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Specific Objective 2. Integration / Legal Migration – National Objective 3. Capacity building
lett. m) Exchange of best practices



Rationale

The event aims at presenting the research scope and results of the Italian National Observatory for the financial inclusion of migrants, implemented by CeSPI. In the framework of its fifth edition, the Observatory has opened a new avenue of research in Europe, in partnership with EADI (European Association of Development Institutes) and the DIW Berlin (Deutsches Institut für Wirtschaftsforschung). The research partners in Germany are implementing research on the main national policies of their countries and on existing initiatives on a national or system level, a review of best practices emerging from the economic market on financial inclusion in Germany, together with a pilot survey on Syrian migrant refugees on the topic of financial and labour inclusion.

Founded in 2011 in collaboration with the Ministry of Internal Affairs and ABI (The Italian Banking Association), the Observatory provides tools for a constant and comprehensive analysis and monitoring of migrants' financial inclusion in Italy, a necessary condition for attaining economic citizenship, thus supporting and accelerating the integration process.

In the framework of this workshop the subject of financial inclusion will be tackled in particular through a focus on migrants' informal financial practices belonging to the underground economy.

Underground economy is not a residual phenomenon destined to diminish with the increase of industrialization and the opportunities offered by the market. Therefore an analysis that wants to fully understand the role of immigration in the reproduction of national economies should take into account the relationship of immigrants with such underground economy, beyond merely evaluating its negative repercussions on the labour market and the state of rights.

It is important to analyse the socio-cultural, structural and economic mechanisms and dynamics that support the informal sector and its reproduction, together with the subjective and social motivations that substantiate the choices of those who act in the informal sector. It becomes primary to understand what the added value of informal finance may be and to identify those practices that contribute to the general functioning of both the economy and society. This, in the perspective of enhancing, where possible, practices and activities that find space in grey areas of the law in order to, eventually, bring them to productively feed into the formal sector.

The event will be in the format of a workshop which aims at putting into dialogue voices coming from different backgrounds in order to describe and come up with a comprehensive analysis of migrants'

financial practices: 1. A research on informal finance in Italy with a focus on informal credit and informal insurances; 2. a pilot research on financial habits and informal practices among Syrian migrants in Berlin; 3. interventions by financial institutions with a more technical insight on the services offered to migrants, issues and problems; 4. interventions by NGO's working on the topic of financial inclusion giving insights on possible avenues of financial participation.

Financial Inclusion of Migrants

Program

Event February 26th at DIW Berlin

09:00 - Welcome and Coffee

09:15 -11:30 Session 1: Financial Inclusion and the role of informal experiences Europe

09:15-09:35 Daniele Frigeri, *CeSPI*: Financial inclusion in Italy, some evidence from the National Observatory

09:35-09:55 Paola Abenante, *CeSPI*: Coping with financial exclusion: financial needs and informal strategies within migrant communities in Italy.

09:55-10:15 Dirk Ulbricht, *IFF*: Financial literacy of refugees in Germany

10:15-10:30 Antonia Grohmann, *DIW*: Financial inclusion of refugees in Germany

10:30-10:45 Discussion

10:45-11:00 Coffee

11:00-13:00 Session 2: Financial inclusion and institutions

11:00-11:15 Sheeree Bennett, *International Rescue Committee*, Income and assets of refugees in host countries.

11:15-11:25 Fanny von dem Bussche, *SavingsBuddies e.V.*: Experiences of SavingsBuddies

11:25-11:45 Alexander Fest, *Berliner Sparkasse*: Experiences with financial inclusion of refugees, perspective of the Sparkasse Berlin

11:45-12:15 Swati Mehta, *GIZ*: Priorities for G20 action and insights from research in Germany

12:15-13:00 Final discussion

13:00 Lunch