

BULLETIN

5

DECEMBER 2020

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MARRI

Migration, Asylum, Refugees Regional Initiative



Amb. VELJKO MILONJIC

PRIORITIES OF THE PRESIDENCY-IN-OFFICE

MARRI RC DIRECTOR SASHKO KOCEV

COVID19 & DIGITAL AGENDA

INTERVIEWS:

ANKICA TOMIC, PhD
PARTICIPANT REPRESENTATIVE OF
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

*Millenium bridge - Photo courtesy - Tourism Board
Podgorica (photographer Dusko Miljanic)*

CHRISTOPH VON HARSORF

FROM FORECAST TO FORESIGHT

HOW TO MAKE PROGNOSTICS ACTIONABLE

ASDREN GASHI

PARTICIPANT REPRESENTATIVE OF
KOSOVO*

FROM THE DESK OF THE DIRECTOR



Dear MARRI friends,

MARRI RC Director Sashko Kocev

Welcome to the fifth issue of the MARRI Bulletin.

As COVID-19 continues to devastate around the world, we at the MARRI Regional Centre continue to alter its modus operandi to find a way to fulfil its mandate despite the drawbacks caused by the preventive restrictions.

MARRI RC has created a COVID-19 Protocol, whereby MARRI RC Personnel is to work from home to minimise contact and the risk of spreading the infection. Therefore, the MARRI RC Personnel had to adapt and overcome the difficulties that social distancing posed. MARRI RC was quick to act and adapt to the use of digital and information technology, and it continues to further and expand their uses to enable full functionality of the Regional Centre and the organisation in general.

This is in line with the Digital Agenda that is to be presented at the next Committee Meeting that will be held online on 11 December 2020.

MARRI RC's regular team meetings are being held online. The second meeting of the Steering Group of the Preventing and Combatting Trafficking in Human Beings in the Western Balkans (PaCT) project, and the bilateral meetings with the Heads of the Asylum Departments of the

MARRI Participants were held online as well. The MARRI Committee and Forum Meetings were held on 29 and 30 June 2020, respectively, and they were highly successful despite not being held in-person for the first time ever.

While the experience of online meetings does not diminish the quality and value, and positive experience as in-person meetings, the digital ability of MARRI RC was tried and tested at the 4th session of the Legal Framework Reform (LFR) Working Group. The series of meetings were held online from 19th to the 22nd of October 2020, after being initially scheduled for March 2020 and subsequently cancelled due to COVID-19. The number of participants, whose input was crucial and invaluable for MARRI's Basic Documents, was in and of itself a challenge. The process of taking the floor to contribute to the documents, the editing of the documents themselves in real time and for all participants to see clearly, and even the frail Internet connections, made the meetings even more complex. However, with the help of the excellent staff members of MARRI RC under my guidance and the guidance of our Integrated Expert, Mr. Christoph von Harsdorf, the meetings were concluded as a tremendous success. Envisaged as the last session of the Working Group before the MARRI Committee Meeting in December 2020, the Working Group was able to produce the

latest draft version of the documents. Despite COVID-19 accelerating the idea of developing and implementing a Digital Agenda for MARRI RC, the plan was conceived independently of a global pandemic. Following the example of the European Commission, which in 2018 adopted a plan to become a digitally transformed, user-focused and data-driven administration by 2022, the Digital Agenda strives beyond the simple use of online communication platforms for meetings, conferences, and webinars.

The Digital Agenda plays a role in the administrations' functioning as well as the migrants' guide. Administrations use biometric identifiers, crowd mapping and crowdsourcing, migration or migration crisis forecasting systems, translation apps and others. Migrants, on the other hand, use technology and social media to access information, finance, social networks, humanitarian and development networks, which enhances their autonomy and self-reliance. With the rapid developments of the information technology, and the ever-changing landscape of migration, governments explore new technologies to manage migration more efficiently. Information technology is rapidly changing the world, but a global pandemic propelled us into a new, sophisticated, and creative way of using it, as well as the way we perceive it and the role it plays in our lives.

Priorities of MARRI Presidency-in-Office by Montenegro

Montenegro, as a country with clear foreign policy orientation, good neighborly relations being one of its main pillars, has confirmed its commitment and contribution to cooperation in the Western Balkan region by participating in many regional initiatives and organizations.

European Perspective for the Western Balkans and the enlargement policy for the EU are complementary parts of one process which guarantees strong and prosperous Europe. Regional initiatives have crucial role in that process, moreover, the process itself depends on their synergy and ultimately their success.

Regional cooperation remains one of the catalysts of EU integration process – a strategic goal for Montenegro – and a format such as MARRI offers the proper platform for further enhancement.

The uniqueness of MARRI, born from SEECF as the first political process aimed at EU perspective of this region, has been reflected in the fact that it is the only regional mechanism owned by the WB6 countries, a practical demonstration of the capability of Western Balkans to cooperate on significant matters such as migration, asylum, readmission, border management and fight against human trafficking as well as reintegration of refugees. This is tangible cooperation and work through exchange of best practices, trainings of public administration staff, common projects and sharing EU accession experiences and achievements in these important areas. This is a complex work which requires increased dialogue, greater participation and more intensive engagement of all parties within the process which ultimately contributes to preserving the stability and security of the Western Balkans. In that respect, MARRI has also confirmed its integrative role through Brdo Process and Berlin Process.

Since 2006 when Montenegro regained its independence, this is third time we are taking over MARRI Presidency. We perceive it as an entrusted work in a very sensitive moment, amid COVID-19 pandemic which is putting additional challenges before our administrations. However, this crisis should be also viewed as an opportunity to develop new ways of cooperation in migration management and successfully approach it.

The Priorities of Montenegro Presidency-in-Office were designed during close consultations with the relevant units of other MARRI Participants, as well as within our administration and accommodated to the regional context.

The focus has been placed on further improving regional migratory framework in line with international and EU standards, as well as on enhancing the role of the Initiative in the region with our common goal – the well-being, security and protection of human rights of both, local population and people coming to our region.

Taking into consideration that one of MARRI's core mandate fields is supporting its Participants in reaching international and



EU standards in the effective and efficient management of asylum procedures, Montenegro Presidency-in-Office is focused on strengthening human and technical capacities of Asylum Departments.

By exchanging good practices and acquiring EU Member States standards and solutions, Participants' administrations shall increase their capacities in granting international protection. This includes also active participation in the IPA II Project "Regional Support to Protection-Sensitive Migration Management in the Western Balkans and Turkey, Phase II", as well the use of the Regional Remote Interpretation Service Platform (RRIS).

Readmission is the second priority on the agenda of our Presidency in Office. Migration dynamics has undergone fundamental changes in the last years which has resulted in an enormous number of people transiting through or having temporary irregular residence in EU and MARRI Participants. Readmission is one of the instruments serving to facilitate the safe return of migrants to their countries of origin. In that regard, in the course of the Presidency in Office, we are attentive to the needed support in improving communication with Countries of Origin.

Promoting the Integrated border management concept is yet another priority. IBM includes medium and long-term goals for coordination and improvement of cooperation within and between all authorities and agencies that control and monitor borders, as well as improving their international cooperation, in order to build a quality and efficient integrated border management system. The goal of the IBM strategy is to create open borders for trade in goods and movement of persons, but at the same time controlled and safe, and

closed to all criminal or any other activities that may endanger the stability of the country and the region.

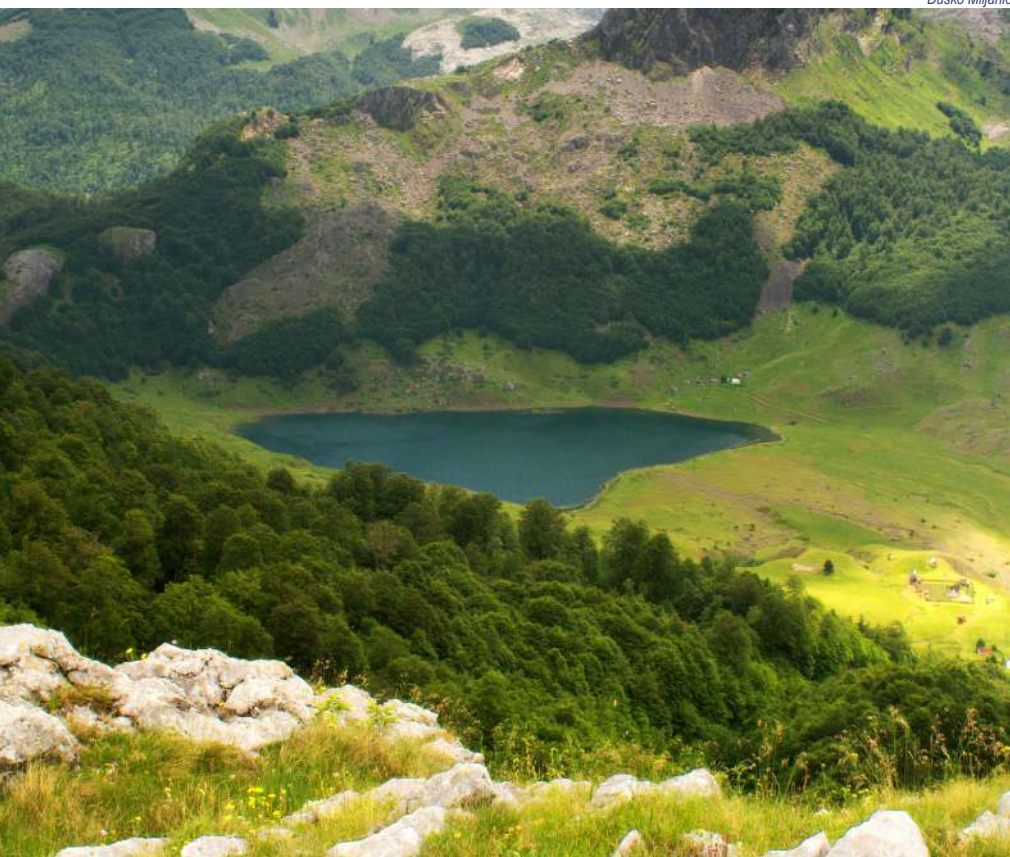
The irregular movements through the Western Balkans' route are inevitably associated with transnational crime such as trafficking in human beings/smuggling of migrants, which constitute security threats. Montenegro Presidency in Office is fully dedicated to the implementation of the Project on Preventing and combating trafficking in human beings in the Western Balkans (PaCT), supported by GIZ, who has proven to be a valuable partner to MARRI, and we are grateful for their continuous support.

In defining our priorities, we paid close attention to the activities related to internal functioning of the Initiative and the Regional Centre with the aim to further strengthen MARRI, and I am sure, that during our Presidency we will successfully finalize the MARRI Reform Process.

Finally, the fruitful cooperation with relevant EU and UN agencies with their expertise and active role, as well as other organizations related to MARRI's mandate, has significantly contributed to the achievements of MARRI and our administrations, and we will continue to nurture and foster that cooperation.

As the Western Balkans have gathered around European values on which are based Institution and the system we are striving to, Montenegro remains committed to contribute to the best of its capacities to regional cooperation. I am confident that the activities within MARRI will continue to have constructive and positive impact on the EU perspective of the region.

Lake Rikavacko - Photo courtesy - Tourism Board Podgorica (photographer Dusko Miljanic)



As an Executive Secretariat of MARRI and a focal point for consultations, dialog & trainings, MARRI Regional Centre's performance greatly depends on the seconded Representatives of the MARRI Participants.

Therefore, we are pleased to announce that recently, both Bosnia and Herzegovina and Kosovo* have nominated their representation at MARRI RC

** This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence

Ankica Tomic, PhD

Bosnia and Herzegovina Representative to MARRI RC

Dr. Tomic joined MARRI RC in October 2020. In just two months, she has found her way in the most of MARRI RC activities.

Who is Ankica Tomic?

If the answer should be in one sentence, then I would say the following: I am a dedicated professional with reach academic background and diverse interests. If the answer is longer, I can add that I was born in Mostar, BiH, where I also spent my teenage years. I graduated from the Faculty of Philosophy and then pursued postgraduate studies at the Faculty of Political Science at the University of Zagreb, Croatia. I finished my doctoral studies back in BiH, at the Faculty of Political Science, University of Sarajevo. In addition, I had the honor and pleasure of studying for a year and half in Munich at the Ludwig Maximilian University, Germany. It was an excellent opportunity to gain new knowledge, experience, friendships, as well as getting to know German culture, customs, history, literature and to improve my German language skills.

During the last 20 years of my professional experience, I worked as a civil servant at the Ministry of Interior of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina (2000-2004) and at the Ministry of Security of Bosnia and Herzegovina (since 2004). Before joining the Ministry, my working experience was mainly oriented to media and public relations, teaching rhetoric and communication and presentation skills.

Privately, I am an avid reader, traveller and I love classical music. In these challenging times, I miss traveling to new places, going to theaters, museums etc. I adore the sun, the sea and walking in nature - especially Nordic walking.

How did your work at the Ministry of Security relate to the work of MARRI?

I started working at the Ministry of Security exactly in 2004, the year when MARRI was established. As a Head of the Department for International Cooperation within the Ministry's Sector for International Cooperation and European Integration, I had many opportunities to work closely with MARRI and to contribute to the active participation of BiH in regional cooperation.

Considering your extensive experience in international cooperation, is there anything that you would recommend in terms of MARRI's approach that would contribute to a more successful regional cooperation?

MARRI should continue to play a key role in promoting, supporting and fostering closer regional cooperation in seven very important areas: migration, asylum, border control, trafficking in human beings, visa regime, integration and return of refugees. As a regional initiative owned by its Participants, MARRI is working hard to achieve excellent results in the mentioned areas for the benefit of the whole region through a coordinated common approach based on mutual trust and cooperation. All organs and bodies established within MARRI should contribute to the wider visibility of MARRI Participants' administrations supporting their internal capacities to meet the standards and requirements of the EU integration process. I think MARRI RC is a bridge that connects the administrations of the six MARRI participants and the EU administrations. The bridge must have a stable foundation and be regularly maintained in order to fulfill its role.

As you assume your new post in the MARRI Regional Centre, what new are you bringing to it? What are your expectations?

I carry the baggage of long-standing academic and professional experience in the field of international cooperation in the security sector which includes a strong professional and private network both within MARRI Participant administrations and among colleagues from EU Member States, international organizations, the civil sector etc. I value personal contacts very highly because you gain the trust of your colleagues and you can finish your professional tasks much sooner than if you only go through formal administrative channels. This does not mean that formal procedures should not be followed, but behind formal procedures are the colleagues you work with and if you know them they will certainly respond to your request sooner than someone you do not



know.

I am very much looking forward to the teamwork within MARRI RC as a family in which each member needs to contribute his/her maximum so the family could function successfully. My impressions so far are very positive. I am convinced that by working together, we all will contribute to achieving all MARRI RC goals.

My personal approach is always practical and pragmatic. In my work culture, I am always focused on real actions and concrete results. This could be best described by a fitting quote of my favorite German author Johann Wolfgang von Goethe: "It is not enough to have knowledge; one must apply it. It is not enough to have wishes; one needs to act." Last but not least, I gladly accepted the task of Advisor on Gender and Equality in MARRI RC – a new position to which I was recently appointed by the MARRI RC Director.

What do you think will be the most challenging part of this job for you?

Coordination and communication may be a challenge in these new working conditions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, but thanks to new technologies I believe that together we will succeed to contribute to even more effective cooperation between national administrations and MARRI RC. Coordination in itself carries challenges, especially if a lot of different actors are involved. Anyway, I am optimistic and believe in a successful future of MARRI RC, which is very likely to make a significant contribution to meeting the requirements of its Participants on their path to EU membership.

Thank you Dr. Tomic and warm welcome from MARRI RC team!



Asdren Gashi Representative of Kosovo* to MARRI RC

The most recent addition to MARRI RC team, Mr. Gashi joined in November 2020

► **Tell us something about yourself. What is the most surprising attribute you possess?**

I am young but with a long experience in the public service. I have been working as a journalist, later in the Ministry of Internal Affairs and after that in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Recently, I was posted as a diplomat. During all this time I have learned to understand others and work hard to overcome differences and on what brings us together.

► **You are entering the world of migration. What is your independent opinion about the situation in the region regarding migration governance?**

The region general in my point of view has not been familiarized with the migration issues. They are working hard on enhancing capacities on accepting and integrating migrants. But all the region at different points of history has been source of migration and that makes MARRI Participants more

knowledgeable on understanding the source of migration, reasons of migrating and for sure treating with more compassion the filed cases in particular and migration in general.

► **Is there a particular moment or memory that stands out for you related to MARRI?**

For the first time I heard about MARRI during the period when I was the National Coordinator in RCC and I was impressed with the work in establishing MARRI and the main scope of MARRI to provide free and well managed movement of persons in Western Balkans, especially on that period of time when moving around in region was very difficult.

► **Given your experience as diplomat, what is your advice to the decision makers that will result in better migration management?**

I would recommend to the decision makers to make necessary preparations and to standardize the procedures on dealing with

migration especially to be prepared to deal with big flow of migrants.

► **Now that you have joined the Regional Centre, what do you anticipate to gain from this experience?**

I would like to learn more how we can work together in region and how we can support development and stability of our region and especially what can I do for that.

► **What inspires you?**

Peace and prosperity and change which will support peace.

► **Is there anything else you would like to share with the readers?**

Cooperation and working together does not harm, it helps and it supports the goal we have all together to support development and stability of our region and MARRI is here to facilitate that.

Thank you Mr. Gashi, welcome onboard!

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REGIONAL PROJECT

“Preventing and Combatting Trafficking in Human Beings in the Western Balkans - PaCT”

Commissioned by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and implemented by German International Cooperation (GIZ) and MARRI as strategic partner.

*By Aleksandar Todosiev,
Project Manager*

The Fight against Trafficking in Human Beings remains priority even in the COVID-19 pandemic

The end of 2020 completes a year and a half since the start of the regional project Preventing and Combatting Trafficking in Human Beings in the Western Balkans – PaCT. The COVID-19 had significant impact to all projects and programs implementation in the MARRI region, including the PaCT project. However, with slight delay of few project activities, the project implementation is in full swing.

After finalization and publication of the Terms of References for all projects' Lines of Actions, at the beginning of 2020 the Contracts with the project Partners (mainly NGOs from the region) were signed. For each Line of Action are selected Leading Partners as well as implementing partners. They all started with their activities.

Few analyses were conducted, such as:

- Analyze of the conducted THB awareness raising campaigns in the MARRI region;
- Research, analyze and presentation of the good practices of Capacity Development for Identification as well as Mobile Identification Teams; as well as
- Regional comparative analyses of the Referral Mechanisms and good practices in the region.

Also, several Workshops were organized in the second half of 2020:

- Validation Workshop for Awareness Raising Campaigns where 3 toolboxes were presented;
- Workshop for Capacity Development of Identification;
- Workshop on Mobile Identification Teams; and
- Regional Workshop on Referral Mechanisms.

Adjustments made by MARRI and GIZ as implementing partners of the regional PaCT project

In response to the Covid-19 impact, MARRI and GIZ made the following project adjustments in order to protect the health and safety of all stakeholders involved in the project:

1. Organizing online meetings of the project Steering Group;
2. Reallocating some of the project funds to suppression and prevention of COVID-19
3. Conducting Analysis of the COVID-19 influence on migration in the MARRI Participants.

1. Organizing online meetings of the project Steering Group

Having in mind the MARRI RC imperative in providing safe and secured working environment to all participants at each event organized by MARRI, as well as taking into consideration of the WHO recommendations, MARRI RC in coordination with GIZ decided for SG meetings to be organized virtually, through MS Teams platform.

In the previous 18 months **3 Steering Group meetings** were organized where the project progress and recent developments were presented, discussed and validated, together with the newest THB trends and modus operandi in the region.

The project's Steering Group members i.e. MARRI Coordinators for prevention of trafficking in human beings, had opportunity to discuss not only the project progress, but also all trends and current challenges that THB Coordinators are facing in their daily work.

2. Reallocating some of the project funds to suppression and prevention of COVID-19

Knowing that emergency situations require emergent measures, MARRI and GIZ decided some of the PaCT project budget to be reallocated for providing appropriate protective means to the THB case workers and victims or potential victims in the reception centers and shelters.

In this regard, they supplied and donated protective masks, gloves and protective glasses, non-contact thermometers, antiseptic dispensers

PROJECTS

and disinfectants to all Offices of the MARRI Coordinators for fight against THB, i.e. MARRI Participants' administrations.

3. Conducting Analysis of the COVID-19 influence on migration in the MARRI Participants

As many of the administrative procedures in the MARRI Participants have been modified and upgraded in line with increased prevention and protection, the MARRI RC finds that it is as important to analyse the influence that COVID-19 had on migration in the MARRI Participants. The analyses was focused on

- ▶ Assessing the impact that COVID-19 pandemic had on migration in the region;
- ▶ Identifying the gaps and needs of key migration stakeholders in adapting to the new situation,
- ▶ Sharing good practices for efficient and effective implementation of WHO recommendations; and
- ▶ Strengthening regional cooperation on addressing migration challenges in the COVID-19 pandemic situation.

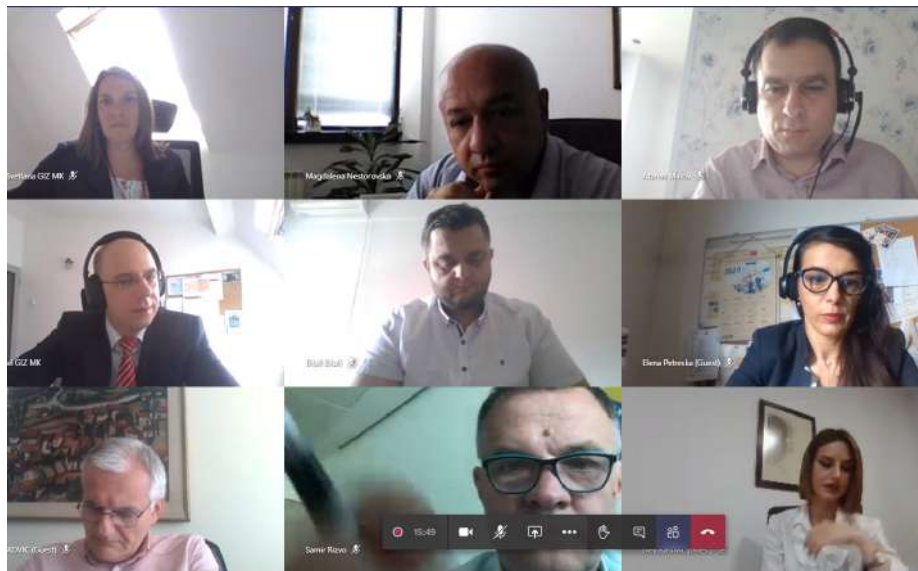
The Analysis focused on three main migration areas: trafficking in human beings, irregular migration and asylum.

Led by the maxima "emergency situations require emergent measures", MARRI RC and GIZ in the forthcoming period will continue to follow the COVID-19 influence and developments in the MARRI Participants and providing appropriate support in its management, particularly in the THB area.

This activity was not included in the project's Strategic Plan but was conducted in accordance to the newest trends and needs.

The findings of the Analysis were presented on the Regional Conference "Tuning Migration Procedures to Covid-19: Good practices and way forward" to held on 15 & 16 December 2020 via Zoom.

Assessment of the Strategies and Action Plans for combatting trafficking in human beings in the MARRI Participants



*PaCT Second Steering Group Meeting
11 June 2020*

One of the stated needs which was discussed and decided to be carried out was to conduct:

1. **Assessment of the THB Strategies and Action Plans in the MARRI Participants** and accordingly,
2. **Update the existing Guidelines for the Development and Implementation of a Comprehensive National Anti-Trafficking Response**, developed by the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) in 2006.

The Assessment was conducted in the period May-October 2020 by ICMPD in the framework of PaCT's activity "Strengthening the Strategic Anti-Trafficking Response in Western Balkans", designed in cooperation with MARRI.

The scope of the Assessment covered the policy framework to combat trafficking in human beings in MARRI Participants. The objectives of the Assessment were to:

- Provide knowledge base, specifically covering (a) the current methodological approach in designing anti-trafficking responses; (b) the implementation process, the good practices and the gaps and needs therein;
- Elaborate assessment-based recommendations for designing future strategic and operational response in the MARRI Participants by taking into consideration the current local, Participant and regional situation/needs, the emerging THB trends in the region, as well as the compliance with the relevant international framework.

The key findings from the Assessment are:

- lack of specifically dedicated funds for anti-trafficking action;
- need for contingency planning to ensure minimum functionality of the anti-trafficking systems in emergency conditions, as well as
- inclusion of different monitoring tools.

The Assessment findings and recommendations will also serve as a basis for revision of the above-mentioned Guidelines for the Development and Implementation of a Comprehensive National Anti-Trafficking Response. The updated Guidelines will feature in more detail the importance of the monitoring and evaluation of the anti-trafficking responses and will continue to serve as a tool for the MARRI Participants and beyond on how to develop, implement, monitor, review and evaluate the overall anti trafficking response.

The Assessment Report as well as the updated Guidelines can be found on MARRI website www.marri-rc.org.mk.

MARRI RC and the German Programme Migration and Diaspora (PMD)

Instructed by the Ministers of Interior/Security of its Participants Albania, North Macedonia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Montenegro and Kosovo, MARRI RC has applied to the German Government, to make the Integrated German Expert Christoph von Harsdorf available for another two years (February 2020 - February 2022). Since February 2018, Mr. Harsdorf has been engaged in capacity-building, organisational & institutional development and as moderator of MARRI's Legal Framework Reform process. He is also entrusted to organize the drafting process of the new MARRI Strategy 2021-2025*

Since 2019, the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) is funding the **Programme Migration and Diaspora (PMD)** that has three components (not every component being implemented in every country):

1. Regular labour migration and mobility

Many migrants who have lived and worked in Germany later return to their countries of origin. Local employers can benefit from the knowledge and experience of these returning experts to develop further. The programme supports this know-how transfer with training and salary top-ups.

The programme also provides potential migrants with information on regular and safe migration channels and explains the risks posed by irregular migration. The programme helps improve the advisory services offered by employment agencies and training facilities. When candidates are recruited from abroad to fill vacancies, it checks that this is acceptable for the labour market in that country and that the terms are fair and socially acceptable for the migrants. At present, ten partner countries have advisory centres for employment, migration and reintegration which provide all relevant information about the preconditions for labour and educational migration.

2. Diaspora cooperation

Migrants in Germany work to foster development in their countries of origin. One option is to undertake assignments as experts for a limited period. The programme helps these diaspora experts contribute their expertise to local institutions. It supports diaspora organisations which work with

local partner organisations to implement their own projects. Dialogue fora with the diaspora are used to encourage engagement in development in the countries of origin. The programme supports migrants in starting a business in their country of origin. The expertise they have acquired in Germany enables them to use their innovative ideas to advance the country and create jobs. Migrants also make a financial contribution to their country of origin, sending cash remittances to family and friends. Transfer fees, however, are often very high, so less cash reaches its destination. The price comparison portal geldtransfair.de gives users a swift and uncomplicated overview of the fees charged by various service providers.

3. Migration governance

Governance is to be understood as conglomerate of all rules, regulations and practices that follow international treaties and obligations and contribute to fair migration, equally protecting states, citizens and migrants. This Component advises governments and international partners on policy, organisational and strategy development relating to migration. It provides training and assigns (integrated) experts to these institutions to build the capacities of their staff and promote the development and implementation of future-proof migration policy. This takes place in the framework of UN agreed-on goals.

To support the substantial priorities of the programme, the **Expert Fund Migration & Diaspora** provides funds for subsidy agreements with returning and integrated experts.

PMD Regions: Global programme, currently operating in MARRI Participants Albania, Serbia and Kosovo*, but also in Cameroon, Colombia, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Georgia, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Jordan, Kenya, Morocco, Nepal, Nigeria, Palestinian territories, Peru, Senegal, Tunisia, Ukraine, Viet Nam (alphabetical order). Every month, new partners join.

German Implementation

Partners: The implementation partner is the International Placement Services (ZAV), a department of the German Federal Employment Agency, which works with GIZ under the umbrella of the Centre for International Migration and Development (CIM).

International Lead Executing

Agencies: Prime Ministers' Offices, Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Ministries of Labour, Ministries of Interior/Security, Governmental Employment Agencies

Overall Term: 2019 to 2022 (may be extended)

Programme Director: Ms. Iris Breutz, Barrister at Law, GIZ Hq. Germany

Head of Component Migration Governance: Mr. Sebastian Meurer M.A., GIZ Hq. Germany

* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence

PROJECTS

Context

According to United Nations, around 272 million people were migrants in 2019. They make an important contribution to development, building bridges between their countries of origin and the countries in which they live and work. They are actively involved in associations, realise local projects and send money back to families and friends. They also transfer knowledge and experience when they return home for a shorter or longer period to work there or start up a business. Migration, however, also carries risks for the individuals involved, who might expose themselves to the dangers of irregular migration, and for their countries of origin, which risk losing highly qualified experts. In cooperation with employment agencies and ministries, regular, safe and orderly migration can be made fair and socially equitable, benefitting the countries of origin and Germany.

Goals

Key actors in MARRI Participants make more effective use of regular migration and diaspora engagement to achieve their development goals. Irregular, illegal migration will progressively be converted into regular, legal migration, contributing to development and reducing negative impacts and side-effects of irregular migration.

Past Results

- ▶ The PMD builds on the experience and results of the predecessor Migration for Development programmes (I and II). Since the returning experts programme was launched in the 1980s, numerous employers have benefited from the expertise of over 15,000 returning experts.
- ▶ Since 2016, diaspora experts have undertaken 360 short-term volunteer assignments to bring their expertise to partner organisations.
- ▶ Since 2011, up to 150 diaspora organisations have received assistance for their projects that aim to bring a lasting improvement to the living conditions of people in the partner countries.
- ▶ The private-sector engagement of migrants has been strengthened in selected countries of origin. Since 2009, more than 700 people interested in starting a business have been supported and up to 100 companies founded, creating numerous jobs and enhancing prospects.
- ▶ Currently, migration policy is being co-shaped in line with demand in seven selected countries with individual advisory services a co-shaped in line with demand in seven selected countries with individual advisory services and training.
- ▶ Since 2017 the advisory centres for jobs, migration and reintegration have provided around 75,000 consultations.



Integrated German Expert with MARRI RC 2020-2022

The secondment of the Integrated German Expert Christoph von Harsdorf is the essence of cooperation with the PMD. The secondment is a change project in itself. Harsdorf will develop a Road Map towards a (better) Knowledge Management.

This small element seeks to activate, advise and strengthen MARRI as a Regional Knowledge Hub. MARRI RC has already created many pieces of Knowledge Management under its pro-active Director Mr. Sashko Kocev. MARRI RC practices Knowledge Management, through weekly team meetings, expert colloquia, quality control of written and printed products, an internal second opinion policy, management games, Special Advisors for Environment & Health, for Integrity and for Gender & Equity, through annual staff performance talks along goals and indicators, a knowledge-based Division of Tasks between all Personnel, publishing a semiannual BULLETIN, running an (soon) interactive website, texting on Social Media, disseminating Press Releases, (soon) telling success stories, commenting on Memorial Days, publishing relevant texts and remarks on contemporary migration phenomena on its Website, managing a platform for rare languages' interpreters, administering a Regional Experts' Database, making the IPA II / IOM funded Database for the exchange of non-personal data a new source for regional analyses.

Learning through Projects always benefitted MARRI Personnel and MARRI Participants' Administrations. All Personnel and partners became and become "smarter" through Projects, but rather incidentally and not in a sustainable, institutionalized way.

A recent German THB Project is a new model insofar, it comes hand in hand with special capacity-building, knowledge transfer, (to be) learned and (to be) trained capabilities and equipment to better deal with COVID-19 aspects of THB target groups. This is a good example of "Learning and Innovation" as

managerial elements.

Other tools of knowledge management wait still to be integrated, like systematic vertical and horizontal learning.

All these efforts will, at the end, holistically form an effective and efficient Knowledge Management System ("Hub") and contribute to the strengthening of processes, strategies, alliances and regional and international partnerships. Cooperation and systematic dialogue at bilateral and regional level will be encouraged, extended and improved in order to exchange information on migration trends and to establish common databases, online platforms, bilateral, regional and international training centres and networks to contribute to "Providing Correct and Timely Information in the Phases of Migration", and, "Strengthening International Cooperation and Global Partnerships for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration". Additionally, achieving these goals will enable member states to make better use of MARRI in order to advance and coordinate their national policies. This will allow the development of policies in the field of MARRI's mandate, but also for return & reintegration, regular migration frameworks and information at all stages of migration on the basis of an improved regional knowledge management.

The primary target group of the change project is all Personnel of the MARRI Regional Centre, with an additional focus on Representatives seconded from MARRI Participants. The secondary target group are the respective migration policy partner institutions in MARRI Participants.

The Integrated German Expert is committed to pave the way towards the RC becoming a modern Knowledge Hub that serves better MARRI Participants. At the same time, von Harsdorf will loyally advise MARRI RC in strategic, legal, institutional, tactical, organizational and other matters.

From Forecast to Foresight

How to make prognostics actionable

“It is better to be vaguely right than exactly wrong.” Carveth Read

by Christoph von Harsdorf¹

Integrated German Expert at MARRI RC

There are many platitudes about prognostics like **“It is always dangerous to prophesy, particularly about the future”** or **“It is easy to predict everything, except the future”** or **“If you do not think about the future, you cannot have one.”**

To shed scientific light on prognostics, the **European Migration Network, Austria**, organized, together with the EU and IOM and the Austrian Federal Ministry of Interior, recently an outstanding **NATIONAL EMN CONFERENCE 2020, “Forecasting the Future of Global Migration”** on 29 September 2020, with scientists², for policy makers and policy advisors.

Under **“Snapshots of Migration Predictions”**, it was evidenced that a comprehensive understanding of the nature of future migration requires a multitude of perspectives and comparative analyses of findings generated by forecasts, narrative scenario studies and big data analyses. This session provided insights into key findings of recent studies.

One possible method for a quantitative estimate of migration flows is a combination between DELPHI³ method plus scenarios. Scenarios could i.a. be oriented towards a matrix using the parameters Unilateralism / Multilateralism and Economic Convergence / Economic Divergence. The result was:

» Leading experts are generally very uncertain, don't agree and don't converge.
 » The “Best case” scenario is least likely.
 » Multilateralism drives higher total migration, while economic divergence drives irregular migration and asylum applications.
 » Overall experts expect increase in flows (except irregular) compared to 2009-2017, and modest increases or decreases compared to 2015/16.

¹ Name article which does not necessarily express the opinion of MARRI

² Rainer Münz, Susanne Melde, André Gröger, Jakob Bijak, Holger Fabian Sahl, Tobias Heidland, Petra Bendel, Teddy Wilkin, Michael Clemens, Mathias Czaika, Britta Behrendt, Tobias Molander, Zsuzsanna Felkai-Janssen, Thomas Liebig, Alexander Kjærsum

³ DELPHI is a method to show the degree of expert agreement in the attempt to foresee future events with high uncertainty

Another EU funded collaborative project with 14 European nodes (2020-23) led by the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (UAB) includes the practical implementation of migration forecasts for the EU, including digital trace data (from i.a. Google Trends, Twitter, etc.). It is based on the assumption that migrants search for information online prior to departure. This can be evaluated. The Project uses geo-located digital trace data (here: Google Trends Index) to predict bilateral migration flows. Google Trends is the most common search engine worldwide (market share: 80%; 97% on mobile devices). The Index reflects daily search intensities through Google for a given keyword and a geographical area.

Result: A strong predictive performance compared to (gravity) benchmark. The expectation is to measure migration intentions and allow nowcasting and short-term forecasts, e.g. during humanitarian crises.

As Drivers of migrations were identified: Jobs and wages, politics and policies, war and persecution, environment, family, adventure, other migrants.

Scientifically relevant for predictions were:

- **Epistemic aspects:** related to our limited knowledge of the processes; potentially reducible (knowable unknowns)
- **Aleatory aspects:** intrinsic uncertainty about the processes and the future; irreducible (unknowable unknowns). Various methods are applicable, including combinations of: Expert- and survey-based • Expert studies, Delphi • Migration intention surveys • Extrapolations and early warnings • Statistical and econometric models • With or without covariates • Scenario-based approaches • Narrative scenarios • Simulations, micro and macro
- **Quality of data** (bias, variance) is yet another source of uncertainty – but can be measured • Probabilistic estimates of flows: IMEM project (Raymer et al. 2013); Azose & Raftery (2019) • ‘Big data’ (eg. digital traces): volatility means that they may be useful in the short horizons

- **Predictability:** How to measure • Ex ante errors: How large we expect the errors to be, given the predictive model? • Ex post errors: How large are the differences between the predictions and observations? • Calibration: How well are the ex ante and ex post error distributions aligned? • Scoring rules: Combining errors & calibration e.g. minimising well-calibrated errors • Additional considerations: Loss functions – impact of errors on actual decisionsally, coupling of ‘Big data’ with traditional sources, which are better understood
- **Reducing the uncertainty?:** • Possible by better data, knowledge, and new research, but only for epistemic uncertainty • Training in better judgement (Philip Tetlock’s and Dan Gardner’s “superforecasters”) • But: Aleatory uncertainty always remains – needs to be acknowledged and managed • Challenge to know which is better

Family migration, marriage migration and labour migration are dominant and have surpassed asylum connected migration (EUROSTAT).

Under **“Predicting Migration and the Implications on Europe”**, the session identified common components of future migration trends to Europe and challenges of accurately predicting migration, particularly in view of unexpected events such as COVID-19.

In September 2015, the United Nations (UN) General Assembly adopted the **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**. The Agenda recognizes international migration as an integral part of sustainable development. Furthermore, the **New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants** includes several references to the importance of collecting better data.

The inclusion of migration in the new global development framework poses several new challenges for national-level statistical systems. Better use of existing data sources, as well as developing new methods to collect data on migration will be required, in

particular:

► Census will need to provide **more disaggregated data by migratory status** in order to ensure “no migrant is left behind” - the 2030 Agenda’s guiding principle.

Given that national preparations for the 2020 round of censuses are currently underway in many countries, countries are encouraged to continue including questions to identify migrants (country of birth, country of citizenship and year/period of arrival), as recommended by the UN Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses.

► The compilation and analysis of administrative data from national sources will need to **better indicate global migration flows and policy responses**.

► The **addition of migration questions to surveys** will be required in order to collect more comprehensive national and international migration data.

► Innovative data sources, such as big data sources, will have to be **better monitored and implemented** in order to track migration flows and ensure all migrants are recorded.

ESPAS⁴, mandated and developed five scenarios. The five scenarios are not mutually exclusive. EU Member States can and will have different migration policies and trajectories. The Scenarios could materialise consecutively.

Scenario 1: Back to the early 2000s

External borders more or less under control • Mixed flows continue • Family reunion, marriage migration and humanitarian admission remain dominant • But labour migration plays an important role Ageing native work forces require recruitment of labour and skills from 3rd countries • No additional barriers to labour mobility within the EU • Existing integration deficits likely to persist.

Scenario 2: Protracted Corona crisis

External borders more or less under control • Mixed flows continue • Family reunion, marriage migration and humanitarian admission dominant, but reduced • Labour migration is drastically reduced due to high unemployment in EU countries • Travel warnings and selective border closures create barriers to mobility within the EU • Integration deficits grow as people with migrant background more likely to be unemployed • Emigration rises

Scenario 3: Instability in the neighbourhood

• Violent conflicts and/ or extreme weather conditions producing large flows of people seeking protection in the EU • Flows adding to existing integration challenges • Negative sentiment towards

⁴European Strategy and Policy Analysis System (ESPAS), is an inter-institutional collaboration among the officials of the European Commission, the European Parliament, the Council of the EU, and the European External Action Service, with the support of the Committee of the Regions and of the European Economic and Social Committee, which monitors global trends and offers strategic foresight to the EU’s decision-makers. Source: https://ec.europa.eu/knowledge4policy/organisation/espas-european-strategy-policy-analysis-system_en

migrants growing leading to greater electoral scores for political parties advocating restrictive asylum and migration policies • Large numbers of migrants could spending years in limbo.

Scenario 4: More selective admission of migrants

• Shift from present admission criteria (with strong humanitarian elements) to a stricter skills-based selection of labour migrants (Australia and Canada) • Or shift to a more demand and employer-driven selection (New Zealand and Sweden) • More restrictive handling of humanitarian admission • Economic gains from migration larger • Reduced integration challenge

Scenario 5: Going native

• Public opinion growing more sceptical or even hostile to the admission of foreigners • General political consensus effectively leading to much lower immigration, higher return rates of already established migrants • General “climate” reduces intra-EU mobility and incentivises emigration at a larger scale • Main challenge: managing demographic ageing, gradual population decline and a shortage of labour and skills • In the absence of immigration of labour

COVID-19

The Kiel Institute for the World Economy, analysed COVID-19 and Future Migration Flows, based on the most likely economic scenario. • Heterogeneous economic damage • Differences by country • Hard-hit subgroups of the population • (Some) economic fallout will persist for years • Rolling out of vaccines will take years, much less only in rich developed countries • Implications for death toll & aftereffects • Implications for economic effects • Implications for immigration policy.

Stylized effects on different households:

► **Living in high income country:** If personally economically unaffected: • Probably relatively few relevant changes. If personally economically hard-hit: • More reason to send labor migrant • Preferred destination countries may change mid-/post-crisis • Preferred destinations are in reach • Some diversion likely, persistence possible (networks etc.).

► **Living in poor/middle income country:** Personally unaffected • Possibly slightly fewer reasons to migrate • Preferred destination countries may change • Preferred destination countries more difficult to access (at least in short run) Personally strongly affected • More reasons to migrate • Credit constraints may become binding • Preferred destination countries may change • Preferred destination countries more difficult to access (at least in short run)

Possible outcome: • Inequality in severity of economic/health effects of COVID-19 shock • Between country • Within country • Shock may exacerbate global and within-country inequality be affecting migration outcomes • Esp. in EMDE

What might happen to policy? Public attitudes towards immigration typically become more restrictive in crises • Effects not strongly linked to whether individually

affected • Socio-tropic concerns more important • Difficult to tell how large the turn to restrictive policies will be, likely to depend heavily on political/media environment in country • Even more polarization in public attitudes towards migration over the next years? • Effects on future migration flows?

Summary:

- 1. Think beyond nations. Heterogeneity matters!**
- 2. Willingness to migrate unlikely to fall in medium/long term.**
- 3. Migration policy is the most important (and partly endogenous) determinant.**

The new scientific research paper titled **“The Impact of COVID-19 Lockdowns and Expanded Social Assistance on Inequality, Poverty and Mobility in Argentina, Brazil, Colombia and Mexico,”** uses household surveys to simulate the distributional consequences of COVID-19-induced lockdown policies in the four largest countries in Latin America. With some Latin American countries leading the world in COVID-19 infections and deaths, the economic shock of the pandemic on the region will increase household poverty levels more than previously thought. These estimates are worse than other studies’ because this paper does not assume that all individuals lose the same in proportional terms, i.e. that the income distribution remains the same after COVID-19.

To contain the spread of COVID-19, governments implemented lockdown policies that inevitably led to reduced activity, falling employment and income, and rising poverty and inequality. Specifically, the researchers found that:

- At least 25 million people could become poor in Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, and Mexico as a result of COVID-19 and the associated economic shock.
- The worst effects may not be on the poorest, but on the moderate poor and those vulnerable to total income losses across the income distribution.
- Even if poorer households lose less in relative terms, the losses may be catastrophic.

“Distribution of income is changing, and fast, in Latin America during the pandemic,” co-author Nora Lustig, a non-resident fellow at CGD and founding Director of the Commitment to Equity Institute (CEI) at Tulane University, says. “Even expanded social assistance cannot prevent millions of people in Latin America newly falling into poverty.” “The depth and duration of the crisis could change these numbers more,” said co-author Stephen Younger, also of the CEI. “Still, it’s important to understand the scope of the real-life implications of the economic downturn, from the moderately to extremely poor.”

COVID-19 update⁵

The European Asylum Support Office (EASO) has invested heavily in modern systems for forecasting asylum-related migration – big

⁵ <https://www.easo.europa.eu/sites/default/files/ch08-using-big-data-to-estimate-migration.pdf>

Anastasija Naumova

Strategic Development & Coordination Officer at MARRI Regional Centre

What gets you out of bed in the morning?

The first cup of coffee.

What is your biggest achievement to date – personal or professional?

Graduating from the University of Bristol and working at MARRI RC.

What three words would you use to describe your role at MARRI RC? Dynamic, sociable, innovative.

If you could choose anyone, who would you pick as your mentor? Amal Clooney.

Before working at MARRI what was the most unusual or interesting job you have ever had? I was a dishwasher in a café for a weekend.

What do you like most about MARRI? The wide range of opportunities to work and meet people from around the world.

What drew you to MARRI originally? The fact that it is a regional structure specialized in migration.

What have you gained from working at MARRI? A different perspective on migration and the functioning of an international organization.

What is your motto or personal mantra? There is strength in being kind and compassionate.

What would you do (for a career) if you were not doing this? I would be a historian.

What is your guilty pleasure? Chocolate and sweet pastries.

Any random facts you could share with us? I have celebrated my birthday on 4 out of the 7 continents of the world.

Do you have a favorite newspaper, blog? The Guardian.



The youngest member of the MARRI RC team came onboard in July 2020.

So far, only few had the privilege to meet her in person. In 10 minutes on 2m distance, Anastasija let us know her better.

Do you have a favorite quote? I have two, a personal and professional. The personal is by Adrienne Rich: "An honorable human relationship – that is, one in which two people have the right to use the word "love" – is a process, delicate, violent, often terrifying to both persons involved, a process of refining the truths they can tell each other. It is important to do this because it breaks down human self-delusion and isolation. It is important to do this because in doing so we do justice to our own complexity. It is important to do this because we can count on so few people to go that hard way with us." And the professional is: "Fiat Justitia, ruat caelum – Let justice be done though the heavens fall."

How do you define success? Loving what you do because it makes you better.

If you could meet anyone in the world dead or alive who would it be and why? Vincent van Gogh, because I would like to know more about him and his art.

If you could witness any historical event, what would you want to see? The Christmas truce during World War I.

What did you want to be when growing up? Tourist (hahahaha).

What do you always want to try and never did? Backpacking around Europe.

What is the one thing, you cannot live without? Music.

What are your favorite book and sport? Harry Potter and ice skating.

What has been the most important innovation you have witnessed in your lifetime? E-readers and smartphones.

What is an ability you wish you had? To speak all the languages of the world, as well as dead languages such as Latin.

What is the most important thing you have learned in the last five years? Life is meaningless without loving and honest people in your life.

What places have you lived in? Skopje, North Macedonia and Bristol, UK.

What kinds of hobbies and interests do you have outside of work? History and art.

What would you like to be famous for? My dedication to making the world a better place than I found it.

You are happiest when? I am spending time with my friends.

Thank you Anastasija!

data are harvested and analysed with machine learning and, in 2019, a major scenario exercise brought together experts to create scenarios of how international protection may look in the years ahead. No matter how sophisticated the technology or how insightful the participants, neither of these approaches was able to predict the pandemic or its effects on displacement and international protection, nor can they be invoked to simulate the post-COVID-19 world.

All forecasting techniques depend on reliable data to feed into quantitative systems, but at the moment, such data are lacking, especially from low-capacity or non-transparent countries. Equally, scenarios require experts to have some knowledge and involvement in similar situations, but the features of this pandemic are unique, and disparate processes are already interacting with each other in complex and unpredictable ways.

As a result, predictions are befittingly rare and cautious, but speculative trends are already emerging. Complete lockdowns were relatively easy to implement – short, sharp, shocks that united entire continents in the face of adversity. Now the challenge in the short term is how to implement and manage divergent easing of the lockdowns across some countries, while others struggle with the virus still taking hold, with potentially divisive effects on displacement, mobility and protection needs. This analysis suggests that two diametrically opposed forces seem to be at work: on the one hand, interrelated effects of the pandemic – such as contracting economies, food insecurity, social unrest, political tensions, hardening societies and deepening divisions between population groups – could result in massive displacements and possibly onward movement towards Europe, including many persons with international protection needs. On the other hand, migration patterns will likely remain highly disrupted, due to restrictions on mobility, possibly coupled with increased digital surveillance. Combined, these two forces raise important questions about the number of people likely to be in need of international protection, and their ability to access protection services, whether or not this occurs in Europe or elsewhere.

EASO uses a matrix based on Google Trends with the keys ASYLUM, VISA, REFUGEE, PASSPORT.

Methodology: Create time lags – between events and applications ▪ **Model:** Adaptive Elastic Net Model – autoregressive with partial autocorrelation function ▪ Save a history of push factors and lags for each citizenship ▪ Issue alerts - when events suddenly spike ▪ Use past correlations & current events to create a framework for discussing the future.

EASO Push factors Index (PFI)

The PFI, elaborated by EASO is based on big data on media-covered events in origin countries, correlates in significant and interesting ways with official statistics

on irregular arrivals in EU+ countries, the number of asylum applications lodged there, and the recognition rates.

The present study analyses the relation between the PFI and asylum applications by nationals of African countries, while showing the effects of the decrease in search and rescue operations in the CMR in the number of migrants travelling through this route. While before 2018 asylum applications in Italy were correlated with push factor events occurring the previous month in Libya, this changed when the CMR became less viable. Indeed, even at the level of the African continent, the PFI was more strongly correlated with asylum applications from African nationals in the EU+ during 2016 and 2017 than in 2018 and 2019, when the CMR was effectively closed.

The focus on Libya confirmed the correlation between push factor events and asylum applications while the route was more accessible. It also highlighted how the analysis of the PFI at the subnational level can illustrate hotspots of push factors or conflict, which could support operations and research in the countries of origin.

Migration in West and North Africa and across the Mediterranean: trends, risks, development and governance

Because it can be produced for every country in the world, independently of infrastructure and/or capacity of the national statistical offices, the PFI can be a useful complement to official statistical and moderate gaps in migration data that affect other studies.

Moreover, the availability of the PFI in close to real time makes it a relevant tool for monitoring the situation in countries of origin and the varying potential for migration, thus supporting better preparedness in countries of destination. While this chapter provides some evidence in favour of the usefulness of the PFI, a number of additional analyses would be needed to further corroborate the Index and better understand how and to what extent it contributes to monitoring, understanding and anticipating migration and asylum flows.

These analyses, which go beyond the scope of this chapter, would include, for example, testing the robustness of the PFI, as well as comparing it with other indices and datasets, such as the Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO) data on conflict, the Fragile States Index, and other similar sources of event data, such as the Armed Conflict Location and Event Data Project (ACLED).

Although further studies are necessary to better understand the relationship between push factors and asylum-related migration and the strong impact of enabling/intervening factors, the PFI is a first step in combining big data with traditional data and extracting insights that contribute to research and are practically useful in the field of asylum-related migration.

Under “[The Nexus between Predictions and Policy Making](#)”, it was agreed that the results

of migration forecasts and scenarios do not easily translate into policy recommendations and decision-making, with uncertainty as an important challenge. This session explored the extent to which predictive methods have been used to inform policy decisions and how policy has influenced migration forecasting.

Relationship with Policy:

- Bridge the gap between those who create evidence and those who use evidence
- Manage expectations: users of evidence expect certainty, whereas creators of evidence deal with probabilities
- Time horizons: Policy is based on stable, long term trends but displacement & migration can be sporadic and short-lived
- Raise awareness of black swans: have huge impact but are unforeseen
- Two-way street: evidence can inform policy, but policy also needs to lay the foundation for better evidence
- Advocate evidence: trigger attention to relevant factors and influence prioritisation

The Germany Ministry of Interior⁶ focuses on “*Using digital tools to manage migration. This is not just about technology, but about people and ethical issues,*” stressed Stefan Mayer, Parliamentary State Secretary at the Federal Ministry of the Interior, Building and Community.

“When it comes to migration, digital technologies are already firmly established. But many European countries have just started analysing how new technologies affect migration, and many governments are still in the early stages of designing digital processes and measures to manage migration.”

At the virtual kick-off event Migration 4.0 on the 24th of July 2020, participants from the European Union member states were able to take a look at the entire extent of digital transformation: from how artificial intelligence and machine learning can help to forecast migration movements; to new channels and means of communication, such as social media and virtual counselling; as well as digital aids for managing migration, such as facial recognition, speech recognition and blockchain.

The kick-off event is followed by formats for more detailed discussion, organised by the Federal Ministry in cooperation with partners including the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees, the European Commission, the International Organization for Migration, the European Asylum Support Office, the European Border and Coast Guard Agency and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development.

⁶During Germany's Presidency of the Council of the European Union, the Federal Ministry of the Interior, Building and Community is hosting a discussion with European and international partners on migration and digital technologies.

Migration is complex ▪ Complexity – unknown unknowns, understanding comes retrospectively, lessons learned are non-transferable ▪ Uncertainty ▪ Data are scattered, low quality, on-off ▪ Push and pull factors interact and are context dependent ▪ Episodic variation – sudden, short-lived influxes ▪ Drivers – local, highly nuanced and thresholds ▪ Decisions of the displaced – imperfect information, trust networks
Migration is seen as an investment, as migrants are better-educated and richer than others, new research from Michael Clemens and Mariapia Mendola finds.

Despite some governments' attempts to assist overseas development in order to curb migration, development does not immediately deter migration, and those who migrate are not among the world's poorest, new research released by the Center for Global Development (CGD) has found.

The two new sweeping studies calculate the effects of rising income on emigration for both poor countries and poor individuals.

The first paper, by Michael Clemens, analysed the relationship between real gross domestic product (GDP) per capita and net emigration rates in developing countries.

The second, by Clemens and co-author Mariapia Mendola, examines nationally representative survey data on 653,613 people in 99 developing countries to see who migrates, when, and how.

Both levels of analyses confirmed the existence of an **emigration lifecycle**: Emigration rises along with rising incomes at first, only falling at much higher incomes. Rising incomes for relatively poor countries or people do not immediately deter migration. The researchers found that:

- ◆ As GDP per capita rises, so do emigration rates. This relationship slows after roughly US\$5,000, and reverses after roughly \$10,000 (i.e. low- to middle-income, or the level of China or Mexico).
- ◆ Successful, sustained economic growth in the low-income countries is therefore likely to raise the emigration rate, at least in the short-term. As incomes rise, so too does people's ability to afford the investments that make migration easier.
- ◆ These new migrants will not be among their countries poorest: in low-income countries, people actively preparing to emigrate have 30 percent higher incomes than the population on average, and 14 percent of these higher incomes come from more years of education.

"This pattern is not new, or something to fear," Michael Clemens, director of Migration, Displacement, and Humanitarian Policy and senior fellow at CGD, says. *"As a poor country gets richer, at first more people emigrate, until the process eventually slows and reverses itself. We've seen it with Sweden a century ago and Mexico a half century ago. We're seeing it now in Central America, and we'll hopefully see the pattern emerge in sub-Saharan Africa as that region gets richer."* *"The world's poorest are*

not the ones who migrate," said co-author Mariapia Mendola, professor of economics at the Università degli Studi di Milano Bicocca and Director of the Poverty and Development Program at Centro Studi Luca d'Agliano in Milan.

"Migration is seen as an investment, just like higher education. You wouldn't decide not to send your kids to college just because your family is getting wealthier. Similarly, families are not deciding to stay put as their incomes rise. Migration changes lives and economies for the better."

"Policymakers may see this as a reason to cut foreign aid," Clemens continued. *"That would be unwise. Economic development overseas is in everyone's long-term interest. It helps other countries prevent humanitarian disasters, fight pandemic disease, remain stable, and engage with the world economy. Perversely encouraging poverty, out of a misplaced fear of migration, is a road to nowhere."*

Under **"The Future of Migration Forecasting"**, different options were explored to prepare for future migration patterns to Europe. Special attention was placed on effective communication strategies, which are important to translate forecasts and scenarios into sustainable migration.

What is the ISAA report?

- Integrated Situational Awareness and Analysis
- Produced weekly by the European Commission and the EEAS, reporting on the week before, limited distribution
- Input from Commission Services, EU+ States and JHA Agencies: EBCGA, EASO, Europol, eu-LISA, FRA
- Tailored on the needs of the political actors
- Allows a strategic overview of the situation and an informed debate.

Alternatives to ISAA Situational Awareness and Prevention

An early warning system and a prevention mechanism able to identify emerging trends and developments both in the EU and in third countries of origin and transit, in a highly reliable and timely manner, would enable the EU and the Member States to put in place the necessary preparatory and preventive measures.

- Monitoring with Big Data
- Commission is engaging with JRC and EASO for combining Big Data from different sources (Gdelt - monitoring the world's broadcast, print and web news including selected migratory push factors with Google trend searches, number of IBCs at EU external borders and EPS data from Member States) for a realistic estimations of large scale movements.
- Modeling experience concerning a possible military offensive in Idlib is an ongoing project
- Feasibility study on a forecasting and early warning tool for migration based on Artificial Intelligence technology
- UCDP (Uppsala Conflict Data Program) Data analysis on organized violence + Established, large amount of data + High quality standards - Timeliness/

- updated yearly - Only violent conflict
- JRC Global Conflict Risk Index Risk of conflict in the next 1-4 years based on statistical indicators + High quality - Next 1-4 years vague
- GDELT Real-time news monitor + Constantly updated + Large amount of (local) data; >100 languages - Less precise - Neutrality of news/data
- ICEWS (Integrated Conflict Early Warning System) Early-warning based on political news + Low error rate - Neutrality of news/dat

OECD/IOM - Introduction

A large part of the discussions today focused on big data and scenarios • However, policy makers have to make decisions on migration policy with a large degree of uncertainty regarding future developments shaping the nature and scale of migration. These developments can be classified in three categories I. Megatrends II. Plausible disruptions III. Unforeseen major disruptions.

The categories of uncertain developments I Megatrends → Already clearly observable now → Largely predictable → Will increase in scale and scope, but the «when», «how» and «where» will it impact migration is uncertain → Example: environmental change; demographic imbalances

II. Plausible disruptions → Weak signs currently → Largely unpredictable → Will increase in scale and scope, could have large impact on migration, but unclear when and how this will materialise → Example: technological change creating «digitally transparent» migrants.

III. Unforeseen major disruptions → No or extremely weak signs currently → Unpredictable → Sudden and massive impact on migration → Example: major conflict involving key origin countries; COVID-19...a year ago.

How can policy makers prepare for these developments?

The response will vary in part according to the type of development:

► Preparing for Megatrends: ☼ Recognise the scale, scope and significance of these events ☼ Continuously monitor the situation and adapt policies ☼ Be vary of possible threshold effects and interactions ☼ Survey people in potential origin countries regarding their migration intentions.

► Preparing for plausible disruptions ☼ Seize the potential of big data but avoid being ruled by it – maintain ownership and control ☼ Continuously rethink existing processes and programmes in light of new developments ☼ Mainstream foresight in the administration – not only among for the leadership

► Preparing for unforeseen major disruptions ☼ Use intelligence and other anticipatory tools to gauge emerging signals, including early warning systems ☼ Avoid basing policy choices on short-term developments to limit the risk of overreaction ☼ Example: (not) scaling down on integration

in light of massive COVID-19 decline in new arrivals ☀ Build contingency plans for migration management and integration capacity in case of major disruptions.

In addition, the overall framework conditions for reaction need to be strengthened • Within the governments, this requires more policy co-ordination; • Consider migration and integration as a cross-cutting issue in connection with education, employment, social protection, trade, development, and foreign policies; • Regularly exchange relevant information among these policy areas – not only in times of crisis.

It also requires new partnerships beyond the government – Include cities, social partners, civil society, tech entrepreneurs, and migrants themselves – both in the development of migration policies and in foresight – But ensure that these partnerships do not lead to more in-country inequalities or unfair competition – Develop new partnerships with countries of origin – both with the central government and with local stakeholders – Use periods of low migration flows to strengthen such partnerships.

Conclusion: How to ensure that policy makers take uncertainty into account?

- ◆ The most difficult – but also the most important – task is the link between risk analysis and policy action
- ◆ Without this link, the best instruments will be fruitless
- ◆ To obtain this link, the administration needs to »Mainstream foresight thinking »Prepare gradual policy responses – in accordance with the uncertainty »Maintain “a crisis room in standby”.

MACHINE LEARNING MODEL & BAYESIAN NETWORK ANALYSIS⁷

The Danish Refugee Council (DRC), in a 3 years cooperation with IBM and funded by the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, has developed very precise instruments for forecast and foresight. Forced displacement have doubled within the last 20 years with estimated 70.8 million forcibly displaced around the world in 2018. • A wealth of data is publicly available today. However, humanitarian and development organizations, UN agencies and policy makers alike face difficulties in effectively using the various datasets and weighing displacement-driving factors and aggregate them into actual predictive modeling.

⁷A Bayesian network (also known as a Bayes network, belief network, or decision network) is a probabilistic graphical model that represents a set of variables and their conditional dependencies via a directed acyclic graph (DAG). Bayesian networks are ideal for taking an event that occurred and predicting the likelihood that any one of several possible known causes was the contributing factor. For example, a Bayesian network could represent the probabilistic relationships between diseases and symptoms. Given symptoms, the network can be used to compute the probabilities of the presence of various diseases.

Efficient algorithms can perform inference and learning in Bayesian networks. Bayesian networks that model sequences of variables (e.g. speech signals or protein sequences) are called dynamic Bayesian networks. Generalizations of Bayesian networks that can represent and solve decision problems under uncertainty are called influence diagrams.

DRC, with funding from the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, has explored the potential for using predictive analytics in the humanitarian sector. Incorporating a range of factors for a given country, such as economy, conflict, food security, etc. the project objective is to build a model that attempts to forecast displacement 1-3 years out in Myanmar and Afghanistan.

The purpose of the project is to assist in planning operations by providing a solid evaluation of the risk of displacement in each context. The weighing of the individual factors will contribute to the knowledge on drivers of forced displacement, which among other things will help DRC in advocacy and planning of activities.

Linkages between the around 80 different indicators in the framework has been established based on expert interviews and literature review. Bayesian Network Analysis determine whether those linkages can be found in the data and what the value of the linkages are i.e. if public institution quality decreases by x how will that impact rights and public services. The model is generic and builds on historical data for 28 countries with a history of displacement This informs scenario-building by showing how the various aspects are interrelated.

The DRC models appear more accurate than the planning figures/forecasts in Humanitarian Response Plans.

The RRC predicts in a study on COVID-19 and the Sahel Zone that approximately 1 million people are forecasted to be displaced in Sahel by end 2021. COVID-19 Scenarios suggest that this number can increase to 1.9 million.

Summary

1. Use science and facts.

Being a governmental manager with a powerful portfolio is not enough. You must use science and facts, study scientific articles, subscribe to research magazines in the areas of demography, sociology, anthropology, geopolitics. Go for facts and science! You may be surprised about the high level of research and about newest findings of migration science - as almost every practitioner and ministerial manager at this

Conference was.

Migration is and remains a political and emotionalizing topic. It polarizes citizens. MARRI has most recently identified a possibility to elaborate a project together with the OSCE on preventing and countering fake news and wrong perceptions on migration. People do not see the chances of regular migration.

But this is only one side of the coin. The other side is that irregular migrants base their decisions on and during their journey also on many erroneous assumptions. Irregular migrants mainly do not realise legal perspectives of their journey. They glorify the living and working conditions in the EU. This is the reason why MARRI is in consultations with the Austrian Federal Ministry of Interior regarding a possible cooperation under AMIF to objectively, fairly and neutrally inform irregular migrants or migrants with uncertain legal status on the legal perspectives and the reality of the EU labour market.

2. Use FORECAST, use statistical instruments.


Three years ago, MARRI requested support from the EU through IOM to install the MIDEX Platform on the Exchange of Non-personal Data. This platform will provide MARRI with newest, authentic migration data from all six MARRI Participants. MARRI can – as soon as in 2021 - start preparing analytical reports on contemporary migration phenomena. MARRI Regional Centre wants to spearhead statistical analyses, prognostics and forecasts.

3. Let's advance from FORECAST to FORESIGHT.

FORESIGHT is what you make out of your FORECAST. FORESIGHT is policy. FORESIGHT is a strategic approach to anticipate the most probable scenarios and react rationally, prudently, responsibly.

MARRI has created the post of a Strategic Development Officer within its rows to turn statistical FORECAST into strategic FORESIGHT.

Join our discussions! Ask us! Send us your opinion!



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