



EVENT REPORT

Virtual Seminar on Migration Data



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Introduction

Time	Section
10:00 - 10:20 CET 2:30 - 2:50 IST	Opening Remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none">› Mr. Abbagani Ramu, Joint Secretary, OIA-1, Ministry of External Affairs of India› Mr. Seppo Nurmi, Deputy Head of Delegation, EU Delegation to India and Bhutan› Ms. Sedef Dearing, ICMPD Head of Regional Office Moderator: Mr. Naozad Hodiwala, ICMPD's Country Coordinator for India
10:20 - 10:50 CET 2:50 - 3:20 IST	Highlights of the Baseline Report – Migration data challenges and perspectives <ul style="list-style-type: none">› Dr Meera Sethi and Dr Arvind Kumar Pandey, lead authors of the report Q & A Moderator: Mr. Naozad Hodiwala, ICMPD's Country Coordinator for India

Under the aegis of [EU-India Cooperation and Dialogue on Migration and Mobility \(EU-India CDMM\)](#) project, International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) held the first '**Virtual Seminar on Migration Data**' on the **16th of December 2021**.

The key objectives of the virtual seminar were to promote discussion and exchange on migration data in the EU-India migration corridor and to share the key findings and observations from the [EU-India Migration Statistical Baseline Report](#), produced and published under the project earlier in 2021 (in collaboration with the [National Institute for Urban Affairs – NIUA](#)).

In the opening remarks, dignitaries from the EU delegation and Indian Ministry of External Affairs, noted the relevance of such a timely statistical baseline report and a follow up discussion on migration data in the EU-India migration corridor, which will contribute to further strengthening the migration policy dialogue between both the parties. Further, the key findings and recommendations from the statistical baseline report were presented to the audience by the authors.

Thereafter, a panel discussion gathering experts representing the EU, Gol, as well as international and national experts focused on:

- 1/ taking stock of collection mechanisms in place by both the EU and India,
- 2/ coming to a mutual understanding on data concepts, definitions, and analysis
- 3/ fostering learning through the sharing of good practices so as to improve migration management through the use of accurate and shared data.

The virtual seminar gathered over 30 participants, including policy makers from relevant government agencies/services in India and the EU, EU member state representatives (in New Delhi and back in their respective capitals), representatives from international organisations (such as IOM India, UN DESA) and select members of academia/civil society. The EU delegation was led **by H. E. Seppo Nurmi (Deputy Ambassador, EU Delegation to India)** whilst the Government of India was headed by **Mr. Abbagani Ramu (Joint Secretary (OIA-1), Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) India)** and accompanied by the India Centre for Migration (MEA think tank).

Key Messages and Discussion Points

Time	Section
10:50 - 11:50 CET 3:20 – 4:20 IST	Panel Discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none">› Mr. Zsolt Tasnadi, DG HOME, Situational Awareness Unit, EU Commission› Dr Irudaya Rajan, Chairman, International Institute of Migration and Development, IIMAD› Dr Surabhi Singh, Chief Administrative Officer, India Centre for Migration (ICM)› Mr. Sanjay Awasthi, Head of Office, International Organisation for Migration (IOM) India› Mr Edo Mahendra, Economist at UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs Q & A <p>Moderator: Mr. Naozad Hodiwala, ICMPD's Country Coordinator for India</p>
11:50 – 12:00 CET 4:20– 4:30 IST	Concluding Remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none">› Dr Surabhi Singh, Chief Administrative Officer, India Centre for Migration (ICM)› Mr. Benoit Sauveroché, First Counsellor - Migration and Home Affairs, EU Delegation

Some of the key messages that emerged out of the presentations and discussion were:

- › **The availability of timely, accessible, reliable, disaggregated and comparable data on migration** is an essential component to address all pillars of the CAMM. To this end, the [EU-India migration-statistical baseline report](#) launched earlier in the year provides an overall assessment of the migration and mobility trends between India and the EU. The document supports policymakers in better understanding the needs and vulnerabilities of migrants, managing irregular movements, and promoting safe and legal migration through well-informed policies in the EU-India migration corridor.
- › **Defining, understanding basic concepts, and agreeing on common definitions employed in measuring migration is essential for an informed, fact-based discussion of the realities of international migration.** The major migration data sources in the EU-India migration corridor are EUROSTAT data, UNDESA data and MEA data. Currently, there are several data gaps and inconsistencies existing in these data sources. All of them use different definitions and indicators used for data collection. Therefore, better coordination and cooperation among the various stakeholders is essential to generate a common thread on the various terminologies and concepts used to capture data on migrants. This will in turn help improve the comparability and accessibility of migration datasets in the region.

- › **A continued dialogue that focuses on information sharing on the various regional and international best practices and lessons learnt on migration data collection and data sources is essential to promote reciprocal learning processes.** For example, the EU has a well-defined institutional framework to collect and disseminate high quality migration data. The European Commission's Directorate-General for statistics, EUROSTAT, is responsible for compiling data collected by EU member states. EUROSTAT experts check and verify data to produce reliable datasets, and then disseminate them to the public through [online platforms](#) and publications. Similarly, [UN DESA](#) uses a comprehensive data collection mechanism to gather and compile data on international migrant stock. Other regional and global-level data collection mechanisms and institutional frameworks can be utilised and replicated in other parts of the globe, including India, to improve migration data frameworks.

To access the migration data available on EUROSTAT database, use the link <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database>.

On this webpage, under the 'data navigation tree', click on the theme 'population and social condition' under which you can find 'migration (migr)' section.

This section has data on international migration, citizenship, asylum applicants, resident permits. Additionally, at the bottom of the navigation tree, you can find data on migrant integration and data on migrant children.

› In India, reliable migration data is available through the e-migrate portal and through the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation. However, these data only captures migration flows to Emigration Clearance Required (ECR) Countries¹. Therefore, the scope of available migration data collection mechanism and data management framework could be expanded and improved to produce more comprehensive and harmonised data on the different aspects of international migration. The estimates that are available currently through MEA, Ministry of Home Affairs, other ministry level administrative sources, and the system in place for data collection focuses heavily on the countries part of the Gulf Cooperation Council. Data collected (on emigration clearance, details of emigrants, job category, visa and insurance) on outward-migration through the [E-migrate portal](#) are only available for Emigration Clearance Required (ECR) countries. The scope of population census and household surveys could also be broadened to capture and help updating more migration data, by adding specific questionnaire. Some state-level initiatives (such as the Kerala Migration Surveys - KMS) could be used as source of inspiration. Experience sharing and analysis gathered could be applied and extended to produce a national migration survey. Partnerships with private sector may also be explored to obtain and utilise 'big data' to understand various migration flows and patterns.

The eMigrate Portal is primarily an electronic platform for migrant workers and recruitment agencies (RA). It offers Indian citizens the ability to apply /verify ECR clearances, employment opportunities under Mobility and Labour Agreements (e.g. Japan – India), submit grievances, and verify the RA's status.

Based on these features, select data is also collated and shared on outward-migration for public access: (on the number of emigration clearances issued, details of emigrants, job category, visa and insurance).

To access the eMigrate portal use the link: www.emigrate.gov.in

› In recent years, there have been various efforts by the Government of India (GoI) to address some of the migration data-related challenges and enhance their data analyses. The GoI has launched the "[Strengthening data-informed and migrant-centred migration and management frameworks in India](#)" project, implemented by IOM, in association with the MEA, India Centre for Migration, and Global Migration Data Analysis Centre (GMDAC) Berlin. It anticipates to support the GoI in developing a comprehensive and gender-sensitive national migration data strategy and to strengthen the understanding of labour market opportunities in Europe. Further, the scope of e-migrate portal is soon expected to expand to include non-ECR countries, which will then allow it to capture more data from other destination countries, as well. Additionally, the India Centre for Migration analyses and reports on data compiled by various sources within the MEA (e.g. E-Migrate, Vande Bharat figures), but also information shared from other ministries such as Ministry of Home Affairs -Bureau of Immigration – or Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (for example, [their Impact of COVID-19 on India's International Migration Report](#)).

1. Emigration Check Required (ECR) is a category of Indian passport, issued for migrants who have not passed 10th grade/class, or cannot produce their Matriculation or higher education pass certificate. ECR passport holders along with nurses travelling to certain countries are required to register and receive prior approval through the E-Migrate portal. The 18 countries for which emigration clearance is required for ECR passport holders and nurses travelling for work are as follows: Afghanistan, Bahrain, Indonesia, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Malaysia, Oman, Qatar, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Sudan, South Sudan, Syria, Thailand, United Arab Emirates, and Yemen.

Recommendations

- › **Updates to the baseline report could be envisaged taking into account evolving/emerging data.** This will help policymakers to better understand the changing trends, patterns in the flow and stock of migrants and support migration policy dialogues between the EU and India. This would have to be done beyond the scope of the current EU-India CAMM support project.
- › **Better categorise and disaggregate data on migrants by age, gender, origin, destination regions. Analyse the labour market needs of destination countries and available skillset** - skills and experiences of aspiring migrants. The availability of such data will equip the policymakers to formulate informed migration policies according to the structure, opportunities and trends of migration.
- › **Strengthen regional cooperation on data exchange and management to address interrelated challenges,** namely gaps in the availability of data, scarcity of human and material resources, and lack of facilities and equipment to ensure timely, accurate, and comprehensive filing of the data. This will also support in improving data comparability and consistency in various migration corridors, including EU-India corridor.
- › **Expand the scope of population census and household surveys, and analysis of existing administrative sources (across ministries),** and systematically disseminate such data in accordance with international recommendations, to ensure timeliness and accessibility of migration data. Similarly, with the expansion of online data portals (such as the e-migrate portal), there is an opportunity to set a better data collection mechanism, with timely extraction and analysis of the captured data.
- › **Investigate possible partnerships between national statistical agencies and the private sector and other relevant stakeholders (including state level authorities) to leverage “big data” for measuring migration,** understanding the drivers and consequences of migration and informing migration policy. This would be especially relevant for data on migration flows such as student mobility, high-skilled migrants (intra-company transferees, etc.).
- › **Explore external assistance and support for developing operating procedures and enhancing capacity in data collection and analysis for implementation of new migration data strategy (as and when approved).** To that end, peer-to-peer learning, technical assistance, and financial support could be useful.

Annex 1:

List of Registered Participants and Speakers

S.No	Name	Designation
Ministry of External Affairs, India		
1	Mr. Abbagani Ramu	Joint Secretary, Overseas Indian Affairs-I, MEA
2	Mr. Chander Shekhar	Under Secretary, Overseas Indian Affairs-I, MEA
3	Dr. Surabhi Singh	Chief Administrative Officer, India Centre for Migration (ICM)
4	Dr Gatha Nautiyal	Research Assistant, ICM
5	Ms. Lakshmi Priya PB	Research Intern, India Centre for Migration
EU Delegation to India		
6	H. E., Seppo Nurmi	Deputy Ambassador
7	Mr. Benoît Sauveroché	First Counsellor - Migration and Home Affairs
EU Bodies (European Commission, EUROSTAT)		
8	Mr. Zsolt Tasnadi	DG HOME, European Commission
9	Mr. Giampaolo Lanzieri	Senior Expert - Deputy Head of Unit, Eurostat, Unit F2 -Population and Migration
10	Mr. Piotr Juchno	Expert, Eurostat. Unit F2 – Population and migration
11	Mr. Marco Funk	International Relations Officer, International Affairs Unit, DG HOME
EU Member State Representatives		
12	Mr. Yiannakis Makrides	Secretary/Consul, Cyprus High Commission, New Delhi
13	Mr. Adam Klopfer	Consul, Consulate General of Hungary in Mumbai
14	Ms. Eugenie Megally	Second Secretary and Consul, High Commission of the Republic of Malta in New Delhi
15	Ms. Antonia Korn	Vice Consul, German Consulate General, Mumbai
16	Ms. Ruth Osi	Vice Consul, Consulate General of Belgium in Mumbai - India
International Organisations		
ICMPD		
17	Ms. Sedef Dearing	Regional Coordinator for South and West Asia
18	Mr. Naozad Hodiwala	Senior Project Manager and Country Coordinator for India
19	Mr. Ameen Arimbra	Associate Project Officer, EU-India CDMM

S.No	Name	Designation
ILO		
20	Ms. Seeta Sharma	Project Manager, ILO New Delhi
IOM		
21	Mr. Sanjay Awasthi	Head of Office, IOM India
22	Ms. Irene Schöfberger	Data and Policy Analyst, IOM Global Migration Data Analysis Centre (GMDAC)
UN DESA		
23		Mr. Edo Mahendra Associate Population Affairs Officer, UN DESA
Academia and Others		
24	Dr. Meera Sethi	Author, EU-India Statistical Baseline Report
25	Dr. Arvind Pandey	Co-Author, EU-India Statistical Baseline Report
26	Dr. Irudaya Rajan	Chairman, International Institute of Migration and Development, Trivandrum, India
27	Dr. Debolina Kundu	Professor, National Institute of Urban Affairs, India
28	Dr. Enrico Tucci	Senior Researcher, Italian National Institute of Statistics
29	Ms. Divya Balan	Assistant Professor, FLAME University, Pune, India
30	Ms. Archana Roy	Professor, International Institute of Population Studies (IIPS), Mumbai, India



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