

Entrepreneurs, Remittances, Social Change.

Migration and Development in Southeastern Europe and beyond

Final conference of the research project

[Transnational Families, Farms and Firms: Migrant Entrepreneurs in Kosovo and Serbia Since the 1960s](#)

Hotel Prishtina, Prishtina, May 15-16, 2025

20 Pashko Vasa, Prishtina 10000

Organized by

Leibniz-Institute for East and Southeast European Studies (IOS), Regensburg
Leibniz Institute of Agricultural Development in Transition Economies (IAMO), Halle/Saale
Europa-Universität Viadrina, Frankfurt/Oder



Leibniz Institute for
**EAST AND SOUTHEAST
EUROPEAN STUDIES**



**EUROPA-
UNIVERSITÄT
VIADRINA
FRANKFURT
(ODER)**

In cooperation with

University of Prishtina



Funded by

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May 15

9-10 Introduction and Greetings

Jörn Rohde, Ambassador of the FR Germany to Prishtina: Greetings

Ulf Brunnbauer: The TraFFF Project

Besnik Krasniqi: Welcome

10-13 Return Migration and its Effects

Russell King: "The impact of return migration on economic development and social change in migrant-origin countries: a scoping review"

Maria Adamopoulou: "What's the return of return? Lessons from the socio-economic reintegration of the Gastarbeiter in Greece (1970s-1980s)"

Coffee Break

Agron Hajdari, Veland Ramadani, Besnik A. Krasniqi, Justina Shiroka-Pula: "The role of returnee entrepreneurs in bridging knowledge gaps in business development, education and innovation"

Aida Ibričević: "Sustainability of decided return migration-the case of Bosnia and Herzegovina"

13-14 Lunch

14-16.30 Local Level Transformations

Janine Pinkow-Läpple; Judith Möllers; Thomas Dufhues: "Intangible Remittances in Rural Kosovo: Development Potential and the Role of Conflicting Migration Narratives"

Robert Pichler: "Building Futures at Home: Hopes, Realities, and Spatial Transformations in Migrant Villages in North Macedonia"

Remus Gabriel Anghel: "Involving local communities. Connecting return migration with social and economic entrepreneurship in southern Transylvania, Romania"

Miloš Rašić: "Returnee Entrepreneurial Practices in Eastern Serbia: Migrant Capital, Social Remittances, and Local Transformations"

Coffee Break

17-19 Round table "From Migration to Transformation: The Role of Remittances and Entrepreneurship in Development"

Participants

Lirim Krasniqi (GERMIN)

Krenare Loxhaj (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ))

Tahir Selimaj (Founder and Director, Sinnphonie and IDS Metal)

Besnik Vasolli (Executive Director, Kosovarisch-Deutsche Wirtschaftsvereinigung/Oda Ekonomike Gjermano-Kosovare, KDWW/OEGJK)

Ion Bulgac (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, FAO)

May 16

9-12 Practices and Politics of Transnational Ties

Nermin Oruč: “Unrequited love: Bosnia and Herzegovina’s diaspora and its troubled path towards development contribution”

Julie Vullnetari: “Carework as development work? Out-migration in Albania and the role of older people in development”

Coffee Break

Mladen Zobec: “A farm in Macedonia, a business in Slovenia, and a brother Gastarbeiter in Germany: transnational economic strategies among Polog Albanians”

Carolin Leutloff-Grandits: “Entrepreneurs with a migrant background, development and the Kosovo state – what kind of partnership?”

12-13 Lunch

13-16 Labour and Money

Sara Žerić, Ulf Brunnbauer: “*Gastarbejter* Factories in Yugoslavia: Migrants Workers, Experts and Official in the Search for Development (1960s-1980s)”

Claudius Ströhle: “Brokering Remittances: Money Transfers in the Light of Transnational Governmentality and Agency. Empirical Evidence from Turkey”

Coffee Break

Sara Bernard: “Yugoslav positionalities in the international division of labour. Employment abroad between internationalism and economic peripherality”

Nilay Kilinc: “Return Migrants as Transcultural Mediators: Their Role in Tourism Development and Transnational Investments in Southern Turkey”

Coffee Break

16.30-17.30 Final discussion

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