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
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 in 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 of 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**