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***Migration and Development Mainstreaming:
The Role of Local Self-Government
November 8 and 9 2022
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The 3rd EMERGE regional conference offered insight into the unique positions, capacities, challenges, and mechanisms for further cooperation of local authorities with a role in supporting migration and development mainstreaming. The conference provided the space for discussion of general concepts and principles that pattern local governance response to migration and development needs. At the same time, it showcased examples of good practices related to specific thematic areas, which demonstrate how concepts and principles are practically implemented on the ground.



Executive Summary

The third regional conference titled: Migration and Development Mainstreaming: The Role of Local Self-Government held on 8 and 9 November 2022 gathered stakeholders from countries across the South Caucasus/Black Sea including government bodies, intergovernmental organisations, NGOs, business networks, and diaspora organizations, to share ideas, approaches, and experiences on local government engagement in mainstreaming for migration and development. The region faces a common set of challenges in social and economic development and the conference provided a platform to explore the topics from a regional perspective and identify ways to connect, share and collaborate.

Thematic Session I presented the role of local government bodies, including self-governing authorities, in the strategies, policies, and programmes that foster better migration and development outcomes along with migration cycle. The interventions emphasized how including local authorities in programme design and implementation can support better development-related outcomes, such as in initial settlement, and reintegration. **Thematic Session II** focused on the role of data in supporting local authorities to calibrate programmes and policies for migrants and the community. The thematic case studies showed ways to generate data from novel sources and to integrate into existing data sources. Contributions also addressed how data feeds into policy processes and feedback cycles. The coordination and cooperation between local authorities and structures with national authorities was the overarching theme for **Thematic Session III**. The interventions and case studies showed the mechanisms to translate principles of coordination into implementation. The final **Thematic Session IV** showcased how regional bodies, local authorities, and civil society actors can lead good practice to support short-term challenges into long-term development gains.

The overall key themes that emerged from the conference include:

Reinforcing the integral role of local authorities and local communities both in urban and rural areas in migration strategies, policies, and programmes

The conference reinforced the key role of local authorities and local communities play in the strategies, policies and programmes that foster better migration development interactions and outcomes. Migration is not confined to cities; the conference showed how migrants, refugees and returnees are going to (or returning to) regions, towns, and villages. These local areas require the service provision, planning and resources to best support migrant communities and to create social cohesion within the local communities. Various interventions showed novel programmes and local structures, such as hometown associations, to support migrant integration or reintegration. The conference also recognized many countries in the region also experience rural to urban labour migration, discussing strategies to address these patterns and their consequences for development in both places of origin and residence. The potential to further empower local authorities—legally and financially— to tailor service provision and support to migration communities was also addressed.

Advocating for a whole-of-society approach to migration development towards mainstreaming migration

The call for a whole-of-society approach at a local level was discussed at the conference, involving local government, civil society organizations, non-migrants, NGOs, the private sector, and the migrant communities themselves. This holistic, multi-sectoral cooperation is required across government departments—such as education, health, and labour— not just those ministries with a direct migration mandate. Such coordination across bodies with different topical competencies and mandates is an important form of horizontal coordination. Equally, the conference recognized is the importance of national-local cooperation, where national authorities can support local leaders to manage different



policy portfolios related to migration (such as integration), and at the same time, local authorities can support better migration decision making at the national level. Interactions between the national level and actors at lower governance levels may be described as vertical coordination. In combination, a whole-of-society approach, with both horizontal and vertical coordination mechanisms and explicit inclusion of civil society actors in migration governance and migration and development programming can help towards mainstreaming migration, that is, migrants and displaced people are considered in all policies, *not just* migration policies. This policy coherence and holistic approach helps to advocate for migrant and community needs, while also giving a voice to all those impacted by migration to contribute to the process.

Building trust and credibility

Across the interventions, there was a recognition that building trust in multi-faceted ways contribute to effective mainstreaming of strategies, policies and programmes that promote better migration and development outcomes, especially at a local level. First, gaining trust is important in the multi-stakeholder partnerships and coalitions across state and regional governments and agencies, civil society, NGOs, and the private sector. Next, internal trust within local authorities needs to be developed across portfolios and service delivery partners to ensure they are aware of and recognize their place in the migration management system. Finally, local authorities need to create confidence and trust from migration and diaspora communities to avail of service provision and potentially to offer a knowledge exchange and feedback to enhance programming for migration communities. Where one group is not as trusted or known to migrant beneficiaries (or potentially diaspora members), another group may have greater perceived legitimacy. An astute nature by local leadership to recognize the trust gained, or a trust deficit, helps to build, maintain, or repair relationships and partnerships for positive migration outcomes.

Supporting migration is complex, and requires strategic, planned responses

Migration in the Black Sea and South Caucuses region is not a simple, linear process. The region has shown circular and irregular patterns of migration. The COVID-19 pandemic was a catalyst for inflows and outflows of migration, including with the significant numbers of returnees needing reintegration assistance and support. The recent influx of Ukrainian refugees within countries in the region has shown the spirit of local communities to assist but is also a reflection of continued reactionary—rather than proactive—response to changing migration patterns and outcomes. As the region continues to experience movement of diverse migrant populations, including refugees, returnees, labour migrants from origin countries outside the region, along with outward labour migration and temporary migration, this complexity needs to be met with robust, planned responses. The conference interventions highlighted some solutions to translating strategic policy into action in a systemic, planned way addressing the social, economic, and psycho-social needs of migrant communities. The mainstreaming and institutionalization of migrant management systems contribute to monitoring, evaluation towards improvements of these mechanisms and for sustainability.

Several conference interventions described unpredictable migration movements or global dynamics, including related to the labour market or conflict regions. In response, the conference discussed ways to mitigate and plan for unpredictability, including local, regional, and national governments engaging with scenario building, forecasting and foresight exercises. These exercises can identify macro trends, evaluating risk related to all types of migration scenarios and ways to creating strategies to minimize risk and plan appropriately for anticipated scenarios. As noted with the next key theme, there is also a role for data to support local authorities and national government to identify, predict and adapt to uncertainty in migration patterns and global or societal shifts. There was broad acknowledgement



from the conference interventions that systemic, strategic migration management requires time and expertise—from local and national actors—to build, fund, implement, monitor, and refine.

Robust data to inform mainstreaming and better migration development outcomes

While Thematic Session II focused on data, almost every intervention referred to the need for or the effective application of robust data to inform effective migration management, that is, the strategies, policies and programmes striving for better migration and development outcomes. The application of data can contribute to evidence-based practice and informed policymaking at a local level. Sources of data takes different forms: government census data, demographic data, big data from social media usage showing migration patterns, service delivery figures, the voice of migrants identifying their needs, or even knowledge or skills transfer data from migrants themselves. The interventions showcased various sources of national and even IOM-supported sources of migration data (such as the Local Migration Governance Indicators) to improve on and create informed strategies and programmes for and involving migrant communities. Robust data of integrity requires resources at the various stages of the data lifecycle, including data collection, analysis, interpretation, and reporting, towards the development of sustainable local migration management practices.

Developing an effective local authority and local-level migration response requires innovative thinking and adequate resources, including capacity building

The conference highlighted the need for dedicated budgets and funding to support service provision and programmes for migrant communities at a local level. To operationalize national policy effectively requires the involvement of local authorities to deliver on needs such as housing, healthcare, training, employment, and education. To deliver these supports or services in a meaningful way, national policies and programmes must be calibrated to local needs, and local actors supporting design or implementation need to have the internal capacities (e.g., topical knowledge) and resources (e.g., time, financing) to translate strategies into implementation and action. Sources of funding to support local implementation may be broad-based: government sources, donor or even engaged diaspora. Innovative responses to policies, strategies or programmes that foster better migration and development outcomes, such as through the mobilization of civil society or community organizations such as hometown associations can be key non-monetary resources to support strategies, policies, and programmes that can foster better migration and development outcomes, bringing together a coalition of those with key local knowledge or competences. Other resources, such as designated human resources for migration-related programmes, is also required along with drawing on the resources and knowledge sharing from migrant communities themselves, who may be able to enhance migration programmes. The conference showed that apart from financial resources, there needs to be local leadership and resources for a comprehensive capacity building to create innovative migration supports, which overall can enhance local social and economic well-being in the local community.

Capacity building, as noted throughout the conference, is not a one-time activity with the actors involved with migration management policies, strategies, and programmes. Effective capacity building is ongoing and involves both the vertical and horizontal levels: national, regional, and local level governance and actors. Building and retaining capacity also includes the recognition that it may be community-level actors – not necessarily national government or local authorities – that can best lead the direct support of the beneficiary populations. These local actors may be best positioned with the expertise to deliver migration interventions, and this bottom-up approach can help to inform and build further capacity upwards to ensure adequate resources and sustainability. Yet a key element of sustainability is recognizing that the production of knowledge or capacity is just the start; continued professional development, including periodic retraining, may be required to keep knowledge fresh and



relevant, and individuals with needed expertise need to be retained on the local level, which may require development of staff retention scenarios.

Overall, this regional conference highlighted ideas, case studies and good practice in migration and development mainstreaming involving local government. The interventions from the conference offered learning that can be considered, reflected upon, and adapted for local migration contexts. This opens the opportunity for dialogue and explores the potential for cooperation, partnerships, and collaborations across the region and for local government authorities. This conference also serves as the culmination of the learning from across the subsequent EMERGE events. As the EMERGE project comes to its conclusion, there is the opportunity to build on this momentum from the learning and networking across the Black Sea and South Caucuses region towards creating and maintaining sustainable national, regional, and local migration programmes.



Contents

Executive Summary	2
Acronyms.....	8
1 Introduction.....	9
1.1 Conference Aims.....	9
1.1.1 EMERGE Project Context	10
1.1.2 Conference Key Themes.....	10
1.2 Day I: Introductory Conference Session.....	13
1.2.1 <i>Sanja Celebic Lukovac</i> – Chief of Mission, IOM Georgia.....	13
1.2.2 <i>Her Excellency Helene Sand Andresen</i> – Ambassador of Norway in Georgia and Non-Resident Ambassador of Norway to Armenia.....	13
1.2.3 <i>Dr Sabine Machl</i> , UN Resident Coordinator in Georgia.....	14
1.2.4 <i>Nikoloz Rosebashvili</i> , Head of Department for Development of Local Self-Government, and Policy - Georgia.....	14
1.2.5 <i>Amr Taha</i> , Senior Regional Liaison and Policy Officer, IOM Regional Office, Vienna...	15
2 Thematic Session I: The role of local-level governance in supporting interventions across the migration cycle	15
2.1 Integrated approach to reintegration – general concepts and their application <i>Heather Komenda</i> , Migrant Protection and Assistance Unit, IOM Regional Office in Vienna.....	15
2.2 The IOM integrated approach to reintegration and its translation to local practice, <i>Joel Loua</i> , IOM Guinea	17
2.3 Interventions to support third country and EU nationals to settle and orient themselves in Sofia, Bulgaria, <i>Snezhina Gabova</i> , Sofia Development Association	18
2.4 Helping local actors to transpose national frameworks into local action, <i>Nikoloz Rosebashvili</i> , Ministry of Regional Development, and Infrastructure	19
2.5 Supporting local migrant needs through a community service centre, <i>Kakha Samkhardadze</i> , Head of Samgori District Municipality	20
2.6 Overview of limitations and opportunities of migration management at local level in the context of Georgian self-government, <i>David Melua</i> , National Association of Local Authorities of Georgia (NALAG).....	20
2.7 Discussion, Questions, and Answers – Thematic Session I.....	21
3 Thematic Session II: Local governance authorities’ data needs and uses along the policy cycle	23
3.1 Local Governance authorities’ data needs and uses along the policy cycle <i>Michael Newson</i> , Labour Migration and Human Development Division, IOM Regional Office, Vienna	23
3.2 Data collection tools and data sources available for local authorities in Georgia, <i>Paata Shavishvili</i> , National Statistics Office of Georgia (GeoStat).....	24
3.3 Data collection tools and data sources available for local authorities in Armenia, <i>Karine Kuyumjyan</i> , Statistical Committee of the Republic of Armenia (ArmStat).....	25
3.4 IOM data collection utilities and resources for local level migration governance needs and an introduction to the Migration Governance Indicators (MGI), <i>Estefania Guallar Ariño</i> , Global Migration Data Analysis Centre (GMDAC)	26
3.5 MGI assessments in Moldova as a tool to support evidence-based policy design and implementation on a central and local levels, <i>Vitalie Varzari</i> , IOM Moldova	27
4 Thematic Session III: Policy frameworks and innovations to support coherent and inclusive migration and development mainstreaming	29



4.1	Policy frameworks & innovations to support coherent & inclusive migration and development mainstreaming– <i>Audrey Hickcox</i> , IOM Geneva.....	29
4.2	Translating national policy priorities into local-level action through multi-stakeholder cooperation <i>Nadejda Zubco</i> , Diaspora Relations Bureau – Republic of Moldova, <i>Anastasia Rusu</i> , Alliance of Hometown Associations, and <i>Tatiana Solonari</i> , UNDP.....	30
4.3	Cooperation with local authorities in the process of implementation of the State Reintegration Programme, <i>David Peikrishvili</i> , Ministry of Labour, Georgia	32
5	Thematic Session IV: Policy frameworks and innovations to support coherent and inclusive migration and development mainstreaming.....	33
5.1	The role of a civil society organization cooperation in supporting local migration and development interventions and outcomes, <i>Vartan Marashlyan</i> , Repat Armenia Foundation	33
5.2	Sustainable reintegration and community revitalization: a pilot initiative of the Service Hubs Network in communities of return, <i>Natia Kvistiani</i> , IOM Georgia.....	34
5.3	Innovations in cooperation – examples of municipal-to-municipal partnerships on refugees, migration and development, <i>Stella Badin</i> , Cahul Municipality, Republic of Moldova.....	35
6	Concluding Remarks.....	36
6.1	Reflections from Moderators and Conference Rapporteur, <i>Sanja Celebic Lukovac</i> , Chief of Mission, IOM Georgia, <i>Nino Sanikidze</i> , State Commission on Migration Issues Georgia, <i>Michaella Vanore</i> , University of Maastricht, <i>Maria Gallo</i> , Conference Rapporteur	36
7	References.....	39
8	List of Appendices	40
8.1	Final Conference Agenda.....	41
8.2	Moderator and Speaker Biographies	43
8.3	Presentations and Speaker’s Notes- List of Supplementary Materials.....	50
8.3.1	An Integrated Approach to Reintegration – IOM.....	51
8.3.2	Local Migration Governance Indicators Process and Outcomes (LMGI).....	52
8.3.3	Displacement Tracking Matrix.....	52
8.3.4	Diaspora Engagement Impact/Risk Matrix (Repat Armenia Presentation)	53
8.4	Media Release.....	54
8.5	List of Conference Participants	55



Acronyms

- ASEAN – Association of Southeast Asian Nations
- BMIS – Border Management Information Service, Armenia
- BRD – Diaspora Relations Bureau, the Republic of Moldova
- CoPil – Steering Committee – UTC/UTR system, Guinea
- DTM – Displacement Tracking Index
- EMERGE - Enhancing Migrants' Rights and Good Governance in Georgia and Armenia
- EU – European Union
- GCM – Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration
- GEOSTAT – National Statistics Office of Georgia
- GFMD – Global Migration and Forced Displacement
- GMDAC – Global Migration Data Analysis Centre
- HTA – Alliance of Hometown Associations
- IOM – International Organization for Migration
- LMGI – Local Migration Governance Indicators
- LMI – Labour Mobility and Social Inclusion
- LRG – Local and Regional Governments
- M4SD – Making Migration Work for Sustainable Development
- M&D – Migration and Development
- MFA – Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Georgia)
- MGI – Migration Governance Indicators
- NGOs – Non-governmental organizations
- OSCE – Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe
- PPP – Public-Private Partnership
- SCMI – State Commission on Migration Issues, Government of Georgia
- SDA – Sofia Development Association
- SDGs – United Nations Global Goals - Sustainable Development Goals
- SME – Small, medium-sized enterprises
- TAIEX – Technical Assistance and Information Exchange of the European Union
- UNDP – United Nations Development Programme
- UTC/UTR – Technical Units and Close Monitoring Committees (CSP), Guinea



1 Introduction

This report provides a comprehensive summary of the material covered during the regional conference titled: **Migration and Development Mainstreaming: The Role of Local Self-Government** that took place on 8 and 9 November 2022. The conference was initiated and hosted by IOM Georgia and was presented in hybrid format – online and in-person at the Republic Event Hall in Tbilisi, Georgia. This report provides conference delegates and those with an interest in diaspora engagement with a recording of the key points from the event. Readers can draw learning for their own migration context, including in the involvement of local government in migration and development mainstreaming activity through policy development, cooperation, and initiatives.

1.1 Conference Aims

The purpose of bringing together conference delegates in person and online was to:

- develop a greater understanding of the role local self-government authorities can play in supporting better migration and development outcomes within a whole-of-society approach to migration and development mainstreaming, and feel inspired to proactively address migration on the local level;
- identify the advantages for local self-governing authorities to adopt national-level frameworks related to migration and development;
- access to examples of specific, concrete interventions that can be used on local level to support better migration and development outcomes;
- foster greater insights into the advantages of and possibilities for cooperation between different levels of migration management and governance (e.g., between national and local level), within the same level of migration management and governance (e.g., between municipalities), and between state authorities and non-state actors (e.g. between municipal authorities and migrants);
- build access to the networks of individuals and institutions at local level who can be sources of information, learning, mentoring, and joint action.

The regional conference welcomed representatives of the governments of Armenia, Bulgaria, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, and Ukraine, as well as Georgia, and the civil society members, international organizations, and thematic experts from the participating countries. The conference explored various aspects of migration governance at the local level and provided insight into the unique positions, capacities, challenges, and mechanisms for further cooperation of local authorities with a role in supporting migration and development mainstreaming work. IOM country offices were asked to suggest participants from government and civil society counterparts based on suggested criteria:

- employment in a local governance body that engages with emigrant, immigrant, or return migrant policies or targeted interventions, OR;
- work at higher level of governance that engages with local governing authorities on issues related to migration management and migration and development, OR;
- work in supporting local authorities in providing tailored supports to migrant populations;
- knowledge of the role of local authorities in policies and programming related to migration;
- knowledge of the intersections between migration and human/national development goals;

Aligned to the EMERGE project, delegates and interventions were selected to participate in the event based on their interest in forming a network of local governance authorities and their support partners, who can share experiences, expertise, and resources for increasing migration and development outcomes on local level.



1.1.1 EMERGE Project Context

The IOM Georgia and Armenia offices are in the final phases of implementing a project titled: Enhancing Migrants' Rights and Good Governance in Georgia and Armenia - EMERGE, funded by the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The EMERGE project seeks to foster regional dialogue and enhance regional cooperation in migration governance. The EMERGE project Outcome 2: *National stakeholders have enhanced cross-border dialogue and cooperation in migration governance and migrants' rights*, is aligned with the concept of a series of regional conferences and provides an umbrella under which IOM, in partnership with the Governments of Georgia, Armenia and other participating countries, can support three regional cooperation events. This event on 8 and 9 November 2022 titled: Migration and Development Mainstreaming: The Role of Local Self-Government, was the third and final in a series of regional conferences. This conference brought together government representatives and other stakeholders responsible for migration governance and diaspora engagement, with a focus local government and regional cooperation.

1.1.2 Conference Key Themes

The overall key themes that emerged from the conference include:

Reinforcing the integral role of local authorities and local communities both in urban and rural areas in migration strategies, policies, and programmes

The conference reinforced the key role of local authorities and local communities play in the strategies, policies and programmes that foster better migration development interactions and outcomes. Migration is not confined to cities; the conference showed how migrants, refugees and returnees are going to (or returning to) regions, towns, and villages. These local areas require the service provision, planning and resources to best support migrant communities and to create social cohesion within the local communities. Various interventions showed novel programmes and local structures, such as hometown associations, to support migrant integration or reintegration. The conference also recognized many countries in the region also experience rural to urban labour migration, discussing strategies to address these patterns and their consequences for development in both places of origin and residence. The potential to further empower local authorities—legally and financially— to tailor service provision and support to migration communities was also addressed.

Advocating for a whole-of-society approach to migration development towards mainstreaming migration

The call for a whole-of-society approach at a local level was discussed at the conference, involving local government, civil society organizations, non-migrants, NGOs, the private sector, and the migrant communities themselves. This holistic, multi-sectoral cooperation is required across government departments—such as education, health, and labour— not just those ministries with a direct migration mandate. Such coordination across bodies with different topical competencies and mandates is an important form of horizontal coordination. Equally, the conference recognized is the importance of national-local cooperation, where national authorities can support local leaders to manage different policy portfolios related to migration (such as integration), and at the same time, local authorities can support better migration decision making at the national level. Interactions between the national level and actors at lower governance levels may be described as vertical coordination. In combination, a whole-of-society approach, with both horizontal and vertical coordination mechanisms and explicit inclusion of civil society actors in migration governance and migration and development programming can help towards mainstreaming migration, that is, migrants and displaced people are considered in all policies, *not just* migration policies. This policy coherence and holistic approach helps to advocate for migrant and community needs, while also giving a voice to all those impacted by migration to contribute to the process.



Building trust and credibility

Across the interventions, there was a recognition that building trust in multi-faceted ways contribute to effective mainstreaming of strategies, policies and programmes that promote better migration and development outcomes, especially at a local level. First, gaining trust is important in the multi-stakeholder partnerships and coalitions across state and regional governments and agencies, civil society, NGOs, and the private sector. Next, internal trust within local authorities needs to be developed across portfolios and service delivery partners to ensure they are aware of and recognize their place in the migration management system. Finally, local authorities need to create confidence and trust from migration and diaspora communities to avail of service provision and potentially to offer a knowledge exchange and feedback to enhance programming for migration communities. Where one group is not as trusted or known to migrant beneficiaries (or potentially diaspora members), another group may have greater perceived legitimacy. An astute nature by local leadership to recognize the trust gained, or a trust deficit, helps to build, maintain, or repair relationships and partnerships for positive migration outcomes.

Supporting migration is complex, and requires strategic, planned responses

Migration in the Black Sea and South Caucuses region is not a simple, linear process. The region has shown circular and irregular patterns of migration. The COVID-19 pandemic was a catalyst for inflows and outflows of migration, including with the significant numbers of returnees needing reintegration assistance and support. The recent influx of Ukrainian refugees within countries in the region has shown the spirit of local communities to assist but is also a reflection of continued reactionary—rather than proactive—response to changing migration patterns and outcomes. As the region continues to experience movement of diverse migrant populations, including refugees, returnees, labour migrants from origin countries outside the region, along with outward labour migration and temporary migration, this complexity needs to be met with robust, planned responses. The conference interventions highlighted some solutions to translating strategic policy into action in a systemic, planned way addressing the social, economic, and psycho-social needs of migrant communities. The mainstreaming and institutionalization of migrant management systems contribute to monitoring, evaluation towards improvements of these mechanisms and for sustainability.

Several conference interventions described unpredictable migration movements or global dynamics, including related to the labour market or conflict regions. In response, the conference discussed ways to mitigate and plan for unpredictability, including local, regional, and national governments engaging with scenario building, forecasting and foresight exercises. These exercises can identify macro trends, evaluating risk related to all types of migration scenarios and ways to creating strategies to minimize risk and plan appropriately for anticipated scenarios. As noted with the next key theme, there is also a role for data to support local authorities and national government to identify, predict and adapt to uncertainty in migration patterns and global or societal shifts. There was broad acknowledgement from the conference interventions that systemic, strategic migration management requires time and expertise—from local and national actors—to build, fund, implement, monitor, and refine.

Robust data to inform mainstreaming and better migration development outcomes

While Thematic Session II focused on data, almost every intervention referred to the need for or the effective application of robust data to inform effective migration management, that is, the strategies, policies and programmes striving for better migration and development outcomes. The application of data can contribute to evidence-based practice and informed policymaking at a local level. Sources of data takes different forms: government census data, demographic data, big data from social media



usage showing migration patterns, service delivery figures, the voice of migrants identifying their needs, or even knowledge or skills transfer data from migrants themselves. The interventions showcased various sources of national and even IOM-supported sources of migration data (such as the Local Migration Governance Indicators) to improve on and create informed strategies and programmes for and involving migrant communities. Robust data of integrity requires resources at the various stages of the data lifecycle, including data collection, analysis, interpretation, and reporting, towards the development of sustainable local migration management practices.

Developing an effective local authority and local-level migration response requires innovative thinking and adequate resources, including capacity building

The conference highlighted the need for dedicated budgets and funding to support service provision and programmes for migrant communities at a local level. To operationalize national policy effectively requires the involvement of local authorities to deliver on needs such as housing, healthcare, training, employment, and education. To deliver these supports or services in a meaningful way, national policies and programmes must be calibrated to local needs, and local actors supporting design or implementation need to have the internal capacities (e.g., topical knowledge) and resources (e.g., time, financing) to translate strategies into implementation and action. Sources of funding to support local implementation may be broad-based: government sources, donor or even engaged diaspora. Innovative responses to policies, strategies or programmes that foster better migration and development outcomes, such as through the mobilization of civil society or community organizations such as hometown associations can be key non-monetary resources to support strategies, policies, and programmes that can foster better migration and development outcomes, bringing together a coalition of those with key local knowledge or competences. Other resources, such as designated human resources for migration-related programmes, is also required along with drawing on the resources and knowledge sharing from migrant communities themselves, who may be able to enhance migration programmes. The conference showed that apart from financial resources, there needs to be local leadership and resources for a comprehensive capacity building to create innovative migration supports, which overall can enhance local social and economic well-being in the local community.

Capacity building, as noted throughout the conference, is not a one-time activity with the actors involved with migration management policies, strategies, and programmes. Effective capacity building is ongoing and involves both the vertical and horizontal levels: national, regional, and local level governance and actors. Building and retaining capacity also includes the recognition that it may be community-level actors – not necessarily national government or local authorities – that can best lead the direct support of the beneficiary populations. These local actors may be best positioned with the expertise to deliver migration interventions, and this bottom-up approach can help to inform and build further capacity upwards to ensure adequate resources and sustainability. Yet a key element of sustainability is recognizing that the production of knowledge or capacity is just the start; continued professional development, including periodic retraining, may be required to keep knowledge fresh and relevant, and individuals with needed expertise need to be retained on the local level, which may require development of staff retention scenarios.



1.2 Day I: Introductory Conference Session

The IOM Georgia Chief of Mission, Sanja Celebic Lukovac welcomed the conference participants in person jointly with an introductory panel. This panel included Her Excellency Helene Sand Andresen who is the Ambassador of Norway to Georgia and Non-Resident Ambassador of Norway to Armenia and Sabine Machl UN Resident Coordinator in Georgia, Nikoloz Rosebashvili Head of Department for Development of Local Self-Government and Policy in the Ministry of Regional Development and Infrastructure, Georgia, and Amr Taha, Senior Regional Liaison and Policy Officer at the IOM Regional Office who joined online.



Opening and Welcome Session Photo (from left to right): Marco Pellegrini, IOM Armenia; Ilona Ter-Minasyan, IOM Armenia; Nikoloz Rosebashvili, Ministry of Regional Development and Infrastructure, Georgia; Sanja Celebic Lukovac, IOM Georgia.

1.2.1 Sanja Celebic Lukovac – Chief of Mission, IOM Georgia

The conference opened with an address by Sanja Celebic Lukovac, who offered an overview of the work of the EMERGE project to date, including the two previous online EMERGE regional conferences in 2020 and 2021. “This has been an important project and important process. We have opened some important topics in Georgia and Armenia focused on a whole-of-government approach and whole-of-society approach. This has set the ground for this third and final conference to discuss and explore migration management issues affecting the group of countries in this region.” She emphasized the opportunity for the exchange of ideas, challenges and the mechanisms related to local government and migration issues, including the [Global Compact on Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration](#), as a non-binding framework to handle the complexity and trends in local migration management.

Her introductory address concluded by wishing the conference speakers, moderators, and participants a fruitful two days for the exchange of good practice, knowledge, and ideas, both in-person at the event in Tbilisi and for those joining the event online.

1.2.2 Her Excellency Helene Sand Andresen – Ambassador of Norway in Georgia and Non-Resident Ambassador of Norway to Armenia

Her Excellency Helene Sand Andresen, Ambassador to Georgia and Non-Resident Ambassador of Norway to Armenia expressed her gratitude to the IOM for their long-standing partnership with the Government of Norway. She noted that the significance of this regional conference to explore the importance of bringing all stakeholders together for a whole-of-society approach to well-managed migration: “Everyone needs to do their part, from national government and international partners to civil society organizations and the private sector. No less important is the role of the local self-



government institutions. Well managed migration is impossible without active involvement of local stakeholders.”

She added that integral role of municipal governments in migration management: “Municipal governments are the ones that directly interact with various groups of migrants, be it internally displaced or foreign citizens.” She added that with this position of working directly with migrants they require knowledge to address the needs of those they serve, including in the provision of the necessary public and social services.

In conclusion the Ambassador noted the importance of regional cooperation and dialogue on migration issues: “Local governments need to enhance their skills and capacity to deal with the migration issues, while national governments need to recognize municipalities authorities as equal partners and empower them – both legally and financially – to tailor their services to the diverse needs of migrant groups.” She stated that she viewed the regional conference and the EMERGE project as a leap forward to build this coherence and wished all participants well in their endeavours.

1.2.3 Dr Sabine Machl, UN Resident Coordinator in Georgia

Sabine Machl, the UN Resident Coordinator in Georgia opened her introductory address by expressing her thanks to the State Commission on Migration Issues and the Government of Norway for supporting the regional conference that reinforces the regional efforts for a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach to migration management and the cooperation of central and local government level. She set the scene for the purpose of the conference as a platform for participants to share good practice, common challenges and opportunities in migration management: “We want to ensure all migrants, including returned migrants, foreign migrants and diaspora have better access to services and opportunities at local level, contributing to improved living conditions and economic development, in the spirit of the [Global Compact for Migration](#).”

In her address, Sabine recognized more local and regional efforts are needed to streamline strategies, policies, and their implementation for the benefit of migrants and their communities. She concluded her remarks by stating: “The best solutions and opportunities are found through dialogue and partnership between countries.”

1.2.4 Nikoloz Rosebashvili, Head of Department for Development of Local Self-Government, and Policy - Georgia

As a representative from the Ministry of Regional Development and Infrastructure in the Government of Georgia, Nikoloz Rosebashvili, the Head of Department for Development of Local Self-Government, and Policy welcomed the conference participants to Georgia’s capital city Tbilisi. He noted the importance of increasing effective governance globally and regionally in migration management to cascade down to central government and regional government levels.

He viewed the EMERGE conference as an opportunity to enable the interventions to generate new ideas and establish new contacts among those participants who work in various aspects of migration management. He viewed events such as the conference as a capacity building initiative, especially for those in municipal government, to make decisions and to adapt good practice examples from across the Black Sea and South Caucasus region and beyond to one’s own local context.



1.2.5 Amr Taha, Senior Regional Liaison and Policy Officer, IOM Regional Office, Vienna

Amr Taha joined the event online, offering words of welcome to conference participants. His opening address focused on the potential for the conference to explore the management of migration at a local level. Amr Taha explained that to embrace a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach to migration management requires a tailored government response. He noted that this regional conference was a platform to showcase examples across several thematic areas linked to migration management and local government, with the opportunities to enhance regional cooperation. In his final reflection, Amr Taha reminded participants that the COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on migration flows, and this is now the opportunity to learn from this experience to build future partnerships and economic recovery.



EMERGE Regional Conference – Opening and Welcome Session in the Republic Event Hall, Tbilisi.

2 Thematic Session I: The role of local-level governance in supporting interventions across the migration cycle

Sanja Celebic Lukovac opened the first thematic session with the focus on the unique role of local-level governance authorities can play in fostering better migration and development outcomes. She noted that the contributions in this session – both online and in-person—emphasized the development of interventions or programmes on a local level that address the needs of emigrants, immigrants, and returnees across the migration cycle. She noted that the speakers offer a different set of perspective on the theme from the Black Sea/Caucasus region and beyond.

2.1 Integrated approach to reintegration – general concepts and their application Heather Komenda, Migrant Protection and Assistance Unit, IOM Regional Office in Vienna

Heather Komenda began her presentation by setting the scene on the definition of sustainable return as cited in the IOM publication [Towards an Integrated Approach to Reintegration](#) published in 2017 as follows: “Reintegration is a multifaceted phenomenon, that refers to economic, social and psychosocial dimensions. It concerns returnees and the communities to which they return. It is also linked to structural factors in the external environment.”



She noted that re-emigration does not necessarily imply lack of sustainability. What counts is whether new migration happens as a matter of choice rather than necessity, as highlighted in the Global Compact on Migration. Her presentation focused on the factors affecting reintegration and how they can be addressed. She noted three levels of factors that affect reintegration. First, the individual level, including skills, financial resources and social or professional network (or absence of such networks). At the community level factors affecting reintegration include access to good quality services (housing, education, health) along with living and working conditions. Finally, at a structural level some factors include stability or instability in the political and security systems, policies and legal instruments and human, financial and private sector resources available.

Heather presented a diagram drawing on the definition of sustainable reintegration, recognizing that achieving sustainable reintegration requires a holistic and a need-based approach (See the diagram in the Appendix 8.3.1) She explained the components of the diagram, that show the various factors impacting on reintegration, including economic, social, and psychosocial dimensions, across individual, community, and structural levels, with monitoring and evaluation surrounding this work.

She also explained the three dimensions: The economic dimension relates to contributing to re-entering the economic life and sustain livelihoods. The social dimension reflects the access to public services and infrastructure in including access to health, education, housing, justice, and social protection schemes. The psychosocial dimension focuses on the reinsertion of returning migrants into personal support networks (friends, relatives, neighbours) and civil society structures (associations, self-help groups and other organizations).

To follow the overarching conference theme, Heather focused the rest of her presentation on the community level aspects that could be relevant to local government and local responses to migration management. She emphasized that reintegration at the community level is by nature participative, with the situation in the community integral in the sustainability of reintegration. Communities with strong social networks and access to resources can provide support and protection to returnees and benefit from reintegration processes. But when communities lack these networks and resources, return can constitute a risk factor. Finally, Heather noted the acceptance of returnees within a community is not automatic: there can be rejection, feelings of competition affecting both returnees and the community. Reintegration assistance at the community level focuses on the interrelated nature of economic, social, and psychosocial activities. To start, Heather contended that the design and implementation of these activities should be informed by community profiles and assessments.

Returnees may not always be readily accepted into a community, even if it was their community of origin. The perceived or actual economic competition for jobs, strains on services and infrastructure in high-return areas and stigmatization of returnees are all potential barriers to successful reintegration. Working with communities facing these challenges to better accept, support, and include returnees is therefore important for sustainable reintegration. To be successful, Heather notes it is strongly recommended that community-level interventions involve and benefit to both returnees and non-migrants.

To conclude, Heather discussed ways to generate community engagement and participation to contribute to increase the ownership over reintegration projects. For example, group discussions with key informants when planning reintegration projects, and the involvement of returnees, their families, and communities of return in the planning design and implementation of projects.



2.2 The IOM integrated approach to reintegration and its translation to local practice, Joel Loua, IOM Guinea

In this intervention, Joel Loua from the IOM Guinea office detailed the integrated approach to reintegration presented by Heather Komenda into local practice in Guinea. First, Joel offered context on the migration in Guinea, citing it is one of the main countries experiencing an irregular migration crisis in Sub-Saharan Africa. The IOM Guinea statistics show that from 2017 to 2022 more than 25,000 migrants voluntarily returned to Guinea, with over 14,000 of these migrants receiving reintegration assistance throughout the country. He highlighted the approach to migration reintegration mechanisms involve projects that are monitored at the local, regional, and central level.

Joel presented the rationale for setting up of the technical units (UTR) and close monitoring committees (CSP) including the limited IOM presence in all regions of Guinea and the attempt to build ownership from local actors to create sustainability after the end of funding by donors. He detailed the establishments of this inclusive mechanism in 2017 involving the creation of a Steering Committee (CoPil) at the strategic and national level to ensure the political orientation of the actions.

His presentation showed the various reporting lines and the evident key monitoring involvement at three levels. At the central level, this includes the various sectoral ministries, with reporting mechanisms on IOM's actions in the field to the Minister, while facilitating the department's involvement in direct and indirect implementation of activities. Second, the regional level mirrors the central level, with regional or prefectural directorates of sectoral ministries as the technical managers at the regional level, reporting back to the regional governor on activities that directly affect their region. Finally at the prefectural level there is a committee with the role to ensure the close monitoring of the implementation of reintegration projects in their zone. This local committee offers direct support to the migrants and reporting on challenges faced by migrants to IOM and the government.

Joel noted that this monitoring process with three levels creates a cascade effect in both directions of information flows. The UTC/UTR (at the central and regional level) are responsible for monthly statutory meetings and are the interface between the state and IOM. These mechanisms are also the advocates for the inclusion of IOM programmes and projects as part of government priorities in migration management, including the facilitation of space, and the validation of reintegration plans.

At the more local level, the CSP committees at prefecture and sub-prefecture regions facilitate direct work with migrants, including the social and psycho-social support (referred to as specialized structures) for migrants. This allows for close monitoring and follow-up of the involvement of community members for community-based projects. Joel contends that this cascade effect is also evident is the objectives of the technical monitoring systems (UTC, UTR and CSP) taking a holistic approach. The objectives include project implementation, improving project performance, advocacy for migration issues as a national priority, supporting the organization of return and access, strengthening the capabilities of the migrant and committee members.

Joel reported on the achievements of the technical mechanism to date in three ways. First, the building of capacity of the members involved including training, study tours, and technical equipment. Second, the establishment of the migration governance management instruments, such as the [Guinean Migration Observatory](#) and the [High Council for Guineans Abroad](#). Third, is the ability for this mechanism to strengthen the relationship between IOM and the Guinean state, which resulted in a



joint IOM-Government of Guinea roadmap, enhancing the visibility of the IOM among government officials, and providing IOM with office space in certain regions. Despite these achievements in only five years, Joel noted a few challenges to the mechanism: the repeated changes in membership (linked to change of government), thus creating a continued need for capacity building and finally the non-institutionalization of activities, projects and priorities related to migration.

In his conclusion, Joel Loua offered some solutions and some perspectives on how to build sustainability into such a mechanism. He advocated for the institutionalization of the UTC/UTR and CSP mechanism, the need to continue to strengthen capacity building – at technical, institutional and at an operational level— and the importance of working towards establishing the mechanisms across all regions and prefectures.

2.3 Interventions to support third country and EU nationals to settle and orient themselves in Sofia, Bulgaria, Snezhina Gabova, Sofia Development Association

Joining the conference online, Snezhina Gabova presented her intervention on interventions to support third country and EU nationals settling and orienting themselves in Sofia, Bulgaria. She explained the history of the [Sofia Development Association](#) (SDA), established in 2010 as a municipal foundation, and their role in the management of migration. An NGO by status, the Sofia Development Association's key role is research for strategic planning and policy development, focused on developing and managing these projects on behalf of the municipality. The ongoing relationship and collaboration between the Sofia Development Association and local government is evident with the Chair of the Municipal Council as the Chair of the SDA.

Snezhina outlined the key activities of the SDA, including a role administering small grants and Sofia Lab, which includes innovations for digital skills development for migrants. As the capital city, this is often the first port of call for labour migrants but also the statistics show it also attracts asylum seekers and most recently humanitarian refugees from Ukraine. She noted initially in early 2022 there was many Ukrainian refugees in Sofia, many have left over the past few months. In this context Snezhina maintained that Sofia, as Bulgaria's largest city, is at the frontline in developing better ways to work with migrants, refugees and EU nationals coming to the city seeking services—from housing to education. This aim is to build welcoming systems for those who wish to settle in the city.

She presented a series of questions that cities like Sofia can ask to best serve migrants: Why do migrants come to big cities? How can you address nationalist and/or anti-immigrant discourse? How do we measure migration? Is the measurement through human stories or through statistics – or both? What are the biggest deficits to current services that directly address the needs of migrants? Do they need job or more?

Snezhina contended that a migration strategy – not yet in place in Sofia—is a way to address many of these questions. In addition, she contended that a city-wide audit, examining the integrated approach to migration (or lack thereof) would be helpful to identify the leadership, political support, and services available. With the highly politicized public view of migrants and refugees finding a strategic position will offer a starting point on the position of the city to create an integrated coherent approach. She also argued that an audit would also help to change the integration narrative, raise awareness, and contribute to building leadership support and partnership support at all levels of municipal service



delivery. This strategy would also set the groundwork for the institutional environment and a framework to create consistent supportive programme *for* and *with* migrants. Snezhina also shared how civil society organizations in the city are working with migrant communities, including on joint local/migrant artist projects.

In September 2021 a [Bureau for Information and Services for Third Country Nationals](#) was established, in a free facility offered by the municipality in a central, prominent location where migrants live. This Bureau offers offer guidance, assistance and advice in Bulgarian, English, Ukrainian, French, Arabic, Farsi and Russian. Snezhina contends that the Bureau offers migrants with the help they need from engagement in the services to empowering the migrants to get involved to peer support. Thus, the Bureau become a one-stop-shop that coordinates with the migrant communities and is continuously learning from the migrants to remain agile and responsive to their needs.

During the questions and answers, Snezhina explained how city government messaging is trying to convey positive perceptions of migrants as a measure of social cohesion. She noted that as yet the city of Sofia has not undertaken a city-wide survey or opinion poll on attitudes to migrants. This data, Snezhina contends, would be helpful to contribute to a wider strategy and public awareness campaign. She outlined the SDA's public awareness campaign targeting local schools, on social media and on public transportation in the city focuses on positive messages from/about migrants.

2.4 Helping local actors to transpose national frameworks into local action, Nikoloz Rosebashvili, Ministry of Regional Development, and Infrastructure

Opening the second half of Thematic Session I, Nikoloz Rosebashvili offered an intervention to show how activities by municipal authorities can be developed drawing on government policy. He highlighted the central government strategy to 2025 focused on migration management with activities outlined in this strategy which strengthens municipal accountability in their self-government work. He noted that the framework to build such action is the [Migration Strategy of Georgia 2021-2030](#). Nikoloz emphasized that these strategic goals aim to increase local self-governance.

He noted that in the context of migration management at a local level, municipalities face common challenges. Municipalities are diligent in their efforts to create favourable environment for migrants in their communities – through programming but often without direct authorities responsible for migrants. He contends that sometimes municipalities find ways to bypass centralized systems to offer relevant support based on the needs of the migrants. He offers the example of kindergarten provision for children of migrants or social assistance. The influx of refugees from Ukraine also presents a good example on how municipalities are embedding an institutionalization of migrant management systems and are developing a tailored, non-homogenous approach to addresses their immediate needs.

Nikoloz encouraged local authorities and municipalities to analyze international examples of successful local migration management to help build their own competences within municipalities. These capacity building exercises and awareness raising campaigns—including events like this conference—can help with the first steps towards building better systems and experiences for migrants.



2.5 Supporting local migrant needs through a community service centre, Kakha Samkhardadze, Head of Samgori District Municipality

In his intervention, the Head of Samgori district within the city of Tbilisi, Kakha Samkhardadze outlined a specific project in addressing migrant needs through a community service centre. First, Kakha offered some context on Samgori, a district with a significant community of migrants and need to address the reintegration of the recent influx of returnees to the district.

The community service centre project was a response to directly support the needs of these migrant communities. He recognized that this project also acknowledged the need for a full-scale integration, as many returnees come back to Georgia from foreign countries with an enhanced skill set that can benefit to the region and municipality. This project was also an opportunity to leverage the knowledge base around reintegration from across the districts to enable a joint project implementation. As a by-product of the successful implementation of this community service centre project, is the mobilization of the shared knowledge across districts and the building of trust. Following this project implementation, these different districts are more open to participate in further collaborative projects within migration management and beyond.

Kakha explained that the community service centre provides the groundwork for host communities to offer the best of reintegration support and services. The purpose of these centres is to offer returnees a smooth reinsertion back into economic life and cultural aspects of the area. The centre serves as a mechanism to revitalize local communities. In conclusion, Kakha acknowledged that the community service centres remain an evolving migration management tool, offering new services and the opportunity to identify new needs of migrants in the future.

2.6 Overview of limitations and opportunities of migration management at local level in the context of Georgian self-government, David Melua, National Association of Local Authorities of Georgia (NALAG)

David Melua's intervention offered an overview of the limitations and opportunities of migration management at local level in the context of Georgian self-government. He outlined what he described as the classical approach to migration, with the main role of migration management focused on central government with local government playing a supportive role, primarily in the provision of services. With the development of capacity at local level, there is an opportunity, Melua contended, to enhance the role of local government.

In the context of migration, David noted we live in unusual times, with challenges in Georgia including migration into the country including recently from Ukraine and visitors from Russia. He acknowledged the pressure these current circumstances place on local government. This pressure takes the form of facilitating children in pre-school and in the education systems at a local level, along with pressure on utilities among other areas. Inflow migration and returnees to Georgia has an impact on regions, with the scarcity of resources locally and the need for building capacity to address the infrastructure pressures, such on the local healthcare system.

He suggested that local government can turn the challenges to their local systems into opportunities, especially for the labour market. Self-government can turn vulnerabilities of outward flow of migrants into strengths drawing on their knowledge and experiences, not just focus remittances back to the regions and communities. He challenges local municipalities to cooperate with diaspora, mobilizing



them to take part actively into the development of cities and regions. Institutionalizing this work and bringing in public-private partnership (PPP) laws adopted offer a positive step forward. To maximize the impact of this work with diaspora, requires flexibility on the part of the local public sector actors, according to David Melua, along with an openness to an exchange of good practice from other countries within the region.

In summary, David Melua contended that as migration trends develop in Georgia, local government needs to remain flexible to address migration management. He acknowledged that migration is not homogenous, migration into local communities can include returnees—and the reintegration of these migrants—along with massive migration inflows, such as with Ukraine. He also noted this need for flexibility needs to be at the local, regional, and national government level. A strong, organized migration strategy and implementation system is required, that includes elements of diaspora mobilization and partnership, including public-private partnership.

2.7 Discussion, Questions, and Answers – Thematic Session I

Following the interventions, the session was open discussion and for questions moderated by Sanja Celebric Lukovac. This led to a spirited discussion from participants and panellists. First, Michael Newson raised a question related to internal migration, that is, rural to urban migration, experienced across the region to cities such as Tbilisi and Yerevan. The potential to create secondary city hubs for such internal migrants was discussed at the conference. It was noted that municipalities need to be ready to accept these internal migrants to be successful, including the appropriate resources and budget to manage an influx of internal (or external) migration.

David Melua recognized that internal migration is not uniquely a Georgian challenge, it is a world trend. With urban populations increasing, there is potential to explore regional integrated programmes and the relevant policy instruments to create regional or inter-regional equalization to ensure such secondary cities and town to support internal migration growth. A discussion by mayors of Georgian towns and cities reinforced these points, including the importance of local services including water, power, and broadband IT infrastructure to further incentivize younger people to move back to their villages or towns of origin.

Leah Fairman from the Irish Government agency Western Development Commission shared the experience from Ireland, a country traditionally experienced high levels of outward migration along with internal migration from rural community to urban centres like the capital city of Dublin. She outlined the recent central government policy, which includes the development of the [Connected Hubs](#) initiative, in cooperation with the regional agency, the Western Development Commission. With over 400 co-working spaces for remote workers and digital entrepreneurs across Ireland, the purpose of the Connected Hubs is to offer an alternative to living and working in urban centres. The Connected Hubs deliver fast broadband connectivity and foster community cohesion in local towns and villages. These hubs are also offering returned migrants and Ukrainian refugees with remote working space outside of urban centres. She reported that to date the initiative's success is due to the national and local level cooperation. Connected Hubs bookings are coordinated on an online platform supported by national government, combined with regional cooperation by local authorities and civil society actors that deliver the day-to-day operations of the co-working hubs.



Second half of Thematic Session I on stage in Tbilisi. Photo (from left to right): Sanja Celebric Lukovac, IOM Georgia and session moderator; Nikoloz Rosebashvili, Ministry of Regional Development and Infrastructure, Georgia; Kakha Samkharadze, Mayor of Samgori Municipality, Georgia; David Melua, National Association of Local Authorities of Georgia.



3 Thematic Session II: Local governance authorities' data needs and uses along the policy cycle

Thematic Session II was facilitated by Nino Sanikidze of the State Commission on Migration Issues. The focus of the session was to allow participants to confront issues around the data needed to support migration and development-related programmes and policies on the local level. In this context is the data that are calibrated and responsive to the profiles and needs of the migrants and local communities they include and serve. Interventions in this panel spoke to how data can be generated and used at different stages of the policy cycle – from initial agenda setting, including identification of problems that should be solved or addressed by policy, to policy or intervention design and implementation, and eventually to feedback cycles of monitoring and evaluation.

3.1 Local Governance authorities' data needs and uses along the policy cycle *Michael Newson, Labour Migration and Human Development Division, IOM Regional Office, Vienna*

Michael Newson started his presentation showing a complex transportation diagram: it was the Nairobi transportation links from private buses and other, often informal, forms of transportation. With careful use of data tracking of to/from destinations throughout the city, this map was created, attempting to make sense from an otherwise chaotic system. The purpose of this introduction, Michael explained, was to show the use of data at a city level that can have a positive impact on understanding and mapping systems.

He outlined the types of data that can be useful for migration management: government data, including surveys and census data, administrative data, tailored survey data, 'big data' taken from social media usage tracking mechanisms, and anecdotal data. Before he outlined the potential uses at a local authority level for these different types of data, Michael shared some of the challenges in data use including capturing relevant data, investing in data analysis and the difficulty in sharing or communicating the data to relevant parties.

Michael also highlighted why local governments would find it useful to access and analyse migration data in four ways. First, migration data helps to identify trends and responses through policy and programme adaptation. Second, local government can apply data to identify challenges or issues for certain groups of migrants. Third, data can contribute to assessing the impact of programmes or services for migrants, allowing for evidence-based adaptations. Finally, data helps to integrate migration or diaspora into local development strategies and plans.

With a recent Canadian example, Michael showed how recent census data mapped the shift in immigration from the biggest Canadian cities, like Toronto, Montreal and Vancouver to smaller cities and rural areas. As a trend showed in the data, this enabled a justified shift in financial resources for integration services. Local data gathered also reinforced the need for further small city or rural community investment showing the shortages in critical services including housing and healthcare.

Michael also detailed the recent use of 'big data' or meta data on mobility of Ukrainians. The usage of social media, such as Facebook, can help to map the mobility patterns of Ukrainians leaving the Ukraine, including basic demographic information such as gender, and the first and next country patterns of migration by this group. This data can then be mapped to get a sense of the concentration of displaced people and consider resource allocations accordingly.



Data can also contribute to identifying challenges of certain groups. Michael cited an example of Syrian women in Turkey accessing services at a significantly lower rate than men. This enabled service providers to adapt their communication messaging and programme delivery to meet the needs of Syrian women, including offering child-friendly or childcare provision available on site.

Michael also offered an example of how data is effectively used to assess the impact of programmes and adapting based on the data. He highlighted the investor immigration programmes, such as the ‘Buy Property in Georgia’ campaign. Through data analysis, the headline was adapted to an ‘Investment in Georgia’ message, yielding more positive and desired results.

Finally, Michael described ways to integrate diaspora into local development using data. He spoke of diaspora mapping at a local level, including mapping of their skills and interests that could be useful to contribute to local development activity. He detailed the ‘big data’ use of mapping Moldovan diaspora in Italy by city, based on web site views on topics based on travel, real estate, employment, and other interests, thus enabling government official to tailor messaging to diaspora groups.

He outlined the work in Georgia and Armenia on onomastic data,¹ that is the usage of professional databases like ORCID (academic database with over five million people) and ZoomInfo (professional database with over 156 million people) to find those with common Georgian or Armenian surnames. Michael cited the case of Armenia, where such a data collection yielded over 26,000 possible diaspora with Armenian surnames on ORCID and an additional 270,000 on ZoomInfo. This information concentrated on professionals typically with high level of qualification or working in key professions such as in medicine, finance, engineering, or science. Through the analysis of this vast quantity of data, Michael explained how it was analyzed to become more applicable at a national or local level, such as narrowing this group to the United States or France and in particular fields to explore possible collaborations and learning back to the country of origin. He also cited the Georgia diaspora mapping project with over 90,000 data files that has led to over 4,000 diaspora profiles and over 400 expressions of interest to re-engage with the Georgia and two Diaspora Investment Forums.

Michael concluded his presentation by exploring what happens if immigration data isn’t available for local planning activity. For example, he outlined how this disparity may lead to the reduced ability to prepare for future chance, the possibility of a growth of inequalities and social tensions, poor resource allocation along with missed opportunities to leverage migration/diaspora for local development.

3.2 Data collection tools and data sources available for local authorities in Georgia, Paata Shavishvili, National Statistics Office of Georgia (GeoStat)

In his intervention, Paata Shavishvili, the Deputy Executive Director of GeoStat, presented the production of data statistics in Georgia related to migration management and of interest to local municipal authorities. The fundamental principles of the statistics produced by GeoStat are grounded in the [United Nations Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\)](#) and the application of international standards in gathering data related to migration. He noted the principles for statistics include their relevance, objectivity and accessibility to local authorities, the compliance with professional standards and ethics, privacy, and international cooperation as factors to develop data sets with high levels of

¹ For information on the Armenian diaspora mapping survey, please see the interventions from Natia Kvitsiani (pages 27-28) and Karinée Khojayan (page 28) from the first EMERGE Conference from November 2020 report published in January 2021.



integrity. He offered some additional context on GeoStat and how their structure and efforts meet these key principles. GeoStat, Paata explained, is an independent institution, with a Board of Directors and Advisory Board charged with the statistical work for the country. The priority of GeoStat is to produce high quality statistics, applying effective processes for statistics production, and improving the statistics infrastructure.

The key data sources used by GeoStat and relevant to local authorities include administrative sources through the Ministry of Internal Affairs, population statistics and quarterly descriptive surveys. He outlined the data sources on external migration, specifically anonymized data on citizenship, date of birth, gender, and length of stay in Georgia or outside of the country. Paata noted some of the limitations of this data including country of destination or destination in Georgia, country of origin or place of origin in Georgia, purpose of migration, education, and other socio-economic characteristics.

Paata explained that the future for data collection by GeoStat centre around the next census in late 2024 and the opportunity to study other aspects of migration post-census. He also mentioned the plans for a population register and for big data mobile data to help to identify migration and mobility patterns within Georgia and outside of the country. This big data project specifically involves cooperation with other agencies and offer migration and tourism statistics drawing on mobile positioning or operator data. Paata contends this process will begin with the production of internal migration statistics annually and in real time. For local municipalities there will be statistical information available on number of visits to the municipality and thus detailed information about popular destinations, including tourist destinations both by local and foreign visitors. The population register project began in 2018 with an expert mission within the Technical Support and Information Exchange Instrument of the European Commission (TAIEX) to enable GeoStat to gather good practices on such population registers from the experiences of other countries. This population register will also be developed in the context of the [National Strategy for the Development of Official Statistics of Georgia 2020-2023](#). Another valuable source of data on migration is the [Migration Country Profile](#), produced by the [State Commission on Migration Issues \(SMCI\) of Georgia](#). The Migration Country Profile includes migration-related facts, figures and trends in Georgia and is updated once every two years by SMCI.

In addition, Paata concluded by stating that GeoStat is in the middle of an update of digital cartography (geo databases) of Georgia to be completed in 2023. Following the census in 2024, there will be the detailed analysis and the distribution of population census results.

3.3 Data collection tools and data sources available for local authorities in Armenia, Karine Kuyumjyan, Statistical Committee of the Republic of Armenia (ArmStat)

Karine Kuyumjyan opened her presentation by detailing the administrative sources for migration data in the Republic of Armenia: the state population register, police, migration service, and the border management information system. She then offered additional details on each of these sources and the type of data collected.

She started with the State Population Register, which offers a quarterly anonymized electronic database of those registering or deregistering in Armenia, including citizens of the country, foreigners with a residence permit, persons granted or with a ceased refugee status claim, stateless persons in



the country and those granted temporary or political asylum. She illustrated these population movements by regions and in the city of Yerevan.

The police statistical data in Armenia focuses on semi-annual and annual reports on residency status and demographics, such as sex, age group, country of citizenship and basis for granting residency. She also noted that the Migration Service, as part of the Ministry of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure, provides statistics on persons with applications for international protection, asylum seekers, those granted refugee status.

The Border Management Information Service (BMIS) provides information on international passenger turnover in and out of Armenia. ArmStat provides additional statistical records of all border crossings based on BMIS data including gender, age, country of citizenship.

She noted there are other sources of migration data, including the population census every 10 years, which was just completed earlier in 2022. This census includes questions on place of birth, country of citizenship, category of residence and location at census time, which can offer a local statistical snapshot of migration data. This most recent census also combined information collected through the State Population Register and BMIS, with a special software programme to harmonize the data. Karine contended that the new system has the potential to offer key quantitative indicators including citizens and foreign residents along with demographic information.

3.4 IOM data collection utilities and resources for local level migration governance needs and an introduction to the Migration Governance Indicators (MGI), Estefania Guallar Ariño, Global Migration Data Analysis Centre (GMDAC)

In Estefania Guallar Ariño's intervention, she highlighted the IOM work on key data sources for local migration. She started her presentation by offering an introduction to the Migration Governance Indicators (MGI), available at a local level since 2018. The MGI assesses countries and municipalities migration governance, identifying good practices and areas for further policy development. She noted that to date almost 100 national governments have participated in the MGI with participation from 65 local authorities.

Estefania summarized the process to participate in the local MGI, which is voluntary, consultative, and sensitive to local context. The process includes a launch of the MGI, the data collection and analysis, inter-ministerial consultation, and publication of the profile, see the diagram of the LMGI (Local Migration Governance Indicators) in Appendix 8.3.2. Following the completion of this process, the MGI offers comprehensive outcomes: identifying gaps and targets in migration governance, assisting in the development of comprehensive strategies and the monitoring of local progress. To illustrate the potential of the aggregated data from across Local MGI participating local authorities, Estefania showed that close to three-quarters of MGI local authorities lacked a migration strategy. On a local level she demonstrated with examples from Coto Brus (Costa Rica), Mexico City and Dublin, Ireland to show the ways that the MGI municipal migration policies can lead to concrete actions, especially for the vulnerabilities of migrants.

She noted that MGI is a key tool for the implementation of the Global Compact on Migration, including in the areas of migrants' rights, whole-of-government approach, partnerships, well-being of migrants, mobility dimension of crisis and safe, orderly and regular migration.



Next, Estefania presented the Multidimensional Migrant Integration Index, a tool that aims to assess the capacity and knowledge of migrants in successfully establishing themselves in their new localities to inform local interventions, policy formulation, and broader development outcomes. She outlined the six dimensions of integration: psychological, linguistic, social, economic, political, and navigational, captured within the tool.

Finally, Estefania presented the Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM), IOM's primary data collection tool on internal displacement and migration. She noted that the DTM was developed to gather and disseminate critical multi-layered information on the mobility, vulnerabilities, and needs of displaced and mobile populations. This tool enables decision-makers and responders to provide these populations with better context-specific assistance. The DTM is active since 2004 in over 100 countries. The methodological framework and data collection of the DTM in urban areas is across four components: mobility tracking, flow monitoring, registration, and surveys (See the diagram in the Appendix 8.3.3). She noted that the DTM is designed to capture data on both static and mobile populations, and in urban or rural contexts.

3.5 MGI assessments in Moldova as a tool to support evidence-based policy design and implementation on a central and local levels, Vitalie Varzari, IOM Moldova

Vitalie Varzari presented the context to the MGI, that began in 2015 when IOM developed the Migration Governance Framework (MiGOF), the only internationally agreed definition of well-managed migration. The MGI was then developed to operationalize the MiGOF. He outlined some the context of the MGI as a baseline assessment tool on national basis with LMGI (Local Migration Governance Indicators) to strengthen migration governance in local municipalities. He noted it is not a ranking of countries on the design or implementation of migration policies, but rather to be a framework to help countries in the assessment of comprehensiveness of their migration policies along with ways to identify gaps. As noted in the previous intervention, the MGI is coordinated by GMDAC of the IOM and localized in a highly participatory, consultative way validated by national and local stakeholders and authorities.

Following on Estefania Guallar Ariño's intervention, Vitalie offered additional information on the six dimensions of the MGI framework. First, [migrants' rights](#) is the domain to assess the extent to which migrants have the same status as citizens in terms of access to basic social services such as health, education, and social security. It also describes the rights of migrants to family reunification, to work, and to residency and citizenship. The ratification of the main international conventions is also included within this domain.

Second, Vitalie detailed the [whole-of-government approach](#) the dimension that assesses countries' institutional, legal, and regulatory frameworks related to migration policies. This domain also reviews the existence of national migration strategies that are in-line with development, as well as institutional transparency and coherence in relation to migration management. This domain also investigates the extent to which governments collect and use migration data.

Next, the [partnerships](#) domain focuses on countries' efforts to cooperate on migration-related issues with other states and with relevant non-governmental actors, including civil society organizations and the private sector. Cooperation can lead to improvements in governance by aligning and raising standards, increasing dialogue, and providing structures to overcome challenges.



The fourth dimension is the [well-being of migrants](#), which includes indicators on countries' policies for managing the socioeconomic well-being of migrants, through aspects such as the recognition of migrants' educational and professional qualifications, provisions regulating student migration and the existence of bilateral labour agreements between countries. Indicators equally focus on policies and strategies related to diaspora engagement and migrant remittances.

Fifth, the [mobility dimensions of crisis](#) studies the type and level of preparedness of countries when they are faced with mobility dimensions of crises, linked to either disasters, the environment and/or conflict. The questions are used to identify the processes in place for nationals and non-nationals both during and after disasters, including whether humanitarian assistance is equally available to migrants as it is to citizens.

The final dimension, [safe, orderly and dignified migration](#) analyses countries' approach to migration management in terms of border control and enforcement policies, admission criteria for migrants, preparedness and resilience in the case of significant and unexpected migration flows, as well as the fight against trafficking in human beings and smuggling of migrants. It also assesses efforts and incentives to help integrate returning citizens.

The conclusion to Vitalie's presentation centred around offering some additional context on the benefits of the LMGI, to help local authorities to take stock of the migration initiatives, foster dialogue on migration between national governments and local authorities. Vitalie also explained how the LMGI enables local authorities to learn from one another by sharing common challenges and identify potential solutions. He offered a Moldovan example from the Cahul municipality and their interest in the LMGI. He noted the LMGI results will be used to support the migration mainstreaming in the Cahul municipality development plans. The aim is the LMGI will be to foster a community of practice for the diaspora, migration, and development field in the municipality. Vitalie noted that the LMGI will also identify capacity building requirements across all six dimensions of the MGI and to support concrete programmes for effective humanitarian assistance for the Ukrainian war and its impact on the impact on Moldova.



The conference participants watching Day 1, Thematic Session II



4 Thematic Session III: Policy frameworks and innovations to support coherent and inclusive migration and development mainstreaming

The third thematic session, as explained by session chair Michaella Vanore, joining virtually, focuses on the governance of migration governance—that is, the structures and processes in place that support the integration of local authorities into the bigger migration and development policy landscape. The interventions were chosen, Michaella explained to be models of coordination and cooperation between local authorities and national authorities, and between local authorities of different places. She explained that the interventions will demonstrate mechanisms to translate principles of coordination into implementation, but they also show what can happen if cooperation or coordination is limited and policy incoherence occurs as a result.

4.1 Policy frameworks & innovations to support coherent & inclusive migration and development mainstreaming— Audrey Hickcox, IOM Geneva

As Audrey Hickcox commenced her presentation, she outlined [Making Migration Work for Sustainable Development \(M4SD\)](#) a multi-level governance programme in practice, working with local communities and national governments to explore how well managed migration can make mobility a force for good, bringing positive change. She noted that the three components of M4SD are to support mainstreaming migration into local and national policies, implement concrete activities with local level engagement with diaspora and private sector, and finally, learning including capacity development and knowledge exchange.

To illustrate M4SD in practice, Audrey highlighted the case of Ivanjica, Serbia, to show how migration policy coordination can lead to change for people. She highlighted that Ivanjica is a smaller city facing depopulation and slowing development because young people are moving from rural areas to bigger cities or are leaving the country entirely. She showed how by adapting national laws that include mobility, such as the National Youth Strategy and National Employment Strategy, translated into a local action plan for migration and for youth, where migration issues play a central role. The setting up of local technical or training schools, which train young people from 16-30 years old on skills that local businesses need, Audrey cited leather tailoring or machine operation or even business partnerships to provide direct training-to-employment paths to contribute to renewed town vibrancy.

Audrey contended that often migration governance is only pertaining to migration or asylum policies developed at the national levels. However, she added to ensure every person can achieve their full potential, there is a need to develop better multilevel models for migration governance.

She offered some additional context on the idea of mainstreaming migration, meaning that migrants and displaced people are considered in all policies, *not just* migration policies. Policy coherence helps to ensure that this policy work at national or local level protects and empowers migrants and communities fully, so that everyone can lead fulfilling lives. She demonstrated for mainstreaming and policy coherence of migration also contribute to addressing the UN SDGs in particular Goal 17 Partnership for the Goals, where policy coherence is referenced. The Global Compact on Migration (GCM) also draw on these concepts of mainstreaming and policy coherence. She asserted that the GCM draws on guiding principles for a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach and emphasized that beyond the big ideas, the integration of migration across policies and practices ensures that there is a respect for migrants' needs, voices, and capabilities.



Audrey noted the importance of establishing both migration *specific* policies and migration *sensitive* policies at all levels of governance and impacting all aspects of the community from healthcare, employment, housing and beyond. She cited the example of the COVID-19 pandemic and how all members of a community needed access to healthcare, whether undocumented migrants, citizens, or migrants with work permits.

She employed an analogy of a meal to offer additional detail on mainstreaming and policy coherence in practice. She noted that creating inclusive policy environments requires key ingredients: a whole-of-society approach, political will, engaging local leaders, space for consultation and involvement of migrants and diaspora. She added that it is not the development of policies but the implementation, monitoring and adaptation of such policies with broad participation. This holistic multi-sectoral cooperation must also happen across policy areas, Audrey suggested education and employment as an example, referred to as horizontal coordination. She offered examples of local committees, such as Moldova's hometown associations (see next intervention in Thematic Session III). The next ingredient cited by Audrey for this process is national-local cooperation, where national authorities can support local leaders to manage integration, and in the other direction local authorities can support better migration decision making at the national level, described as vertical coordination.

The final ingredient that Audrey highlighted during her intervention is the importance of data for informed, local policy making. She emphasized two key points related to data: first, on data protection, where collecting data protects the identity of individuals and makes them feel safe and comfortable to access local services. Second, she noted that all policies, projects and services need to be developed on a real understanding of the local context: there is a need to invest in the systems to help interpret the data gathered to make informed decisions. She concluded her presentation by reinforcing the importance of national support for effective local implementation of migration policies, stating that funding, trust, strong institutions, and capacity building together contributes to success.

4.2 Translating national policy priorities into local-level action through multi-stakeholder cooperation *Nadejda Zubco*, Diaspora Relations Bureau – Republic of Moldova, *Anastasia Rusu*, Alliance of Hometown Associations, and *Tatiana Solonari*, UNDP

In this intervention focused on the Republic of Moldova, three speakers offered their own perspectives on the translation of national policy priorities into local level action. Nadejda Zubco of the Diaspora Relations Bureau (BRD) set the scene for the intervention from the national government perspective. She outlined the Government of the Republic of Moldova's Plan related to diaspora to ensure a sustainable and comprehensive framework. Some of the directives highlighted in her presentation included: the effective (re)integration of citizens of the Republic of Moldova, voting rights for diaspora abroad, and intensifying collaboration with diaspora in the fields of education, culture, local development, climate action along with financial instruments to attract remittances.

She highlighted the role of the BRD as coordinating the diaspora, migration, and development nationally, along with the involvement of key actors: national and local government, civil society, ministries, diaspora organizations, and hometown associations. She noted this integrated approach is underpinned in the country's [Diaspora 2025 Strategy](#). A turning point in this process, Nadejda conveyed, came in 2017 when a government decision led to the establishment of the inter-ministerial committee on diaspora, migration, and development, along with local committees. She also detailed



the monitoring and evaluation indicators for diaspora, migration, and development at this cooperative level. For instance, she reported about how the monitoring process identified that by 2019 82% of sectoral policies contain a migration impact. She outlined a vast range of diaspora projects, over 185 diaspora organizations known by the BRD and the online channels to connect with diaspora.

The next component of the intervention was facilitated by Tatiana Solonari of UNDP Moldova, and she focused on engaging diaspora in local development. She offered some context on migration, noting that over the last 30 years about 13% of the population of the Republic of Moldova have been displaced worldwide: almost every family in the country has at least one member abroad. The UNDP Moldova, with the support provided by Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, developed the migration and local development project, a catalyst to the establishment of the first 55 Hometown Associations. These Hometown Associations became the connecting bridges between communities and their migrants in diaspora or in the Republic of Moldova, with another 100 communities replicating this model with additional Hometown Associations, demonstrating the scaling potential and sustainability of the model. She highlighted how the UNDP Moldova base their diaspora, migration, and development work on a five-pillar approach: mainstreaming migration at institutional level, mainstreaming migration at policy level, the establishment of Hometown Associations, the implementation of joint local project and the scaling up and sustainability of the initiative. As a result, Tatiana reported on the implementation of 116 beneficiary communities impacting over 550,000 inhabitants in local communities with a budget of \$5 million USD, with about two-thirds of funding coming from co-funding, including the private sector.

Tatiana shared some of the challenges and solutions of this process with the conference. First the lack of local government capacities in outward migration for local development, and the solution drawn by UNDP is to foster strong partner communities to test a new model for sustainable local development. Second, she reported the lack of migration data that is being addressed multidimensional local data on migration for reinforce evidence-based local policymaking. Next is the lack of viable local diaspora organizations, which was addressed through the creation of new institutional set-up for diaspora engagement. There was also a challenge of low-level diaspora cooperation with local authorities and with local services, in which the UNDP piloted a fund matching scheme tailored to the needs of local partners. Finally, there was concern over the sustainability of the model based solely on hometown associations, and the solution was the Government of the Republic of Moldova institutionalized best practices through the [Diaspora Succeeds at Home \(DAR 1+3\)](#) programme. In her conclusion, Tatiana offered some lessons learned for the area of diaspora, migration, and development at a local level. She reported that diaspora contributions can be an alternative funding source, the establishment of hometown associations is an efficient tool to build sustainable partnerships between migrants and local authorities. She also shared the learning that the use of crowdfunding campaigns has proven to be an effective option to fund local projects. Finally, this model and approach is a way for the diaspora to become actively engaged and support governance during periods of crisis.

The final component of this intervention was presented by Anastasia Rusu, the President of the Alliance of Hometown Associations. First, Anastasia offered some context on the Alliance, as a national platform to represent and promote the interests of member as well to strengthen the capacities of the Hometown Associations (HTAs). She offered an overview of the HTA profile, with the average association represents a community of about 5,400 people, they have a local organization



of 16 members with on average an investment of 1.3 million MDL (€66,000 euro) in local community initiatives. She noted the impact on community development across the Republic of Moldova, including an aggregate investment of almost \$9 million USD and almost 800 new job opportunities. Anastasia reinforced the presentation by Tatiana on the ability for HTAs to respond to crisis, with the response of these local communities to support refugees from Ukraine. She concluded her component of her intervention by outlining the structure of the Alliance of Hometown Associations, that plans to work strategically across four key areas: institutional development of the Alliance, for advocacy in policy development, mobilizing inward investment into local community and overall local development initiatives.

4.3 Cooperation with local authorities in the process of implementation of the State Reintegration Programme, David Peikrishvili, Ministry of Labour, Georgia

David Peikrishvili began his intervention by outlining the main services of the [State Reintegration Programme](#) for Georgia. He noted how these services, such as temporary accommodation, support for professional education, coverage of medical expenses, income generating grants and referral services, are proving as important to returnees as the Ukrainian refugees into the various regions across the country.

He highlighted the main challenges to reintegration services at a local level, namely data on returned migrants, the coordination among stakeholders and mechanisms to inform beneficiaries of service provision. In his presentation he mentioned that even though not all municipalities have a high concentration of refugees or returnees, capacity building of local structures remains crucial. He noted that even with a small number of migrants within a community, learning opportunities, such as this conference, offer local authorities with the chance to share experiences across regions and with international experts on good practice.

Next, David shared details on the various services available under the State Reintegration Programme. Temporary accommodation, he noted, is a service that offers accommodation in a hotel for up to six days and subsequently a transfer to municipal shelter or alternative housing arrangements. He referenced the role of municipalities who also offer special aid or housing for socially vulnerable people.

Next, he outlined the specific arrangements for the coverage of medical expenditure, which includes consultations, medications, physio, or social rehabilitation up to ₾1000 GEL. David explained the key role of municipalities in the delivery of this service, to offer information and assist with documentation to process claims.

Another key service is income generating grants, and once again David reinforced the key role of municipalities to help returnees and others compile or complete the documentation to secure payments. In addition, he noted that municipalities also assist in the verification of information related to this service. Finally, David outlined how municipalities are involved in informing beneficiaries about the reintegration programme and what may be available to them through regular consultation and referrals to relevant programmes and services. He viewed the involvement of municipalities in raising awareness of the State Reintegration Programme to ensure the programme remains sustainable and allows for delivery for those who need services obtain services.



5 Thematic Session IV: Policy frameworks and innovations to support coherent and inclusive migration and development mainstreaming

Day 2 began with the moderator Michaela Vanore introducing the fourth and final thematic session. Thematic Session IV was a showcase of how different networks of actors, including civil society organisations, can bring local governance authorities into contact with each other and with stakeholders who can support development and implementation of tailored programming, which can in turn support exchange of information and good practice across bodies in different countries with similar challenges. The case studies in this session show how regional cooperation can help local authorities transform short-term challenges into long-term development gains.

5.1 The role of a civil society organization cooperation in supporting local migration and development interventions and outcomes, *Vartan Marashlyan, Repat Armenia Foundation*

Vartan opened by setting the scene related to the Armenian diaspora, with 7 to 8 million members of the diaspora across 100 countries and 3000 diaspora organizations worldwide. He noted that a key challenge is that less than 30% of Armenian diaspora is engaged, with the additional complexity that Armenian diaspora many have a weak connection to the country.

In Appendix 8.3.4 is the Diaspora Engagement Impact/Risk Matrix, which Vartan described in the context of the work of Repat Armenia. He explained that often countries of origin concentrate on the low risk, low impact activities, such as remittances and tourism, as a form of diaspora engagement. Conversely, Repat Armenia focuses on high impact, high risk activities such as voluntary repatriation of diaspora to Armenia, institutional development along with lobbying and influencing activities.

He emphasized the importance of trust in diaspora engagement and how it should be embedded in outreach strategies—which he noted can be a challenge due to different languages involved—along with institutional engagement, the delegation of power and maintaining an aligned agenda focused on mutually beneficial diaspora activities. He also discussed the interface between the two major powers state and diaspora, a relationship based on a foundation of trust. He outlined that the care, and gratitude in a state-diaspora relationship can result in investment. When he described investment, he noted the investment of time and initiatives from the state in building diaspora relationships and the investment by diaspora in the country, infrastructure, and initiatives. These investments are based on the affinity, gratitude and pride diaspora gain through this ongoing diaspora-state relationship, which Vartan acknowledged, can be difficult to embed in the institutional government institutions and convey to diaspora.

The rest of Vartan’s presentation focused on examples of Armenian diaspora engagement projects, and their impact these projects included:

- [Wings of Tatev](#), established in 2010, is a \$40 million USD investment in an aerial tramway, which dramatically increased tourism and thus had a systemic impact on the Tatev regional development;
- Youth-centred initiatives such as the [Tumo Center](#) and [Armath Engineering Laboratories](#) focused on bringing STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) experiences to young people;



- [Rearmenia Platform](#) showcasing crowdfunding opportunities through projects for impact investment and fundraising, with over \$700,000 collected by over 5,000 diaspora donors to complete over 30 projects;
- [Teach for Armenia](#) and [Birtright Armenia](#) are programmes that are drawn from other country's ideas to engage diaspora, adapted for the Armenian context;
- State-driven programmes such as [iGorts Fellowship Programme](#) for diaspora professionals to work in the Government of Armenia agencies and consider long-term repatriation.

Since 2012, Repat Armenia has worked on fostering high impact, brain gain repatriation and effective diaspora engagement with Armenia. Vartan reported how the organization provides integration support to repatriates, including in employment, business, networking, and social adaptation. To date, he highlighted that over 12,000 Armenian repatriate community members and an additional 1,000 repatriation applications or integration support are facilitated each year.

In his conclusion, Vartan noted the importance of matching state and diaspora priorities along with the ability to learn from other countries and their migration or diaspora experience – he asserted that about 70% of the diaspora experience or challenges are similar with only a smaller percentage of difference is related to culture or local nuances. He ended by stating that the support of the migrants today contributes to the ability to engage them later as successful members of the diaspora.

5.2 Sustainable reintegration and community revitalization: a pilot initiative of the Service Hubs Network in communities of return, Natia Kvistiani, IOM Georgia

Natia Kvistiani shared with the conference the Service Hubs Network, a reintegration pilot project in Georgia funded by the IOM Development Fund and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation. The targeted municipalities for this 24-month project included Guria, Imereti, Katheti and Tbilisi. The purpose of the project was to contribute to the Government of Georgia's efforts to support sustainable reintegration of returning migrants and community revitalization, while empowering migrants and communities as development actors. One of project catalysts was the COVID-19 pandemic, which saw thousands of returnees to Georgia and the need for accurate information across municipalities.

The core of the project, Natia explained, was the Municipal Service Hubs, a place that offers reliable information, meaningful counselling, and targeted services to returnees and the local population. The project started with a mapping of services available at national and local level, including the assistance available to returnees in the economic, social, and psychosocial dimensions. Next, was the development of a reintegration and referral guide and finally a training of Service Hub counsellors assigned by pilot municipalities.

She offered some additional information on the Referral Guide, more than 100 pages with regularly updated information available for returnees. The municipalities participating in the project uploaded the pilot guide to their web site with the aim that the information remained up-to-date even after the project ended. The content of the guide and of information available in the Service Hubs for returnees included accommodation, documentation, taxation and other aspects of the regulatory base, micro/small and medium sized business support services, education, employment, healthcare, social programmes, and reintegration programmes.



Following the success of the pilot, Natia outlined the plans to enhance the current Service Hubs in operation, including with additional training, public awareness campaigns and an online/hotline component of the service. She also noted the importance of the Service Hubs as a core element of the institutionalization of the municipality division. Finally, she hoped there would be an expansion of Service Hubs to new municipalities and the development of a network to share experiences and build additional capacity.

5.3 Innovations in cooperation – examples of municipal-to-municipal partnerships on refugees, migration and development, Stella Badin, Cahul Municipality, Republic of Moldova

Stella Badin, the Deputy Mayor of the Cahul Municipality, opened her intervention by offering some context on the relationship between the Cahul region and its diaspora. She also noted that impact that the influx of refugees from Ukraine has had on the work within the municipality. Cahul, she explained, is not traditionally a tourism city and therefore is not accustomed to migration flows or visitors. However, the Cahul municipality was willing to work on its deficits in this area and learn about how to engage with and manage the diaspora, migrants, and refugees coming to the area. The diaspora from the Cahul municipality itself offered great learning to support this new development.

She outlined that with a partnership that included NGOs, donors, and diaspora, the Cahul municipality set up a one-stop shop in a central location to offer information and service referrals for refugees, returnees and migrants coming to the area. She noted that the local authority worked collectively with these partners to make this centre an effective resource, with intensive work to set-up and operationalize the centre over an initial four-month period. Stella also acknowledged the support of IOM for this project implementation. She recognized the need to allocate appropriate funding to appropriately resource the centre in its early days.

To close her intervention, Stella outlined how the COVID-19 pandemic brought another set of challenges, but also opportunities to consider the breadth of activities and services that can and should be available to returnees and others in the area. Regional specific information on business and entrepreneurship development along with information on cultural and administrative activities drawing on the ideas and opinions directly from those coming into the region.

At the end of Thematic Session IV, the moderator Michaella Vanore noted that an additional intervention by Sophie van Haasen, Coordinator of the Mayors Mechanism will be included as part of the presentations linked in this report (see Appendix 8.3). Her intervention is entitled: ‘Call to local action for migrants and refugees: localizing global migration and forced displacement goals.’ The pre-recorded intervention provides information to local authorities on mechanisms by which they can raise awareness about local initiatives that support better migration and development mainstreaming within the context of wider regional policy frameworks.



6 Concluding Remarks

6.1 Reflections from Moderators and Conference Rapporteur, *Sanja Celebic Lukovac*, Chief of Mission, IOM Georgia, *Nino Sanikidze*, State Commission on Migration Issues Georgia, *Michaella Vanore*, University of Maastricht, *Maria Gallo*, Conference Rapporteur

Sanja Celebic Lukovac opened the concluding session by offering some reflections and key themes from the conference. She stated that the conference interventions solidified the knowledge participants already knew and confirmed that the complexity of the migration dynamic is situated in our complicated world, but she emphasized that often these complexities emerge at the local level. “Local authorities are often the first ones who get in touch with these new needs with migrant communities themselves and also with new feature of migration.” She asserted that these complexities require holistic, three-dimensional approaches, especially those faced at the local level. Solutions also need to be complex and holistic. Sanja noted that policies should be coupled with mechanisms for effective implementation, including an appropriate budget allocation.

Next, Nino Sanikidze offered her reflections on the event. She echoed the sentiments of Sanja in acknowledging the complexity of migration management, which she noted is the ongoing experience of even small countries like Georgia. Nino explained that there is an opportunity following the conference to focus on policies that can be enacted not only by central or national state actors with a migration brief, but across all Ministries who recognize their work is impacted by migration management, such as the Ministry of Education, in cooperation with a range of stakeholders. She also emphasized the importance of increasing the regional voice in the work of migration management.

Nino recognized that the similar challenges of migration faced in big cities are the same that are faced in smaller towns and even villages. This conference offered a chance for different countries from different perspectives – national, regional, local level—to learn from shared challenges and possibly consider how to adapt solutions that work elsewhere into one’s own context. Through the conference interventions, Nino acknowledged that the taking of a whole-of-society approach, involving local authorities and communities, is crucial as often the implementation of migration services is at a local level.

Maria Gallo opened her short address informing the conference that as conference rapporteur there will be a report with a summary and links available to extend the learning beyond the event. She highlighted key themes that emerged from across all the interventions namely: whole-of-society approach and a cascade from national, regional, and local approach towards coherence and a holistic, integrated approach. Next, she acknowledged the diversity of migrant communities: refugees, refugees from Ukraine, returnees, repatriates, diaspora, with each group potentially requiring different policies and different solutions for effective implementation. For a cooperative and ecosystem approach resources are crucial, which includes budgets for implementation and funding to support programming and delivery for migrant communities, but she also noted that the collection and analysis of data is another key resource. She noted resources are also required for appropriate capacity building measures at regional, local, and even community level. The ability to build trust within migration and diaspora communities for effective delivery of services but also to enable quality knowledge transfer from these groups to their local community. Opportunity to share our experiences- from different



regions of Georgia, from different countries within the Black Sea and South Caucasus region and beyond.

Michaella added to the concluding statements noting the issue of complexity in the migration population but also the complexities in the interactions at a community level, where she asserted that there is the opportunity to apply a community-based approach. She acknowledged that often the policies and approaches to migration management start with national policy and then are implemented at a local level. She contends that in the conference some of the successful interventions often initiated by the communities themselves taking a bottom-up approach, recognizing the local community context. She referenced the needs for local authorities, who are often the first port of call for migrants accessing services, to become engaged in partnership within their broader communities. Michaella also encouraged local authorities to involve local actors in problem identification and service design.

To offer final thoughts, Michaella asked the speakers to highlight what problems they saw emerge during the conference related to local migration management and potential solutions. Sanja outlined that different ideas and solutions have been identified during the conference. She outlined that the dynamic trends in migration—in Georgia and elsewhere—are often contradictory: massive outgoing migration, and, at the same time, returning migration and incoming migration from third-country nationals, possibly in transit or to stay in Georgia. She stated: “This is a reality that we have to understand and live with and make sure we have the policies, the mechanisms and operations approaches to manage it yield the best out of it for everyone in this process including the overall societies, and the communities where they live. We have to have more systems and more flexibility, which is also the solution which reflects this reality, increasingly complex dynamic. We need more understanding of this situation, more research, more discussions of this kind and more of the systemic complex responses instead of just quick fixes...we need more thinking and planning.”

Michaella emphasized the need for systemic rather than reactionary approaches to migration management. She cited European foresight and forecasting exercises that examine certain and uncertain migration futures including demographics and global labour markets. She noted that such foresight exercises can involve national migration actors but also local actors. She also referenced the [Diaspora Mapping Toolkit](#) a comprehensive IOM resource to showcase the kinds of mapping of diaspora and migration communities at different levels and the European Union Joint Research Centre publication [The Future of Migration in the European Union: Future Scenarios and Tools to Stimulate Forward-looking Discussions](#). Nino and Maria offered final thoughts on the importance of building relationships to help to gain trust between local authorities and migration communities but also identify the stakeholders involved – within local authorities. Time to reflect, connect, build relationship and identify stakeholders, identify problems and create solutions.

Sanja closed the conference by stating: “We are at the end of the EMERGE programme that went on for three years and which honed regional cooperation including these three conferences. We are not at the end of the work, we are going to continue and exploring many aspects of migration management work.” She ended by thanking the panellists and moderators for driving the discussion and the conference participants on their questions and interest in the event. Finally, she acknowledged her participants, translators for their engagement and to IOM colleagues for the months of effort in organizing the successful event.



Sanja Celebric Lukovac, IOM Georgia, addressing
the 3rd EMERGE Regional Conference



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8 List of Appendices

8.1 Final Conference Agenda

8.2 Moderator and Speaker Biographies

8.3 Presentations and Speaker's Notes - List of Supplementary Materials

8.3.1 An Integrated Approach to Reintegration – diagram

8.3.2 Local Migration Governance Indicators Process and Outcomes (LMGI)

8.3.3 Displacement Tracking Matrix – Methodological Framework

8.3.4 Diaspora Engagement Impact/Risk Matrix (Repat Armenia Presentation)

8.4 List of Conference Participants



8.1 Final Conference Agenda

EMERGE 3rd Regional Conference on Migration and Development Mainstreaming:

The role of local self-government

Agenda

8-9 November, 2022

Radisson Republic Event Hall (Across Radisson Blu Iveria), Tbilisi, Georgia,

DAY 1

8 November, Tuesday

9:30 – Registration of Participants

10:00 – 10:40 Conference Opening and Welcome

- **Ms. Sanja Celebic Lukovac**, Chief of Mission, IOM Georgia.
- **H.E. Helene Sand Andresen**, Ambassador of Kingdom of Norway to Georgia.
- **Dr. Sabine Machl**, UN Resident Coordinator in Georgia.
- **Mr. Nikoloz Rosebashvili**, Head of Department for Development of Local Self-Government and Policy, Ministry of Regional Development and Infrastructure, Georgia.
- **Mr. Amr Taha**, Sr. Regional Liaison and Policy Officer, IOM Regional Office in Vienna (online).

10:40 – 1:30 Session 1: The role of local-level governance authorities in supporting interventions across the migration cycle

Session chair: Ms. Sanja Celebic Lukovac (IOM Georgia)

- **Ms. Heather Komenda** (IOM Regional Office in Vienna, Migrant Protection and Assistance Unit) IOM Integrated approach to Integration – General concepts and their application (Online).
- **Mr. Joel Loua** (IOM Guinea): The IOM integrated approach to integration and its translation to local practice (Online).
- **Dr. Snezhina Gabova** (Sofia Development Association): Interventions to support third-country and EU nationals to settle and orient themselves in Sofia, Bulgaria (Online).

11:30 – 11:45 Coffee break

11:45 – 13:00 Session 1 – Continued

- **Mr. Nikoloz Rosebashvili** (Ministry of Regional Development and Infrastructure): Helping local actors to transpose national frameworks into local action.
- **Mr. Kakha Samkharadze**, Mayor of Samgori Municipality, Georgia: Supporting local migrant needs through a community service centre
- **Mr. David Melua** (National Association of Local Authorities of Georgia, NALAG): Overview of limitations and opportunities of migration management at local level in the context of Georgian self-governments.

13:00 – 14:00 Lunch

14:00 – 15:30 Session 2: Local governance authorities' data needs and uses along the policy cycle

Session Chair: Ms. Nino Sanikidze (State Commission on Migration Issues)

- **Mr. Michael Newson** (IOM, Labour migration and human development division): Applying data in local level policies and programmes for diaspora engagement and across the migration cycle.
- **Mr. Paata Shavishvili** (GeoStat): Data collection tools and data sources available for local authorities in Georgia.



- **Ms. Karine Kuyumjyan** (Statistical Committee of the Republic of Armenia) : Data collection tools and data sources available for local authorities in Armenia
- **Ms. Estefania Guallar Ariño** (IOM GMDAC): IOM data collection utilities and resources for local-level migration governance needs and introduction to the local Migration Governance Index
- **Mr. Vitalie Varzari** (IOM Moldova): Migration Governance Index assessments in Moldova as a tool to support evidence-based policy design and implementation on central and local levels

15:30 – 15:45 Coffee break

15:45 – 17:30 Session 3: Policy frameworks & innovations to support coherent & inclusive migration and development mainstreaming

Session chair: Ms. Michaella Vanore (Maastricht University/United Nations University-MERIT, the Netherlands)

- **Ms. Audrey Hickcox** (Migration & Sustainable Development team, IOM Geneva): Key concepts of migration and development mainstreaming (Online).
- **Ms. Nadejda Zubco** (Diaspora Relations Bureau, Moldova) with **Ms. Anastasia Rusu** (Alliance of the Hometown Associations from Moldova) and **Ms. Tatiana Solonari** (UNDP): Translating national policy priorities into local-level action through multi-stakeholder cooperation
- **Mr. David Peikrishvili** (Ministry of Labour, Georgia): Including and ensuring local policy actor representation in policy agenda setting using (re)integration as a case study

18:00 Cocktail Reception

DAY 2

9 November, Wednesday

9:30 Registration of Participants

10:00 – 11:00 Session 4: Regional cooperation & good practise showcase

Session chair: Ms. Michaella Vanore (Maastricht University/United Nations University-MERIT, the Netherlands)

- **Ms. Stela Badin** (Cahul Municipality, Moldova): Innovations in cooperation—examples of municipal-to-municipal partnerships on refugees, migration, & development
- **Mr. Vartan Marashlyan** (Repat Armenia Foundation): The role of civil society organisation cooperation in supporting local migration and development interventions and outcomes
- **Ms. Natia Kvitsiani** (IOM Georgia): Introduction to the Service Hubs Network Georgia and the potential to foster better local-to-local exchange

11:00 – 11:15 Coffee break

11:15 – 12:30 Session 4: Regional cooperation & good practise showcase (Continued) & Conference wrap-up and closure

Reporting back: Key messages from thematic sessions; gaps and challenges facing local authorities; calls for action

12:30 – 14:00 Lunch



8.2 Moderator and Speaker Biographies

(in alphabetical order)

Stella Badin, Deputy Mayor of the Cahul Municipality, the Republic of Moldova

Sanja Celebic Lukovac, Chief of Mission, IOM Georgia



Mrs. Sanja Celebic Lukovac, a national of Belgium and Croatia, has been appointed the Chief of Mission of the International Organization for Migration (IOM), Mission to Georgia in July 2018. She has been with the IOM since 1 March 1998 and has acquired extensive experience in migration issues and IOM's programmes. From 2011 to 2018, Mrs. Celebic Lukovac served in IOM Mission in Iraq as Head, Programme Development and Support Unit/Senior Programme Development and Donors Liaison Officer, working on a range of humanitarian crisis, population displacement and migration management issues in the context of the complex protracted displacement and migration crisis in Iraq and Middle East. Prior to that, she worked in the Regional Liaison and Co-ordination Office to the European Union as Liaison and Project Development Officer covering Northern Africa and Middle East, Western Balkans, and Turkey. Ms. Celebic Lukovac holds a Bachelor Degree in International Relations from the University of Sarajevo, as well as a Master's Degree in European Integration and Development from Vrije Universiteit Brussel, and a Master's Degree in Advanced Studies of Humanitarian Operations and Supply Chain Management from Università della Svizzera Italiana. She speaks Croatian/Bosnian/Serbian, as well as English and French.

Snezhina Gabova, Researcher, Sofia Development Association



Dr. Snezhina Gabova has over fifteen years of experience in the non-profit sector. She has worked as European programs Coordinator for Risk Monitor Foundation, Sofia, and Director of Development at the Bulgarian School of Politics. Her area of expertise includes EC programs for lifelong learning (all actions under Erasmus +), acquired in her career as director of the National Lifelong Learning Agency in Bulgaria. She has also worked as an expert on projects for labor integration of third-country nationals. Recently, she conducted a study, commissioned by UNHCR – Bulgaria, on municipal housing policies for migrants and refugees in Bulgaria and the EU, producing an analytical report and a compendium of good practices. Dr Gabova holds an MA in philosophy from Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski” and PhD in Philosophy from Villanova University, PA (USA).

Maria Gallo, Visiting Research Fellow, Trinity College Dublin and Conference Rapporteur



Dr Maria Gallo a Visiting Research Fellow at the Centre for Social Innovation at the Trinity Business School – Trinity College Dublin, Ireland. She is also the Founder and Managing Director of KITE- Keep in Touch Education, a research consultancy focused on alumni and diaspora projects for governments, universities, and agencies. Maria has worked on alumni and diaspora project that span 17 countries and 4 continents. She is also the Expert Alumni Advisor to the CERN Alumni Advisory Board. Maria has several academic publications in high impact, peer-reviewed journals based on her research in alumni relationship building and philanthropy. She is the author of *The Alumni Way: Building Lifelong Value from Your University Investment* published by Policy Press (Bristol University Press) in 2021. She holds a doctorate in education from the University of Sheffield and an undergraduate degree from the University of Toronto. For the past three years Maria was the EMERGE Conference Rapporteur.



Estefania Guallar Ariño, *Data Officer, IOM Global Migration Data Analysis Centre*



Estefania Guallar Ariño works as data officer at IOM's Global Migration Data Analysis Centre (GMDAC) in Berlin since 2020, focusing on the Migration Governance Indicators (MGI) project. Her work focuses on MGI assessments at the local level as well as national follow up assessments. She has also a gender expertise and supports gender mainstreaming within GMDAC's work. Prior to joining GMDAC, Estefania worked as a policy analyst at UN Women in New York for over five years. In that capacity, she covered the different intergovernmental processes related to gender equality, in particular, the Commission on the Status, the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly. From 2012-2014 she served as policy and programme officer of UN Women in Vietnam, working on the portfolio of sexual violence against women and girls and women in vulnerable situations, including migrant women.

Prior to her UN career, Estefania held different positions in the Spanish Development Agency and in the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Spain. She has experience in election observation missions. She holds an M.A. in International Relations and Diplomacy from the College of Europe as well as an M.A. in Political Sciences and Public Administration from the Complutense University in Madrid.

Audrey Hickcox, *Knowledge Management and Communications Officer, IOM*



Audrey Hickcox supports IOM's Migration & Sustainable Development Unit. She supports the Global IOM-UNDP Making Migration Work for Sustainable Development Programme. Audrey implements the knowledge management plan and communication campaigns to showcase how well-managed migration is beneficial and capture good practice. This includes working with the UN Network for Migration to support national governments and other stakeholders to implement the Global Compact for Migration (GCM). Audrey has a Masters Degree in Development Studies and a BA in International Affairs. She has diverse experience working with international organizations and UN agencies as well as NGOs providing support in research, project reviews, reporting, and project management.

Heather Komenda, *Senior Migrant Protection and Assistance Specialist, IOM Regional Office for South-Eastern Europe, Eastern Europe, and Central Asia*



Heather Komenda is the Senior Regional Thematic Specialist for Migrant Protection at the IOM Regional Office in Vienna, where she covers migrant protection issues in south-eastern Europe, eastern Europe, and Central Asia. She has worked on migrant protection, counter-trafficking, and child protection for the past 20 years in Canada, south-east Asia, East Africa and the Horn, the Middle East, and North Africa, and at IOM HQ in Switzerland. She holds a Master of Arts Degree in Political Science from McGill and a Bachelor of Arts (Hons.) Degree in Political Science from the University of Manitoba.

Karine Kuyumjyan –the Head of the Population Census and Demography Division, Armstat (Statistical Committee of the Republic of Armenia), is responsible for the production of demographic statistics, for the methodological and organizational procedures of population census conduction, as well as for the development of the tools (questionnaires, instructions, methodology) for the preparation of specialized sample surveys, or modules on migration and/or other demographic components. Ms. Kuyumjyan is the author of several demographic papers, including those on mortality and migration. She has graduated the Institute of National Economy of Yerevan and has Post-graduate Diploma in Population and Development.



Natia Kvitsiani, *National Programme Officer, IOM Georgia*



Dr. Natia Kvitsiani works at the International Organization for Migration Mission in Georgia and is responsible for the activities in the field of Labour Mobility and Human Development. During 1995-1996 she worked at the IOM Emergency Mission in Chechnya. In 2008-2009 she temporarily moved to the IOM Office in Ghana, where she worked on migration and development related issues. In 1997 she received the Fulbright scholarship for postdoctoral studies in migration, at the George Washington University, Washington DC. Dr. Kvitsiani holds PhD in Georgian History and Ethnology and prior to joining IOM worked as a senior researcher at the Tbilisi State Institute of Ethnology.

Joel Loua, *National Programme Officer at IOM Guinea*



Joel Loua is a development project and program management specialist with more than 8 years of experience in the field. He is currently National Program Officer at IOM Guinea on the "join initiative" project funded by the European Union Trust Fund and implemented by IOM. Joel is IOM Guinea's focal point on migration governance and diaspora engagement issues. He facilitated the establishment of the Guinean Migration Observatory as IOM's main focal point with the Guinean government. He oversees the coordination mechanism and ensures capacity building of the central and regional technical units and proximity monitoring committees facilitated by IOM for the implementation of projects and programs in Guinea. Joel is currently completing a master's degree in International Project Management.

Sabine Machl, *UN Resident Coordinator in Georgia*



Dr Sabine Machl is the UN Resident Coordinator in Georgia since 2019. Prior to this post, Sabine worked in international organizations for more than 22 years among those over 7 years for the United Nations. Her latest assignment was UN Women Representative in Indonesia and Liaison to ASEAN and before that she headed UN Women in Palestine and Kyrgyzstan.

From 2007-2011 Sabine was the Head of Section/Senior Advisor to the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities in The Hague covering the countries of the former Soviet Union. From 2005-2007 she was posted in Kyrgyzstan as Deputy Head of the OSCE Centre in Bishkek. She also worked for four years as the Head of the Central Asia desk in the OSCE Conflict Prevention Centre in Vienna. Sabine holds two Master degrees (in Law and Languages) and a PhD in Law from the University of Vienna. She is fluent in German (mother tongue), English, Russian and French. She is married and has two sons.

Vartan Marashlyan, *Co-Founder and Executive Director, Repat Armenia*



Dr Vartan Marashlyan is the Co-Founder and the Executive Director of Repat Armenia Foundation –non-governmental and non-commercial organization aimed at promoting high impact repatriation to Armenia as well as engaging Diasporan Armenians with the Homeland. Before the establishment of RepatArmenia, he was the Deputy Minister of Diaspora with a particular focus on repatriation and youth programs, outreach strategy, Summer School for the Young Diasporan Leaders and Media professionals.

Vartan holds PhD in Economics from Moscow State University. He is a lecturer of Comparative Analysis of the Diasporas course in Armenia and an expert on Diaspora-State relations focusing on international experience of State-Diaspora relations, repatriation and integration policies and Armenian identity. Vartan also worked as an Economic Advisor to the British Department for International Development in Russia. His private sector experience includes real estate development and banking working in Russia for such companies as Severstal Group, Promsvyazbank, Gasprombank and Norman Asset Management.



David Melua, *Executive Director of National Association of Local Authorities of Georgia (NALAG)*



David Melua is an internationally recognised expert on Local self-government Regional Development and public administration reform. Mr Melua has served as a consultant for several international organisations. He was a member of the Group of Independent Experts of the Council of Europe and worked for the Geneva Institute for International Studies on study of decentralisation and local development in new democracies. David Melua provides consultancy to the government of Georgia on issues of decentralization, local development and local governance and he served as a key expert for regional development policy support program (RDP I) implemented by the Ministry on Regional Development and Infrastructure of Georgia. His professional carrier includes work in many development countries such as Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Moldova, Turkmenistan, and Ukraine. Mr Melua is the author of a numerous articles and publications on regional development, local economic development, and decentralisation.

Michael Newson, *Senior Labour and Human Development Specialist, IOM Regional Office for South - Eastern Europe, Eastern Europe, and Central Asia*



Michael Newson is the Senior Specialist for Labour Mobility and Social Inclusion (LMI) for the South-Eastern Europe, Eastern Europe, and Central Asia Region with the International Organization for Migration (IOM). He is responsible for providing technical support, policy expertise, and capacity building to governments, IOM officials, and other relevant stakeholders throughout the region.

Michael previously held the same position in the Middle East and North Africa Region working from the Regional Office in Cairo from 2012 to 2016. He has also worked with IOM in Bogota and Mauritius, where his work focused on the development and implementation of labour migration programmes. From 2009 to 2011, Michael worked as Senior Policy Advisor in the Labour Market and Immigration Division for the Government of British Columbia, Canada, where he focused on policy issues relating to both temporary foreign workers and permanent economic immigration streams. Michael holds a BA in Philosophy & English Literature from the University of British Columbia, an MA in Social & Political Philosophy from York University (Toronto), and an MBA from the Warwick Business School.

David Peikrishvili, *Head of Integration-Reintegration Service, Ministry of Labour, Georgia*

Mr. David Peikrishvili is the Head of Integration-Reintegration Service of the LEPL IDPs, Eco-migrants and Livelihoods Agency. He supervises implementation of support programs for returned migrants, international protection status holders, stateless persons, and other vulnerable groups. Having worked with migrants and displaced persons since 2008, he has studied and lived in three different countries and attended various universities and colleges. He holds a Master's Degree in International Law.

Nikoloz Rosebashvili, *Head of Department for Development of Local Self-Government and Policy, Ministry of Regional Development and Infrastructure, Government of Georgia*



For the last decade Nikoloz Rosebashvili has worked on various executive positions both in government administration and MRDI dealing with local government reform and development. He was actively involved in the development of the 2020-2025 decentralization strategy for Georgia. As the present Chair of the State Commission on Local Government Reform and Decentralization, he coordinates the implementation of the strategy. His current position is as the Head of Department for Development of Local Self-Government and Policy, Ministry of Regional Development and Infrastructure, Government of Georgia.



Anastasia Rusu, *Executive Director at the Alliance of Hometown Associations*

Anastasia Rusu is the executive director at Alliance of Hometown Associations (HTA) from Republic of Moldova. Since 2019 as president of HTA "Cimișlieni from everywhere" implemented projects for local development. With natives support she realized projects with regional and national impact. From March until May 2022 Ms. Rusu coordinated an initiative group from HTA in managing the refugees crisis. She has been working as Secretary of local Council at Cimișlia Town, for more 8 years being responsible for establishing partnership relations with natives and implement projects for local development. These experience gave her the opportunity to create an Initiative Group "My community for peace" made for HTA from Republica Moldova that offer support for refugees.

Kakha Samkharadze, *Mayor of Samgori District, Tbilisi*



Kakha Samkharadze is the Mayor of Samgori District, Tbilisi, Georgia since 2019. Mr .Samkharadze has extensive working experience both in government and across the private sector. From 2017 to 2018 he held positions of the Governor of the Samtskhe-Javakheti and Shida Kartli (2018) regions. Previously in 2014 - 2015 he was the deputy Mayor of Tetrtskharo Municipality.

Helene Sand Andresen, *Ambassador of Norway to Georgia and the Non-Resident Ambassador of Norway to Armenia*



Helene Sand Andersen is the Ambassador of Norway to Georgia and Non-Resident Ambassador of Norway to Armenia. She has an extensive career as a diplomat for Norway in Iran, Afghanistan, and Russia prior to her roles in Georgia and Armenia. She also worked for the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. After completing an economics degree from the University of Oslo, she worked as a UN Volunteer in Somalia and subsequently working for the UN in Tajikistan.

Nino Sanikidze, *Expert for Research and Development, State Commission for Migration Issues (SCMI), Georgia*



Nino Sanikidze joined the Secretariat of the State Commission for Migration Issues (SCMI) of Georgia in April 2014 as the expert for Research and Development. The main tasks of the SCMI, uniting nine state ministries, include elaborating the Migration Strategy and main analytical documents serving as the policy framework and analytical guide to ensure that the long-term tasks defined by the EU-Georgia Visa Liberalization Action Plan in the field of migration management are constantly met. To this end, the SCMI Secretariat carries out the coordinating and administrative function aimed at facilitating coherent policy action in the field under the umbrella of migration and development as defined by the 10-year Migration Strategy of Georgia.

Paata Shavishvili, *Deputy Executive Director of National Statistics Office of Georgia (GEOSTAT)*



Since 2001, Paata Shavishvili has worked in various positions in the National Statistics Office of Georgia (GEOSTAT). He started his career as a Chief Economist of Population Census Division. Since 2004, he has held the positions of Deputy Head and then Head of Social and Demographic Statistics Division. From 2010 until 2018 Paata was the Head of Population Census and Demographic Statistics Division. From 2005 – 2021, Paata was a member of the Steering Group for the Population and Housing Censuses at UNECE region. He was also the Secretary of Government Commission for Coordination of the Population Censuses in Georgia from 2006 to 2020. Paata holds a Master's Degree of Economic Sciences.



Tatiana Solonari, *Institutional Development Officer, Migration and Local Development Project (MiDL)*



Tatiana Solonari is an Institutional Development Officer of the Migration and Local Development Project (MiDL), United Nations Development Programme. Backed by extensive experience in fields as economic journalism, strategic communication and project management, Tatiana entered the UNDP as communication and outreach analyst, laying the foundations of the UNDP Migration and Local Development project, as part of a dedicated team within UNDP/MiDL. During the last seven years - Diaspora, Migration and Development (DMD) model developed by UNDP with Swiss Government support became a special project for the Republic of Moldova and unique project worldwide with own peculiarities of engaging community members, LPAs, and Diaspora into a sustainable, democratic, and resilient development process. Tatiana is responsible for the sustainability of the DMD model by stimulating and guiding the process of setting up of HTA Alliance – a non-formal group developed according to natural patterns.

Amr Taha, *Senior Regional Liaison and Policy Officer, IOM Regional Office for South - Eastern Europe, Eastern Europe, and Central Asia*



Amr Taha has over 23 years of professional experience with the UN, IOs and NGOs in humanitarian, post-crisis, transition, and development operations. His field and management experiences were gained in the world's more complex emergencies, including Afghanistan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bangladesh, Kosovo, Lebanon, the occupied Palestinian territories, The Sudan, and Yemen, among other countries, deepening my understanding of diverse political realities and strengthening my ability to work and lead in adverse settings. During that time, he managed directly, and remotely numerous operations related to emergency humanitarian relief, peacebuilding, conflict prevention, poverty alleviation, stabilization initiatives, social inclusion, and Migration for development. Prior to being appointed Sr. Regional Liaison and Policy Officer, Amr Taha headed IOM's Mission to Egypt. He is the co-author of several publications related to peace-building initiatives; the economic, social, political, and security impacts that specific livelihood projects have on developing countries and countries in transition and contributed to IOM Migration for Development papers.

Michaella Vanore, *Research Fellow, University of Maastricht*



Dr. Michaella Vanore is a research fellow at the Maastricht University/United Nations University-MERIT, where she has worked for the past nine years as a researcher and lecturer with a focus on migration and development and social protection for children. In the course of her work at the School of Governance, Michaella has worked on topics such as defining and analysing multidimensional poverty among migrant children, assessing the consequences of family-member migration for children and the elderly who remain in the home country, refining targeting approaches for child-focused social protection, diaspora engagement (specifically related to trade, private sector development, and developing diaspora engagement strategies) and contributions in conflict and post-conflict settings, and remittances. Most of her research has a focus on application and on ensuring the research evidence is used to support more responsive policy making.



Vitalie Varzari, *Senior Project Assistant, IOM Republic of Moldova*



Vitalie Varzari has a PhD in political sciences and has developed technical, research and policy-oriented expertise in public policy development, implementation, and evaluation in the field of migration governance, diaspora engagement and development issues. Mr. Varzari has been approaching the topic of maximizing the development impact of migration since 2008. Mr. Varzari has been working with IOM Moldova for more than 6 years, part of the Migration and Development Programme / Migration Governance Unit, being responsible for several work streams such as diaspora engagement, labour migration, and migration & climate change. To support the evidence-based policy making, Mr. Varzari is assisting the IOM Moldova to implement the IOM data-related methodologies such as diaspora mapping, labour migration profiling, DTM in the context of labour migration, estimating the diaspora economic impact beyond remittances, forecasting the migration flows based on gravity models, GCM, VNR, MGI etc.

Nadejda Zubco, *Head of Bureau, Diaspora Relations Bureau, Republic of Moldova*



Nadejda Zubco is head of the Diaspora Relations Bureau, State Chancellery of Republic of Moldova. She is working on: monitoring diaspora dynamics and establishing partnership relations with diaspora associations; cooperation with specialty national and abroad institutions in order to develop studies and analysis of the phenomenon of migration and human mobility; monitoring the actions that are implemented by the central and local public authorities in the field of diaspora state policy; coordinating the implementation of the diaspora governmental programs. She has work experience in international projects concerning the development of diaspora entrepreneurship.



8.3 Presentations and Speaker's Notes- List of Supplementary Materials

All materials are on the IOM Georgia Shared Drive [Direct Link](#)

Thematic Session I: The role of local-level governance authorities in supporting interventions across the migration cycle

- An integrated approach to reintegration – Heather Komenda (PowerPoint Presentation)
- The IOM integrated approach to reintegration and its translation to local practice – Joel Loua (PowerPoint Presentation)

Thematic Session II: Local governance authorities' data needs and uses along the policy cycle

- Applying data in local level policies and programmes for diaspora engagement and across the migration cycle – Michael Newson (PowerPoint Presentation)
- Data collection tools and data sources available for local authorities in Georgia – Paata Shavishvili (PowerPoint Presentation – *In Georgian*)
- Data collection tools and data sources available for local authorities in Armenia – Karin Kuyumjyan (PowerPoint Presentation)
- IOM Data collection utilities and resources for local-level migration governance needs and introduction to the Migration Governance Indicators – Estefania Guallar Ariño (PowerPoint Presentation)
- Migration Governance Indicators assessments in Moldova as a tool to support evidence-based policy design and implementation and central and local levels

Thematic Session III: Policy frameworks & innovations to support coherent & inclusive migration and development mainstreaming

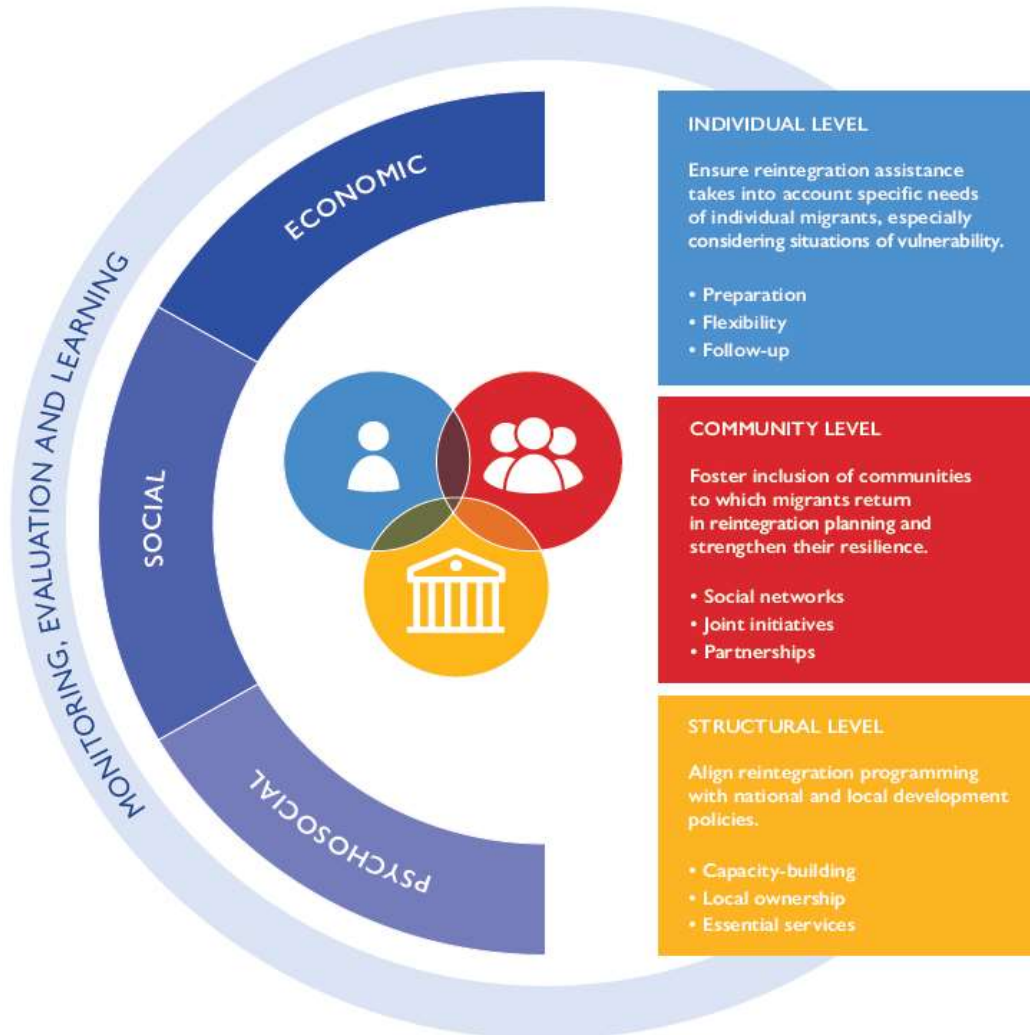
- Key concepts of migration and development mainstreaming – Audrey Hickcox (PowerPoint Presentation)
- Translating national policy priorities into local-level action through multi-stakeholder cooperation – Nadejda Zubco, Anastasia Rusu, Tatiana Solonari (PowerPoint Presentation in *Romanian/English*)
- Including and ensuring local policy actor representation in policy agenda setting using (re)integration as a case study – David Peikrishvili (PowerPoint Presentation in *Georgian/English*)

Thematic Session IV: Regional cooperation and good practice showcase

- The role of civil society organization cooperation in supporting local migration and development interventions and outcomes – Vartan Marshlyan (PowerPoint Presentation)
- Introduction to the Service Hubs Network Georgia and the potential to foster better local-to-local exchange – Natia Kvitsiani (PowerPoint Presentation)
- Mayors Mechanism – Call to Local Action for Migrants and Refugees – Sophie van Haasen (PowerPoint Presentation and Recorded Presentation)



8.3.1 An Integrated Approach to Reintegration – IOM (As noted in Thematic Session I – Heather Komenda’s Intervention)

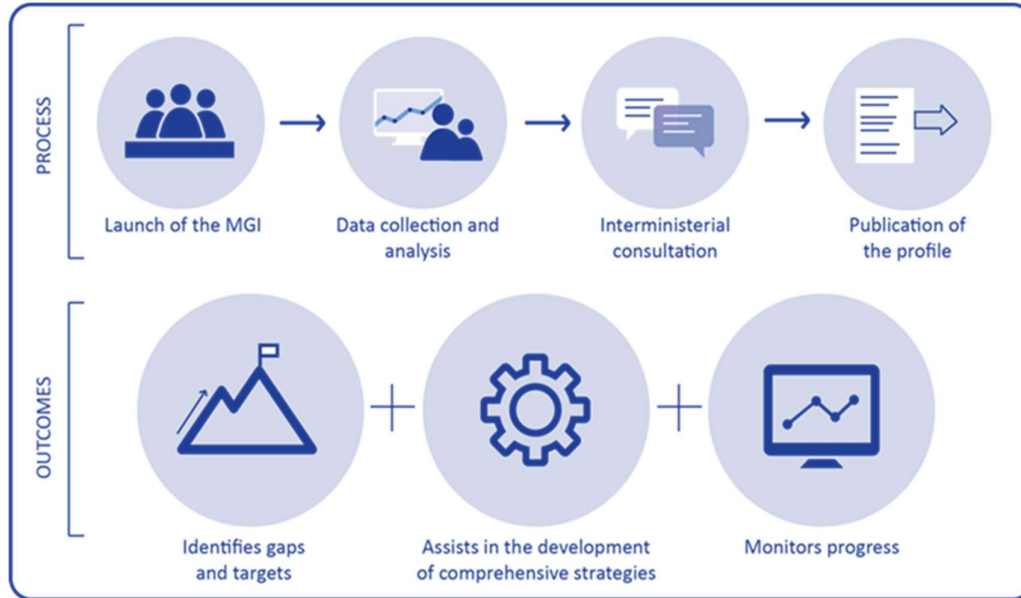


Original Source: [Towards an Integrated Approach to Reintegration \(IOM 2017\)](#)



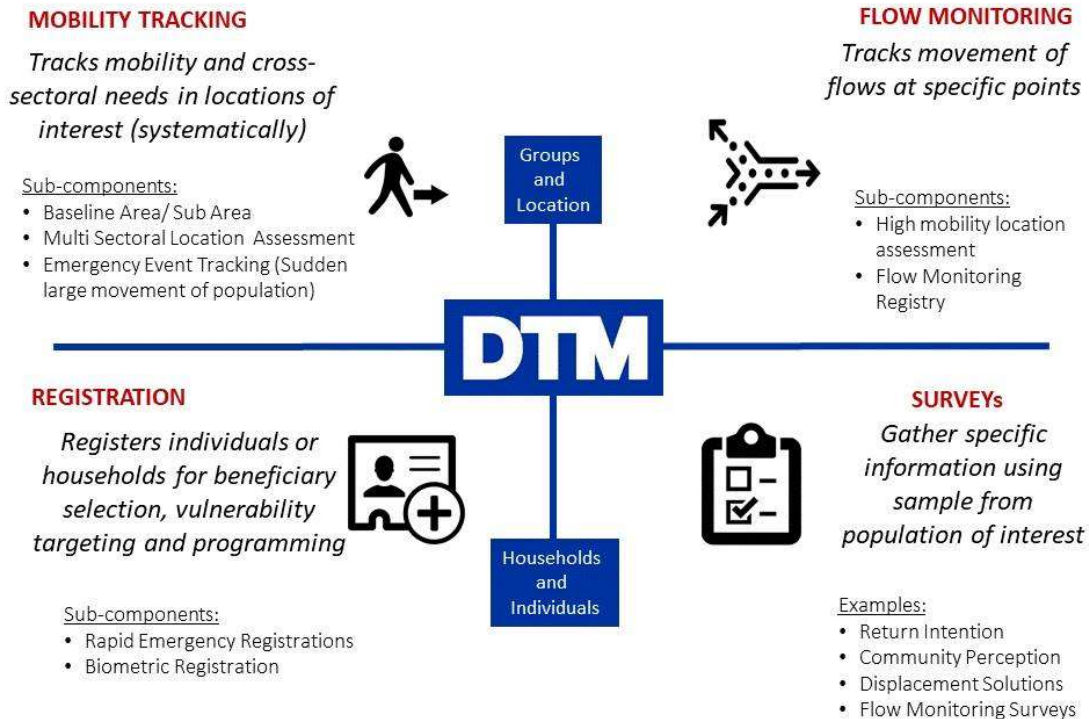
8.3.2 Local Migration Governance Indicators Process and Outcomes (LMGI)

(As noted in Thematic Session II – Estefania Guallar Ariño/Vitalie Varzari’s interventions)



8.3.3 Displacement Tracking Matrix

(As noted in Thematic Session II – Estefania Guallar Ariño’s intervention)





8.3.4 Diaspora Engagement Impact/Risk Matrix (Repat Armenia Presentation)





8.4 Media Release

Regional Conference on the Role of Local Government in Mainstreaming Migration and Local Development

18th November 2022

On 8-9 November IOM Georgia held a regional conference on the role of local government in mainstreaming migration in local development. The conference was organized under IOM's project "Enhancing Migrants' Rights and Good Governance in Armenia and Georgia (EMERGE)" in partnership with State Commission on Migration Issues of Georgia and with the financial support of Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Norway. The event brought together government officials of central and local levels, representatives of international organizations and academia from Georgia, Armenia, Moldova, Bulgaria and Ireland.

Participants were welcomed by IOM Georgia Chief of Mission – Sanja Celebic Lukovac, UN Resident Coordinator in Georgia – Sabine Machl, Ambassador of Kingdom of Norway to Georgia – Helene Sand Andresen and Head of Department for Development of Local Self-Government and Policy at the Ministry of Regional Development and Infrastructure – Nikoloz Rosebashvili. Opening session was chaired by Sanja Celebic Lukovac and it focused on the unique role that local-level governance authorities can play in fostering better migration and development outcomes.

The conference participants received comprehensive information on successful models of engagement of local authorities in migration governance, including through supporting data needs in development of migration-related programmes and policies on the local level; models of coordination and cooperation between local authorities and national authorities; role of local governments in mobilizing diaspora support for local development; and using the networks of Migration Resource Centres for coordinated migrant service delivery at the local level.

The conference was held at Radisson Republic Event Hall in Tbilisi and was also broadcast online for several speakers and participants to attend. The conference was the third and final regional event organized within the framework of the project "Enhancing Migrants' Rights and Good Governance in Armenia and Georgia (EMERGE)".

Direct link: <https://georgia.iom.int/news/regional-conference-role-local-government-mainstreaming-migration-local-development>



8.5 List of Conference Participants

Regional Conference

Migration and Development Mainstreaming: The Role of Local Self-Government

8-9 November 2022

In Person / Online

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Countries (participants from 15 countries)

Government 90

UN Entities 38

Other Entities 5

Total number of participants: 133



COUNTRIES

Armenia

Government

Karine Kuyumjan, Statistical Committee of the Republic of Armenia

Repat Armenia Foundation

Vartan Marashlyan, Co-Founder & Executive Director, Repat Armenia Foundation;
vartan@repatarmenia.org

UN Entities - The International Organization for Migration (IOM)

Marco Pellegrini, Programme Manager, IOM Armenia; marpellegrin@iom.int

Ilona Ter-Minasyan, Head of Office, IOM Armenia; iterminasyan@iom.int

Austria

UN Entities - The International Organization for Migration (IOM)

Heather Komenda, Senior Migrant Protection and Assistance Specialist, IOM Regional Office for South-Eastern Europe, Eastern Europe, and Central Asia; hkomenda@iom.int (online)

Michael Newson, Regional Office for South-Eastern Europe, Eastern Europe, and Central Asia,
Liaison Office for UN Agencies & Other International Organizations based in Vienna; mnewson@iom.int

Amr Taha, Senior Regional Liaison & Policy Officer, Regional Office for South-Eastern Europe,
Eastern Europe and Central Asia; ataha@iom.int (online)

Bulgaria

Government

Snezhina Gabova, Sofia Development Association; s.gabova@sofia-da.edu (online)

UN Entities - The International Organization for Migration (IOM)

Gergana Bacheva, Expert Coordinator, Info Center for Migrants - Sofia Integration Department, IOM
Bulgaria; gbacheva@iom.int (online)

France

Government

H.E. Mr. Diego Colas, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary

Georgia

Government

Neli Abechkhrishvili, Mayor of Telavi Municipality, KAKHETI Telavi Municipality;
abechkhrishvilin@gmail.com (online)

Gvantsa Abesadze, State Commission on Migration Issues

Ketino Abulashvili, Curator of the Witness and Victim Coordination Service, Human Rights Protection
and Quality Monitoring Department, MIA; q.abulashvili@mia.gov.ge

Lela Akiashvili, Prime Minister's Advisor on Human Rights and Gender Issues; lakiashvili@gov.ge

Meri Aptsiauri, Senior Specialist, Admin. Unit of Samgori District, Tbilisi City Hall;
meriapsiauri@yahoo.com

Nana Avaliani, Deputy Director of Project Management Division; navaliani@mia.gov.ge

Mariam Balavadze, Inspector of Especially Important Cases at the Department of Human Rights
Protection, and Investigation Quality; balavadze.m@mia.gov.ge



Maia Bartaia, Deputy Director of the Consular Department; mbartaia@mfa.gov.ge

Dali Bregvadze, Head of Anti-Irregular Migration Unit; d.bregvadze@mia.gov.ge

Giorgi Bunturi, Head of Labour Migration Issues Department, Ministry of IDPs, Labour, Health and Social Affairs; gbunturi@moh.gov.ge

Anuki Burduli, Specialist, Human Rights Secretariat; aburduli@gov.ge

Elene Chachava, Head of Border Management Unit, Border Immigration and Coordination Main Division; e.chachava@mia.gov.ge

Gela Chagalidze, Specialist of Disaste & Emergency Unit, Shuakhevi Municipality, Adjara Aut.Rep, Georgia; adm.shuakhevi@gmail.com

Natia Chakvetadze, Head of Healthcare and Social Affaires Service, IMERETI Tskaltubo Municipality; Natiachakvetadze335@gmail.com

Natia Chelidze, Deputy Head of Administration, Tbilisi City Municipality; natiachelidze1980@gmail.com

Tamar Chikava, Zugdidi Municipality, SAMEGRELO Zugdidi Municipality; tamarchikava@gmail.com

Varlam Chipashvili, Deputy Mayor of Kharagauli Municipality, IMERETI Kharagauli Municipality; chipashvili@kharagauli.gov.ge

Beka Chkheidze, Deputy Director, Department of International Economic Relations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Nugzar Davitadze, Head of Disaster & Emergency Unit, Shuakhevi Municipality, Adjara Aut.Rep, Georgia; adm.shuakhevi@gmail.com

Teona Diasamidze, Head of Unit for Health & Social Protection, Shuakhevi Municipality, Adjara Aut.Rep, Georgia; adm.shuakhevi@gmail.com (online)

Giorgi Dididze, Head of Department for Regional and Mountain Areas Development; g.dididze@mradi.gov.ge

Alexandre Gabunia, Deputy Head of the Old Tbilisi Main Division of the Tbilisi Police Department; a.gabunia@mia.gov.ge

Ana Gagnidze, Head of Human Rights Management Service; angagnidze@psh.gov.ge

Dinara Geladze, Head of Children Right Protection Unit, Shuakhevi Municipality, Adjara Aut.Rep, Georgia; adm.shuakhevi@gmail.com (online)

Temur Goginovi, Expert in Analytical Issues, State Commission on Migration Issues Secretariat; t.goginovi@sda.gov.ge

Ana Gogorishvili, Revenue Service; a.gogorishvili@rs.ge

Nino Ididze, Head of Health & Social Affairs Office, KAKHETI Akhmeta Municipality; ninoididze1@gmail.com

Salome Imnadze, Director, Department of International Economic Relations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Ana Ivanishvili, Legal Adviser of the Public International Law Department; aivanishvili@justice.gov.ge

Natia Japaridze, Director of Project Management Division; n.japaridze@mia.gov.ge



George Jashi, Secretary General of the State Commission for Migration Issues (SCMI);
george.jashi@sda.gov.ge

Davit Kaikatsishvili, Head of the IDPs and Ecomigrants Policy Division, Policy Department MoLHSA;
DKaikatsishvili@moh.gov.ge

Meriko Kajaia, Specialist; merikokajaia@gmail.com

Paata Katamadze, Head of Office for Health & Social Protection, Shuakhevi Municipality, Adjara Aut.Rep, Georgia; adm.shuakhevi@gmail.com (online)

Nana Kavtaradze, Head of International and Public Relations Division; n.kavtaradze@ncdc.ge

Zviad Khustsilava, Head of Tourist Safety Infantry and Contactless Patrolling Division, Tbilisi Main Division of Patrol Police Department; z.khustsilava@mia.gov.ge

Amiran Kintsurashvili, Head of Administrative Office, IMERETI Khoni Municipality;
amiko386@yahoo.com

Ekaterine Kupatadzidu, Department for Diaspora Relations Department, MFA Georgia

Nino Lomidze, Mayor of Kvareli Municipality, KAKHETI Kvareli Municipality;
lomidzenino50@yahoo.com (online)

Noshrevan Lomtadze, Director, Department of International Economic Relations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs; nlomtadze@mfa.gov.ge

Koba Lursmanashvili, Mayor of Kharagauli Municipality, IMERETI Kharagauli Municipality;
Kobalursmanashvili41@gmail.com

Eka Machavariani, Director of International Relations Department; e.machavariani@mia.gov.ge

Khatuna Mamasakhlisi, Kobuleti Municipality, Adjara Aut.Rep, Georgia (online)

Teona Mchedlidze, State Commission on Migration Issues

Jondo Mdivnishvili, Mayor of Lagodekhi Municipality, KAKHETI Lagodekhi Municipality;
jmdivnishvili@gmail.com (online)

Nana Melashvili, Senior specialist, Property Management & Economic Development Office, GURIA Ozurgeti Municipality; Melashvili62@gmail.com

Jambulat Meladze, Head of Office for Health & Social Protection, Khulo Municipality Adjara Aut.Rep, Georgia; jambulatmeladze@gmail.com

Manana Melkadze, First Secretary of the Consular Department; mmelkadze@mfa.gov.ge

Nikoloz Mindiashvili, Inspector of Especially Important Cases, Project Management Division MIA Georgia; n.mindiashvili@mia.gov.ge

Giorgi Mitagvaria, Deputy Head of Anti-Irregular Migration Unit; g.mitagvaria@mia.gov.ge

Veka Modebadze, Head of Strategic Communications Department; vmodebadze@mfa.gov.ge

Eka Mrulishvili, Acting Head of Research & Projects Development Unit; e.mrulishvili@sda.gov.ge

Beka Mtchedlishvili, Head of StratCom Department at Government of Georgia; bmchedlishvili@gov.ge

Eka Odisharia, Deputy Head of Citizenship and Migration Service; e.odisharia@sda.gov.ge



Giorgi Osadze, Head of the Department of Human Rights Protection and Investigation Quality Monitoring; gosadze@mia.gov.ge

Tamta Papuashvili, Project Coordinator; tpapuashvili@ombudsman.ge

Maka Peradze, Head of the Human Rights Secretariat at Government of Georgia; mperadze@gov.ge

Davit Pheikrishvili, Head of Statistical Information and Analytics Division, Livelihood Agency; DPheikrishvili@moh.gov.ge

Nia Ponia, Head of Department for Diaspora Relations Department, MFA Georgia; nponia@mfa.gov.ge

Nikoloz Rosebashvili, Head of Department of Local Self-governing Bodies and Policy Development, Ministry of Infrastructure and Regional Development; n.rosebashvili@mradi.gov.ge

Nato Rusitashvili, Human Rights Management Service Advisor; nrustashvili@psh.gov.ge

Tsitsami Sabadze, Economic Policy and Regulatory Impact Assessment Division, Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development

Tatia Salukvadze, State Commission on Migration Issues

Nino Sanikidze, Expert for Research and Development, State Commission on Migration Issues Secretariat; ni.sanikidze@sda.gov.ge

Zura Sanikidze, Head of PSDA; z.sanikidze@sda.gov.ge

Tamar Sartania, Inspector of Especially Important Cases; tsartania@mia.gov.ge

Davit Sharashidze, Mayor of Chokhatauri Municipality, GURIA Chokatauri Municipality; Davitsharashidze93@gmail.com

Paata Shavishvili, Deputy Executive Director, National Statistics Office of Georgia, GeoStat; pshavishvili@geostat.ge

Irina Sigua, Revenue Service; i.sigua@rs.ge

Davit Silagadze, Mayor of Baghdati Municipality, IMERETI Baghdati Municipality; silagadze1978@gmail.com

Lela Surmanidze, Deputy Mayor of Batumi Municipality Adjara Aut. Rep, Georgia; lela.surmanidze@gmail.com (online)

Davit Tedoradze, Head of Office for Health & Social Protection, Keda Municipality Adjara Aut.Rep, Georgia

Davit Todria, Head of Infrastructure Office, GURIA Chokatauri Municipality; Davit.todria22@gmail.com

Tamta Zaalishvili, Head of Quality Assurance Unit of Division of International Projection Issues at Migration Department; t.zaalishvili@mia.gov.ge

Consultant

Nino Gvinadze, Expert Consultant; nino.ghvinadze@gmail.com (online)

UN – Resident Coordinator

Sabine Machl, UN Resident Coordinator of Georgia; rcs-unctgeorgia@un.org



UN Entities – The International Organization for Migration (IOM)

Natia Akhalaia, IOM Kutaisi, IOM Georgia

Tsiuri Antadze, IOM Consultant, IOM Georgia

Ketevan Beradze, IOM Tbilisi, IOM Georgia

Sanja Celebic Lukovac, IOM Georgia Chief of Mission; scelebic@iom.int

Mindia Davitadze, Senior Project Assistant; mdavitadze@iom.int

Lika Dzamukashvili, IOM Telavi, IOM Georgia

Natia Esebua, Monitoring, Evaluation, Learning and Accountability Officer; nesebua@iom.int

Natia Kvitsiani, IOM Georgia Programme Coordinator; nkvitsiani@iom.int

Maka Leonovi, IOM Telavi, IOM Georgia

Paata Sharashenidze, IOM Kutaisi, IOM Georgia

Nana Papiashvili, IOM Batumi, IOM Georgia

Marine Papunidze, IOM Batumi, IOM Georgia

Nana Tsulaia, IOM Poti, IOM Georgia

Lasha Vashakidze, Project Assistant; lvashakidze@iom.int

UN Entities – UNICEF

Ghassan Khalil, UNICEF Representative; RCS-UNCT-GeorgiaAssistants@un.org

UN Entities - The UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR)

George Badurashvili, UNHCR Representative

Kemlin Furley, UNHCR Representative

UN Entities – UNFPA

Lela Bakradze

UN Entities – WHO

Silviu Domete, Head of WHO Country Office, Georgia

UN Entities – OHCHR

Vladimir Shkolnikov, Senior Human Rights Advisor

UN Entities - FAO

Mamuka Meskhi, Assistant Representative

UN Entities - UN WOMEN Representative

Kaori Ishikawa

UN Entities - ILO

Kinan A. Bahnassi, Chief Technical Adviser

UN Entities - UNODC

Clarissa Bernabe, UNODC; clarissa.bernabe@un.org

Naida Chamilova, Head of UNODC Programme Office



Intergovernmental Organizations - European Union

H.E. Pawel Herczynski, Ambassador, Head of Delegation; delegation-georgia@eeas.europa.eu

Germany

UN Entities- The International Organization for Migration (IOM)

Estefania Guallar Ariño, Data Officer, Global Migration Data Analysis Centre (GMDAC);
eguallar@iom.int

Greece

Government

Panagiotis Symeonidis, Police Liaison Officer of the Embassy, Embassy of Greece;
p.symeonidis@astynomia.gr (online)

Guinea

UN Entities- The International Organization for Migration (IOM)

Joel Loua, National Programme Officer, IOM Guinea; jloua@iom.int (online)

Hungary

Government

H.E. Anna Maria Sikó, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary; mission.tbs@mfa.gov.hu

Ireland

Government

Leah Fairman, National Executive, Connected Hubs – Western Development Commission, Department of Rural & Community Development; leahfairman@wdc.ie

KITE – Keep in Touch Education Limited

Maria Gallo, Founder and Managing Director - KITE; maria@keepintoucheducation.com

The Republic of Moldova

Alliance of Hometown Associations

Anastasia Rusu, Executive Director, Alliance of the Hometown Associations

Government

Stella Badin, Deputy Mayor, Cahul Municipality; badin.arteni@gmail.com

Nadejda Zubco, Chief of the Diaspora Relations Bureau

UN Entities- The International Organization for Migration (IOM)

Vitalie Varzari, IOM Republic of Moldova Sr. Project Assistant; vvarzari@iom.int

UN Entities- UNDP Moldova

Tatiana Solonari, UNDP/MiDL Institutional Development Officer; tatiana.solonari@undp.org

The Netherlands

University of Maastricht

Michaella Vanore, Research Fellow, Graduate School of Governance, School of Business & Economics;
michaella.vanore@maastrichtuniversity.nl (online)



Norway

Government

Helene Sand Andresen, Ambassador of Norway to Georgia and the Non-Resident Ambassador of Norway to Armenia

Switzerland

Government

Hamazasp Danielyan, Senior National Programme Officer for Governance and Climate Change, Embassy of Switzerland in Armenia, Swiss Cooperation Office South Caucasus; hamazasp.danielyan@eda.admin.ch

Vardan Janazyan, National Programme Officer, Embassy of Switzerland in Armenia, Swiss Cooperation Office South Caucasus; vardan.janazyan@eda.admin.ch

Danielle Meuwly Monteleone, Counsellor, Regional Director of the Swiss Cooperation Office for the South Caucasus; danielle.meuwly@eda.admin.ch

Tamar Tsivtsivadze, Head of Programme in Georgia, Embassy of Switzerland

UN Entities – The International Organization on Migration (IOM)

Audrey Hickcox, Communication and Knowledge Management Officer, DMM; ahickcox@iom.int

Ukraine

UN Entities- The International Organization for Migration (IOM)

Kateryna Kardanyan, IOM Kyiv; kardanyan@iom.int (online)



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Report**



Photo: EMERGE Regional Conference delegates in the Republic Event Hall, Tbilisi, Georgia

For more information on the EMERGE Project: <https://georgia.iom.int/emerge>

*For inquiries related to the EMERGE Regional Conference
or the EMERGE Project contact:*

IOM Tbilisi

iomtbilisi@iom.int

+99532 2 25 22 16

[Georgia.iom.int](https://georgia.iom.int)

Report prepared by:

Dr Maria Gallo

[KITE- Keep in Touch Education](#)

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