Civil Society Platform on Migration and Development: Assessment of Needs and Potential

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1 Introduction

The Swiss Civil Society Platform on Migration and Development ('the Platform') was set up in 2015 to provide a wide range of services to support civil society organizations (CSO) in the area of migration and development (M&D) in Switzerland. In August and September 2015 a web-based survey ('the survey') was carried out to assess the needs of potential member associations, and establish possible contributions of the CSO.

The present report summarizes the responses of the organizations that participated in the survey (N=56 responses). An invitation to participate in the survey was sent to approximately 200 organizations, including migrant and development organizations or associations, as well as local branches of international organizations (IGO), and labour unions. The organizations were encouraged to forward the invitation to other potentially interested organizations, and could indicate other potentially interested organizations in the survey. While an effort was made to disseminate the survey widely, it should be underlined that the responses are not necessarily representative of the wider CSO community. The survey does not provide a comprehensive list of organizations, but we assume that a large part of the organizations and individuals interested in M&D could be reached, and that those interested in M&D have self-selected themselves into the survey. A specific follow-up is planned to evaluate non-responses especially from organizations known to be working on migration and development. It is conceivable that the invitation for the survey did not reach the right person within the organization, particularly in larger organizations where the migration and development nexus may be only weakly formalise. It is also conceivable that some of the organizations decided to wait to see how the Platform develops before engaging with it. For some organizations the benefits for the Platform may be more readily apparent than for others. As outlined below, however, a wide range of organizations have responded, and we recommend the present analysis to be be used as a baseline for work by the Platform as it can be considered a description of the current situation. More work is necessary to reach out to organizations that have not responded to the survey.

The report begins with an overview of the profile and activities of the organizations interested in the Platform, followed by explicit statements of their needs, expectations, and the potential they see in collaborating with the Platform and other CSO through the Platform.

This report provides a basis for the Platform to work, indicating that different organizations are ready to engage in migration and development. Further engagement is needed, including with organizations that could not be reached with the survey.

2   Profile and Activities of Organizations

The organizations active in migration and development are diverse. Figure 1 shows the different types of organizations that have responded to the survey by type of organization and the frequency of responses. Higher bars indicate more organizations of this type, and the organizations could choose multiple answers to classify themselves. The majority of the organizations are non-governmental organizations (NGO) or migrant and diaspora associations (labelled 'Migr' in the figure). The high number of organizations choosing NGO is encouraging in the sense that the Platform targets CSO. At the same time, in this context being an NGO does not really differentiate organizations, and the other responses to this question were prioritized in the analysis. Also relatively common are development organizations ('Dev'). Other types of organizations are: charities ('Chrty'), human rights organizations ('Humn'), labour organizations and trade unions ('Labr'), academic institutions and think tanks ('Aca'), organizations from the private sector ('Priv'), and local branches of international or global organizations ('IGO').

*Figure 1: Types of Organizations*
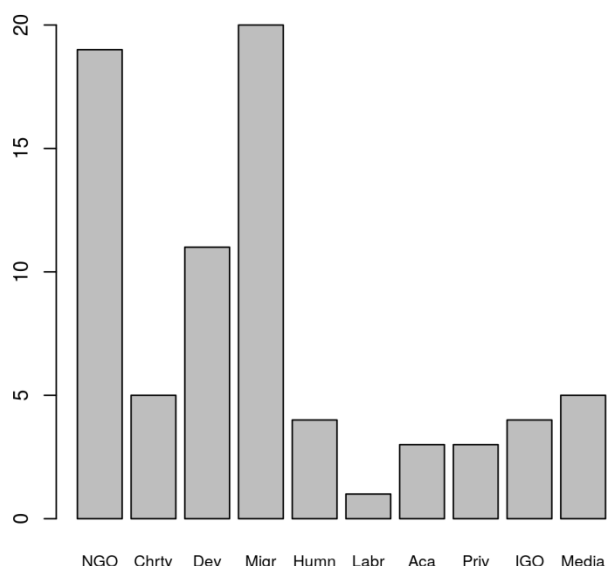
Question: "What type of organization or association do you represent?"; higher bars indicate a larger number of organizations of this type (self-declared, multiple answers allowed)

Some organizations find it difficult to clearly indicate their type. This was made apparent in the comments to this question: for some organizations choosing a label can be difficult. For instance, one of the organizations chose 'cultural association', while one describes itself as a congress (German: "Begegnung und Gemeinschaft"). There were also one foundation and two religious organization among the respondents, not fitting any of the response categories. These additional categories were no treated separately. We interpret these results as an indication that labels can be at once important and irrelevant. They are important in that the respondents carefully thought about the correct type; they are irrelevant in that the focus on migration and development can unite them, irrespective of whether 'cultural association', 'diaspora organization', or 'migrant organization' are the most appropriate description.

The many different labels organizations choose to describe themselves may make it difficult for the Platform to organize interests. The analysis below makes it apparent that not all types of organizations are engaged in the same kinds of activities or have the same expectations from the Platform. It may thus be desirable to encourage organizations to identify their main type. At the same time the Platform will need to recognize that many organizations 'wear different hats' at different times, and this refrain from imposing a rigid classification among its members.

Figure 2: Regional Distribution in Switzerland
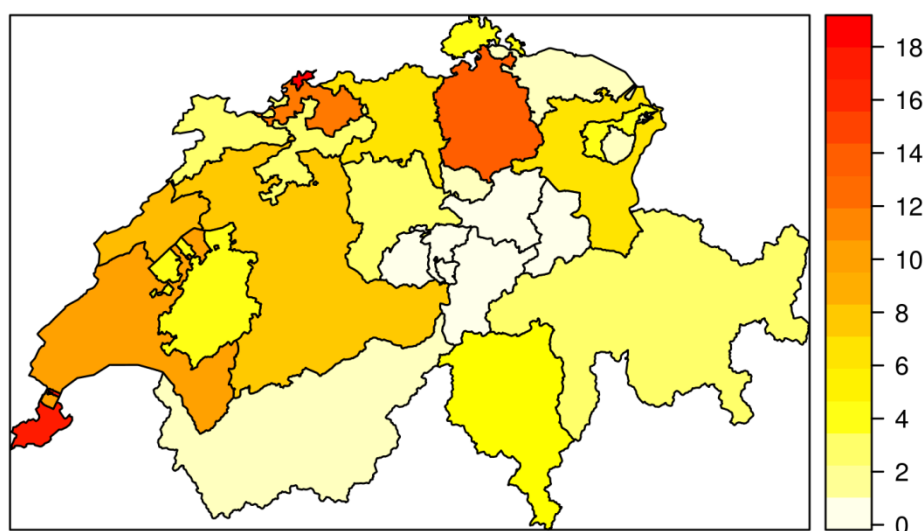
Question: "In which canton(s) is your organisation/association based?"; darker shades indicate more organizations based in a canton; multiple responses allowed

Organizations from all regions of Switzerland have responded to the survey, suggesting that there is no inherent coverage bias in the survey. Figure 2 highlights the geographical distribution of organizations in Switzerland. Darker shades indicate a large number of organizations in a canton. All major regions are covered, suggesting that the survey is likely to have reached most potential participants of the Platform. Technically speaking, there is no evidence of inherent coverage bias. Such a coverage bias would exist, for example, if one language area were missing (the survey was made available in English, French, and German). We observe no organizations based in central Switzerland and only two in Valais, but this

may well reflect the distribution of organizations. By contrast, as expected, there are relatively many organizations based in Geneva, and the cities of Basel and Zürich.

The organizations are active across the world. Figure 3 shows the countries in which the organizations are active (not counting Switzerland). Africa, South America, and Asia are all represented, as are countries in the Middle East and Central and Eastern Europe. Darker values indicate a larger number of organizations active in a particular country, but this should not be interpreted too much. Similarly, some organizations have indicated a continent or large geographical areas like 'Middle East' which were not considered in the map in Figure 3. Most responses to this question in the survey were to specific countries, though. The most commonly mentioned countries are Bosnia and Herzegovina, Somalia, and Senegal.

Figure 3: Countries in Which the Organizations Are Active

1   4
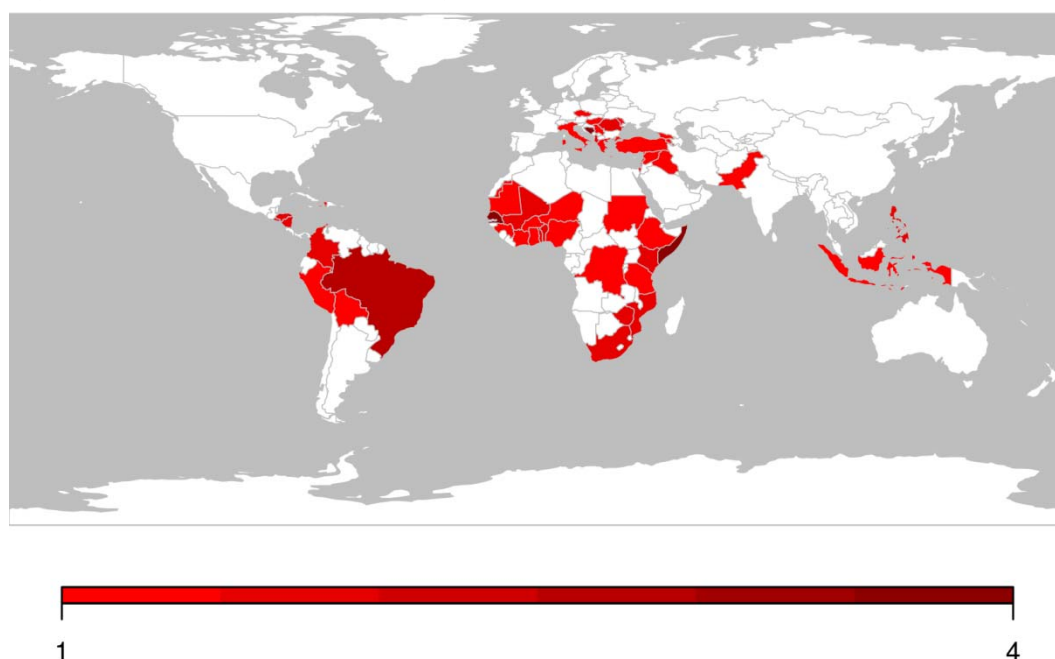
Question: "In which country, countries or region(s) is your organisation mainly active?"; countries highlighted in red were mentioned by the organizations; darker shades include more frequent mentioning of a country; multiple answers allowed

Most of the organizations responding to the survey work on migration and development. 80% have activities related to migration; 72% have activities related to development. Figure 4 shows the intersection between migration and development: 52% work at the intersection of migration *and* development. 59% say that the nexus between migration and development is crucial for their organization.

The intersection between migration and development is likely to become more important in the future. 61% of the organizations indicate that they intend to develop (more) activities related to migration and development in the near future. Judging by the comments on questions on the importance of the migration and development nexus, however, there remains ambiguity as to what 'counts' as migration *and* development. For instance, one migrant organization mentioned that their members wish to see remittances recognized as a form of

development while others already seem to do so. By adopting a broad definition, the Platform could signal inclusiveness and is likely to appeal to a larger group of organizations.

Figure 4: Migration and Development Nexus

Migration   Development

28%   52%   20%
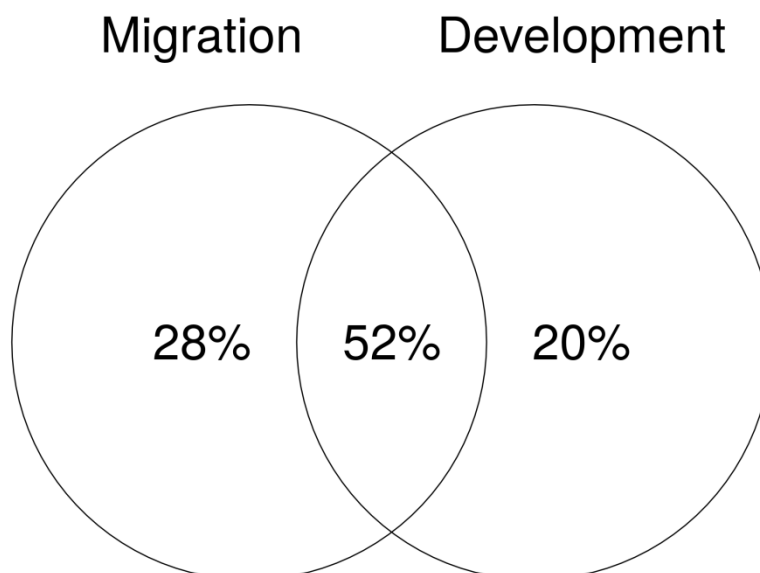
Questions: "Do you have activities related to migration and/or do you represent a migrant organisation/association?" and "Do you have activities related to development and/or do you represent a development organisation?"; 28% of organizations have activities related to migration but not development; 20% have activities related to development but not migration; 52% have activities related to both areas.

The importance of the migration-development nexus varies a bit by type of organization. Table 1 shows the percentage of organizations of different types that consider the migration-development nexus crucial. This ranges from 60 per cent for development organizations to 100 per cent for IGO and organizations that could not be classified as clearly a development or a migrant organization. For this and subsequent tables of this kind, the type of organization was simplified and different categories combined. Here, multiple categories are not allowed.

Table 1: Migration-Development Nexus Important by Simplified Type of Organization

	Development	*Migration*	*IGO*	*Other*
Nexus Crucial (yes)	60%	73%	100%	69%

Question: "Is the nexus between migration and development (M&D) crucial for your organisation?"; percentage of organizations indicating that the M&D nexus is crucial for the organization

The category 'development' includes development organizations and charities; 'IGO' includes international organizations and human rights organizations. The category 'migration' includes migrant and diaspora organizations, as well as a network of migrant organizations. The residual category 'other' combines all other organizations, including those who only chose the answer NGO. There are also 3 organizations that cannot be clearly assigned to development *or* migration based on their answers to the survey: they indicate to work at the

interface of the two areas, and their responses were not included in the table. It was necessary to combine types of organizations to have sufficient numbers for the analysis.

In their work, the organizations draw on many different philosophies and guiding principles. 64% of organizations follow a specific philosophy or guiding principle. These inspirations are to some extent reflected in the reasons organizations believe help them succeed outlined below. For a successful operation, it seems important that the Platform manages to speak to these motivations, or at a minimum not contradict them. The following philosophies and guiding principles were mentioned several times:

- openness
- religion
- transparency

Other philosophies and guiding principles were mentioned once or twice: responsibility, autonomy, empowerment, integrity, human rights, respect, fairness, tolerance, equality, participation. Some mention explicitly that they have a charter.

While many organizations seek networking opportunities, 76% belong to one or multiple networks. Through the Platform, the benefits of these existing networks could be multiplied. The following networks were mentioned explicitly (in no particular order): SFH RBS-Treffen, Solidarité sans frontières, Solinetz Zürich, Albanian diaspora, MADE, Trägerorganisationen Travail.Suisse und KAB, migrant women associations, FIMM (several mentions), VIOZ.ch, Europe Africa Platform, AIA, Elternbildung CH, FEDERSO, FGC, FEDEVACO, METROPOLIS, Ctés interculrurelles, emd child immigration detention, GFMd Civil society, OSCE anti-trafficking Alliance, CGIE, MIS SPAS, Appartenances, Pan milar, AI, Espace prévention, SPAS, Medicus Mundi Schweiz, KOFF, Terre des hommes International, UNIKOM, StopExclusion, USS, Collectif de soutien aux sans papiers - Genève, CGAS, Alliance Sud, OSAr, Act Alliance, FARE network, CAFE, Intercultural action, Réseau UNITED, RAFPIA, Scalabrini International Migration Network. This list is clearly not exhaustive: many responses ended in *etc.* or simply stated 'several'. Table 2 shows the percentage of organizations of different types and their networks. All kinds of organizations seem generally to belong to networks. One challenge of the Platform will be to make best use of these resources.

Table 2: Belongs to Network(s) by Simplified Type of Organization

|	Development	Migration	IGO	Other
Network(s) (yes)	86%	80%	100%	64%

Question: "Does your organization/association belong to any network(s)?", percentage of organization indicating that they belong to at least one network

> The survey covers a diverse group of organizations, working on migration and development. The nexus between migration and development is important, and the work of the Platform needed.

3 Migration and Development Activities

The organizations are active in a wide range of different activities, both in Switzerland and in countries of origin or transit. Figure 5 shows the different activities in Switzerland. Higher bars indicate a larger number of organizations active in this particular area. Multiple answers are allowed. The most common activities in Switzerland concern migrant and diaspora empowerment, education, discrimination and xenophobia, as well as children.
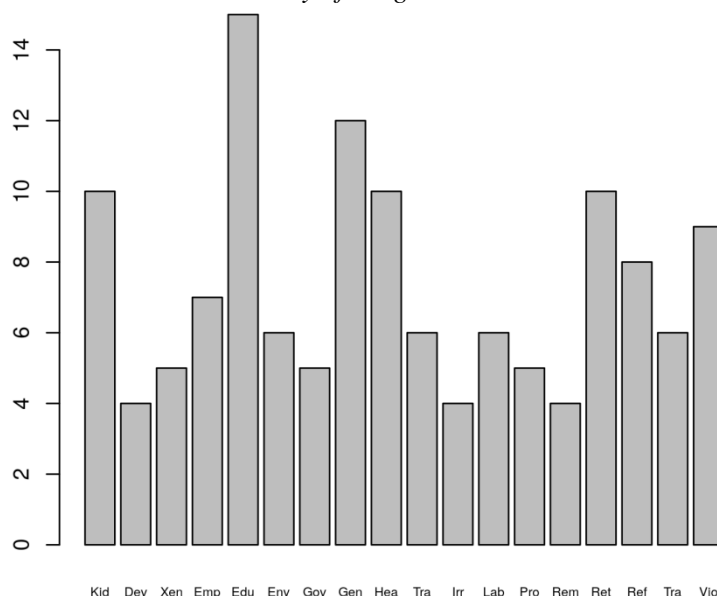
Figure 5: Activities in Switzerland
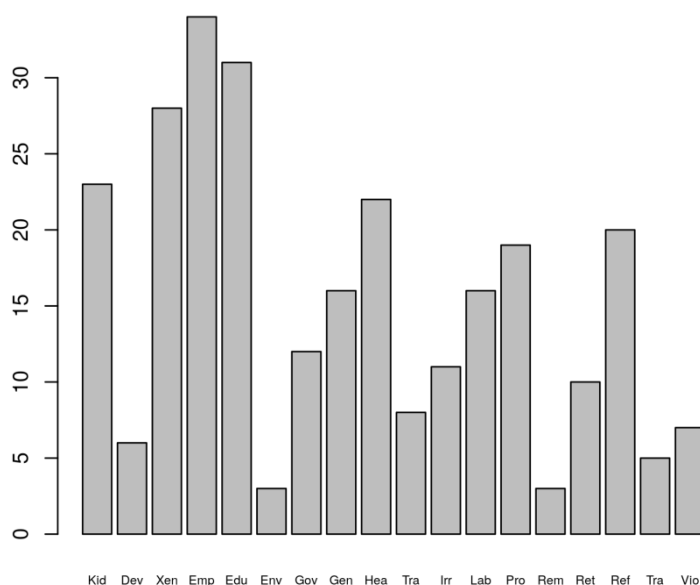
Question: "Which are your major activities related to migration and/or development? – in Switzerland"; higher bars indicate a larger number of organizations involved in these activities; multiple answers allowed

In this and the following figures, the following categories are included: Kid = children; Det = detention; Xen = discrimination and xenophobia; Emp = diaspora/migrant empowerment; Edu = education; Env = environment/climate; Gov = governance of migration; Gen = gender; Hea = health; Tra = human trafficking; Irr = smuggling and irregular migration; Lab = labour migration and recruitment, Pro = protection and rights of migrants and workers; Rem = remittances; Ret = return and reintegration; Ref = refugees and asylum; Tra = trauma caused by war and armed conflict; Vio = violence related experiences. Not all categories appear in all the figures.

The activities in the country of origin or transit are also very diverse, but the emphasis somewhat different from the activities in Switzerland. Figure 6 shows the activities by frequency: higher bars stand for more organizations involved in this kind of activity. The most frequently stated activities are: education, gender, children, health, return and reintegration, and violence.

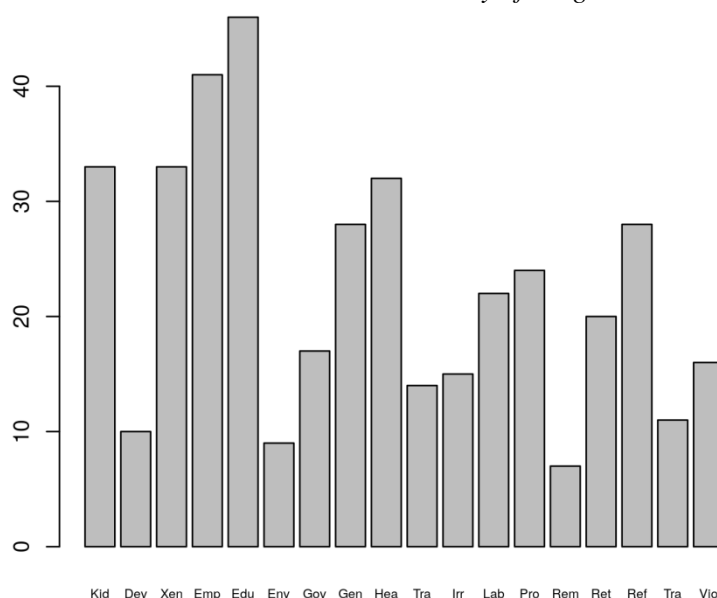*Figure 6: Activities in Country of Origin or Transit*

Question: "Which are your major activities related to migration and/or development? – in the country of origin or transit"; higher bars indicate a larger number of organizations involved in these activities; multiple answers allowed

Leaving aside the distinction between activities in Switzerland and in the country of origin, the diversity of activities remains clearly visible. Figure 7 shows the respective frequencies: higher bars indicate more organizations active in an area. Some organizations mentioned that activities (obviously) span several themes. Prejudice and interculturality, age, and information ('best informed decision') were additional topics mentioned in the comments that did not fit the answer categories provided in the survey.

In different types of organizations, different kinds of activities are dominant. Table 3 gives activities differentiated by broad types of organization. Given are the percentages of all organizations of a certain type that engage in a particular activity. For example, of all the development organization in the survey, 71 per cent have activities related to children in Switzerland (indicated by 'CH'); 43 per cent have activities related to children in the country of origin or transit (indicated by 'COO').

Figure 7: Activities in Switzerland or Country of Origin/Transit

Question: "Which are your major activities related to migration and/or development?"; higher bars indicate a larger number of organizations involved in these activities; multiple answers allowed

For some activities, different types of organizations tend to work in Switzerland and the country of origin. The Platform is needed to coordinate these complementary activities. More migrant organizations are active in Switzerland than in the country of origin. For development organizations and IGO, the geographical focus depends on the activity.

Table 3: Activities by Type of Organization

Activity	Development		Migration		IGO		Other	
	CH	COO	CH	COO	CH	COO	CH	COO
Children	71%	43%	69%	6%	14%	14%	28%	22%
Discrimination	43%	14%	75%	12%	43%	14%	39%	6%
Empowerment	57%	14%	88%	12%	43%	14%	50%	11%
Education	57%	71%	88%	19%	43%	14%	50%	28%
Health	43%	43%	62%	25%	0%	0%	39%	6%
Protection	29%	29%	56%	19%	14%	0%	22%	0%
Refugees	29%	0%	44%	19%	57%	14%	22%	17%
Gender	0%	57%	56%	31%	14%	14%	22%	0%
Labour	43%	29%	50%	25%	0%	0%	17%	0%
Violence	0%	57%	38%	19%	0%	0%	0%	11%
Return	14%	29%	25%	19%	29%	29%	6%	11%

Questions: "Which are your major activities related to migration and/or development?", "What type of organization or association do you represent?" (simplified); CH = activities in Switzerland, COO = activities in country of origin or transit; percentages are of all organizations of a certain type that engage in a particular

activity: 71% of development organizations have activities related to children in Switzerland, 43% of development organizations have activities related to children in the country of origin or transit

> The different organizations work on a wide range of activities related to migration and development, but they tend only to cover one side: the Platform could bring together these organizations.

4 Pressing Issues and Relationship to the Platform

Just as there are many different kinds of organizations and activities they engage in, there is great diversity in the priorities of the organizations: the issues considered pressing. No apparent differences could be determined by type of organization. Mentioned several times as pressing issues were:

- education
- public acceptance, exclusion and racism
- unemployment and economic integration
- integration more generally

Other issues mentioned once were: protection in countries of transit, lack of possibilities for legal immigration, children, and language barriers. These issues need to be elaborated by the organizations interested in the Platform; not all of them are obviously focused on the migration and development nexus.

84% of the respondents identify a need for further research. The range of topics mentioned is vast, covering both fundamental research – like in the determinant of migration – and specific questions. In some cases, the research would constitute case studies, like successful cases of integration. Areas mentioned for research are: risk-taking during transit; return migration; unemployment among African community in Switzerland; naturalization in Switzerland; children and trauma; economic integration; what happens to remittances in the country of origin; how the media shape images of immigrants; conflict and trust among diaspora organizations; illiteracy; successful cases of integration; preventing exploitative work; how does development affect migration; good examples of migration management; systematic exclusion in Switzerland; how religious freedom is lived; technology transfer to country of origin; sports and integration in Switzerland; needs and desires of the migrant population; redefining countries of priority to better address migration and development; whether migration and development can help overcome forced migration; transforming brain-drain into brain-gain.

71% of the survey participants are interested in the Platform. Among those who consider migration and development *crucial* for the organization, the percentage is 79%. This high percentage indicates a favourable disposition. From the comments we have the impression that for some organizations the Platform remains an abstract concept: they may be mobilized or become explicitly interested once the Platform has taken shape a bit. Similarly, worries of resources and capacities may be abated in the near future.

Many organizations have ideas what the priorities of the Platform should be. It seems important for the Platform to communicate early in which areas it plans to be active to avoid disappointment when not all areas can be considered. The following priorities were identified several times:

- coordination among NGO
- information and exchange of experiences
- networking
- identification of serious organizations
- strengthening capacity of organizations
- joint advocacy
- representation towards administration
- education (not further specified)

Other priorities were mentioned once or twice: a detailed study of the causes of migration, pooling resources, education of immigrants and language courses, and strategies to better integrate diaspora organizations into development.

The organizations are willing to contribute *to* the Platform, and list a wide range of expertise and resources. The potential contributions range from the generic expertise to the very specific access to a TV studio. The following potential contributions were mentioned several times:

- experience on the ground
- expertise
- discuss and participate
- help identify serious diaspora organizations
- specific expertise
- contact with migrants and contacts generally
- ideas

Other contributions were mentioned once or twice: TV studio platform, time, research.

The organizations identify a range of reasons why they are successful and where they need support. Common strengths mentioned are: independence, accountability, transparency, and sustainability. The most commonly mentioned weakness is resources (time, money, paid workers; see also Figure 8). There are organizations with sufficient resources, and many others mentioning a lack of resources. For the Platform, this diversity may indicate challenges to provide universal support, but given the willingness to participate in the Platform, many organizations may find support from other participating organizations rather than the Platform directly. If the strengths and weaknesses are clearly communicated among the members of the Platform, there is clear potential for synergies (Table 4). An open question is how the Platform can facilitate the sharing of resources and other strength to the mutual benefit of all organizations.

Table 4: Reasons for Success and Weaknesses Identified by the Organizations Themselves by Organization Type (Simplified)

Type of CSO	Reasons for Success	Weaknesses and Areas Needing Support
Development	accountability (recurring theme) competence and know-how (recurring theme) professionalism transparency sustainability determination practical help passion clear profile and focus participatory financial resources	resources, time and finances (recurring theme) web management stereotypes from others visibility size work with churches (high expectations) competing over funding with other organizations influence of funders financial risk with regard to projects low salary of employees
Migration	competence and know-how (recurring theme) network (recurring theme) accountability professionalism diversity experience dealing with authorities inter-cultural mediation availability of volunteers strong leadership openness dialogue politically active integrity	resources, time and finances (recurring theme) no paid workers (recurring theme) voluntary work not recognized (recurring theme) no office space, no meeting space (recurring theme) perception by others and stereotypes difficulty to talk about certain issues (generic, religion in particular) visibility equal opportunities not taken serious by partners internal struggles only limited contact with authorities independence
IGO	competence and know-how (recurring theme) low-threshold ("Niederschwelligkeit") diversity internationality network	resources, time and finances (recurring theme) fund-raising capacity (too much demand) experience

Type of CSO	Reasons for Success	Weaknesses and Areas Needing Support
Other	independence (recurring theme) openness (recurring theme) professionalism passion participatory transparency internationality research-based non-political non-religious integrity network	resources, time and finances (recurring theme) financial security, dependence on subsidies (recurring theme) no professional PR visibility connecting formal and informal actors few new members public expectations not in line with public funding dealing with professional organizations (as a non-professional organization) stereotypes limited geographical focus (in Switzerland)

Questions: "Please tell us the three characteristics of your organisation/association that make it successful." and "Please tell us three characteristics of your organisation/association that you consider weaknesses or where you face major difficulties."; the organization type was simplified.

Bringing together organizations without paid employees and those with paid employees requires organizational flexibility from the Platform. Just under half the organizations do not have any paid employee: their work is carried out on a voluntary basis, probably implying work in the evening and at weekends. By contrast, paid employees are likely to prefer meetings during the day, posing organizational challenges to the Platform. Of the organizations with paid employees, most are relatively small, with under 10 paid employees. This may suggest limited capacity to participate in activities of the Platform if they are too frequent. To be successful, the Platform needs to recognize and account for the different needs and capabilities of the organizations.

Figure 8: Number of Paid Employees
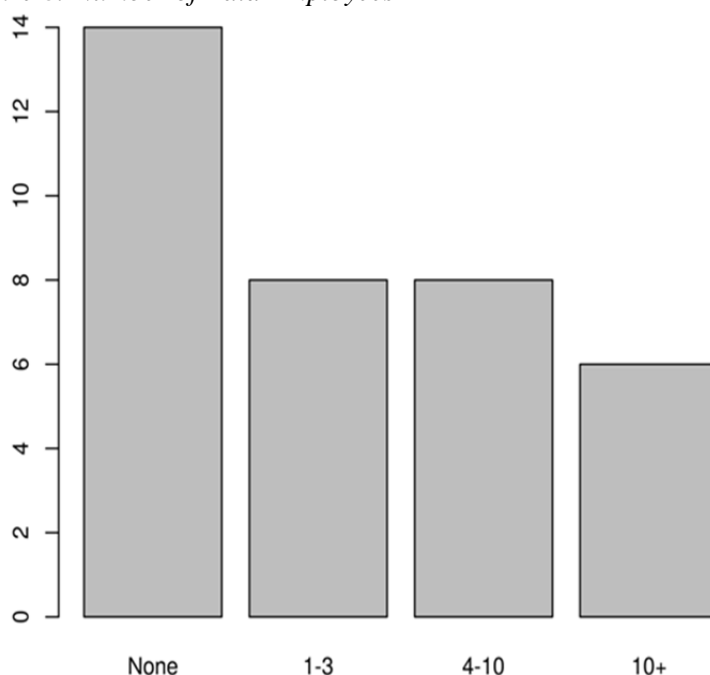
Questions: "Does your organisation/association employ paid workers?", N=36 responses for this question; higher bars indicate a larger number of organizations with this many paid employees; only one answer allowed

> The organizations interested in the Platform are able to contribute diverse strength to the Platform, but many cite limited resources as a major constraint.

5 Outlook

The respondents are open towards the Platform. In an open-ended question collecting comments regarding the Platform, many mentioned it to be a 'great idea' or used other enthusiastic expressions. Some explicitly state that they want to be actively involved in the Platform. Others welcomed the Platform but struggled to see how they could participate because of limited resources. In these instances, the organizations often expressed a desire to be informed about the activities of the Platform. These responses suggest that the Platform will develop its full potential if it allows different kinds of engagement. One respondent suggested that there are lessons to be learned from other similar platforms (e.g. in the Netherlands and France).

A good part of the organizations wish their answers to be treated confidentially (Figure 9), while the majority would be happy to share their individual answers with the Platform ('share freely'). We interpret this as a sign that the Platform is (obviously) not yet established, but also as a sign of willingness to share once the Platform is established. Similar conclusions can be drawn from comments that highlighted that the mission of the Platform remains unclear, or those who asked what specific support the Platform can provide.

Figure 9: Confidentiality/Trust
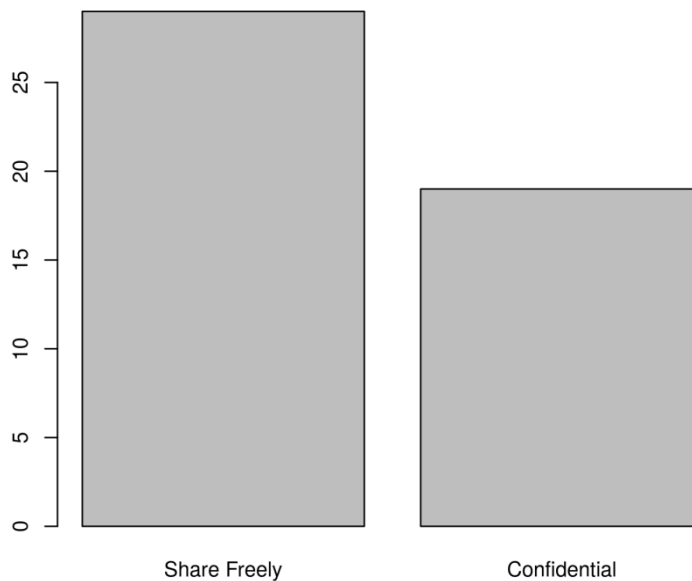
Question: "Do you agree that the answers to this questionnaire are shared with members of the Platform?"; higher bars indicate a larger number of organizations choosing the answer indicated at the bottom; only one answer allowed

Most respondents are ready for a deeper engagement with the Platform. This can be seen in Figure 10, where the results on the stated willingness to be available for an in-depth interview are presented. The vast majority are open for a deeper engagement, with only a small number preferring to do so only with the research team. There are two respondents preferring an in-depth engagement with the Platform directly rather than the research team. This suggests that the Platform is trusted well by at least some organizations. In situations where lack of trust is a clear issue, we would expect a clear preference for an external party – in this case the research team. Such follow-up engagement is necessary to establish concrete next steps. Once the Platform takes shape, other organizations may become interested, too.

Figure 10: Open for an In-Depth Interview
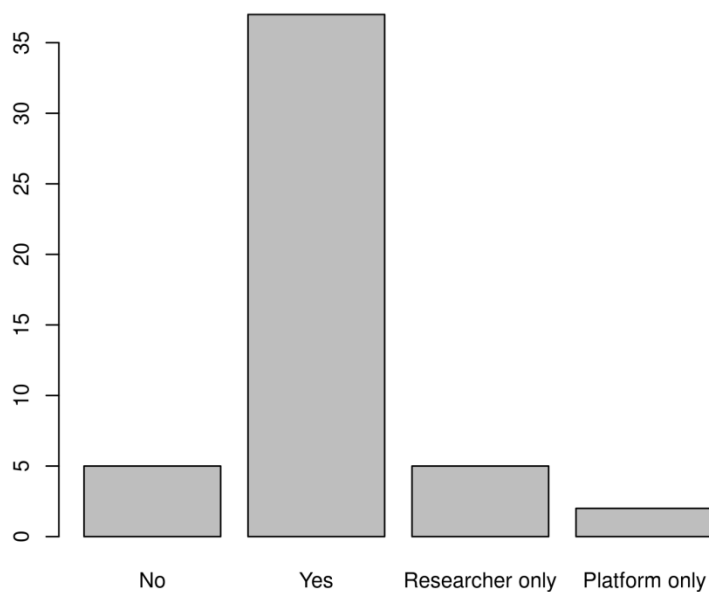
Question: "Would you agree to be contacted for an in-depth interview with the research team and/or a member of the Platform?"; higher bars indicate a larger number of organizations choosing the answer indicated at the bottom; only one answer allowed

There is wide interest in the Platform and willingness to participate, but further engagement with the different organizations is needed.