

# UNU-MERIT Migration Group

## Annual Report 2019

### Index

1. Message from the Head of the Migration Group
2. Current Research Themes
3. Projects
4. Publications
5. Events
6. Education, Training, and Capacity Building
7. Communication, Outreach, and Impact
8. Staff

### 1. Message from the Head of the Migration Group

I am proud to share with you the 2019 Annual Report of the Migration Group at UNU-MERIT and the Maastricht Graduate School of Governance. We enjoyed a successful year; it was a time for growth and change, with new strategic hires and an expansion of our capacity building and executive education programmes.

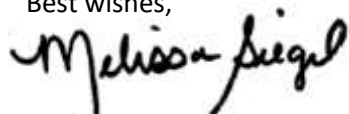
During 2019 we embarked on several new projects; some notable ones include the Horizon 2020 project on *Advancing Alternative Migration Governance* (ADMIGOV) which aims to provide an alternative migration governance model; a GIZ project on *Supporting Regular Labour Migration and Mobility Between Northern Africa and Europe* (THAMM); and the second phase of a project with IOM on *Connecting Diaspora for Development 2* (CD4D2) which focuses on capacity development through knowledge transfer and the creation of connections. We held a series of seminars and published in numerous journals and other outlets. As a result of the success of the Migration Management Diploma Programme (MMDP) in Maastricht, we kicked off the inaugural cohorts of two spin off programmes in Kenya and Rwanda. Our dedicated team has also implemented other successful executive education programmes around the world including in Kosovo and Iraq.

With this increase in activities, we have made strategic additions to our team with the aim of strengthening the core base of the migration team. In the course of 2019, we have welcomed a new Head of Executive Education and Capacity Building and two additional Senior Migration Researchers.

I would like to thank our collaborators and donors who have continued to support our group and have worked alongside our team to produce excellent research products in the migration field. I look forward to continuing our collaborations and to usher in further projects in the course of 2020 and beyond.

I welcome you to follow our media channels and to get in touch if you would like further details on our work or for potential collaborations.

Best wishes,



Prof. Dr. Melissa Siegel

## 2. Current Research Themes

The migration group at UNU-MERIT focuses its research on the effects of migration and migration-related activities (such as remittances, diaspora, and knowledge transfers) on (human) development, including specific effects on those left behind or effects of return migration. Key research is done on migration for evidence-based policymaking as well as evaluations of programmes and policies related to migrants and refugees.

Our research on migration often entails empirical work. The focus is often at the micro level, and both quantitative and qualitative methods are used as a mixed methods approach. The research on migration and development is strongly linked to other research themes within UNU-MERIT, such as poverty, social protection, public policy and economic growth.

The work of the Migration Group centres around ten thematic areas and four cross-cutting themes: Gender; Methodology; Children; and Technology. The areas of research are:

### 1) **Forced Migration, Security and Conflict:**

This research theme focuses on the causes, consequences, and experiences of forced migrants. First, we explore the experiences of forced migrants in host countries, including their integration and transnational activities such as remittance behaviour and engagement with their country of origin. Second, we examine the conditions of forced migrants in host countries and relations with host communities. Third, we study the relationships between forced migration flows, labour market conditions and security in host countries and in home countries after return. Fourth, and overlapping with our research theme on return migration, our research includes both the perceptions and reintegration of forced migrants upon return, their multidimensional wellbeing and the sustainability of return migration in countries affected by conflict. Due to the policy relevance of this research theme, our researchers work in close collaboration with international organisations, NGOs and host and home country governments. The aim of our research on forced migration and conflict is to a) generate new knowledge on the causes, consequences, and experiences of forced migrants, and b) enhance the effectiveness of policies that target forced migrants.

### 2) **Integration, Social Cohesion and Transnationalism:**

The transformation of societies as a result of immigration have given integration issues a considerable space in the public debate. At the same time, empirical research and theories that aim to explain immigrants' integration processes have evolved tremendously. Today, it is highly accepted that immigrants' integration processes are a multidimensional (touching on social, economic, political and cultural life domains). More and more researchers apply an interdisciplinary approach (e.g. economics, political science, social-psychology, cultural anthropology) and bring different dimensions (legal, economic, sociocultural, and political and identity) of the phenomenon together in their research. Quantitative and qualitative comparative international research in the field has allowed for a better understanding of the settlement processes of immigrants over time (cohort and cross-generation studies) at different levels (e.g. city, region, country). Moreover, with the connection of transnational migration theory to integration debates, integration processes are not anymore limited to the national boundaries of the destination country. Within the research theme, we emphasise the fact that migrants' experiences in the destination country are intertwined with their relationships with friends and family in their origin country and other localities, their wishes for their homeland and their local culture, traditions and values. Consequently, this research theme seeks to bring integration

and social cohesion research and policymaking a step further by applying a holistic approach that embraces the new realities and dynamics of immigrant lives that potentially take place within multi-sited multi-layered transnational social fields that simultaneously encompass migrants and non-migrants, both sending and receiving communities as well as other connected communities or organisations.

### **3) Return, Remittances, Diaspora and Development:**

Return migration encompasses a wide variety of migrants such as refugees, students, highly skilled migrants, assisted voluntary returnees, forced returns, and labour migrants. Their return can be permanent or temporary and can occur for different reasons. Within this research theme we focus on decision-making factors in return migration, the consequences of return, and the relationship between return migration and development. Our research includes topics such as: understanding the decision to return; the impacts of repatriated refugees on communities of return and social cohesion; and the multidimensional wellbeing of return migrants. We have been pioneering in the area of understanding the relationship between temporary return and knowledge transfer and capacity building upon return through our work with the IOM Temporary Return of Qualified Nationals Programme and the GIZ Returning Experts Programme. The development impacts of return are contested, and these relationships are explored in our work on sustainable return and reintegration. Within this theme, our work also explores the linkages among diasporas, diaspora capital, remittances, and development. Transnational migrants or diaspora members—those individuals who participate in activities and identities in both countries of residence and origin—can make vital contributions to the development processes in the countries in which they engage. Remittances are just one example of those contributions, which could also include the exchange of knowledge through (temporary) return or participation in knowledge networks, development of enterprises, or the transmission of different values and norms.

### **4) Migration Governance and Policy Coherence:**

Migration traverses multiple policy areas and is the frequent subject of debate among a range of different actors including national governments, international organisations, civil society organisations, trade unions, employer federations, recruitment agencies and migrants themselves. Within states different government departments work on different aspects of migration and the objectives of their policies often have implications for other policy areas and vice versa. Attempts to address these differences (and complementarities) are reflected in conversations regarding migration governance, migration management, mainstreaming migration, and policy coherence. The purpose of this research is to expand the evidence base underlying these discussions by 1) conducting methodologically sound evaluations on migration projects and programmes, particularly those attempting to address the cross-cutting nature of migration; 2) conducting interdisciplinary research on migration governance.

### **5) Migration and Health:**

Migration and health are deeply connected. On the micro-level, the level of individual migrants and the members of their immediate networks, past research has assessed how migrants can act as epidemiological bridges and can expose the family in the home countries to illnesses contracted abroad. Other research has assessed how both financial and social capital (monetary and social remittances) can improve the health outcomes of migrants and their families by enabling greater expenditures on health inputs or helping individuals make more informed health decisions. On the meso-

level, the level of communities and institutions, the link between migration and health can involve health systems and how migrants navigate them transnationally or cross-culturally, particularly when it comes to organising the care of origin-country kin from the destination country. On the macro-level, the level of societies and policies, migration can represent either a challenge or a boon to the resilience or adequacy of healthcare infrastructure; it can undermine the efficiency of systems when doctors and nurses who have been locally educated work abroad, but it can also bolster it with programmes that encourage the (temporary) return of skilled nationals. Migration policies can also inadvertently address health and healthcare systems, particularly when it concerns that active recruitment and foreign deployment of healthcare workers. These potential links are just a few among many, and they highlight the many complex ways in which migration interacts with personal health and well-being, healthcare institutions and infrastructures, and health policy. Within this research line, migration and health are explored across these different levels.

#### **6) Migration and Corruption:**

This research area investigates the linkages between migration and corruption. Migration and corruption are critical phenomena in development processes. Migration, in this context, refers to the international movement of people, be it for work, protection, education, family reunification or other purposes. The (conflict-affected) states that typically produce migrants and refugees tend to have weak institutions and high levels of corruption meaning that there is often a disconnect between norms of corruption in migrant sending and receiving states. Corruption is understood here broadly, to encompass nepotism, clientelism, misappropriation of public funds, bribery, extortion, embezzlement, etc. This research area is particularly interested in investigating some specific aspects of this connection including but not limited to: corruption as an impediment to the development benefit of migration, corruption leading to a morality drain, corruption as a(dis) incentive to return or invest, the diffusion of norms and values around corruption or the continuing with the status-quo.

#### **7) Migration and Entrepreneurship:**

Migrants have the potential to contribute to the economic growth of both their host country and their country of origin in many ways. The focus in the literature to date has primarily been on migrant workers, and, as such, migrants' entrepreneurial activities have received limited attention. Immigrants are often perceived as being highly entrepreneurial and potential contributors to economic growth and innovation in the host country. The importance of this group is increasingly reflected in immigration policies and the development of specific visas that aim to attract immigrant entrepreneurs. Migrant entrepreneurship is not solely comprised of traditional ethnic businesses; it is present in a wide range of sectors. The survival rate of these businesses is often relatively low; however, the number of persons employed in such businesses is substantial making this an important area for further research. At the same time, migrants often have a unique position in the home country because they have the possibility to accumulate financial, human and social capital abroad and utilise them in their country of origin. This is particularly true for the small and medium sized businesses sector and, therefore, migrants have the potential to help develop domestic markets. This makes the understanding of the relationship between migration and entrepreneurship important within the context of the migration and development debate. While data on migrant entrepreneurship is generally limited, there is evidence that (return) migrants are indeed over-represented among entrepreneurs in some countries. The assumption that migrants are more

entrepreneurial than non-movers is based on the argument of positive selection of migrants. Migration itself is a risky activity and reflects a certain risk attitude, also important for entrepreneurship. At the same time, someone that took an opportunity to migrate, may also be more likely to spot a good business opportunity. In reality immigrants often face labour market discrimination and are pushed into entrepreneurship rather than going into it because they spotted a great opportunity. The aim of our research under this theme is to generate new knowledge on the intersection between migration and entrepreneurship, looking at business activities of immigrants as well as return migrants.

#### **8) Migration and the Left Behind:**

In recent decades, growing attention has been paid to the “left behind”, the members of transnational households and families who remain in the country of origin following the emigration of one or more family or household members. The population of the “left behind” is highly diverse, representing different groups of individuals with heterogeneous post-migration experiences. This group may include the spouses of migrant labourers who emigrate for work abroad; the children of migrant parents who may experience the migration of a mother, father, or both simultaneously; elderly individuals whose adult children or other close kin have emigrated abroad, and; members of migrants’ extended kinship networks who remain in the origin country. Despite the growing visibility of these diverse “left behind” populations in both academic and policy research over the past 20 years, they have remained under-researched, particularly in terms of: 1) how the “left behind” become left behind—what factors determine whether a migrant and his/her family will migrate together or will choose to be divided over national borders?; 2) how the well-being of different types of “left behind” populations is shaped by the migration of a family or household member, and; 3) how characteristics of the migrant and migration episode, including characteristics such as destination country, length of stay, gender and family role of the migrant, etc. influence the post-migration adaptation process of the left behind.

#### **9) Irregular Migration:**

Our work explores the experiences, decision making factors, and conditions of irregular and transit migrants in multiple contexts. We explore the conditions and context of both irregular entry, such as into the European Union, and irregular stay, such as in the Netherlands. The purpose of our work is to contribute to: 1) understanding processes of irregular and transit migration; 2) examining the role of migrant smugglers in processes of irregular migration and 3) explore the role of migration policies in irregular migration movements.

#### **10) Labour Migration and the Highly Skilled:**

Finding work abroad is one of the major motivations for migrating. Migrants with different skill levels seek better life opportunities abroad and become crucial actors in destination country labour markets. Their human capital, mainly measured by their educational attainment, skills and professional experiences, affect significantly the ways in which they integrate to the labour market of the destination countries, but also to what extent they can contribute back to their origin country through financial remittances, knowledge transfer and investment. We focus on the specific contributions of highly skilled migrants who occupy a unique position in the literature. Highly skilled migration is perceived more and more as a phenomenon which can have positive effects on the development of both the migrant sending and receiving countries. Considering this, under this research theme, we focus on investigating various labour migration patterns (e.g. circular, temporary, seasonal migration),

labour market integration of immigrants with respect to their human capital and the capacity of immigrants with different skill levels to contribute to development. Moreover, recognising the significance of highly skilled migration for many EU countries and the global race for talent, we conduct research regarding the policies to attract the highly skilled and seek to identify the determinants of destination country choices of highly skilled immigrants as an important area for evidence based policymaking.

### **3. Ongoing Projects in 2019**

#### **1) HORIZON 2020 PROJECT: ADVANCING ALTERNATIVE MIGRATION GOVERNANCE (ADMIGOV)**

*Funding: EU Horizon 2020*

*Description:* UNU-MERIT is part of a consortium led by the University of Amsterdam. This project investigates the conformity of European migration policy in practice with the basic principles of the United Nations. ADMIGOV analyses the gap between the basic principles of migration policy on the one hand and its practice on the other including entering and exiting the EU, and innovative solutions for temporary and circular migration. The aim of the project was to develop alternative forms of migration policy that are optimally aligned with key principles of policies and consequently contribute to a future-proof migration policy.

#### **2) NORFACE: MIGRATION, TRANSFORMATION AND SUSTAINABILITY (MISTY)**

*Funding: NORFACE & Belmont Forum*

*Description:* The aim of MISTY is to use theory and rigorous empirical research to expand knowledge of transformations to sustainability by incorporating migration dynamics. The main objectives of MISTY are to expand knowledge of transformations by incorporating migration dynamics, specifically: the impact of aggregate flows of people on sustainability; the consequences of individual level life course dimensions of mobility and sustainability; the governance of migration and its consequences for sustainability. As well as to integrate this new knowledge with methodological innovation into planning processes and strategies for sustainable transitions. To build capacity for the migration-environment research community to engage in research on transformational challenges. By the end of its term the project aims to deliver theoretical advances, novel methodological approaches and significant social impacts concerning the role of migration in transformations to sustainability. It will develop new theoretical understanding of the interaction between migration and sustainability trajectories and will generate findings that will inform policy and practice in a wide range of government and non-government domains at different scales.

#### **3) HORIZON 2020 PROJECT ALIGNING MIGRATION MANAGEMENT AND THE MIGRATION-DEVELOPMENT NEXUS (MIGNEX)**

*Funding: EU Horizon 2020*

*Description:* UNU-MERIT and MACIMIDE are part of a consortium led by Prof. Jørgen Carling at the Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO) which is carrying out what is likely the largest-ever European-funded research project on migration. The 'Aligning Migration Management and the Migration-Development Nexus' (MIGNEX) project is taking place over the course of five years. It aims at forging new connections between two policy fields: how migration is regulated, and how migration and development

affect each other. The responsibilities of UNU-MERIT and MACIMIDE include developing new methods for measuring the development impacts of migration, assessing coherence between the legal framework and policy instruments, and evaluation of the overall European approach to third-country cooperation on migration.

**4) CEDEFOP PROJECT: COMPLEMENTARY PATHWAYS FOR ADULT REFUGEES (2018-2019)**

*Funding: ICMPD*

*Description:* UNU-MERIT contributed to a research project commissioned by the European Centre for Development of Vocational Training (CEDEFOP) and led by the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) and the Italian-based International and European Forum on Migration Research (FIERI). The purpose of this research project was to increase the evidence base for complementary pathway mechanisms for admission of adult refugees from a first host country to another EU country, through the use of vocational education and training (VET), skills and qualifications. The project involved national experts for Canada, Norway, Greece, Italy, Germany, Spain, Finland, France, Ireland, the Netherlands, Portugal and Sweden.

**5) REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND PROTECTION PROGRAMME FOR THE HORN OF AFRICA (RDPP) (2017-2020)**

*Funding: Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs*

*Description:* As part of a consortium with partners from MDF/APE, Samuel Hall and ECDPM, UNU-MERIT set out on a multi-year assessment of the Regional Development and Protection Programme (RDPP) for the Horn of Africa. The RDPP for the Horn of Africa was launched in 2015 to improve protection and enhance development prospects of refugees, IDPs and local communities, aiming to offer an alternative to risks of irregular migration. Through the programme, partners aim to contribute to durable, comprehensive solutions for long term development challenges posed by protracted forced displacement of refugees in their host communities. The evaluation by the consortium consists of in-depth case studies including new household surveys in five countries: Ethiopia, Kenya, Sudan, Somalia and Uganda.

**6) H2020: THE ROLE OF EUROPEAN MOBILITY AND ITS IMPACTS IN NARRATIVES, DEBATES AND EU REFORMS (REMINDER)**

*Funding: EU Horizon 2020*

*Description:* UNU-MERIT was part of a research consortium of 13 European institutions who implemented a three-year project titled 'The Role of European Mobility and its Impacts in Narratives, Debates and EU Reforms' (REMINDER). The project started in January 2017 under the lead of Oxford University and was funded by the European Commission's 'Horizon 2020' Framework Programme for Research and Innovation. The project investigated the economic, social, institutional and policy factors that have shaped free movement in the EU, its impacts and the public debates surrounding it. UNU-MERIT was specifically in charge of Work Package 2 compiling and analysing existing data to understand intra-EU mobility and part of Work Package 3 which looked at the decision-making process of moving within the EU.

**7) ERASMUS + PROJECT: HELPING STUDENTS IN ACCEPTANCE (HESTIA)**

*Funding: Erasmus +*

*Description:* The aim of the project was to help the integration of immigrant children at schools from five countries: the 6th Primary School of Egaleo, Greece; GO! Basisschool Schaarbeek Hendrik Conscience, in Brussels, Belgium; Istituto

Comprensivo Statale "Gianni Rodari", Palagiano, Italy; Associação Jardim Escola João de Deus, Leiria, Portugal; and Maristes Sants Les Corts Fundació Champagnat, Barcelona, Spain. Over the course of two years (2017-2019), participating schools implemented a multitude of activities teaching pupils about migration and human rights. From 22-26 January 2018, UNU-MERIT organised a workshop, during which teachers from participating schools learnt about integration of migrant and refugee students and share best practices with Dutch migrant education professionals.

#### **8) CONNECTING DIASPORAS FOR DEVELOPMENT (CD4D)**

*Funding: Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs*

*Description:* UNU-MERIT participated in IOM's Kick-Off Meeting of its new Connecting Diaspora for Development (CD4D) project in The Hague. UNU-MERIT implemented an impact evaluation of the CD4D project specifically measuring knowledge transfer within this project. As a continuation of IOM's Temporary Return of Qualified Nationals (TRQN) project, the programme linked diaspora members with Dutch residency to institutions in their countries of origin. This was done via physical and online assignments with organisations in Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Ghana, Morocco, Sierra Leone, Somalia and Iraq.

#### **9) LABOUR MIGRATION GOVERNANCE AND LABOUR MOBILITY IN NORTH AFRICA (2019-2022)**

*Funding: European Trust Fund for Africa and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development*

*Description:* The project aims to provide support research for the project 'Towards a Holistic Approach to Labour Migration Governance and Labour Mobility in North Africa' (THAMM). THAMM is implemented by the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the German Development Cooperation Office (GIZ). The overall objective of the programme is to foster mutually beneficial legal migration and mobility between Egypt, Morocco and Tunisia on the one hand and Europe, especially Germany, on the other. Over the next three years, UNU-MERIT will support the project implementation through research on the development impacts of labour migration from the three North African countries to Germany.

#### **10) WOMEN'S POLITICAL PARTICIPATION AND CORRUPTION**

*Funding: Transparency International (TI)*

*Description:* A team of researchers at UNU-MERIT was mandated by TI to conduct a study on female politicians' engagement in the fight against corruption. The overarching aim of this project was to generate evidence to promote female politicians' leadership in transparency and anti-corruption policies. Within the framework of SDG 16 (Sustainable Governance) and SDG 5 (Gender Equality), TI is committed to mainstream gender in its fight against corruption. The team was asked to develop and test a methodology that can later be applied locally by each national chapter of Transparency International. The regional focus of this pilot project was on Latin America; Argentina and Mexico were selected as the two pilot countries.

#### **11) PAKISTANI DIASPORA IN GERMANY**

*Funding: Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH*

*Description:* A quantitative and qualitative analysis of the Pakistani diaspora in Germany. The project recognises that diasporas are heterogeneous and complex, as they consist of various groups with different interests and agendas (whether formally organised or not). The project provides a comprehensive overview of Pakistani



migrant organisations and associations based in Germany. Moreover, the profiles, characteristics, and activities of these initiatives as well as their development potential are analysed. The study contributed to GIZ's Programme Migration for Development, which focused on how to best support development-oriented forms of return migration and promote the capacity of migrants in Germany to engage in knowledge transfer to their origin countries.

## **12) OUT OF SCHOOL CHILDREN INITIATIVE (OOSCI)**

*Funding: UNICEF, Jordan*

*Description:* UNU-MERIT was commissioned to conduct research to better understand the situation of the Middle East and North Africa Out of School Children Initiative (OOSCI) in Jordan, using both qualitative and quantitative methods. OOSCI is part of the global OOSCI initiative launched by UNICEF and UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS) in 2010. The initiative is based on the right of children to good quality education and aims at analysing the facts and reasons behind leaving school and at reducing the numbers of out-of-school children. In Jordan, the significant numbers of Syrian refugees grant the initiatives additional importance as the target group is wider and includes more vulnerable children. The research supports the efforts of the Jordanian government by measuring the extent, disparities, costs, and options to resolve the educational exclusion of children in Jordan.

## **13) MAPPING OF KAZAKHSTAN'S NATIONAL SYSTEM'S CAPACITY TO RESPOND TO THE NEEDS OF CHILDREN AFFECTED BY MIGRATION, WITH FOCUS ON UNACCOMPANIED AND SEPARATED CHILDREN**

*Funding: UNICEF*

*Description:* Members of the Migration and Development and the Social Protection, Inclusive Innovation, and Development research groups at UNU-MERIT worked together on a project commissioned by UNICEF Kazakhstan and the National Commissioner for Human Rights in Kazakhstan. The project addressed the capacity of Kazakhstan's child protection system to respond to the unique protection needs of unaccompanied and separated children affected by migration. The project explored how the fundamental rights of unaccompanied and separated children are fulfilled while under state care.

## **14) EVALUATION OF EU-IOM JOINT-INITIATIVE ON MIGRATION PROTECTION AND REINTEGRATION IN THE HORN OF AFRICA**

*Funding: IOM*

*Description:* UNU-MERIT have been commissioned by the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) Regional Office for the East and Horn of Africa to conduct a mid-term evaluation of the EU-IOM Joint Initiative on Migrant Protection and Reintegration programme in the Horn of Africa. This comprehensive programme aimed to contribute to facilitating orderly, safe, regular and rights-based migration through dignified voluntary return and the implementation of development-focused and sustainable reintegration policies and processes. The programme assists migrants who decide to return to their countries of origin to do so in a safe and dignified way and help them restart their lives in their countries of origin. The evaluation built on qualitative data collection (focus group and key stakeholder interviews) in Djibouti, Ethiopia, Somalia and Sudan.

## **15) ASSESSMENT: FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS (FAO)**

*Funding: FAO*

*Description:* UNU-MERIT was commissioned by the FAO to empirically assess the impact of social protection interventions on migration dynamics in Senegal as well as to develop an FAO policy paper on the relationship between social protection and migration. The research team utilised household data collected by FAO in collaboration with the National Agency of Statistics and Demography of Senegal to investigate the effects of social protection on household decisions regarding migration, and how these programmes affect household well-being. In addition, the team probed the role of remittances as informal safety nets and as potential resource for agricultural and rural development in Senegal.

**16) DRC STUDY: SYRIAN DIASPORA ORGANIZATIONS IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND EUROPE**

*Funding: The Danish Refugee Council (DRC)*

*Description:* The DRC commissioned UNU-MERIT to conduct a study on the Syrian diaspora civil society organisations in the Middle East and Europe. The research explored the future roles of Syrian civil society outside Syria, in light of the changing realities inside Syria and in the six selected host countries (Lebanon, Turkey, Germany, France, Denmark and the United Kingdom).

**17) ICMPD PROJECT: EVALUATION OF THE EU MOBILITY PARTNERSHIPS IN TUNISIA AND ARMENIA**

*Funding: International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD)*

*Description:* A team from UNU-MERIT was commissioned by ICMPD to conduct an evaluation of the European Union (EU) Mobility Partnerships in Tunisia and Armenia. The multidimensional and independent evaluation examined the outcome of the Partnerships on various levels, formulated lessons learnt and provided recommendations for the ways forward.

**18) GIZ PROJECT: MIGRATION POLICY CHECKLISTS**

*Funding: German Development Cooperation Office (GIZ)*

*Description:* UNU-MERIT was commissioned by GIZ to develop a migration policy checklist for the cooperation countries of its Programme Migration for Development (PMD). Through PMD, GIZ works on migration issues in 25 countries all over the world. The aim of the checklists is to provide comparable and coherent information on the different migration trends, migration policies and migration governance actors in these countries. Based on desk research, they serve to inform the activities of the GIZ in the cooperation countries particularly in the light of migration policy advice and capacity building relating to the aims of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration.

**19) EXPERT ADVICE FOR ECORYS PROJECT ON IRREGULAR MIGRATION FROM SOUTH ASIA TO EUROPE**

*Funding: Ecorys*

*Description:* UNU-MERIT is providing input to an evaluation carried out by Ecorys UK of a project making use of communications campaigns to address irregular migration from South Asia. The use of social media and communications campaigns to deter irregular migration has gained increasing interest in recent times in European countries with significant immigration. This project involves a social and mass media communications campaign targeting potential irregular migrants in their country of origin. The purpose of the evaluation is to assess the performance of the project in achieving its objectives by using both survey and focus group data. Based

on the findings and conclusions, the review will provide feedback and recommendations aimed at improving the design of future similar projects.

## **20) DIASPORA SUPPORT TO DURABLE SOLUTIONS: AFGHANS IN EUROPE**

*Funding: DRC*

*Description:* The objectives of the study were to provide a mapping and overview of Afghan Diaspora Organisations (ADOs) in each of the four focus countries; a capacity and needs assessment of the ADOs; and develop recommendations for further ADOs engagement. The report is based on desk research, four ADO consultation meetings and 103 interviews conducted with Afghan diaspora representatives (members of ADOs and individuals), and other relevant stakeholders.

## **4. Publications**

### **Journals:**

- 1) Adger, W. Neil, Emily Boyd, Anita Fabos, Sonja Fransen, Dominique Jolivet, George Neville, Ricardo Safrá de Campos & Marjanneke J. Vijge, 2019, Migration transforms the conditions for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, *Lancet Planetary Health*, 3
- 2) Alem, Yonas & Lisa Andersson, 2019, International Remittances and Private Interhousehold Transfers: Exploring the Links, *The European Journal of Development Research*, 31
- 3) Bilgili, Özge, Craig Loschmann, Sonja Fransen & Melissa Siegel, 2019, Is the Education of Local Children Influenced by Living near a Refugee Camp? Evidence from Host Communities in Rwanda, *International Migration*
- 4) Bilgili, Özge & Sonja Fransen, 2019, Return, Reintegration and the Role of State, *Migration & Integration 8-Dialog zwischen Politik, Wissenschaft und Praxis*, 8
- 5) Fajth, Veronika, Özge Bilgili, Craig Loschmann & Melissa Siegel, 2019, How do refugees affect social life in host communities? The case of Congolese refugees in Rwanda, *Comparative Migration Studies*, 7
- 6) Kuschminder, Katherine, 2019, The Multi-level Governance of Asylum in Italy: Understanding Eritreans' Secondary Movements in Search of Relocation within Italy, *Journal of Refugee Studies*
- 7) Kuschminder, Katherine & Jennifer Waidler, 2019, At Europe's frontline: factors determining migrants decision making for onwards migration from Greece and Turkey, *Migration and Development* Kuschminder, Katherine & Anna Triandafyllidou, 2019, Smuggling, Trafficking, and Extortion: New Conceptual and Policy Challenges on the Libyan Route to Europe, *Antipode Journal*, Volume 52, Issue 1
- 8) Loschmann, Craig, Özge Bilgili & Melissa Siegel, 2019, Considering the benefits of hosting refugees: evidence of refugee camps influencing local labour market activity and economic welfare in Rwanda, *IZA Journal of Development and Migration*, 9
- 9) Volante, Louis, Don A. Klinger, Melissa Siegel & Leena Yahia, 2019, Policy options for addressing immigrant student achievement gaps, *Migration Policy and Practice*, 9
- 10) Volante, Louis, Don A. Klinger, Melissa Siegel & Leena Yahia, 2019, Raising the achievement of immigrant students: Towards a multi-layered framework for enhanced student outcomes, *Policy Futures in Education*, 17
- 11) Wong, Pui-hang & Mehmet Guney Celbis, 2019, Human Rights, Income and International Migration, *International Migration*, 57

### **Reports:**

- 12) Alberola, Clara & Chiara Janssen, Mar 2019, *Action Knowledge Transfer on Migrant Smuggling and Trafficking by Air and Document Fraud*, Commissioned by ICMPD through the Mobility Partnership Facility with financial support from the European Union
- 13) Diker, Eleni & Nora Jasmin Ragab, Nov 2019, *Diaspora Mobilization in Contexts of Political Uncertainties: Exploring the potentials, limits and future roles of the Syrian civil society in the Middle East and Europe*
- 14) Kuschminder, Katherine, 2019, *Using Mixed Methods to Examine Refugees and Other Migrants' Decision-Making in Transit*, *Sage Research Methods Case*
- 15) Marchand, Katrin, Veronika Fajth & Melissa Siegel, 2019, *Relevant Data to Understand Migration in the EU*, REMINDER Main Report
- 16) Meshkovska, Biljana, Nasrat Sayed, Katharina Koch, Iman Rajabzadeh, Carole Wenger & Melissa Siegel, 2019, *Afghan Diaspora in Europe: Mapping engagement in Denmark, Germany, Sweden, and the United Kingdom*
- 17) Strain, Zachary, Clara Alberola & Rufus Horne, 2019, *Migration Routes in West and Central Africa & East and Horn of Africa - 2018 Update*, Commissioned by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

#### **Book Chapters:**

- 18) Zimmermann, Klaus F., Apr 2019, Gaps and Challenges of Migration Policy Advice: The German Experience, in: Ruhs, M., Palme, J. and Tamas, K, *Bridging the Gaps: Linking Research to Public Debates and Policymaking on Migration and Integration*, Oxford University Press, UK

#### **Working Papers:**

- 19) Andersson, Lisa & Melissa Siegel, Oct 2019, *Empirical assessments of the development impacts of migration*, Mignex background paper
- 20) Bilgili, Özge, Louis Volante, Don A. Klinger & Melissa Siegel, 2019, Confronting the challenge of immigrant and refugee student underachievement: Policies and practices from Canada, New Zealand and the European Union, UNU-MERIT Working Paper 2019-048
- 21) Constant, Amelie, 2019, Return, circular, and onward migration decisions in a knowledge society, UNU-MERIT Working Paper 2019-040
- 22) Dubow, Talitha, Sarah Roeder, Katrin Marchand & Melissa Siegel, 2019, *Evidence of the Determinants of Migration in the EU*, H2020 REMINDER Working Paper
- 23) Fransen, Sonja & Hein de Haas, 2019, The Volume and Geography of Forced Migration, IMI Working Papers No. 156
- 24) Marchand, Katrin, Veronika Fajth, Zachary Strain, Clotilde Mahé & Melissa Siegel, Mar 2019, *Patterns of Migration in the European Union*, H2020 REMINDER Working Paper
- 25) McGregor, Elaine, Jan 2019, Money Matters: The Role of Funding in Migration Governance, Working Paper
- 26) Nour, Samia S. O. M., 2019, Migration of higher education students from the North Africa region, UNU-MERIT Working Paper 2019-010

#### **Data sets:**

- 27) Marchand, Katrin, Veronika Fajth, Clotilde Mahé, Sarah Roeder & Melissa Siegel, 2019, *Database of Existing Databases on Migration in the EU*, Database developed as part of the H2020 REMINDER Project.

#### **Other:**

- 28) Loiacono, Francesco & Maria Jose Silva Vargas, Oct 2019, *Policy Brief: Improving access to labour markets for refugees: Evidence from Uganda*, Policy Brief for the International Growth Center (IGC Uganda)
- 29) Marchand, Katrin & Sarah Roeder (2019). Patterns of migration in the European Union. *REMINDER Blog*
- 30) Marchand, Katrin, 2019, Why are people moving within Europe? The complexity of migrant decision-making in the European Union. *REMINDER Blog*
- 31) Mueller, Charlotte, Oct 2019, Writing knowledge into the history of migration and migration into the history of knowledge, *Migrant Knowledge Blog*
- 32) Papangelopoulos, Kostas & Ortrun Merkle, Jan 2019, *Investigating the impact of experiences abroad on perceptions of corruption: A case-study on Greek migrants in Germany, The Netherlands and the United Kingdom*, SEESOX Diaspora briefs
- 33) Siegel, Melissa, Oct 2019, Teasing Out the Meaning: Capacity Building in Migration (& Development), UNU-MERIT blog series
- 34) Siegel, Melissa, Throwing development money at the 'migration problem' – is it completely misguided?, MIGNEX Insights.
- 35) Strain, Zach & Katrin Marchand, 2019, Intra-EU migration: Are there higher concentrations of migrants in larger countries. *REMINDER Blog*
- 36) Strain, Zach & Katrin Marchand, 2019, Largest Bilateral Migration Corridors Within the EU28s. *REMINDER Blog*
- 37) Strain, Zach & Katrin Marchand, 2019, The prominence of return migration among intra-EU migration flows. *REMINDER Blog*

## 5. Events

### • Migration Seminars

In conjunction with the Maastricht Centre for Citizenship, Migration and Development (MACIMIDE), the Migration and Development research group at UNU-MERIT organises a series of migration-related seminars to provide a platform to discuss the research output of researchers at the institute and to invite external speakers to share their work. The migration seminars cover a diverse range of topics including refugees' post-procedural mobility, naturalisation, international mobility grants for researchers, and the Syrian war and its impact on migration. The seminars held in the course of 2019 are listed below:

- *Extending Immigrant Non-Citizen Voting Rights in (Non)Democratic Regimes*,  
Ms Victoria Finn
- *What does migrant decision-making mean for policy?*  
Dr. Jessica Hagen-Zanker
- *Assessing the impact of international mobility on the development of Chinese science*  
Dr. Koen Jonkers
- *Money to move: The effect on researchers of an international mobility grant*  
Dr. Fabiana Visentin
- *The Syrian war and its impact on migration*  
Mr. Richard Sondejker
- *Naturalization in Context: Migrant Life Course and Institutional Change*  
Dr. Maarten Vink
- *Post-procedural mobility among asylum residence permit holders cohort 1995-1999*  
Dr. Arjen Leerkes

- **REMINDER Webinar: Understanding possibilities and limitations of data on intra-EU migration**

In the framework of the REMINDER H2020 project, Prof. Melissa Siegel and Dr. Katrin Marchand held a webinar about “Understanding possibilities and limitations of data on intra-EU migration” on 19 November 2019. Based on the outcomes of Work Package 2 of the REMINDER project, Prof. Siegel and Dr. Marchand presented the main findings on patterns and dynamics of intra-EU migration, discussed opportunities and limitations of existing data sources and introduced a “database of databases” about statistical sources on intra-EU mobility and its functionalities to potential users. The database gives insights into what available statistics can and cannot tell us about the scale and characteristics of EU mobility, while enabling comparisons of different mobility metrics across Member States.

## 6. Education, Training and Capacity Building

- **Migration Specialisation in the Master of Science in Public Policy and Human Development (MPP)**

The Master of Science in Public Policy and Human Development programme is a double-degree programme of UNU-MERIT. The programme provides students with a variety of skills, tools and knowledge which will enable them to work as policy designers and policy analysts in public and private institutions. In doing so, it offers seven different specialisations including Migration Studies. This specialisation comprises four courses that introduce students to the essential components of migration studies including trends, theories, causes and effects, and also migration policy. Students have the opportunity to explore the area of migration studies by taking courses with a broad perspective on the prevailing theory and practice. Particular emphasis is put on practical fieldwork. In 2019, 32 students took part in the Migration specialisation of the MPP.

- **Migration Studies: Flows and Concepts (UCM)**

This course examines the following concepts in contemporary migration studies: forced migration, internal displacement and refugees; irregular and transit migration; integration, transnationalism and social cohesion; return migration and reintegration; and migration and development. The course introduces students to both the complexities and challenges of migration and the potential positive effects of migration. Throughout the course multiple case studies are examined to highlight different migrant concepts and flows. In 2019, 78 students participated in this course.

- **Online Courses**

UNU-MERIT offered a number of specially designed online courses to suit the needs of busy professionals. We offer three courses that can be started at any time: 1) Introduction to Migration Studies; 2) Migration and Remittance Effects and 3) Comparative Migration Policy. In 2019, five people completed online courses. We are in the process of redeveloping these courses and developing additional courses on Forced Migration and Internal Migration and hope to attract an even higher number of students in 2020.

- **Kenya Post Graduate Diploma Programme in Migration Studies**

The new Kenyan Post Graduate Diploma Programme in Migration Studies for the Kenyan Government was launched in the first week of May 2019. The programme was developed for the Kenyan Department of Immigration Service. It was funded by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH through the Better Migration Management (BMM) Programme and was implemented in cooperation with UNU-MERIT and the University of Nairobi. A total of 27 people were

trained; students were officials from Kenya, Uganda, Sudan and Somalia. UNU-MERIT delivered half of the courses in the nine-month programme including three of the core courses: 'Introduction to Migration', 'Migration Policy and Governance' and 'Migration and Development'. In addition, Prof. Melissa Siegel and Dr. Katrin Marchand gave a capacity-building course for teachers in the programme.

- **MIMAK: Training for civil servants from the State of Kosovo**  
 On 13-15 March 2019, Prof. Arjen Leerkes gave a training course on immigrant integration policies in Pristina to a group of high-level civil servants from the State of Kosovo. The training course covered the following themes: conceptualising integration, determinants of immigrant integration, levels of integration (local, national, transnational), national integration policies in comparative perspective, local integration policies, and integration and admission policies. It was the final part of a series of training courses organised by the Migration Group in collaboration with the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) as part of the project "Strengthening Migration Management Authorities in Kosovo" (MIMAK II) commissioned by the Swiss Development Cooperation. While in Pristina, Prof. Leerkes met with the Director of the Department for the Reintegration of Repatriated Persons (Ms. Fahrije Ternava) and the Chair of the Government Authority on Migration (GAM) (Mr. Sefedin Kuci), and advised them on a regulation that the State of Kosovo is currently drafting on Kosovan integration policies, and on the practical steps that Kosovo could take in developing an integration policy. Approximately 20 – 30 people participated in the training.
- **ICMPD Training on Labour Migration in Budva, Montenegro**  
 On September 24-26, the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) organised a training for 21 participants on Labour Migration in Budva, Montenegro. The purpose of the training was to build capacity of employment services and authorities to manage labour migration, and to share experience and best practices in organising labour migration. The training targeted representatives of migration authorities from the Prague Process participating states, and included participants from Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Czech Republic, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Kosovo, Moldova, Montenegro, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkey, Ukraine and Uzbekistan. Dr. Lisa Andersson led two of the training sessions, one on labour matching and one on skills recognition and reintegration strategies in countries of origin.
- **Migration Management Diploma Programme (MMDP) in Rwanda**  
 The first 30 graduates of the Migration Management Diploma Programme in Rwanda graduated on 30 August 2019. This is a spin-off programme of the Migration Management Diploma Programme (MMDP) offered in Maastricht by UNU-MERIT. The programme is a partnership between the Rwandan Government's Director General for Emigration and Immigration and UNU-MERIT. During the three-month full-time programme students learn the ins and outs of migration. The partnership will extend to training 30 staff members each year over consecutive years.
- **MOBILAZE Research Methods Training in Baku**  
 From 10-12 April 2019, Dr. Ortrun Merkle and PhD fellow Iman Rajabzadeh taught the 5th Migration Research Methods Workshop as part of the project Support to the Implementation of the Mobility Partnership with Azerbaijan (MOBILAZE). The workshop was organised by the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) in cooperation with the Caucasus Research Resource Center (CRRRC) in Baku, Azerbaijan. The workshop focused on conveying research methods in migration research to around 40 university students and professionals. Dr. Merkle instructed a group on in-depth interview skills and qualitative methods while Iman Rajabzadeh concentrated on data visualisation. MOBILAZE aims to support the

implementation of the Mobility Partnership between the EU and Azerbaijan with a specific focus on strengthening the capacity of the government to develop and implement the national migration policy.

- **ELEVATE Consortium Meeting in Chisinau in Moldova**

From 12-13 March 2019, Dr. Lisa Andersson was in Chisinau, Moldova, to participate in a workshop on research participation in the European research area and to attend the third Consortium Meeting of the project “ELEVATE – Elevating the Internationalisation of higher Education in Moldova”. The events were organised at the Academy of Economic Studies of Moldova. Dr. Andersson held a presentation on the experiences of working with Horizon 2020 research projects. Co-funded by the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union, ELEVATE aims at developing and advancing the internationalisation process of Moldovan higher education and research. Maastricht University is one of the EU Partners in the consortium and responsible for the work package on “Development and Advancement of National Legislation for Internationalisation of Higher Education in Moldova”.

- **Proposal Writing Workshop for Mercy Hands in Erbil**

UNU-MERIT was contracted by Mercy Hands for Humanitarian Aid to conduct a training on ‘Proposal writing’ in Erbil on October 4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>. The target of the training was Mercy Hands staff as well as staff from other NGOs in Iraq. The two-day training workshop consisted of interactive lectures and group exercises. A total of 32 participants took part in the training, 15 participants from Mercy hands and 17 participants from other organisations.

- **MOMENTA: Migration Media Training Academy in Moldova**

In September 2019, Dr. Michaela Vanore and Dr. Ronald Skeldon delivered lectures and workshops to the participants of the MOMENTA training. MOMENTA supports journalists and other media professionals in understanding key concepts and trends related to migration to improve fact-based, objective, and in-depth reporting of migration phenomenon. The project was focused on the European Partnership countries and the Russian Federation, engaging media content creators across the professional and generational spectrum. The training was part of the introduction of the programme and focused on informing participating journalists about migration definitions and categories, the relationship between migration and development, and the global governance of migration. Approximately 25 people participated in the training.

## 7. Communication, Outreach and Impact

### Invited Talks, Lectures & Panels:

- **International Nuremberg Principles Academy**

Dr. Katie Kuschminder presented at the International Nuremberg Principles Academy conference on ‘Paving the Path of Human Rights: Synergies between International Criminal Law and UN Agenda 2030’ from 3-4 May 2019. She spoke in the panel on “Remedy and Protection of Vulnerable Groups” and provide an intervention on the topic “Refugees, migration and sustainable development”. The conference was dedicated to the advancement of the synergies between international criminal law (ICL) and the United Nations Agenda 2030 on Sustainable Development (UN Agenda 2030).

- **EMN Educational Seminar on Migration in Bratislava**

From 20 to 22 August, the EMN Educational Seminar on Migration 2019 “Impacts and Opportunities of International Migration” took place in Bratislava, Slovak Republic. The



conference was co-organised by the European Migration Network (EMN), the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic and covered the topics “politics and migration”, “how and why people decide to migrate”, “good governance as a way forward in migration”, and “migration in an urbanising world”. During the event, Prof. Melissa Siegel gave a presentation on the nexus between migration processes and corruptions and its implications for all parties involved/ affected, unveiling 11 key linkages between migration and corruption. Furthermore, she discussed if corruption facilitates irregular migration, enables the protection of refugees, stimulates migration desires, impedes the development benefits of migration, discourages return migration or promotes the transnational ties of elites. The Conference brought together more than 80 participants from Slovakia and 15 other countries, including representatives of government and intergovernmental organisations, NGOs, think-tanks and academia.

- **WUN Annual Conference in Dublin**

From 19-24 May 2019, the Worldwide Universities Network (WUN) Conference and Annual General Meeting took place in Dublin, Ireland. Maastricht University is one of the 23 universities that comprise WUN with its President, Prof. Martin Paul serving as the current chairman of WUN’s Partnership Board. Dr. Katie Kuschminder presented in an academic workshop on ‘Understanding Cultures’ entitled “Changing world and changing perspectives– is it possible to Decolonize the Agenda – and what would this mean?” The notion that science, social science and humanities, are products of and are seen and presented from a “western standpoint and with western ideas and values” has been advocated, particularly by colleagues and students in Africa and to some degree Asia. This workshop discussed the ‘decolonisation’ of research, education and dissemination that has been ongoing for many years.

- **2019 AERA Annual Meeting: Leveraging Education Research in a “Post-Truth” Era**

Prof. Dr. Melissa Siegel presented in this year’s annual meeting of the American Educational Research Association (AERA), which took place in Toronto, Canada, from 5-9 April 2019. The AERA meeting is considered the world’s largest gathering of education researchers. Prof. Siegel participated in the “Panel on International Perspectives on Migrant Integration Policies, Cultural Diversity, and Student Outcomes” together with Prof. Louis Volante, Prof. Don A. Klinger and Dr. Kenny Nienhusser. Prof. Siegel’s presentation focused particularly on differences in educational outcomes between Dutch and migrant students in the Netherlands. The panellists are collaborating on a research project on the relationship between immigrant student achievement and education policies, led by Prof. Volante and funded through a five-year ‘Insight Grant’ by Canada’s Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC).

- **6<sup>th</sup> ICMPD International Summer School on Migration in Georgia**

From 30 June-6 July 2019, the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) organised its 6<sup>th</sup> International Summer School on Migration in Georgia. The purpose of the one-week Summer School was to develop and foster critical academic exchange and reflection on migration issues among Master’s students and young professionals from Armenia, Albania, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Kosovo, Moldova, Montenegro, the Republic of North Macedonia, Russia, Serbia, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan. Prof. Ronald Skeldon, Prof. Melissa Siegel and Dr. Michaella Vanore contributed to the Summer School by giving lectures on ‘Introduction to Migration Studies’, ‘Migration Trends’, ‘Migration and Development’ and more.

- **14<sup>th</sup> Summer Institute on Migration and Global Health**

From 10-13 July 2019, Dr. Michaella Vanore and researcher Inez Roosen presented at the 14th Summer Institute on Migration and Global Health in Oakland, California, USA. Organised by the University of California Berkeley, the Summer Institute is a unique international event offering researchers, academics, graduate students, and professionals

the opportunity to learn about the most relevant topics related to migration and global health. Through a combination of lectures and workshops, participants received the latest information on issues that affect the health and health behaviours of mobile populations around the world. During this event, Dr. Vanore gave a presentation on the Migration Group's health-related research work entitled 'Gender, Vulnerability, & Resilience among Children 'Left Behind' by Migrant Kin'.

- **Migration Policy Centre Annual Conference**

From 23-24 May 2019, Prof. Melissa Siegel was an invited speaker in the Migration Policy Centre Annual Conference entitled 'Migration between Africa and Europe: Knowledge Production, Attitudes, and Governance' at the European University Institute (EUI) in Florence, Italy. The conference brought together academics, policymakers and practitioners to discuss new ideas and the latest research evidence on some of the most important migration policy questions in Europe and beyond. The conference addressed three broad questions: what is the use of research in public debates and policymaking on migration between Africa and Europe? Why are there such large gaps between migration debates and migration realities, and how can these gaps be reduced? Prof. Siegel gave a presentation on 'The Effect of Development Interventions on Migration Decisions'.

- **Workshop: Law enforcement cooperation on cross-border crimes within the migratory context**

On 15 February 2019, Dr. Ortrun Merkle presented in the Workshop on 'Law enforcement cooperation on cross-border crimes within the migratory context under Mobility Partnerships and Common Agendas on Migration and Mobility' organised by the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) and Europol at the Europol Headquarter in The Hague, Netherlands. She presented the findings of the report 'Action Knowledge Transfer on Migrant Smuggling and Trafficking by Air and Document Fraud' (AKT) written by research officers Clara Alberola and Chiara Janssen and commissioned by ICMPD through the Mobility Partnership Facility with financial support from the European Union. AKT analysed the main features, developments and modus operandi of migrant smuggling at airports, in addition to the topic's interconnection with document fraud and related polycriminal activities using qualitative and quantitative methods.

- **OSCE Event: Advancing Human Capital Development through Migration and Innovation**

To mark International Migrants Day on 18 December 2019, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), organised an event in Vienna on 'Advancing Human Capital Development through Migration and Innovation'. Nava Hinrichs was invited to participate in a panel discussion about 'Harnessing innovation to promote prosperous, diverse and inclusive societies'. The event brought together representatives from international organisations, European Commission officials, policymakers, academics and practitioners.

- **Expert Roundtable in Geneva**

Prof. Ronald Skeldon and Dr. Katie Kuschminder were invited by the International Organization for Migration's (IOM) Policy Hub and IOM's Director General, H.E. António Vitorino to participate in an expert roundtable in Geneva entitled 'Understanding yesterday, making sense of today and predicting tomorrow - what can migration data do for policymakers?'. Prof. Skeldon provided opening remarks at the session regarding the role of data in migration today. The core objective of the workshop was to collect migration data experts' views on how migration data could be better captured and used to inform effective migration policies and good migration governance. Recognising that data is central to providing an evidence-base for migration and is key to the achievement of the Global Compact on Migration, this workshop facilitated critical discussions of what types of data are needed and how they can best be collected and utilised.

- **DRC Conference: Diaspora Support to Durable Solutions: Afghans in Europe**

On 15 November 2019, Prof. Melissa Siegel and researcher Nasrat Sayed presented in the conference 'Diaspora Support to Durable Solutions: Afghans in Europe' hosted by the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) in Copenhagen. The conference was attended by 93 participants from 11 European countries and Afghanistan. Prof. Siegel presented the results of the study 'Afghan Diaspora in Europe: Mapping engagement in Denmark, Germany, Sweden, and the United Kingdom'.

- **IOM Lunchtime Seminar with Professor Ronald Skeldon**

During a Migration Research @ Lunchtime Seminar at the Headquarters of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in Geneva on 11 November 2019, Prof. Ronald Skeldon gave a presentation on 'International Migration, Internal Migration Mobility and Urbanization'. The seminar series is organised by the IOM Migration Research Division. Through these seminars, IOM aims to further glean from rigorous academic research on migration to inform its work, while at the same time strengthening collaboration between the organisation and migration researchers. In his talk, Prof. Skeldon extended his ideas originally published in an IOM Migration Research Series paper entitled 'International Migration, Internal Migration, Mobility and Urbanization: Towards More Integrated Approaches' and further explored why migration remains one of the most problematic of the population variables.

#### **In the Media:**

- **Prof. Arjen Leerkes' and Marloes de Hoon's Research in De Volkskrant**

On 11 October 2019, De Volkskrant published an article about research conducted by Prof. Arjen Leerkes, Marloes de Hoon (PhD candidate, FASoS, UM) and Roxy Damen on the retention of asylum seekers in the Netherlands. The Dutch report "Blijven asieltvergunninghouders in Nederland? Patronen en determinanten van vervolgmigratie en remigratie, cohort 1995-1999", published by the Research and Documentation Centre (Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek- en Documentatiecentrum, WODC), finds that around one third of asylum seekers who were registered in the Dutch population register between 1995 and 1999 were no longer registered by the end of 2015 because of return migration (4.3 per cent), onward migration (12.4 per cent) or administrative removal (12.9 per cent). Based on survival and competing risk analyses, the researchers established that demographic and the socio-economic characteristics of the permit holders influence the migration outcome.

#### **Other:**

- **First Annual Meeting of the UN Network on Migration**

On 11 December 2019, Prof. Melissa Siegel travelled to Geneva to represent UNU-MERIT at the First Annual Meeting of the UN Network on Migration. Participants reviewed the network's progress and working arrangements and explored ways to further enhance collaboration. The meeting was also used to identify emerging challenges and to take decisions on the next steps regarding the network's work plan and thematic priorities. The UN Network on Migration was established to ensure effective, timely and coordinated system-wide support to UN Member States on migration as they respond to the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM). By developing a more coherent approach to migration governance and better harnessing its contribution to development, the UN system through the network commits to making a tangible difference to enhancing cooperation on international migration in all its dimensions.

- **EASO 'Scenario analysis: The future of international protection in the EU+ by 2030'**

In February, Dr. Katie Kuschminder was invited as an external expert to attend the workshop 'Scenario analysis: The future of international protection in the EU+ by 2030'

organised by the European Asylum Support Office (EASO) in Malta. The purpose of this workshop was to develop scenarios for EASO for the future of international protection in the European Union. Specifically, the objectives of the workshop were to discuss the methodology used to create scenarios, and to explore key factors with the highest impact and uncertainty for the future of international protection in the EU+. In addition, it aimed at formulating possible alternative future projections, and at identifying the main actors, their perspectives, and their deep-rooted assumptions relevant to the future of international protection in the EU+. The workshop included several external experts from the IOM, UNHCR, European Commission, and government representatives.

## 8. Staff



Dr. Melissa Siegel - Head of Migration Group | Professor of Migration Studies



Dr. Katie Kuschminder - Assistant Professor in Migration Studies



Dr. Michaella Vanore - Migration Researcher



Dr. Lisa Andersson - Migration Researcher



Dr. Sonja Fransen - Migration Researcher



Dr. Katrin Marchand - Migration Post-Doc



Dr. Ortrun Merkle - Migration Post-Doc



Dr. Nora Ragab - Migration Post-Doc



Veronika Georgieva – Education and Research Officer



Nava Hinrichs - Head of Executive Education & Capacity Building in Migration



Eleni Diker – Migration Researcher



Talitha Mortimer Dubow – Migration Researcher



Zoë Ogahara – Migration Researcher



Sarah Roeder – Migration Researcher



Nasrat Sayed – Migration Researcher



Mohammad Khalaf – Migration Researcher



Soha Youssef – Migration Researcher



Dominique Jolivet – Migration Researcher

**Part-Time Professors:**



Dr. Hein de Haas - Professor of Migration and Development



Dr. Khalid Koser - Professor of Conflict, Peace and Security



Dr. Ronald Skeldon - Professor of Human Geography



Dr. Arjen Leerkes - Professor of Migration, Securitization and Social Cohesion

## PhD Researchers in Migration:



Julia Reinold (Full-Time)



Charlotte Müller (Full-Time)



Anny Yu (Full-Time)



Tamara Kool (Full-Time)



Sabrina Kouba (Full-Time)



Eliana Rubiano (Dual Career)





Daisy Demirag (Dual Career)



Anna Knoll (Dual Career)



Elaine McGregor (Full-Time



Lalaine Siruno (Full-Time)