



Hamburgisches  
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# **Diaspora, Integration & Development**

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# Pilote study: Egyptian, Afghan, Serbian diasporas

(IMIS, MRG)

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## ➤ Research frame:

- Diasporas?
- Variables
- Various forms of engagement/type of transfer activity

→ **Motivation**

## ➤ Methodology

# Form of migration → integration → type of activity

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## **Egyptian diaspora community:**

1950s: students upper-middle class, educated professionals, naturalisations, marriages

➤ *Cultural clubs and professionals associations*

## **Afghan diaspora community:**

1960s/'70s: students, businessmen, refugee wave 1 (Soviet invasion 1979), refugee wave 2 (mujahideen 1992), refugee wave 3 (ascendency of Taliban – 2001)

➤ *Ethnic, religious, political, professional, target group (women/girls) associations*

# Form of migration → integration → type of activity

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## Activities Egyptian diaspora community:

- Mainly individual
- Remittances (2004): 90 Mio. \$US or 4 Mio. Euro?
- Direct investments/trade (comparative advantage or obstacle)
- Infrastructure development: health and education, science/knowledge transfer

**Form of migration → integration → type of activity**

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## **Activities Afghan diaspora community:**

- Mainly collective
- Well-situated Afghans are among the main activists
- Remittances (2004): 22 Mio. Euro; 200 Euro/month
- Mediating direct investments (companies/contact to governmental authorities), trade
- Infrastructure development: health, education, social „system“, support women/girls, energy, humanitarian

# Case comparison

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## Egyptian diaspora community:

- Individual, well-integrated/educated, investments in educational/scientific/healthcare facilities, profit-oriented, prestigious projects, access to elite networks (both receiving/origin country);
- Relative stable economic and political environment;

➤ ***Motivation: making a profit, receiving recognition***

# Case comparison

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## Afghan diaspora community:

- Collective, comprehensive and intense involvement, projects aim at public good, main activists well-situated;
- Conflict, breakdown of the state;
  - ***Motivation: patriotic***
  - ***Compensation for the lapse of state provision***

## Some more results / recommendations

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- Remittances: constant over long time span
- Integration: decisive factor (permanent legal status, equal access to the labour market)
- Special attention: 2nd/3rd generations (students)
- Comparative advantage; particularly important for sustainability (e.g. specific local context/rural context)
- Building on existing structures
- Activities by countries of origin

# General conclusion

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- Case-by-case analysis
- Referring to: the points of conjuncture – at various points in time – their combined effect on the mobilisation of diaspora communities

# Publications

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[www.hwwi.org](http://www.hwwi.org)

**Migration Research Group**

**Country profiles and policy briefs:**

[www.focus-migration.de](http://www.focus-migration.de)