SUB-REGIONAL CONSULTATIVE EVENT IN THE WESTERN BALKANS ON THE GLOBAL COMPACT FOR SAFE, ORDERLY AND REGULAR MIGRATION

Sarajevo, 29 June 2017

Final Report of the Conference
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The views, opinions, conclusions and other information expressed in this document are not given nor necessarily endorsed by the International Organization for Migration (IOM), unless IOM is explicitly referred to as the author.
I. The Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration

The sub-regional consultative event on the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) in the Western Balkans, held in Sarajevo on 29 June 2017, built up on a series of six national informational events that presented the respective Global Compacts for Migration and for Refugees. The national events were facilitated by IOM and UNHCR, in close cooperation with the Governments in the region and other relevant stakeholders. Through these events, both Compacts were introduced to national stakeholders including Governments, civil society, academia, private sector and the international community to ensure that all stakeholders are aware of the two Compacts’ global processes. Sub-regional and national events were held with the financial support of the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Population Refugees and Migration. The sub-regional event for the Western Balkans was an opportunity to strengthen the dialogue and consultative process in this sub-region to facilitate the identification of key messages that the countries could bring to the negotiations on the Global Compact in New York.

I. Background

Recognizing the need for a comprehensive approach to human mobility, international migration, and enhanced cooperation at the global level, as illustrated by the events of 2015 and 2016 in the Western Balkan region, the 193 Member States of the United Nations (UN) adopted the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants on the 19th of September 2016. In the Declaration, UN Member States committed themselves, inter alia, to the development of a Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration. The GCM will have the human rights of migrants at its core, and will aim to contribute to the global governance of, and enhance coordination on, international migration, present a framework for comprehensive international cooperation on migration and human mobility, as well as set out a range of actionable commitments, means of implementation and structure for follow up and review among UN Member States.

Annex II of the Declaration initiated a process of intergovernmental consultations and negotiations, intended to culminate in the planned adoption of the GCM at an intergovernmental conference on international migration in 2018. The Annex further lays out the intended scope of the Compact, framing it in a manner that is consistent with target 10.7 and other relevant goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. As per the Modalities Resolution setting out the preparatory process leading to the adoption of the GCM, three phases will take place in 2017 and 2018:

- **Phase I.** April to November 2017, informal thematic and regional consultations;
- **Phase II.** November 2017 to January 2018, stocktaking;
- **Phase III.** From February 2018 onwards, intergovernmental negotiations.

The process leading up to the adoption of the GCM will be open, transparent and inclusive, allowing for input from a broad range of global stakeholders such as civil society, diaspora and migrant organizations, and the private sector.

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1. Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, UNSC 1244 Kosovo*, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia. Kosovo* - This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSC 1244.
3. Target 10.7 of the Sustainable Development Goals: Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies.
2. IOM’s role

The Modalities Resolution for the GCM envisions a prominent role for IOM in supporting the Office of the Secretary-General of the Conference, the Office of the President of the General Assembly (OPGA), and the Co-Facilitators, by providing its technical and policy expertise on migration throughout the GCM process. In addition, IOM is reaching out to host governments to support national and sub-regional multi-stakeholder consultations, and is actively assisting civil society organizations to engage in the GCM process by supporting civil society consultations at the regional and global levels.

3. Western Balkans

The process towards the adoption of the GCM acknowledges, and hopes to gain from, the vast knowledge that the actors within the sub-region have, given their experience of addressing simultaneously the complexity of human mobility, including during humanitarian crisis and displacement, labour mobility, diaspora engagement and, most recently, addressing the large flows of migrants and refugees who transited the region in 2015 and 2016. The topics of the sub-regional event were selected based on areas that were identified as priority areas during national level discussions, and covered a significant number of the 6 thematic clusters and their 24 sub-headings listed in Appendix II to the New York Declaration.\(^5\)

The overall objective of this event was to provide a forum for diverse actors within the region to voice their perspectives on key topics and issues to which the GCM might contribute. Each panel highlighted how the GCM could address gaps in policy and implementation within the identified topic, as well as how to harness the benefits of good governance within each topic. The event, and the present final report, aim to provide Western Balkan Governments with actionable recommendations to inform their respective contributions to the GCM. The report is organized by panel, referencing to the corresponding topics for each of the GCM thematic sessions (or “clusters”) and the thematic areas set forth in the New York Declaration and Modalities Resolution.

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II. Recommendations

1. Thematic Cluster 4: Development and Diaspora

Panel Discussion – Engaging Diaspora for Development: The Role and Contributions of Migrant Communities to All Pillars of Sustainable Development in Western Balkans

The New York Declaration recognizes the contributions that migrants and diaspora communities can make to sustainable development, and stresses the need to strengthen cooperation with diaspora groups, inviting those communities to be involved in the preparation of the GCM. As was reiterated during the introduction to the panel on diaspora engagement, diaspora communities can play a big part in economic development, innovation, and the transition to knowledge-based economies. However, it was acknowledged that an enabling environment needs to be created to engage diaspora, in which the contributions of both diaspora and migration are seen as positive.

In view of the upcoming fourth global thematic consultation for the GCM, which is themed “Contributions of migrants and diaspora to all dimensions of sustainable development, including remittances and portability of earned benefits”, to be held in New York on 24 and 25 July 2017, the panel discussion was deemed timely. The panel tackled several topics, including on how to create an enabling environment for the contributions of diaspora; and how to promote both financial support to development and the exchange of skills, knowledge and social capital by diaspora communities.

As transpired during the panel discussions, the majority of Western Balkan Governments represented in the panel developed a diaspora engagement policy, and were able to showcase good practices. However, a particular challenge remains, in that policy in some instances still needs to be converted into actionable implementation plans creating enabling environments for diaspora to get involved in the development of the region. It

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6 For additional background information to the thematic consultation, the SRSG for International Migration publishes an issues brief for every session, available from [https://www.iom.int/thematic-sessions](https://www.iom.int/thematic-sessions); IOM thematic papers including on diaspora are available from [https://www.iom.int/iom-thematic-papers](https://www.iom.int/iom-thematic-papers).
was stressed that national strategies need to be translated into municipal level action, as this is the level diaspora members might get to hear about the strategic approach of the Government.

To create the conditions that maximize the transnational exchange of diaspora resources, panelists stressed the need to build trust and confidence among diaspora communities to engage with countries of origin or heritage. Diaspora members, be they first or later generation, should be seen as full-fledged members of their respective communities, and should be seen as involved partners, who can do more than plain sending remittances. Mobilizing the social and human capital of diaspora, such as their skills and knowledge, in addition to the obvious economic resources, can add value to the economies of the countries of origin.

Several speakers stressed the need to improve communication with diaspora groups, by developing effective mechanisms for consultation and engagement. A good practice in this respect that was identified during the discussions is that diaspora members were included in the formulation of diaspora engagement policies and implementation plans in some Western Balkan countries. Other suggestions included the establishment of portals or single points of entry, enabling diaspora members to easily find information on opportunities and procedures; reaching out through representations abroad; and facilitating business-to-business contacts, engaging the for-profit sector. Diaspora members who want to engage socially or culturally with countries of origin or heritage should also be able to find information.

Another suggested action that was identified entails reducing institutional barriers. Addressing unnecessary bureaucracy and red tape, such as complex regulations on the establishment of new businesses, enables countries of origin to attract greater inward diaspora investment. In order to make it easier to get involved for diaspora communities, they should be included in this process. Removing obstacles to and protecting investments that are contributing to Government priorities, including relief for investment, were some of the possible courses of action voiced by panelists in this matter. Part of this undertaking are the continued efforts to reduce corruption or the perception thereof, and creating a sense that there is strong political will to address these issues. However, the burden cannot solely lie with countries of origin to reduce barriers, as countries of destination can also take on responsibility to facilitate diaspora’s engagement in the development of their countries of origin or heritage.

Although the potential contributions of diaspora go far beyond plain sending remittances to countries of origin or heritage, speakers highlighted that there is still a need to encourage remittances to be channeled into productive investment. This requires that Governments take steps to create an environment conducive to investment, including through the above recommendations of increased information on investment opportunities and the removal of obstacles, that will ensure investments actually contribute to development.

Diaspora can also play a role in addressing labour market gaps, such as identified shortages of human resources in certain sectors. Bringing in skilled and qualified diaspora members such as lawyers and health professionals could be encouraged by providing incentives, for example through subsidies. The

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**RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. Take action on diaspora engagement policies through implementation plans involving all levels of Government
2. Improve communication channels with diaspora communities
3. Address institutional barriers to diaspora engagement
4. Channel remittances into productive investment
5. Encourage skilled and qualified diaspora members to return short term and contribute to development
6. Broadcast positive examples

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sustainability of such programmes is enhanced when diaspora professionals build human resource capacity amongst local staff in countries of origin, and remain active in the professional and social networks that this type of engagement generates. As pointed out by speakers, some diaspora members are prepared to do this on a voluntary basis. Encouraging people to go work abroad, and return with new skills would also be one way to address the current brain drain to the EU, where more job openings are waiting to be filled.

A final suggestion made by speakers was that good examples of diaspora engagement could be broadcast, as they could build confidence and attract other diaspora members and communities. An exchange of experiences and needs in the sub-region would provide much needed information for Western Balkan Governments.
2. Thematic Cluster 3: Governance

Panel Discussion - Large Scale Movements in Times of Crisis: Incorporating Lessons Learned from the European and Mediterranean Migrant and Refugee Crisis

With regard to managing large scale movements in times of crisis, panelists described their first-hand experience and lessons learned of dealing with the migration flows of 2015 and 2016, as more than 1 million migrants transited through Western Balkans. Western Balkan states, and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Serbia in particular, bore a heavy burden on account of the sheer number of migrants transiting. Although almost none of those migrants intended to stay, and asylum applications continue to be very low, this situation had important repercussions on how large scale movements are and will be addressed in the future. The initial perception of a lack of strategic management in combination with a lack of resources laid bare the urgent need for closer coordination and cooperation. When the Western Balkan route was effectively closed in early 2016, other challenges emerged, such as additional tensions in border areas and migrants being stranded. If anything, this has shown that the complexity of crises has increased, with the need for a global framework that addresses international cooperation on migration becoming more and more apparent. The GCM therefore, could support the Western Balkans to formulate coordinated responses to large scale movements of people.

One of the main issues identified by speakers during their interventions was the challenge of ensuring simultaneously secure borders and the protection of the human rights of migrants when confronted with large scale movements. In the context of the mass mixed migration flows of 2015 and 2016, it was pointed out that after a relatively short period of time, a protection-sensitive border and law enforcement system was set up in several places along the Western Balkan route that, on the basis of standard operating procedures (SOPs), aimed to register transiting migrants, provide basic health care, identify and refer – including cross-border referral – vulnerable migrants, establish entry and exit camps, and pass on information onward along the route. These measures contributed to addressing the most pressing needs of migrants, regardless of their intention to stay or to travel on. International organizations, including IOM, play an important role in building the capacity of all stakeholders, as the experience of the Western Balkans has shown.

Several speakers stressed the need to develop inter-agency cooperation mechanisms for a coherent response in the event of a crisis. Rapid coordination and information exchange is crucial and should be prepared for in times of relative calm. Sharing responsibility, dialogue and rapid information exchange, both at the inter-ministerial level and between States and, although more challenging, also at the senior level, were identified as good practices, helping institutions to cooperate 24/7 to deal with rapid changes and enable those institutions to respond adequately to possible new crises. The experience of 2015 and 2016 showed that the daily collaboration on the border works very well, also in terms of data exchange, yet that other factors come into play at the senior level, which makes cooperation more challenging. Another priority that was singled out is that agreements need to be in place in advance for the command chain in a crisis situation in a certain sector or area, especially when

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Establish a balanced approach to secure borders and protect human rights of migrants
2. Work towards rapid coordination and information exchange between institutions and States for a coherent crisis response
3. Develop and implement emergency preparedness and contingency plans for changing flows
4. Propose solutions for migrants through long term strategies
third parties assist States’ efforts, as was the case with Frontex during the mass mixed migration flows. As migratory flows change and will continue to change, systemic plans for cooperation are needed both nationally and internationally. The Western Balkan route might be closed, yet other routes, most notably the Central Mediterranean route into Italy, are still active. Speakers were adamant these challenges can only be resolved through established cooperation and coordination mechanisms.

As transpired in other issues raised by speakers, developing and implementing comprehensive emergency preparedness and contingency plans in times of relative calm is something that Western Balkan Governments identified as a good practice. Yet, even with the best preparation, some speakers stressed that certain challenges will remain, including the observation that it’s physically nearly impossible to accurately register migrants in large mixed migration flows and implement screening procedures – all this while ensuring that vulnerable migrants’ needs are taken care of – regardless of their intention to stay or travel on. Other speakers acknowledged this challenge, but stressed the fact that lessons learned are available from other contexts that can be exchanged. For example, the registration of migrants in large scale movements is difficult but has been shown to be possible, with the collection of biometric data the only way to register in a consistent way and to avoid falsified or erroneous data. This requires huge human and technical resources, but can be prepared for, and most importantly, the burden could be shared.

Since the closure of the route, the Western Balkans is faced with a different kind of challenge: going beyond humanitarian assistance and proposing solutions to people that are still on the move and stranded migrants. Long term strategies should be devised for migrants and refugees. Migrants are facing increased vulnerability to smuggling or trafficking since the closure of the route as they run out of other options. Western Balkan States have taken commendable steps such as establishing working groups monitoring and analyzing irregular migration, and deploy task forces to combat smuggling and trafficking, yet law enforcement faces a continuous struggle to keep up with the adapting networks of smugglers implementing new technologies. Additionally, stranded migrants have been provided with basic protection and care, but the question remains how States can guarantee those migrants access to their rights without the proper framework. A considerable number of migrants have found themselves stranded for over a year, in view of which the question poses itself which steps could or should be taken for longer term integration.
3. Thematic Cluster 1: Human rights

Panel Discussion: Migrant Vulnerability and Protection: Solution-based Approaches to Reducing Vulnerability, Increasing Protection and Empowering Migrants

In the New York Declaration, States committed to consider the development of non-binding guiding principles and voluntary guidelines, consistent with international law, on the treatment of migrants in vulnerable situations. In this spirit, the panel concerned itself with the question how the rights of those migrants who do not qualify as refugees can be protected. International migration law already recognizes the obligation to protect and uphold the rights of migrants and address the needs of the most vulnerable, yet they do not define a vulnerable migrant or a migrant in a vulnerable situation. While some organizations have developed internal definitions, to date there is no internationally recognized definition of vulnerability, which contributes to potential protection gaps.

 Speakers acknowledged that it is not viable to have a legal vacuum: some sort of legal status is required for everyone, even though some Western Balkan States have gone to remarkable lengths to provide assistance to migrants over the last few years regardless of status. There is a pressing need for the international community to agree on a common definition of vulnerability which recognizes each individual migrant’s particular situation, the factors that contribute to their vulnerability, and the factors that contribute to their resilience. In the same vein, when speaking of providing protection and assistance to vulnerable migrants, it is of the utmost importance to be clear about which categories of migrants can be identified as being vulnerable. Institutions need definitions and need to be informed about different categories of vulnerability, in order to provide more comprehensive services. Realistically, all individuals on the move can be vulnerable at any stage and in any situation, bringing different needs and challenges. However, when one would focus solely on groups of vulnerable migrants, such as children or women, it is not recognized that vulnerabilities vary significantly within groups. In the Western Balkans, one speaker added; about 50 per cent are women or children, which would not allow for a focused approach. Thus, certain categories of migrants were specified who are prone to vulnerability in the country of origin, transit or destination. Internationally speaking, the same categories have been identified repeatedly: unaccompanied and separated migrant children, persons with a disability, the elderly, pregnant women, single parents, victims of trafficking, torture, rape or other physical or mental abuse. The question remains:

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. Responsibility to provide assistance and protection regardless of status
2. Formulate an internationally agreed definition of vulnerability, recognizing each individual’s particular situation, the factors that contribute to their vulnerability, and the factors that contribute to their resilience
3. Support the implementation of existing legislative frameworks
4. Migrant-centered approaches to support the identification of vulnerable migrants
5. Take care of the needs of staff in the field

*The New York Declaration, p. 8*

*States are committed to “protecting the safety, dignity and human rights and fundamental freedoms of all migrants, regardless of their migratory status, at all times.”*
are any categories forgotten? An international definition was judged to be potentially helpful for professionals working with those categories. However, it was emphasized in the strongest terms that too rigid a definition or categorization would not be recommended for the GCM: caution should be exercised in this respect. Out of the best intentions formulating definitions can lead to huge gaps, and the most vulnerable migrants could somehow be missed. Even once a definition is agreed upon, there might be different interpretations, as countries work in different national legal frameworks. Therefore, it was recommended to work towards a common understanding of vulnerability, so any agreed upon definition doesn’t lose its use when transposed to the national setting.

The legislative framework in the region were judged by panellists to be quite good: clear procedures are in place, as a lot of effort has been put in to harmonize laws with the EU. Implementation, however, remains a challenge. Border agencies in collaboration with international organizations were confronted with situation in which the procedures are not always completely the answer. One panelist gave an example by describing the situation in which an unaccompanied migrant child is travelling in a group of migrants: what would be in the interest of the child? Thus, the challenge is in the implementation of norms that are in place. One part of the solution as identified by speakers is to continue building capacities with the assistance of international organizations through education and trainings in terms of approach to vulnerable migrants. Another suggestion advocated the establishment of training centres that conduct needs assessments and performs the trainings. Finally, the exchange of information between the agencies that are involved should be encouraged and strengthened. Focusing on the strengthening of SOPs for the assistance of vulnerable migrants would not be sufficient; as the assistance is at times not welcomed by migrants themselves making it impossible to implement the procedures.

Most speakers agreed that, even in light of the strong legislative and operational framework; it remains very challenging to identify specific vulnerable migrants, even with the right procedures in place and fully trained staff on the ground. Several panelists stressed the difficulties different service providers experience with identifying vulnerability, especially in the Western Balkan context where migrants typically do not intend to stay, but spend a short transit period. One challenge is that migrants at times don’t want to declare who they are or share their story. This calls for a sensitive approach, by establishing relationship of trust with migrants in order to speak openly about their vulnerabilities at the right moment. Often migrants fear that if they speak about these issues, they will be stopped in their way to the EU. It should be emphasized that service providers intend to act in the best interest of the person. Victim or vulnerability identification should be practiced regardless of the asylum procedure. Another challenge is that certain vulnerable cases are not detected at all and remain invisible, especially in irregular migration, which in se makes migrants prone to vulnerabilities such as trafficking. A final challenge that was identified is that the situation on the ground not necessarily reflects the indicators that are established to determine vulnerability, for example; to identify a victim of trafficking.

The panel and audience identified several ways in which the protection provided to vulnerable migrants can be improved, and shared good practices from the region. Essential would be to tailor individualised approach to the needs of the migrant, who has access to a minimum of information on their rights. Migrants often don’t know what lies ahead of them, and through continuous prevention and provision of information this could be addressed. Service providers can improve on identification by having an approachable presence in reception centres, where multidisciplinary assessments could be carried out. Although most migrants in the Western Balkans are not intending to stay, some stay for over a year. This would mean that there is a need to look at integration measures as well. Enabling access to education for minors, and looking at ways to involve migrants in their host communities were two of the priorities that were mentioned by speakers. Finally, information exchange is also needed,
as Governments, international organizations and civil society organizations cooperate nationally and regionally on the referral and follow-up of specific cases.

It was further stressed to also take care of the needs of staff working in the field, as those cannot be neglected. The consequences of service providers’ burn-out can be reduced responsiveness and protection for vulnerable migrants. After the mass flows of 2015 and 2016, a lot of people who worked in the field are now the ones who need support. To be able to provide support longer, more stress management initiatives should be organized too.
4. Thematic Cluster 6: Irregular Migration and Labour Mobility

Panel Discussion – Regional Labour Mobility: Challenges and Opportunities

The Western Balkans is a region that is characterized by high emigration rates, with people moving mainly for employment purposes. When managed well, labour migration of this kind brings benefits to migrants, communities, employers, Governments, and other stakeholders alike, in countries of origin and destination. Some of the most obvious benefits include reducing unemployment stresses in countries of origin, who also benefit from receiving remittances and the transfer of skills. Countries of destination are able to address critical labour shortages, while the workers themselves get opportunities to raise income levels, gain skills and competencies and improve living conditions for their families and communities.

Without disregarding these benefits, the panel and audience identified many challenges the region faces with regard to labour migration. Despite encountering shared challenges, there are but few contacts in the region on this topic, and enhanced communication for cooperation, toward labour migration agreements was called for. The shared concerns include for example skills shortages as a result of so-called brain drain. Countries invest in training skilled professionals such as doctors who then elect to migrate to other countries rather than stay, leading to potential skills shortages or gaps. Speakers acknowledged that preventing the outflow of educated people is very challenging. Another consequence of the high emigration rate is the negative demographic aspect. Panellists exchanged concerns of ageing populations in the region, with fertility rates going down. UNDESA population projections\(^7\) do not paint a positive picture, with Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia in the most precarious position. This entails more strains on pension systems, housing, health, and other services. Some speakers issued a call to make a common strategy, as this trend cannot be countered by countries on their own. A possible avenue would be to look at harnessing labour migration and development, especially as eventual EU accession could bring along jobs and counter the demographic trends. As people move away from the region in search of work, promoting job creation and general well-being will convince people to stay, or at least make the decision to leave harder. It was asserted that while it is true that countries of origin make a big investment in highly qualified people, one cannot stop them moving. Instead, the Western Balkans could seek to help networking and protection of labour rights.

Several speakers also emphasized the importance of ensuring nationals work under favourable conditions abroad, not deprived of their basic employment rights. At the very least, nationals should be informed of what to expect outside of the country. To prevent irregular migration, counselling and information can be provided about how labour migrants can reach destinations and find jobs. Standardized pre-departure and post-arrival orientation could be provided, giving details on life in the country of destination and migrants’ rights and responsibilities in the workplace as residents. An example that was provided is the creation of an app with information for labour migrants, and

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\(^7\) UNDESA population projections are available online from [https://esa.un.org/unpd/wpp/](https://esa.un.org/unpd/wpp/).
providing information through Facebook and other social media channels. While jobs in the EU are generally deemed positive, issues such as social dumping are worrying. The challenge therefore is to protect the labour force abroad. This could be done through concluding agreements with countries of destination to protect labour rights, including circular migration and short term labour migration agreements. Another solution that is being implemented in the region is the use of private mediator agencies, in an effort to ensure people are employed lawfully. Finally, education can also be tailored to issue certificates that are accepted by the EU market.

One of the recurring recommendations that was articulated is to develop mechanisms to **facilitate skills and credential recognition** in countries of destination. Several countries were said to be working on organizing trainings that are certified and recognized in destination countries. However, for those that are highly qualified in countries of origin, qualifications are still frequently downgraded in countries of destination. The GCM was asserted to have a role to play in this particular issue by encouraging States to recognize skills, qualifications and credentials fairly.

Another option would be to try to prepare for the global labour market through vocational education. Ministries of Interior and of Education need to ensure **education programs are tailored to the labour market**. By perform an analysis of the labour market gaps before formulating education policy, education might meet the requirements of the job market more consistently.

A strong case was made for **intra-regional labour migration** – increasing seasonal and other mobility – keeping in mind the rather small economies and the obvious potential contribution to development. Yet there is a need to match skills and labour market needs, as the economic sectors in the region are not very compatible. The number of foreign workers in the region is currently low, and the profiles who do move to the Western Balkan countries for work are usually young, with limited qualifications, and work in agriculture or the construction sector on a temporary basis. Speakers re-emphasized that creating jobs should be the priority, as stated in the SEE 2020 Strategy, by promoting foreign investment and creating conducive environments for jobs. It would be possible to exchange data regionally, for example on vacancies.

An important consideration that was made by a panellist, is that some are not able to move work. Therefore, **inclusion efforts for those unable to move** should not be forgotten. Often those staying behind are especially vulnerable and likely to be unemployed. The activation of this group would require a broad spectrum of efforts, including providing family support, child care.

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III. Annexes

5. Annotated Agenda

Panel I. Engaging Diaspora for Development: The Role and Contributions of Migrant Communities to All Pillars of Sustainable Development in Western Balkans

Moderator: Marina Manke, Head, Labour and Human Mobility Division, IOM HQ (Geneva)

Panellists:
- David Kramer, Deputy Director of Cooperation, SDC in Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Edin Dacic, Representative of Association i-Diaspora, Swiss-Based BiH Diaspora Association
- Zijada Djapo, Senior Expert Associate in the Sector for Diaspora of the Ministry for Human Rights and Refugees, Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Armand Shandro, Chief of Diaspora Sector in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Albania
- Behar Isma, Ministry of Diaspora, UNSCR 1244 Kosovo*
- Mimoza Dushi, Assistant Professor at the University of Gjakova “Fehmi Agani”, UNSCR 1244 Kosovo*

Panel II - Large Scale Movements in Times of Crisis: Incorporating Lessons Learned from the European and Mediterranean Migrant and Refugee Crisis

Moderator: Sonja Bozinovska, Head of Office, IOM Skopje

Panellists:
- Slobodan Cvejic, Associate Professor of Social Statistics, Methodology of Social Research and Economic Sociology, University of Belgrade, Serbia
- Vladimir Petronijevic, Group 484, Serbia
- Lilijana Mandic, Senior Police Inspector, Border Police Directorate, Ministry of Interior - Serbia
- Marinko Kochovski, Head of the Department of Border Affairs and Migration, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
- Martina Smilevska, Programme Manager Refugees and Migrant Rights Programme, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
- Dejan Kladarin, Senior Protection Officer, UNHCR

Panel III – Panel Discussion: Migrant Vulnerability and Protection: Solution-based Approaches to Reducing Vulnerability, Increasing Protection and Empowering Migrants

Moderator: Peter Van der Auweraert, Sub-Regional Coordinator for the Western Balkans

Panellists:
- Dijana Ridjic, Psychologist/CBT Psychotherapist, Association for Psychological Evaluation, Assistance and Advice Domino, Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Brikena Puka, Psycho-Social Center Vatra, Albania
- Jasmina Dimishkovska-Rajovska, Executive Director of Open Gate/La Strada, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
- Ivo Ramljak, Head of Department for Acceptance, Accommodation and Readmission, Service for Foreigners’ Affairs, Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Zorana Parezanovic, Programme Coordinator, NGO Atina, Serbia
- Ivana Krstic, Associate Professor, Faculty of Law, University of Belgrade, Serbia
Panel IV: Panel Discussion – Regional Labour Mobility: Challenges and Opportunities

Moderator: Michael Newson, Regional Thematic Specialist for Labour and Human Mobility, IOM Regional Office for South Eastern Europe, Eastern Europe and Central Asia (Vienna)

Panellists:
- Nand Shani, Regional Cooperation Council, Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Dragan Dacic, Ministry of Interior, Montenegro
- Brikena Nalbani, Deputy Director of National Employment Service, Albania
- Taulant Selmani, Representative of Department of Labour and Employment at the Ministry for Labour and Social Welfare, UNSCR 1244 Kosovo*
- Dejan Ivkovski, Head of Unit for Asylum and Humanitarian Assistance, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia