Regional Cooperation and Data

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Regional workshop on *Strengthening the collection and use of international migration data in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*

Bangkok, 8 February 2019
Why does regional cooperation matter?

In 2017, most migrants in Asia and the Pacific came from the region.
Why does regional cooperation matter? (cont’d)

▶ The regional level enables the most effective cooperation
  ▶ Addresses most migrants at once
  ▶ Bringing together countries of origin and destination
▶ Each actor has information that is important for the other to have a full understanding of migration
  ▶ Countries of origin: identity, skills, health status of migrants...
  ▶ Countries of destination: work, residence, problems faced by migrants...
▶ Each country has an interest in sharing data
  ▶ Countries of origin: understanding the situation of migrants abroad
  ▶ Countries of destination: understanding who will come; identifying potential issues
  ▶ Facilitating comparative analysis
Challenges to data exchange

- Technical challenges
  - Differing definitions
  - Different sources
  - Different methodologies
  - Lack of awareness of available sources
  - Varying capacity

- Political challenges
  - Sensitivities around migration data
  - Confidentiality
Addressing technical challenges

- Unifying definitions
- Harmonising sources
- Coordinating data-gathering methodologies
- Acting as a platform for data exchange/clearing house
- Capacity-building
Role of Regional organizations

- ASEAN
  - 2016-2025 ACSS Strategic Plan: “Initiation of the ground works for new major initiatives on statistics, such as Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) indicators, migration, health, gender statistics, and other data requirements of the ASCC 2025 and APSC 2025 Blueprints”
CIS

CISSTAT: counting number of migrants and emigrants registered with authorities

Миграция населения
(число зарегистрированных за год в органах внутренних дел при перемена постоянного места жительства, тысяч человек)

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Eurasian Economic Commission

- Advisory Committee for Migration Policy
- List of statistical indicators
- Clearing house for statistics from Member States
- Integration Development Programme in the Field of Statistics of the Eurasian Economic Union for 2016 - 2020 preparation for 2020 census round, unification of the methodology in respect of labour migration
Addressing political challenges through dialogue and confidence-building

- Regional consultative processes (RCPs) are “repeated, regional meetings of states dedicated to discussing migration.” (Hansen, 2010)

Building
- Confidence
- Networks
- Understanding
- Consensus

Promoting
- Shared perspectives
- Areas for cooperation

Facilitating
- Implementation of activities
- Inputs to policies
RCPs and data

- The RCP methodology can therefore be helpful in paving the way for data exchange
  - Builds trust between actors
  - Shared understanding on data needs
  - Members retain control of data release
  - Mechanism to organise capacity-building activities
RCPs in the Asia-Pacific region

- Almaty Process on Refugee Protection and International Migration
- Ministerial Consultation on Overseas Employment and Contractual Labour for Countries of Origin in Asia (Colombo Process)
- Ministerial Consultations on Overseas Employment and Contractual Labour for Countries of Origin and Destination in Asia (Abu Dhabi Dialogue)
- Bali Process on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime
Examples of RCPs addressing data issues

- Mediterranean Transit Migration Process i-Map
  - Member-State owned process
  - Consolidates data on wide range of migration topics
  - Specific portal for member States to share data on sensitive/confidential matters
  - Feeding into processes of dialogue and cooperation
Conclusions

- Regional cooperation is crucial for a 360° vision of migration and its impacts
- Regional processes such as ASEAN/EAEU can help address technical challenges
- RCPs can help address political challenges through confidence-building
Ways forward

- Objective 1 of the Marrakech Compact on Migration (data) calls for regional centres for research and training
  - How could (an) Asia-Pacific Migration research centre(s) help address technical challenges and facilitate exchange?
- Deepening work through existing regional processes?
- Exploring data exchange as part of RCP discussions?
Thank you

http://www.unescap.org/our-work/social-development/international-migration