



# **Water, Migration, European Research and Policy**

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# Water, migration and how they are interlinked

*Devastating drought & mismanagement of water resources in Syria from 2006-2011*

*1 million people to food insecurity*

*Mass migration of 1.5 million people into cities*

*Combined with poor economic conditions and repressive political regime*

*Informed Policy Decisions require best data and knowledge*





# Large scale trans-border migration has several dimensions

*That tend to cause tensions between recipients and sender states regardless the underlying causes*





## **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 designing a robust migration system**





## Overall Policy Context

COM(2015)240 Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions: **The European Agenda on Migration.**

COM(2016)197 Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council Towards a **Reform of the Common European Asylum System and Enhancing Legal Avenues to Europe.**

COM(2016)270 Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council **establishing the criteria and mechanisms for determining the Member State responsible for examining an application for international protection lodged in one of the Member States by a third-country national or a stateless person** (recast)





## Overall Policy Context

COM(2016)377 Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions: **Action Plan on the integration of third country nationals.**

COM(2016) 378 Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on the conditions of **entry and residence of third-country nationals for the purposes of highly skilled employment.**

COM(2016) 381 Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions: **A New Skills Agenda for Europe - Working together to strengthen human capital, employability and competitiveness**

COM(2016)385 Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the European Council, the Council and the European Investment Bank on **establishing a new Partnership Framework with third countries under the European Agenda 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





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## 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



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## 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"**



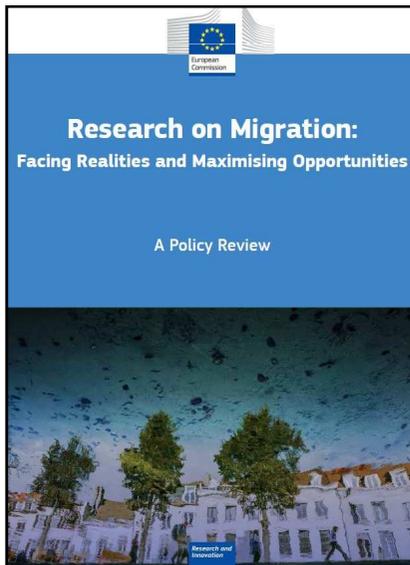


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## STOCK-TAKING AND VALORISATION OF RESEARCH RESULTS

### 4. The policy review "**Research on Migration: Facing Realities and Maximising Opportunities**"

was published by DG RTD  
in February 2015

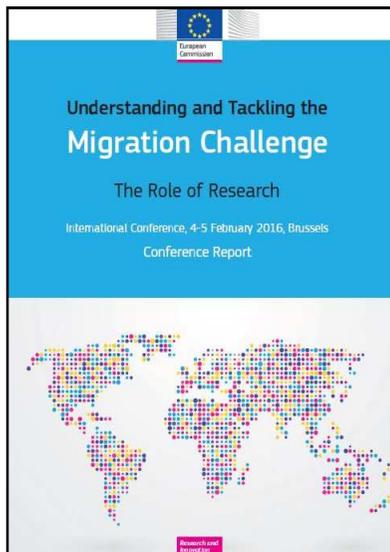


It takes stock of evidence  
generated by EU research  
and uses this evidence  
to formulate policy  
recommendations



## STOCK-TAKING AND VALORISATION OF RESEARCH RESULTS

5. International Conference "**Understanding and Tackling the Migration Challenge: The Role of Research**" organised by DG RTD in Brussels on 4-5 February 2016 to



- assess challenges and opportunities from migration
- advance valorisation and exploitation of existing research for policy-making
- identify research needs and gaps to feed into a future migration research agenda
- present and encourage uptake of Science4Refugees
- launch the policy review "Research on Migration: Facing Realities and Maximising Opportunities"

6. A **Conference Report** was published following the event





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# Policy recommendations





## **POLICY RECOMMANDATIONS BASED ON THE POLICY REVIEW AND ON THE REPORT OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE**

### **POLICIES AND FLOWS**

- Policies to promote return migration could start with measures to regularise migrants' legal status in Europe.
- Policies promoting student mobility and exchanges should be deployed to encourage 'brain circulation'.
- The Blue Card Directive should be reformed so that it is implemented in a harmonised manner across the EU.
- A clear separation should be established between immigration authorities and services to migrants to allow third country nationals and civil society organisations to report crimes without fear of being detained/expelled.
- Governments should engage more with the meso-level of social networks, organisations and brokers that migrants make use of when migrating.





## **POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS BASED ON THE POLICY REVIEW AND ON THE REPORT OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE**

### **INTEGRATION**

- Integration policies should target hosting societies as much as migrants, considering that integration is a two-way process.
- The citizenship tests introduced by some EU governments should take account of immigrants' ability to shape the normative narrative of the host country.
- Language learning is crucial for the integration processes and should be one of the top priorities for integration policies.
- Policymakers should devise opportunities and settings for meaningful interethnic socialisation at the neighbourhood level.





## **POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS BASED ON THE POLICY REVIEW AND ON THE REPORT OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE**

### **EDUCATION AND SCHOOLS**

- In order to obtain the best educational outcomes from second-generation and ethnic minority children, policy-makers should
  - make nursery and pre-school care widely available and foresee state support
  - envisage the streaming of pupils in different educational tracks at a later stage, around age 15 or 16, since early age streaming is proven to channel away minority children from the academic track which leads to higher education
  - minimise the need for parental help and support with school-related tasks
  - implement recruiting practices to increase the ethnic diversity of the teaching staff especially in schools with ethnically mixed populations.
  
- In order to accommodate religious and cultural differences in school contexts, policymakers are advised to
  - avoid a one-size-fits-all set of rules and guidelines
  - introduce as mandatory a model of dialogue between schools, parents and students
  - allow schools the freedom to accommodate diversity based on local circumstances.





## **POLICY RECOMMANDATIONS BASED ON THE POLICY REVIEW AND ON THE REPORT OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE**

### **MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT**

- In order to contain the scale of brain and skills loss in countries of origin, policies should
  - adopt bilateral and multilateral agreements to harmonise balanced ethical recruitment and training schemes
  - manage return migration in a way that is effective for development in migrants' home countries
  - foster the transfer of skills, knowledge and remittances, including social remittances, by diasporas.
  
- Policymakers should be aware that bringing about a certain level of social and economic development to a country may initially enable more people to migrate (rather than leading to a reduction in the pressure to migrate).
  
- As those migrating for educational reasons are more likely to return than other migrant categories, policies promoting student mobility and exchange could be implemented to encourage 'brain circulation'.





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# Present Major Research Needs





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

**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



## MAJOR RESEARCH NEEDS

IDENTIFIED IN THE REPORT OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

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

### ASYLUM

- Better insight into the **drivers of policy-making** and EU cooperation under the Common European Asylum System and of participation in Schengen Agreement
  - **political, social and historical factors** that shape national decision-making
  - **barriers** to developing an EU common system
  - **political, operational and legal complexities** associated with the Schengen agreement
- Collection of data on the **qualifications and human capital of asylum seekers** to support measures tailored for students and skilled refugees



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

**FRAMING, ETHICS AND HISTORY**

- **Politicisation and framing** of immigration, including the role of political elites and the media; role of economic conditions and security concerns in shaping narratives on migration
- Ways to **counter misperceptions** and misinformation
- **Historical dimension** to show how framing of migration evolved over time and to draw lessons from the past
- **Ethical issues** raised by migration flows and policy responses





**MAJOR RESEARCH NEEDS  
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"Understanding and Tackling the Migration Challenge: The Role of Research"**

**HEALTH AND MIGRATION**

- Evaluate **healthcare needs and infrastructures**
- **Strengthen data collection** and establish long-term cohorts
- **Resource implications** of not meeting the healthcare needs of migrants and possible longer-term costs incurred from providing inadequate reception conditions
- Immigrant integration and **access to healthcare**
- Preparing European health systems to respond to **health needs and health practices of migrants**





## What can we do at EU level?

*How can we use the European Framework Programme to reply to needs for specific knowledge?*





## Research Agenda on Migration

### **MIGRATION IN THE REVISED 2017 WORK PROGRAMME**

A revision of Work Programme 2017 of Horizon 2020 is underway to include **5 additional topics on migration**

1. Variations in asylum laws and their implementation
2. Employability and labour market access of migrants
3. Cultural impact of migration on European societies
4. Platform on currently running European research
5. Social platform on migration and asylum

The revision is carried out on the basis of the conference report and after discussion with the Migration Task Force



## **Some concluding thoughts:**

*Establishing overly simplistic and causal linkages between water scarcity, climate change and migration is not helpful.*

*Water should be seen as one of many areas that can contribute to migration together with a range of other issues*





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# THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

## Useful links

Migration Research Platform

<http://ec.europa.eu/research/social-sciences/index.cfm?pg=policies&policyname=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&pagemode=none](http://ec.europa.eu/research/social-sciences/pdf/policy_reviews/ki-04-15-841_en_n.pdf#view=fit&pagemode=none)

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&pagemode=none](http://ec.europa.eu/research/social-sciences/pdf/project_synopses/ki-na-27-592-en.pdf#view=fit&pagemode=none)

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

Workshop on Migration: Research and Innovation

<http://ec.europa.eu/research/social-sciences/index.cfm?pg=newspage&item=150925>