



Workshop in the Format of a "World Café"

**The Forgotten Side of Migration:
Societies Left Behind**

5 June 2019, 6:30-8:30 pm

Café Caspar, Grillparzerstraße 6, 1010 Vienna

People have always migrated. The will to change one's place of residence, for whatever reason, has always existed. In 1993, the freedom of movement for persons – consisting of the freedom of movement for workers and the freedom of establishment – was introduced as one of the four freedoms in the EU. Since then, EU citizens have been more or less free to choose in which EU country they wanted to spend their life. However, migration is not always the result of a free decision. Today the word *migration* often has a negative connotation which was reinforced in 2015 with keywords like *migration wave* or *migration crisis*. This last *migration flow* ran – like the traditional migration routes in Europe – from South/East to North/West. Since 2015, the causes of migration in the countries of origin and the impact on recipient countries have been discussed many times. But migration has already played an important role in Europe before 2015. However, the implications for those left behind in countries from where a big number of people emigrate in search for a better future, are often ignored in the discussions on this topic.

With this workshop Ponto, the Austrian Grassroots Think Tank for European and Foreign Policy, and the Austro-French Centre for Rapprochement in Europe (ÖFZ) will focus mainly on the conditions in Central and Eastern Europe. In small groups, the participants recap on the reasons for migration and the challenges for migrants. In particular, the difficulties faced by the societies left behind in the different countries in Central and Eastern Europe will be discussed.

The invited experts – Madalina Rogoz from the International Center for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD), Michael Newson from the Regional Office for South-Eastern Europe, Eastern Europe and Central Asia from the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in Austria and Azra Muftic (University of Vienna/ London School of Economics) – will discuss, e.g., following questions in small groups with the participants :

What impact does it have on societies like in Romania or Slovakia, where young care workers partially leave their own country to work in 24-hour home care in wealthier countries? What effect does it have on the next generation if the children of these - mostly - female caregivers grow up without their mothers? What are the economic results for the countries and their labour markets, which are hardly affected by immigration themselves, when an important number of their health care professionals look for jobs in richer countries?

What role does the IOM play in strengthening the societies left behind? What forms of cooperation between the IOM and the states affected by emigration do exist to offer perspectives to the well-educated younger generation to stay in their country? Is the concept of circular migration – as applied in Ireland for example – a possible model for the countries in Central and Eastern Europe?

How can societies develop when a large number of well-educated people leave the country in search for new perspectives and better opportunities? What are the challenges for the youth in the countries? What is the economic effect of remittances which emigrants send to their family and friends?

Snacks and drinks will be provided.

We are looking forward to your registration [via this link](#).