

Press Notice – For Immediate Release

SIXTH DIASPORA DEVELOPMENT DIALOGUE (DDD6) **‘Migration and Integration: Actions for Inclusive Development’**

**African diaspora and governments from Europe and Africa meet to discuss how migration and integration can support inclusive development in Europe and Africa
Piran, Slovenia**

The **Africa Europe Diaspora Development Platform (ADEPT)**, in partnership with the **Institute of African Studies (IAS)**, Slovenia, and **Humanitas Afrika**, Prague, Czech Republic, are organising the **Sixth Diaspora Development Dialogue (DDD6)** on the topic of **‘Migration and Integration: Actions for Inclusive Development’**, to be held at Grand Hotel Bernardin, Piran, Slovenia on Friday, 2 December 2016 from 9am to 6pm.

At the UN Summit for Refugees and Migrants on 19 September 2016, the **New York Declaration** was adopted. Amongst other things, it was agreed that campaigns will be developed to counter xenophobia. This links in with the UN Secretary General’s ‘Togetherness’ campaign. Government representatives, African and European diplomats, diaspora and migrants organisation and the private sector will meet for DDD6 and explore **practical and effective ways of facilitating migrant and diaspora integration in host countries, for the socio-economic and development benefit of all.**

Toxic Xenophobic Trends: The Middle East and Africa have witnessed the largest movements of refugees and migrants in recent years. Many of these countries have responded with generosity, openness and humanity despite their constrained economic circumstances. In Europe, the smaller inflow of refugees and migrants has been greatly politicised, and tragically a toxic and xenophobic narrative is spreading from fringe extremist rhetoric to popular and normal discourse. Misperceptions, falsehoods and propaganda are being used to spread fear and hatred against migrants, and create a confrontational and tragic ‘them and us’ situation. This trend is retrogressive, uncivilised and anti-humanitarian. It does not represent the will and aspiration of the majority of ordinary citizens.

Countering Xenophobia and Facilitating Integration: On 19 September 2016, the **UN Summit for Refugees and Migrants** adopted the **New York Declaration**, stating that: *“We deplore all manifestations of xenophobia, racial discrimination and intolerance. We welcome the global campaign proposed by the Secretary-General to counter xenophobia [which] will emphasize, inter alia, direct personal contact between host communities and refugees and migrants and will highlight the positive contributions made by the latter, as well as our common humanity.”* It is important to maintain a dual approach of countering hateful xenophobia and facilitating inclusive and beneficial migrant integration.

Practical Actions for Integration: The planned outcome of ADEPT’s Sixth Diaspora Development Dialogue (DDD6) is **a guide on practical and effective means and forms of migrant integration.** This guide may cover, amongst other things: duties and responsibilities of migrant and host communities; local expectations, customs and practices relevant to individual migrants; practical options and opportunities for interaction, exchange, engagement, neighbourliness and friendship; presentation of facts and figures of positive migrant contributions; engagement of young people and use of social media in localised intercultural exchange and fraternity

DDD6 will be broadcasted live on ADEPT’s website: www.adept-platform.org on 2 December 2016.

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Notes for Editors

The **Africa Europe Diaspora Development Platform (ADEPT)** is a network of African diaspora development organisations (ADDOs) based in Europe that are active in African development. It serves as a point of contact or reference for all those interested in African development issues – from policy-makers and NGOs to the general public.

ADEPT aims to ‘**improve and enhance the capacity and impact of the African diaspora organisations that are involved in development activities in Africa**’. This aim is pursued through delivery of services to diaspora organisations and individuals in Europe and Africa. **ADEPT works and engages with 84 countries** (28 EU countries, plus Switzerland and Norway, and 54 African countries). In particular, ADEPT assists ADDOs to:

- Optimise their development engagement in Africa
- Professionalise their organisations and activities
- Create effective partnerships in Europe and Africa
- Expand and improve their development activities in Africa
- Influence the policy and practice of development cooperation.

ADEPT is financed by the **European Commission** and the **Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation**. It is managed by the **African Foundation for Development (AFFORD)** with support from the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD).

Institute for African Studies (IAS) is a non-profit organisation that operates as a national and international educational and research centre on issues such as anti-discrimination, advocacy, social justice and migration from a global perspective. Its mission is to raise awareness and improve education on social, economic and cultural development issues. The IAS team works with a variety of Slovenian and foreign experts in order to become a research and educational centre and resource centre on African and global perspectives. Their philosophy is to work for the good of society through networking and strategic partnerships, as well as rejecting “one size fits all” approach to policy practice and implementation.

Humanitas Afrika was founded in Prague in 2000 as an African-Czech non-profit organisation in order to promote mutual tolerance and understanding between Czechs and Africans and additionally raise awareness about Africa, Africans and their culture in Czech society. In 2005 the association founded African Information Centre (AIC), which is open to the general public and provides library and other educational services and activities, such as workshops about Africa in schools, films, courses in African languages and more. The centre is a meeting place and helps Africans living in the Czech Republic to integrate into Czech society and maintain their own identity and culture. Humanitas Afrika also works to support education and development within Africa. Project patrons (since 2002 in Ghana, and since 2006 in Kenya and Benin) allow children in poor communities to access education. A related Scholarship Programme provides financial assistance for the education of high school students.