

## **Diasporas as Stakeholders in Development and/or Foreign Policy and Practice: The Norwegian Experience**

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Within Europe, an increasing number of activities targeting ‘diaspora’ populations are being developed. These activities aim at increasing the participation of diasporas in peacebuilding and development, and focus much on ‘knowledge creation’ and ‘capacity building’. This paper aims at exploring the sudden proliferation of such initiatives in greater detail, explaining why they have developed, why progress appears to be so slow and what the impact of a supportive national policy can be. While there are numerous reasons for European governmental and non-governmental actors to wish to raise diaspora participation in activities aimed at their country of origin, the main motivation for doing this is rarely an acknowledgement of the fact that diasporas are genuine stakeholders in development cooperation practices and foreign policy initiatives in their country of settlement. This has considerable implications for how ‘diaspora initiatives’ are shaped.