

Entrepreneurs, Remittances, Social Change. Migration and Development in Southeastern Europe and beyond.

Final conference of the research project
[Transnational Families, Farms and Firms: Migrant Entrepreneurs in Kosovo and Serbia
Since the 1960s](#)

Hotel Prishtina, Prishtina, May 15-16, 2025

Organized by

Leibniz-Institute for East and Southeast European Studies (IOS), Regensburg
Leibniz Institute of Agricultural Development in Transition Economies (IAMO), Halle/Saale
Europa-Universität Viadrina, Frankfurt/Oder

University of Prishtina

May 15

9-10 **Introduction**

10-13 **Return Migration and its Effects**

Russell King: “The impact of return migration on economic development and social change in migrant-origin countries: a scoping review”

Maria Adamopoulou: “What’s the return of return? Lessons from the socio-economic reintegration of the Gastarbeiter in Greece (1970s-1980s)”

Coffee Break

Agron Hajdari, Veland Ramadani, Besnik A. Krasniqi, Justina Shiroka-Pula: “The role of returnee entrepreneurs in bridging knowledge gaps in business development, education and innovation”

Aida Ibričević: “Sustainability of decided return migration-the case of Bosnia and Herzegovina”

13-14 **Lunch**

14-16.30 **Local Level Transformations**

Janine Pinkow-Läpple; Judith Möllers; Thomas Dufhues: “Intangible Remittances in Rural Kosovo: Development Potential and the Role of Conflicting Migration Narratives”

Robert Pichler: “Building Futures at Home: Hopes, Realities, and Spatial Transformations in Migrant Villages in North Macedonia”

Remus Gabriel Anghel: “Involving local communities. Connecting return migration with social and economic entrepreneurship in southern Transylvania, Romania”

Miloš Rašić: “Returnee Entrepreneurial Practices in Eastern Serbia: Migrant Capital, Social Remittances, and Local Transformations”

Coffee Break

17-19 **Round table with practitioners**

May 16

9-12 **Practices and Politics of Transnational Ties**

Nermin Oruč: “Unrequited love: Bosnia and Herzegovina’s diaspora and its troubled path towards development contribution”

Julie Vullnetari: “Carework as development work? Out-migration in Albania and the role of older people in development”

Coffee Break

Mladen Zobec: “A farm in Macedonia, a business in Slovenia, and a brother Gastarbeiter in Germany: transnational economic strategies among Polog Albanians”

Carolin Leutloff-Grandits: “Entrepreneurs with a migrant background, development and the Kosovo state – what kind of partnership?”

12-13 **Lunch**

13-16 **Labour and Money**

Sara Žerić, Ulf Brunnbauer: “*Gastarbejter* Factories in Yugoslavia: Migrants Workers, Experts and Official in the Search for Development (1960s-1980s)”

Claudius Ströhle: “Brokering Remittances: Money Transfers in the Light of Transnational Governmentality and Agency. Empirical Evidence from Turkey”

Coffee Break

Sara Bernard: “Yugoslav positionalities in the international division of labour. Employment abroad between internationalism and economic peripherality”

Nilay Kilinc: “Return Migrants as Transcultural Mediators: Their Role in Tourism Development and Transnational Investments in Southern Turkey”

Coffee Break

16.30-17.30 **Final discussion**

Participants

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