



ABOUT

The *Data Bulletin: Informing a Global Compact for Migration* series aims to summarize in an accurate and accessible fashion existing evidence on migration to support the discussions and any follow-up activities of the global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration.

As part of the project “Support to IOM for the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration,” funded by the European Union, Data Bulletins outline the strengths and limitations of relevant migration data, and highlight innovative data practices which are pertinent to the global compact for migration. Data Bulletins reflect the collaborative nature of this process by including relevant contributions from different parts of IOM as well as other agencies and migration experts.

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Measuring Migration Governance

The growing interest in comparative analyses of migration has led to a variety of attempts to assess and compare countries' migration governance.

Having a clear understanding of policies and governance structures, and how these might be enhanced, is particularly important in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). SDG target 10.7 commits United Nation (UN) Member States to facilitate the “orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies” by 2030.¹

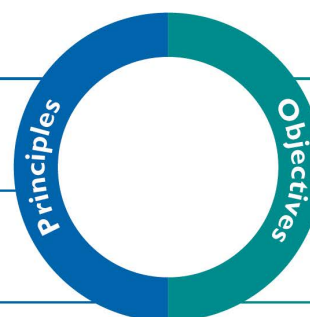
IOM's MIGRATION GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORK²

In an attempt to define the concept of 'well-managed migration policies', IOM devised a Migration Governance Framework (MiGOF), which was welcomed by the IOM Council in November 2015. IOM's MiGOF defines governance as 'the traditions and institutions by which authority on migration, mobility and nationality in a country is exercised, including the capacity of the government to effectively formulate and implement sound policies in these areas'³. The Framework sets out the essential elements of 'good migration governance' -- 3 principles and 3 objectives which, if respected and fulfilled, would ensure that migration is humane, safe and orderly, and that it provides benefits for migrants and societies".⁴

MiGOF's six dimensions of good migration governance:

MiGOF Principles and Objectives

- 1. Adherence** to international standards and fulfillment of migrants' rights.
- 2. Formulates** policy using evidence and “whole-of-government” approach.
- 3. Engages** with partners to address migration and related issues.



- 1. Advance** the socioeconomic well-being of migrants and society.
- 2. Effectively** address the mobility dimensions of crises.
- 3. Ensure** that migration takes place in a safe, orderly and dignified manner.

¹ United Nations General Assembly resolution 70/1, Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, A/RES/70/1, 25 September 2015.) See www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/generalassembly/docs/globalcompact/A_RES_70_1_E.pdf

² IOM Council resolution No. 1310, Migration Governance Framework, (C/106/RES/1310, 24 November 2015.) See <https://governingbodies.iom.int/system/files/en/council/106/C-106-40-Migration-Governance-Framework.pdf>

³ More information at <https://governingbodies.iom.int/system/files/en/council/106/C-106-RES-1310%20MIGOF.pdf>

⁴ More information at www.iom.int/sites/default/files/about-iom/migof_brochure_a4_en.pdf



MIGRATION POLICY INDICES

In recent years, several tools have been developed to identify trends in migration policy over time, and serve as instruments for states to track their progress towards the SDGs and the forthcoming global compact for migration. More generally, such instruments can help states identify gaps and areas of governance that could be strengthened, set priorities for institutional capacity-building, and assess the impact of policies on migration processes in the country.

The infographic below lists a number of available international comparative indices of migration policies.

KEY MIGRATION POLICY ASSESSMENT TOOLS

Spotlight: The Migration Governance Indicators (MGI):⁵

Developed by IOM and the Economist Intelligence Unit, the MGI are composed of 90 questions within the six dimensions of good migration governance in IOM's MiGOF (see figure on page 1).

In May 2016, a report was published which featured a summary of the MGI findings for fifteen pilot countries. The framework is currently being applied in a growing number of countries, in consultation with governments.

The MGI exercise is carried out on a voluntary basis and does not aim to compare or rank countries based on their migration governance structures. The main aim

of the exercise is to help countries assess the extent to which their migration policy is comprehensive, thereby identifying good practices and areas in need of further development. By including interministerial consultations to discuss the findings of the policy assessment, the MGI exercise promotes a whole-of-government approach to migration policymaking and contributes to furthering policy coherence.

The MGI can also help countries develop baseline assessments and conduct future reviews of their work to assess progress in the context of the SDGs and the global compact for migration.

The infographic on page 3 outlines the objective, definition, process and outcome of the MGI exercise.

Other migration policy assessment tools are discussed in some detail on page 4.⁶

⁶ Not mentioned in this discussion due to space restrictions is the forthcoming *Dashboard of indicators for measuring policy and institutional coherence for migration and development*, which aims to help policymakers assess how migration policies interact with other sectoral policies and is currently being applied in ten pilot countries. See www.oecd.org/dev/migration-development/knomad-dashboard.htm#Operationalisation

⁵ International Organization for Migration/Economist Intelligence Unit, <https://gmdac.iom.int/migration-governance-indicators>



Note: A related index, the Migration Integration Policy Index (MIPEX), also measures migration governance but focuses on integration policies instead of migration policies. For further information please refer to the thematic page on Integration.

* Number of indicators can vary by country or year.

Migration Governance Indicators (MGI)

Objective

The MGI help countries taking a definitive step towards well-managed migration by assessing the comprehensiveness of their migration governance and giving insight into policies that can help them fill the gaps in line with Target 10.7 of the Sustainable Development Goals.



orderly



safe



regular



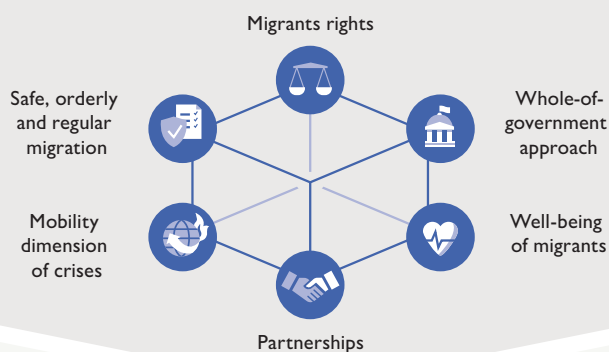
responsible



migration and mobility of people

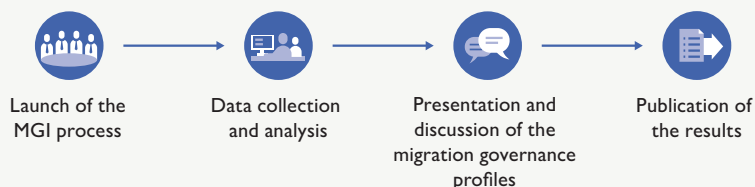
Definition

The MGI are based on IOM's Migration Governance Framework (MiGOF), which lays out the essential elements for facilitating orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and the mobility of people through planned and well-managed migration policies.



Process

The MGI uses data to spark an inclusive dialogue on migration governance, and to support governments' efforts towards comprehensive and coherent migration policy.



Outcome

Migration Governance Profiles reflect key findings from the findings from the MGI assessment, including policy recommendations that could enhance migration governance at the country level. The profiles can be used to monitor progress towards international commitments such as the Sustainable Development Goals and the global compact for migration.



Identifying challenges and solutions



Implementing comprehensive policies



Tracking progress on well-managed migration



International Organization for Migration (IOM)
The UN Migration Agency

Source: IOM, 2017.

KEY MIGRATION POLICY ASSESSMENT TOOLS

Spotlight: Other initiatives

The World Population Policies Database⁷, updated biennially, shows the views and policy priorities of 196 countries on immigration and emigration, among other population policy topics such as age structure, fertility, health and mortality, and internal migration.

The Determinants of International Migration Policy Project (DEMIG POLICY)⁸ tracked more than 6,500 migration policy changes enacted by 45 geographically, economically and socially diverse countries from 1945 to 2013. The policy measures are coded by policy area and migrant group targeted, as well as whether they represent a change towards more or less restrictiveness.

The Immigration Policies in Comparison Project (IMPIC)⁹ developed a set of quantitative indices to measure immigration policies in all 35 OECD countries for the period 1980–2010. Policy areas include labour migration, asylum claims and refugees, family reunification, and the migration of those with a shared colonial history, language, religion and/or ancestry.

⁷ UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs. See https://esa.un.org/poppolicy/about_database.aspx and www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/publications/policy/international-migration-policies-report-2013.shtml

⁸ University of Oxford. See www.imi.ox.ac.uk/data/demig-data/demig-policy-1

⁹ Berlin Social Science Centre. See <https://bibliothek.wzb.eu/pdf/2016/vi16-201.pdf>

The Migration Integration Policy Index (MIPEX)¹⁰ has 167 indicators that help assess and compare integration policies across 38 countries. The public database has annual data for 2007–2014.

The International Migration Policy and Law Analysis Project (IMPALA)¹¹ compiles comparable data on immigration law and policy in over 25 countries of immigration for 1960–2010. Data cover major categories of immigration law and policy, such as the acquisition of citizenship, economic migration, family reunification, and asylum and refugee protection.

DATA LIMITATIONS

- Data on migration governance mostly focuses on certain regions or time periods.
- Most migration policy indices do not cover all policy aspects where migration is implicated.
- Different indices also use varying definitions of migration policies and apply different methods, such as different scales, aggregations and coding.
- Many indices cannot be replicated easily and are not publicly available.
- The MGI project implemented by IOM aims to address these gaps by taking a **comprehensive approach** to covering 6 main policy domains and gathering data from **all regions of the world**, working in **full consultation with national authorities**.

¹⁰ Barcelona Centre for International Affairs/Migration Policy Group.

See www.mipex.eu/

¹¹ Collaboration of several Universities. See www.impaladatabase.org/

IOM's GMDAC

In response to growing calls for better data on migration, and better use and presentation of migration data, IOM has created the Global Migration Data Analysis Centre (GMDAC).

Located in Berlin, Germany, the Centre aims to provide authoritative and timely analysis of data on global migration issues as a global hub for data and statistics on migration.

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