

**ENGLISH ONLY**

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**CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN  
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**Session 1 – Invited paper**

**POLICY NEEDS ON DIASPORAS DATA COLLECTION**

Submitted by International Organisation for Migrations (IOM)\*

- Give an understanding of the objectives, challenges and obstacles met by policy makers in engaging diasporas for development in order to extract ideas to strategically orient data collection.
- Find a COMMON LANGUAGE between statisticians and policy makers.
- What are policy makers looking for?
- What data is available to support the design of pro-diasporas policies?

- 1. GENERAL TRENDS AND ISSUES**
- 2. WHAT KIND OF DATA IS NEEDED?**
- 3. IOM CASE STUDIES**
- 4. SOME CONCLUSIONS**

**1. GENERAL TRENDS AND ISSUES**

- **Acquiring data on diasporas means DEFINING diasporas**
  - “Citizens of national origin”, “non-residents”, “second generation”, “and foreign born “,” labour migrants”, “temporary and seasonal migrants”: each country develops its own definition

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\* Paper prepared by Dina Ionescu

- IOM highlights the trans-national dimension of diasporas: here (the level of integration, acquisition of skills and well being in the host country influences strategies towards home country) and there (transfers of resources to home country, cultural-social-economic environment in the home country, intentions to return etc)

- **Generally: limited data collection**

- And problem of accuracy and reliability, how complete is the data? Often the knowledge is better in receiving countries concerning migrant entrance figures and foreign born population rather than the exit flows of migrants from the sending country.

- IOM 2003 Questionnaire on data collection (only 27% of respondents said they collected data on diasporas out of only 42 countries); in 2005 (70% of respondents out of 52 countries): but not the same sample! However clear increase.

- **Problem of comparability of data**

- Who is included in the definition of diasporas?

- Remittances transfers: workers or migrants, in or out of the balance of payments?

- **Question: who is in charge?**

- The responsibility of diasporas policies is born by different stakeholders according to different countries. However the shared responsibility within each country is not always clear.

- Europe: security-oriented agencies, Asia and Americas: migrant oriented agencies

- Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Costa Rica, Pakistan, Hungary), of Interior (Macedonia, Lithuania), For Foreigners (Cape Verde, Haiti), for Labour (Thailand, Bulgaria, Pakistan), for Ethnic Affairs (Estonia, Hungary), for Immigration (Canada), different types of agencies according to context (displaced persons, refugees, trafficking etc)

- Recent trend (after 2000): emergence of units specialised in diasporas within ministries (Ethiopia, Lithuania, Bulgaria, Peru, Serbia Montenegro, Romania)

- Key role of representations abroad, consulates and embassies (registering migrants): ex Peru whole new role redefined for its consulates

- Central Statistics Agency/ central repository that implies significant harmonisation: rare (Sweden, UK)

- **Availability of data shows policy interest**

- Growth in general figures may show improved collection methods and/or increased policy interest, but not necessarily an increase of the foreign born in real terms;

- The type of data available also shows policy interest: Indonesia and Philippines, good knowledge of migrant workers associations, Côte d'Ivoire and Ethiopia good knowledge of student associations, Mexico data on community associations and Tunisia on business networks

- **Link with labour migration**

- Countries with active labour migration programs are more likely to collect data on their expatriates and to engage in partnership with destination countries

- **Destination and origin country collaboration**

- Studying diasporas attracts attention on the question of sharing data between migration home and host (and transit) countries.

## 2. WHAT KIND OF DATA IS NEEDED?

- Diasporas policies are driven today by the policy interest in the development potential of trans-national migrants, by the significance of the migration flows, by the lobbying pressure of nationals abroad and by the recognition of the magnitude of remittances.
- The level of integration and well being in the host country impacts on development potential towards home country
- 5 levels of data needs

### 1/ Individual level

- Major issue of accurate registration of expatriate citizens: numbers, demography, location, country of destination, gender, age, qualification, occupation, length of stay (Bulgaria, Bosnia, Macedonia, Romania, Ukraine);
- Census abroad: Chile in 2003 and 2005 ongoing, Colombia (based on Consular Registries);
- Students abroad Peru, Elections abroad Estonia;
- New status and identification cards : India (PIO Persons of Indian Origins, NRI, Non resident Indians), Mexico (Matricula Consular in collaboration with the USA), Pakistan and Colombia in the pipeline;
- Link with changes in double citizenship laws and encouraging the registration of nationals abroad for voting purposes;
- Diverse specific status help register expatriates: Ex Honduras and USA Temporary Protected Status TPI;
- Data basis: Philipinos Overseas Information System, Commission on Philipinos Overseas and Statistics, National registry of Overseas absentee Voters;
- Database of Italians Abroad, more than 12 months: registered through Consulates abroad, one single National database;
- Example of **Cross border comparative data** (Colombia with USA)
- Diversity of sources: Australia (census of Overseas temporary workers, Graduate destination Survey, Online Registration Service Exit and Entry cards)

### 2/ Collective data

- Associations, networks, Clubs, societies
- Non profit, religious, political human rights, educational, professional, scientific

Ex: El Salvador: 400 associations abroad registered in a database (which is combined with a database of local institutions in El Salvador interested in diasporas)

### 3/ Trans-national flows

- Remittances,
  - Formal versus informal transfers
  - WB: 2003, 93 Billion Dollars + 300 Billion informal
  - Mexico (11 Billion) and India (10 Billion) highest receivers
  - USA (31.4 Billion) 1<sup>st</sup> sender, Saudi Arabia and Germany
  - Very significant shares of GDP 26% Lesotho, 16% Nicaragua
- FDI
  - 1995 to 2002: remittances increased from 48 billion \$ to 80 billion \$ (doubled), yet FDI from 106 Billion \$ to 143 Billion \$
  - China: 48 Billion \$ of FDI: 50 to 70% from Chinese diasporas
  - Morocco: 70% of Moroccans invest in Morocco

India: Top ten IT businesses were founded by Indians who returned from abroad

- Trade

Evidence (Lucas 2004) shows the link between arrival of highly skilled migrants from East Asia to Canada and increase in trade and exportation from Canada towards the zone

From IOM studies, the key role of diasporas as business partners is clearly highlighted, Chambers of Commerce: active partners (bilateral level, USA Bangladesh, British Bulgarian, Sierra Leone, Colombian Network of Chambers of Commerce)

Improve business and trade reporting so as to know the shares of diasporas contributions

#### **4/ Qualitative and longitudinal DATA**

Strong policy interest in HUMAN resources

Sectors of specific priority: medical and research

Very clear augmentation of human resources banks and data basis:

- Nigeria, Data Base of Professional Human Resources
- Ghana, Skills Bank
- Benin: Databases of Health Professional Nationals Residing in France and Competence Database
- African development Forum: African Expert Diasporas Data base
- Colombia: Red Caldas researchers network
- Philippines: Brain Gain Network coordinated with the E commerce Council the highest ICT body in the government
- Bulgaria: Qualifications abroad
- Azerbaijan: Ressources and intellectual pool
- Pakistan: Areas of Specialisation and National talent Pool
- Mexico: qualifications abroad
- Portugal professionals abroad
- Kenya: Educationist and medical practitioners abroad
- Argentina: RAICES 2000 (1600 professionals)
- South Africa: SANSA South African network of Skills Abroad

Qualitative data: at the core of the articulation between migration and development policy: motivations to leave (poverty, search for better life, wage differential, temporary movement) and impact on development (human level), changes in cultural attitudes, return flows of social, human or financial capital

Longitudinal: follow individual and household along the whole migration process (by year of arrival, it excludes new arrivals)

#### **5/ Gender differentiated data**

Different process of mobility, reasons to move, access to information networks, levels of human capital, inclusion and integration, return flows (remittances); changes in cultural behaviours.

Opens study to neglected areas (demography, cultural roles, men vulnerability)

## 2. CASE STUDIES

### Questionnaire

- 2005 migration and development Conference in Geneva/ questionnaire to take stock of existing policies, institutions and laws targeting diasporas, better understand what tools are being used to relate with diasporas and what are the main obstacles etc.
- 18 questions, 52 Countries responded, majority of developing countries, fairly good geographical distribution (Africas, Americas, Europe, Asia)
- Clear dynamism in this policy field, numerous countries say also having programmes in the pipeline (Burundi, Ukraine, Chile, Benin, Sudan)
- 95 % of respondents say they have policies engaging with their diasporas abroad and over 70% say they collect data on diasporas abroad.
- Asia-pacific region: all respondents say they collect data on diasporas
- Fewer than 40% of respondents collect data on educational and work background
- Difficulties in collecting data is recognised as the first obstacle on developing pro diasporas policies

### Survey

Household level research: Zimbabwean development Potential in the UK and South Africa  
Profiling 1000 Zimb. (500 and 500)

Objective Acquire knowledge on Skills profiles, education obtained abroad, trans -national activities and interest in returns

Method: through community representations; questionnaires distributed broadly through diverse channels, from Consulates to Churches, face to face interviews , self completed survey: SELF SELECTING households

Results: deskilling, very strong differences in achievements, human capital and well being between diaspora in the UK and diasporas in South Africa; contribution to development is not related to return

New surveys to be launched

### - IMIS: Integrated Migration Information System

Implemented in Egypt: a migration management system that also gathers information on Egyptians Abroad (demography, size, professions) and especially collects psychographic data: migrants views, suggestions, prospects for FDI etc;

- **Research**: Road map for policy Makers on Engaging diasporas for development is in preparation

## 4. SOME CONCLUSIONS

- The link between good data and good policies is double, available data offers knowledge to policy makers and influences their policies; policies are being designed and implemented and require extended data collection, thus :

- How to adjust statistical and indicators development to serve diasporas policies purposes?
- How does existing data contribute to and influence policy design on diasporas?

- What Incentives can encourage the voluntarily registration of diasporas abroad thus improve data collection?

Double citizenship, voting and property rights

On line consulates and forms

Legalise situations (new identity cards)

Link with Business services

Administrative simplification

Change the image of Consulates and Embassies: partners

Establish an equal dialogue

- Interest of developed countries in their diasporas (Australia)
- Use of technology: on line consulates and registries
- Mixture of quantitative and qualitative data, comparable

#### Challenges

- We are talking of data, statistics, figures but we are speaking of a very diverse and complex reality to be sized, involving parameters such as affective capital, networks, social capital, local capital;
- Chose policy focus: ex: diasporas as business partners (match than with knowledge of business development world: chambers of commerce, international investment agencies, business services centres, local clusters, incubators etc), as remittance senders (match with knowledge of financial actors: transfers agencies; commercial banks, micro credit agencies etc);
- Overcoming reluctance, building trust
- Mobilising finance for governmental work with diasporas
- Assess the real development potential of diasporas
- Overcome competition among diasporas
- COOPERATION: key Home and destination country collaboration

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