

Think 20 (T20) Task Force on Forced Migration (TFFM)

TFFM Kick-Off Workshop:

“Economic Policy Solutions for the Refugee Crisis in Neighbouring Countries of First Asylum – Scope for Action on the G20 Agenda”

**@ German Institute for Economic Research (DIW), Mohrenstraße 58, 10117 Berlin
30 Nov 2016**

**Evening reception on 29 Nov @ Museum für Kommunikation / Kaffeehaus Dallmayr,
Leipziger Str. 16, 10117 Berlin**

Background:

The political and economic challenges related to forcibly displaced persons, in particular in the context of the Syrian crisis, are high on the agenda in countries of first asylum, transit, and final destination alike.

Much of the debate and media attention in the EU as well as existing international processes and global concerted efforts have focussed on humanitarian questions, the nexus between migration and development policies, and challenges related to European host and transit countries. Less attention has been paid to the economic dimensions of the presence of a large number of refugees in a few host countries. Only recently has the focus shifted to host countries outside the EU and to developing and emerging countries in particular.

The G20 Leaders highlighted the global refugee crisis as an issue of global concern at the 2015 Antalya Summit. This year, the G20 Leaders' Communiqué at the Hangzhou Summit puts an even stronger emphasis on the challenges of the "[w]orldwide massive forced displacement of people, unprecedented since the Second World War". It mentions refugee migration as a "further significant global challenge affecting the world economy" and announces that the "G20 will continue to address forced displacement in 2017", including root causes of the refugee crisis and "strengthening the contribution of development assistance to host communities" [...] "with a view to developing concrete actions". The topic of forcibly displaced persons will also be high on the agenda during Germany's G20 Presidency.

This Workshop kicks-off the Think20's (T20) Task Force on Forced Migration (TFFM) and its efforts in contributing policy recommendations to the G20 process during the German G20 Presidency.

TFFM aims at stimulating debate and providing dispassionate, evidence-based policy advice to the G20 Leaders and other global and national decision makers on how to empower forced migrants, who often spend many years in their country of asylum, to lead productive lives until they eventually return home or remain abroad for good.

TFFM will listen to the voices of countries – whether in the G20 or not – that host large numbers of refugees. We seek to complement and build on existing international efforts related to forcibly displaced persons, such as the UN Summit, the Global Migration Group, the Global Forum on Migration and Development, the World Bank's response and other relevant processes. TFFM will proceed on the understanding that protecting forced migrants is the responsibility not only of countries of first asylum, but of the global community as a whole.

Accordingly, the themes covered by the Workshop will range from macroeconomic policies and responses at the international level, to micro-level solutions and local economy matters. Issues to be discussed include, inter alia, the job-market; fiscal policy and social security issues; promoting entrepreneurship and SME development; cooperation schemes with the private sector and qualified economic zones; the financial system, financial inclusion and the role of remittances and illicit financial flows; international trade and investment and the role of diasporas; and the role of international cooperation efforts in tackling these challenges.

The closed-door Workshop will bring together around 20-25 leading experts from think tanks. Input papers will be prepared by selected member think tanks to kick-start discussions in the individual sessions, and will be jointly developed further over the following months.

For further details on the work of TFFM and activities over the course of the German G20 Presidency, please refer to the concept of TFFM as distributed earlier.

Agenda

Tuesday, 29 November 2016	
19:00 – 21:00	<p>Dinner Reception hosted by GIZ</p> <p>Dinner speech by Markus Kreßler, Managing Director, Kiron Open Higher Education on “Higher Education for Refugees”</p> <p>@ Museum für Kommunikation / Kaffeehaus Dallmayr, Leipziger Str. 16, 10117 Berlin</p>
Wednesday, 30 November 2016	
08:30 – 09:00	<p>Registration</p> <p>Coffee / tea, light breakfast available</p>
09:00 – 09:30	<p>Welcome and Round of Introductions</p> <p>Matthias Lücke, Kiel Institute for the World Economy (IfW)</p> <p>Güven Sak, The Economic Policy Research Foundation of Turkey (TEPAV)</p>
09:30 – 10:15	<p>Introduction to the Task Force and its Work Schedule</p> <p>Presentation of thematic focus, goals and objectives, key activities, milestones, followed by Q&A</p> <p>Astrid Skala-Kuhmann, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)</p>
10:15 – 10:30	Coffee Break
10:30 – 12:30	<p>Session 1: Challenges and Practical Solution related to the Economic Integration of Forcibly Displaced Persons in Countries of First Asylum in the Developing World</p> <p>Most forcibly displaced persons are received, at least initially, in developing countries. While international support is often forthcoming, countries of first asylum still face severe challenges as they work to ensure the livelihoods of forcibly displaced people. In this session, Task Force members will take a broad look at the possible role of the G20 in addressing the challenges of providing employment opportunities in the face of stressed local labour markets, implications for fiscal policy, the social security system, and other issues of economic inclusion. In addition, the session will focus on the role of G20 in identifying instruments that need to be designed and put in place, providing solutions to the policy challenges identified. This may inter alia include establishing special economic zones and other partnerships with the private sector, promoting entrepreneurship, cash-for-work schemes, digital solutions for financial inclusion, etc.</p> <p>Followed by discussion, identification of interested experts to join sub-group</p> <p>Discussion facilitated by Güven Sak, TEPAV</p>
12:30 – 14:00	Lunch Break
14:00 – 15:30	<p>Open Space</p> <p>Participants are invited to raise topics of relevance to the work of the Task Force in addition to the themes of Sessions 1, 2, and 3. Please register your interest ahead of the event.</p> <p>Topics currently registered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate and environment related migration (Cristina Cattaneo, FEEM) • ...
15:30 - 15:45	Coffee Break

15:45 – 17:15	<p>Session 2: The International Dimension: The Role of Financing and Development Cooperation in Supporting Countries of First Asylum in the Developing World</p> <p>Session to focus on international mechanisms to be promoted by G20 to support first destination host countries as they receive and accommodate forcibly displaced persons and integrate them into their respective domestic economies – including through international development / financial cooperation.</p> <p>Introduction by Matthias Lücke (IfW)</p> <p>Followed by discussion, identification of interested experts to join sub-group</p>
17:15 – 17:45	<p>Wrap-up and Next Steps</p> <p>Summary of key findings, decisions, responsibilities, deadlines.</p> <p>Güven Sak, TEPAV</p> <p>Astrid Skala-Kuhmann, GIZ</p>
17:45 – 18:00	<p>Closing</p> <p>Matthias Lücke, IfW</p>
18:00 – 19:30	<p>Optional: visit to Christmas Market at Gendarmenmarkt</p>
19:30 – 21:30	<p>Informal Dinner hosted by IfW / Mercator Dialogue on Asylum and Migration (MEDAM)</p> <p>@ Brasserie Gendarmenmarkt, Taubenstraße 30, 10117 Berlin</p>