New publication \Making sure that the emigration of health-care personnel from Albania and BiH works for all: What Germany can do

Against the background of the ‘care crisis’, the German Federal Ministries of Health (BMG) and Labour and Social Affairs (BMAS) as well as private institutions are attracting and actively recruiting workers from several countries—prominently among them Albania and Bosnia-Herzegovina (BiH). The authors of \textit{BICC Policy Brief 8\textbackslash 2020} see the danger that this might undermine the aims of bilateral development cooperation. One of their policy recommendations is to support labour market and education sector reforms in these Balkan states.

The BICC-researchers Clara Schmitz-Pranghe and Katja Mielke, together with Aida Ibričević (Sarajevo School of Science and Technology, Bosnia-Herzegovina) and Nermin Oruč (Center for Development Evaluation and Social Science Research, Bosnia-Herzegovina) argue in \textit{BICC Policy Brief 8\textbackslash 2020} that Germany's active recruitment of healthcare professionals (BMG/ BMAS), the support for socio-economic development and employment in the origin countries of healthcare workers (BMZ) and the creation of economic perspectives for returnees to foster their sustainable reintegration (BMZ, BMI)—show a conflict of stated objectives among ministerial policies. Given the risk of detrimental impacts of the migration of health professionals on the long-term socio-economic development in the Western Balkans, the recruitment incentives set by BMG and BMAS undermine the aims of bilateral development cooperation, i.e. to help enable people to live a life of dignity, including access to decent employment, education and health services.

The recommendations in this Policy Brief aim to prevent Germany's policies from undermining its own mandate to support socio-economic development to foster a life in dignity for all in the Western Balkans and to create perspectives for the stayees and returnees and enable the long-term reintegration of the latter.
The authors recommend:

\ Harmonise ministerial policies;

\ Oversee and regulate the operational standards of private (for-profit) recruitment agencies;

\ Support programmes to improve the working conditions of healthcare personnel in Albania and Bosnia-Herzegovina;

\ The German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development should support programmes that provide equipment and know-how. Options for career advancement and training, safety measures and legal protection are the most urgent issues to prevent a care drain and need for medical tourism;

\ Support labour market and education sector reforms.

You will find BICC Policy Brief 8\2020 “Making sure that the emigration of health-care personnel from Albania and BiH works for all: What Germany can do” as a pdf at: