

**National EMN-Conference
“Migration Movement Towards Europe: Data Analysis and
Alternatives”**

9 October 2017

Diplomatic Academy of Vienna

CONFERENCE REPORT



INTRODUCTION

The current movement of migrants to Europe is challenging at many different levels, especially for migrants, who all too often risk their lives. A differentiated view on migration goals, migration routes and the underlying motives for migration is necessary when trying to identify alternatives for supporting migrants in their regions of origin. Against this background, the National Contact Point Austria in the European Migration Network (EMN) organized a conference with more than 50 (inter)national experts with diverse backgrounds.

The morning session, moderated by Holger Heller and Ruth Picker, discussed migration movements to Europe as well as different methods of data collection. In the afternoon, the participants discussed alternatives for supporting migrants in their regions of origin, with these issues further developed later in interactive workshops. Based on impulse statements, the strategies were divided into six broad subject areas. The outcome of the workshops was documented on a so-called harvest sheet and later presented in the plenary session.

The first part of this report provides an overview of the four presentations held in the morning. In the second part, the impulse statements as well as the discussions and conclusions of the workshops on the six subject areas are documented.

THE CONFERENCE¹

WELCOME AND OPENING STATEMENTS

Peter Webinger (Austrian Ministry of the Interior)

Marian Benbow Pfisterer (International Organization for Migration)

In his introductory speech, Peter Webinger touched upon the new challenges in global migration. He underscored the fact that our protection mechanisms for migrants reach the affected population too late. He further highlighted the growing importance of communication in the migration context – migration policy is also communication policy. In a world where mobility is greater than ever, we must not turn a blind eye to this reality. One goal of the conference is therefore to make visible certain aspects of global migration and the accompanying challenges.

Marian Benbow Pfisterer emphasized in her opening statement the relevance of the United Nations *New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants*. The declaration, made in 2016, stresses the need to combat those push and pull factors causing or contributing to large migration movements. These influencing factors also require a more thorough analysis. Precisely such analysis as well as the preparation of information and research findings is the crucial task of the European Migration Network and therefore the key task of the National Contact Point for Austria. In the end, Marian Benbow Pfisterer invited all participants to engage in and actively contribute to the discussions.

¹ The agenda is provided in Annex 1.

DATA ANALYSIS ON THE MIGRATION MOVEMENT TO EUROPE: TRENDS AND PROJECTIONS

IOM Displacement Tracking Matrix

Nuno Nunes (International Organization for Migration)

Nuno Nunes is among those responsible for worldwide implementation of the Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM). DTM is a modular data collection mechanism that provides regularly updated data on displacement and migration movements from a wide geographic area. DTM is used to collect and analyse data on origin, transit, profiles, trends, and movements of migrants in 40 countries. In areas or regions strongly affected by migration movements, IOM has established so-called flow monitoring points. Alongside other methods, such points help to recognize trends in a timely manner and to take measures accordingly.



Compared with previous years there has been a considerable decrease of migrants arriving in Europe via the Central Mediterranean route. In 2017, there were 20% fewer arrivals in Italy than in the same period in 2016. The data from DTM also show that in 2017 (January–September) six of the ten nationalities most frequently arriving via the Central Mediterranean route were of West African countries. The largest migrant groups are Nigerians at 17%, followed by citizens of Guinea and Bangladesh at 9% respectively. Taking a holistic perspective on migratory movements, it becomes clear that the movement from Africa to Europe accounts for only a small percentage of migrant mobility in Africa. Far more significant migration in Africa takes place within or between regions of the continent. Finally, Nuno Nunes emphasized that conclusions on migration movements towards Europe should be complemented by complex and multi-layered analysis of mobility data from migrants' regions of origin.

The complete presentation is available [HERE](#).

Processing of personal data for risk analysis (PeDRA) and migration trends from Africa

Viorel Purice (Frontex)

Viorel Purice began by introducing the Frontex project *Processing of personal data for risk analysis (PeDRA)*. In the framework of PeDRA, Frontex collects data on persons under suspicion of having committed a cross-border crime (e.g. human smuggling or terrorism). The project ensures the correct management of these personal data, including sharing on a national and EU-level. Next, Viorel Purice

presented so-called *debriefing interviews*. In *debriefing interviews*, migrants are interviewed on migration routes, push and pull factors, (intended) destination countries, means of transport and communication as well as on financial issues. The interviews are conducted in an anonymous and voluntary manner.

Frontex data shows that the Central Mediterranean route remains the main access for irregular migrants to Europe in the Mediterranean region. Viorel Purice listed possible explanations for the decrease of arrivals in Italy via the Central Mediterranean route in 2017, including increased border controls by the Libyan coastguard, measures taken on shore as well as local conflicts. However, on the Western Mediterranean route, Frontex documented an increase in irregular migration to Europe. On this route, the largest migrant groups are from Morocco at 19%, the Ivory Coast at 17% and Guinea at 14%. Finally, Viorel Purice stressed the importance of close cooperation within the European Union as well as with external partners when attempting to reduce irregular migration.

The complete presentation is available [HERE](#).

A presentation on the preliminary findings of the study “Youth on the Move” – investigating decision-making, migration trajectories and expectations of youth on the way to Italy

Amanuel Mehari (International Organization for Migration)

Amanuel Mehari presented the preliminary findings of the study *Youth on the Move*² conducted by the *North African Mixed Migration Hub (MHub)*. The study examines migration patterns among youth (15–24 years old) from North, East and West Africa. In 2016, 16% of all migrants traveling via the Central Mediterranean route were children or adolescents, and 90% of these were unaccompanied. The most frequent countries of departure for unaccompanied minors were Eritrea (17%), Egypt (13%) and Gambia (13%).

The main push factors remain prolonged civil unrest/civil war, experiences of violence, persecution, economic reasons and the desire for better opportunities, including employment and education. For youth, peer pressure and the transition to adulthood additionally play an important role. The decision-making process takes one year as a rule and is often triggered by specific events (e.g. death in the family or political unrest). While the push factors in the migration process basically continue to remain the same, a transformation or shift in the pull factors can be observed. At the beginning of the migration process, family reunification and security are central pull factors. However, in the countries to which they initially migrate, youth are often confronted with precarious living conditions, failing local integration as well as a lack of possibilities to develop themselves, e.g. with regard to education or employment. This situation often leads to secondary migration and in this context irregular migration is considered the only accessible alternative.

Regional differences were documented mainly relating to the form and funding of travel. Youth from West Africa usually work during the migration process to finance the trip. Moreover, they rely on local and public transport. Their migration process, therefore, is gradual and less organized. Youth from East Africa, in contrast, collect or save before the journey the money required. They are then strongly dependent on international smuggling networks; therefore their migration process is also more organized and often takes place within the limited realms of networks.

The complete presentation is available [HERE](#).

² <http://www.mixedmigrationhub.org/mmtf-noah-research/>

Approaches to meeting operational demands – predicting migration flows by mathematical models and text analytics

Dr. Haidar Al-Talibi (Swedish Migration Agency)

Anders Westerlund (Swedish Migration Agency)

Haidar Al-Talibi (Swedish Migration Agency) presented a mathematical model for predicting future migration movements. The Swedish Migration Agency developed this model to improve the management of resources needed in the refugee reception system. With the help of various statistical tools, the model can produce reasonable, short-term predictions (covering 1–6 months) on the inflow, throughflow, and outflow of asylum seekers. Besides these projections of future migration flows, the model can also reveal trends in other areas of migration, such as the duration of the asylum procedure or family reunification. The collection of data facilitates preparations on an operational level and the targeted use of resources. Although the model was developed for the Swedish context, it can be applied in other European countries as well.



In the second part of the presentation, Anders Westerlund introduced the PRISMA project (Process-Related Information-Gathering from Systems for Multiple Analysis). Generally, one differentiates between structured data (e.g. spreadsheets) and unstructured data (e.g. text, video or sound material). Usually, the former accounts for about 10–20% and the latter for about 80–90% of all the information available within an organization. This distribution also applies to the (Swedish) asylum system. On the one hand, it is relatively easy to find out how many people of a specific nationality have withdrawn their asylum claim. On the other hand, it is somewhat difficult and time-consuming to analyze why they have withdrawn their applications. PRISMA is a statistical tool which can be used to analyze unstructured data. For this purpose it uses a particular form of text analysis, which is called text mining. Using this technique, PRISMA facilitates the analysis of a large quantity of unstructured data and a better analysis of migration-related data.

The complete presentation is available [HERE](#).

WORKSHOP: ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES TO SUPPORT MIGRANTS IN REGIONS OF ORIGIN

Education and Training

Impulse by: Georg Matuschkowitz (Caritas Austria)

Impulse statement

For Caritas Austria, education and training is a cross-cutting matter that is integrated into all types of project development in humanitarian aid and development cooperation. In the coming years, Caritas aims at providing access to education for 500,000 children in 10 focus countries (7 in Africa, 2 in Europe and 1 in Asia). The concept of education should be based on a broad understanding and not be restricted to the school sector. The basic assumption here is that the inclusion of the educational component in aid projects can contribute to enhanced sustainability of those projects.

Discussion

Education and training is a cross-sectoral problem and all stakeholders have to be involved in the solution. On the one hand, the issue of “awareness of the need or education and training in the South” should be promoted, and on the other, the North-South partnerships should be strengthened.

In many cases, for a migration decision to be taken, conditions must become unstable in more than one area, such as food supply, market access, health or security, resulting in push factors. In contrast, the stabilization of one sector can be sufficient for a decision against continued migration and for staying in a country of transit instead. Access to education and training, or the stabilization of this sector, can thus be a decisive factor for staying in one place. In addition, investments in education and training of migrants increase migrants' independence and therefore support independent decision-making processes.

The focus of training and education programmes should be on a whole region and not just on small isolated areas. It is also essential to coordinate the various interests involved in the implementation of programmes. Hence, not only the various donors but also partners and suppliers on site as well as migrants themselves should be included in the development process. The participation of the target group in the definition of the project is particularly important for the success of an education programme. Moreover, projects should rely and draw on existing resources. For example, in the context of larger migratory movements, the necessary labour force, such as teachers and trainers, already exists.

To make approaches in education and training more effective, programmes should use new technologies. Furthermore, partnerships should be promoted, good practices disseminated and migrants actively involved in the process of project development. Additionally, educational aspects could be introduced as a cross-sectoral requirement for public tenders. This would draw more attention to the sector and provide sufficient resources.

The harvest sheet of the workshop can be found [HERE](#).

Humanitarian Aid

Impulse by: Andrea Barschdorf-Hager (Care Austria)

Impulse statement

Humanitarian aid for migrants is most effective when offered immediately and comprehensively on the ground. Unfortunately, this approach to delivering aid has become rare. Humanitarian intervention used to concentrate primarily on short-term assistance, e.g. in the case of large refugee movements in the aftermath of an earthquake. Today, humanitarian aid is increasingly confronted with chronic long-term emergency situations. Often, several factors such as conflicts and natural disasters coincide. The majority of people affected flee within the country, but also the number of people seeking refuge in other countries is increasing.



Discussion

The relevance of humanitarian aid will continue to increase in the face of ever more complex challenges (e.g. long-lasting crises), therefore adequate mechanisms must be developed, and appropriate resources should be made available.

In principle, humanitarian aid can make a valuable contribution towards alleviating the causes of people (re-) migrating. However, it can only be effective if it is timely, well-coordinated and sufficiently funded. Another challenge is that host countries often lack sufficient resources to care for their own population adequately. Humanitarian aid must therefore also be made available to the population of the receiving country. The Jordanian government has, for example, demanded that 10% of the humanitarian aid provided should be offered to the local population. Nevertheless, the receiving countries also have to take on responsibilities. Expenditures must be prioritized and good governance requested.

In crisis situations, people are often supported only through the provision of material resources. In some countries, however, there is a growing trend towards transferring cash support to promote local markets. This cash support is transferred to beneficiaries by means of credit cards, meaning that now international corporations are also involved in humanitarian aid. Thus, there is a risk of partners becoming more oriented towards economic principles than towards the principles of humanitarian aid.

It is vital to provide more information on humanitarian aid and to develop an awareness and appreciation of this form of support within the population. Politics often seems to be on the defensive in this matter. There is a lack of a strategy for ensuring that humanitarian aid is understood as a positive part of globalization and is accordingly communicated in a positive manner.

The harvest sheet of the workshop can be found [HERE](#).

Combating the Smuggling of Migrants

Impulse by: Livia Wagner (Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime)

Impulse statement

Amongst other things, the Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime (GITOC) conducts qualitative research on human smuggling and trafficking worldwide. GITOC researchers work on the ground and interview persons in transit and destination countries, including for example in detention centres. GITOC looks at the different smuggling routes taken towards Europe, why they are chosen and how they change over time. One general problem is that 80% of African borders are not monitored since a large part of the border areas is located in regions that are difficult to access and are therefore difficult to control, for example in deserts or rainforests. This fact also means that as soon as one smuggling route is closed, another one will immediately emerge.

Discussion

Measures to combat the smuggling of migrants have to address various aspects. These include, in particular, cooperation and information exchange between the countries concerned, implementation of existing legislation, promotion of subregional migratory movements and the creation of regular migration routes.

In general, fighting the smuggling of migrants should also mean fighting the causes of smuggling. At the political and societal level, primarily corruption and fragile states are causing difficulties. Especially corruption actively fuels the smuggling of migrants. In Libya, for instance, the boundary between militias, smugglers and law enforcement is blurred. In addition, effective cooperation between countries is lacking, yet precisely the latter would be crucial as transnational smuggling networks operate in various countries and continents. Therefore, it is necessary to identify the heads of the organizations and not only individuals who, for example, drive boats.

In order to curtail the smuggling of migrants, it would be necessary to call for increased cooperation and improved information exchange between the countries concerned. In addition, legal frameworks and agreements must be implemented. In this regard, the ratification of the “Protocol Against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air” plays a central role. This can also guarantee more effective criminal prosecution of smugglers as well as improved control of migration hubs. Additionally, the creation of regular migration options makes relying on smuggling networks obsolete. Various offerings such as seasonal work visas can be created, and already existing instruments, such as family reunification, can be further developed.

The harvest sheet of the workshop can be found here [HERE](#).

Information Campaigns

Impulse by: Melita Hummel-Sunjic (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees)

Impulse statement

Most migrants from Africa are aware of the dangers of irregular migration to Europe, but not of the extent of the risks and the suffering they are likely to face. In addition, migrants often have an unrealistic idea about life in Europe and the complexity of the European asylum system. It is precisely this issue that is addressed by the information campaign *Telling the Real Story* of UNHCR – a platform on which refugees and asylum seekers report on their experiences.

Information campaigns for migrants are particularly effective and credible when they tell real stories and give testimonies of experiences. Such campaigns only succeed if they are carried out over a longer period of time and additionally if acceptable alternatives to a migration are offered. Beyond this, it is important to understand the cultural background of the target group and to involve it when preparing the respective campaign. The aim of information campaigns should be to establish a dialogue within communities in order to shape the opinions and expectations of the target groups.



Discussion

Information campaigns for migrants should be part of a holistic approach, based on conscientious and in-depth research, and carried out on a long-term basis.

To ensure the effectiveness of an information campaign, the target group must be identified and its migration context understood. A campaign should provide honest and trustworthy information to create credibility. Information campaigns are only worthwhile as part of a holistic approach and when implemented in combination with measures in the areas of education, income generation, and security. Thus, people should be given access to opportunities for development that are accepted as alternatives to migration and flight.

An initial, essential prerequisite for successfully designing an information campaign is sufficient and long-term financing. This ensures in-depth research and a sufficiently long duration of the campaign. Second, it is vital to develop a transcultural understanding of the target group and to adapt the campaign to the respective language. A flexible and multi-faceted approach as well as continuous evaluation and monitoring of the campaign are further central aspects of a successful information campaign.

To make future information campaigns more effective, they should reach the respective target group as early as possible. In addition, coordination with other campaigns and measures as well as stronger cooperation between actors, where appropriate, can be envisaged. The exchange of best practices can be a first step in this regard. Other alternatives include the reduction of push factors, the creation of regular paths of migration and the fight against organized crime. It is also important to extend education measures to raise awareness of the consequences and dangers of irregular migration.

The harvest sheet of the workshop can be found [HERE](#).

Income-Generating Activities

Impulse by: Michael Newson (International Organization for Migration)

Impulse statement

Initiatives in the area of income-generating activities must be adapted to the respective context. For example, in economically weak regions it makes sense to relocate migrants to economically better-developed regions. If there is no regular labour market access for migrants, measures should target those sectors that employ large numbers of irregular migrant workers. If only a subset of migrants has access to the regular labour market, possible strategies could include job-matching, building capacities in the public employment service, regulation of the informal sector and the promotion of already existing services.

Discussion

In the area of income-generating activities, local conditions and structures of the labour market should be taken into account, in particular, however, a balance should be struck between the needs of migrants and those of the local population.

Income-generating activities must be supported by the respective government and take into account the needs of the local population. In other words, income opportunities and job-creating measures should be aimed at both migrants and the local population. Such a cross-societal approach prevents discrimination against local societies, thereby increasing the acceptance of migrants in the region.

To ensure the effectiveness of an approach, it is crucial to build measures on already existing social networks of migrants. In addition, new markets should be created to prevent competition with the existing industries and workforce. Moreover, income-generating measures can be more effective if they are implemented in areas or communities that already have a potential for growth.

Regarding cost-effectiveness, the group proposed investing in already ongoing and successful measures. Furthermore, the efforts of various stakeholders should be consolidated and coordinated. This increased cooperation could be promoted not only within the areas of income and work but also with regard to other areas. An example of a conceivable combination would be to connect income-generating activities with education and training initiatives, with the development of educational offerings taking into account the needs of the local labour market.

The harvest sheet of the workshop can be found [HERE](#).

State-Building in Third Countries

Impulse by: Michael von der Schulenburg (United Nations, ret.)

Impulse statement

Mass migration appears to be similar to other economic and societal challenges of our time, which can be mainly attributed to two developments: on the one hand, to the evolving multi-polar world order, with a number of global and regional actors and the associated dwindling of the West's claim to leadership; on the other hand, to the growing importance of intra-state conflicts. Global peace and security are no longer threatened by primarily conflicts among nation-states, but increasingly by weakened nation-states and armed non-state actors. In order to adapt to these changing circumstances, internationally recognized rules and principles must be developed for intervening in intra-state conflicts.



Discussion

Migration is part of a much larger problem and cannot be solved in an isolated manner. Therefore, there is the need for a collective solution on a global level.

The creation of international rules and principles would first require an extension of the UN Charter, which was designed to prevent wars between states. Non-state actors do not, therefore, play a role in the Charter. As a result, intra-state conflicts and the respective interventions are mainly taking place in a legal vacuum. In addition, a key aspect is a strong political will aimed at developing international law for intra-state relations. In this process, national sovereignties should not be further undermined but rather strengthened. This means that nation-states should be protected from unilateral foreign military interventions and political infiltration and at the same time adapted to the modern, interlinked and globalized world. For millions of people, the Western model of democracy has not brought peaceful coexistence. This fact has to be accepted, and it also means that the Western powers should stop imposing their political system on other cultures.

To efficiently implement the approach, concerned actors need to be more involved in the development of solutions. It is therefore also about acknowledging the hidden power of countries of origin. Yet, smaller, already existing initiatives should not be neglected. The group discussed some possible

alternative approaches to strengthening state structures: the expansion of free movement within Africa, increased openness of the international community towards best practices from the African context in dealing with migration, and the formation of migration partnerships.

The harvest sheet of the workshop can be found [HERE](#).

CONCLUSION

Julia Rutz (International Organization for Migration)

As coordinator of the Austrian National Contact Point in the EMN, in her concluding speech Julia Rutz thanked all experts for their active participation in the conference. The declared goal of the event was to bring together experts from public administration, academia, NGOs as well as international organizations and to provide a basis for an alternative discourse in the gridlocked migration debate. The lively discussions in both the morning and the afternoon demonstrated the relevance of the subject. As a next step, the results of the event are to be prepared and made available to a broad public.



More information on the event can be found at www.emn.at.

ANNEX 1: AGENDA

08:30 – 09:00	<i>Entrance and Registration</i>
09:00 – 09:30	<p>WELCOME, OPENING AND INTRODUCTION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peter Webinger; Deputy Director-General for Legal Affairs and Head of the Directorate for Migration, Citizenship Affairs, Asylum and Human Rights; Austrian Federal Ministry of the Interior • Marian Benbow Pfisterer; Head of the Country Office for Austria; International Organization for Migration • Holger Heller and Ruth Picker; Moderation; Heller & Team
09:30 – 10:20	<p>DATA ANALYSIS ON THE MIGRATION MOVEMENT TO EUROPE: TRENDS AND PROJECTIONS (PART 1)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nuno Nunes; Global Coordinator CCCM, DTM and Shelter; International Organization for Migration • Viorel Purice; Analyst in the Risk Analysis Unit; Frontex
10:20 – 10:40	<i>Coffee break</i>
10:40 – 11:30	<p>DATA ANALYSIS ON THE MIGRATION MOVEMENT TO EUROPE: TRENDS AND PROJECTIONS (PART 2)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amanuel Mehari; North Africa Mixed Migration Hub Coordinator; International Organization for Migration • Haider Al-Talibi and Anders Westerlund; Operation Control and Coordination; Swedish Migration Agency
11:30 – 12:30	FEEDBACK ROUND
12:30 – 13:30	<i>Lunch break</i>
13:30 – 15:30	<p><i>Workshops</i></p> <p>(1) EDUCATION AND TRAINING Georg Matuschkowitz; Head of Unit for International Programmes; Caritas Austria</p> <hr/> <p>(2) HUMANITARIAN AID Andrea Barschdorf-Hager; Executive Director; Care Austria</p> <hr/> <p>(3) COMBATING THE SMUGGLING OF MIGRANTS Livia Wagner; Private Sector Advisor; Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime</p> <hr/> <p>(4) INFORMATION CAMPAIGNS Melita Hummel-Sunjic; Head of the Unit for Communicating with Communities; United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees</p> <hr/> <p>(5) INCOME-GENERATING ACTIVITIES Michael Newson; Regional Thematic Specialist for Labour Migration; International Organization for Migration</p> <hr/> <p>(6) STATE-BUILDING IN THIRD COUNTRIES Michael von der Schulenburg; Fmr. Executive Representative and Head of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Sierra Leone; United Nations</p>
15:30 – 15:45	<i>Coffee break</i>
15:45 – 16:45	<i>Presentation of results and discussion</i>
16:45 – 17:00	<p><i>Conclusion</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Julia Rutz; Head of the Unit for Research and Migration Law; International Organization for Migration