About Research at ICMPD

ICMPD as an organisation has established a reputation for its research on international migration patterns, trends and policies in the wider European context, strongly based on the work of its Research Unit. The ICMPD Research Unit benefits from a unique position that allows it to engage with the broader research community, governments and policy makers. This includes universities, research networks, non-governmental institutions, international organisations and European institutions.

The Research Team

The Research Team itself consists of thirteen researchers with experience in a broad range of disciplines, including history, political science, economics, anthropology, gender studies and sociology. The team also has strong research backgrounds in a number of different regions and language skills that allow them to research migration issues around the globe: Africa, Eastern and Western Europe, Latin America, the Middle East and North America.

The Team’s qualitative and quantitative research includes in-depth interviews with and surveys of migrants, public authorities, experts and other relevant stakeholders, participant and non-participant observation in the field, statistical analyses, secondary analysis and literature review, in addition to the development of research instruments, theoretical models and analytical frameworks for such research.

Moreover, it is also actively engaged in organising relevant conferences, workshops and trainings, as well as publishing articles, papers and books on a variety of topics. Such research output has included an examination of the ties between migration and the labour market, asylum, integration, fundamental rights, climate change, gender, statistics, irregular migration and development. Its strongly empirically-driven qualitative and quantitative research and other activities consistently provide international institutions, states, research networks and universities with policy-relevant knowledge on international migration dynamics.

Networks

The Research Unit’s strong ties complement its extensive expertise and competencies in the area of policy-oriented research around the globe. It is an active member of the IMISCOE (“International Migration, Integration and Social Cohesion in Europe”) Research Network and is a partner of the International Metropolis Project network, which focuses on the issues of migration and diversity. Moreover, it participates in the Suitland Working Group, a UN Economic Commission for a Europe-led initiative on improving migration statistics at the global level, and maintains strong links with other research institutions and individual researchers outside these networks.
Research Outputs

- Reports and academic publications on regularisation policy in the EU, including a study on regularisation practices in the EU (REGINE, 2007–2009) and an analysis of the shift towards a humanitarian justification of regularisations

- Studies examining different aspects of discrimination, including a study on inequalities and multiple discrimination in access to health in five EU Member States (with Middlesex University as project lead, 2010–2011) and a report on inequality and discrimination on the labour market (2011)

- Studies examining integration policies in selected European countries, including a study on the linkage of migration and integration policy (PROSINT, 2009–2011) and a study assessing the impact of integration measures (WIKAN, jointly with the Competence Centre on Legal Migration and Integration, 2011–2012)

- Studies and reports analysing different aspects of irregular migration, including quantitative studies (annual yearbook on irregular migration in Central and Eastern Europe; the Clandestino project examining the extent of irregular migration in the EU, 2007–2009) and a study examining theoretical perspectives of human smuggling and trafficking (2002–2005)

- Reports on asylum policies, including a comparative analysis of asylum and return policies and a statistical analysis regarding asylum claims of Iraqi, Somali and Eritrean asylum seekers in Switzerland, Denmark and the UK (2008–2010), a study on airport asylum procedures in Europe covering 7 European countries (both jointly with the Competence Centre on Asylum, 2008–2009) and a study on the legal and policy aspects of environmentally induced displacement for the European Parliament (“Climate Refugee Study”, 2011)

- Studies on the impact on migration control on fundamental rights, including a study on the fundamental rights situation of irregular migrants in the EU (“FRIM”, 2009–2011), a study on the treatment of third-country nationals at selected maritime, land and air borders along the EU’s external borders (2010–2012) and a study on access to health care for undocumented migrants in Switzerland (2008–2011)

- Studies on trafficking and other exploitative situations, including a study on child begging (2010–2012) and a study on the extent of trafficking (published 2010)

- Studies and trainings on migration statistics, including training seminars on migration statistics and data collection targeting public officials and other interested professionals and a large-scale study of statistical data collection in 29 European states (PROMINSTAT project, 2007–2010)

- Studies and publications examining different aspects of family-related migration and family migration policies, including a study on the impact of family migration policies on beneficiaries of family reunion (2006–2009) and a study on the impact of family reunification on integration (2011–2013)