



*Horizon 2020: Call: H2020-SC6-REV-INEQUAL-2016-2017*

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**WP10-Deliverable 10.1**  
**Consistent selection of research topics for pan-European  
research initiatives on migration**

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## 1 Setting up the EU research agenda on migration

While migration studies had been at the margin of academic interest in the 1990s, they have meanwhile become an established research field, which has accumulated relevant knowledge. Migration has been part of the EU research programming since the early 2000. Different Framework Programmes have included topics that directly or indirectly covered migration-related aspects in order to support an evidence-informed policy making. However, until 2015 topics have remained scattered and rarely embedded into a more coherent analytical framework, be it specifically addressing migration-related questions, or other societal challenges. In what areas and subfields has migration research already produced the necessary understanding and knowledge, and which aspects need more research? What fields and issues are yet unexplored, but important for the future? How shall research and policymaking organise their interactions to be best prepared for the challenges lying ahead?

In a time where the EU has put migration very high in his policy priorities, and an EU Agenda on Migration<sup>1</sup> has been elaborated, research and data were put at the core of the EU programming in order to better inform policy making at EU and Member States level.

In this framework, in preparation of the last 3-years programming, the Report of the Advisory Board of H2020-Societal Challenge 6, suggested that the time had come for the Commission to take action and help consolidate the knowledge produced in the different EU Member States around the scientific area of migration. The needs for evidence, for comprehensive vision, as well as comparable data and analysis across Member States, led to the launching of a dedicated Call on the different policy areas of migration.

## Lessons from the 7<sup>th</sup> Framework Programme

### Return, circulation, irregularity

FP7 was launched and designed in years were the complexity of migration and its politicisation were starting to raise in many EU countries. Policy measures were designed to address circulation, return, mobility between Neighbouring countries/continents and Europe. In this vein, the topics that have been launched under the Social Sciences and Humanities (SSH) pillar of FP7, focused precisely on

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<sup>1</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/sites/homeaffairs/files/what-we-do/policies/european-agenda-migration/background-information/docs/communication\\_on\\_the\\_european\\_agenda\\_on\\_migration\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/sites/homeaffairs/files/what-we-do/policies/european-agenda-migration/background-information/docs/communication_on_the_european_agenda_on_migration_en.pdf)



return, reintegration, mobility partnerships and other regulatory aspects of migration policies. As migration was becoming a major concern for European policy makers, the need for a better understanding of the underlying causes and consequences, in particular regarding Afro-European migration, became more acute.

In this framework, the Commission funded projects like Migration between Africa and Europe - MAFE<sup>2</sup>, concluded in December 2012, and TEMPORARY VERSUS PERMANENT MIGRATION - TEMPER<sup>3</sup>, concluded in August 2019, which aimed precisely at creating data-sets on specific aspects of Afro-European migration, e.g. circularity, return, transnationality, etc.. The underlying assumption was that better data coupled with longitudinal analysis equals better insights into the changing patterns and determinants of migration and circulation between Africa and Europe, as well as on the socio-economic changes associated with international migration. TEMPER, in particular, focused on identifying the main drivers of return and circulation decisions of migrants recently involved in temporary and permanent migration; measuring and explaining the role that different programs and policies played in shaping individual decisions and, assessing the impact of different types of temporary, permanent and circular mobility for migrant and non-migrant workers, their families and their employers.

An important and far-reaching topic, i.e. irregular migration and data around it, was addressed through project Irregular Migration: Counting the uncountable. Data and trends across Europe - CLANDESTINO, funded under the previous Framework Programme (FP6) and concluded in August 2009<sup>4</sup>. The project addressed the difficult topic of quantifying stocks of irregular migrants. A database containing estimates on the size of irregular migrant populations in 12 EU countries has been produced, and indicators of their composition with regard to gender, age, nationality and sector of economic activity were provided whenever possible. The conclusions of the project include considerations on the difficulties in making reliable estimates on irregular migration, and the ethical and methodological issues involved in the collection of data.

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<sup>2</sup> <https://mafeproject.site.ined.fr/en/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.temperproject.eu/>

<sup>4</sup> [http://clandestino.eliamep.gr/wp-content/uploads/2010/03/clandestino-final-report\\_-november-2009.pdf](http://clandestino.eliamep.gr/wp-content/uploads/2010/03/clandestino-final-report_-november-2009.pdf)



## NORFACE: Migration in Europe: Social, economic, cultural and policy dimensions

At the same time, a network of EU Member States Research Agencies (NORFACE Network)<sup>5</sup>, through a specific partnership with the Commission, funded the transnational research programme “Migration in Europe: Social, economic, cultural and policy dimensions”<sup>6</sup>. Through such a programme, 12 projects involving different EU Member States had been funded in the period 2009-2014. The objectives of the Migration programme of NORFACE included: to advance globally excellent theoretical and methodological disciplinary, inter-disciplinary and comparative research on migration which builds synergistically on a pan-European basis; to take advantage of and develop the present informal laboratory of experience, knowledge and data which migration in Europe currently presents; to motivate and support excellence and capacity building for research on migration on across-national basis throughout the NORFACE countries; to develop understanding and promote research-based knowledge and insight into migration for issues of societal, practical and policy relevance, with theoretical foundations but worked on jointly with relevant users and experts.

## ERA-NET Welfare State Futures

In 2010, the NORFACE network is launching an international research programme on the topic of Welfare State Futures. This highly topical theme offers an approach from a variety of perspectives and disciplines, enables and encourages multi-disciplinarity and offers a fruitful topic for a European approach, with interesting opportunities for

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<sup>5</sup> New Opportunities for Research Funding Agency Cooperation in Europe (NORFACE) is a partnership of national research funding agencies in Europe dedicated to leading and developing opportunities for scientists in the area of social and behavioural sciences. NORFACE plays an important part in responding to the grand societal challenges by promoting research of the highest quality, sharing best practices among research funders and especially by making international collaboration between social scientists in Europe possible. Members of the NORFACE network are: Austrian Science Fund (FWF); Czech Academy of Sciences (CAS); Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG); Estonian Research Council (ETAG); Foundation for Science and Technology (FCT); Independent Research Fund Denmark (DFF); Agence nationale de la recherche de France (ANR); Luxembourg National Research Fund (FNR); Dutch Research Council (NWO); Research Council of Lithuania (RCL); Slovenian Research Agency (ARRS); Spanish State Research Agency (AEI); Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF); Academy of Finland (AKA); Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC); The Icelandic Centre for Research (RANNÍS); Irish Research Council (IRC); National Science Centre (NCN); The Research Council of Norway (RCN); Swedish Research Council (VR); Research Foundation – Flanders (FWO); NordForsk - The Swedish Research Council for Health, Working Life and Welfare (FORTE); Belgian Science Policy (BELSPO); Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC).

<sup>6</sup><https://www.norface.net/program/migration-in-europe-social-economic-cultural-and-policy-dynamics/>



comparison. The Framework Programme 7 WSF project was co-funded by 15 national research funding organisations (NORFACE consortium) and the European Union through the ERA-NET Plus research instrument. Out of the projects that received funding, several focused on Migration, Diversity and Welfare<sup>7</sup>, such as the projects MIFARE (2015-2018), MobileWelfare (2015-2018) and 4Is (2014-2017). These projects focused on the role of welfare systems in destination and origin countries for migration patterns within and towards Europe.

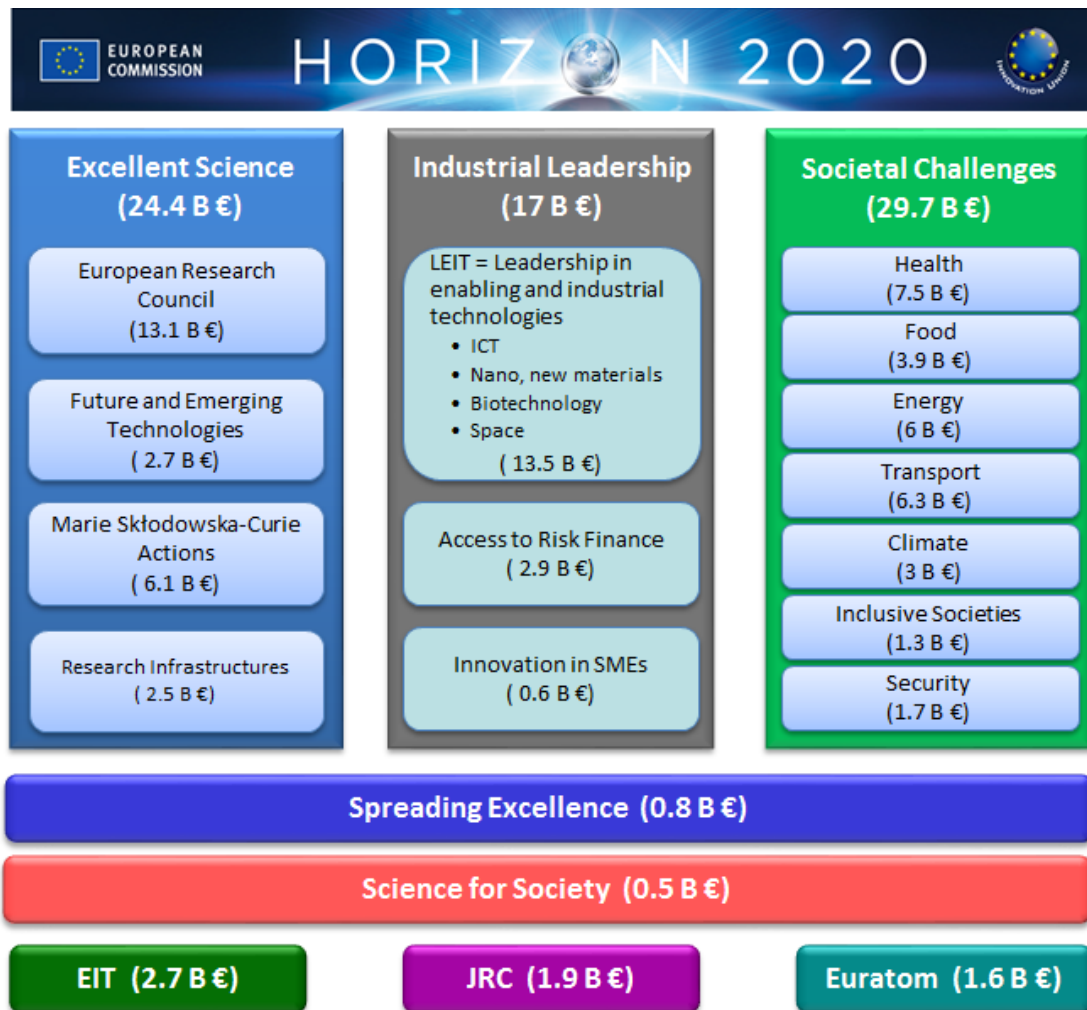
## Lessons from Horizon2020

The 8<sup>th</sup> EU framework programme for research, Horizon2020, was launched in 2014 with a highly innovative structure with respect to its predecessor and the aim to align with overall Commission's policy priorities.

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<sup>7</sup> <https://welfarestatefutures.wordpress.com/research-clusters/migration/>





### Excellence in science

Many projects on migration were funded under pillar 1 of Horizon 2020, Excellence in Science. While the European Research Council does not prioritise specific research topics, migration, asylum and refugees often feature among the themes researchers propose to study when they apply for ERC grants. From 2007 to 2017, nearly 150 projects from a broad range of disciplines - researching the historical roots of migration, looking at refugees and migrants from a governance and legal framework, as well as from a socio-economic perspective – have received a total of over €255 million from the ERC.<sup>8</sup> The objective of the ERC is to fund the highest quality

<sup>8</sup> <https://erc.europa.eu/projects-figures/stories/spotlight-erc-projects-studying-migration-and-asylum>





research in Europe and to support investigator-driven frontier research across all fields, on the basis of scientific excellence. Being 'investigator-driven', or 'bottom-up', in nature, the ERC allows researchers to identify new opportunities and directions in any field of research, rather than being led by priorities set by politicians. This ensures that funds are channelled into new and promising areas of research. ERC grants are awarded to projects headed by early career as well as established researchers, irrespective of their origins, who are working or moving to work in Europe. The sole criterion for selection is scientific excellence.

### Societal Challenges

The third pillar, Societal Challenges, is articulated along 7 clusters, each covering a wide range of research areas and disciplines. Societal Challenge 6 “Europe in a changing world - Inclusive, innovative and reflective societies”, aimed at addressing social exclusion, discriminations and various forms of inequalities.<sup>9</sup> As such, the framework programme aimed at exploring prerequisites for a sustainable European integration and strengthening the evidence base for relevant EU policies.

Beyond Societal Challenge 6, social sciences and humanities were acknowledged as one of the horizontal streams to be integrated in each and every societal challenge through a dedicated exercise to include social sciences and humanities-related aspects in work programmes and single topics focusing on other scientific areas and addressing disciplines. Such exercise has been monitored via the SSH Integration yearly reports<sup>10</sup>. As an example, through the SSH integration monitoring exercise, we can identify Societal Challenges who have given space to migration, and how many projects have been funded beyond SC6, or which social science and humanities-related disciplines have been involved. An interesting conclusion is that Societal Challenge 2-Food and Societal Challenge 5-Climat have both devoted entire topics to migration in their specific contexts, with significant inclusion of SSH disciplines. An equally interesting conclusion is that no significant integration of migration-related aspects have been found in topics launched /projects funded under Societal Challenge 1-Health.

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<sup>9</sup> In particular, the work programme of Societal Challenge 6 was built around four of the EU2020 targets (Employment, R&D, Education, Fighting poverty and social exclusion) and four of the seven European Flagships (Innovation Union, Youth on the move, An Agenda for New skills and jobs, European Platform Against Poverty).

<sup>10</sup> <https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/4365f75a-5efe-11e8-ab9c-01aa75ed71a1/language-en/format-PDF/source-search>



## Societal Challenge 6, 2014 - 2017

Societal Challenge 6 has been broken down in 3 work programmes covering 7 years: WP 2014-2015, WP 2016-2017 and the ongoing WP covering 2018-2020.

[SC6 Work Programme 2014-2015](#) had 5 main streams focusing on new ideas, strategies and governance structures for overcoming the crisis in Europe (Call EURO); youth in a changing Europe (Call YOUNG); cultural heritage (Call REFLECTIVE); Europe as a global actor, new geopolitical order in the Mediterranean, EU eastern partnership and cooperation with other third countries (Call INT); and innovation in the public sector (Call INSO).

Overall, across the five calls, four projects addressed migration-related aspects, both as a core stream of the project or as a secondary element. Such projects are: Growth, Equal Opportunities, Migration and Markets – **GEMM**, concluded in December 2018; The Future of EU-Turkey Relations. Mapping Dynamics and Testing Scenarios – **FEUTURE**, concluded in March 2019; Reconsidering European Contributions to Global Justice – **GLOBUS**, due to end in May 2020; A comprehensive, integrated, and bottom-up approach to reset our understanding of the Mediterranean space, remap the region, and reconstruct inclusive, responsive, and flexible EU policies in it – **MEDRESET**, concluded in August 2019. In addition, two projects funded under the call YOUNG, specifically focused on intra-EU mobility, marginally including the mobility of third country nationals, i.e. Youth mobility: maximising opportunities for individuals, labour markets and regions in Europe – **Ymobility**, concluded in February 2018 and addressed issues related to motives, migration channels and information sources of those who are mobile in the EU; analysed individual outcomes in terms of both employability and careers (skills and competences) and non-economic terms (welfare and identities) and analysed the territorial outcomes for the regions of both origin and destination, in economic, demographic and cultural terms, taking into account return migration and future intentions to migrate; and Mapping mobility – pathways, institutions and structural effects of youth mobility in Europe – **MOVE**, ended in April 2018, and equally focusing on intra-EU mobility of youngsters with the aim to better understand the motivation and obstacles of youth mobility in Europe.

[SC6 Work Programme 2016-2017](#) was structured along 4 main streams, including: economic recovery and inclusive and sustainable long-term growth (Call CO-CREATION); reversing inequalities for more inclusive societies (Call REV-INEQUAL); global environment and geopolitical context (Call ENG-GLOBALLY); cultural and social diversity (Call CULT-COOP).

Overall, in this work-programme, 3 specific topics on migration in the different streams: Intra-EU mobility and its impacts for social and economic systems (REV-INEQUAL-04-2016); EU and the global challenge of migration (ENG-GLOBALLY-03-



2017); and Religious diversity in Europe – past, present and future (CULT-COOP-05-2017).

The revision of the work programme occurred before the launching of the calls for 2017 introduced 5 new topics specifically addressing migration and mobility within and beyond the EU. They included: Migration and asylum systems (ENG-GLOBALLY-10-2017); Employability, skills and labour market integration of migrants (REV-INEQUAL-13-2017); the significance of cultural and core values for the migration challenge (CULT-COOP-12-2017); platform on current European and cross-national comparative research and research-actions on migration (REV-INEQUAL-11-2017); Research social platform on migration and asylum (REV-INEQUAL-12-2017).

Overall, six research and innovation actions (RIA) were funded and launched in 2017 and 2018: Role of European Mobility and its Impacts in Narratives, Debates and EU Reforms - REMINDER (REV-INEQUAL-04-2016), concluded in December 2019; Skills and Integration of Migrants, Refugees and Asylum Applicants in European Labour Markets - SIRIUS (REV-INEQUAL-13-2017), due to conclude in December 2020; Aligning Migration Management and the Migration-Development Nexus - MIGNEX (September 2018 – August 2023) and Multilevel Governance of Mass Migration in Europe and Beyond – RESPOND, due to end in November 2020 (ENG-GLOBALLY-03-2017); Evaluation of the Common European Asylum System under Pressure and Recommendations for Further Development - CEASEVAL (ENG-GLOBALLY-10-2017), concluded in October 2019; Norms and Values in the European Migration and Refugee Crisis - NOVAMIGRA (CULT-COOP-12-2017), due to end in March 2021; and Religious Toleration and Peace - RETOPEA (CULT-COOP-05-2016), due to end in April 2022. In addition, two Coordination and Support Actions (CSA) were funded through the revised work-programme, i.e. CROSS-MIGRATION (REV-INEQUAL-11-2017) and the social platform RESOMA (REV-INEQUAL-12-2017). The latter is producing synthetic and policy relevant translation of research evidence as well as identification of research gaps to be used for further programming.

The two platforms were meant to collect all the knowledge produced through the different migration-focused topics under Societal Challenge 6 (including those to be launched from 2018 on), national schemes, other EU-MS joint research initiatives on migration and research-actions, studies carried out in the framework of operational projects. The two Platforms, and particularly CROSS-MIGRATION, were launched with the aim of substantiating the EU research agenda on migration, making knowledge available and gaps more visible for future programming.

### **Societal Challenge 6, 2018-2020**

In complementarity and continuation of this initiative, and in order to respond to the pressing societal need to support migration governance with a solid research generated evidence base, a group of EU member states proposed to co-fund with the



Commission a separated joint research initiative on migration. As a matter of fact, in the aftermath of the governance crisis in 2015, migration emerged as a specific domain, both embedded in areas covered through previous work programmes and unique in its complexity, that needed to be addressed as a separate field of research in order to support EU migration policy making, societal information, and public communication. The proposal was meant to be complementary to the existing topics of Societal Challenge 6 work programmes 2014-2015 and 2016-2017.

In the meantime, and in parallel with the revision of the work-programme 2016-2017, the Commission worked on a comprehensive review of the different areas of migration research addressed through FP 6 and 7, as well as through the first topics of Societal Challenge 6 of H2020. The Policy Review "Research on Migration: Facing Realities and Maximising Opportunities"<sup>11</sup> was published in January 2016 and presented at the International Conference Understanding and tackling the migration challenge: the role of research<sup>12</sup> together with the compendium of projects funded under FP 6 and 7, H2020 Societal Challenge 6 Work Programmes 2014 and 2015, and some projects funded under instruments: "Migration and Mobility: Research & Innovation Projects in support to European Policy".<sup>13</sup>The International Conference was followed by a synthetic yet insightful report containing both recommendations for policy-making and for research programming, indicating areas left uncovered or in need for further funding.<sup>14</sup>

The Review is structured along three blocks, corresponding to the thematic clusters covered through research programmes in the 2010s, i.e. (i) policies and flows; (ii) integration and (iii) migration and development.

By acknowledging that migrations are very diverse, the Review focuses on the relationships between theories, typologies, flows and policies, rather than offering a complete survey of diverse migration flows and the highly differentiated and fragmented policy landscape.

**Policies.** The authors argue : Why are migration policies needed? "There are those who passionately argue for 'open borders' (...) but the reasons for having migration policies are very powerful. In the absence of state controls over immigration, one country could simply peacefully 'invade' another by colonisation. (...) From a liberal-

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<sup>11</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/research/social-sciences/pdf/policy\\_reviews/ki-04-15-841\\_en\\_n.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/research/social-sciences/pdf/policy_reviews/ki-04-15-841_en_n.pdf)

<sup>12</sup> <https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/horizon2020/en/news/conference-report-understanding-and-tackling-migration-challenge-role-research>

<sup>13</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/research/social-sciences/pdf/project\\_synopses/ki-na-27-592-en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/research/social-sciences/pdf/project_synopses/ki-na-27-592-en.pdf)

<sup>14</sup> <https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/horizon2020/en/news/conference-report-understanding-and-tackling-migration-challenge-role-research>



democratic viewpoint, the nation-state is the appropriate level at which human beings develop democratic societies and political organisation; it is therefore necessary to limit membership in some fashion in order to preserve a functioning political community (Walzer 1983).”

**Flows.** Basic divisions of international migration flows are heuristically but they need to be problematised: forced vs voluntary migration, temporary vs permanent migration, legal vs illegal and low- vs high-skilled migration (King 2002). These binary distinctions become increasingly blurred and out-of-date. New patterns, motivations and modalities of migration need to be explored. ‘Mixed migration’ – a term which encapsulates mixed motivations to migrate as well as the mixed and changing nature of many migration flows – has become the order of the day (Van Hear 2010: 1535).

**Integration.** This umbrella term is both a process and an endpoint. The form and outcome of integration depend on the self-conception of the host society and of the normative or desired role of immigrants and their descendants in that society. Penninx and Garcés-Masareñas (2015) offer a useful strippeddown definition: ‘the process of becoming an accepted part of society’. Heckmann (2005) defines it as a long-lasting process of inclusion and acceptance of migrants in the core institutions, relations and statuses of the receiving society; an interactive process between migrants and the receiving society, in which, however, the receiving society has much more power and prestige.

**Migration and Development.** The ‘migration–development nexus’ (Van Hear and Sørensen 2003; Faist et al. 2011), a discursive arena for many competing ideas, needs to be framed within a specific understanding of ‘development’<sup>15</sup>. Nowadays, it encompasses a multi-faceted conceptualisation of human development and wellbeing.<sup>16</sup> Alleviating poverty and reducing inequality, both between and within countries, become key development objectives.

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<sup>15</sup> Conceptual divergences in the understanding migration and development: European demographers see the youth bulge in many African countries as a challenge and a threat to development, whereas most African researchers conceive it as the necessary base for economic growth and development; European integration research see remittances as a reduction of the resources available for integration, whereas migration research from the South understands them as an important element in the fight against poverty and for local and regional development.

<sup>16</sup> This conceptual shift owes much to Sen’s (1999) revisioning of development as freedom of choice and the capacity of people to exercise autonomy in their lives. Following the initiative of the UNDP’s Human Development Index, quality-of-life variables such as literacy, health, life expectancy, infant mortality, human and political rights and gender equality have been added to the standard measure of per capita GDP or GNI. Also increasingly important are measures of inequality and therefore of absolute and relative poverty.



Based on the structure and conceptual framing proposed in the Policy Review, and along the lines of its call for a more “high-quality research evidence of a large-scale comparative and longitudinal nature”, the Commission proposed to have a dedicated call on Migration to be included in the work programme 2018-2020.

The idea of having a dedicated call on migration was openly discussed with Member States at the Slovak Presidency Conference 'Social sciences and humanities: a new agenda for Europe's challenges' (Bratislava, 14-16 November 2016), where an entire session was devoted to understanding migration and mobility. Furthermore, under the Maltese Presidency of the Council of the EU, a conference was organised in Malta (3-4 May 2017) along 3 pillars, including one on addressing the root causes of migration. The last work programme of Societal Challenge 6 was designed to align with Commission's priorities on Migration<sup>17</sup>; Jobs, growth and investment; the Digital single market; Justice and fundamental rights; and fostering EU's democracies.

SC6 Work Programme 2018-2020 was built around 3 main streams, addressing emerging research areas and themes that were left out of previous work programmes. The programming also took into account the lessons learned from the interim Evaluation of H2020. The streams include migration (Call MIGRATION), the fourth industrial revolution (Call TRANSFORMATION) and the challenges of global and EU governance (Call GOVERNANCE). The work programme was meant to allow the research community to provide scientific elements of assessment regarding these challenges, and formulating policy options at EU and Member States level.

The Call 1 Migration had an overall budget of roughly 90M€. Following the lines identified in the conclusion of the Policy Review, and respecting the priorities expressed in the Advisory Board Report and the discussion with Member States' representatives in the Programme Committee, the programming focused on policies, flows, and drivers of migration. Within this framework, several topics were addressed such as migration governance, integration of third country nationals in EU societies, children, migration and education, international migration trends and dynamics, migration and development. In order to allow for comparative analysis on the different areas in focus, an innovative approach was adopted in cooperation with the Research Council on Social Science of Canada. Such cooperation, endorsed by the Directorate General for Research and Innovation (DG RTD) through its International Cooperation department, allowed for an automatic funding by the Canadian

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<sup>17</sup> It is to be noted that despite the securitization of the European agenda on migration, the framework programme kept the two streams separated in two different societal challenges (6 and 7). It however addressed cross-cutting themes and challenging realities by including topics on radical ideologies and societal polarisation, which take into account changing European and international geopolitical realities.



Research Council of Canadian partners of successful proposals. This mechanism allowed for an increased participation of Canadian institutions in important migration governance and protection systems-related topics where a comparative approach is particularly relevant for the analysis and, most of all, policy recommendations.

By January 2020, a total of 23 projects were funded through the different topics of the Work Programme 2018-2020, Call 1-MIGRATION. Below we provide a detailed analysis per topic and per project for the totality of the Call.

**Policies.** Three topics focused specifically on migration policies and governance: MIGRATION-01-2019; MIGRATION-02-2018; MIGRATION-07-2019.

Overall, 8 projects have been funded under the different topics.

MIGRATION-01-2019	MIGRATION-02-2018	MIGRATION-07-2019
HummingBird	MAGYC	VULNER
Quantmig	ADMIGOV	PROTECT
FUME	AGRUMIG	

The call **MIGRATION-01-2019** addressed the challenge of global migration, its drivers and their interrelation with people’s propensity to migrate. It aimed at elaborating projections and scenarios for appropriate planning and effective policymaking. Under such call, three projects were funded: HummingBird, Quantmig and FUME. These projects are quite different in nature, scope, analytical methods and disciplines involved, ranging from statistics to economics, geography, sociology, anthropology and history, among others.

Enhanced migration measures from a multidimensional perspective - **HummingBird**<sup>18</sup> (December 2019 – November 2023) aims at improving understandings of changing nature of migration flows and their drivers, as well as to analyse patterns, motivations and new geographies of migration. It calculates population estimates to determine emerging and future trends. Migration scenarios are then developed taking into account both quantitative and qualitative perspectives, including the use

<sup>18</sup> <https://hummingbird-h2020.eu/>



of non-traditional data sources. Global scenarios are also based on the effects and effectiveness of past migration policies.

Quantifying Migration Scenarios for Better Policy - **QuantMig**<sup>19</sup> (February 2020 – January 2023) aims at producing comprehensive, multi-perspective and robust quantitative migration scenarios to support various areas of European migration policy. The project works on scenario generation (through interactive simulation models), being firmly grounded in cutting-edge developments in conceptualising, explaining, estimating and forecasting migration. A particular focus is given to mobility and decision-making of migrants. The project aims to deliver directly applicable tools for policy support, e.g. open data and models, accessible interactive tools and visualisations, and a range of simulations for migration policy and planning.

Future Migration Scenarios for Europe - **FUME**<sup>20</sup> (December 2019 – November 2022) focuses on understanding the patterns, motivations and modalities of migration at multiple geographical scales, from international through regional to the local, and on imagining possible futures. It considers migration and mobility in its local dimension, from decision to migrate to integrating local communities in host societies. It considers that cities, therefore, both in countries of origin and destination, are significant determinants of global migration and small-scale local knowledge on migration is necessary to avoid misleading results associated with the limitations arising from the use of global or national patterns only.

The call [MIGRATION-02-2018](#) focused on forward looking systems for migration governance. It aimed at studying new global migration governance regimes, in line with the Sustainable Development Goals of Agenda 2030 and the New York Declaration of 2016. Conscious that the EU is involved in the global effort to design multilevel migration governance models applicable to the Union and to its Member States, under this call, three projects were funded: MAGYC, ADMIGOV and AGRUMIG.

MigrAtion Governance and asYlum Crises - **MAGYC**<sup>21</sup> (November 2018-October 2022) seeks to assess how migration governance has been influenced by the recent 'refugee crisis', and how crises at large shape policy responses on migration. MAGYC seeks to appraise these policy responses in the light of the crisis and assess their efficiency for the long-term governance of migration.

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<sup>19</sup> <https://www.southampton.ac.uk/quantmig/index.page>

<sup>20</sup> <http://www.futuremigration.eu/>

<sup>21</sup> <https://www.magyc.uliege.be/>





Advancing Alternative Migration Governance - **ADMIGOV**<sup>22</sup> (February 2019 – January 2023) studies how alternative approaches to migration governance can be better designed and put into practice, starting from the reality of existing policies and practices to better understand gaps between principles and practices, incorporating key issues such as labour migration, protection needs and development goals. ADMIGOV will develop several case studies of key times and spaces in migration governance, including the Greek islands, Lebanon, and Turkey, to better understand the most important and most problematic processes at play.

‘Leaving something behind’ - Migration governance and agricultural & rural change in ‘home’ communities: comparative experience from Europe, Asia and Africa - **AGRUMIG**<sup>23</sup> (February 2019 – January 2022) focuses on an integrated approach to migration governance to address the two way relationship between labour mobility and changes in agriculture and the rural sector. It carries out comparative analysis of seven countries to analyse the economic, institutional, cultural and agro-ecological factors which shape these relationships.

The call **MIGRATION-07-2019** fostered comparative analysis in the way countries legislate and enact the protection of refugees. The challenge is to safeguard international law standards on the treatment of asylum seekers and internally displaced persons, address imbalances in sharing responsibilities, and ensure the EU plays a key role globally while also aligning the reform of its common asylum system to feed into the emerging regime of global asylum governance. Under this very complex call, two projects were funded: VULNER and PROTECT.

Vulnerabilities under the Global Protection Regime: how does the law assess, address, shape, and produce the vulnerabilities of protection seekers? - **VULNER**<sup>24</sup> (February 20 – January 23) provides a comprehensive analysis of how the ‘protection regimes’ of select countries address the vulnerabilities of ‘protection seekers’. The select countries are in Europe (Belgium, Germany, Italy, Norway), North America (Canada), the Middle East (Lebanon) and Africa (Uganda and South Africa). The analysis adopts two different yet complementary perspectives. First, the way the ‘vulnerabilities’ of the protection seekers are being assessed and addressed by the relevant norms and in the practices of the decision makers will be systematically documented and analysed through a combination of legal and empirical data. Second, the various forms and nature of the concrete experiences of ‘vulnerability’ as they are lived by the protection seekers, including the resilience strategies and how they

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<sup>22</sup> <http://admigov.eu/>

<sup>23</sup> <http://agrumig.iwmi.org/>

<sup>24</sup> <https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/870845>



are being continuously shaped in interactions with the legal frameworks, will be documented and analysed through empirical data collected during fieldwork research.

The right to international protection: a pendulum between globalization and nativization? - **PROTECT**<sup>25</sup> (February 2020 – January 2023) aims at developing perspectives to international protection that address the challenges posed by the current politically turbulent context; assessing the impacts of the Global Compacts on the right to international protection, discovering ways of reconstructing their relationships with the pre-existing legal frames that advance international protection; assessing the impacts of the Global Compacts on the governance of international protection, discovering the most effective modes of global governance; and assessing the impact of the Global Compacts on the public recognition of the right to international protection, identifying the networks and discourses that hinder or facilitate support to international protection.

**Flows.** Three topics focused specifically on migration flows and impacts, including MIGRATION-03-2019; MIGRATION-05-2018; DT-MIGRATION-06-2018-2019.

Overall, 12 projects have been funded under this topic. The average duration per project is three years.

MIGRATION-03-2019	MIGRATION-05-2018	DT-MIGRATION-06-2018-2019
MIMY	IMMERSE	MIICT
Welcomingspaces	CHILD-UP	REBUILD
MATILDE	MICREATE	NADINE
		MICADO
		EASYRIGHTS
		WELCOME

<sup>25</sup> <https://www.uib.no/en/sampol/130239/protect-right-international-protection-pendulum-between-globalization-and-nativization>



The call [MIGRATION-03-2019](#), was intended to provide policy makers and the society as a whole with greater understanding of the social and economic effects and impacts of migration in Europe, also in a view to ensuring the effectiveness of integration / inclusion policies. Under this call, three projects were funded: MIMY, Welcomingspaces, MATILDE.

EMpowerment through liquid Integration of Migrant Youth in vulnerable conditions - **MIMY**<sup>26</sup> (February 2020 – January 2023) is a comparative interdisciplinary study of migrant integration with the aim of empowering young migrants in vulnerable conditions and supporting integration strategies within the EU, through 18 case studies within 9 countries. It analyses integration policies and strategies across macro (EU migration policies), meso (regional economic & social systems) and micro (individual practices) levels by establishing a unified theoretical framework at the intersection of liquid integration, resilience and vulnerability. This multi-method approach provides analyses of the long-term socio-economic effects of successful and failed integration; the factors fostering or hindering integration processes of young migrants and how diverse social actors and institutions can support the agency of young migrants.

Investing in 'Welcoming Spaces' in Europe: revitalizing shrinking areas by hosting non-EU migrants - **Welcomingspaces**<sup>27</sup> (February 2020 – January 2024). How to achieve inclusive and sustainable development in shrinking regions, contributing to revitalisation while providing opportunities for the successful integration of non-EU migrants? The project aims at 'rethinking' ways forward in creating inclusive space to contribute to the revitalisation of these places and the successful integration of migrants in demographically and economically shrinking areas. Examples of small towns and villages offsetting declining population by attracting non-EU international migrants are found in various European counties. Their success seems to depend on a combination of collective action, multi-stakeholder collaboration and institutional innovations. The possibilities for upscaling such initiatives are hence underexplored.

Migration Impact Assessment to Enhance Integration and Local Development in European Rural and Mountain Areas – **MATILDE**<sup>28</sup> (February 2020 – January 2023) develops a transdisciplinary conceptual and methodological framework for a multi-dimensional assessment of economic and social impacts of third country nationals at different scales (from EU-aggregate, to local level). The assessment of their impact on local development and on the re-distribution of resources in EU rural and

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<sup>26</sup> <https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/870700>

<sup>27</sup> <https://www.uu.nl/en/news/revitalising-shrinking-regions-by-attracting-migrants>

<sup>28</sup> [http://www.eurac.edu/it/research/projects/Documents/H2020Matilde\\_ITA.pdf](http://www.eurac.edu/it/research/projects/Documents/H2020Matilde_ITA.pdf)



mountain regions is based on the hypothesis that third country nationals are an important driver of socio-economic development and have a strong effect on the relationships between urban and rural/mountain areas and on a balanced territorial development.

The call [MIGRATION-05-2018](#), aimed at exploring innovative ways to ensure the access to their rights for migrant children. The call aimed at identifying the challenges faced by education systems due to growing cultural, linguistic and ethnic diversity and to socio-economic inequalities. Under this call, three projects were funded: IMMERSE, CHILD-UP, MICREATE.

Integration Mapping of refugee and Migrant Children in Schools and Other Experiential Environments in Europe - **IMMERSE**<sup>29</sup> (December 2018 – November 2022) aims to enhance the socio-educative inclusion of all refugee and migrant children through the generation of new data and policy recommendations on the integration of refugee and migrant children. ICT-supported solutions are used to carry out research activities in order to create a dashboard of socio-educational indicators.

Children Hybrid Integration: Learning Dialogue as a way of Upgrading Policies of Participation - **CHILD-UP**<sup>30</sup> (January 2019 – December 2021) researches the social conditions of migrant children's integration through social participation, taking in primary account gender differences, legal status and age groups. Among other things, the project provides guidelines for dialogic activities in schools; written and online training packages for teachers and other professionals; a package for self-evaluation of activities. These tools will support co-action of teachers and other professionals, and coordinated planning between schools and their partners.

Migrant Children and Communities in a Transforming Europe - **MICREATE**<sup>31</sup> (January 2019 – December 2021) aims at identifying existing measures for the integration of migrant children at the regional and local level through secondary data analysis; analysing the social impacts of these integration programmes through case studies in ten countries applying qualitative and quantitative child-centred research; developing integration measures and identification of social investment particularly in educational policies and school systems that aim to empower children.

The call [DT-MIGRATION-06-2018-2019](#) (CNECT), co-managed with DG CNECT, focused on the maximisation of ICT solutions to ensure the integration of third

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<sup>29</sup> <https://www.immerse-h2020.eu/>

<sup>30</sup> <http://www.child-up.eu/>

<sup>31</sup> <https://cesie.org/en/project/micreate/>



country nationals in host societies. It addressed the integration of migrants, including refugees through the lens of ICT-enabled solutions and toolkits for the implementation of inclusion policies by public administrations. Under this call, 6 projects have been funded: MIICT, REBUILD, NADINE, MICADO, EASYRIGHTS and WELCOME.

ICT Enabled Public Services for Migration - **MIICT**<sup>32</sup> (November 2018 – October 2021) aims at designing, developing and deploying tools that address the challenge of migrant integration through the co-creation of improved ICT-enabled services with migrants, public sector services and NGOs (Non-Governmental-Organisations).

ICT-enabled integration facilitator and life rebuilding guidance - **REBUILD**<sup>33</sup> (January 2019 – December 2021) aims at improving management procedures of the local authorities and the life quality of the migrants through ICT-enabled solutions. The approach is user-centred and participatory with pilots in 3 main countries: Italy, Spain and Greece. Key technological solutions include a GDPR-compliant migrants' integration related background information gathering with user consent and anonymization of personal information; AI-based needs matching tool to match migrant needs and skills with services provided by local authorities in EU countries and labour market needs at local and regional level; a digital companion using chatbots to provide them smart support for easy access to local services (training, health, employment, welfare, etc.), among others.

digital iNtegrAted system for the social support of migraNts and refugEes - **NADINE**<sup>34</sup> (November 2018 – October 2021) aims at creating an ICT-driven platform able to provide: 1) functionalities for skill assessment, 2) tailored suited training programs, 3) a digital companion that will suggest and assist the end-users through administrative tasks and 4) a data lake available to public administration bodies for better organisation of migration flows.

Through the project Migrant Integration Cockpits and Dashboards - **MICADO**<sup>35</sup> (January 2019 – June 2022) experts from public administration, migration research, and IT aims at creating an EU-wide applicable business intelligence solution in support of migrant integration, and pilot it in Antwerp, Bologna, Hamburg, and Madrid. It aims at creating co-designed sessions for a universal service package, e.g. location and activity mapping, personal profiling, or matchmaking for mentors, jobs, education, etc..

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<sup>32</sup> <https://www.miict.eu/>

<sup>33</sup> <https://www.rebuildeurope.eu/it/default.aspx>

<sup>34</sup> <http://nadine-project.eu/>

<sup>35</sup> <https://www.micadoproject.eu/>



Enabling immigrants to easily know and exercise their rights - **EASYRIGHTS**<sup>36</sup> (January 2020 – June 2022) aims at developing a co-creation eco-system in which different actors belonging to the local governance increase the quantity and quality of public (welfare) services available to third country nationals. The specific aims are to improve the current personalisation and contextualisation levels, empower the prospective beneficiaries of existing services in getting better access and fruition opportunities, and to engage Quadruple Helix stakeholders in joint, purposeful co-creation efforts, facilitated by the use of hackathons.

Multiple Intelligent Conversation Agent Services for Reception, Management and Integration of Third Country Nationals in the EU - **WELCOME**<sup>37</sup> (February 2020 – January 2023) aims at developing intelligent technologies for a personalized, psychologically and socially-competent solution for both migrants and public administrations through immersive and intelligent services, in which embodied intelligent multilingual agents will act as dedicated personalized assistants of migrants in contexts of registration, orientation, language teaching, civic education, and social and societal inclusion.

**Migration.** One topic specifically focused on migration and development: **MIGRATION-08-2018**, with a specific focus on forced displacement in regions of origin of the crisis.

<b>MIGRATION-08-2018</b>
FOCUS
TRAFIG
RAISD

The call **MIGRATION-08-2018**, specifically addressed the challenge of forced displacement and protracted refugee and displacement situations. The acknowledgment is that such situations are often accepted, albeit reluctantly, as a semi-permanent state of affairs given that return as a solution to forced displacement rarely takes place. The situation affects life trajectories of displaced

<sup>36</sup> <https://www.easyrights.eu/>

<sup>37</sup> <https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/870930/it>



people and poses multiple challenges for social, economic, urban and environmental services and for local investments and labour markets.

Forced displacement and refugee-host community solidarity - **FOCUS**<sup>38</sup> (January 2019 – December 2021) explores the socio-psychological dimensions of refugee- and host-community relations and analyses the socio-economic integration of refugees and the consequences of this in host societies. The research sites have been selected to ensure that insights and lessons are derived from medium- and long-term experiences with forced displacement and local integration. This knowledge is used to transform and strengthen existing promising solutions for social- and labour market integration. The integration solutions will be pilot tested in at least five European countries by governmental and non-governmental end-users. The solutions are finally brought together in the Refugee and Host Community Toolbox.

Transnational Figurations of Displacement: Connectivity and Mobility as Solutions to Protracted Refugee Situations - **TRAFIG**<sup>39</sup> (January 2019 – December 2021) undertakes comparative empirical research in refugee camps, cities and rural areas in Africa, Asia as well as Europe and aims at answering the following questions: How do displaced people deal with the complex system of asylum and aid? How do refugees sustain their living in long-lasting situations of uncertainty? How do transnational networks affect refugees' lives and future options? How do displaced people and host communities interact? What are the wider economic impacts of displacement? The overarching goal of the project is to support the development of alternative solutions to protracted displacement.

Reshaping Attention and Inclusion Strategies for Distinctively vulnerable people among the forcibly displaced - **RAISD**<sup>40</sup> (February 2019 – January 2022) aims at identifying highly Vulnerable Groups (VG) among these forcibly displaced people, analysing their specific needs, and finding suitable practices to address them. The concept of 'vulnerability context' considers the interplay between the features of these persons and their hosting communities, their interactions and experiences, and how different solutions for attention and inclusion affect them. The project is implemented through participatory action research approach, grounded in human rights and socio-ecological models. The team will work as a network of units in countries along migration routes, promote the involvement of individuals identified as highly vulnerable.

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<sup>38</sup> <https://www.focus-refugees.eu/>

<sup>39</sup> <https://trafig.eu/>

<sup>40</sup> <https://raisd-h2020.eu/>



Overall, it is estimated that in the programming period 2018-2020, Horizon2020 devoted 200€M to research on migration through its different Societal Challenges.<sup>41</sup> Furthermore, a wealth of research mechanisms and funding has been available in the past years, along the lines of the policy needs and research gaps identified at different levels. *De facto*, beyond the different programmes and initiatives funded at EC level, several other initiatives and projects were founded by national research schemes, along the same lines.

## 2 A stock-taking exercise

### Horizon2020 and beyond

Thanks to its migration research hub<sup>42</sup> which is publicly available on the IMISCOE portal, the Platform CrossMigration has provided / is providing the EU with relevant and up-to-date synthetic information regarding existing research findings and uncovered research areas.

CrossMigration makes research evidence on migration available, by synthesising main findings, clustering knowledge and identifying gaps. The platform aims, among other things, at informing policymakers wishing to craft policies based on robust evidence. The hub allows policy makers, communication experts and the general public to access the high-quality evidence that can guide them through in their respective areas of responsibility.

As a starting point, CrossMigration produced a taxonomy of migration studies to systematize knowledge on migration, making it clearer and more accessible. The taxonomy helped organising existing knowledge and insofar structuring from a research perspective the EU research agenda on migration.

The taxonomy is organised along 4 main axes: research methods, research disciplines, research geographies and research topics. The latter is broken down in 4 main clusters:

- migration governance, including several sub-clusters: governance actors, immigrant policy and laws, migration policy and laws, governance processes;
- migration processes, including several sub-clusters: drivers, forms and infrastructures;

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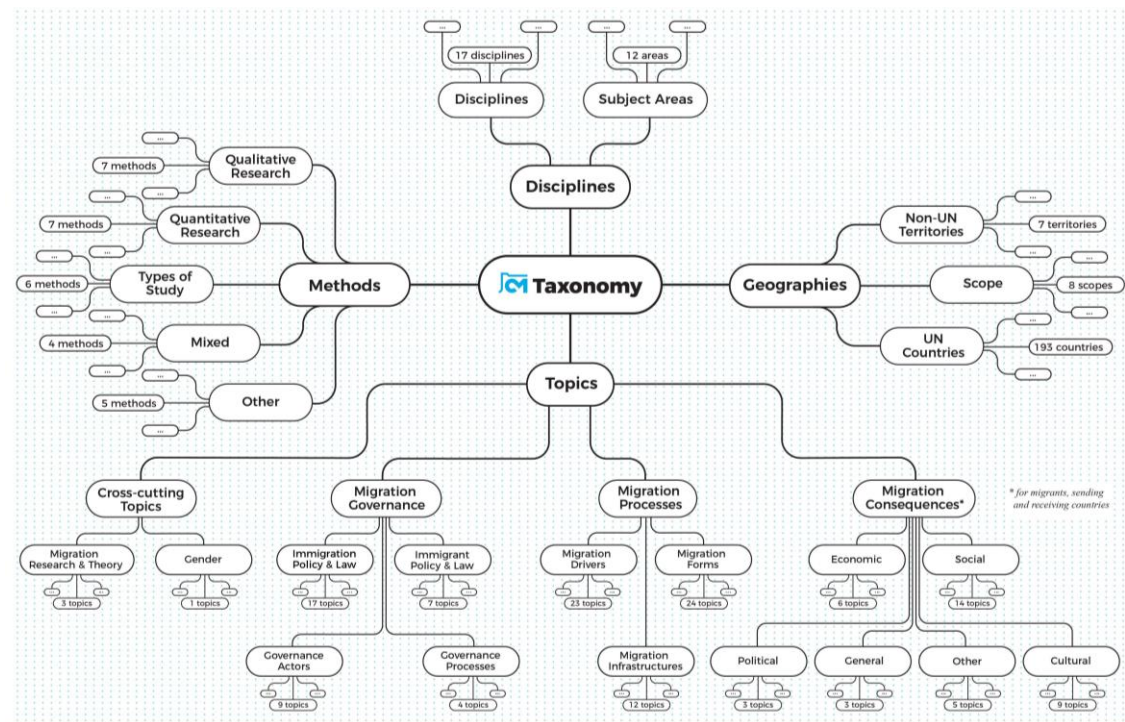
<sup>41</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/horizon2020/sites/horizon2020/files/migration\\_fact\\_sheet\\_2018-2020.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/horizon2020/sites/horizon2020/files/migration_fact_sheet_2018-2020.pdf)

<sup>42</sup> <https://crossmigration.eu/>





- migration consequences (for individuals as well as for sending and receiving countries), including several sub-clusters: socio-cultural, socio-economic, transversal and legal-political consequences; and
- cross-cutting topics, including several sub-clusters migration research and theory, gender and sexuality, race and ethnicity.



Each of the sub-clusters include a list of themes, e.g. for the sub-cluster on drivers, there is a list of 23 different topics for which a comprehensive catalogue of journal articles, book, book chapters, reports, projects and policy briefs.

Beyond the taxonomy, the catalogue and the research and expert database, the Platform produced a series of specific forward looking outputs such as migration scenarios (to Europe), a series of methodological and ethical briefs drawing both on concrete issues encountered in individual projects and wider topics, and a an interactive textbook of migration studies aimed at introducing readers to the different theories, concepts, and methodological approaches in migration studies and to lead them to key in-depth readings and resources from the field.

These outputs complete the efforts of providing scholars, policy makers, communication specialists and the general public with high-quality evidence base for their perusal, as well as a more substantiated way to identify actual knowledge and research gaps.



As for the topics, 4 thematic areas were identified as particularly relevant for policy-makers. On those, Cross-migration carried out specific analysis in order to synthesize existing knowledge, address recurring questions and identify gaps to be further addressed through the future research agenda on migration. Two out of four, i.e. policies and flows, correspond to the areas identified in the Review as policy areas and research trends largely covered by programmed research since early 2000. Drivers and Infrastructures were instead identified by Cross-Migration as innovative research clusters that are increasingly addressed by/through policy decisions, but still in need for evidence systematisation.

### **Migration drivers**

The rapid evidence assessment and expert workshop have revealed current research trends and several research gaps in the literature on migration drivers. The focus on drivers at the origin and destinations and the relative neglect of those operating in transit, i.e. on the migration journey, as well as their shifting significance over time and space has recently received more attention but remains an understudied area (Crawley & Skleparis 2018).

Thematically, besides rising research output on environmental drivers, research exploring individual-level factors such as migration aspirations, experience, and decision-making have gained increasing prominence in the literature. However, economic and social-cultural drivers are still the focus in a large part of this literature.

Some areas are still relatively understudied such as the role of family ties in migration, or constraining and facilitating effects of various technologies. In order to advance our understanding of the relative importance of different migration drivers in certain contexts, future research on migration drivers will have to disaggregate and specify driver analyses along various intersections of age, gender, geography, sector of employment, socio-economic status etc.

The literature on migration drivers is relatively silent with regard to the changing character of drivers during migration which may change dynamically. Some structural drivers are rapidly changing ('shocks') while other drivers may change only slowly over time. And finally, scholarship on complex driver configurations is still in its infancy as most driver analyses hardly consider complex interaction and feedback effects between multiple drivers. Future research on 'driver complexes' should hereby explore and test the relevance of the changing nature of drivers as predisposing, mediating, enabling and triggering factors that may change dynamically over time and over the course of a migration journey.



## Migration infrastructures

The field of migration infrastructures is rather fragmented. Research is rather imbalanced in that some issues have received scholarly attention whereas others are almost completely absent. It is crucial to fill these knowledge gaps in order to gain a holistic understanding of migration processes.

First, in terms of geographic focus areas, research on migration infrastructures is far more advanced in the Asian context than in Europe and other regions. Notably in the European context, several studies address the field of migration industries, i.e. the commercial aspects of facilitating migration. Although this research is closely related to the field of migration infrastructures, it does not take into account the broader structures of migration facilitation in which such commercial activities are embedded. Second, as mentioned before, there is a comparably strong focus on human smugglers and traffickers in migration studies. Literature in this field is often morally loaded or even biased, sometimes blurring the distinctions between the two categories of trafficking and smuggling. Compared to this, there is less research on regular agents such as work recruitment agencies, student mobility consultants or marriage agents which is surprising when taking into account how many (regular) migrants use their services. Third, digital migration studies are an emerging field of interest. So far, unequal access to resources and the so-called digital divide as determined by class, gender, age and country of origin remain under-researched areas. Finally, as mentioned above, there is little research on the interface of migration and tourism or migration and travel logistics. Notably, means of transportation, such as carriers, air(ports) or bus and train stations are so far widely neglected in migration research. Transport economics, tourism studies or legal studies concerned with mobility regulations are disciplines that could complement research on migration infrastructures.

## Migration flows

Existing research often applies the high-/low- skilled migration dichotomy, which has left the area in between largely overlooked. Research gaps also include the effects of labour migration on the wages of native-born workers, as well as the social, political, and economic factors that are linked to unionisation of migrants (McGovern, 2007). Other under-researched areas include bogus self-employment and posted work among labour migrants in the EU (Galgóczy et al., 2009), and the over-education of migrants, including its causes and consequences (Piracha and Vadean, 2012). The gaps noted here are only some of the under-studied issues.



Moreover, research on labour migration needs to address the issue of ‘mixed migration flows’ (Triandafyllidou and Dimitriadi, 2013), which complicate the clear-cut distinctions between the standard categories of labour, family, and humanitarian migration. The issue of ‘mixed migration flows’ is especially relevant in studies on labour market performance of non-labour migrants, such as recent refugees in destination countries worldwide.

Finally, in setting the agenda for future labour migration research, a broader political, social, and economic context of the contemporary world should be taken into account. Most importantly, new Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) are confounding the distinction between migration and mobility (King, 2002). New developments in the ‘labour’ element of labour migration will require studies to address the links between migration and changes in the world of work, such as automation of labour and structural changes in the economy.

### Migration policies

A commonly made claim is that there is a significant gap between knowledge production and policy-making. Researchers question, for example, whether policies are based on research evidence. While policy-makers question whether research is based on a realistic understanding of the policy process.

This raises the question of bridging the gap between research and policy-making in the field of migration (Ruhs, Tamas, & Palme, 2019). Research and policy-making are part of triangular relations, which also involve public debates (public opinion and the media) (Ibid). As already noted, political concerns regarding the narratives, discourses and consequently public debates on migration has greatly increased. Developing a better understanding of the complexity of these tri-partite relations is a gap that could be filled.

A key gap is not the lack of knowledge or evidence, but rather the need for an enhanced understanding of how existing knowledge relates to ‘real world’ decision-making.

Since 2015, research and attention to migration and asylum have increased considerably and has also diversified to include other related themes. The year 2015 has had impacts on the modes of governance – such as emergency-type modalities - on the framing and the discourses of migration issues and has triggered the emergence of new and diverse actors. All of which is reflected in the recent evolution of this field of research. There is, for example, growing attention to new actors, or actors with extended powers, in the asylum and border control governance. Non-



state actors also broadened their action and role during emergencies, or new actors stepped in, either international organisations or local and national civil society actors: both regarding the reception of asylum seekers, the responses to the humanitarian emergency, the grassroots movements of solidarity towards migrants and the role of humanitarian organisations in the rescues at sea. This influences migration governance, both locally, nationally and at the EU level. Concerning modes of governance, the crisis has revealed an increased informalization of modes of governance. It refers to resorting to extra-treaty and extra-EU law instruments, to non-legal instruments outside of the EU framework, as well as to informal arrangements that occur outside of the EU (e.g. EU-Turkey arrangement). Further, in times of emergency, states may increasingly devolve power and responsibilities to local governments and cities in the management of arrivals, notably concerning the reception of migrants.

### 3 The future of an EU research agenda on migration

With migration still very high in the political agenda of the new Commission<sup>43</sup> and faced with the need to programme its future actions on migration, the EU seek progress in the several policy areas among which: international protection; external borders and safeguarding Schengen; return and reintegration; European labour migration policy; migrant integration; Europe's regional migration system; cooperation agendas with partner countries; a whole-of-migration-routes approach.

All the above calls for a better understanding of the most pressing questions from a policy perspective, where existing research can provide valuable insights to address them, and what knowledge gaps remain.

#### Knowledge Centre for Migration and Demography

At wider European Commission level, an important actor developed in 2017 specifically on migration-related research: the Knowledge Centre on Migration and

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<sup>43</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/promoting-our-european-way-life\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/promoting-our-european-way-life_en), and, more specifically: [https://ec.europa.eu/info/priorities/promoting-european-way-life/migration\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/priorities/promoting-european-way-life/migration_en). In the introductory paragraph on its official website, the Commission "recognises that migration is a common challenges that is best addressed jointly by EU Member States. The Commission has proposed a number of measures to reform migration management, it has offered protection and support to millions, saved lives at sea, dismantled smuggling networks and reduced the number of irregular arrivals to Europe. However, due to the evolving geopolitical landscape and a steady rise in migratory pressure globally more work is needed." Furthermore, the president of the EU Commission, Ursula Von der Leyen called for 'New Pact on Migration and Asylum' including the relaunch of the reform of the Dublin system, a 'fully functioning Schengen system', as well as mutually beneficial cooperation with countries of origin and transit.



Demography (KCMD)<sup>44</sup>, hosted by the Joint Research Centre and aimed at serving as knowledge hub for all Commission (and EU Member States) services. The KCMD offers (1) independent scientific evidence for strengthening the Commission's response to the opportunities and challenges related to migration, demography and related policies, and (2) a Dynamic Data Hub that puts in a single place datasets on different dimensions related to migration and refugee flows to the EU and that covers time series of selected demographic and socioeconomic data (e.g. population growth, GDP, labour force and other World Development Indicators).

Besides all the mechanisms and initiatives carried out by the research services of the Commission (including Horizon2020, both the framework programme and the initiatives funded under other actions of pillar 3, pillar 1- Excellence in science, i.e. ERC and MSCA, and the KCMD), in 2017 the Commission has also created specific mechanisms to fund research on migration. They were meant to address specific research questions or policy/programming needs.

### **EUTF Result and Evidence Facility**

Supported by the EU Trust Fund<sup>45</sup>, the Research and Evidence Facility (REF)<sup>46</sup> has been created to collate and produce evidence and policy relevant knowledge for the region of East Africa, with a special focus on the Horn of Africa. This is a temporary facility linked to a specific financing instrument, yet it represents the main source of evidence / knowledge for the programming of development aid around migration. Such knowledge is expected to include (but not be limited to) information on the drivers of migration, dynamics of cross-border economies and centre/periphery relations, the features and limitations of government migration management systems and social service provision, drivers of radicalism and violent extremism, and opportunities for strengthening resilience. These topics have been relevant in recent years, but have gained in significance to EU member states with the increase and acceleration of migration from several regions, including the Horn of Africa, into the European Union. The research is conducted by a consortium made up of SOAS as the lead partner, the University of Oxford's International Migration Institute (Oxford/IMI) and Sahan Research (based in Nairobi, Kenya). The overall purpose of the Research and Evidence Facility is to fill knowledge gaps about the causes and drivers of instability, including violent conflict, irregular migration, forced displacement at regional, national and local levels, capture lessons learned, generate evidence of

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<sup>44</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/knowledge4policy/migration-demography\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/knowledge4policy/migration-demography_en)

<sup>45</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/trustfundforafrica/index\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/trustfundforafrica/index_en)

<sup>46</sup> <https://www.soas.ac.uk/ref-hornresearch/>



impact, and feed this knowledge into operational, programming policy and political practice. Evidence will be used to inform a wide variety of stakeholders such as relevant government bodies, regional organisations, other donors, implementing partners and civil society.

### Programmed research

From the programmed research perspective, most of the policy priorities overlap with long established topics in migration studies while the internationalisation and institutionalisation of the migration research agenda prompted the shift from questions of “who” and “what” towards “how” and “why” (Pisarevskaya et al., 2019). This implied a more research and nuanced understanding of the interconnectedness between migration processes, international policy making and economic and societal megatrends.

In line with the conclusion of the Policy Review, trends (the “how”) that would have deserved more research and analysis include (i) new geographies and typologies of flows that are changing and diversifying, making simple binary matrices of origin and destination countries no longer suffice to capture the movements; (ii) new temporalities of migration affecting both less-skilled and highly skilled migrants, and both young and older people, whereby skilled migration, usually seen as a privileged and unproblematic flow of ‘wanted’ migrants enjoying good public and policy support, is in fact very fragile when put to the test.

Also, most scenarios depict that in the near future migration in Europe will be determined by megatrends (the “why”) such as civil war and conflict; urbanisation and climate change; globalisation of economies, values and aspirations; changing technologies and means of communication; automation impacting labour markets; demographics; increasing educational levels; and an increase in diversity within the population residing on the territory of the EU. Both crisis-induced migration and non-crisis induced drivers will need further analysis, beyond the well understood role of income differentials, the perceived differences in the quality of life and public institutions in different world regions, focusing on the image of transnational companies, regions and cities as triggers for migration and choice of destination countries. Furthermore, more focus on non-mobile populations, which are still a majority compared to those who move, will improve the understanding that motivates the stayers. This in turn might improve the understanding of the drivers of those who move, thus complement prevailing approaches. In this respect, the availability and quality of population and mobility data need to be improved.

Some of the areas that are still understudied, include (the list is by no means comprehensive):



- Health and migration, including the production of a theoretical framework which is agreed by the scientific community and methodological efforts to produce data on the multi-staged and cumulative nature of the health risks associated with each stage of the individual migration history (the pre-departure phase, the travel phase, the destination phase, the interception phase and the return phase), and with each migrant group differently. These area could include focus on children development and migration.
- Trade and migration, including trade agreements with ACP countries and their impacts on migration;
- Youth and migration, with a focus interactions between international mobility, connectivity, climate change, climate-aware behaviours;
- Demographic bulge in non-EU countries and youth mobility, with focus on the development of an African middle class increasingly mobile;
- Future of work and its impact on migration and integration within host societies;
- secondary movements of third country nationals within the EU;
- Local governance of diversity, with a focus on how does migration influences the governance of diversity in European cities;
- Changing concept of cultural heritage and migration, from the visible presence of the colonial past to development of belongings to EU societies and cities;
- Modern forms of cultural presence from third cultures, with a focus on how this shapes societies and belongings.

**Beyond specific sub-areas, there is a need for methodological advances and innovation in migration research that EU funding has tried to address by incentivizing more interdisciplinary research, not only among social scientists but by supporting research that gathers from very different research fields (i.e. technology, ITC and social sciences). 4 Conclusion**

Overall, the EU research agenda on migration is the result of different steps taken to address research gaps and ensure longitudinal perspective in areas that are of high interest for policy-makers. As we have shown above, the agenda has not been conceived in an homogeneous and coherent fashion, nor the different financing instrument were intended to develop a coherent logic among themselves. As a consequence, the so called research agenda shows a certain degree of incoherence and overlapping from a thematic perspective. However, since 2014-2015, the policy





need to have more coherent approaches in EU migration policies all together, pushed for a more comprehensive research framework between the EU and its Member States (as well as Associated Countries). H2020 – Societal Challenge 6 as well as other Societal Challenges and other financing mechanisms - gave migration a greater focus and ensured coordination with different policy areas (DGs) within the Commission and with EU Member States. For instance, beyond SC6 migration-dedicated call, very relevant aspects such as the role of migration policies in ensuring global justice, or the role of migration in bilateral relations between the EU and third countries, are addressed by projects funded under non-migration oriented topics, be it under SC6 or, to a lesser extent, through other Societal Challenges.

Overall, although crisis-oriented, we can affirm that the policy push for coherence induced to orient the last work programmes of H2020 towards a more systemic approach to migration studies. If we cannot argue that a strategic research agenda for migration has been set up through H2020, such instrument certainly contributed for a more organic, wide-ranging and policy-relevant research results on migration.

This effort coincided with research programming strategic trends, such as the increased focus on multidisciplinary research, larger scale projects with a higher number of partners and countries (both EU and non-EU) covered between participants and research areas, and higher combination of research methods.

Through H2020, well beyond SC6, a wealth of research has been funded on migration. More than 40 projects on migration received funding, with an average budget of 2M€ (ranging from 1 to 5M€) and an average duration of 3.5 years.

To these projects, one should add the variety of researches funded under national schemes and/or other research bodies (public and private), which add on to the EU-funded migration research. While this certainly allows for a sound body of evidence in the different research areas and policy fields, the lack of coordination among multi-level funding also generates incoherence and confusion. Stronger efforts to ensure coordination at least among EU financing instruments on migration research and studies, and possibly with national funding schemes, would be of advantage for the research community and for policy-makers.

Furthermore, beyond programming, there is now a need to ensure synergies and coordination among projects that are exploring the different dimensions of migration. It is imperative that findings and tools elaborated/developed by the different projects are discussed in a combined and thorough fashion. This can be done by maximising the use of existing Platforms, and counting on the engagement of the Commission and its services.

While ensuring the comparison of research results as methods and experiments (and their testing at local level) among projects funded under the Call MIGRATION, it is important to also include those projects funded under other Calls of SC6 that address



migration-relevant aspects through different lens. A clarifying example is the project Integrative Mechanisms for Addressing Spatial Justice and Territorial Inequalities in Europe- IMAJINE funded under the Call Social Transformations. The projects addresses territorial inequalities within the EU through an inter-disciplinary and multi-scalar approach that integrates perspectives from economics, human geography, political science and sociology, and it is due to end in December 2021.

Alongside with workshops and seminars to allow projects for cross-fertilising exchanges and discussions, an important conclusion is the need to elaborate an up-to-date Policy and Research Review collecting findings and discussing proposals of the projects funded since 2016. In order to encompass all the relevant dimensions, but also to flag the areas where overlapping and duplication have emerged, it would be useful to open the debate to the public. Platforms / projects are well placed to discuss findings and proposals with a wider research, think tanks and civil society community.

The work-programme 2018-2020 of SC6 presented a series of innovative approaches: first, the financing of several projects under the same topic. On average, 3 projects per topic have been funded; second, the inclusion of research institutions from third countries, including countries from the Global South; third, the participation of international organisations and NGOs into project consortia, strongly encouraged by the nature of the topics; forth, the inclusion of target groups in the design of research methods and approaches; fifth, the support of programmes mixing social sciences and STEM.

Future funding instruments and schemes should make sure that innovation in research methods and approaches is further developed and supported.

The detailed description of the aim of each topic, as well as the response given by the research community through the projects proposed, highlights the areas where a more differentiated range of methodologies and angles emerged; and those where the approaches and specific angles tend to converge, e.g. MIGRATION-05 or MIGRATION-06.

In this respect, it is particularly important to ensure that the tools, platforms, AI-solutions developed are confronted, that the pilots initiatives are compared, and that those projects that tested their solutions in specific geographical contexts are brought to discuss advantages and short-comings of their results so to avoid a proliferation of different solutions that will not be replicable nor usable at a larger scale.

The analysis also allowed to identify the complementarity of approaches developed by projects funded under topics MIGRATION-01, MIGRATION-02 and MIGRATION-08.



In particular, as far as topics MIGRATION-02 and MIGRATION-08 are concerned, it is interesting to note the combination of approaches covering both global, European and very local perspectives on governance and management of forced displacement, for instance. Also, a complementarity exists in terms of migration governance specific areas covered by the projects, focusing on different angles such as labour migration, mobility, displacement, asylum... Another interesting aspect is the combination of theoretical approaches and experiment-based methodologies, reflecting the contribution of a large number of disciplines and stakeholders involved in the different consortia.

Another important conclusion related specifically to Societal Challenge 6, is the need to identify the disciplines that are contributing the most to the analysis of the different challenges, and those who are less or even not represented at all. A thorough analysis will need to be carried out in order to identify reasons for recurrence (or the lack of it), and make sure that the topics in the upcoming work programmes and financing instruments are as comprehensive as possible also in terms of disciplines and not only in terms of research areas to be covered. This will allow for the research agenda on migration to grow in articulation and completeness.

Lastly, an important aspect that needs to be regarded with full attention is the impact of EU funding. As H2020 approaches to an end, a thorough analysis of the added value of EU-funded research with respect to other financing schemes should be envisaged. In this vein, CROSS-MIGRATION is an important basis that allows a first and very rich capitalisation on the achievements in terms of research results, partnership and innovation that EU projects allowed for.

On the other hand, from a policy perspective, with impact as one of the main criteria to assess the proposals presented to the various financing instruments, a thorough assessment should be carried out with respect to the outcomes of EU-funded research, at least in terms of policy impact. This would allow an open discussion on what would be the criteria to assess such an impact, e.g. a quote of a piece of research in a policy/legislative document issued by the EU institution? The invitation of a project to a policy workshop/discussion? The use of a project/research finding as a basis for policy programming? What else? This complex debate needs to be at the core of future programming, together with a transparent discussion on how to assess the potential impact of a project (or a proposal) as well as its actual outcomes in that sphere.



Table 1. Overview of H2020 –SC6 projects on Migration<sup>47</sup>

FLOWS / IMPACTS			POLICY / GOVERNANCE			DEVELOPMENT
<b>MIG-03-2019</b>	<b>MIG-05-2018</b>	<b>DT-MIG-06-2018-2019</b>	<b>MIG-01-2019</b>	<b>MIG-02-2018</b>	<b>MIG-07-2019</b>	<b>MIG-08-2018</b>
MIMY	IMMERSE	MIICT	Hummingbird	MAGYC	VULNER	FOCUS
Welcomingspaces	CHILD-UP	REBUILD	Quantmig	ADMIGOV	PROTECT	TRAFIG
MATILDE	MICREATE	NADINE	FUME	AGRUMIG		RAISD
		MICADO				
		EASYRIGHTS				
		WELCOME				

<sup>47</sup> Full account of EU-funded projects can be found in the research database of the Knowledge HUB: <https://crossmigration.eu/search>

