



This project is funded by the European Union.
Bu proje Avrupa Birliđi tarafından finanse edilmektedir.
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Enhancement of Entrepreneurship Capacities for Sustainable Socio-Economic Integration (ENHANCER) Project

Your presence to Digital Launching Event of ENHANCER Project “Thinking Ahead: Digitalization, Migration and Entrepreneurship” which is funded by the European Union and implemented by ICMPD with coordination of Ministry of Industry and Technology, will honour us.

Location: Zoom

Date: 03.06.2020 16.30-18.30

Please RSVP by 02 June 2020.



CONCEPT NOTE

ENHANCER Project started in 2020 in order to contribute to the socio-economic inclusion of the Syrian refugees who are under temporary protection in Turkey (SuTPs) to the local host communities (LHCs) through improving employment and livelihood opportunities. The Project is targeted to operate in 11 provinces (Istanbul, Şanlıurfa, Gaziantep, Adana, Mersin, Bursa, Izmir, Ankara, Konya, Kayseri and Hatay) for 48 months. ENHANCER provides a comprehensive, innovative and inclusive support with aiming practical results including upgraded skills of potential entrepreneurs among SuTP and LHCs, improved business links for entrepreneurs, improving policy coordination and formulation of the national, regional and local level about socio-economic integration. The Project enables SuTPs positioning in the entrepreneurship ecosystem and tries to strengthen the capacity of local host communities in this regard.

Evolving Migration Patterns In Turkey

On the crossroads of Asia and Europe and between migrant sending and receiving countries, Turkey's position in the international migration scene has evolved over the years from a country of origin to a transit and destination country for migrants and displaced persons. The most critical milestone in the changing migration patterns has been the Syrian Conflict of 2011 which changed Turkey's traditional migrant-sending profile perpetually. Today, Turkey hosts the largest refugee population in the world with more than three and a half million Syrian nationals. In consequence, this sharp increase in the number of migrants has tremendous social, economic and political implications for Turkey.

While Turkey's evolving migration management system and increasing institutional capacities coupled with the effective emergency response towards Syrian refugee crisis have mitigated the adverse effects over host communities and the economy so far, the socio-economic integration of migrants is still an on-going task. In this direction, further evidence-based and inclusive migration policies that address socio-economic integration of migrants and especially Syrians under temporary protection (SuTPs) into host communities will contribute to Turkey's social and economic development efforts to leap forward.

ICMPD's Partnership with the Government of Turkey

ICMPD has been supporting the government of Turkey's policy efforts and delivering technical assistance to address migration and refugee patterns in the country. To illustrate, while the "Sessiz Destek - Support of a Development-sensitive and Coherent Turkish Migration Policy Framework" project aimed at supporting the Directorate General for Migration Management (DGMM) in developing and implementing a development-sensitive and coherent migration policy, Support the Implementation of Development-sensitive Migration Policies in Turkey' - SIDEM project specifically aimed at increasing the institutional knowledge regarding the impact of migration on geographical regions in Turkey to design and implement integrated, evidence-based and development-sensitive migration policies. Furthermore, to complement these projects, SUMMIT project is implemented with a stronger focus of implementation both

at regional and central level and continue integration initiatives implemented by local stakeholders.

Capitalizing on the lessons learnt from these projects, ENHANCER project scales up ICMPD's support of policy development and implementation with a particular focus on entrepreneurship, entrepreneurship ecosystem and policy design. The project particularly intends to provide a comprehensive, innovative and inclusive support for the socio-economic inclusion of the Syrians under temporary protection (SuTPs) to the local host communities (HCs) in Turkey. Entrepreneurship development for both SuTPs and HCs and strengthening entrepreneurship ecosystem in Turkey are among the core objectives of the project.

Migration and Entrepreneurship at the Digital Age

According to the study conducted by University of Warwick and the European Commission – DG Joint Research Centre in Italy, developing countries benefit from migration much higher than developed economies where diversity in talent pool and experience accelerates conception of new ideas and business models. It is therefore important to note that migration could be one of the drivers in achieving robust economic growth.

While the unprecedented levels of migration and displacement are taking place across the world, emerging digital technologies (e.g. AI, robotics and block chain among others) have already been transforming the economies and changing the ways people work. To maintain her economy competitive, generate quality jobs and decent income opportunities for its citizens and ensure the socio-economic integration of migrants as well as the persons under temporary protection, Turkey needs to adopt and implement cohesive and innovative policies that target digital transformation geared towards harnessing digital technology sectors and invest in line with these policies.

It is critical that these policies designed in an inclusive way in addition to delivering equitable outcomes for migrants and SuTPs as the economic benefits of migration are clear: In 2015, migrants contributed over USD 6.4 Trillion or 9.4%, to global GDP.

Establishment of Syrian businesses can contribute to the Turkish economy as these businesses can increase access to new markets as they are export oriented. Syrian businesses in Turkey have rapidly grown in the wholesale and retail, manufacturing, and food and beverages sectors, and are already employing close to 10 persons per businesses. They are also demonstrating an important potential to export a large portion of their products, which would be key for Turkey to access new markets. In light of these findings, it is apparent that Syrian businesses have potential, but they also need support.

Depending on the migrants' and refugees' capabilities and access to resources, digitalization also offers opportunities to access new markets through online work and digital platforms linking services to customers, especially when access to traditional means of work is limited. Such opportunities seized effectively when the digital (entrepreneurship) initiatives would include both refugees/migrants and host communities and provide them with opportunities to engage and participate. Success and scaling up potential of such entrepreneurial initiatives could likely rely on partnerships, diversification of and access to necessary funding resources and public policies that facilitate enabling environment for support on legal, financial and other areas of need.

Dana Diminescu, a sociologist at Telecom Paristech Grande Ecole has been exploring the link between technology and migration for the last 20 years and her research highlights that there is robust link between migration and technology.

As most migrants have access to smart phones, they are not detached from their surroundings as perceived. Significance of social media as the ultimate medium of information, connectivity and adaptation is paramount. Studies regarding the deployment of solutions to assist migrants where social media was not heavily utilized show that overall utilization of solutions are positively correlated with deployment of social media as the central communication and information dissemination medium. With the provision of necessary infrastructure and solutions, host countries can help the migrant community to adapt to circumstances in the host communities effectively.

Aim & Methodology of The Event

The launch event of the ENHANCER project will continue as a series of webinars after the first day of the promotional event. It is also considered an initial start for training seminars to be held throughout the project.

The event will shed light on the nexus of migration, digitalization and socio-economic integration in the context of Turkey. Examining key drivers-artificial intelligence, robotics and cloud computing among others- of digital economy and their impact on social and economic development of societies is also critical to understand the opportunities and challenges that would influence socio-economic integration of migrants and refugees into host communities. Therefore, the conference will focus on three key pillars below with bringing thought leaders and experts from government, private sector, international organizations and entrepreneur communities to discuss entrepreneurship and digitalization policies/initiatives that would strengthen overall socio-economic development in Turkey while also delivering benefits for host communities, migrants and SuTPs. Public private partnerships and private sector engagement in promoting entrepreneurship ecosystem inclusive of migrants and SuTPs to be examined with highlighting global and local trends and initiatives.

I- “Supporting host communities and SuTPs through innovation and technology policies and frameworks for socio-economic integration”

II- “Digital economy, entrepreneurship and migration”

III- “Migration And Entrepreneurship In The Time Of Coronavirus Pandemic”

IV- “ICMPD Turkey COVID-19 Response”

V- Evaluation of Webinar Series and Future Vision

The conference also aims at showcasing promising local and international businesses and innovations that help strengthen social cohesion, entrepreneurship and livelihoods opportunities through deployment of technology. To illustrate, Merhaba Umut (“Hello Hope) is a free mobile app developed by Turkcell to support the integration of Syrian communities into Turkish community through basic language training and provision of key information in the Arabic and Turkish languages to help them improve their livelihood. Techfugees, an international nonprofit aiming at empowering displaced communities and refugees with technology, has grown into a community of around 18,000 innovators all over the world since September 2015. As a global

platform, it works to build a sustainable ecosystem of “tech for refugee” solutions & supporting the inclusion of refugees and displaced people into the tech industry.

THINKING AHEAD: DIGITALIZATION, MIGRATION AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP
LAUNCH EVENT OF ENHANCER PROJECT

Draft Agenda

Wednesday, 03 June 2020

16.30-17.00 Opening Session

- ❖ **Christian Berger**, Ambassador, European Union Delegation to Turkey
- ❖ **Dr. Michael Spindelegger**, Director General, International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD)
- ❖ **Çetin Ali Dönmez**, Deputy Minister, Republic of Turkey Ministry of Industry and Technology

17.00-17.30 Key note Panel “Supporting Integration Of SuTP’s Through Sustainable Socio-Economic Policy Framework in a Digitalizing World”

Moderator: Tamer Kılıç, ICMPD, Regional Coordinator for Western Balkans and Turkey

- ❖ **Prof. Dr. Alexander Grit** - Professor, Hanze University, Centre for Entrepreneurship and School of Marketing Management
- ❖ **Prof. Dr. Erol Taymaz** – Professor, Middle East Technical University, Departments of Economics

17.30-18.15 Panel I “Supporting host communities and SuTPs through innovation and technology policies and frameworks for socio-economic integration”

Moderator: Hakan Güldağ- Editor in Chief, Dünya Newspaper

Speakers

- ❖ **Sare Aydın** - MP, The Grand National Assembly of Turkey
- ❖ **Doç. Dr. Gökçe Dervişoğlu Okandan**- Instructor, Bilgi University CAMMA // LITE
- ❖ **Jason Gagnon**- Development Economist, OECD Development Centre
- ❖ **Hakan Yurdakul**- Economy Policy Board Member, Presidency of the Republic of Turkey

18.15-18.30 Q&A Session

Wednesday, 10 June 2020

14.00-15.15 Panel II “Digital economy, entrepreneurship and migration”

Moderator: Kerem Özdemir- Editor, Fortune Turkey

Speakers

- ❖ **Ozan Çakmak-** Private sector and migration program advisor
- ❖ **Julie M. Zollmann** – Researcher, Tufts University
- ❖ **Didem Eryar Ünlü-**Columnist, Dünya Newspaper
- ❖ **Mustafa Özçelik-** Head of Cyber Security and Information Systems Group, Defense Industry Directorate of Turkey
- ❖ **Abo Khader Aquil-** Syrian Entrepreneur, RetajArt

15.15-15.30 Q&A Session

Wednesday, 17 June 2020

14.00-15.15 Panel III “Migration And Entrepreneurship In The Time Of Coronavirus Pandemic”

Moderator: Barış Ergin- Editor, Sabah Newspaper

Speakers

- ❖ **Asma Shabab-** Digital Strategy Consultant - IBM Middle East and Africa
- ❖ **Prof. Dr. Adil Oran-** Associate Professor, METU & Director, University Entrepreneurship Research and Implementation Center
- ❖ **Dr. Oğuzhan Aygören-** Director, Entrepreneurship Centre of Bosphorus University
- ❖ **Sezai Hazır-** Founder, Habitat
- ❖ **Hussam Eddin Tatari-** CEO & owner, Tatari

15.15-15.30 Q&A Session

Wednesday, 24 June 2020

14.00-15.15 Panel IV “ICMPD Turkey COVID-19 Response”

15.15-15.30 Q&A Session

Wednesday, 1 July 2020

14.00-15.15 Evaluation of Webinar Series and A Glance At The Future

15.15-15.30 Q&A Session