

Humans at the center:

How social entrepreneurs with a migrant background are making a difference

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Building an eco-system for impact: key recommendations for policy and practice

Our study shows that social entrepreneurs with a migrant background implement effective solutions that put humans at the center, leading to long-term benefits for migrants and their host communities. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020, there's an increased risk of migrants and refugees being marginalized as countries heavily restrict the flow of people. Asylum seekers are extremely vulnerable and may end up in hazardous situations, because they often reside in places with a lack of access to healthcare and social security. There is an urgent need for inclusive solutions that recognize our interconnectedness. Solutions that empower people and unleash their untapped potential will make the difference we need to move forward.

We make ten recommendations to build an eco-system for impact where social entrepreneurs with a migrant background are supported and their impact is amplified.

How can we support the social entrepreneurs?

- 01** Social entrepreneurs with a migrant background need to have a seat at the table when policies and solutions are developed to ensure their effectiveness.
- 02** Institutional actors need to overcome their own preconceptions and biases towards people with a migrant background and commit to a trust-based relationship with the social entrepreneurs.
- 03** Access to financial capital and services needs to be improved via specialized programs at commercial banks, microfinance institutions, and impact investment funds. *Special role: European Commission*
- 04** Access to legal expertise and favorable tax policies/subsidies need to be improved while minimizing bureaucracy. Knowledge hubs can be created to make expertise affordable and accessible. *Special role: National governments*
- 05** Large institutional actors need to engage more with inclusive communities at the grassroots level to co-create opportunities for diversity within their organizations and the local environment. *Special role: Local governments*

How can we amplify their impact?

- 06** Adopting an empowering and empathic approach towards asylum seekers and other migrants by speeding up procedures and loosening work restrictions and language requirements.
- 07** Creating more opportunities for migrants in the formal labor market by recognizing their knowledge, skills, and work experience. *Special role: Private sector*
- 08** Promoting collaboration and alignment by changing incentives within as well as outside existing organization to pave the way for people with a migrant background to work on issues related to migration. *Special role: Civil society sector*
- 09** Changing the narrative by shining a light on positive stories about migration that focus on our shared humanity. *Special role: Media industry*
- 10** Creating fruitful grounds for the development of innovative solutions through partnerships between experienced professionals (1st, 2nd or 3rd generation) with an interconnected view and field experts. *Special role: Think tanks and academic institutions*