

ESPON UK NETWORK

MIGRATION WORKSHOP 13 MAY 2009

SUMMARY OF INTERESTS AND ISSUES RAISED BY PARTICIPANTS

Priority interests in using and developing migration data:

1. We need more thorough and integrated data for both international and internal migration at national and regional levels.
2. Understanding how long-term European trends will affect the infrastructure needed to create/maintain resilient neighbourhoods.
3. Migration impacts on neighbourhoods, particularly in relation to CLG's work on neighbourhood classifications.
4. Impact of international retirement migration on traditional retirement locations, such as UK coastal towns.
5. What are the drivers of both international and internal migration and to what extent are they dependent on nature and influence of labour market and welfare policies?
6. Improved understanding of the economic drivers and consequences of migration at national and regional levels.
7. Input to an INTERREG IVB North West Europe strategic initiative project to promote ethnic minority entrepreneurship.
8. Policy responses to impacts, including changing housing and transport demands, infrastructure provision, NHS and schools provisions.
9. Policy options aimed at the competitiveness and cohesion of regions, nations and the EU.
10. Differential housing choices of migrants.
11. The role of spatial patterns/urban areas as 'distributors' for migration.
12. Potential to benchmark policy against that of similar regions.
13. The potential to use DEMIFER policy scenarios as reference points and 'sense checks' for the development of UK spatial strategies.

Key Issues:

1. How relevant are the data, typologies and methods from DEMIFER to local, city and regional policy-making?
2. The need to integrate migration data into monitoring frameworks for regional and local planning : Annual Monitoring Reviews.
3. The relationship between migrant profiles, territories and potential policy interventions, e.g. with respect to concepts of 'territorial capital'.
4. Some of the most important local effects of migration arise from "churn" i.e. gross flows in/out being different in quality even if similar in numbers e.g. differences in age, skills, language and socio-economic profiles.
5. Improved understanding of the impact of demographic phenomena, including 'chain migration' and 'tipping points' on spatial change.
6. How can we develop spatial policy that is resilient to the scope of demographic change that a territory (locality) might be expected to experience [living with imperfect data and uncertainty!]
7. Do migrant groups/families follow different internal migration patterns from the wider population?
8. How is the relationship between international and internal migration articulated, especially over time? When does international migration become internal?
9. Development of methodologies of impact assessment of migration policies.
10. Development of methods to assess the impact of regional policy levers on migration patterns and outcomes.
11. Problems of temporal data and capacity to compare flows over time.
12. Is there potential for partners across national/regional/local scales to develop an integrated approach to a migration database that can inform spatial policy?
13. What innovative policies for social and territorial cohesion are being developed in the UK?
14. The DEMIFER scenarios have been developed by a process of iteration between partners and could highlight some significant policy questions; an example being that of migration flows from the rest of the world into either Western Europe or Eastern Europe whilst at the same time there is significant migration from East to West Europe - the question then being

would it benefit East Europe more to achieve a better balance of population by impacting on migration rates; and if that were to be a policy approach what would be the effect on West Europe?

15. At the EU level, DEMIFER could contribute to debates about balanced territorial development. The Barca Report, an independent assessment of Cohesion policy and its future direction recently published by DG Regio, identifies six themes for future Cohesion policy, migration being one. The themes it suggests for cohesion policy in future are more social policy oriented than has previously been the case – hence making it relevant to DEMIFER. Ageing will be important to DG Regio because of the need to consider who and where is the labour force.
16. Why is CLG research directed more at national/international migration which it does not tackle in policy terms and less at regional/local migration which it does tend to focus on in policy terms?