Secretariat, Washington

The effects of return and re-integration for economic development

Don Markusic, Barrister and Solicitor, Zagreb

Marijana Babić, Babić Law Firm, Zagreb

Behar Isma, Ministry of Diaspora, Kosovo

Mrika Pepa, Senior Officer for Home Affairs, Kosovo

Agron Haydari, Promotion Agency Kosovo

Discussion

**16.00 – 17.30 h**

**Managing migration for development benefits through government policy**

Chair: Dr. Rebeka Mesarić Institute for Migration and Nationalities, Zagreb

Managing emigration from Croatia and Kosovo; diaspora relations; recruiting citizens back;

Sunčanica Skupnjak Kapić, Secretary General International Chamber of Commerce Croatia

Burim Ejupi, Executive Director at the Institute for Development Policy, Kosovo

Dr.Natasha Levak, Consultant; author of “Professional Development of Croatians in Croatia and the Diaspora”, Croatia

Liridon Neziri, Head of Division for Citizenship, DCAM, Kosovo

Discussion

**19.30 h: Dinner at Restaurant Novi Vinodol Teslina 10**

**TUESDAY 12 MAY**

**9.30 - 11.00 h**

**The challenges of managing re-integration**

Chair: Dr. Marin Sopta, Centre for Culture and Information, Zagreb

Managing return migration and re-integration; success, failures and challenges of re-integration in Croatia and Kosovo

Dr. Caroline Hornstein-Tomić, Ivo Pilar Institute for Social Sciences, Zagreb

Dr. Vincent John Batarelo, President, Vigilare, Zagreb

Alban Zogaj, Riinvest Institute for Development Research, Pristina

Yileza Berisha, Ministry of European Integration, Kosovo

**11.00 – 11.30 h: Refreshment break**

**11.30 - 13.00 h**

**Towards an agenda for the future**

Chair: Dr. Howard Duncan

Policy considerations for managing return and re-integration for development benefits

A moderated open discussion amongst all participants

**13.00 - 13:30 h: Closing remarks**, Dr. Howard Duncan, Dr. Marin Sopta

**13.30 - 15.00 h: Lunch at Restaurant of the Croatian Heritage Foundation**

**19.00 h: Optional Dinner at Restaurant Kaptolska Klet (across from the cathedral)**

**ROUNDTABLE ORGANISERS**

The Global Knowledge Partnership on Migration and Development (KNOMAD) / World Bank

The International Metropolis Project, Ottawa

Croatian Heritage Foundation, Zagreb

Centre for Culture and Information, Maksimir-Zagreb

**ORGANIZING COMMITTEE**

Dr. Marin Sopta ,Senior expert adviser CKIM, Zagreb

Dr. Howard Duncan, Chair of KNOMAD’s Thematic Working Group “Integration Issues in Host Communities”, and Metropolis Project , Ottawa

Hanspeter Wyss, KNOMAD Secretariat, World Bank, Washington DC

Mihaela Vieru Metropolis Secretariat, Ottawa

Tanja Troselj, Zagreb