



CONFERENCE *Diaspora Flet*

Cologne, Germany, 7-9 November 2025

CONFERENCE REPORT





CONFERENCE REPORT

March 2026

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Diaspora Flet Conference 2025, held from November 7 to 9, 2025, in Cologne, Germany, marked a significant milestone in the evolution of diaspora engagement for Albanian-speaking communities and beyond. Organized jointly by GERMIN and GIZ – MEG, the conference served as a strategic platform for intercultural learning, knowledge exchange, and cross-diaspora collaboration.

The 2025 edition was the first Diaspora Flet held in Germany—home to the largest Albanian-speaking diaspora community in Europe—and successfully expanded the conference from a nationally rooted advocacy mechanism into an international, multi-diaspora, and MEG-integrated exchange hub.

Key Results

- 159 participants joined the conference over the three days of all sessions.
- 39 speakers contributed with keynote addresses, panel discussions, presentations, and moderation.
- +50 participants from organisations, institutions, and companies.
- 20 participating Albanian-speaking diaspora organizations based in Germany.
- Participating diaspora organizations from Nepal, Ethiopia, Afghanistan, Germany-Ecuador, Ukraine, and Ghana.
- Institutional presence and participation specifically from the Kosova Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Diaspora, the Albanian National Diaspora Agency, the GIZ/MEG HQ, and representatives of German institutions from North Rhine-Westphalia.

Survey results from 71 respondents show:

81% very satisfied overall

Average session rating: **4.30/5** (range: 3.88–4.46)

92.96% assessed networking opportunities as “good” or “very good”

73.24% made new connections that may lead to future cooperation

Key Outcomes

- Strengthened ties among Albanian-speaking diaspora organizations across Germany
- International diaspora linkages established with MEG partner countries
- Increased awareness of institutional funding opportunities for diaspora initiatives
- Numerous follow-up collaboration interests

Diaspora Flet 2025 significantly advanced the MEG programme's objectives by:

- Fostering development-oriented diaspora engagement
- Promoting intercultural learning between diaspora communities
- Strengthening institutional partnerships
- Enhancing the capacity of diaspora organizations

The report concludes with lessons learned and recommendations for future editions.

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1. ABOUT DIASPORA FLET 2025

1.1 About

Diaspora Flet is one of GERMIN's flagship advocacy and convening platforms, curated to connect Albanian-speaking diaspora communities with homeland institutions and international partners. Launched in 2018, the conference has evolved into a highly influential forum where diaspora actors, governments, civil society organizations, and global organizations exchange ideas and co-create solutions.

1.2 Why Germany 2025

The 2025 edition represents a strategic expansion in line with the GIZ Shaping Development-Oriented Migration (MEG) programme's global objectives. Hosted in Cologne, Germany, it leveraged the country's role as a central hub for Albanian-speaking communities, creating a unique opportunity to convene diaspora organizations from multiple MEG partner countries in one space.

This Final Post-Conference Report:

- Provides a comprehensive overview of planning, implementation, and outcomes
- Presents participant feedback and monitoring/evaluation findings
- Documents lessons and recommendations for future editions

It is structured in accordance with GIZ's results-oriented reporting standards, emphasizing relevance, efficiency, effectiveness, impact, sustainability, and learning.



2. PROGRAMME HIGHLIGHTS (BY DAY)

Day 1 – Culture, Identity & Intercultural Exchange

- Welcome & keynote remarks by:
 - Ali Salihu, Chair of URACult e.V. Köln
 - Zethane Berisha, URACult e.V. Köln
 - Agon Kamberi, OASA e.V. Berlin
 - Muhamet Idrizi, ODA e.V. Hamburg
 - Velime Qarri, Shoqëria Dija e.V. Munich
 - Fatbardh Veseli, HorizontAL e.V. Frankfurt
 - Lirim Krasniqi, Co-Director of GERMIN
- Panel on “Culture as a Bridge – Identity, Integration, and Impact”
- Artistic performances by diaspora artists Gert Kapo and Epaminondas Ladas



You will find a summary of each panel. Click on any title to be redirected to the full video.

Summary of panel on Culture as a Bridge – Identity, Integration, and Impact

How is the identity of origin experienced and expressed in the diaspora?

How can art, media, and cultural heritage support integration in the host society? And is it “normal” to live between two worlds — the one of origin and the one of residence — without fully belonging to either?

These were some of the questions explored during the panel “Culture as a Bridge: Identity, Integration, and Impact,” where experienced speakers shared their perspectives on how art and culture become the most natural bridge to preserve roots, contribute to host societies, and build collaborative spaces that connect cultures.

Moderated by Sabina C. (URACult e.V. Köln), the panel opened the “Diaspora Flet” Conference on November 7 in Cologne, offering a rich and reflective discussion.

Lindita Arapi, journalist and author from Bonn; Mimoza Veliu, photographer and author from Berlin; Nermina Kukić, actress from Düsseldorf; and Shuk Orani, multimedia artist from Hamburg, brought diverse experiences that gave this conversation a truly inspiring and thought-provoking dimension.



Day 2 – Knowledge Exchange, Technology, Integration & Education

Thematic Panel 1: Networks, Skills, and Knowledge Exchange

The thematic panel “Networks, Skills, and Knowledge Exchange” at the “Diaspora Flet” conference in Germany highlighted the importance of fostering professional and academic collaboration between the diaspora and institutions in their home countries.

Over the three days of the “Diaspora Flet” Conference in Germany, discussions highlighted how nations today are competing for talent.

Intellectual and professional capital has become one of the world’s most valuable resources — one that even the most developed countries struggle to retain in abundance. For smaller nations like ours, this challenge is even greater: our ability to attract and retain the most skilled and talented individuals is naturally more limited. In this context, we are fortunate to have a diaspora that embodies extraordinary intellectual and professional potential; yet we face the challenge of creating pathways and opportunities to channel this potential effectively.

This topic was explored during the first panel on Saturday, 8 November, in Cologne, where scholars from the diaspora and representatives from the home countries discussed ways to foster professional and academic exchange between diaspora communities and institutions of origin.

The conversation could have easily continued for hours, were it not for the time constraints of the conference agenda.

Moderated by Dr. Eshref Januzaj (DIJA e.V.), the panel brought together Dr. Lisana Berberi (Karlsruhe Institute of Technology), Dr. Ilir Gedeshi (CESS Tirana), Dr. Carolin Leutloff-Grandits (European University Viadrina), and Dr. Gentril Berisha (University of Prishtina) — all of whom offered valuable reflections on strengthening cooperation between academia, institutions, and diaspora professionals.



Thematic Panel 2: Comparative International Experiences

Our international panel “Comparative Experiences of Successful Diaspora Projects” showed how cooperation, not competition, drives progress.

Moderated by Bahri Cani (Journalist & Influencer, Bonn), the session brought together:

Alexander Kusnezow (IBZ Bielefeld e.V.), Julia Chenusha, LL.M. (DUWir gGmbH), Martina Lartey (AiDiA), Agon Kamberi (OASA e.V. Berlin), and Ashish Pokhrel (Nepali Samaj) — leaders of projects supported by GIZ/MEG (Shaping Development-Oriented Migration).

Their experiences proved one thing: in diaspora engagement, successful models and actors don’t compete — they share. We learn, adapt, and replicate what works. That’s how Diaspora Flet becomes more than a conference — it becomes a global exchange platform for knowledge, inspiration, and impact.



Thematic Panel 3: Technology & Innovation – Linking Markets and Ecosystems

In a world where talent and technology know no borders, connection is no longer a luxury — it’s a necessity.

This idea came vividly to life in the panel “Technology & Innovation – Linking Markets and Ecosystems” at #DiasporaFlet2025, where speakers explored how innovation can bridge distances between homelands and diasporas.

Moderated by Dr. Dr. Fatbardh Veseli (HorizontAL e.V.), the discussion brought together an inspiring lineup: Agnesa Belegu (Maxis Studios – EA, Berlin), Gazmend Selmani, MBA (CEO of IBAS World, London), Genc Rama (Deutsche Post AG, Cologne), and Fitim Adili (Developer based in Hamburg)

The panel shed light on how diaspora-led ventures are driving change — from building sustainable tech ecosystems and connecting markets, to scaling global partnerships and accelerating digital transformation back home.

As several speakers reminded us, behind every technological leap there is a human story — one of belonging, innovation, and collaboration.



Thematic Panel 4: Education & Language Learning

The panel “Education and Integration: The Role of Heritage Language Learning in Diaspora Communities” sparked great interest from the audience at #DiasporaFlet2025.

Teaching the Albanian language to Albanian communities abroad remains one of the most important—but also most challenging—issues. Although it receives attention, to date there have been no structural changes that could ensure continuity and quality in teaching. In most cases, teachers work on a voluntary basis, while student participation remains low even where supplementary classes are offered.

This topic, which concerns not only the Albanian community but also other diaspora communities, gained a broader dimension through the contribution of Mostapha Boukllouâ, Head of the “Integration through Education” Division at the Ministry of Education of North Rhine–Westphalia (NRW), who shared the opportunities the German state provides to support the teaching of heritage languages, including Albanian.

The panel, moderated by Muhamet Idrizi (ODA e.V., Hamburg), also brought together: Prof. Dr. Tonin Gjuraj (Luigj Gurakuqi University of Shkodra) – who presented the plan to establish a professional master’s program for Albanian-language teachers, to be certified by the University of Shkodra; Negjmije Reçica (President, Council of Albanian Teachers in Germany) – who shared the challenges of organization and institutional cooperation; Milazim Ukaj (Chair, Albanian School “LAPSH Bavaria”).

This panel offered a deep reflection on the importance of the mother tongue as a bridge between generations, identity, and integration. Closing session with rapporteurs. Each panel moderator summarized the discussions from the panels and follow-up actions to the audience.



Evening event showcasing the [OriginAL Program](#)

During the Diaspora Flet conference, one evening focused on OriginAL, the program that strengthens the bond with roots for young people in the diaspora.

Alumni from five cohorts, from Germany and across Europe, shared personal stories, new connections, and the long term impact of OriginAL on their lives. Germany now ranks second by number of applicants and alumni.

Many members of the Albanian community in Germany learned about the program for the first time. A parent also shared how OriginAL influenced not only their child but the whole family, deepening belonging and community.



Day 3 – Closed Institutional Session

The closed session brought together Albanian diaspora organisations alongside key institutions from Kosovo and Albania to deepen cooperation and strengthen coordination. The session opened with presentations from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Diaspora of Kosovo, delivered by Elis Badalli, Director of the Diaspora Department, followed by a Q&A and open discussion. This was followed by a presentation delivered by Executive Director of the Albanian National Diaspora Agency, Ermonela Xhafa, again followed by a Q&A and open discussion.

The presentations highlighted the institutions' main achievements and ongoing initiatives, offering participants a clearer picture of current priorities and areas of work related to diaspora engagement. Building on this overview, the conversation shifted toward identifying concrete ways to improve collaboration with Albanian diaspora organisations and increase institutional support from the countries of origin.

A strong emphasis was placed on improving two-way communication, ensuring that information, opportunities, and updates are shared more consistently and accessibly, while also creating reliable channels for diaspora organisations to communicate their needs, feedback, and proposals directly to institutions. Participants also underscored the importance of clarifying procedures and eligibility, including clearer guidance on available support mechanisms, application processes, contact points, and participation criteria.

In addition, the discussion highlighted the importance of a collaborative and unified approach between institutions in Kosovo and Albania, stressing that closer alignment and joint action can increase coherence for diaspora organisations and strengthen the overall impact of diaspora engagement efforts. Overall, the session reflected a shared commitment to more direct, transparent, and practical cooperation between diaspora organisations and public institutions in Kosovo and Albania.



3. RESULTS & IMPACT

3.1 Outputs



3.2 Immediate Outcomes

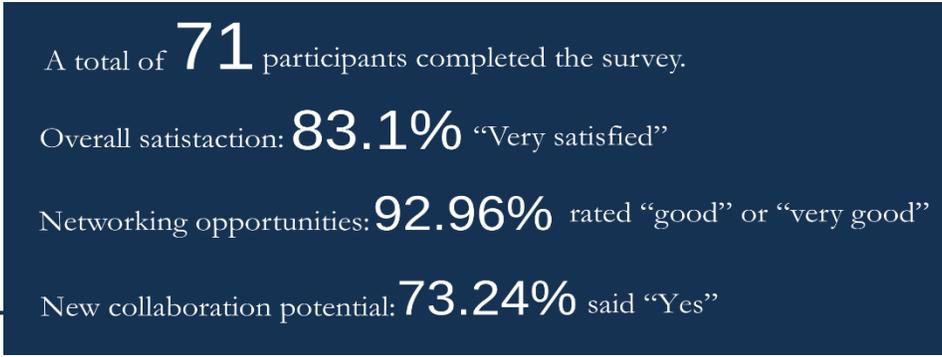
- Stronger network across five Albanian diaspora partner organizations in Germany
- High interest in joint activities among MEG diaspora reps
- New collaborations initiated (based on survey)
- High visibility of GIZ/MEG and diaspora funding pathways

The conference contributed to:

- Increased engagement of diaspora organizations
- Knowledge transfer through thematic panels
- Intercultural dialogue with MEG partner communities
- Empowered diaspora capacities for project design/funding

4. WHAT PARTICIPANTS SAID

4.1 Feedback Survey Results



A total of **71** participants completed the survey.

Overall satisfaction: **83.1%** “Very satisfied”

Networking opportunities: **92.96%** rated “good” or “very good”

New collaboration potential: **73.24%** said “Yes”

4.2 Qualitative Feedback Themes

Participants appreciated:

- High-quality speakers
- The intercultural and international dimension
- The balance of culture, identity, tech, and education
- Strong organizational professionalism from GERMIN

They recommended improvements in:

- Agenda timing discipline
- More interactive sessions (fishbowl, workshops, breakout groups)
- Increased visibility for diaspora organizations (booths)
- Stronger moderator preparation for some panels

4.3 Testimonials

“We aim to operationalize this cooperation to design and license a professional master’s program that certifies Albanian language teachers in the diaspora at the University of Shkodra.”

“It is a very important conference—especially for our university, as a public university within the higher education system—it relates to our efforts to highlight teacher education programs. GERMIN has been an extraordinary contributor to our university as well, through the

memorandum of understanding that we signed together a few months ago. I believe that after this conference, we will be able to operationalize this cooperation agreement in a way that allows us to realize our project—which is a medium- and long-term plan: the design and licensing of a professional master’s program in teaching or education, so that we can certify the Albanian language and the teachers of the diaspora at the University of Shkodra.

Prof. Tonin Gjuraj, Rector of the University of Shkodra

“I am very glad to be here today, to feel the atmosphere, to feel the warm energy. And I am very glad that the Albanian community supports their children in school and that we can offer a good heritage language course in our schools.”

Mostapha Bouklouâ, Head of the “Integration through Education” Division at the Ministry of Education of North Rhine–Westphalia (NRW)

“The Diaspora Flet conference is the largest event that brings together actors from the diaspora and various organizations...”

“The Diaspora Flet conference is the largest event that brings together actors from the diaspora and various organizations to discuss engagement and cooperation with the countries of origin—Kosova and Albania. It was a pleasure

for us, as GIZ, and it turned out to be a very successful event, with many discussion panels and diverse topics, as well as concrete outcomes that we hope will be realized in the near future and turned into tangible activities.”

Xhelal Derguti, Diaspora Coordinator, GIZ Kosova, Prishtina

“For me, it’s the first time I’m taking part in the Diaspora Flet conference, and the **welcome has been extremely warm**—full of enthusiasm and with many young people. Even more so, the first panel, which focused on culture, identity, and integration, truly ignited the hearts of the participants and confronted us with new challenges: what our duty is, and what we should leave to the generations to come.”

Enela Markja, Member of Diaspora Organization “Dija e.V.”, Munich

“I’m very happy to be here. There are many good and ambitious people. It’s a great opportunity to discuss some issues that have affected us, and some things we’ve always wanted to achieve or change for Kosova from here. I have to admit that the people who spoke at this conference weren’t familiar to me, but I’m glad to be getting to know them here—and to listen, learn, and discover something new.”

Rreze Hoxha, Participant, German-American Institute Heidelberg

“It was a very good opportunity to meet so many people from different places and from different parts of Germany, as well as so many organizations doing such great work.”

Lindita Arapi, Journalist, presenter, author, Deutsche Welle, Bonn

“I want to thank Germin and UraCult Germany for the invitation to this great conference Diaspora Flet. It’s an honor for me to be among my people from Albania, Montenegro, and Kosova.”

Nermina Kukaj, Actress, Director, Writer, Düsseldorf

5. CHALLENGES & LESSONS LEARNED

The Diaspora Flet 2025 Conference in Germany generated a rich set of operational and programmatic insights. These lessons are essential for improving future editions of Diaspora Flet and for strengthening the broader MEG-supported ecosystem of diaspora engagement.

5.1 Operational Lessons

A. What Worked Well

- **Efficient logistics and venue management**

The conference benefited from seamless logistics, including well-organized registration, efficient participant flow, and effective room setup. Participants consistently praised the venue and the professionalism of on-site coordination.

- **Strong internal communication and preparation**

GERMIN's coordination with the partner diaspora organizations in Germany and the GIZ–MEG teams in Kosova and Albania proved highly effective. Five structured pre-conference meetings established clear expectations regarding agenda design, panel themes, session outcomes, and technical requirements.

- **High-quality audiovisual and branding output**

The production quality of photos, video highlights, and branded visual materials significantly elevated the event's visibility. This reinforced a strong perception of professionalism and strengthened the impact of post-event communication.

B. Challenges Encountered

- **Time management and agenda discipline**

Several panels exceeded allocated time due to high audience engagement, reducing schedule flexibility.

- **Absence of a structured pre-matching mechanism**

One of the key operational gaps identified during the conference was the absence of a pre-event matching platform or digital tool that would have enabled participants, diaspora organizations, panelists, and institutional actors to connect in advance based on shared interests, areas of expertise, and collaboration intentions. A pre-event digital mechanism (such as a simple online directory, interest-mapping form, matchmaking algorithm, or participant-to-participant messaging module) would have transformed networking from an organic activity into a more structured,

equitable, and outcome-driven process—aligning more closely with the conference’s objectives and the MEG program’s focus on results-oriented cooperation.

5.2 Programmatic Lessons

A. Need for more interactive, participatory formats – including curated side events

A key programmatic lesson from Diaspora Flet 2025 is the need to complement plenary panels with structured interactive formats and dedicated side events to deepen participation and drive more tangible follow-up initiatives.

Participants expressed interest in formats that move beyond classic panel discussions and enable active participation, such as sector-based roundtables, co-creation workshops, and parallel side events/meet-ups. These approaches are increasingly recognized as good practice in international conferences because they turn attendees from passive listeners into co-creators and leverage the “collective intelligence” in the room.

B. Desire for a “Diaspora Organizations Fair”

Participants emphasized the value of having a structured space for diaspora organizations to present their work, showcase initiatives, and hold targeted networking discussions. This would significantly increase collaboration opportunities.

C. Demand for livestreaming and hybrid access

Members of the diaspora who could not attend in person requested remote access to panels. Providing a livestream or interactive virtual features would increase inclusivity and broaden MEG’s impact.

6. PICTURES (Click [here](#) for the conference album)



7. RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 Pilot a structured, multi-generational cultural engagement program

Discussions during the Culture Panel highlighted the need for sustainable cultural continuity across generations, particularly among young diaspora members born or raised in Germany. The discussion emphasized that identity, language, and cultural belonging are most effectively strengthened when youth are actively engaged in structured artistic and cultural processes rather than through ad hoc, event-based exposure.

Proposed Action:

- Design a 6-12 month pilot program in multiple German cities that combines:
 - Creative workshops (visual arts, performance, photography, storytelling),
 - Language and cultural heritage elements,
 - intergenerational exchange between established and emerging diaspora artists,
 - and a public final showcase (exhibition, screening, performance).
- Implement in partnership with key diaspora cultural organizations and community schools (e.g., URACul e. V., ODA e.V., OAS e. V.).
- Utilize MEG support for coordination, facilitation expertise, and micro-grants for cultural materials and workshop costs.

Expected Outcome:

- Strengthened and more sustainable intergenerational transmission of cultural identity.
- Increased engagement of second- and third-generation diaspora youth.
- Enhanced cultural cooperation between diaspora organizations and institutions.
- A feasible model that can be replicated or scaled to additional German cities in future *Diaspora Flet* cycles or other similar conferences.

7.2 Conduct a Comprehensive Landscape Study on Albanian-Speaking Diaspora Organizations in Germany

Based on the conference discussions and our observations, it is a necessity to conduct a structured research survey to assess the current landscape of Albanian-speaking diaspora organizations in Germany. This research would evaluate and analyze their profiles, capacities, funding sources, membership structures, areas of activity, and operational challenges.

Rationale: Panels 2 and 5, as well as the institutional session on Day 3, repeatedly highlighted the absence of up-to-date, evidence-based mapping of diaspora organizations in Germany. Despite being one of the most active diaspora ecosystems in Germany and beyond, the organizational landscape of Albanianspeaking diaspora organizations remains fragmented and insufficiently understood by both home-country institutions and international partners.

A systematic research would generate a baseline of knowledge that supports:

- targeted policy-making in both the home and host countries,
- strategic planning by diaspora networks and associations,
- tailored programming for donors and partners in capacity development,
- and better coordination between organizations.

Proposed Actions

- Develop a research framework based on internationally used diaspora landscape methodologies (e.g., organizational census, stakeholder mapping).
- Survey 200–300 diaspora organizations and community groups across Germany.
- Conduct focus groups with leaders from key cities (Berlin, Hamburg, Munich, Frankfurt, Cologne).
- Produce a public report with typologies, needs analysis, challenges, funding gaps, and opportunity areas.

Expected Outcomes

- Clear, data-driven understanding of the diaspora organizational ecosystem.
- Identification of priority sectors for MEG and home-country support (education, culture, youth, business, integration).
- Evidence for long-term strategies and future diaspora policy design.

7.3 Strengthen International Exchanges Between Diaspora Organizations Through a Structured Cross-Network Fellowship/Exchange Model

Based on the discussions during Panel 2, *Comparative International Experiences of Successful Diaspora Projects*, at Diaspora Flet 2025, and supported by insights from speakers and participants, it is evident that a structured model for cross-country exchange of expertise among diaspora organizations is needed. This model would enable diaspora organizations in Germany to systematically connect, learn, and innovate together. Building on the Diaspora Advisory Board of the MEG Programme (Diaspora2030), *Diaspora Flet* can serve as a broader, multidisciplinary, and cooperative framework for international exchanges.

Rationale: Speakers noted that Albanian-speaking diaspora organizations in Germany face challenges that closely mirror those of diaspora communities in Nepal, Ethiopia, Afghanistan, Germany-Ecuador, Ukraine, Ghana, and other MEG geographies. Participants expressed strong interest in continuing the exchanges beyond conference settings, emphasizing that ad-hoc dialogues are not enough — a mechanism for continuity, regular knowledge transfer, and deeper cooperation must be established.

A structured exchange model would allow:

- sharing of tested practices, organizational methodologies, and governance approaches,
- transfer of innovation between diaspora networks operating in comparable social and institutional contexts,
- learning from global diaspora ecosystems to strengthen engagement with home-country institutions,
- long-term relationship-building, joint initiatives, and collaborative problem-solving.

Proposed Actions

- Co-design a cross-diaspora exchange model with organizations represented at Diaspora Flet, ensuring shared ownership and relevance.
- Establish fellowship-style mobility and exchange programs that enable staff and leaders to learn from peers in other countries.
- Create short-term thematic peer-learning cohorts focused on integration, youth organizing, funding models, culture, entrepreneurship, and policy advocacy.
- Develop a virtual community of practice to maintain ongoing dialogues, share resources, and coordinate collaborative projects.

Expected Outcomes

- Sustained international cooperation and structured peer-learning among diaspora organizations.
- Enhanced integration and intercultural competencies in host societies through exposure to global diaspora experiences.
- More coordinated and impactful engagement with institutions in home countries.

7.4 Develop an Interactive Digital Platform for Diaspora Organizations in Germany

Establish a digital, interactive platform that connects all Albanian-speaking diaspora organizations in Germany, providing visibility, communication tools, and a shared calendar of activities.

Rationale: This was the single most repeated recommendation across the entire conference. Currently, hundreds of diaspora organizations operate independently, with limited ability to discover, contact, or collaborate. This fragmentation undermines collective action and hampers the development of joint initiatives.

International practice shows that diaspora communities benefit immensely from centralized digital hubs, such as:

- diaspora organization directories,
- event and activity calendars,
- resource libraries,
- matchmaking and communication tools.

Examples include the Irish Global Diaspora Directory, the Armenian Diaspora Hub, and Filipino Community Portals in the EU. This recommendation aligns with the first recommendation and could be intertwined with it.

Proposed Features

- Verified organization directory with profiles, contacts, and thematic areas
- An interactive events calendar where each organization can publish activities
- Showcasing best practice projects and engagement similar to Diaspora2030.de, along with a messaging or inquiry function for direct contact with them.
- Establish a resource center for funding, training, and institutional programs

This platform could be a lightweight, scalable system built on existing technologies (a WordPress-based hub, an Airtable directory, or a customized Webflow database).

Expected Outcomes

- Visibility for all diaspora organizations across Germany
- Strengthened collaboration and coordination
- Easier access for institutions to communicate offerings and opportunities
- Greater integration of diaspora initiatives at the local and federal levels

7.5 Strengthen Supplementary Origin Language Learning in Germany

Develop and support a coordinated model for supplementary learning of the origin language in Germany, implemented through diaspora teacher associations, local organizations, and partnerships with German municipalities, to ensure long-term linguistic, educational, and integration outcomes for diaspora youth.

Rationale: The panel discussion on the role of language in integration highlighted that many children with Albanian or other migrant backgrounds have limited access to structured mother-tongue education. Research shows that migrant children who do not develop strong skills in their heritage language often face additional barriers in mastering the host-country language, which can negatively affect their educational performance and long-term career integration. Strong proficiency in the native language enhances cognitive development, supports literacy in the local language, and strengthens identity and confidence, critical factors for successful social and economic integration in Germany.

Proposed Actions

- Support diaspora teacher associations (KASH, LAPSH) to deliver standardized supplementary language classes.
- Home-country institutions and higher education institutions are to provide teacher training and digital learning materials.
- Partner with German schools and municipalities to offer weekend or after-school Albanian classes.
- Develop a simple “Class Locator” platform that lets families find nearby Albanian-language courses.
- Find ways to make language learning more attractive to increase student turnout.

Expected Outcome: Improved bilingual proficiency, stronger identity and integration outcomes for diaspora youth, and a scalable model that can benefit other heritage-language communities.

7.6 Enhance Communication and Coordination Between Diaspora Organizations and Home-Country Institutions

Establish a coordinated communication and engagement framework between diaspora organizations in Germany and the relevant institutions in Kosova and Albania, ensuring consistent dissemination of funding opportunities, clear guidance on application processes, and accessible pathways for diaspora organizations and professionals to engage with their home-country institutions.

Rationale: The primary purpose of inviting the institutions from Kosova and Albania to Diaspora Flet 2025 was to inform diaspora organizations about available funding schemes, application procedures, and engagement opportunities. The presentations were well received, with many participants appreciating the concrete financial support mechanisms for cultural, educational, and community-based initiatives. Several diaspora representatives indicated that they were previously unaware of these programs and were motivated to explore future applications.

At the same time, the institutional session revealed significant challenges: diaspora organizations often receive fragmented or incomplete information, face unclear pathways to accessing funds, and lack a structured mechanism to ask follow-up questions or receive technical support.

Additionally, a key insight repeatedly raised was that the Albanian-speaking diaspora in Germany operates as a single, integrated community, not divided along national lines. Separate, uncoordinated communication between Kosova and Albania risks confusion and duplication of effort. Participants strongly encouraged both countries to coordinate their outreach and jointly support diaspora-led projects that offer mutual benefit.

Participants expressed a desire for institutions to acknowledge diaspora organizations as essential partners and to enhance systematic partnership mechanisms. Many diaspora organizations perceive a significant gap: while German cooperation structures are increasingly open to leveraging diaspora expertise, political programs and institutions in countries of origin have been inconsistent in fully harnessing the potential of these organizations. To bridge this gap, it is vital to improve information sharing and, importantly, to foster a deeper political and programmatic commitment. This would ensure that diaspora organizations are integrated as formal partners and recognized as key points of contact for the design and execution of collaborative initiatives.

Strengthening communication and coordination will not only improve diaspora organizations' readiness to apply for available funding but also enhance institutional credibility and long-term engagement.

7.7.1 Create a consolidated “Institution–Diaspora Engagement and Funding Guide” summarizing:

1. Create a consolidated “Institution–Diaspora Engagement and Funding Guide” summarizing:
 - all grant schemes,
 - eligibility criteria,
 - application timelines,
 - assessment procedures, and
 - contact points from both Kosova and Albania.
2. Hold quarterly joint online information sessions where institutions present upcoming funding windows, clarify application processes, and answer questions.
3. Establish a unified Kosova–Albania “diaspora helpdesk” (email or ticketing system) to provide timely responses on funding inquiries and professional engagement opportunities.
4. Develop a structured mechanism for diaspora professional engagement, including calls for experts, mentorship programs, visiting lecturer schemes, and micro-consultancies.
5. Provide targeted “application readiness support” for diaspora organizations, including: guidance on proposal writing, budget planning, monitoring & evaluation requirements, and compliance expectations.

Expected Outcomes

- Increased awareness and utilization of available funding programs by diaspora organizations.
- Improved organizational readiness and capacity to apply successfully.
- Higher institutional transparency and responsiveness to diaspora needs.
- Reduced duplication and confusion through harmonized Kosova–Albania communication.
- A coordinated institutional approach that aligns with the unified identity and functioning of the Albanian-speaking diaspora in Germany.

Additional Expected Results for Diaspora Flet and Diaspora Organizations:

- Increased ownership, motivation, and accountability among diaspora organizations as co-creators of Diaspora Flet.
- More diverse and geographically balanced participation.
- More effective implementation and innovation across specific program components, while maintaining overall strategic coherence.
- Enhanced sustainability and scalability of the conference model, enabling it to be replicated in other countries in the future.

8. CONCLUSION

The Diaspora Flet Conference 2025 in Germany successfully met its objectives and demonstrated the continued importance of diaspora engagement as a strategic contribution to development-oriented migration. The event provided a structured platform for dialogue among diaspora organizations, practitioners, institutions, and GIZ-MEG partner-country organizations. It generated valuable insights into organizational needs, potential areas of cooperation, and systemic barriers that require long-term attention.

Across the three days, the conference facilitated high-quality exchanges on culture, knowledge transfer, innovation, education, and institutional cooperation. The level of participation and the depth of discussion confirmed that the Albanian-speaking diaspora, as well as other diaspora groups in Germany, function as interconnected ecosystems with significant potential to contribute to social cohesion in Germany and to development processes in their countries of origin. Participants clearly articulated the need for more exchanges and networking, more coordinated institutional communication, improved access to supplementary language learning, greater cross-diaspora collaboration, and more inclusive, intergenerational programming.

The outcomes of *Diaspora Flet* 2025 are directly relevant to the MEG program. The event strengthened cross-diaspora networks, identified new opportunities for transnational cooperation, and offered concrete recommendations to improve institutional responsiveness and program design. The consultations also highlighted the need for coordinated Kosova–Albania engagement mechanisms that reflect the diaspora's unity and reduce fragmentation in service delivery.

From a strategic perspective, the conference reaffirmed that diaspora engagement is most effective when supported by coherent institutions, clear communication channels, and targeted capacity-building. The recommendations generated through the panels and the institutional session offer a clear roadmap for future interventions, ranging from evidence-based research on diaspora organizations to structured international exchanges, digital collaboration tools, and enhanced language-learning support.

GERMIN expresses appreciation for the partnership and guidance provided by GIZ–MEG throughout the planning and implementation of *Diaspora Flet* 2025. Building on the strong foundations laid by this event, GERMIN remains committed to continued support for diaspora organizations, advancing coordinated institutional cooperation, and contributing to shared objectives under the MEG program. The insights gained during *Diaspora Flet* will directly inform future programming and help shape more effective, inclusive, and sustainable approaches to diaspora engagement

9. RESOURCES

1. [Website page and agenda](#)
2. [Registration Page](#)
3. [Photo Set](#)
4. [Recap Video of the Conference](#)
5. [Youtube playlist](#)
6. [Summary about partner organizations](#)

GERMIN is a non-governmental organization dedicated to empowering and connecting the Albanian diaspora worldwide. By leveraging innovation, technology, and global networks, GERMIN works to strengthen the diaspora's role in the social, economic, and democratic development of their home countries. Acting as a bridge between diaspora communities and local institutions, the organization fosters collaboration, promotes knowledge exchange, and supports initiatives that drive sustainable development and long-term impact.

Advocacy and Diplomacy

This program focuses on empowering diaspora communities through advocacy and policy engagement. GERMIN strengthens connections between the diaspora and local institutions while promoting diaspora participation in decision-making processes. Key initiatives include policy development projects, the Diaspora Flet Conference, regional youth fellowships, and election monitoring efforts to ensure diaspora voting rights and representation.

Engaging Diaspora Professionals

GERMIN facilitates the transfer of knowledge and expertise from diaspora professionals to their home countries. Through networking platforms, mentorship, and short-term engagements, the program connects professionals with institutions and organizations in Kosovo. It includes partnerships and projects that support women in politics, entrepreneurship, and capacity-building across sectors, contributing directly to socio-economic development.

Diaspora Philanthropy

This program promotes structured and impactful giving from the diaspora. Through cooperation with the Global Albanians Foundation, GERMIN enables transparent and efficient fundraising for non-profit organizations. It helps channel diaspora contributions into social and economic development projects while reducing barriers to cross-border donations.

Youth and Education

GERMIN works to bridge the gap between education and labor market needs by engaging youth from both Kosovo and the diaspora. OriginAL is a flagship program that offers young members of the Albanian diaspora an immersive educational, cultural, and volunteer experience in their countries of origin, helping them reconnect with their roots and build lasting ties.

Diaspora Investments

This program aims to transform diaspora remittances into strategic investments that drive long-term economic growth. GERMIN supports investment promotion, business networking, and public-private partnerships. Through forums, municipal initiatives, and targeted projects, it connects diaspora investors with local opportunities, fostering job creation and sustainable development.