Predictive Migration Approaches in the EU

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OUTLINE

EMN and AHQ

Results of the AHQ

Three take-aways
EMN and AHQ

European Migration Network (EMN)

➢ Provides information on migration and asylum to support EU policymaking

➢ Informs general public

Ad-Hoc Queries (AHQ)

➢ Rapidly collect comparative information
AHQ on Forecasting Migration

1. Do MS make use of predictive methods?
2. Which forecasting models are being used?
3. Data sources and time horizon?
4. Who conducts the analysis for these models?
5. Which institutions makes use of the results?
6. Do the current models fulfil MS’ policy needs?
Question 1

Does your Member State make use of methods or models for predicting /analysing future migration trends and developments?
Question 2

Please provide details on the forecasting models.
Question 3

Can you provide information on:

a) which data sources are used to inform these?
Question 3

Can you provide information on:

b) the time horizon of migration predictions?
Question 4

Who conducts the analysis for these models?
Question 5

Which institutions make use of the results?
Question 6

Do the current models fulfil your Member State’s policy needs?

Do the models fulfill policy needs?

- **YES (AT, BG, HR, NO, PL, SE)**
  - 6

- **NO (DE)**
  - 3

- **N/I (FR, PT, SK)**
  - 1
Takeaways

1. Short-term prognostics
2. Policy Research Nexus
3. Prepare to be unprepared
Short-term Prognostics

1. Prediction approaches differ in their predictive horizon
2. Uncertainty
3. It all depends on the policy needs

The four main approaches to anticipating migration

Survey-based forecasts
Foresight
Early warning systems
Model-based forecasts

Source: Sohst and Tjaden (2020): Migration Policy Practice (forthcoming)
Policy Research Nexus

Policy makers need analysts
• Complexity of policy issues
• Policy makers’ responsibility to deliver best policies to their constituencies
• Avoiding past errors
• Minimising uncertainty

Analysts need policy makers
• Scarce political attention
• Favourable political culture towards evidence-informed policy
• Investment in high-quality data
• Provision of framework for coordination of cross-country data exchange

1. Timelines
2. Reality is messy and complex
3. Communication
4. Favorable political culture
5. High-quality data

Source: Albertinelli (2020) et al. Migration Policy Practice (forthcoming)
Prepare to be unprepared

**Black Swans**: low-probability, high-impact events
→ *failure to predict*

**Grey Rhinos**: predictable events yet “hiding in plain sight”
→ *failure to act*

*Source: Bijak and Czaika (2020): Migration Policy Practice (forthcoming)*
What can we do?

For Black Swans
- Preparedness and Resilience

For Grey Rhinos
- Same as above plus learning from past experience

Prepare to be unprepared ...
Thank you for your attention!

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