Since its very foundation in 1993, the International Centre for Migration Policy Development has been engaged in enhancing knowledge on migration issues at the interface of policy and research worlds.

As one of the three pillars of the organisation and reflecting the overall mandate of ICMPD, research in the focuses on the governance of migration in the six policy fields: irregular migration and return, trafficking in human beings, border management and visa, asylum, migration and development, and legal migration and integration.

The objective of ICMPD’s Research Unit is to further knowledge on migration-related issues, to facilitate cooperation and synergy within the research community and to act as a “transmitter” between policy and academic communities, both within ICMPD and beyond. ICMPD applies a strong stakeholder-centred approach, involving governmental and non-governmental actors, migrants and non-migrants, academia and research networks, civil society organizations, trade unions, the media, etc.

With the aim of contributing to forward-looking migration policy development, the ICMPD Research Unit seeks to achieve a good balance of applied research, designed for its practical application, and basic research, which allows for exploring new fields and thus generating new ideas, principles or theories.

It also aims at carrying out research of the highest scientific standards and is committed to:

- **open-ended research**, i.e. designing research and interpreting findings in ways appropriate to the subject and not driven by political or methodological biases
- **professionalism**, research quality, respecting research users and research participants, and sensitivity to ethical issues
- close cooperation with leading research institutions.

The ICMPD Research Unit has established a reputation for its comparative research on international migration trends, patterns and policies in the wider European context. Its research is interdisciplinary and based on a variety of methods, including policy analysis, qualitative ethnographic and sociological research, and quantitative analysis.

The unit’s work is policy-oriented and empirical with a strong international, comparative perspective. The unit is also an active member of the IMISCOE Research Network.

The documentation of migration research is of vital importance to ICMPD’s activities. The ICMPD library (http://www.icmpd-library.org) offers one of the largest collections of migration-specific literature and documentation in Austria.
Selected Publications

- An effective asylum responsibility-sharing mechanism. By Martin Wagner and Albert Kraler (2014)
- Feasibility study on the labour market. Trajectories of regularised immigrants within the European Union. By Alber Kraler (coordination) (2014)

Recent Policy Briefs

- How harmonised can visa policy be? The new EC proposals on Schengen visa rules. By Francesca Zamagni (2014)
- Tip of the Iceberg? Improving the Interpretation and Presentation of Trafficking Data. By Dita Vogel (2014)
- Climate change & migration: What is the role for migration policies? By Albert Kraler, Tatiana Cernei and Marion Noack (2012)

Selected Projects

- Integration, transnational mobility and human, social and economic capital transfers (ITHACA)
- Study on smuggling of migrants: characteristics, responses and cooperation with third countries
- Migrants in Countries in Crisis: Supporting an evidence-based approach for effective and cooperative state action (MICIC)
- The role of regional migration dialogues in the face of a new global migration and development agenda
- FastPass: A harmonised, modular reference system for all European automatic border crossing points
- Addressing demand in anti-trafficking efforts and policies (DemandAT)
- Care and Ssupport for elderly migrants in Austria: Institutional challenges and assessment of Demand (BEMIG)
- Pilot study: Integration processes of newly arrived immigrants (LEGINT)