



EU research actions on migration and on climate

Climate-induced migration

22-23 November 2016

FEEM, Milan.

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The "climate change–migration" nexus in the policy domain:

- **High Representative of the European Commission:** *paper on 'Climate change & International Security' (2008)*
- *Highlighted that: Climate change could act as 'threat multiplier', exacerbating trends, tensions, instabilities which would already have an influence on migration patterns*
- **Council conclusions on Climate Diplomacy (FOREIGN AFFAIRS Council meeting, July 2011):**
 - *"Climate change is a global environmental and development challenge. Next to the most immediate effects, it also has important security implications since it acts as a "threat multiplier", exacerbating tensions over land, water, food and energy prices, and creating migratory pressures and desertification. It is a threat to global growth, prosperity and stability.*



MIGRATION AND MOBILITY



ROLE OF RESEARCH

Explore and demonstrate how research can support policymakers in designing effective and sustainable migration policies fit to meet the challenges of the current crisis and beyond

The complexity of the migration phenomenon gives research a key role in supporting evidence-based policies on migration.



EU-FUNDED RESEARCH ON MIGRATION

DG RTD has taken strategic steps to underline the importance of research on migration supported by Framework Programmes. This is achieved through:

- **STOCK-TAKING AND VALORISATION OF RESEARCH RESULTS** through policy recommendations; publications; events; and a new *Migration Research Platform* that aim to inform, consult and mobilise a wide range of internal and external stakeholders
- **DEVELOPMENT OF A RESEARCH AGENDA** on migration to be fed in the revised 2017 Work Programme and in the upcoming 2018-20 Work Programme of Horizon 2020

STOCK-TAKING AND VALORISATION OF RESEARCH RESULTS

1. A research-to-policy "**Workshop on Migration: Research & Innovation**" was organised by DG RTD with key FP7 projects and representatives of other DGs, was held in Brussels in September 2015
2. The **Science4Refugees initiative** was launched in October 2015 by DG RTD. It is aimed at connecting refugee scientists and researchers with European universities and research organisations willing to offer internships and jobs



science4refugees

Helping
refugee scientists
and researchers
find suitable jobs

STOCK-TAKING AND VALORISATION OF RESEARCH RESULTS

3. Publication on objectives and results of 55 projects funded by EU under FP7 and Horizon 2020 published in February 2016

**"Migration and Mobility:
Research & Innovation
Projects in support to
European Policy"**



4. Policy review
**"Research on Migration:
Facing Realities and
Maximising Opportunities"**
was published by DG RTD
in February 2016. Stock
taking exercise of evidence
generated to formulate
policy recommendations.



Linking climate change & migration (FP7)

CLICO: Climate change, water conflicts and human security in the Mediterranean, Middle East and Sahel

Some key findings:

- ▶ Climate change in conjunction with other factors is likely to undermine human security, if no adaptation measures are taken.
- ▶ The link between climate change and water conflicts is, at most, indirect.
- ▶ For the majority of conflict situations studied in the CLICO project, political, economic and social factors were found to be of greater importance than water scarcity or climate-related stresses.



Linking climate change & migration (FP7)

HELIX: High-End cLimate Impacts and eXtremes

- ▶ *Focus on 2, 4 and 6 °C land and coastal impacts and their consequences for food, water security, energy security, flooding, infrastructure, ecosystems, health, migration, and risk of conflict.*
- ▶ *Comprehensive analysis of confidence and uncertainty.*
- ▶ *Three regions of study: Europe, Sub-Saharan Africa (in the Northern Hemisphere), & the North-East Indian sub-continent.*



Understanding and Tackling the Migration Challenge The Role of Research

International Conference (4-5 February 2016, Brussels)

Key objectives:

- ✓ *dissemination and exploitation of existing research for policy-making*
- ✓ *identifying research needs and gaps*
- ✓ *encouraging uptake of Science4Refugees initiative*

Second day: 3 thematic areas:

- ✓ **Integration and societal impact**
- ✓ **Health**
- ✓ **Climate change**



Understanding and Tackling the Migration Challenge

The Role of Research

International Conference, 4-5 February 2016, Brussels
Conference Report



Research and
Innovation



**MAJOR RESEARCH NEEDS
IDENTIFIED IN THE REPORT OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
"Understanding and Tackling the Migration Challenge: The Role of Research"**

5.1 MIGRATION FLOWS AND DRIVERS

- Develop **methodology** to capture the multiple drivers of migration (climate change, poverty, conflict, other geopolitical shocks) and analyse interrelations between them
- Better **methods for scenario-mapping** of potential future flows and displacement
- **Irregular migration trajectories**, including trafficking and smuggling, exploitation, abuses and vulnerabilities with such movement
- Impact of **return mobilities and social remittances**
- **Diaspora engagement** in development

RESEARCH NEEDS SPECIFIC TO "CLIMATE CHANGE & MIGRATION"

Key challenges:

- i) issues with 'estimates' and 'definitions'
- ii) isolating climate change as factor in migration

Suggestions/way forward:

- ▶ Develop more sophisticated methodologies and produce more rigorous analyses addressing the complex and **multiple drivers** of migration in a comprehensive way.
- ▶ Need for more **reliable quantitative data** to better estimate the number of people at risk as a result of environmental and climate-related factors.
- ▶ Research is needed to **design adequate adaptation strategies** that increase the resilience of vulnerable populations and ecosystems, in order to mitigate the impact on climate change (consider also migration as adaptation option).
- ▶ Examine the risks, needs and vulnerabilities associated with **'trapped' populations** (usually the poorest), unable to move from areas severely affected by environmental change or disaster.
- ▶ Need for more comparative **research across countries** and increased research **collaboration with local researchers**, including analyses on the local/micro level.



Task Force on Migration

- Set up in late February 2016 by the Directorate General for Research & Innovation
- Part of its mandate is to oversee development of a research agenda on migration to be fed into the revised 2017 Work Programme and into the preparation of the 2018-20 Work Programme of Horizon 2020

Migration Research Platform

- Information hub on socio-economic research on Migration & Mobility funded under the Framework Programmes + information on research projects, events and publications, and links to other Commission services and organisations working on Migration & Mobility.



Research Agenda on Migration

2016-17 Work Programme: 3 topics on migration

- 1. Intra-EU mobility and its impacts for social and economic systems (REV-INEQUAL-04-2016)**
- 2. The EU and the global challenge of migration (ENG-GLOBALLY-03-2017)**
- 3. Religious diversity in Europe – past, present and future (CULT-COOP-05-2017)**

Revision of the WP 2017: 5 NEW topics on migration

Refugee crisis □ migration at the top of political agendas in Europe □ need for a comprehensive **research agenda on migration** that can provide a solid evidence base for policymaking

Five new research topics on migration under SC6 for a total budget of €11 million*



1. Migration and asylum systems
2. Employability, skills and labour market integration of migrants
3. The significance of cultural and core values for the migration challenge
4. Platform on current European and cross-national comparative research and research actions on migration
5. Research social platform on migration and asylum

* in addition to a pre-existing 2017 research topic of €5 million

6. The European Union and the global challenge of migration

Information available under the **Migration Research Platform**, the R&I web hub for migration



HORIZON 2020 2018-20 Work Programme

- The Expert Advisory Group for the *Societal Challenge 'Europe in a changing world – Inclusive, innovative and reflective societies'* has identified migration as one of three main research areas for 2018-20
- Migration is also expected to be an important line of research across various other parts of the 2018-20 Work Programme
- Under *Societal Challenge 5: 'Climate action, environment, resource efficiency and raw materials'*, we are also exploring possibilities to incorporate policy-relevant research on climate change & migration (WP 2018-20)



THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION !

Useful links

Migration Research Platform

<http://ec.europa.eu/research/social-sciences/index.cfm?pg=policies&polycname=migration-mobility>

Policy Review "Research on Migration:
Facing Realities and Maximising Opportunities"

http://ec.europa.eu/research/social-sciences/pdf/policy_reviews/ki-04-15-841_en_n.pdf#view=fit&pa

Publication "Research & Innovation Projects in support to
European Policy- Migration and Mobility"

http://ec.europa.eu/research/social-sciences/pdf/project_synopses/ki-na-27-592-en.pdf#view=fit&pa

International Conference "Understanding and Tackling the
Migration Challenge: The Role of Research"

<http://ec.europa.eu/research/conferences/2016/migration-challenge/index.cfm>

http://ec.europa.eu/research/social-sciences/pdf/other_pubs/migration_conference_report_2016.pdf