Understanding and Tackling the Migration Challenge

The Role of Research

International Conference, 4-5 February 2016, Brussels
Conference Report
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Coordinated by Directorate-General for Research and Innovation, Unit Open and inclusive Societies with input from Unit Open Science and ERA policy, Unit Health Strategy, Unit Innovative tools, technologies and concepts in health research and Unit Climate Action and Earth Observation.
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Foreword

It is neither the first nor the last time that people will seek refuge in Europe. Poverty, instability, natural disasters and in particular violent conflicts in countries in the EU’s vicinity drive people to seek safety and to realise their full potential in Europe. Migration has always been a part of our world and we are all, in a sense, migrants.

The recent increase in refugee flows to Europe has placed us in a reactive mode. It is clear that no EU country can or should be left alone to address this challenge. We need to act together and live up to our European values of democracy, peace and respect of human rights.

This is why the European Commission’s agenda on migration sets out a European response and action, combining internal and external policies and involving all actors. Europe’s researchers, scientists and innovators have an important role to play. We need their help, not only to design strategies that make integration more successful, but also to help us implement them. This is why I recently launched the Science4Refugees initiative which opens a channel between European Universities and refugees with scientific and research background, so that we can tap into their new talent and potential.

Science equips us with knowledge. It informs, questions and removes fear and prejudice. The social sciences and humanities have a particularly important role, as they can provide insight into the root causes as well as look at the cultural, historical and social barriers to integration. In addition, migration requires inter-disciplinary approaches with inputs from a wide range of fields, notably health and climate change research.

This report summarises the discussions, findings and research results presented at the international conference ‘Understanding and Tackling the Migration Challenge: The Role of Research’. It also presents the research gaps and needs identified, as well as recommendations to policy makers.

The current refugee crisis has placed Europe in a defining moment in history. The world is waiting to see if Europe will live up to its values. Science should hold a mirror to what we do and reveal the weaknesses and opportunities we must address.

Carlos Moedas
European Commissioner for Research, Science and Innovation
## Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Foreword</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Executive Summary</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Session 1: Research and Innovation for Evidence-Based Policy</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Migration – Facing realities and maximising opportunities</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Looking back: How could research have better anticipated the current migration crisis?</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Looking forward: Future migration trends and research needs for Europe</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Session 2: Research and Innovation in support of refugees</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Session 3: Integration and Societal Impacts of Migration</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Session 4: Health and Migration</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Session 5: Climate Change and Migration</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summary of Major Research Needs</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Policy Recommendations based on Policy Review launched at the conference</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conference Agenda</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Executive Summary

The Directorate-General for Research and Innovation of the European Commission organised and hosted a two-day international conference, 'Understanding and Tackling the Migration Challenge: The Role of Research', on 4-5 February 2016. The objective of the conference was to explore and demonstrate how European research can support policy makers in designing effective and sustainable migration policies and legislation. While the conference took place against the backdrop of what is deemed the largest flow of migration to Europe since the Second World War, it is important to underline that the research results, facts and figures and the lessons learned presented at the conference and discussed in this report are not based on the current refugee crisis, but on a long-term perspective.

The conference saw the presentation of past and current research on migration, which was evaluated from a policy perspective. Research from the socio-economic sciences featured centrally, with thematic foci on the correlation between policies and migration flows, integration, and the migration-development nexus. The conferences also considered how to improve the transfer of research results into policy-making and how to enhance the evidence base of policies on migration. Alongside the social sciences, health care needs of migrants and the link between climate change and current and future migratory processes were also discussed. Apart from substantive research, the European Commission presented the Science4Refugees initiative, designed to identify and provide opportunities for refugees with scientific qualifications within the European Research Area. The conference brought together leading researchers and policy-makers from national, EU and international bodies to explore how European research can support effective and sustainable migration policies.

Among the key findings of European research presented at the conference are discernible changes in migration patterns towards ‘new geographies’ and ‘new temporalities’. The former refers to significant alterations in spatial trajectories of migration movements, with regard to sending, receiving and transit countries. The latter signifies an increase of temporary, circular, seasonal or short-term movement. These shifts in patterns obscure classic dichotomies such as regular v irregular, voluntary migration v forced displacement, temporary movement v permanent settlement. Another key finding is that restrictive immigration policies are not effective in preventing migration but rather increase the costs and risks of movement. Restrictive policies also reduce return migration, as immigrants feel ‘trapped’ in their country of immigration by virtue of their irregular status.

Integration of migrants remains both a crucial challenge and an imperative. Hence, the conference dedicated a separate session to this issue. There is a multitude of approaches to, and definitions of, integration. According to a concise one integration is ‘the process of becoming an accepted member of society’. This process has three dimensions, i.e. a legal/political, a socio-economic and a cultural/religious one.

Addressing the role of research in helping design migration policies, participants identified a number of ways to improve the science-policy dialogue. These include better dissemination of research targeting a broader audience beyond the scientific community, and more effective communication between researchers and policy-makers regarding research needs. A central cross-cutting objective throughout the conference was the identification of future research needs, both immediate and longer-term. It was found that systematic cross-national comparative research including data collection and analysis is urgently needed.
Furthermore, it is important to conduct more interdisciplinary research on migration, drawing inter alia on disciplines like philosophy and history to better contextualise the current migration crisis. A detailed list of all the research needs identified at the conference is set out at the end of this report.
Introduction

The European Commission organised and hosted a two-day international conference, ‘Understanding and Tackling the Migration Challenge: The Role of Research, on 4-5 February 2016. The object of the conference was to explore and demonstrate how European research can support policy-makers in designing effective and sustainable migration policies and legislation. While the conference took place against the backdrop of what is deemed the largest flow of migration to Europe since the Second World War, it is important to underline that the research results, facts and figures and the lessons learned presented at the conference and discussed in this report are not based on the current refugee crisis, but on a long-term perspective.

The conference saw the presentation of past and current research on migration, which was evaluated from a policy perspective. The discussion focused on three separate but interlinked themes: the integration of immigrants into EU societies and economies; the short- to long-term health care needs of migrants; and the link between climate change and current and future migratory processes. A cross-cutting theme throughout the conference was the identification of future research needs, both immediate and longer-term. The conference also featured the launch of the Policy Review ‘Migration – Facing Realities and Maximising Opportunities’, which synthesises past and on-going EU-funded socio-economic research projects on migration from a policy perspective. The conference brought together leading researchers from the area of migration studies, as well as national, EU and international policy makers.

These proceedings took place against the backdrop of the recent increase in refugee flows to Europe – or what is widely seen as a migration or refugee ‘crisis’. This crisis has created new challenges for European countries: the need to manage sudden influx and provide reception and protection to those arriving; to promote the integration of large numbers of refugees; to better understand the factors contributing to negative political and media discourse; and to address public anxiety about immigration and its impacts. In many countries, these challenges are occurring in a context of economic austerity, a general decline in public engagement with politics, as well as strains in solidarity between Member States in relation to accepting refugees. These conditions make it more important than ever to ensure that public debates and policy-making is informed by evidence. Importantly, as Commissioner Carlos Moedas stressed in his keynote talk, European policy responses need to be pro-active and adapt to changed conditions, rather than simply reactive.

Many of these challenges of immigration management and integration are not new. The crisis has exposed or exacerbated a number of already existing challenges in EU and national European policies. Thus rather than focusing solely on ‘exceptional’ and immediate issues raised by the recent refugee crisis, the discussion also addressed medium and longer-term trends and issues relevant to migration policy at large. These include the changing composition and dynamics of migration and refugee flows; the relationship between migration and development; the health needs of refugees and immigrants; and national approaches towards immigrant integration. The discussion also examined future challenges raised by these trends, including the impact of climate change on migration and forced displacement, and the link between migration and Europe’s medium and long-term demographic trends. Finally, the conference provided an opportunity to showcase and assess some of the initiatives by the European Commission and Member States to promote access of refugees to European training, research and educational systems.
This report summarises the main discussions and conclusions of the conference. It starts by summarising each of the conference sessions. For each session, the discussion concludes with a number of research gaps that were identified by speakers as particularly pressing. In a final section, the report provides a summary of the key recommendations for future research priorities, and provides a list of policy recommendations generated by previous EU-funded research.
Session 1: Research and Innovation for Evidence-Based Policy

Migration – Facing realities and maximising opportunities

Through its Framework Programmes and Horizon 2020, the EU has funded a range of research on immigration, which is relevant to addressing contemporary policy challenges. In this first session, Professor Russell King of the University of Sussex presented the key messages of the Policy Review ‘Migration – Facing Realities and Maximising Opportunities’ prepared for the European Commission, synthesising EU-funded projects from a policy perspective. The research projects confirmed that there have been two important changes in migratory flows. The first of these relates to the ‘new geographies’ characterising movement. There have been important changes in the spatial trajectories of migratory movements, including new destination countries in southern and central-eastern Europe, and accelerated emigration from parts of Africa, the Middle East, South Asia and Latin America. In many cases, these trajectories involve fragmented journeys, with serial stops and onward movement, including through transit countries such as Turkey, Libya and Morocco. Islands have become footholds along these complex routes, with Lesbos, the Canary Islands, Malta and Lampedusa becoming typical points of entry into Europe.

Second, migratory movements involve ‘new temporalities’, captured in the discursive shift from migration to the concept of ‘mobility’. In the context of EU law, mobility refers to the free movement of EU citizens within the Union. But the term is increasingly being deployed to capture the more general idea of temporary, circular, seasonal or short-term movement. Rather than settling permanently in one country, many migrants react to evolving opportunities and constraints, relocating to places that offer better life prospects. In some cases this involves ‘intentional unpredictability’, in the sense that people have no pre-determined plan about where they will move to or settle. Such mobility patterns are often associated with irregular movement or residence, with decisions contingent on informal opportunities to work or travel; but this form of unpredictability also characterises the movement of many high-skilled workers who follow transnational career trajectories.

Shifts in patterns of migration have led to a blurring of classic binaries: between regular and irregular movement; voluntary movement and forced displacement; temporary and permanent residence. And this in turn creates a variety of challenges for established approaches to migration management and immigrant integration. Many of these new trends in migratory movement are explored in EU funded research projects carried out in recent years.

A key finding and policy implication of the research is that restrictive immigration policies are not effective in deterring or containing migration. Instead, they simply increase the costs and risks of movement, including through exposing people to exploitation by smugglers and traffickers, as well as employers in places of destination. Moreover, research has suggested that restrictive policies also reduce return migration, as immigrants feel ‘trapped’ in their country of immigration and are reluctant to risk leaving in case they are unable to re-enter. Thus policies aimed at promoting return should regularise the situation of migrants, enabling them to move freely and safely between countries of destination and origin. In

The Role of Research

The Role of Research
addition, research also found that policies to promote student mobility encourages brain circulation: African students who come to study in Europe have higher rates of return than those who come to work.

In terms of labour market integration, European research has shown that migrants in higher-level jobs are more subject to discrimination; while those in low-skilled or informal sector employment are more liable to exploitation. Crucially, there is evidence to support claims that cultural diversity in high-skilled settings improves productivity and innovation. Schools were also revealed as crucial for fostering integration: ongoing dialogue with parents, and ensuring the diversity of teachers, were both associated with more positive integration outcomes.

EU-funded research has also explored the relationship between migration and development. Emigration can stimulate development in places of origin through the transfer of remittances, return migration of those with new experiences and skills, and the mobilisation of diaspora communities to engage in their communities of origin. Prof King identified three highlights from recent projects in relation to these dynamics. The first was the importance of ‘social remittances’: the transfer of ideas, norms and social capital from European host countries to sending countries. Such transfers can include, for example, ideas about democratisation, working practices, gender or raising children. This issue is as yet under-researched. Second, EU-sponsored research has demonstrated the complexity of return decisions. Such return can have important effects on development, e.g. through the already mentioned social remittances. More research is needed to understand ‘return mobilities’. Finally, research has shown that diaspora can make important contributions, for example through visits, providing training, investment in local infrastructure, facilitation of migration or indeed return migration and engagement in hometown associations. These dynamics need yet to be better understood.

In their responses to Prof King’s presentation, officials from DG Migration and Home Affairs and from DG International Cooperation and Development identified a number of ways in which policy-research relations could be improved. First, while research is clearly very useful, there is a need for closer interaction between policy makers and researchers, with the former specifying more precisely what sort of research they need. Second, in many cases policy-makers need more rapid, reactive research, to help respond to quickly unfolding events. Research projects of 3-4 years are simply too drawn-out to be of use in such contexts. Related to this, there is often a need for very specific knowledge about a particular situation or context, rather than general knowledge about migratory dynamics. Thirdly, there is a pressing need to mobilise research to influence public factually unsound perceptions about immigration, and to make a stronger case for a common EU approach. Fourthly, it was stressed that research is crucial in order to help make the case for smarter policies or programmes.

Future research needs identified:

- More research is required on evolving forms of migration and mobility, including those not picked up by surveys or statistical records. For example, research is needed on changing patterns of irregular movements to Europe.
- More generally, a need was identified for more ‘rapid reaction’ research as a tool for meeting the information needs of policy-makers, in their attempts to address new policy challenges. This form of research would imply the need for more flexible procedures for
commissioning research projects in response to emerging requirements, as well as a more prominent role for policy-makers in identifying research needs.

• More knowledge is needed on the role of social remittances in contributing to development, including the types of policy measures that might foster and support such exchanges, as well as the impacts of different sorts of engagement by migrants with their places of origin.

• The issue of return – both voluntary and involuntary – was identified as an important area. What are the factors influencing decisions to return, and what effects does return have on individuals and their communities? This is especially urgent given current efforts to return large numbers of rejected asylum seekers to their countries of origin.

• More generally, there is a need for more rigorously constructed comparative research, including systematic cross-national comparisons.

Looking back: How could research have better anticipated the current migration crisis?

Could research have better anticipated the mass mobility that occurred in summer 2015? In her keynote talk, Prof Bridget Anderson suggested a number of ways in which these events could have been anticipated. Research has long identified the role of cumulative causation in migratory movements: once a flow has been initiated, it is likely to augment along particular pathways. The role of smuggling in facilitating entry to Europe has been understood for nearly three decades, as has the prevalence of ‘mixed’ flows comprising people with varied and complex motivations to move. It was known that certain countries in the Middle East had substantial migratory potential, and also that they had been placed under inordinate strain by coping with displacement, even before the onset of civil war in Syria. Research had also identified the inadequacy of European cooperation to manage irregular migration and refugee flows, short-comings that were exposed and heightened by the crisis.

Yet at the same time, there are aspects of the crisis that were less easy to foresee. Migration is susceptible to geopolitical shocks that are very difficult to anticipate, and there is a need to better integrate analyses of such regional and international political dynamics into theories of migration. Migratory movements are also highly sensitive to policy change, with the introduction of more restrictive measures generating a high volatility in flows. And migration researchers have overlooked the temporal aspects of migration: the intersection between migratory pressures and individuals’ life-courses. We should be able to anticipate the consequences of prolonged irregular status and exclusion. If young people are kept in limbo for prolonged periods, in areas affected by conflict or in poor conditions in refugee camps, then many are likely to want to move to build a better future.

Much of the failure to anticipate the crisis lies in the problematic relationship between research and policy. Academic research and policy making are guided by very different cultures. While policy makers seek certainty and often have a penchant for statistics, much migration research implies uncertainty, and eschews quantification and attempts at prediction. Research results and policy needs also follow different time-scales, implying that policy-makers are often frustrated at the extended duration of research projects. In the discussion, other contributors identified the problem of communication: researchers are often unable or unwilling to disseminate their research in a digestible and accessible
form, for example in the form of policy briefs. At the same time, some researchers explicitly acknowledged the usefulness of policy briefs in getting to grips with research results and policy implications swiftly and effectively.

Prof Anderson also reflected on the nature of the ‘crisis’: is the crisis related to the humanitarian plight of migrants? Excessive influx into European countries? Public concerns about refugee flows? Or the differences it has exposed between Member States? Until 2015, the ‘outsourcing’ of immigration control and refugee protection has largely kept refugee crises at bay. The arrival of large numbers of refugees on EU territory has disrupted this project of externalising migration control. This has in turn raised a number of wider questions about European approaches to migrants and refugees, implying the need for historical research that locates the crisis in a longer history of migration in Europe. The moral issues raised by the crisis also expose the need for philosophical and ethical contributions to scrutinise the normative aspects of European responses. Such longer-term, in-depth analysis should not be side-lined in the rush to secure ‘policy impact’.

Other contributors stressed the need to rethink how migration and refugee issues are framed in public debate. As Prof van Houtum (Radboud University) pointed out, both the vocabulary used – notions of floods, swarms, mass influx – and the visual representation of movement – often through graphics depicting military-style invasions – encouraged the notion of an exceptional and threatening crisis. Instead, migration should be understood as inherent to a globalised international society, and the focus should be on ensuring its impacts were positive for both sending and receiving societies.

In the discussion that followed later in the day, speakers also drew attention to the way in which political dynamics could mitigate against the take-up of research. Policy-makers often adopt simplistic and accessible ways of framing immigration and refugee issues to respond to public concerns and party political pressures. Moreover, they often prioritise short-termist approaches that yield immediate and visible outcomes, for instance focusing on restriction and migration control. This often implies a neglect of longer-term projects (such as integration or development cooperation). However, one should not conclude from this that research is irrelevant to policy. Research findings provide knowledge and contextualisation of the causes and dynamics of migration, for example by providing data on the economic impacts of immigration, or data and knowledge on the determinants of refugee flows. Research can also be drawn on to challenge short-termist approaches and populist narratives, and evidence can help dispel myths about migration and its impacts. Moreover, research can incrementally lead to shifts in the concepts and theories used to frame social problems. Finally, participants noted that as a more technocratic organisation, the European Commission is receptive to research and evidence as a way of underpinning its proposals and recommendations.

Future research needs:

- There is a need to better integrate analysis of geopolitical shocks into research on the dynamics of migration, including how political repression, conflict and natural disasters combine with other socio-economic pressures to generate displacement.
- In terms of research approaches, theories of forced displacement could be developed to produce models, indicators and scenario-mapping of (potential) forced displacement.
- Future research could examine the intersection between life-stage and migratory drivers, including the question of how uncertainty and exclusion affect onward
movement and youth mobility.

- Research is needed to understand the factors shaping public perceptions of migration, and to identify ways of combating misconceptions.
- There is a need for social scientific, historical and legal analysis of European asylum systems and the impediments to developing a common EU system; as well as the political, operational and legal challenges and complexities associated with the Schengen agreement.
- Strategies to enhance the policy relevance of research need to be underpinned by a more comprehensive understanding of the opportunities and impediments to research utilisation in policymaking, at national and EU/international level. There is a need to bring together the extensive but fragmented literature in public policy, sociology and science and technology studies to better model and provide a toolkit for enhancing research-policy exchange.
- More generally, there is a need for historical and philosophical/ethics research on European responses to migration.

Looking forward: Future migration trends and research needs for Europe

It is widely known that European countries are undergoing important demographic changes, with potential implications for immigration policies. Lower birth-rates and longer life expectancy have led to shifts in the age composition of the population of most European countries, with implications for welfare, health and social care systems, as well as labour supply in many sectors. In his keynote presentation, Prof François Héran (Institut National d’Études Démographiques) explored this so-called ‘second demographic transition’ (Lesthaeghe and Van de Kaa), and the impediments to projecting future population trends. One of the main uncertainties in such projections is the difficulty in predicting migration flows. Trends in net migration are a major determinant of population change. So-called ‘ordinary’ flows – ongoing movement related to family migration, study and expected labour migration – are relatively stable. By contrast, ‘extraordinary’ movement linked to exceptional events such as war, natural disaster or geo-political shocks, are very difficult to forecast. This made the task of projecting future demographic trends very challenging.

UN data suggests considerable variation between EU Member States in terms of both natural population change and net migration. For example, the proportion of 20-64 year olds in different EU countries is projected to rise by 18% in Sweden over the coming 50 years, and decline by 42% in Poland. These disparities create particular challenges in harmonising EU immigration policies. However, all countries – including Sweden, the UK and France, which currently are experiencing population growth – will see a decline in natural population growth over the next decades. This implies that net migration will become a more important component of population growth across the EU. Prof Héran pointed out that many EU countries aim to limit net migration flows. Yet a 20% decrease in immigration, for example, would just postpone for a few years the moment at which migration becomes the driving force of population growth. He suggested that a better strategy for EU states would be to accept the necessity of immigration, and focus on better policies for integrating immigrants.
Prof Héran also reviewed some of the evidence about the effects of development on migration, which suggests that sustained growth curbs the emigration of unskilled labour while encouraging the immigration of skilled labour. Some surveys by Gallup conducted in around 2011 suggested there is a substantial migratory potential across the world, with around 13% of the population (around 70 million people) expressing the desire to move to another country. Of this number, 42 million stated the UK as their preferred destination, with a further 31 million stating France, and 28 million Germany. However, findings from the Institut National d’Études Démographiques and the Netherlands Interdisciplinary Demographic Institute helped place these responses in context. Their research had found that less than 30% of those stating they would like to migrate were intending to move within a year; while only 2% had made any preparations to move. The implication is that these surveys of ‘potential’ migration had very limited predictive power.

Discussants considered what sort of research was required to inform future policies on migration management. As Federico Soda (International Organization for Migration) observed, national policies tend to be guided by short-term party political considerations, with policy-makers often overlooking longer term trends in demography or migratory flows. This implies the need to keep producing and disseminating rigorous research about current and prospective migratory trends. Dr Sergio Carrera (Centre for European Policy Studies) further stressed the importance of research as a resource for challenging and critiquing short-termist and restrictive approaches. There is a pressing need to reframe current ways of conceiving of refugees and immigrants: research could help European elites and the public to step back from day-to-day concerns, providing a longer-term and more informed and reflective perspective.

Future research needs:

• More research could be conducted to explore how ‘extraordinary’ shocks affect migration flows to European countries, in order to underpin more reliable demographic forecasting. This links in with earlier suggestions about the need for research on geopolitical shocks (see above).
• More research is needed on the types of exploitation and abuse occurring in contexts of irregular migration – both in terms of vulnerabilities of those making the journey to Europe, in particular women and children, and forms of trafficking and other abuse once in Europe, including in the workplace.
• There is an urgent need for research on the factors influencing how migration is framed in public debate, and in media and political discourse. What sorts of measures could help counter misperceptions and misinformation, and underpin more factually based and constructive debates on immigration, including in media coverage of immigration?
• There is a need to support research conducted in and by migrant sending or transit countries on what is happening en route or in places of origin, including research that gives voice to the perspectives and experiences of migrants.
Session 2: Research and Innovation in support of refugees

The next session raised aspects of the current migration crisis and the measures and policies needed to better integrate highly-skilled migrants and refugees into the educational system, the labour market in general and research positions in particular. Contributions explored innovative approaches as well as showcased European Commission initiatives as well as initiatives in Member States to provide assistance to highly-skilled refugees; as well as policies to facilitate the access of refugees to higher education and training, and to maximise the transfer of migrants’ and refugees’ professional skills in receiving countries.

Ewen Macleod (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees - UNHCR) set out the key strategic priorities for UNHCR in dealing with mass displacement. There has been an increase in the number of emergencies producing displacement – both natural and man-made; and displacement is often protracted, with political and socio-economic conditions making it challenging to identify long-term solutions. This creates a need for far-reaching institutional change and reform, including through the promotion of human rights, aid, stabilisation and peace-building. The challenges are especially acute in weak and fragile states. From UNHCR’s perspective, some of the urgent research and innovation needs relate to the need for better data, including on refugees, who for political reasons are often excluded from national data collection systems. There is also a need for more research on the impact of refugees on receiving societies, elucidating some of the indirect effects of refugees on society, politics and the economy; as well as research into how refugees could make a more significant contribution to their host societies. Mr Macleod told the conference about some recent innovations rolled out by UNHCR to facilitate cash payments to refugees through the use of mobile phones. There is more potential to tap communication technologies and social media to help inform and support refugees.

The discussion moved on to showcase initiatives taken by the European Commission and higher education institutes to support refugees in accessing research, training and education. Peter Dröll (Director in the Directorate-General for Research and Innovation of the European Commission) informed the conference about the Science4Refugees initiative, an action designed to enable a match between refugees and asylum seekers who have a scientific background with positions in European universities and research institutions offering suitable positions, including internships and part-time and full-time jobs. The Science4Refugees scheme aims to facilitate the insertion of refugees into host societies, and to strengthen international networks and collaboration. Other participants presented initiatives already taken by individual universities across Europe, including providing special scholarships for refugee students or fellowships for refugee academics, and ensuring flexibility about qualifications requirements and recruitment processes.

Three researchers from Syria who were involved with, or who had benefited from, such initiatives described their experiences. There was general agreement that highly-skilled refugees and immigrants required specific and additional support measures to enable them to access research and educational opportunities including in the labour market in Europe. There is also a need to ensure that their skills, qualifications and experiences are adequately recognised by relevant employers and education or training providers. The barriers to transferring skills are multiple, relating to non-recognition of qualifications,
inability to procure the relevant documents, administrative barriers to accessing or applying for positions, language and cultural barriers to incorporation into employment or education systems, and discrimination. These barriers mean that many refugees and immigrants are unable to realise their potential, resulting in ‘brain waste’. Moreover, it means that receiving societies are failing to utilise valuable human capital resources.

Future research needs:

• Better data is needed on the qualifications and human capital of asylum seekers, to support measures that are tailored to address the needs of students and skilled refugees arriving in Europe, and to ensure that their human capital is fully utilised.
• Coordinated measures are needed to overcome the obstacles identified above, including recognition of qualifications, facilitating access to the labour market and full utilisation of migrants’ human capital.
• More research and investment in innovation is required to exploit the potential of communication technologies and social media in facilitating refugee support.
Session 3: Integration and Societal Impacts of Migration

The issue of immigrant incorporation is a well-developed field of research, and Prof Rinus Penninx offered a succinct overview of the main debates in the field. Integration in its broad sense is typically understood as a two-way process: a process of mutual adaptation on the part of immigrants and the receiving society. The process of becoming an accepted member of society involves three dimensions: the legal/political, the socio-economic, and the cultural/religious. Policies to incorporate migrants typically distinguish between two models: those aiming to ‘assimilate’ migrants through encouraging or requiring them to appropriate certain characteristics of the host society; and those focusing on promoting non-discrimination and fostering diversity or multiculturalism. In current debates, both approaches are often referred to under the general heading of ‘integration’. Integration policies, meanwhile, could be understood as an effort to steer integration processes to achieve the incorporation of migrants across the three dimensions noted above.

Most European countries combine elements of the two approaches in their integration policies. However, over the past decade there has been a discernible shift towards assimilation policies, with governments increasingly requiring immigrants to learn the host country language and take various forms of citizenship classes. Indeed, citizenship acquisition is increasingly seen as the final stage of the integration process, rather than a step taken early on in the process in order to facilitate integration. Prof Penninx observed that integration policies tend to represent the expectations and demands of the host society, not those of migrants. The role of societal expectations becomes even more pronounced in the context of politicisation, increasing the demands on immigrants. This can often lead to short-termist and populist approaches, which are based on simplistic ways of framing immigration and integration. Such approaches have been especially prominent in the context of the recent refugee ‘crisis’. While the scale of refugee flows to Europe is not in itself more dramatic than, for example, flows in 1992-4 or 1998-2000, what has changed is negative public perceptions and political framing of asylum-seekers, refugees and other categories of immigrants.

Prof Gianni D’Amato (University of Neuchâtel) pointed to EU-funded research that his consortium has conducted, which has shown that the salience of immigration and integration issues is not reliably connected to economic crisis, or to changes in the level of immigration. Instead, politicisation between 1995 and 2009 has been generated by a combination of political leadership, and circumstances that has enabled more anti-immigrant political actors to influence politics. Speakers agreed that one of the key challenges in relation to the politicisation of immigration is to understand how immigration and integration issues are framed, and how these frames influence problem definition and the construction of the ‘targets’ of policy. This point was reflected in contributions from other speakers. Prof Anna Triandafyllidou (European University Institute) stressed the need to challenge narratives about cultural homogeneity and ‘authenticity’, arguing that the history of Europe is one of migration and diversity. There is a need to pluralise notions of national identity, including through placing current migratory dynamics in historical perspective – recalling, for example, that in the 1920s one quarter of the Greek population relocated from Asia Minor.
Offering a perspective from economics, Dr Peter Huber (Austrian Institute of Economic Research) emphasised that economists see immobility as costly. International mobility brings huge benefits in relation to welfare and GDP. Immigrants move from places with low returns to their human capital to places with high returns, contributing to labour market equilibrium and the convergence of living conditions across regions and countries. Dr Huber therefore concurred with earlier observations that immigration restrictions have a negative effect, and observed that the failure to make full use of the skills of immigrants represents a huge waste for host economies. He also emphasised that migrants show significant variation in rates of accessing welfare/contributory benefits in EU countries, and in most countries, they are less dependent on such benefits than public opinion would expect. Dr Huber also reviewed evidence on the impact of immigration on wages and unemployment. Research suggests that the impacts are negligible, but there may be other effects on productivity, workplace conditions, and the choices of the native population in terms of occupational specialisation and education.

In the discussion that followed, it was stressed that labour market incorporation is a hugely important component of the integration process. This implied the importance of access to employment, and the need to make swift decisions on asylum claims. In terms of good practice, Prof Maria Georgiou (London School of Economics) suggested that digital technologies could enhance immigrant integration, through enabling the circulation of information, helping refugees and migrants deal with uncertainty, and helping them to build practical and psychological skills to deal with new legal, economic, social and cultural demands.

Future research needs:

- There is an urgent need to better understand the factors influencing how immigration and integration issues are framed in national and European political debate. Framing can have a huge impact on both discourse and policy – one that is arguably far more significant than changes in immigration flows or their impact, or changes in economic conditions in receiving countries.
- Historical research can help contextualise the current ‘crisis’ and responses to immigrants and refugees, by highlighting continuity and differences with previous waves of immigration, and helping mobilise concepts and ideas from European political thought on hospitality, charity and universal rights and duties.
- It was suggested that the EU could commission panel data to produce more comprehensive cross-national comparative knowledge on integration trajectories.
- While there has been considerable (though inconclusive) research on the wage and displacement effects of immigration, more research is required on some of the more indirect effects of largescale labour migration, for example its effects on productivity, workplace conditions, and on the professional and educational choices of the non-immigrant population.
Session 4: Health and Migration

The rapid increase in refugee flows to Europe has triggered a range of health concerns. One of the most pressing problems is the immediate health needs of those arriving in, and traveling on through, Europe. Apolostolos Veizis (Médecins Sans Frontières) provided an overview of some of the main challenges in responding to the healthcare needs of refugees. Many of those arriving have experienced physically exhausting journeys, exposed to extreme weather conditions, as well as threats, violence and acute anxiety. These challenging conditions have serious impacts on the health of refugees, accounting for the majority of the healthcare needs of refugees on arrival. Almost one third of those arriving are children, and a further 17% are women, including many expectant mothers. On arrival, reception conditions are often shockingly poor, with lack of adequate sanitary facilities and cramped accommodation creating conditions rife for the spread of infectious diseases. Moreover, experiences of violence, trauma and loss mean that many refugees suffer acute mental health problems, which require serious attention. Yet medical teams and suitable equipment are seldom present when refugees arrive on European coasts.

In their presentations, Dr Manuel Carballo (International Centre for Migration, Health and Development) and Dr Marie Nørredam (University of Copenhagen) discussed barriers to refugees and immigrants accessing healthcare. These include formal barriers such as legal entitlements and financial resources, and informal barriers such as language and cultures of healthcare systems. In the discussion it was also pointed out that the role of interpreters is vital for ensuring access to healthcare, and it was urged that such support should be embedded into health care systems, and be codified as a right rather than be left to the discretion of national governments. Another important aspect is to further explore the role of communication technologies in facilitating access to healthcare, and potentially providing a means of transferring medical records as refugees and immigrants transited through countries.

All participants agreed on the urgent need to provide better healthcare for refugees as they arrive in, and travel through, Europe. It was also stressed that attending to such health needs make sense as part of an integration strategy. Timely healthcare interventions also avoid the escalation of physical and psychological problems requiring more resource-intensive treatment further down the line. More generally, the discussion identified the urgent need for a more coordinated approach to refugee reception, including ensuring that basic care and maintenance systems are in place, and that the urgent needs of refugees are met.

Future research needs:

- Many of the research gaps identified concerned the need for more rapid assessment of healthcare needs, and support in putting in place appropriate healthcare infrastructures. Often, such information was needed in ‘real time’, and would be best met through rapid reaction data-gathering and analysis exercises, rather than longer-term research projects.
- There is a need (and unique opportunity) to strengthen data collection and establish long-term cohorts in order to evaluate follow-up and identify the influence of different variables (e.g. on mental health, and on successful integration).
- There is a need for more participatory research, i.e. not only do research ‘about’ refugees and migrants, but methods that foreground their experiences and perspectives as part of the analysis.
• Research on the resource implications of failing to meet healthcare and other needs would be useful, to expose the longer-term costs incurred by authorities in providing inadequate reception conditions.

• Linked to this, there is a need for further research on immigrant integration and access to healthcare: impediments to identifying needs, take-up of healthcare services, how these vary depending on different legal statuses and level of integration, as well as the implications of exclusion from healthcare systems for integration and the well-being of immigrants. Such research might underpin the development of recommendations on how best to prepare/adapt EU health systems to the needs of migrants.

• Participants agreed that digital technologies could be harnessed (communication, translation, medical data) for research on both short- and long-term health needs.
Session 5: Climate Change and Migration

Climate change can seriously affect the livelihood and security of populations, most obviously through floods, storms, droughts and other climate-related natural disasters. Migration is widely used as a strategy to maintain livelihoods in response to such changes. However, as Prof Andrew Geddes explained in his keynote talk, the relationship between environmental change and migration is highly complex. It is challenging to isolate the impacts of environmental change from other drivers of migration, such as poverty and conflict. This makes it difficult to make reliable projections of potential climate migration. Moreover, existing evidence clearly suggests that where environmental change impacts on migration, its effects will be felt primarily in the developing world, with migrants moving either internally or to countries in the same region. New large-scale international population movements to developed regions such as the EU are unlikely to occur.

One of the key issues raised by research on climate migration is the risks associated with immobility. In many cases, vulnerable groups do not have the resources to be able to migrate to avoid the impacts of environmental change – indeed, climate change can reduce the ability to migrate, as it erodes the assets and capital required to finance migration. This can create so-called ‘trapped’ populations. Yet migration is often desirable, to relieve population pressure on these areas, as well as to enhance financial and other forms of capital, through the flow of remittances. This implies the need to question the emphasis of European policies on seeking to reduce migratory pressures: in many cases, migration is an important strategy for addressing environmental pressures and helping communities to become more resilient.

In her presentation, Dr Ingrid Boas (Wageningen University) explained the complex inter-relations between climate change, conflict and migration. One example of this complexity is the case of international displacement from Syria. Many commentators have suggested that the conflict in Syria was directly triggered by sustained drought in the 1990s, which had generated large-scale rural-urban migration, creating overpopulation and conflict in cities. Yet the link between these dynamics and the incidence of international refugee flows has been overstated. In her comments, Dina Ionesco (International Organization for Migration) described some of the initiatives undertaken by her organisation to analyse the migratory effects of climate change, and to support countries affected. She also stressed the need for better engagement between researchers and policy actors, to ensure responses are evidence-based.

Research needs:

- Future research should develop more sophisticated methodologies and produce more rigorous analyses addressing the complex and multiple drivers of migration in a comprehensive way.
- There is also a need for more reliable quantitative data to better estimate the number of people at risk as a result of environmental and climate-related factors, as well as to measure and project the scale of current and future climate change migration.
- Research is needed to design adaptation strategies and solutions that increase the resilience of vulnerable populations and ecosystems, in order to mitigate the impact on climate (and broader environmental) change. This could involve exploring ‘good practice’ cases where communities had shown resilience in adapting to the challenges...
of environmental pressures. It is also important to examine the role of emigration in easing pressures and generating increased capital in affected locales.

• Future research should also examine the risks, needs and vulnerabilities associated with ‘trapped’ populations, unable to move from areas severely affected by environmental change or disaster.

• There is a need to understand how best to support cities in creating the infrastructure and services to deal with rapid urbanisation, which can be triggered by environmental migration. Such research needs to explore ways of addressing resource conflicts created by over-population and crowding in cities.

• Research needs to assess the opportunities and constraints to developing more comprehensive international legal instruments or regional approaches to preventing and responding to climate migration, and addressing the protection needs of those displaced.

• There is also a need for more comparative research across countries and increased research collaboration with local researchers, including analyses focusing on the local/micro level.
Summary of Major Research Needs

The conference produced a range of recommendations on future research needs. The following list synthesises the major research types and topics that emerged over the two days.

Types of research

- Systematic, cross-national comparison. Research should not be limited to single cases, but should involve rigorous comparative analysis both to provide fuller empirical data on different locales or setting; and also to help identify the factors shaping current dynamics, thereby enable the development of theories and explanatory typologies. Such comparative approaches could include both ‘most similar systems design’, involving in-depth qualitative and quantitative analysis of a few very similar cases; and ‘most different systems design’, typically involving quantitative analysis of a large number of varied cases. Comparative research on data collection and processing by Member States and international organisations with a view to achieving comparability and common EU-level standards.

- Participatory research, ensuring that migrants have a voice and supporting research by scholars in sending and transit countries. This is important for scientific reasons, given the importance of understanding the motivations and experiences of migrants and refugees, and the attitudes and beliefs of those receiving them in host countries. It is also ethically important, as a way of empowering migrants and refugees by enabling them to co-produce research and feed into recommendations emanating from research.

- Rapid reaction research that is responsive to real-time policy needs. Two dimensions are particularly important: the opportunity for policy-makers to help identify and shape research questions based on their ongoing data and analysis needs; and the possibility of more flexible procedures for commissioning research on a rapid basis. It might also be worth considering the possibility of funding short-term projects, which would be capable of meeting policy needs more swiftly.

Research topics

Migration flows and drivers:

- Understanding the inter-relations between the different drivers of migration as well as forced displacement, e.g. climate change, poverty and socio-economic pressures, conflicts, political repression and other geopolitical shocks; and methods for scenario-mapping of potential future flows and displacements. Theories of migration have tended to focus on developmental or conflict-related drivers of displacement and migration, but there is a pressing need for comprehensive theories and comparative and longitudinal analyses that explore the complex relationships between a variety of different drivers. This implies the need for interdisciplinary approaches employing mixed methods, as well as research that develops models, indicators and scenario-mapping.
• Understanding irregular migration trajectories, including the role of trafficking and smuggling, and the types of exploitation, abuses and vulnerabilities associated with such movement. We know that many people fall victim to various forms of exploitation before and during their journeys, and on arrival in transit and destination countries. There is a need for more rigorous empirical research on the factors influencing different trajectories of irregular movement and transit, on the forms of exploitation and harm migrants and refugees are exposed to, in particular minors and women on migratory routes, including in transit countries as well as in destination countries, and on the political economy of smuggling and trafficking activities.

Climate change and migration:

• Research is needed to design adaptation strategies and solutions that increase the resilience of vulnerable populations and ecosystems in order to mitigate the impact on climate (and broader environmental) change. This could involve exploring ‘good practice’ cases where communities have shown resilience in adapting to the challenges of environmental pressures. This should include examining the risks, needs and vulnerabilities associated with ‘trapped’ populations, unable to move from areas severely affected by environmental change or disaster as well as how to support cities in creating the infrastructure and services to deal with rapid urbanisation, which can be triggered by environmental migration.

Asylum:

• A better understanding of the drivers of policy-making and EU cooperation on the Common European Asylum System, solidarity mechanisms, and participation in the Schengen Agreement. While extensive legal research has analysed comparative asylum legislation and procedures, there is a need for a social scientifically and historically informed research on the factors shaping national approaches and their integration. For example, research could explore the institutional and party political dynamics shaping national decision-making on asylum and EU integration, on how such factors influence approaches to solidarity in relation to the reception of refugees, and on participation in the Schengen system. Legal research on the realisation of the Common European Asylum System is also needed. This includes the correlations between Common European Asylum System and Schengen.

Framing, ethics and history:

• Understanding the determinants and impacts of framing immigration in European countries, including the role of political elites and the media. Research should explore the relationship between public attitudes, political mobilisation and media framing of immigration issues; and also examine the role of economic conditions, party political dynamics and security concerns in shaping such narratives. It is especially important to provide a cross-national perspective, and to offer an historical contextualisation of such processes, showing how such frames evolve over time, and the factors that have influenced their emergence and appeal.

• A contextualisation of the current refugee/migration crisis in a longer historical perspective on migration to Europe as well as an ethical perspective. Given the gravity of the challenges facing European countries and the EU, it is important to ensure a
historical dimension, tracing how current migratory dynamics and discourses have evolved over a longer timeframe, and drawing lessons from the past. Moreover, current refugee and migratory dynamics and policy responses raise important ethical issues, implying a need for political philosophical analysis. Normative and empirical research on the impacts of the refugee/migration crisis and the way it has been responded to on fundamental values, the historical and philosophical developments and legal foundation of these values as well as their contemporary contestations and re-conceptualisations should be considered.

Migration and integration:

• Analysing the indirect (social and economic) impacts of immigration. While there has been extensive research on the fiscal effects of migration and its effects on employment and salaries, researchers have neglected a range of important indirect effects on behaviour and decision-making in the workplace, education and training. For example, research could explore the impacts of immigration on productivity, the workplace and working conditions, and its effects on the professional and education/training decisions of the non-immigrant population.

• Examining the challenges and opportunities faced by migrants in relation to recognition of skills, qualifications and employability, and assessing policies aiming to facilitate labour market access. Research is also needed to better understand the social impacts from labour market exclusion.

Migration and health:

• Understanding immediate and longer-term healthcare needs of refugees and migrants, including access to healthcare. While there is on-going research on migrant health, there is a need to strengthen data collection and establish long-term cohorts for example in the field of mental health. Impediments to access to healthcare and the cost of not meeting healthcare needs of migrants and refugees require further investigation.

• There is a need for more participatory research, i.e. not only do research ‘about’ refugees and migrants, but methods that foreground their experiences and perspectives as part of the analysis.

Migration and development:

• The role of social remittances and diaspora engagement in development, as well as the determinants and impacts of return mobilities. Extensive research has been undertaken on economic remittances, but emigrants and diaspora can contribute to development through various forms of social and political engagement. Research is needed to explore the conditions under which such positive exchanges occur; what their effects are on various aspects of development; and how such activities can be supported and strengthened, including through facilitating communication and mobility.

Research impact:

• Examining and modelling the relationship between research and policy, including the range of different impacts and forms of research utilisation, and the conditions
promoting successful research-policy exchange. In particular, there is a need to explore
the political and organisational factors facilitating or impeding the take-up of evidence
and research; as well as variations in patterns of knowledge utilisation across different
national contexts and policy sectors.
Policy Recommendations

Based on the Policy Review: Migration – Facing realities and maximising opportunities launched at the conference.

Policies and Flows

- Policies to promote return migration should be based on measures that regularise migrants’ legal status in Europe. Restrictive migration policies increase the cost of emigration for migrants, and some case studies indicate that restrictive migration policies do not deter migration. Decisions of migrants to return to their country of origin are delayed or cancelled altogether if their legal status in the host country is uncertain and there is no prospect for them to be able to come back.

- EU Member States should improve, simplify and make more accessible their systems of recognition of skills and qualifications for third-country nationals. Migration to Europe is overall a migration of skills. However, many migrants do not succeed in transferring their skills and qualifications into appropriate-level jobs, but are overqualified compared to the job they do, which results in «brain-waste».

- The Directive on the conditions of entry and residence of third-country nationals for the purposes of research, study, pupil exchange, training and internships, voluntary service and au pairing should be recast. Policies promoting student mobility and exchanges should be deployed to encourage ‘brain circulation.’ Migrants who receive at least some of their higher education in Europe are more likely to enter skilled work than those who arrive from a skilled job or tertiary course outside the EU.

- Policies promoting student mobility and exchange should be implemented to encourage ‘brain circulation’ as those migrating for educational reasons are more likely to return than other migrant categories.

- The Blue Card Directive should be implemented in a harmonised manner across the EU territory, especially in light of the global competition for talent. Research has found the Blue Card scheme to be ineffective, especially regarding differing practices for recognition of qualifications, different admission criteria (e.g. salary requirements), the non-harmonised temporal validity of the card and the restrictions to the right to circulate outside the card-awarding Member State.

- The Facilitation Directive should be revised to include an express obligation for Member States to make an exception to criminal liability for providing humanitarian assistance to irregular migrants. A clear separation should be established between immigration authorities and services to migrants to allow third-country nationals and civil-society organisations to report crimes without fear of being detained and expelled.

- Governments should engage more with civil society organisations when designing migration policies in order to capitalise on their knowledge of migration flows.
Integration

- Integration policies should target hosting societies as much as migrants, considering that integration is a two-way process. Several studies have analysed the determinants of xenophobic or welcoming attitudes towards immigrants on the part of native populations. The results may guide policymakers to also direct integration policies towards those members of the host society who are the most likely to hold negative views on immigration.

- The citizens tests required for obtaining citizenship used in many European states should include questions that encourage participation in and contribution to society from migrants, such as ‘What do you plan to contribute to the country or city once you have obtained citizenship?’

- Language learning is crucial for the integration processes and should be one of the top priorities for integration policies.

- Policymakers should devise opportunities and settings for meaningful inter-ethnic socialisation at the local neighbourhood level. While natives overall have negative associations as concerns ethnic diversity in their neighbourhood, this is not the case for natives who have meaningful and active ties with people of other ethnicities.

- In order to accommodate religious and cultural differences in school contexts, policymakers are advised to:
  - avoid a one-size-fits-all rules and guidelines;
  - introduce as mandatory a model of dialogue between schools, parents and students; and
  - allow schools the freedom to accommodate diversity.

- In order to obtain the best educational outcomes from second-generation and ethnic minority children, policymakers should:
  - make nursery and pre-school care widely available and foresee state support for such services;
  - envisage the streaming of pupils in different educational tracks (e.g. leading or not leading to higher education) at a late stage, around age 15 or 16;
  - minimise the need for parental help and support with school-related tasks; and
  - implement recruiting practices to increase the ethnic diversity of the teaching staff, especially in schools with ethnically mixed populations.

Migration and Development

- Bringing about a certain level of social and economic development to a country may make people able to migrate (rather than leading to a reduction in the pressure to migrate). It requires a higher level of development before people become sufficiently well off to not need to migrate.
• In order to contain the scale of brain and skills loss in countries of origin, policies should:

  o adopt bilateral and multilateral agreements to harmonise balanced ethical recruitment and training schemes;
  o manage return migration in a way that is effective for development in migrants' home countries; and
  o foster the transfer of skills, knowledge and remittances (including social remittances) by diasporas.
Conference Agenda

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

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<th>Opening Session</th>
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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

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<th>Session 1: Research and Innovation for Evidence Based Policy</th>
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Moderator, Geoff Meade, Journalist

9.20 – 10.30  

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’Etudes 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

**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**
  - Borbala Szigeti, Policy Officer, DG Migration and Home Affairs, European Commission
  - Michail Kosmidis, Head of Migration Policy Unit, Ministry of Interior and Administrative Reconstruction, Greece
  - 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**
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
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

Organised by the European Commission, Directorate-General for Research and Innovation (DG RTD): Unit Open and Inclusive Societies, Unit Open Science and ERA policy, Unit Health Strategy, Unit Innovative tools, technologies and concepts in health research, Unit Climate Action and Earth Observation
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Priced publications:
The Directorate-General for Research and Innovation of the European Commission hosted a two-day international conference, ‘Understanding and Tackling the Migration Challenge: The Role of Research’, on 4-5 February 2016. The conference brought together leading researchers and policy-makers from national, EU and international bodies to explore how European research can support effective and sustainable migration policies.

Findings from social sciences and economic research, including on integration, circular migration, migration and development, as well as data and statistical modelling, featured alongside short- to long-term health care needs of migrants and the link between climate change and current and future migratory processes. The Science4Refugees initiative, designed to identify and provide opportunities for refugees with scientific qualifications within the European Research Area was also presented alongside similar initiatives in the EU Member States.

The identification of future research needs, both immediate and long-term, was a cross cutting theme at the conference. Furthermore, a number of areas were highlighted in which EU funded research has produced highly policy-relevant recommendations. These recommendations and the identified future research needs are presented in this report.

*Studies and reports*