Understanding and Tackling the Migration Challenge: 
The Role of Research

International Conference

European Commission, Charlemagne Building, 170 Rue de la Loi, Brussels
4-5 February, 2016

4 February
Charlemagne Building, Sicco Mansholt room

8.00 – 8.55
Registration and welcome coffee

Opening Session

9.00 – 9.20
Introduction: Robert-Jan Smits, Director-General, DG Research and Innovation, European Commission

Keynote: Carlos Moedas, European Commissioner for Research and Innovation

Session 1: Research and innovation for evidence based policy

Moderator, Geoff Meade, Journalist

9.20 – 10.30
Policy Review: Migration – Facing realities and maximising opportunities
Keynote: Prof Russell King, University of Sussex

Discussion on policy-relevant results from several European projects on migration focusing on: the two-way interaction between policies and flows; the nexus between migration and development; the challenges of migrants’ integration.

Discussants: Antoine Savary, Deputy Head of Unit, DG Migration and Home Affairs, European Commission; Camilla Hagström, Head of Sector, DG International Cooperation and Development, European Commission

10.30 – 10.45
Coffee break

10.45 – 12.00
Looking back: How could research have better anticipated the current migration crisis?
Keynote: Prof Bridget Anderson, University of Oxford

Discussion: To what extent did research on migration foresee the conditions and determinants of the current flow of migrants and refugees? Could the crisis have been anticipated and better managed?

Discussants: Dr Aija Lulle, University of Latvia and University of Sussex; Prof Henk van Houtum, Radboud University
12.00 – 13.15  Looking forward: future migration trends and research needs for Europe

**Keynote:** Prof François Héran, Institut National d’Études Démographiques (INED)

Discussion: In light of future migration trends, what are the short, medium and long-term research needs in the field of migration, e.g. international migration flows, migration flows in the EU’s neighbourhood in particular; integration (labour market, societal, culturally)? How can the EU and Member States accommodate these needs?

**Discussants:** Federico Soda, Director, Coordination Office for the Mediterranean, International Organisation for Migration (IOM); Dr Sergio Carrera, Centre for European Policy Studies (CEPS)

13.15 – 14:30  Lunch break

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Session 2: Research and Innovation in support of refugees

**Moderator:** Geoff Meade

14:30 – 14:55  Research and innovation on refugee situations

**Keynote:** Ewen Macleod, Head of the Policy Development and Evaluation Service, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

14:55 – 15.00  The European Commission "Science4Refugees" initiative

**Peter Dröll,** Director, DG Research and Innovation, European Commission

15.00 – 15.45  Voices from refugees and migrants with a scientific background – What are the real needs?

*Panel discussion with:*
- Dr Mouhannad Malek, The Babraham Institute Cambridge
- Husein Alhamada, PhD Student, Université Libre de Bruxelles (ULB)
- Suad Al Darra, Research Software Engineer, Fujitsu Ireland

15:45 – 16:30  Research institutions and organisations: The way forward to integration of refugee researchers

*Panel discussion with:*
- Alea López de San Román, Policy Officer, League of European Research Universities (LERU)
- Inge Knudsen, Director, Coimbra Group’s Brussels Office
- Dr Anette Pieper, German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD)
- Prof Riccardo Pozzo, National Research Council of Italy (CNR)

16:30 – 16:45  Coffee break

16:45 – 17:15  Labour market access for third country researchers

*o* Borbala Szigeti, Policy Officer, DG Migration and Home Affairs, European Commission

*o* Michail Kosmidis, Head of Migration Policy Unit, Ministry of Interior and Administrative Reconstruction, Greece

*o* Maria Vincenza Desiderio, Policy Analyst, Migration Policy Institute (MPI Europe)
17:15 – 18:00  **Show-casing initiatives from across Europe**
  - Prof Carmen Bachmann, University of Leipzig
  - Anna Schmauder, Research Assistant, Open University Heidelberg
  - Elke Dall, Head of Department, Centre for Social Innovation Vienna (ZSI)
  - Dr Mike Hardman, VP, IMI Collaborations, AstraZeneca, UK
  - Bodo Richter, Deputy Head of Unit, DG Education and Culture, European Commission

18:00 – 18:15  **Closing remarks**
  Rapporteur, Prof Christina Boswell, University of Edinburgh

18:30 – 20:00  **Networking cocktail**

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**5 February**  
**Charlemagne Building, Alcide de Gasperi room**

8.00 – 8.55  **Registration and welcome coffee**

9.00 – 11.00  **Session 3: Integration and Societal Impacts of Migration**

Chair: Elisabeth Lipiatou, Head of Unit, DG Research and Innovation, European Commission

**Keynote:** Challenges and opportunities of migrants’ integration in light of recent flows,  
*Em Prof Rinus Penninx, University of Amsterdam*

**Themed interventions** followed by a panel discussion:

- Labour market impacts of migration and fiscal outcomes  
  *Dr Peter Huber, Senior Researcher, Austrian Institute of Economic Research (WIFO)*
- Socio-cultural challenges of migrants’ integration  
  *Prof Anna Triandafyllidou, Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies, European University Institute (EUI)*
- Politicisation of migration in Europe  
  *Prof Gianni D’Amato, Université de Neuchâtel*
- Digital technology for the integration of migrants  
  *Prof Myria Georgiou, London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE)*

**Panel discussion** facilitated by **Moderator, Geoff Meade**

11.00 – 11:15  **Coffee break**

11.15 – 13.15  **Session 4: Health and Migration**

Chair: Dr María Luisa Vázquez, Head of Health Policy Research Unit, Consortium for Health and Social Care of Catalonia (CSC)

**Themed interventions** followed by a panel discussion:

- Identifying problems and solutions for response to immediate health needs of arriving migrants for now and for the future (crisis preparedness)  
  *Dr Apostolos Veizis, Director of Medical Operational Support Unit, Médecins sans frontières Greece*
Identifying and addressing medium- to long-term health needs of migrants

Dr Manuel Carballo, Executive Director, International Centre for Migration, Health and Development (ICMHD)

Organising access to EU health care systems for migrants

Dr Marie Nørredam, Associate Professor, Danish Research Centre for Migration, Ethnicity and Health (MESU), University of Copenhagen

Panel discussion with additional panel members: Prof Kate O’Donnell, University of Glasgow; Michel Pletschette, Head of Unit, DG Health and Food Safety, European Commission

13.15 – 14.30 Lunch break

14.30 – 16.30

Session 5: Climate Change and Migration

Chair: Anastasios Kentarchos, Deputy Head of Unit, DG Research and Innovation, European Commission

Keynote: Overview of the scientific evidence and current state of play, Prof Andrew Geddes, University of Sheffield

Themed interventions followed by a panel discussion

- Evidence, emerging risks, and trends: improving the quality and relevance of knowledge-base in support for action
  Dr François Gemenne, Senior Research Associate, University of Liege
- Climate change and migration: the case of Syria
  Dr Ingrid Boas, Assistant Professor, Environmental Policy Group, Wageningen University
- International perspective and the role of research in supporting policy making and capacity building
  Dina Ionesco, Head of the Migration, Environment and Climate Change Division, International Organization for Migration (IOM)

Panel discussion facilitated by Moderator, Geoff Meade

16.30 – 17.00

Conference Conclusions

Key messages from the sessions

Rapporteur and Session Chairs

Conclusions

Peter Dröll, Director, DG Research and Innovation, European Commission