RESEARCH FOR POLICY MAKING

EXPERIENCE OF THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION (IOM)

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Outline

1. **Governmental approaches to migration research**

2. **IOM's strategy on policy-oriented research**

International Organization for Migration
the migration agency
IOM · OIM

1. Governmental approaches to migration research

Key Issues

1. **What priority are governments giving to sponsoring migration research?**

2. **How does research contribute to policy making?**

3. **How to improve the linkage of research to policy making**

1. Governmental priority to sponsoring migration research

- Very few countries have dedicated research programmes

- Some countries have developed new administrative structures to deal with migration
  → Europe

- Traditional countries of immigration have in-house research programmes

- In developing countries is often not possible to talk of "research programmes"

Governmental priority to sponsoring migration research

- **Destination countries :**

Migrant integration constitutes a central focus research.

- **Countries of emigration :**

Labour migration, worker entitlement, diaspora and remittances

- **Countries of transit :**

Migrant trafficking, human smuggling, and irregular migration

Resources devoted to migration research

- **"Traditional" countries of immigration** :

Big budgets including appropriations for research

- **"New" countries of immigration** :

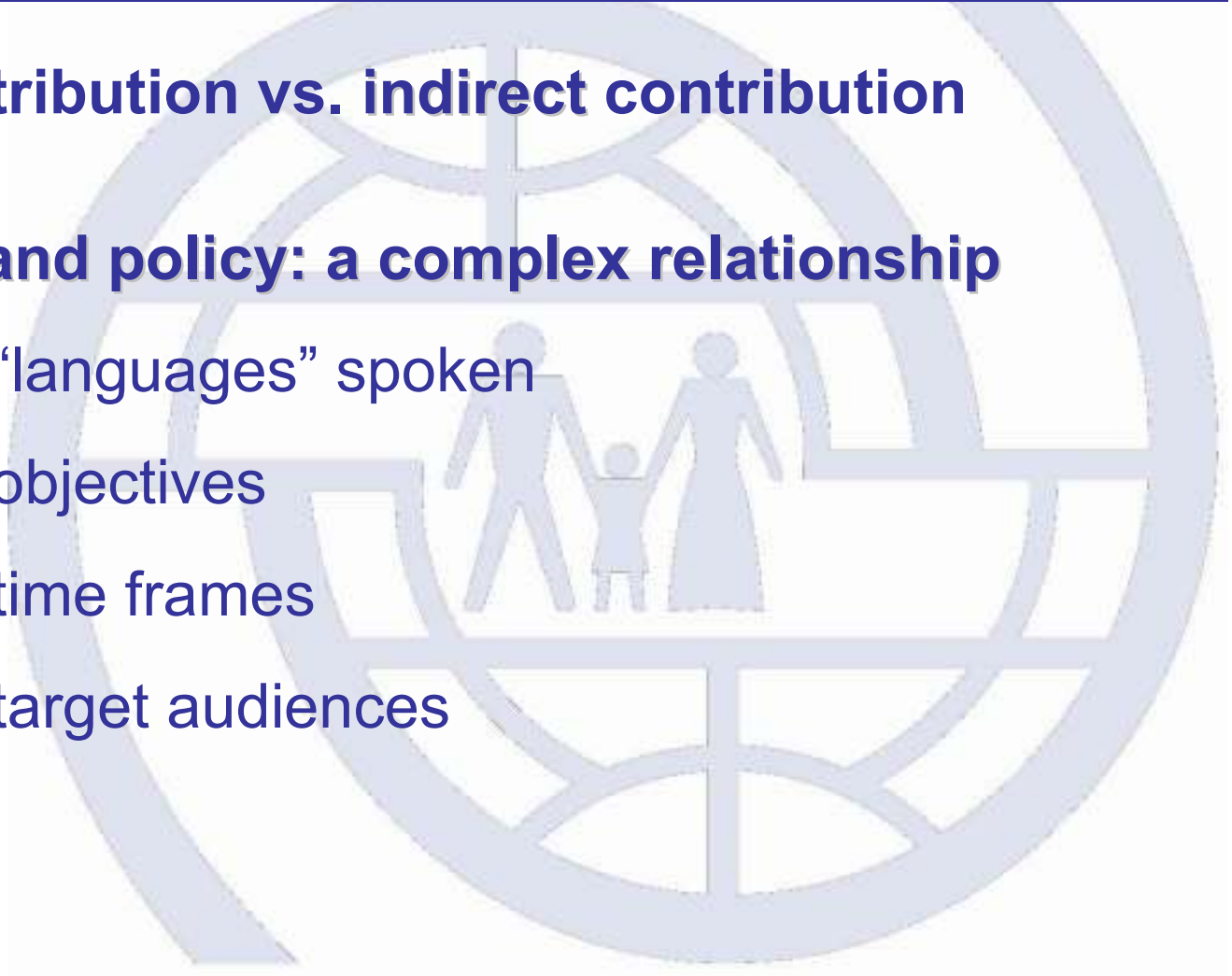Modest budgets but with an increasing trend.

- **Developing countries** :

Lack or resources to migration projects.

2. How does research contribute to policy making?

- **Direct contribution vs. indirect contribution**

- **Research and policy: a complex relationship**
  - Different "languages" spoken
  - Different objectives
  - Different time frames
  - Different target audiences

3. Improving linkages

- **Better information sharing among concerned stakeholders**

- **International comparative studies and data on migration**

- **How to assist policy making with existing research**

- **"Best practices", "good practices", "practices"… "bad practices"… to inform policy makers**

- **Research partnerships**

Improving linkages

- **Agreement** between researchers and policy makers

- Using **multidisciplinary** approaches

- **Ongoing dialogue**

- Make evidence **accessible**

2. IOM's strategy on policy-oriented research

Principles

- **Applied research** for policy and operational purposes

- **Interface:** sharing of practices and policy experiences

- **Non-linear process**

- Support **migration management**

- **Primary + secondary** research (geographical and thematic)

- **MPRC: Policy + Research + Communication,** 2001 in response to request of member states

- **Knowledge mobilization: variety of stakeholders** governments, research community, non governmental organizations and business advisory board

Policy – Research - Practice interface

- **Extracting knowledge from operations**

  ✓**MIDA Great Lakes, Counter-trafficking database, Filipino migrants in Italy, Return migration, HIV and mobile workers**

- **Bringing issues on the policy agenda**

  ✓**Migration and development, migration and environment**

- **Research to inform policy**

  ✓**Sub-Saharan migrants in Switzerland (RUIG) ; Internal migration China Conference; Diasporas survey and demand for good practices**

- **Increase capacities**

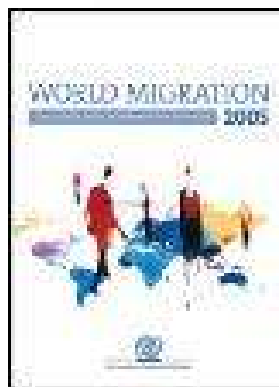 ✓ **Albanian Research and Policy Programme and Albanian National Strategy on Migration**

"Tools"

- **International Dialogue on Migration**

  - ✓ IOM Council: **118** member states

  - ✓ **migration and…** trade, health, development, integration, environment…

- **Regional Consultative Processes (RCPs)**

- **International Agenda for Migration Management (IAMM), Berne Initiative**
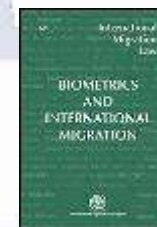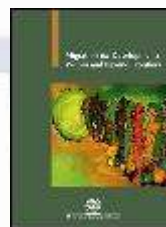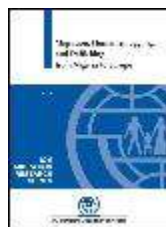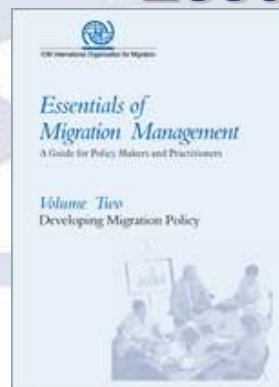
- **Migration Law Database** http://www.iml.iom. int/section.do

"Tools"

- **World Migration Report**

- **Essentials of Migration Management**

- **Migration Research Series MRS (26)**
- **International Migration**
- **Thematic publications**
- **Conference reports**
- **Migration Magazine**

Challenges

➢ **Image and rationale:** research what for?

➢ **Linking** operations with research and policy

➢ **Beyond** pilot projects

➢ The **« right »** data?

➢ **Decentralized** structures and **comparative** approaches

➢ **Fund - raising** for research and translations

➢ Overcoming **the North / South divide**

➢ Respond to governmental **requests** and maintain research **independence**

➢ Making use of **evaluation**