Center for Mediterranean Integration
Perspectives from the Mediterranean Host Municipalities Network

Janette Uhlmann, KNOMAD Forum, June 2, 2017
CMI Refugees and Host communities program

The regional CMI program spans mid-to the long-term to share evidence-based knowledge, best practices and innovative solutions to the challenges of hosting refugees:

Pillar 1: Welfare of Host communities

Objectives
- Strengthen the Host community network with evidence-based knowledge to improve their response capacity in public service delivery for citizens and refugees
- Facilitate cross-regional peer-to-peer learning about experiences and innovative solutions for host municipalities and local stakeholders

Pillar 2: Refugee Inclusion for common welfare in host countries
Pillar 3: Syrian Diaspora mobilization
**Mediterranean Host Municipalities Learning Network**

What do we offer?

- Regional peer-learning approach
- Knowledge-sharing and online discussion (private FB group)
- Thematic WS and technical field visits
- Annual Network meetings
- Collection of best practices
- Newsletter and database
- M&E Surveys and Benchmarking
The Mediterranean Host Municipalities Learning Network

- **5 countries**
- **80+ municipalities**
- **100+ members**
- **50+ development partners and organizations**
Compendium of Best Practices for Municipalities Hosting Refugees

Bi-lingual collection of successful experiences and innovative projects

20 best practices from local governments, development organizations and NGOs in Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine and Turkey

Core themes: governance, social cohesion, labor market integration, solid waste management, housing and urban planning
What effect overall had the refugee crisis on the current economic performances in your town?
Host Community Survey on Local Economic Development May17

Proposed solutions on creating job opportunities/shared growth

- **Main issues on job creation:**
  - lack of job offers on the formal market,
  - difficulties to obtain work permit,
  - insufficient or inadequate skills of refugees,
  - lack of information (from employers and job seekers),
  - Work abuse.

![Bar chart showing proposed solutions](chart.png)
LED perspective: How to use potential benefits:
Selected lessons and priorities identified by Network:

- Strategic planning and policies for LED
- Private Sector Opportunities
- Skills and Capacity Development
- Regulations and policies
- Follow-Up Network Action Planning

www.cmimarseille.org
Good Practice Example:

The Municipality of Sarhan, Jordan reached out directly to about 50 private companies, and offered incentives for settlement in their city: 3 plants were created, providing 750 jobs for Jordanians and Syrians.

Priorities/Recommendations:

- **Attracting the private sector/Industry:** Municipalities need to: i) develop capacities to approach investors, ii) need to know their comparative advantage and iii) offer incentives.
- **Encourage Home-based Business & Entrepreneurship:** Simplify regulatory framework, provide new financial instruments with flexible and reduced interest rates and marketing / networking platform.
Sharing evidence-based knowledge on forced displacement

Scaling-up regional knowledge and awareness: offering up-to-date, evidence-based knowledge on development solutions to forced displacement for clients and partners in MENA and Europe.

Program webpage

Periodical newsletter (over 6,000 recipients)

Online knowledge base

Media Partnerships:

• CMI/France Médias Monde group partnership
• CMI co-production of three one-hour TV debates on the issue of Mediterranean refugees and host communities (with France24)
• Partnership with the Syrian youth and grassroots Radio SouriaLi
Thank you!
LED perspective: How to use potential benefits:

Lessons and priorities identified:

Strategic Planning and policies for LED:

**Example of Achievements:**

**Tripoli, Lebanon:** City Neighborhood Profiles and Strategies developed by UN Habitat and including local economic development data, to inform municipal planning.

**Recommendations (selection):**

- Develop local economic development strategies (mid-long term) that prioritizes job creation and private investment
- Informed strategies: Conduct analysis & collect data at the municipal level to inform strategic planning; identify value/market offer
- Planning: Identify priority projects and align municipal strategies with regional and nat. strategies (investment maps)
- Train municipal staff to formulate strategic plans
How to alleviate the negative impacts and use the potential benefits? Examples from Beirut

Skills and Capacity Development

Good Practice Example:

Data collection on refugee skills and profile (Sultanbeyli Municipality, Turkey)

Recommendations:

- Matching training offer/demand (e.g. through creation of municipal databases on existing skills, adequate vocational training)
- Invest in Syrian Refugees capacities and conduct comparative advantages of each municipality to attract specific investments (vocational training centers) Opportunities of existing skills among Syrians (marketing argument, transfer of skills to locals).
- Creating job opportunities for Syrian that don’t compete with local job opportunities.
How to alleviate the negative impacts and use the potential benefits?

Regulations and policies:

Good practice example:

Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan (supported by a WB Program for Results Loan): reforming Jordan’s labor market regulations, improving Jordan’s investment climate by implementing systematic and broad-based reforms, and creating an environment which actively promotes and facilities programs that will attract and retain investments.

Recommendations:

- Municipal policies for affordable housing
- Invest in sustainable energy
- Simplify regulatory framework overall especially for homebased businesses including entry, inspections, predictability of business environment
- Provide new financial instruments with flexible and reduced interest rates especially for micro and home based businesses
Pillar 1: P2P activities

- Peer-learning approach
- Network launch
- First survey

1st annual P2P WS (Amman)
May-June 2016

P2P Learning WS on Social Cohesion (Sanliurfa)
Nov 2016

P2P Learning WS on Solid Waste Management (Bethlehem)
Oct 2016

WS on the Integration of Refugees into Host Community Health Systems (Marseille)
March 2017

Webinar on Data Production for Strengthening Social Cohesion in Host Communities
April 2017

Launch of online platform for the Host Municipalities Network
Sept 2016

Webinar on PPPs and new technologies in SWM
Jan 2017

Development of the Compendium of Best Practices
Feb 2017

2nd annual P2P WS (Beirut)
May 2017

- Focus on LED and networking
- Updated survey
- M&E: benchmarking survey
Pillar 1: The Mediterranean Host Municipalities Learning network
Pillar 2: Supporting refugee inclusion for common welfare in host countries


March 2017, Marseille: Strengthening Human Resources for Health: the Integration of Refugees into Community Health Systems
Pillar 3: Supporting diaspora mobilization

February 2017, Eschborn: Syrian Diaspora Business Forum

- Dialogue, networking and engagements with key stakeholders
- Knowledge sharing around sustainable opportunities for investments, new markets, skills transfer and philanthropy
- Realistic and joint action plan on the next steps: “Syrian International Business Association” (SIBA)

July 2017, Marseille: SIBA first General Assembly Meeting