WHAT MIGRANTS CAN TELL US: THE LIMITS OF DATA ON MIGRATION
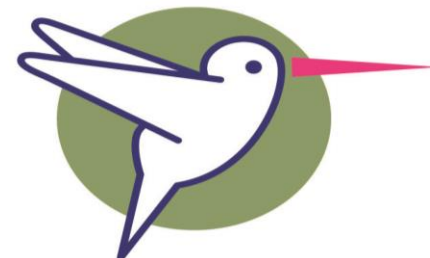
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HUMMINGBIRD PROJECT: ENHANCED MIGRATION MEASURES FROM A MULTIDIMENSIONAL PERSPECTIVE

❖ Multidisciplinary consortium 16 partners and 10 countries

❖ Research parties/universities, SMEs, private companies, NGO networks, a European Research Infrastructure Consortium (ERIC)

❖ Diversified experience: from anthropology and political sciences to statistics, telecom engineering and computer sciences

❖ To improve the understanding of changing nature of migration flows and the drivers of migration by analysing patterns, motivations and new geographies, forecasting emerging and future trends

❖ To calculate population estimates and determine emerging trends and future trends, and accordingly, to identify possible future implications of today's policy decisions

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MIGRATION IS INEVITABLE, NECESSARY AND DESIRABLE

❖ Migration is a normal part of our life, and it has always been there like trade, education, development, business, etc.

❖ There is no such thing as anti migration or pro migration

❖ However, if migration is not managed properly, it will have negative impact on both sending and receiving ends as well as on migrants themeselves

❖ To manage migration, we need adequate and reliable data

- There is a need for accessible, reliable and timely data on migration
- Gaps in data hinders decision-makers to develop informed policies

THE SHORTCOMINGS INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION DATA

❖ Many countries, international organisations and NGOs collect data on migration

❖ The data is collected under varying definitions and measures

❖ Varying demographic characteristics

❖ Varying methodologies and coverage across countries and regions

❖ Since 1920 – many recommendations on improving the international statistics on migration

❖ However, to date no strong measures on improving international migration data is taken

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NEW APPROCAHES

❖ Big Data Rush

❖ Big Data includes:

   ❖ Mobile Phone Call records data, Satelite data, Social Media Data, etc.

❖ Many researchers are trying to make use of big data for migration (whether complementary or full source)

❖ High potential and comes with risks

   ❖ To what extent Big Data could help cover the gaps?
   ❖ Ethics, privacy and moral aspects of using such data and information

❖ Collaboration between social scientists and data scientists is a MUST

HUMMINGBIRD: SYTHESISING QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE SCENARIOS

Listening to migrants

❖ Understanding the previous migration journeys and experiences by focusing on the settled migrants

❖ Conducting ethnographic fieldwork for collecting qualitative data by listening to the migrants on the route.

❖ Focusing on (irregular) migrant women, children and unaccompanied minors to gain insight about those specific vulnerable groups

❖ Generate updated and new information on the state-of-the-art of qualitative migration scenarios

❖ Provide recommendations on the use of qualitative migration indicators for future research and policymaking

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THANK YOU!

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