

A Transnational Network

Feasibility study for the creation of an internet platform

Project Researcher: *Pierre Terver*

**Research commissioned by: the Walter and Duncan Gordon Foundation
Toronto, Canada
March 2007**

Table of Content

Executive Summary

p.1

Introduction

p.2

1. The landscape of migration, transnational and diaspora initiatives p.3

1.1 Various types of structure

p.3

1.2 Strengths and Limitations of existing initiatives

p.7

2. The potential for a new kind of platform p.9

2.1 Needs and Opportunities

p.9

2.2 Recommendations

p.10

Annexes

p.13

About the Author

Pierre Terver is a consultant for the Walter and Duncan Gordon Foundation. Previous positions included Programme Officer with the United Nations – University for Peace, Assistant Coordinator at UNESCO and Project Officer at Paz y Cooperacion. Pierre holds an MA in International Peace Studies from the University for Peace and an undergraduate degree in International Relations from Institut d'Etudes Politiques (IEP) of Lyon, France.

Acknowledgements

The author would like to thank Marjan Montazemi for her great support in the development of this study, Frederic Sultan from VECAM- Paris and Paul de Guchteneire from UNESCO-Paris for their input and advice regarding the project, as well as Lyndsey Spizcka for reviewing and commenting this study.

Introduction

In spring 2006, the Walter and Duncan Gordon Foundation and the UN-affiliated University for Peace began collaboration in the field of diaspora and transnational practices. Both organizations, committed to explore further the potential role of diasporas in peacebuilding and development, worked together in supporting a series of diaspora community research projects in Toronto. These research projects played an integral role as background papers for the High Level Expert Forum on *Capacity Building for Peace and Development: The Role of Diaspora*, organized by the University for Peace on October 19th and 20th, 2006. At the closure of the Forum, the 100 participating delegates made numerous recommendations, including the development of a platform to facilitate the exchange of information, contacts and promising practices in the field of transnationalism and diaspora. From then, several individuals and organizations, including the Walter and Duncan Gordon Foundation, expressed interest in exploring further the potential of this project.

As a result of these activities, this feasibility study was commissioned by the Gordon Foundation to assess the need for such a platform of exchange in the field of transnational and diaspora practices. It became quickly evident that the platform would be web-based as it would therefore offer a wider range of possibilities for users worldwide. By internet platform one should therefore understand the concept as a website which would facilitate the flow of information and experiences among diasporas themselves and among countries of residence and countries of origin. As agreed with the Gordon Foundation, this study is mainly based on web research, gathering information on initiatives represented on the web and which could have similar objectives to the internet platform. In addition to this primary research, interviews have been conducted with individuals with relevant experience (DKN, UNESCO...) in France and the United Kingdom.

Subsequently, the objective of this study is not only to draw the general landscape of diaspora and transnational initiatives, but also to assess the needs in this field as well as the potential impact of the suggested internet platform. Firstly, one will be introduced to transnational and diasporas initiatives, which for the purposes of this study are distinguished among research initiatives, international organizations and NGO/Community initiatives. Secondly, differing needs in the field will be explored as well as recommendations regarding the creation of an Internet platform. Finally, Annexes detail in table-form various initiatives on transnationalism and diaspora.

1. The landscape of migration, transnational and diaspora initiatives

1.1 Various types of structure

Research Centers and Networks

When examining diaspora and transnational platforms on the web, one of the most striking aspects is the prevalence of research initiatives related to the topic. An overwhelming number of universities have or are linked to research initiatives in the field of migration and diaspora. These initiatives can further be distinguished as research centers and research networks. The latter generally gathers several centers, individuals and at times governmental entities involved in the field of migration. Their activities range from publications, training, research projects and the organization of events.

The Canadian initiative **Metropolis** is a good example of a research network structure. Metropolis International is a forum which aims to link research, policy and practice on migration and diversity through enhancing academic research and facilitating the use of that research by governments and non-governmental organizations. The initiative gathers various partners worldwide, one of them being its national counter part, Metropolis Canada. This sub-network is comprised of five regional centers: The Atlantic Metropolis Centre, Metropolis Montreal, Metropolis Prairie, Metropolis Vancouver and the Centre of Excellence on Research on Immigration and Settlement (CERIS). The Canadian project has created several specific initiatives, which are worth mentioning like the Cities' Initiative, the Citizenship Education Research Network, the Political Participation Research Network and the Gender and Identity Network. These lines of action aimed to develop policy-oriented research. In addition, the entirety of the network is promoted by a well-established, high-level publication: The Metropolis Journal of International Migration and Integration. With such a developed network, Metropolis puts Canada at the forefront in the field migration and integration.

Metropolis along with the other networks like **COMPAS at Oxford University** and the **Asia Pacific Migration Research Network (APMRN)**, constitutes an important source of knowledge and expertise in the field of migration. Many of these initiatives provide comprehensive databases and contacts for experts. In addition, some provide training for professionals and PhD Students. COMPAS and **the Institute for International Migration, Integration and Social Cohesion (IMISCOE)** offer training programmes for policy makers, practitioners and PhD Students. COMPAS launched an MPhil programme on Migration studies in 2005. Though the opportunities in training and education in the field of migration and transnational practices are still limited, one can assume, considering the number of research centers and the quality of the publications in the field, that this kind of activity will grow quickly in the coming years.

Another prominent research and network initiative is **the European Migration Network**. This intergovernmental platform is under the responsibility of the European Commission (DG Justice, Freedom and Security) and is composed of a wide network of National Contact Points (NCP). These NCPs are designated by member States and they are in charge of setting up their own partnerships to develop research projects on Migration. NCPs include the following: structures within Ministries or attached to Ministries of Interior or Justice; non-governmental and welfare institutions; departments of international organizations and national offices of intergovernmental organizations; and national statistical offices and research institutes

What is interesting in this initiative, is the multilevel network and the fact that it is a

governmental structure. From the network at the national level to the network at the EU and international level, the European Migration Network is an entity designed to enhance common policy at the EU level as well as monitor and improve policies at the national level. This multilevel network structure could be used as a model to those looking to set up a similar network on a varying scale (i.e. city, region, country).

Through exploring specific research projects, one stands out in relevance and innovation in regards to this feasibility study. **The Diaspora Knowledge Network (DKN)**, mainly based in Paris, seeks to explore the role of internet in transforming the brain drain into a brain gain. This project has a research contract with the International Committee for Social Science Information and Documentation which undertook the research on behalf of UNESCO. It focuses essentially on the "Technical Diaspora" and is a collaboration between French and Colombian teams to specify and test a set of interactions based on new cooperation practices on the Internet. Four types of interactions are studied:

- 1 Vocabulary related interactions (creation of a common language)
- 2 Organizational interactions (coordination of the workflow)
- 3 Cognitive interactions (creation of common representation)
- 4 IT interactions (link between cooperation and access to new technologies)

DKN's objectives are:

- 1 To understand what incites scientific and technical diaspora members to get involved in economic and social development in their countries of origins.
- 2 To identify their sources of information
- 3 To identify the processes through which this collaboration is made possible
- 4 To technically support these interaction processes (especially IT related needs)

This project is particularly significant as it studies diasporas networking on the Internet. Though the project is limited to the technical diaspora, the dynamics surrounding the collaboration process are very similar to the ones affecting the project of this feasibility study. The use of ICT offers great possibilities, yet at the same time needs clear boundaries in order to have the best results. More than the tools themselves, it is important to look at the way to use them and the dynamics surrounding each of them. A final report from the DKN project should be issued by the end of 2007 and will bring some important inputs regarding the development of Internet-based international cooperation.

International Organizations

Besides the numerous research centers and networks, one can find international organizations as corner stones in the field of migration and transnationalism. Indeed by their status and mandates, they are appropriate forums to deal with this kind of international dynamics.

The **International Organization for Migration** is the key international entity in the field of migration. With 120 member states, a further 19 states holding observer status and offices in over 100 countries, IOM is dedicated to promoting humane and orderly migration for the benefit of all. It does so by providing services and advice to governments and migrants. The organization works in four broad areas of migration management:

- 1 Migration and development
- 2 Facilitating migration
- 3 Regulating migration
- 4 Forced migration

The IOM covers a wide range of services areas: traditional activities related to migration and policy research, international migration law and more specified programs like the German Forced Labor Compensation Programme and the Iraqi Property Claims Programme. The IOM fields also include health and migration, migration movement in post-conflict situations and the regulation of migration.

This organization is the leading inter-governmental organization working with migrants and governments to respond to contemporary migration challenges.†It provides information, advice and support to further the efforts of its stakeholders to develop effective national, regional and global migration management policies and strategies. One of IOM's strategic priorities in the area of migration policy is to contribute to increased dialogue between migration stakeholders at bilateral, regional and global levels.† This strategic priority complements and enhances another of IOM's strategic priorities, which is to strengthen governmental capacity to monitor and manage migration flows through effective policy making, policy dialogue, information sharing and cooperation.†The IOM also conducts research designed to guide and inform migration policy and practice. The organization provides a unique space for consultation between researchers and policy makers. Research results are disseminated through numerous publications worldwide and through events that cover specific topics like "The Congolese Diaspora in North-Rhine-Westphalia" and broader areas like human trafficking or the dynamics of development and migrations.

Other international organizations, like the UN, have specific chapters of their structure dedicated to migration. From this research the **department of UNESCO on International Migration and Multicultural Policies** has appeared to be active and supportive of various migrations initiatives including the Diaspora Knowledge Network. The goal of this department is to promote the respect for the human rights of migrants, and to contribute to peaceful integration of migrants in society. There are seven objectives to fulfill this goal:

- 1 Increase the protection of human rights of migrants
- 2 Improve national policies to handle the impact of migration on society.
- 3 Promote the value and respect of cultural diversity in multicultural societies
- 4 Contribute to the Global Consultative Forum within the United Nations on international migration
- 5 Contribute to the global fight against human trafficking
- 6 Strengthen the capacity, sustainability and effectiveness of diaspora networks
- 7 Promote the social integration of migrants in the city

The organization is therefore a leading entity for migrants' rights advocacy and the promotion and respect of cultural diversity. With its international status and one of the largest forums of the United Nations, UNESCO contributes to improve policies of Member States, especially through the ratification of the *International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant workers and Members of their Families*. It also helps to strengthen the link between research and policy making on migration issues as well as stimulate thinking on migration policies by supporting cutting edge projects worldwide (i.e. the project on Best Practices in International Migration, the Ibero-American Programme on Education, Culture and Migrations). UNESCO becomes even more relevant regarding this feasibility study when it comes to its role in strengthening the capacity, sustainability and effectiveness of Diaspora networks as a means to promote brain gain - as opposed to the current brain drain - through the use of ICT. In this field of activities UNESCO provide support and expertise to the already mentioned Diaspora Knowledge Network.

NGOs and Community Groups:

A first glance at the web may give the impression that there are many diaspora initiatives, yet deeper investigation reveals that there are only a few which are well-represented resources. Indeed, it is understandable that the more one looks at the community level the less likely it is to find very expensive and articulated websites. The technological barrier for most of the countries from the South and the lack of means for community groups in the North make it difficult to bridge the digital divide with international organizations and universities.

Communities and NGOs are certainly the most active groups in the field of migration and transnational practices (i.e. transfer of funds, information and cultural products). However, whereas the web has become the main tool for international communications and information

systems, communities seems to make an important use of more traditional tools like radio, newspaper, phone and regular mail. From our experience in Toronto it is easy to notice that only few of the community groups we work with have a fully updated website, highlighting their activities in transnational and diasporas activities. On the other hand one will find a highly developed network of community newspapers.

Now, regarding the best-represented initiatives on the web, **AFFORD** in the United Kingdom seems to be one of the most relevant example. This foundation works as a platform and facilitator for the African Diaspora in the UK. It has the mission to enhance and expand the capacity of Africans in diaspora to contribute to Africa's development. AFFORD has four goals:

- 1 To shift the balance of power to Africa
- 2 To influence the African development agenda
- 3 To strengthened AFFORD's legitimacy and effectiveness
- 4 To build a strong and sustainable AFFORD

AFFORD is a good illustration of what impact civil society can have when it organizes itself. Through sharing information, facilitating networks and building capacity, the organization manages to influence development policy in the UK and in Africa. The tools used on the website often appear simple: newsletter, e-list, resources, jobs alert, discussion forums, yet are showing to be extremely efficient in keeping people informed and the networks alive. AFFORD's role of facilitator extends beyond the Internet to facilitating projects, bringing organizations and funding entities together and supporting action research.

Furthermore, AFFORD facilitates the "Diaspora Development Professionals Network" which is a network of professionals from the African diaspora who work in mainstream development (with NGOs, DFID, UN agencies...). This network provides a platform to promote mutual support, information sharing and the effectiveness of diversity policy. Another network facilitated by AFFORD is the News African Worldview which is a network of young Africans who have come together to develop an e-journal. Similar to AFFORD, **FORIM** in France, is a complete and well-developed national network gathering more than 700 organizations working in the field of migration, integration and development.

AFFORD has a broad mandate as it considers all the African diaspora. However, most of the diaspora initiatives are country specific, focusing on the relations between the country of origin and the diaspora abroad. A good illustration of this kind of initiatives is **the Iranian Alliances Across Borders (IAAB)** whose mission is to strengthen the Iranian diaspora community and to empower its youth. IAAB is a non-for profit, non-political and non-religious organization. More specifically, IAAB aims to:

- 1 Raise awareness of the Iranian community and Culture
- 2 Promote leadership in the Iranian diaspora, with a specific focus on the younger generation
- 3 Connect Iranians across borders

IAAB has been innovative in its approach which is mainly based on the dynamics of transnationalism and identity. IAAB organized conferences to discuss issues of the Iranian diaspora and from there, developed projects such as an Iranian-American Leadership Camp, an Essay Contest and a Bam Seminar - *Bam and Beyond: Building Alliances Between Iranian and Iranian*. But one of the most interesting project is Project Connection which is a non-for profit led by IAAB and the Iranian Studies Group (ISG) to help those who are looking for internship and volunteer opportunities in Iran. This database provides therefore contacts information, listing of organizations and travel information. This is the kind of activities which is often recommended by diaspora members and which has the potential to build long lasting bridges between countries of residence and countries of origin.

1.2 Strengths and Limits of existing initiatives

After introducing the different kinds of initiatives and detailing the most relevant ones, it is necessary to examine their strengths and weaknesses in order to gain a greater understanding of the feasibility of the proposed project.

First, **a wide and complete network exists of research centers and networks working in the field of international migration and transnational practices.** From the Metropolis project to COMPAS, the Migration Policy Institute and the Asia Pacific Migration Research Network, it is possible to find most of the academic resources necessary to explore the theoretical and conceptual dynamics surrounding international migration and transnationalism. Most of these research initiatives have online resources and make a pool of experts available. Academic resources are therefore made available in a clear way. However, these research initiatives, as most of the academic initiatives, tend to suffer from their technical approach, which prevents part of the population from accessing their resources. Indeed, whereas it could be easy for someone deeply involved in the field of transnationalism to enjoy these resources, it is certainly harder for someone who is not familiar with the academic world or has always been active at the grassroots level. The limit here is therefore not the production of resources but its accessibility.

Second, **regarding the existing networks, they are mostly academic and experts-based.** The majority of the research centers gathers, universities, publications and governmental initiatives. NGO and community groups are rare in these networks whereas they should be considered as key elements as they are the ones who are confronted on the ground and see the challenges created by the dynamics of transnationalism on a daily basis. In addition, the existing networks are largely institutionally based, meaning that limited Internet space is provided to exchange information and promote open dialogue. This reveals a divide between the community sphere and the academic-governmental sphere.

In regards to the visibility of community initiatives on the web, they suffers from a lack of material resources and IT skills. Community projects and organizations are numerous in the field and are often at the forefront of innovation when it comes to enhance exchanges between the country of origin and the country of residence. However, they are the least represented on the Web and no space is provided to facilitate dialogues between diasporas. Therefore, there is much to gain in exploring ways to strengthen their visibility and the exchange of information between the country of origin and the country of residence as well as among different diaspora groups. **Experiences from different groups would greatly benefit others,** which may not have explored the same ways to enhance communication channels with their countries of origin. **Collaboration between diasporas would also strengthen their capacity to influence national politics regarding transnationalism and development.**

Considering international organizations they have the advantage to stand between the research initiatives and those at the community level. Most of their publications and tools are more accessible than those produced mostly for academic and university purposes. In addition, they have the capacity to organize large scale events and bridge the gap between communities, officials and academics. On the other hand, their size limits the efficiency of handling day-to-day networking. International organizations like UNESCO can be integral institutional supports for network initiatives as they have the capacity to mobilize multiple partners, provide international connections and provide material support and expertise.

Regarding the whole landscape it is necessary to highlight that **most work is confined to its own field of activity (i.e. government, research, community work...),** with an exception made for the international organizations that tend to bridge the divide between these groups. It also must be highlighted that **there is an absence of public space on the Internet dedicated to the dynamics related to diaspora and transnationalism. All the initiatives presented are very specialized either geographically, ethnically or professionally.** It is therefore

challenging to paint a broad picture of this field of activity and thus difficult to engage a wide part of the population in the process of developing new ideas and projects regarding transnational practices.

The analysis of the various kinds of initiatives existing in the field of transnational practices underlines the diversity and quality of resourceful structures. From research centers to NGO and international networks and organizations, one can find a wide range of information and initiatives likely to bring some expertise or enhance organizations and individuals' capacity in this field. Conversely, there are also some significant limits to these initiatives. Amongst others, the lack of interactivity when it comes to the websites and the networks developed and the over-specialization of most of the initiatives which make it hard for the majority of the population to get access to information. There is therefore an opportunity to develop some specific user oriented tools to further develop and enhance activities in the field of diasporas and transnational practices.

2. The potential for a new kind of platform

2.1 Needs and Opportunities

As introduced earlier, the idea of developing a platform to facilitate and enhance the transfer of information of diaspora groups comes from the recommendations made by the delegates present at the High Level Expert Forum on *Capacity Building for Peace and Development: The Role of Diaspora*. This Forum was held in Toronto on October 19th and 20th and organized by the University for Peace with the support, amongst others, of the Walter and Duncan Gordon Foundation.

This event highlighted the **need to link youth**, which is presented as one of the most important forces in diaspora collaboration, **to their countries of origin and other diaspora initiatives in their country of residence**. The delegates also encouraged the creation of a platform, which would break physical barriers between the country of origin and the country of residence, and therefore make easier the collaboration on specific projects. Looking at examples like the Ghana Skills Bank or that of AFFORD, it also became relevant to look at **the creation of skill banks**. Delegates further recommended, to complete this skills bank, the **creation of a list of NGOs likely to support individuals in their commitment to their country of origin but also to their country of residence**.

Currently, it appears that building an internet platform would be the most effective response to this demand. There is a **need for a space to facilitate communication and collaboration between diasporas and countries**. This collaboration process would therefore lead to a cooperation process and engender local and international projects. **The platform would bridge the divide between field of activities (academics, practitioners, officials) and between diaspora groups, enhancing therefore the potential for peacebuilding (Ethiopia, Eritrea, Afghanistan etc...)**. Building on other networking experiences, it appears that such a platform could be an efficient way to facilitate the development of projects both locally and globally. In fact, the process of creating the platform is itself a local project. Communities should be at the core of the conception of this platform as they are considered as the main stakeholders in the project. The process of creation becoming a local project, a feeling of ownership will emerge, making of this Internet platform, a lively and efficient tool. Once again **the important thing is the dynamics surrounding the tools and not simply the tools themselves**. The project needs the best tools to maximize participation while taking into account this does not necessarily mean the most recently developed.

The idea of listing the most efficient NGOs for individuals committed to financially or

physically support exchanges with their country of origin could be done through the facilitation of the creation of collective observatories by countries or diasporas groups which would be in charge of finding the organizations most capable of channeling financial and resources flows. The Internet platform would therefore be used as a mean to communicate and exchange information, facilitating the communication between different local groups. This is one of the examples illustrating possible local outcomes of such a project.

Organizations involved in this field of activity like UNESCO and VECAM have expressed interest in this idea, supporting the fact that this kind of platform has not been done yet and that there is a **need for better communication and advertisement of existing activities and projects**. In too many cities, organizations are not aware of existing initiatives and therefore duplicate the work. Such a platform would already benefit from a wide range of local and international collaborators that would ensure regular updates as well as the development of a lively and interactive space, likely to engage people into a productive process.

2.2 Recommendations

After analyzing the landscape of initiatives in the field of migration and transnationalism, and after highlighting opportunities and needs regarding the creation of an internet platform to facilitate the exchange of information between diasporas, there are some necessary recommendations for the realization of such a project.

The approach

First, as presented earlier, **communities need to be kept at the core of the creation process**. If this project is to enhance civil society's capacity to be proactive in the field of transnationalism, it should be designed by them and should consider some specificity (i.e. the access and knowledge of web tools). **The creation process needs to be inclusive** and also involve academic and officials who will provide a multiplicity of views and share their experience especially if they are already members of some research or governmental initiatives.

Following on the previous recommendation, **this project, even though it would have a global mandate, should initially be developed and launched locally**. Indeed, building on various organizations' experience, the best way to ensure the sustainability of a network is to strongly root it locally. Once it is locally efficient, its dynamics will naturally attract individuals and organizations from all over the world. It will therefore be possible to adapt to new participants and see how the website should evolve to benefit a wider community.

Another important point appears to be the role of the platform itself. **There should be a distinctive line between facilitating the process of collaboration - meaning creating a space for exchange - and facilitating the cooperation process - meaning creating common projects**. Building on the experience of VECAM in Paris, which is involved in the DKN project and other web bases initiatives, not having a clear distinctive line comes down to be both judge and judged and may create wrong expectations from the members of the network.

This project should also take into consideration the challenges created by dealing with both organizations and individuals. For Internet platforms featuring discussion forums and other means of expressions, difficulties can emerge in discerning whether the users speak for themselves or on behalf of an organization. This characteristic has to be discussed with communities and representatives of organizations in order to make sure that there would be no confusion between institutional representation and personal views.

It would also be interesting to look at ways to **make the website bilingual**. Even though most of the discussions between members are likely to take place in English, it would be profitable to look at developing a French version of the main parts of the website as well as ensuring a certain amount of resources in French. Indeed, by being based in Canada this project

should take advantage of opportunities emerging in the francophone world. During this study a few francophone initiatives expressed interest in supporting such a network, including the Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie.

Technical aspects of the platform

Regarding the tools featured on the platform, currently on the Internet what matters is not the variety of tools available but rather how to choose the right ones for the users. A cautious approach to take would be to first develop the platform with the tools that are already used by communities and then step by step, add new tools if the need is expressed. Indeed, it came from various Internet networks that the multiplicity of tools available tends to confuse users rather than empower them. Depending on which platform is used for the website, this aspect may not be a problem at the beginning. Indeed, **the platform IGLOO, provided by the Centre for International Governance Innovation (www.igloo.org) could be a potential host to launch such a platform.**

IGLOO is what referenced as a web 2.0 initiative. Similar to websites like Myspace, Youtube and Flickr, IGLOO is a platform that enables users to put content online, create network and profiles, and search for resources. The distinguishing characteristic of **IGLOO** is that it **is made for non-profit organizations and other entities proactive in the field of social change.** IGLOO enables organizations to create their own website, network, profile users and even its own intranet. The advantage is that the structure is already developed and one only has to “fill the blanks” to create the webpage. The downside of this would be that the layout of the page cannot be changed as wished and it is not possible to add all the features one may need. On the other hand it is free, comprehensive and features essential tools to build the platform (i.e. discussions forums, agenda, resources centre and intranet).

Annexes

| Name | Country | Website | Status | Activities |
|---|---------|--|--|---|
| European Migration Network | Germany | www.european-migration-network.org/ | <u>Governmental Network</u> Under the responsibility of the European Commission (DG Justice, Freedom and Security). National Contact Points of the Network are designated by Member states. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Research Projects - Monitoring of Common and National Policies - Networking on national level - Networking on European and International levels - Documentation |
| Ghana Skills Bank | USA | www.ghanaskillsbank.com | <u>Governmental Network</u> Initiative of the Ghana Embassy in Washington D.C whose goal is to provide the Government of Ghana and the international donor community with a centralized database of professionals and business leaders from around the world. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Networking - Database |
| Global Forum on Migration and Development | Belgium | www.migrationdevelopment.org | <u>International Forum</u> This Forum is a UN initiative, state-run and organized by Belgium in August 2007. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - State run Forum - Exchange of promising practices and sharing of information - Plenary and Roundtables Sessions |

| | | | | |
|---|-------------|--|---|---|
| UNESCO Social and Human Sciences International Migration and Multicultural Policies | France | www.unesco.org/migration | International Organization | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increase the protection of human rights of migrants - Improve national policies to handle the impact of migration on society - Promote the value and respect of cultural diversity in multicultural societies - Contribute to the Global Consultative Forum within the United Nations on international migration - Contribute to the global fight against human trafficking - Strengthen the capacity, sustainability and effectiveness diaspora networks - Promote the social integration migrants in the city |
| International Organization for Migration (IOM) | Switzerland | www.iom.int | International Organization 120 member states, and 19 states holding observer status and offices in over 100 countries | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The promotion of international migration law - Policy debate and guidance - Protection of migrants' rights - Migration health and gender - Events - Publications - Countries and migrant groups - Specific projects: Afghanistan, Iraq, victims from the Holocaust |
| Metropolis. Journal of International Migration and Integration | Canada | http://jimi.metropolis.net/ | Journal Multidisciplinary and Interdisciplinary bilingual scholarly journal. | |
| Global Networks Journal | UK | www.globalnetworksjournal.com/ | Journal Journal publishing articles on global networks and transnational practices. | |
| The Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies | USA | www.cemes.org/jems.htm | Journal The Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies (JEMS) has existed under its old title New Community since 1971 | |
| AFFORD African Foundation for Development | UK | www.afford-uk.org/ | NGO/Network Network for the African diaspora in the UK | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dissemination of information through news, events, e-lists - Facilitating Networks: Discussion Forums, Project Facilitation - Building Capacity: Resource Centre Training & Workshops - Sign-Posting Career opportunities - Influencing Development Policies |

| | | | | |
|--|--------|---|--|--|
| Forum des Organisations de Solidarité Internationale et des questions de l'Immigration (FORIM) | France | www.forim.fr/ | <u>NGO/Network</u> National platform gathering networks, federations and associations of immigrants involved in migration, integration and development activities | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Observatory of practices in the field of migration, development and integration - Networking - Databases and resources (funding, organizations, formations etc...) - Events - Formation and Training to strengthen organizational capacity |
| Iranian Alliance Across Borders (IAAB) | USA | www.iranianalliances.org | <u>NGO/Network</u> NGO addressing issues of the Iranian diaspora and building capacity. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Networking - Building Community - Capacity building (youth) - Events - Training - Internship programme (www.project-connection.org) |
| Brazil Foundation | USA | www.brazilfoundation.org | <u>NGO/Network</u> Foundation mobilizing resources in the USA to improve social conditions in Brazil | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fundraising - Events - Projects |
| Society of Ethiopian Established in Diaspora | USA | www.ethioseed.org | <u>NGO/ Network</u> Network for the Ethiopian Diaspora | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Public Events - Networking - Skills Bank - e-community |
| CERIS – Centre of Excellence on Research on Immigration and Settlement | Canada | http://ceris.metroopolis.net/ | <u>Research Centre</u> Consortium of Toronto-area universities and community partners | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Research projects - Monthly reports - Documentation Centre |
| Oxford University COMPAS Centre on Migration, Policy & Society | UK | www.compas.ox.ac.uk/ | <u>Research Centre</u> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Research - Policy Assessment - Dissemination through publications and events - Teaching and Training (Mphil programme, training for Phd Students and practitioners) - International Hub for networking |
| Migration Policy Institute | USA | www.migrationpolicy.org/ | <u>Research Centre</u> The Migration Policy Institute (MPI) is an independent, nonpartisan, nonprofit think tank | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dissemination through the Migration Information Source - Research projects |

| | | | | |
|--|-----------------|--|---|--|
| | | | in Washington, DC dedicated to the study of the movement of people worldwide. | |
| Sussex Centre for Migration Research | UK | www.sussex.ac.uk/migration/ | <u>Research Centre</u> University of Sussex, member of IMISCOE, publishes the Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies and run the DFID-funded centre on Migration, Globalisation and Poverty. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Conduct Research - Course (MA, MSc, DPhil) - Training - Publication |
| Swiss Forum on Migration and Population Studies | Switzerland | www.migration-population.ch/ | <u>Research Centre</u> The SFM is affiliated to the University of Neuchatel as an independent institute. Its legal status is that of a non-profit foundation. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Conduct research - Coordinates scientific research in the field of migration within Switzerland - Information services |
| Asia Pacific Migration Research Network (APMRN) | Australia | http://apmrn.anu.edu.au/ | <u>Research Network</u> A collaborative organisation of researchers and scholars interested in all aspects of migration. Each regional network of the APMRN is autonomous and there are regional coordinators in Australia, Bangladesh, China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Sri Lanka, the Pacific Islands (based in Fiji), Taiwan (unofficial member), Thailand and Vietnam. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Research Projects - Conferences - Workshops - Publications |
| The Network of Excellence for International Migration, Integration and Social Cohesion | The Netherlands | www.imiscoe.org/ | <u>Research Network</u> IMISCOE is a Network of Excellence that brings together some 400 selected, highly qualified researchers of 22 established European research institutes | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Research programme on Migration, integration and social cohesion - System of training PhD students and practitioner - Dissemination through publication and online library |

| | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------|--|---|--|
| Metropolis International | Canada | http://jimi.metropolis.net/ | <u>Research Network</u> Forum for bridging research, policy and practice on migration and diversity | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Conferences - Publications - Research Projects |
| Metropolis Canada | Canada | www.metropolis.net | <u>Research Network</u> The Metropolis Project is built upon partnerships between all levels of government, academic researchers and community organizations in five Centers of Excellence. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Conferences - Publications - Networking |
| Central European Forum for Migration | Poland | www.cefmr.pan.pl/ | <u>Research Network</u> Research partnership of the Foundation for Population, Migration and Environment, Institute of Geography and Spatial Organization of the Polish Academy of Sciences and International Organization for Migration, managed by the Warsaw Office of the latter | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - conducts research - coordinates scientific research - Information services - training sessions |
| Globalization and World Cities | UK | www.lboro.ac.uk/gawc/index.html | <u>Research Network</u> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Research Projects - Publications - Promoting the use of trans-national data for social science research |
| The Diaspora Knowledge Network (DKN) | France | www.dk-network.org/sommaire.php | <u>Research Project</u> Research Project focused on Technical Cooperation of Diasporas. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Enhance scientific collaboration between diasporas - Explore the potential of Internet as a tool for transforming the brain drain into a brain gain - Database of experts and diaspora initiatives in the field of technical cooperation |
| Transnational Communities Programme | | www.transcommunications.ac.uk/ | <u>Research Project</u> Formally ended in 2003 but still active | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Exploring the human dimensions of globalization and transnationalism - Publications - Events |

| | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|--|
| | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|--|