



MIGNEX Handbook Chapter 14

Impact and exploitation of results

Hannah Murray
ODI

Jessica Hagen-Zanker
ODI

Suggested citation

Murray, H. and Hagen-Zanker, J. *Impact and exploitation of results*, MIGNEX Handbook Chapter 14 (v1). Oslo: Peace Research Institute Oslo. Available at www.mignex.org/d104.

MIGNEX

MIGNEX (Aligning Migration Management and the Migration-Development Nexus) is a five-year research project (2018–2024) with the core ambition of creating new knowledge on migration, development and policy. It is carried out by a consortium of eight partners in Europe, Africa and Asia: the Peace Research Institute Oslo (coordinator), Danube University Krems, the University of Ghana, Koç University, Lahore University of Management Sciences, Maastricht University, ODI, and the University of Oxford. In addition, Samuel Hall is a core subcontractor.

See www.mignex.org.



MIGNEX has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No. 770453.

The MIGNEX Handbook

The MIGNEX Handbook grows chapter by chapter over the lifetime of the project. It is primarily as a tool for internal information-sharing and quality assurance. The text refers to 'we' as the team members and 'you' as an individual team member reader. The handbook is public in order to ensure transparency and facilitate knowledge exchange also on issues such as project management, methodology and communication.

Acknowledgements

This document was reviewed by Anne Duquenne (PRIO), Jorgen Carling (PRIO), Kate Oliver (ODI), and Richard Danziger (Independent) as part of MIGNEX quality assurance and review procedures. With thanks to Marcela Rubio (ODI) for data collection support. The content of the document, including opinions expressed and any remaining errors, is the responsibility of the authors.

Publication information

This work is licensed under the Creative Commons CC BY NC 4.0 License. You are free to share and adapt the material if you include proper attribution (see suggested citation), indicate if changes were made, and do not use or adapt the material in any way that suggests the licensor endorses you or your use. You may not use the material for commercial purposes.

Peace Research Institute Oslo, Oslo, Norway

August 2024 (Version 1)

ISBN (print):
978-82-343-0638-9

ISBN (online):
978-82-343-0639-6

The views presented are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the views of the institutions with which they are affiliated. The European Commission is not responsible for any use that may be made of the information herein.

History of changes

Version	Date	Changes
1	30 August 2024	Version submitted as official deliverable to the EC.

Contents

14.1 Introduction 1

- 14.1.1 MIGNEX communications structures 2
- 14.1.2 Expected impacts 3
- 14.1.3 Audiences 3
- 14.1.4 Research ethics and research integrity 4
- 14.1.5 Impact maximisation strategy 4

14.2 Empirical research and analysis 4

- 14.2.1 Methodologies 5
- 14.2.2 Usefulness of the data in developing rich and fresh insights 7
- 14.2.3 Contributions to science and open access 8
 - MIGNEX contributions to academic publications 9*

14.3 Ensuring relevant, effective and targeted communication 9

- 14.3.1 Tailored outputs and communication forms 9
 - Foreground publications 11*
 - Background publications 13*
 - Accessible elaboration 14*
 - MIGNEX website 16*
 - 16*
 - 16*
 - News and Newsletter 16*
 - Social media 17*
 - Unplanned-for digital media 18*

14.4 Engagement and uptake by stakeholders 19

- 14.4.1 Formal stakeholder engagement 20
 - End-User Board 20*
 - End-User Panel 21*
- 14.4.2 Wider stakeholder engagement 22
 - Keynote for 26*
- 14.4.3 Media engagement 27

14.5 Applications in policy and practice 28

- Impact narrative 1 28*
- Impact Narrative 2 29*
- Impact Narrative 3 30*
- Impact Narrative 4 32*
- Impact Narrative 5 32*
- Impact narrative 6 33*

14.6 Revised exploitation plan 34

14.7 Quantitative indicators 35

14.8 Plan for dissemination and exploitation of results post-project 37

14.9 Conclusion 37

References 40

Tables

Table 1: Revised MIGNEX exploitation plan

Figures

Figure 1 MIGNEX work package structure 2

Figure 2: MIGNEX model of maximising and monitoring impact 4

Figure 3 Map of MIGNEX countries and research areas 5

Figure 4 MIGNEX training portal 6

Figure 5: MIGNEX communications pyramid 10

Figure 6 MIGNEX Insight Videos 16

Figure 7 MIGNEX website users based on country (between 2018 - 2023). Source, Google Analytics. 16

Figure 8 Social media mentions on X in 2024. Source: Meltwater 18

Figure 9: Graphics produced for MIGNEX social media dissemination. Produced by Steven Dickie. 18

Figure 10 MIGNEX End-User Board members 20

Figure 11 MIGNEX Academic Conference 23

Figure 12 MIGNEX Policy Conference delegates and Ambassador Luigi Soreca (EEAS) at MIGNEX Policy Conference. Source: Hannah Murray for MIGNEX. 25

Figure 13 MIGNEX at the Global Forum on Migration and Development. Copyright: Valeriano Di Domenico 26

14. Impact and exploitation of results

Strategic, high-quality communications have been central to achieving the overall vision, goals and objectives of the MIGNEX project. This handbook chapter documents MIGNEX impact and evaluates the project's success in relation to the communications and impact maximisation plan, published at the start of the project in 2018.

Recognition of communications as integral to impact, with dedicated, skilled communications resource, has been critical to MIGNEX impact.

Continuous, professional, and effective engagement with stakeholders at all stages of the research process has strengthened MIGNEX policy influence and impact.

A steady stream of high-quality, tailored outputs rather than a mass of publications in the latter phase of the project built MIGNEX visibility, reputation and uptake.

14.1 Introduction

The MIGNEX ethos, of communications as fundamental to influence and impact, has been a vital part of the project's success. This handbook chapter sets out how strategic, high-quality communications have supported the overall vision, goals and objectives of MIGNEX. In this chapter, we describe how the project has achieved impact, illustrate this with impact narratives and analyses of impact indicators, and lay out routes for exploitation of results after the end of the project.

We aim to provide an overview and evaluation of our efforts towards impact and exploitation¹ and offer practical recommendations for future research initiatives.

¹ In the terminology of EC-funded research, exploitation refers to the use of project results by external actors. "Exploitation focuses on the actual use of the results, translating research concepts into concrete solutions that have a positive impact on the public's quality of life". See https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/strategy/dissemination-and-exploitation-research-results_en.

In this handbook chapter, we also share specific examples of MIGNEX Impact through Impact Narratives - which offer a comprehensive overview of MIGNEX uptake and impact with external stakeholders – in section 14.5.

14.1.1 MIGNEX communications structures

MIGNEX has had dedicated, professional and skilled communications and engagement capacity throughout the project, led by ODI: WP10 lead (Jessica Hagen-Zanker) and MIGNEX Communications Officer (Hannah Murray 2022 – 2024, Nicole Johnston 2021-2022, Amy Leach 2019-2021 and Helen Dempster, 2018-2019).

ODI has led on the strategic coordination and monitoring of impact, with participation from Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO) and all partners. Through the project’s ‘Work Package 10 on Impact Maximization’, ODI was responsible for ensuring impact through continuous, professional, and effective engagement with stakeholders, coordinated dissemination and communication activities, and provided documentation of project impact and to facilitate exploitation of results.

ODI maintained close relationships with MIGNEX team members, which has led to effective communications and dissemination processes, creative collaboration and capacity building for MIGNEX team members on research communications. This included regular communications catch ups with the MIGNEX Project Lead and Programme Manager at PRIO and leading on formal stakeholder engagement with the End-User Board and End-User Panel, discussed in [section 14.4](#). The WP10 lead was also a permanent member in the MIGNEX steering group, with communications and impact maximisation a standing item on the steering group agenda.

Finally, WP10 efforts relate to all other MIGNEX project teams, as indicated in Figure 1.

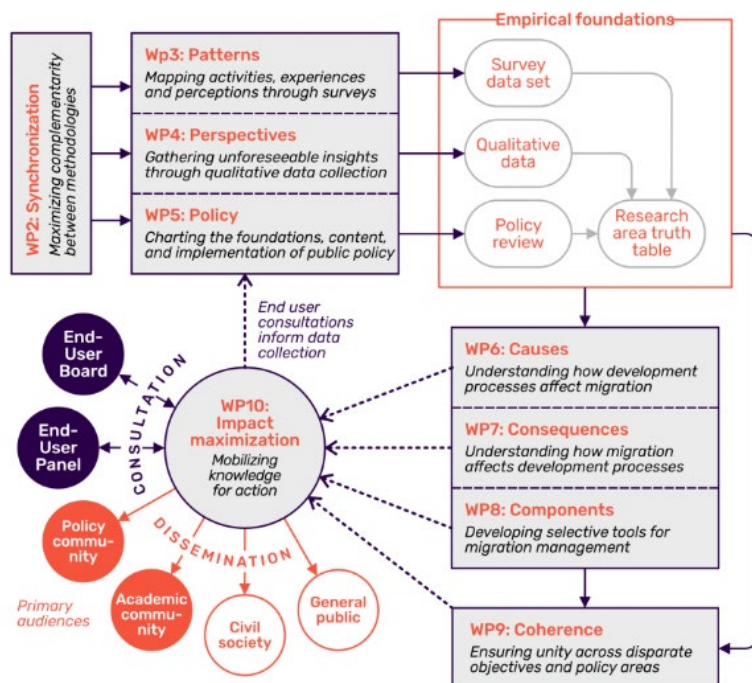


Figure 1 MIGNEX work package structure

14.1.2 Expected impacts

When established in 2018, MIGNEX had ambitious aims to achieve impact through rigorous research. The project had one overarching objective:

Contribute to more effective and coherent migration management through evidence-based understanding of the linkages between development and migration.

Within this, the project has three distinct impacts, summarised here and discussed in more detail in the Description of Action.

Impact 1: A better understanding of the determinants of migration and the two-way interaction between migration and development processes. MIGNEX aims to contribute towards a better understanding of the differences between ‘root causes’ and ‘other determinants’ and how mechanisms function differently depending on the context. Our research areas are pertinent for migration towards Europe, ensuring that findings are relevant to European policy, as well as to policy-makers in countries of origin and transit.

Impact 2: Enhanced policy coherence and effectiveness in the EU’s approach to third-country cooperation on migration. Our efforts to achieve this impact focus on the EU’s relations with countries of origin and transit, institutional coherence as well as strategic policy frames and the range of migration-relevant policies implemented by the EU and member states, seeking to ensure that MIGNEX research is sustainable and retains relevance once the project has been completed. We also consider coherence with other policy objectives, such as integration in host countries.

Impact 3: Stronger conceptual tools for interpreting the role of the EU and its Member States as global actors in the field of migration. MIGNEX research aims to provide clarity on the range of different roles the EU and its member states can and do have – from partner to inhibitor – and the relationships between them.

Our work towards these three expected impacts is guided by [ten specific, concrete objectives](#); each relating to particular tasks within the project. Together, they support our overall ambition making a difference through new knowledge on migration, development and policy.

MIGNEX communications and engagement is captured in Objective 10:

Ensuring impact through continuous, professional, and effective engagement with stakeholders. We aim to interact with stakeholders in ways that are continuous throughout the project lifetime; professional in their use of expertise on policy communications, and effective in the sense of concentrating resources where they have the greatest value-added.

14.1.3 Audiences

MIGNEX has two primary audiences.

- *Policy-makers* at all levels of influence, based in Europe and in countries of origin or transit.
- *Academics* at all stages of career, based predominantly in the EU but also globally.

MIGNEX also has three secondary audiences: civil-society practitioners, interested members of the public, and journalists.

14.1.4 Research ethics and research integrity

Research ethics and research integrity concern a range of relationships with other individuals, groups and institutions, as described in [MIGNEX Handbook Chapter 5](#) on Communications and impact (Dempster et al., 2019) and the [MIGNEX Handbook Chapter 4](#) on Research Ethics and Research Integrity (Carling, 2020). Our communications and impact activities related to all those relationships, including: responsibilities vis-à-vis research participants, potential end users, and colleagues in the MIGNEX team.

Most of the relevant aspects of research ethics and research integrity concerned team members in their role as authors, as noted in [Handbook Chapter 5](#).

Maximising impact is integral to research integrity. This means MIGNEX research must ensure added value for the academic body of evidence and policy, as well as challenge assumptions, wherever possible.

Authors must strike a balance between (1) simple and effective messaging that is easily accessible to our audiences, and (2) communication of the uncertainties, nuances and limitations inherent in the research. This means focusing on core messages (balancing what is essential against what is interesting), as readers will only be able to absorb so much information without turning it into simplistic messaging.

Authors should refrain from suppressing findings that have problematic political implications, but rather they should discuss those implications directly and make it clear why they are deemed problematic.

14.1.5 Impact maximisation strategy

Our impact maximisation strategy is detailed in Figure 2. This Handbook Chapter discusses the four key stages in turn in order to assess our efforts towards the impact and exploitation of results during the project's lifetime.

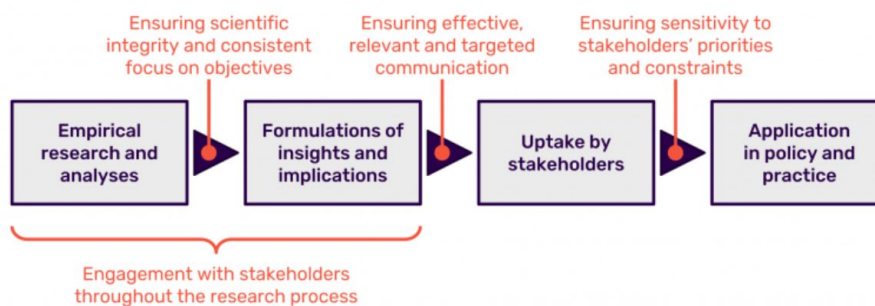


Figure 2: MIGNEX model of maximising and monitoring impact

14.2 Empirical research and analysis

MIGNEX's empirical research is both broad and deep. Indeed, MIGNEX conducted in-depth empirical data collection using mixed methods in 26 research areas in ten different countries (indicated in Figure 3) and then analysed this large data using innovative approaches. The data collection took three forms:

1. **A large-scale survey.** See [Handbook Chapter 10](#): Documentation of survey data. (Hagen-Zanker, J., Carling, J., Caso, N., Hennessey, G., and Rubio, M)
2. **Qualitative data collection.** See [Handbook Chapter 11](#): Documentation of qualitative data collection. (Erdal, M.B., Fitzmaurice, M., Ivanova, M., Hemat, L.E., Karl, E.)
3. **National policy reviews.** See [Handbook Chapter 12](#): Documentation of policy review. (Godin, M., Vargas-Silva, C.)

The development of rigorous methodologies applicable to the varied MIGNEX contexts was key in leading to high-quality and reliable data.

While much of our analysis used standard approaches for analysing quantitative and qualitative data, we also developed and applied more innovative approaches to extract deeper insights, for instance [multi-level analysis on the determinants of migration](#) (Carling et al., 2023) and mediation analysis to measure the [indirect effects of migration on development](#) (Memon et al., 2023). In particular, we use [Qualitative Comparative Analysis](#) (QCA) for comparing the experiences of our 26 research areas, which has not been applied in this way in migration studies before (Czaika and Godin, 2021).



Figure 3 Map of MIGNEX countries and research areas

14.2.1 Methodologies

The development of rigorous methodologies applicable to the varied MIGNEX contexts was key in leading to high-quality and reliable data. We planned for considerable time, effort and research to develop the most appropriate and quality [methodologies for all the data collection](#) (Erdal and Carling, 2020; Godin and Vargas-Silva, 2020; Hagen-Zanker et al., 2023b), as well as considerations of [research ethics and integrity](#) (Carling, 2020).

It has always been our plan to make the methodology design publicly available through the Handbook Chapters, we were however surprised by the unexpectedly large interest in MIGNEX methodologies and thinking around research design and ethics and uptake these Handbook Chapters generated. The Handbook Chapters have had a large number of downloads (2,578), as indicated in Table 3 in the Appendix, with the top 5 downloaded Handbook Chapters all focused on data collection.

In order to meet and further grow the external interest in our methodologies, we created a [training portal](#) on the website, which collates all MIGNEX training resources to make this information more accessible. This includes the Handbook Chapters and further resources, like the data collection training videos, which were produced for internal use, but we decided to publish after all in case helpful to others. The portal compiles MIGNEX materials on: survey data collection; qualitative data collection; project management; research communication; in addition to guidance on using the MIGNEX survey to teach methods and statistics and in a master's thesis.

The screenshot displays the MIGNEX training portal interface. It is organized into several sections, each with a title and a list of resources with red arrows pointing to them:

- Learning about survey data collection**
 - MIGNEX Insight: Counting households using satellite maps - does it work? →
 - MIGNEX Handbook Chapter: 7: Survey data collection →
 - MIGNEX Handbook Chapter: 10: Documentation of survey data →
 - MIGNEX training videos: Survey data collection →
- Learning about qualitative data collection**
 - MIGNEX Handbook Chapter: 8: Qualitative data collection →
 - MIGNEX Handbook Chapter: 11: Documentation of qualitative data collection →
 - MIGNEX Background Paper: The determination of migration through focus group data →
 - MIGNEX training videos: Qualitative data collection →
- Learning about project management**
 - MIGNEX Handbook Chapter: Project management and quality assurance →
 - MIGNEX Handbook Chapter: Research ethics and research integrity →
 - MIGNEX Insight: The research-policy dialogue: engaging in conversation rather t... →
- Learning about research communication**
 - MIGNEX Handbook Chapter: Communications and impact →

Below these sections are two additional informational blocks:

- Using the MIGNEX survey to teach methods and statistics**

The MIGNEX survey offers unique insights into survey methodology and survey data analysis of the links between migration and development.

A subsample of the MIGNEX Survey Dataset has been created specifically for use in teaching. It is available to all instructors upon request. Please see the [MIGNEX Survey Teaching Dataset](#) for details.
- Using MIGNEX data in a master's thesis**

Master's students at one of the MIGNEX consortium institutions can access MIGNEX data for use in their theses before the data is publicly released.

When the data is made publicly available, it can be used by students everywhere. Please see [MIGNEX data](#) for details.

Figure 4 MIGNEX training portal

Concrete examples of engagement with methodologies include the following:

- The MIGNEX survey methodology, especially the quality control measures, were the basis on which Jessica Hagen-Zanker was invited to lead a [webinar on MIGNEX methodologies at SurveyCTO](#) - one of the biggest data collection platforms, which we also used for the MIGNEX survey. Titled “How MIGNEX Organized Data Collection to Drive High-Quality Data”, the webinar had the highest numbers for registrations for a SurveyCTO webinar (819) and unique attendance (222 unique viewers) at that time. SurveyCTO were so happy with the content of the webinar, that they took out paid promotion on social media afterwards to disseminate the video of the webinar further.
- Jessica Hagen-Zanker, based on her central role in designing and running the survey, was invited to be a keynote speaker for the **IMISCOE (International Migration Research Network) webinar on [Integrating Reflexivities into Survey Research](#)** in January 2023.

- The MIGNEX survey design and implementation in Somalia informed Jessica Hagen-Zanker’s guidance for an economist at the **Central Bank of Somaliland**, who wrote later to say:

Your comments and thoughts were incredibly helpful and really shifted how I planned and conducted data collection here!

- MIGNEX Handbook Chapters have supported MA, MPhil and PhD teaching by Leander Kandilige at the **University of Ghana**. The transparency and detail of the publications were valued, and MIGNEX methods have been employed in students’ own data collection. As noted by Leander:

MIGNEX methodologies have been widely appreciated by my MA, MPhil and PhD students who conduct research into different aspects of migration in Ghana. The openness with which MIGNEX published the entire fieldwork plans and processes as well as the step-by-step guides on how to use our selected data collection methods has been praised by both students and academic faculty. Students have referenced the random walk strategy in selecting participants for survey, in particular. The framing of questions in the survey and focus group discussions has been emulated by students in carrying out their data collection.

- Jason Gagnon (End-User Board member) uses MIGNEX Handbook Chapters in his teaching of a **migration, development and data course at University SciencesPo, Paris**.
- Marta Bivand Erdal and Jessica Hagen-Zanker were both invited to contribute to a book chapter for the 2nd edition of the **Handbook on Research Methods in Migration** (to be published in late 2024).
- Melissa Siegel used the MIGNEX Handbook Chapters and insights from the methodologies in several courses, including: a Postgraduate programme on migration studies based at the **Kenyan Institute for Migration Studies** (which is part of the Department of Immigration Services, Kenyan Government) and funded by the EU through the Better Migration Management Program implemented by GIZ; a **Migration Management Diploma programme and Master’s in Public Policy and Human Development at Maastricht University**.
- The Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO) led a **PhD course on Qualitative Research Methods and Analysis** and on **Survey methods in Migration Research**.
- Carlos Vargas-Silva used the teaching version of the dataset in the **Migration Master’s programme at the University of Oxford**.
- MIGNEX sampling methodology was the basis of a **webinar on sampling in September 2020, co-hosted with International Organisation Migration’s (IOM) Global Migration Data Analysis Centre (GMDAC)**. It had 200 attendees from 47 countries.
- The [MIGNEX Research Ethics and Research Integrity Handbook Chapter](#) has been used in **European Research Council projects** (publications forthcoming).

14.2.2 Usefulness of the data in developing rich and fresh insights

MIGNEX data has proven to be very valuable in developing rich and fresh insights.

First and foremost, MIGNEX data was designed to allow for comparisons across local areas. While cross-country comparisons are common in migration studies, a cross-local-area design is unusual and allows for particular valuable analysis. Our data has the rare combination of (a) spanning 26 communities spread across ten countries and (b) containing a range of detailed migration-specific variables. Second, by being representative of local populations in selected areas, rather than country-wide, it allows for analysing local-level dynamics. This is important since national averages are fairly abstract constructions, especially in large and diverse countries such as Ethiopia, Nigeria and Pakistan. This research design has allowed us to draw out specific, new insights, for example that individual perceptions and experiences can matter as much as what is experienced collectively in a community (Carling et al., [2023](#), [2024](#)).

As noted by one MIGNEX team member:

I routinely cite the findings of the qualitative research in Gbane, Golf City and New Takoradi in my lectures. The trends of migrations, reasons for consideration of migration as a livelihood opportunity by youth relative to other factors have been demonstrated using quotes from MIGNEX fieldwork in the three research areas.

While mixed-method data collection is now common, the MIGNEX research design fully prioritised and integrated both types of data. For instance, the 26 MIGNEX [Case Study Briefs](#) draw on both descriptive statistics using the survey data and qualitative insights derived from the Research Area Interim Reports². This has allowed for rich insights into the migration and development dynamics, and a publication series that was well received, with a total of 3,550 downloads (see Table 3). Qualitative data derived from the coding scales was also used to develop an innovative new quantitative measurement of a “culture of migration” subsequently used in the regression analysis (Carling et al., [2023](#)), amongst other concepts. Having both types of data has been useful in other ways, for example some of the focus group data has helped to explain the finding from regression analysis why [different facets of migration can have contradictory effects](#) (Siegel et al., [2024](#)).

The mixed methods data has also been key to developing the *truth tables* and deriving the insights using Qualitative Comparative Analysis (QCA). The MIGNEX project has been the first to apply [QCA in the migration field](#), and a key insight from this analysis is that forced returns have negative impacts on development (Weisner and Czaika, [2024](#)).

14.2.3 Contributions to science and open access

Sharing the insights and lessons on methodologies has been an important contribution to science. As outlined above, we have done so by documenting our research processes, methodologies, communications and management through the [MIGNEX Handbook Chapter series](#), but also through the additional dissemination we have done, particularly on methodologies as described above.

MIGNEX has had a strong commitment to open access throughout the project. An anonymised version of the survey dataset will be [publicly available from September 2024](#), while a [teaching version](#) has been available since 2023. We have also provided additional information to help others navigate and use the dataset, [including a code book, the survey instruments and detailed information on the data cleaning and preparation](#) (Hagen-Zanker et al., [2023b](#)). By doing so we are increasing the utility of the dataset for non-MIGNEX team members and increasing the likelihood that it will be extensively used. With 528 downloads, this is the most

² These internal reports documented insights from qualitative data collection in a systematic and comparable way, including through the use of “Coding scales” on different areas related to migration and development.

downloaded Handbook Chapter, indicating that it has been worthwhile making all this information available.

We are also making contributions to science through our academic publications. The academic publication process is rigorous and can be long, most publications will be published once the project closes, with a number of articles still under review. The articles published to date are listed below.

MIGNEX contributions to academic publications

- Mathias Czaika and Marie Godin (2022) [Disentangling the migration-development nexus using QCA, Migration and Development](#) *Migration and Development*, 11. DOI: 10.1080/21632324.2020.1866878.³
- Jessica Hagen-Zanker, Marcela G Rubio, Marta Bivand Erda (2024) [How do perceptions, fears, and experiences of violence and conflict affect considerations of moving internally and internationally?](#) *Journal of Refugee Studies*, Volume 37, Issue 2, June 2024, Pages 416–437.⁴
- Zina Weisner (2024) [New Insights into the Causes of Migration: The Importance of Good Governance.](#) *Global Food Journal, Welternahrung*. June 2024.
- Jessica Hagen-Zanker (forthcoming, Autumn 2024). Using satellite maps to build sampling frames in migration surveys. In W. L. Allen & C. Vargas-Silva (Eds.). *Handbook of Research Methods in Migration (2nd ed.)*. Edward Elgar.
- Marta Bivand Erdal (forthcoming, Autumn 2024) Implementing collaborative qualitative data collection. *Handbook of Research Methods in Migration: Second Edition* edited by William Allen and Carlos Vargas-Silva, Edward Elgar Publishing Ltd.

14.3 Ensuring relevant, effective and targeted communication

MIGNEX aims to ensure that research findings are effectively tailored and communicated to key audiences. With this in mind, our communications aim to be innovative, relevant and accessible, with a strong digital footprint that integrates the latest expertise in research and policy communications. This has required a strategic approach to format, tone of voice and content-type of all MIGNEX outputs, which we explore in this section.

14.3.1 Tailored outputs and communication forms

The MIGNEX approach to research communications is to be consistent on the same evidence messaging, but to package it together in different ways to appeal and engage different audiences. For that reason, MIGNEX has produced a range of outputs in different styles, with the explicit desire to target a wide range of stakeholders, including but not limited to our key audiences identified above

As outlined in [MIGNEX Handbook Chapter 5](#), which lay out the plan for MIGNEX Communications and Impact:

The ideal model for communicating research to stimulate impact is to structure the form and content as displayed in Figure 5. A key insight that is easy to understand and remember for

³ 3,030 views, 2 citations. Source: Google Scholar

⁴ 1,348 views, top 25% of Altmetric scores. Source: Altmetric

busy stakeholders rests on a foundation of accessible, non-specialist elaboration, which in turn earns its trustworthiness from underlying technical analyses and documentation. The tiers of the pyramid each correspond to specific elements among our outputs.

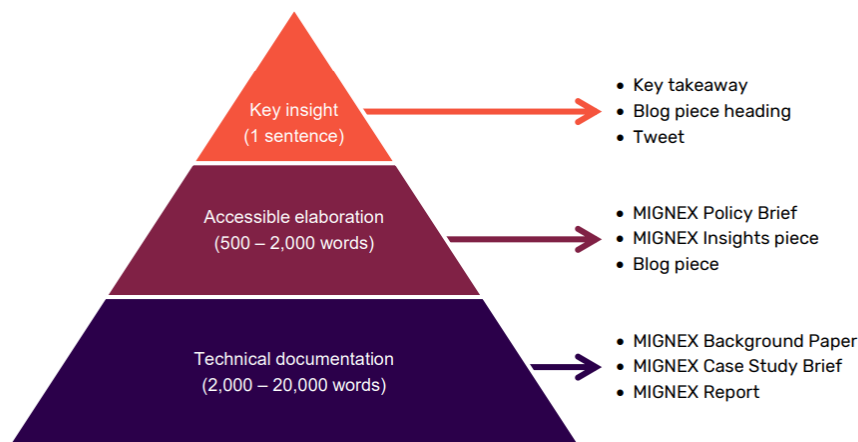


Figure 5: MIGNEX communications pyramid

Our main output types fall into the following criteria:

Foreground publications: briefs and reports, which spearhead impact maximisation.

Background publications: background papers and handbook chapters, which lay the foundations for the briefs and reports.

MIGNEX Insights, news and newsletter: which share briefer news, opinion pieces and analyses drawing on MIGNEX research

External publications: journal articles and opinion pieces, which reach other audiences.

Other MIGNEX outputs: videos, presentations, events and social media

Data on views and downloads of MIGNEX publications can be found in the Appendix.

MIGNEX is a digital-first project with printing an option when strategic. We decided to print a limited amount of publications for key stakeholder engagements, namely: the Global Forum on Migration and Development 2024 (GFMD) and the MIGNEX Policy Conference (both events discussed in more detail in Section 14.3).

For the GFMD, we printed 50 copies of 3 Case Study Briefs⁵ and 50 copies of our 2 Policy Briefs on [transit migration management](#)⁶. For the Policy Conference, we printed 50 copies of all 10 Policy Briefs, and 75 copies of the Reports we were launching that day: on the [causes](#), and [developmental impacts](#) of migration.

As with download figures, we can't know exactly whether / how delegates engaged with the publications. However, we noted that delegates were interested and valued the offer of a printed publication - we feel that this strengthened our policy impact. At the GFMD, the printed publications attracted delegates to our stall and meant more came to speak with us. At the Policy Conference, the printed copy in hand meant that delegates could easily read and refer to the publications over the course of the day, including during the discussions which

⁵ Migration and Development Dynamics in Chot Dheeran, Pakistan; Golf City, Ghana; and Redeyef, Tunisia.

⁶ Transit migration policies in the European neighbourhood and their impact on nationals; The implications of (mis)managing transit migration.

focussed on those publications specifically. This meant they engaged with the content in more depth.

Foreground publications

MIGNEX Reports (3) are the final, flagship publications of the project. They synthesise the major findings of the MIGNEX project on fundamental questions, and draw on a range of preceding MIGNEX publications.

Given the importance of the MIGNEX reports, and the ambition of appealing to both academic and policy audiences, they involved significant communications input in the design and structure of the reports. Firstly, much thought was given to the layout and content of the report, working with a skilled graphic designer to create an appealing design and visual elements. Secondly, the reports are structured around 6-7 key findings; working to ensure the main areas of focus are immediately clear and compelling. Thirdly, the reports aimed to be presented in non-technical language, without removing the nuance or complexity of the results.

They appear to be successful in reaching policy audiences. In the less than six months that they have been published, they have already been downloaded 412 times (Table 4), with 150 copies of the causes and impacts report being picked up by delegates at the MIGNEX Policy Conference within hours of the conference starting. One end-user at the European External Action Service showed us his marked-up copies of the reports as evidence of how functional the evidence has been, and also requested further copies to share with a visiting delegation from the African Union. An End-User Board member also noted their value:

For me this is the paper [report] that really consolidates the results and conclusions of six years of MIGNEX. It breaks down many of the complexities that surround migration; it also makes clear the importance of context and that no one-size-fits-all policy can address migration & development issues.

Policy makers and practitioners would understandably like to see simple solutions to migration challenges, and while this paper [report] will not satisfy them on that score, it does provide some useful indications for the way forward.

MIGNEX Case Study Briefs (26) are short, illustrated publications that document migration dynamics in each of research areas, on the basis of survey data, interviews and fieldwork. They precede the more advanced analysis in background papers and reports, and draw heavily on communications expertise for data analysis, visualisation and content streamlining; in order to balance the detail of a large, complex dataset with the need for a clear, concise overview.

Case Study Briefs were helpful for three reasons:

1. Case Study Briefs have been particularly useful in that they were the first publications post-data collection; helping to **build interest in the data and forthcoming insights**. Between 2018 – 2023, three out of the 26 Case Study Briefs were among the top 5 most visited MIGNEX Publications⁷ and in total they have been downloaded 3,550 times (Table 4).
2. They **showcase the geographic diversity and local-level-data** of the project. This has offered unique insights for policy, government and practitioners at the local, national and

⁷ Migration and Development Dynamics in Enfidha, Tunisia; Migration and development dynamics in Gbane, Ghana; Migration and development dynamics in São Nicolau, Cabo Verde.

European Level. With most MIGNEX outputs targeted towards European Union level, these outputs have supported opportunities for national-level engagement in the MIGNEX countries of focus. This is reflected by one MIGNEX researcher:

One of the Somalia Case Study Briefs was presented to the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as they were interested in insecurity and vulnerability in the area. It challenged assumptions about Somalia, and people were taking pictures of the brief to know where to find them.

3. Finally, they helped to with **National-level engagement**. MIGNEX Case Study Briefs, along with the national-level policy reviews, were sent to the Key Informants MIGNEX engaged with for the Policy reviews directly by email and there were positive responses.

First of all, thank you for sharing with us the publication of the migration policies in Guinea and the other two papers on migration and development. I congrats on your outstanding achievement. We'll be happy to read them and reply if we have any more questions or comments. Also, [INGO] is interested in further research collaboration with your respective centers, as there are several areas in which our collaboration could yield substantial contributions to the field of migration and development, climate change, peace and development, mobility, and health.

MIGNEX Policy Briefs (10) are short, illustrated publications that focus on selected findings of particular relevance to the policy community. Each policy brief refers to 1–3 MIGNEX publications that provide documentation or elaboration, typically background paper(s).

Authors firstly considered 3-5 potential policy topics, based on the relevant Background Paper/s and other MIGNEX outputs. These topics were then reviewed by the communications and impact team (WP10) to ensure policy relevance. Once a menu of potential topics was approved, they were voted on by the End-User Board and End-User Panel (see section 14.4.1 for an explanation of these specific mechanisms to engage with stakeholders).

MIGNEX communication and impact team developed guidance for authors of Policy Briefs to ensure their relevance:

MIGNEX Policy Briefs can relate to policy development in different ways, but should follow these principles:

The briefs must be *policy-relevant* in the sense that they are directly useful in policy processes, without policy-makers having to do further analytical thinking themselves. Analyses of policies and their effects are most likely to meet this criterion, but so can carefully selected and well-presented accounts of migration patterns or processes.

Policy recommendations or policy implications should be included when they are relevant but are *not a required part* of MIGNEX Policy Briefs. The Policy Brief could simply be to ensure that a particular item of evidence or point of view is represented in a debate.

Definitions:

Policy Recommendation: A simply written policy advice/ suggestion prepared for some group that has the authority to make decisions.

Policy Implication: Implications are the possible conclusions that can be drawn as a result of a cause or action.

If policy recommendations or implications are included, they *must be clearly research-based*. (Discussions of policy in opinion-piece form are possible in the MIGNEX Insights series)

If you want to list recommendations/implications, use the Bullets with spacing style, and a heading in statement form, as shown above.

Policy makers tend to dislike recommendations that simply call for taking additional factors into consideration (e.g. ‘... should pay greater attention to gender dynamics’.) Try to be more specific in saying *how* specific concerns can be reflected in policy.

Sometimes, giving a precise description of a dilemma, paradox or policy choice can be very valuable input from research to policy. Specific recommendations might be less valuable because we lack the full context of considerations that need to be made, however, this depends on the breadth of the chosen topic.

MIGNEX Policy Briefs are relatively recent publications, yet there are already 1,050 downloads across all (Table 4). We took printed versions to the Global Forum of Migration and Development (120 copies) and the MIGNEX Policy Conference (500 copies), with all being picked up by delegates.

They have been important way to engage with policy audiences. For instance, they formed the basis of several roundtables at the MIGNEX Policy Conference, and external stakeholder engagements, as discussed in the following sections. Policy makers have noted their relevance and clear, easily accessible findings. For example, one participant of the MIGNEX Policy Conference, who works with an European Development Agency, told us months later that they shared two MIGNEX Policy Briefs with the Board of Directors when asked to share insights on migration.

Background publications

The [MIGNEX Handbook Chapters](#) (14) have played a key role in the day-to-day administrative and scientific management of the project. They were publicly documented, and initially intended largely for internal use. However as explored in section 14.2 they have also been hugely successful with academic and research audiences due to their level of technical detail, their applications to guide future research practices, with 2,587 downloads (Table 4). . Therefore these outputs are a key recommendation for future, large-scale research initiatives. Their main impacts have been threefold:

- 1. Accountability and open access:** by openly documenting processes, terminology, issues encountered and potential solutions. This has enabled the MIGNEX project to remain accountable to its ambitions and guiding principles, and they have been instructive for research and academic audiences. The Handbook Chapters have been used in numerous Masters and PhD teaching, in the UK, the Netherlands, Norway and Kenya, as outlined in section 14.2. They have been commended for their ability to think through dilemmas faced in the research.
- 2. Ensuring MIGNEX visibility and relevance early on:** They enabled the project to publish outputs ahead of data collection and dissemination of findings. Contrary to the typical research-dissemination timeframe, where most publications are published in the latter stage of the project, there has been a steady stream of outputs. This enabled MIGNEX to build engagement and reputation early on, and the number of downloads for Handbook Chapters alone (2,587) reflects the value of doing so.

Having something to share early on again proved useful, when the Covid-Pandemic halted data collection in 2020 where there was a longer gap than anticipated between the release of our analytical publications and we were able to draw on them for content and engagement. During the Covid-19 pandemic team members collaborated together on a number of webinars, given

the delays in data collection, the great interest in MIGNEX research design and approaches and generally higher participation worldwide in webinars. These webinars drew a lot of traffic to the MIGNEX website (see section 14.4.2) and were well attended.⁸

3. **Applications in research and practice:** MIGNEX has been described by other Horizon projects as the ‘gold standard’ for research methods and communications, which are documented in the Handbook Chapters. As explored in section 14.4, the publications have been used by academics, practitioners and other European Commission research projects, focussed on migration research and policy.

MIGNEX Background Papers (29) are scientific papers with analyses that provide foundations for conclusions and policy implications presented in other formats: notably Journal Articles, Policy Briefs and Reports. The Background Paper series includes national-level migration-reviews of the 10 countries in focus. The style of the Background Papers resembles that of a journal article, with the same standards for analytical precision, referencing, and grounding the analyses in the relevant literature. This scientific documentation has been important to publicly documenting the MIGNEX findings in-depth, and they have been used by academic and policy audiences alike.

*For instance, the MIGNEX Background Paper **Migration-Relevant Policies in Tunisia** (Ensari, P., Kasavan, C. and Thenot, E. 2023) was used in a 2023 report by the **European Union Emergency Trust Fund (EUTF)** (Monitoring and Learning System for the North of Africa window) for stability and addressing root causes of irregular migration and displaced people in Africa.*

Background Papers have also formed the basis of all MIGNEX Policy Briefs. The value of this has been:

1. Policy Briefs have been **instructive in communicating our evidence, and their implications, in a way that meets the needs of policy audiences.**
2. That all Policy Briefs are evidence-based, and can be backed up by MIGNEX data, helps to convey the rigour of our policy recommendations to policy audiences, and therefore build our credibility.
3. A further benefit has been for those who work between Research and Policy sectors; as noted by one End-User Board Member:

“The Policy Briefs are a really good way for me to understand whether I am going to read the Background Paper, to get a jist of what it is about. I will use them to get more depth into the topic.”

Accessible elaboration

MIGNEX has employed a variety of forms for more accessible dissemination of findings.

MIGNEX Insight Pieces (17) are blog-length pieces. Given the MIGNEX project’s high number of pre-defined publications, this format allowed the team to communicate insights less formally, with flexibility on the authorship, topic and timing. Data on MIGNEX Insight Pieces can be found in Table 5 in the Appendix.

⁸ [Sampling respondents in migration surveys: challenges and trade-offs](#), October 2020 (200 attendees, from 47 countries); [Does development drive or curb migration? Implications for policymaking](#), November 2020 (100 attendees); [Ensuring comparability in cross-national research on migration](#), May 2021 (62 attendees).

While blogs are widely used, a main takeaway is the value of recognising them as a strategic output that can further the objectives of the project.

The main value of Insight Pieces has been to 1) Draw attention to MIGNEX evidence 2) Strengthen or offer new insights or implications 3) Comment with agility on timing, and on topics that may not be [directly] covered in the research or publications. 4) The Insight Pieces have helped to platform the voices of those involved in data collection, who did not author the MIGNEX publications.

Between 2018 – 2023, the following three Insight Pieces were among the eight most visited of all publication and insight pages. Beyond wide readership, a considered approach to ensured their impact:

- ***Counting households using satellite maps – does it work?*** This Insight Piece was read over 1,000 times. It was the most visited publication and insight page between 2018 - 2023, and was used as complementary reading material for a SurveyCTO webinar on MIGNEX survey methods.
- ***Hope and despair in the Indus river delta: navigating the treacherous waters of capitalism, climate change and politics.*** This piece draws on MIGNEX local-level data in order to speak to broader issues at play, that were not a main area of focus for the project. As noted by one End-User Board member:

This insight paper succinctly illustrates the need to avoid simplification of issues surrounding climate change and migration. I shall certainly be using this brief in future presentations on migration and climate change.

- ***Policy-makers must ensure the protection of Afghans, starting with the right to mobility – here's how.*** In response to the fall of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan (GoIRA) in August 2021, a MIGNEX Insight piece drew on a Background Paper to the highlight significant progress made on the development of migration policies under the GoIRA, and called for the international community to find creative ways to now implement and finance them. The blog was important to highlight a lesser-made point in light of the fall of the GoIRA, and use MIGNEX data to strengthen the calls for action, and it was also re-published by ODI.
- ***What's next for EU Policy on Migration and Development?*** In 2024, a detailed write-up of the MIGNEX Policy Conference including short, embedded videos was shared widely online (doing particularly well on LinkedIn) and was highlighted as a 'best practice' by another research project.

Finally, **Insight videos** are a formal deliverable of the project (D10.3), and they aim to disseminate complex findings in an accessible video (Figure 6). MIGNEX produced two Insight videos, which explore some of the key concepts and methods of the MIGNEX project, titled *The invisible effects of migration* and *The numbers that explain migration*. The latter video features in the MIGNEX Training Portal and both were played during the Global Forum on Migration and Development (discussed in 14.5).

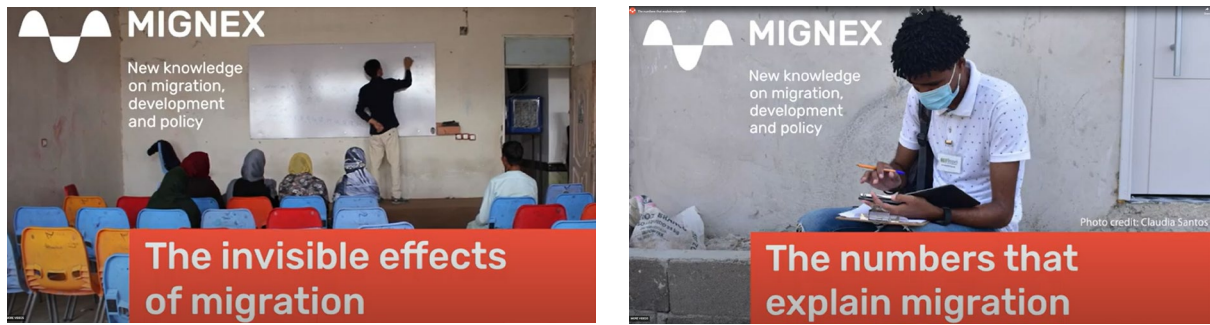


Figure 6 MIGNEX Insight Videos

MIGNEX website

At the inception of the project, much thought was given to designing an engaging and user-friendly website, working closely with the communications firm Soapbox. Navigation was carefully thought through on the basis of research, and text carefully crafted. As always, we also put emphasis on making it visually appealing through carefully selected photography. A call to action is at the footer of every page, to sign up for the newsletter and join the End-User Board (see section 14.4.1). Where needed, small adjustments were made throughout the project cycle to account for the demand from end-users, for instance adding the [Training Portal](#). The MIGNEX website was well visited throughout the project with 50,500 users visiting the page between 2018 – 2024, and with engagement from users across 190 countries.

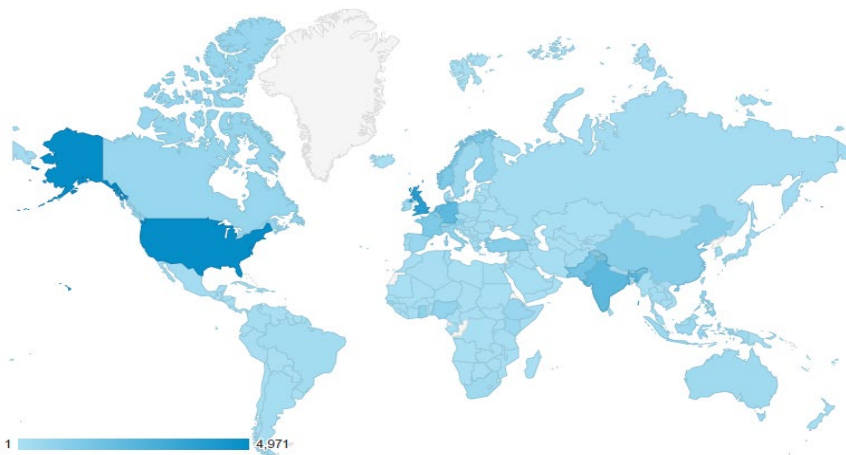


Figure 7 MIGNEX website users based on country (between 2018 - 2023).
Source, Google Analytics.

News and Newsletter

News items (48) are short updates and announcements that focus on time-sensitive content directly related to MIGNEX research, our engagement activities, influence, findings and consortium members.

Beyond a tool to ‘broadcast’, MIGNEX news items have been used to increase interest and facilitate engagement with audiences. As noted in [Handbook Chapter 5](#) on Communication and Impact:

The selection and framing of news items should reflect a reader perspective.

News pieces have often focused on forthcoming opportunities for engagement, or updates of particular interest to external audiences. For instance, we used news items to update on major project milestones i.e. commencing, pausing, and finalising data collection. And in 2024, an open call for abstracts for the [MIGNEX Academic Conference](#) was viewed by 1,000 unique users and viewed 1,400 times.

The [MIGNEX Newsletter \(17\)](#) is a quarterly round-up of news items from the website, publications, introductions to the team members and a recommended reading list. MIGNEX has published 17 newsletters, it has 761 subscribers, and the average open rate is high by industry standards, at 52%. The newsletter has been a useful ‘call to action’ for those interested in staying up to date with the project, and the option to sign up to the newsletter is visible on the website.

Social media

[Social media](#) has been key to building the MIGNEX brand and visibility, and effectively engaging diverse audiences in debate and discussion; largely through X, LinkedIn, and Facebook in some cases.

In order to leverage the diverse networks of the MIGNEX team, MIGNEX institutions and team members have been encouraged to be active on social media and share updates, resources and publications from the project. In other words, MIGNEX engaged mostly on “evergreen” issues in migration, mostly refraining from reactive social media.

In order to support MIGNEX team members, draft social media posts and visual assets were prepared for authors to easily share their work online (see for example Figure 9.) The following guidance for social media was also issued at the beginning of the project, in Handbook Chapter 5.

The more visual you can make the post, the better – with video content, infographics and photos seeing much higher levels of engagement.

The decision was taken at the beginning of the project to use a unifying hashtag (#MIGNEX), rather than create a dedicated social media channel. The reasoning outlined in [Handbook Chapter 5](#) has held true, and we would recommend future projects consider this approach, or ensure careful consideration of the added value of a dedicated social media channel.

A unifying hashtag enables us to draw on the existing strength of our collective social media footprint, from existing institutional channels to individual accounts.

It would be challenging to build a significant following on a dedicated project social media account within the lifespan of the project.

Furthermore, a dedicated social media account would need to be closed down with the end of the project.

Over the course of the six years, the MIGNEX hashtag has been used 1,900 times. The overall number of social media mentions increased significantly in the project’s final year, increasing by 2181% between the two periods of: January – August 2023; January - August 2024.

As indicated in Figure 8, social media mentions spiked at two points of 2024. This correlates with two major stakeholder dissemination events: the Global Forum on Migration and Development (23 – 25 January) and the MIGNEX Policy Conference (25 April). On both occasions, there was a strategic, coordinated plan for social media engagement in order to

support impact goals. Critically, this meant ensuring clear messaging and leveraging the social media channels of MIGNEX colleagues, as well as external collaborators and speakers.

Similarly in May 2022, a spike in website traffic - where the site was visited by 1,306 users in one day – coincided with high levels of engagement on X, around the promotion of the PRIO PhD Survey Methods course: [A video interview](#) with Jørgen Carling and Jessica Hagen-Zanker was re-shared widely, including by leading experts in the field, reaching over 73,800 people in total.⁹

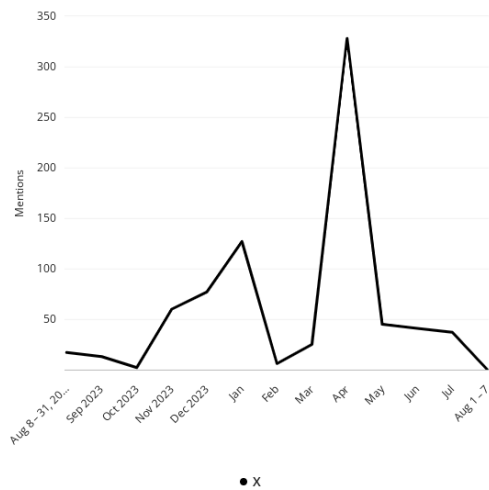


Figure 8 Social media mentions on X in 2024. Source: Meltwater

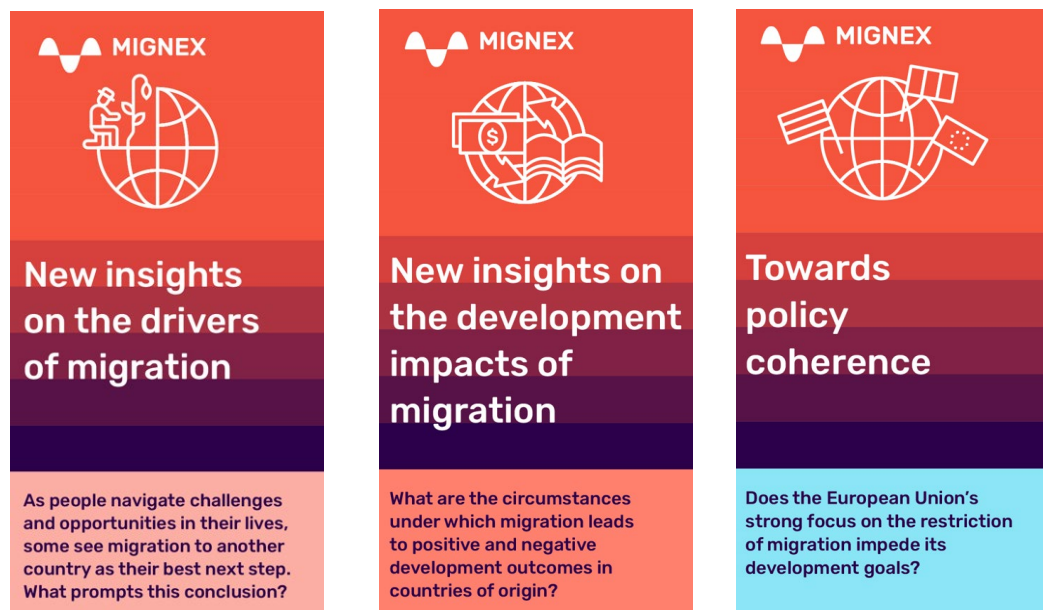


Figure 9: Graphics produced for MIGNEX social media dissemination. Produced by Steven Dickie.

Unplanned-for digital media

A [MIGNEX YouTube channel](#) hosts extensive training videos developed for qualitative and quantitative data collection, so that they can be used by other researchers. Many videos are

⁹ Social media reach is measured using Meltwater.

published in English and with translations in the languages and dialects of MIGNEX Research Areas. The strategic objective was to increase awareness of the project among researchers and practitioners, sharing training materials to support the exploitation of our methodologies in future research projects (see also section 14.2.1). The YouTube platform also offers interactivity (i.e., commenting on a video) which allows us to engage with users.

Additionally, Melissa Siegel (Maastricht University) launched a [YouTube video series](#) to showcase the main findings of the MIGNEX Case Study Briefs and other MIGNEX research. For instance, Melissa released ‘explainer’ videos on two of the concepts of the MIGNEX project “root causes” and “aspirations”. Melissa’s videos have been viewed over 2,000 times.

In 2019, the Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO) received funding from the Research Council of Norway [FORSTERK programme](#), which offers supplementary funding for Norwegian Participants in Horizon 2020 and Horizon Europe Projects. PRIO decided to use the funding to for the cinematic dissemination of insights on migration by collaborating with filmmakers and chose MIGNEX project as specific case. This initiative, named CINEMIG, has as general objective to raise awareness amongst broader audiences of the contribution of research to tackling societal challenges.

MIGNEX researchers have worked with the production company [Differ Media](#), which has previously produced a series of award-winning documentaries and describe their work as 'telling personal and powerful stories about the most important issues of our time'. The interaction between filmmaking and research has been facilitated by Differ Media's previous coverage of related topics, as well as by the MIGNEX team's emphasis on research communication. CINEMIG outputs will be launched in 2024 and will be added to the MIGNEX website and promoted via social media.

Other **digital outputs**¹⁰ published on the websites of MIGNEX Partners have included:

- *A restrictive migration agenda (podcast)*
Forthcoming, Centre on Migration, Policy and Society (COMPAS), University of Oxford
- *[Reflection on what's next for EU policy on migration and development.](#)*
May 2024, ODI
- *[New Research Finds Information Campaigns to Deter Migration Have Little Effect.](#)*
March 2024, Peace Research Institute Oslo
- *[How can governments better support diaspora contributions to social, cultural and economic development?](#)*
February 2024, ODI
- *[Peace in a Pod Podcast: Migration Trends in 2023 - Stories from the Field.](#)*
January 2024, Peace Institute Oslo (PRIO)
- *[Re-shaping the migration story: centring the hopes, decisions and experiences of those on the move.](#)*
December 2022, ODI
- *[What if Europe is, in fact, not every migrant's dream?](#)*
September 2022, ODI

14.4 Engagement and uptake by stakeholders

The project’s early planning for stakeholder engagement ensured formal mechanisms, capacity and agreed responsibilities were in place throughout the entire research process. This

¹⁰ MIGNEX media engagement is covered separately in 14.4.3.

ensured successful, professional and mutually beneficial stakeholder engagement, and ultimately paved the way for the application of our results, explored in section 14.5

14.4.1 Formal stakeholder engagement

Ongoing engagement with influential and relevant policy makers from the start of the project has helped MIGNEX to achieve policy relevance and enable potential policy impact. This included two planned for mechanisms, the End-User Board and End-User Panel.

End-User Board

The overall objective of the [End-User Board \(EUB\)](#) has been to ensure the project meets its key policy impact goals. It is made up of six experienced practitioners in the fields of migration and development; selected based on personal knowledge of key players within the sector, their interest to be engaged in a research project. In most cases, there was an existing connection with a MIGNEX team member and they were individually contacted to lend their expertise to MIGNEX.

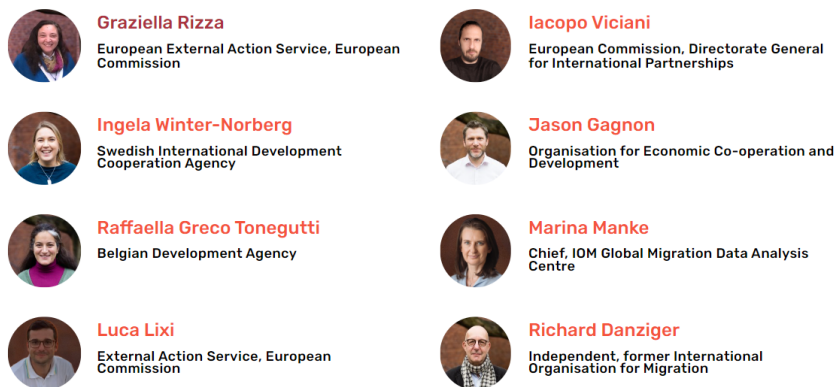


Figure 10 MIGNEX End-User Board members

To involve the EUB and retain their interest and support, there was close contact between the WP10 lead and EUB members. This included regular update emails, ad hoc phone calls, emails and WhatsApp messages. EUB members were invited to participate in all Consortium meetings and conferences (costs covered by MIGNEX).

Over the course of 6 years, three End-User Board members in particular have been most active throughout the project; attending most meetings and peer reviewing publications. Several members were not particularly active. The composition of three other members has changed over time, however this has not been a major barrier to its impact on the project, since some of the newly joined members were particularly active.

It cost time to build these relationships and a dedicated travel budget, but it was worth it. The [EUB has supported MIGNEX to maximise impact](#) in several ways:

1. Strategic advice, including: early consultation on countries, local areas, and policy issues of particular interest to the European Commission; when and how to engage with Commission.
2. Shaping the research and ensuring policy relevance through peer reviewing of MIGNEX publications

3. Strengthening the networks and reputation of the project in the sector, including through championing the project and disseminating the findings within their own organisations.

One example of where the EUB has supported MIGNEX policy impact goals is explored in the impact narrative in section 14.5.

End-User Panel

The [End-User Panel \(EUP\)](#) was set up as an innovative engagement mechanism that sits in between the traditional advisory board, like MIGNEX's EUB (small and active), and mailing list (large and passive).

As of August 2024, the EUP is made up of 187 members of the policy community, academic community, civil society and private sector, who research, formulate or implement policies or programmes in the fields of migration and/or development. This number grew mostly in the first year of the project, due to a concerted campaign on social media, reaching 127 members by 2019.

All applications underwent an approval process to ensure the EUP remained a strategic group of relevant end users, working at mid-senior level globally. Of all 187 members: 87 work in Academia; 25 in Civil Society; 7 in European Institutions; 20 in International Organisations; 22 in Local / National Governance; 5 in the Private Sector and 16 marked 'other'. They are employed across 49 countries.

The main value of the EUP mechanism for MIGNEX impact and maximisation has been:

1. **Targeted engagement with a large and varied group of end-users.** Engagement with our bi-annual updates has been higher than industry average for newsletters, with an average open rate of 50%. And as explored below, we know that many have gone on to use and share MIGNEX outputs.
2. **Consultation to ensure policy relevance.** In 2022, we began to consult the EUP on the topics of forthcoming Policy Briefs; offering 3-4 options and asking members to select the two they consider most relevant or useful to their work. This was a useful way of understanding what matters to end-users, and there was often a clear preference across the board. In turn, the voting mechanism was also a useful way to raise awareness of our forthcoming briefs. However, participation in the voting process was disappointingly low.
3. **Insight into perceptions and applications of MIGNEX research, as well as the policy topics we should focus on.** The annual survey was a useful way to understand the relevance and usage of MIGNEX outputs to end-users. For instance:
 - When asked about the most valuable aspects of MIGNEX, on average over the 6 years, 82% of members stated 'new empirical evidence' while 71% stated 'analyses across multiple countries'.
 - When asked 'How have you used MIGNEX outputs?' the most common response was 'Read outputs' and around 1/3 had distributed or mentioned the outputs to colleagues.
 - Another promising insight emerging from the survey, is that in 2023, 50% of EUP members said that MIGNEX outputs had guided the content of policy documents. Every year, the results of the EUP survey were publicly documented as a MIGNEX news piece, again contributing to our commitment to open access.

- Beyond MIGNEX outputs, the EUP survey also gave a useful insight into the shifting (and diverging) perspectives on migration-development-policy nexus among those working in the field. The findings were published each year, as a MIGNEX News Item.

Despite the value of the EUP noted above, there have been challenges in maintaining engagement with a relatively small audience over a significant period of time. Over the course of the six years, EUP survey participation declined steadily, from 54% in 2019 to 5% in 2024 (Table 1).

This could be due to a combination of factors – including survey fatigue, changing roles and mandates, and a lack of buy-in or regular engagement with the project in order to feel compelled to complete the survey. This is compounded by the fact that the EUP is made up of time-poor audiences.

Table 1. Participation in the MIGNEX EUP survey

	Baseline 2019	2020 survey	2021 survey	2022 survey	2023 survey	2024 survey
Total EUP members at time of survey	126	162	175	179	182	187
Number of responses	68	60	40	35	21	10
Response rate (%)	54%	37%	23%	20%	12%	5%

In order to mitigate this in future, a key recommendation would be to **more proactively engage with the EUP and increase the exclusive offer for them**. This could look like moving beyond email communications alone to convene dissemination events or workshops, in order to build a closer relationship, increase interest and buy-in in the project. This is to be balanced against the larger time cost for the team. The issue of job changes is also likely a barrier to continuous engagement, therefore future initiatives suggest that EUP members to invite their successor, or colleagues, to join the panel if it is no longer relevant to their role.

14.4.2 Wider stakeholder engagement

With impact a fundamental goal of the project, we have made a concerted effort to engage stakeholders at all stages of the research process. In light of our diverse audiences, and potential usages of the research, the forms of MIGNEX engagement have varied significantly.

This section does not provide an extensive list of all stakeholder engagement, but an outline of the major stakeholder engagements convened by MIGNEX.

European External Action Service (EEAS), June 2024

In a workshop attended by EEAS colleagues and African Union officials, MIGNEX disseminated the findings of two MIGNEX Reports: on the [impacts of migration on development](#), and the [drivers of migration](#). Participants noted how useful the research was to them, in particular changing their understanding of the different drivers of migration and different gender impacts. There are plans for further engagement beyond the project end date.

MIGNEX Academic Conference, June 2024

The University of Oxford coordinated an agenda-setting academic conference at the University of Oxford on the links between migration, development and policy, on 25 and 26 June 2024. Presenters included researchers from all Work Packages of the MIGNEX project, plus 10 additional presentations from researchers working on similar projects. The conference was attended by 70 global academics.



Figure 11 MIGNEX Academic Conference

Breakfast Seminar: The New Pact on Migration and Asylum: Unpacking the EU's Search for Coherence, Efficiency and Solidarity, May 2024

A breakfast [seminar](#) hosted by Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO) on 30 May 2024 presented MIGNEX findings on the EU's approach to achieving policy coherence in the field of migration. It shed light on how the push for more efficient policies, including measures for return and readmission, have shaped this policy making over the years. The seminar was attended by Ambassadors from Tunisia, Algeria, South Africa and Philippines, as well as students, academics, NGO representatives, and diplomats. Following the seminar, there was interest in bi-lateral discussions to share the findings further at the country level.

MIGNEX Policy Conference, April 2024

In April, the New EU Pact on Migration and Asylum - set to overhaul EU policies on migration, asylum, integration and border management for years – was passed through Parliament. Later in June, EU citizens elected new representatives as Members of the European Parliament (MEPs), shaping the European Parliament's priorities for the next five years, and the next European Commission Presidency. And throughout the year, migration was set to be a pivotal topic in national and regional elections across Europe.

At this critical juncture, ODI convened a convened [high-level policy conference](#) in Brussels, for a timely discussion on the direction and design of future EU migration and development policy. It aimed to facilitate open policy dialogue, share new evidence and insights for more informed, just, evidence-based policymaking.

The conference was co-hosted with ODI for practical reasons, due to ODI's internal event and registration systems and Brussels office. It was also a strategic decision to leverage ODI's established brand and reputation in order to attract high-level delegates and speakers.

The conference had three main objectives, and a clear, strategic communications, engagement and media plan meant we were successful in meeting them.

1. **Research engagement and impact:** Showcase flagship MIGNEX publications. Encourage knowledge exchange and uptake of our findings through engagement with priority policy agendas.

MIGNEX research was central to this conference. The conference launched 2 MIGNEX Reports, convened policy discussions around our Policy Briefs on Policy Coherence, EU Readmissions, and showcased MIGNEX findings on diaspora engagement, including their contributions to sustainable development. Over 500 printed policy briefs and reports were taken by delegates.

Participants engaged closely with MIGNEX research, noting its high quality and relevance to their work. Since then, in follow-up conversations, we've heard examples of uptake, for instance the sharing of MIGNEX policy briefs with the Board of Directors of a European development agenda.

2. **Strengthen networks:** Foster and strengthen the MIGNEX networks for continued, long-term engagement and partnerships once the project is completed.

The event convened 120 experts from diverse sectors across and beyond Europe - including the EU Directorate-Generals, the EU Parliament, the Commission, Member State and Partner Country Ministries, embassies, civil society, academia and media.

The conference also featured keynote speeches by Ambassador Luigi Soreca, Special Envoy for External Dimensions of Migration, European External Action Service (EEAS); Shada Islam, Award winning commentator on EU affairs; and Ola Henrikson, Regional Director, Regional Office for the EEA, EU and NATO, International Organisation for Migration (IOM).

The conference provided plenty of opportunities for informal conversations and networking, with most participants staying all day until the drinks, it seems like both the content and network components were appreciated. MIGNEX team members have been approached by several participants afterwards, with follow-up conversation and presentations once concrete outcome.

And with over 3,800 views, the Policy Conference webpage was ODI's most visited page of the year as of August 2024.

3. **Influence EU policymaking/ agenda on migration:** Convene discussions and influence future of EU policymaking on migration.

The policy impacts of the MIGNEX Policy Conference are indicated in section 14.5.

The relevance and importance of the MIGNEX research and programme was reflected in the fruitful discussions and commented on by many delegates. Influence of the conference on policy understanding is documented in this Handbook Chapter's impact narratives (section 14.5).

We published two subsequent Insight pieces to share reflections and implications that emerged at the Policy Conference more widely:

- *[Reflections on what's next for EU policy on migration and development](#)*
May 2024, ODI.
- *[What have we learnt about how governments can support diaspora contributions to sustainable development](#)*
August 2024, MIGNEX



Figure 12 MIGNEX Policy Conference delegates and Ambassador Luigi Soreca (EEAS) at MIGNEX Policy Conference. Source: Hannah Murray for MIGNEX.

International Migration, Integration and Social Cohesion (IMISCOE) Spring Conference, April 2024

This IMISCOE¹¹ conference, coordinated by MIGNEX Partner Koç University, provided a space for scholars and researchers to explore the intersection between polycrisis and (im)mobilities, with a specific focus on four interrelated crises situations: political, economic, health-related, and environmental. The conference was attended by experts from a range of international academic institutions across Europe, Asia, North America and Africa. There were also representatives from think-tanks and other policy centres from various parts of the world.

The theme of the conference - Mobilities and Immobilities in an Era of Polycrisis - fit well with MIGNEX research, given our focus on the links between migration and development and empirical focus on unstable, developing contexts. MIGNEX was present across the conference, including in the organising committee, as panel chairs, invited (keynote) speakers and panel presenters. It involved MIGNEX colleagues from University of Ghana, Koç University Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO) and Lahore University of Management Sciences.

Global Forum on Migration and Development 2024 (GFMD), January 2024

The Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) is a flexible, multi-stakeholder space where governments can discuss the multi-dimensional aspects, opportunities and challenges related to migration. At this year's Forum, MIGNEX co-convoked a side event to discuss *Achieving Objective 19 of the Global Compact on Migration: How Can Government Partnerships Better Support Diaspora Contributions to Sustainable Development?*. At this well-attended side event we were able to disseminate findings and engage in conversation with an interested policy-audience.

¹¹ IMISCOE is the largest European network of scholars in the area of migration and integration. See: <https://www.imiscoe.org/>

MIGNEX were also able to secure a table at the Marketplace of Ideas, where MIGNEX team member showed MIGNEX videos, shared policy briefs and engaged in conversation with delegates on their way to a session and during the breaks, over the course of the three days. Over the course of the conference, we engaged many policy-makers, some of whom were later invited to the MIGNEX Policy Conference, and with interest in MIGNEX clearly high as our website statistics showed (section 14.3.1).

We produced an Insight Piece to share the research and learnings more widely:

- [Reflections from the Global Forum on Migration and Development](#), February 2024.

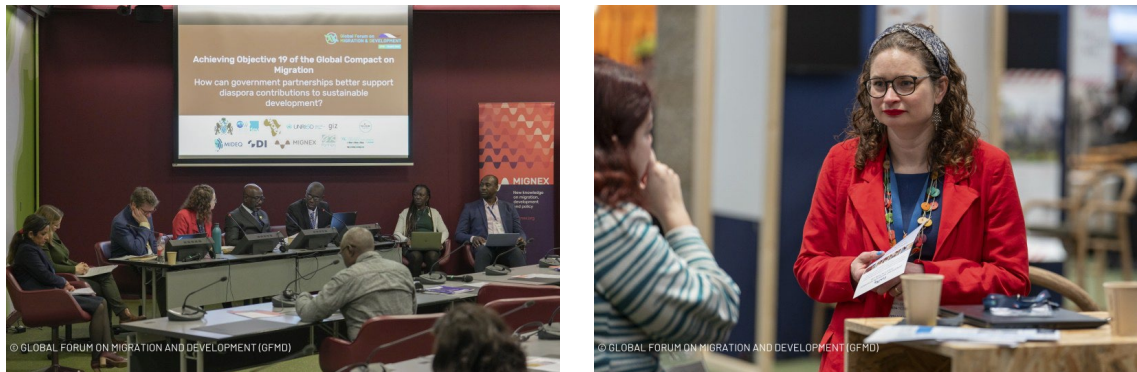


Figure 13 MIGNEX at the Global Forum on Migration and Development.
Copyright: Valeriano Di Domenico

Workshop at Enabel, Belgian Development Agency, April 2024

In a workshop organised by an End-User Board member, MIGNEX team members shared findings with Enabel team members (the Belgian Development Agency) and members of the Belgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, placing particular focus on the Tunisia and Guinea findings, which are focus countries for Enabel, with a productive discussion (see Impact Narrative in section 14.5)

Keynote for International Institute for Population Sciences Mumbai, December 2023

Mathias Czaika (Danube University Krems) drew on MIGNEX findings for a keynote on the impact of climate change on human mobility and displacement at a symposium attended by academics, policymakers, students, led by an autonomous organisation of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India.

Presentation to IOM on Irregular Migration Decision-making, November 2023

In 2022, Marcela Rubio (ODI) presented early findings on migration trends at a workshop on Irregular Migration Decision-making at IOM's Global Migration Data Analysis Centre (GMDAC).

There was a lot of positive feedback in terms of the scope of the MIGNEX project: the countries and research areas, sampling strategy employed and the novelty of using satellite maps to identify clusters, households and individuals. They were also very interested in knowing when the data will be publicly available, as they would like to have access to it and explore different research questions themselves.

Training the Azerbaijan State Service on research methods, August 2023

Drawing on MIGNEX Handbook Chapters on Research Methods, Melissa Siegel (Maastricht University) led multiple trainings for the Azerbaijan State Migration Service with the goal of improving their research capacity.

Workshop on External Financial Governance, February 2023

Elaine McGregor (Maastricht University) presented the findings of the MIGNEX Background Paper on [Policy Incoherence in European migration-related policies](#) at a workshop on External Financial Governance: Solidarity and Externalisation of Migration Control through EU Funding in Brussels.

Online workshop *Migrating from Pakistan today: Interrogating the regular/irregular divide*, December 2021

Marta Bivand Erdal (PRIO) and Furrukh Khan (LUMS) co-organised an online workshop *Migrating from Pakistan today: Interrogating the regular/irregular divide*, which brought together close to twenty researchers and practitioners working in the field of migration from and in Pakistan. The session drew on findings from MIGNEX qualitative data collection and aimed to foster networking and knowledge-exchange between graduate students, established researchers and practitioners – in the field of migration from Pakistan today.

Intergovernmental Consultations on Migration, Asylum and Refugees (IGC), June 2021

Jørgen Carling (PRIO) and Jessica Hagen-Zanker (ODI) contributed to the meeting of the Intergovernmental Consultations on Migration, Asylum and Refugees (IGC) in June 2021, attended by a range of government officials from different countries. Participants noted that they found MIGNEX's contribution insightful and thought-provoking, helping to drive 'productive discussions'. Participants were interested in MIGNEX as a result and a number signed up for the MIGNEX End-User Panel afterwards.

Migration Governance Cluster meeting, January 2021

Jørgen Carling and Jessica Hagen-Zanker attended the Migration Governance Cluster meeting at the European Commission. This provided an opportunity to discuss with policy officials and members of other EC funded projects and to reflect on ways to bring researchers and policy makers more in conversation with one another. Afterwards, they published a MIGNEX Insight piece - [The research-policy dialogue: engaging in conversation rather than talking past each other](#) - to share their strategic lessons from this meeting more widely.

14.4.3 Media engagement

The media is a secondary audience for the MIGNEX project, but still a relevant one, as it has helped us to reach wider audiences, including policy actors, civil society and the wider public.

For this reason, we have engaged directly with print and broadcast media, where strategic. In 2024, coordinated media engagement ahead of the MIGNEX Policy Conference - which included contracting a Brussels-based media freelancer and op-ed training by The Conversation for MIGNEX researchers - led to 3 media mentions. This helped to reach key audiences in Brussels, build pre-conference visibility and position the conference as an important, credible space to discuss EU migration policy.

MIGNEX Op-eds

- [Forced return of migrants hurts home countries too](#)
EU Observer. 18 April 2024
- [Why many policies to lower migration actually increase it](#)
The Conversation. 19 April 2024

Additionally, throughout the project, ODI has tracked MIGNEX media mentions. This has helped us to understand how some of our key themes and topics are being framed/reframed through the media lens in order to feed into wider public debates.

As indicated in the list below, MIGNEX has also been picked up by news outlets across the political spectrum, which relates back to the ethical challenges we have contended with as a project, regarding the ways in which our research may be interpreted and used (see section 14.1.4).

MIGNEX Media mentions

- [Yes, Kamala Harris Ran Biden’s Utterly Disastrous Efforts To Increase Mass Migration](#). *The Federalist*. July 2024
- [When a Tale of Migration Is Not Just Fiction](#). *The New York Times*. May 2024
- [The Why Curve Podcast: Migration - What’s Driving the Small Boat Journey?](#) May 2024
- [Die Ursachen von Abwanderung liegen in der jeweiligen Region](#) (The causes of migration lie in the respective regions). *Die Presse*. May 2024
- [Simply putting money into complex problems has often disastrous consequences](#). *ZAM Magazine*. April 2024
- Mention of MIGNEX Policy Conference in the ‘Agenda’ section of [Politico Policy Playbook](#). April 2024
- [The Future of the European Union’s Migration and Asylum System](#). *The Regulatory Review*. February 2024

14.5 Applications in policy and practice

MIGNEX has made good progress towards its strategic goals, as explored in our Impact Narratives below.

Impact narrative 1

Building capacity for future migration-related research through MIGNEX PhD course

In 2022, Jørgen Carling (PRIO) and Jessica Hagen-Zanker (ODI) developed a PhD course “Survey Methods in Migration Research”, drawing on the design and execution of the MIGNEX survey. Using MIGNEX **Handbook Chapter 3 (Data management plan) and Handbook Chapter 10 (Documentation of survey data)**, as well as the learnings from MIGNEX on critical issues such as survey design, sampling, analysis and communication, they developed an

applied three day course, covering ten themes, with MIGNEX examples featuring heavily.

Jørgen and Jessica ran the course twice, in September 2022 and October 2023, each time to a group of around 20 PhD students, Postdocs and early career researchers. Participants were selected from a large number of applicants, and came from all over the world to participate in the in-person course at PRIO.

The feedback received for both iterations of the course was overwhelmingly positive, with participants noting in particular the real-life examples. For the 2023 iteration of the course, 70% of participants who took part in the post competition survey gave the course the overall rating “Very good”, while the remaining 30% rated it “Good”. Several of the participants noted that the lessons from MIGNEX directly influenced their PhD research, for instance in terms of sampling or survey question formulations.

One of the participants shared this reflection

“The PRIO PhD-level course on survey methods in migration research proved to be an invaluable resource for me as a PhD student, offering a comprehensive understanding of the methodological nuances required to study migration effectively.

The course strengthened my theoretical and practical ability to integrate both qualitative and survey methodologies, enriching my capacity to capture the complex, multi-layered, and dynamic realities of migrant respondents. The engaging discussions and activities in the course facilitated a more effective use of methodologies to study and understand migration, rather than attempting to fit the complex realities of migration into a pre-determined methodological mould.”

Upon completion of the course, Jørgen and Jessica stayed in touch and continued to provide advice to a small number of participants. They may repeat this course in the future if funding becomes available.

Impact Narrative 2

Continuous, professional, and effective engagement with International Organisation on Migration (IOM) through the End-User Board

Through the End-User Board, MIGNEX built a trusted relationship with the IOM. In first instance, the relevant End-User Board (EUB) member headed up the IOM West Africa Office, and later the Somalia office. When he retired

from IOM (but staying on the EUB), the head of IOM Global Migration Data Analysis Centre (GMDAC) joined the board.

Given GMDAC's focus on data and analysis, this has been a particularly productive partnership. The EUB member noted that they found the interaction between academia and policy stimulating:

"I did find this engagement very exciting and relevant. This allowed me to get to know the work of so many interesting and prominent researchers, but also continue thinking if and how stronger synergies could be drawn between IOMs work and the work of academia."

The member also noted that the publications of MIGNEX are useful to their work; particularly the policy briefs, and that they are looking into the MIGNEX data to see if it can be used to contribute to IOM's prominent Missing Migrants project.

The MIGNEX End-user board has been a fruitful platform for engagement. In 2020, MIGNEX and GMDAC jointly hosted a webinar to share MIGNEX research methods for sampling strategies, attended by 200 participants. In November 2022, Marcela Rubio presented evidence from the MIGNEX Case Study Brief series on migration and development dynamics at an "Irregular Migration Decision-making" workshop organised by GMDAC. The workshop served as an opportunity to start disseminating emerging MIGNEX findings and to share more about the upcoming research outputs, including the survey data being made publicly available at the project completion.

GMDAC supported other stakeholder engagement efforts by the team; providing feedback and advice on the MIGNEX GFMD side-event application. They also played active roles at the MIGNEX policy conference as panel and keynote speakers, and facilitated the attendance of high-level stakeholders. Finally, both IOM End-User board members have been particularly active in peer reviewing outputs, ensuring for instance that the policy briefs were relevant for IOM and wider policy audiences, and often looping in other relevant colleagues too.

Impact Narrative 3

Refining understandings of the multi-level determination of

migration processes and the impacts of migration with the European External Action Service

MIGNEX has had an engaged End-User board member, who was first the policy officer for the project and then requested to join the End-User board when moving to the European External Action Service (EEAS). Through engagement with the End-User Board member and the MIGNEX Policy Conference, MIGNEX built a strong relationship with the EEAS.

The EEAS attended the MIGNEX Policy Conference and Ambassador Luigi Soreca, Special Envoy for External Dimensions of Migration at the EEAS was invited to deliver the opening keynote. In his speech he praised the importance and relevance of MIGNEX research:

“Your programme for the day is very rich and I know you will touch on many of the issues today. I thank you and congratulate you for this timely event, and for putting us together for a policy discussion on how to align our policy work with findings on the ground.

As we work to prepare the next [European] Commission, there is fertile ground for this discussion. I really encourage you to reach out to all EU services, to ensure your research is taken into account.”

Ambassador Luigi Soreca’s participation was facilitated by the EUB member, who also provided advice on other officials to invite. A total of 4 EEAS members attended the policy conference.

Amongst these, a Senior Expert from the Pan-African Affairs Division of EEAS attended the conference, and they were impressed with the findings of the MIGNEX Report: New Insights on the Drivers of Migration, noting how much they have been using the report already. In May 2024, they invited MIGNEX to lead a presentation on MIGNEX findings with their team. They also requested further copies of the report to share with EEAS colleagues and officials from the African Union.

This resulted in a workshop in June 2024 attended by EEAS colleagues and African Union officials and MIGNEX team members (in person and online). MIGNEX disseminated the findings of two MIGNEX Reports: on the impacts of migration on development, and the drivers of migration. Participants noted how useful the research was to them, in particular changing their understanding of the different drivers of migration and different gender impacts. There was interest in continuing the exchange. MIGNEX was invited to participate in a future EEAS exchange with EU Delegations, desk officers and African Ambassadors, after the summer holidays have ended.

In a separate development, a member of the EEAS Tunisia contacted a MIGNEX team member after seeing a LinkedIn post on a MIGNEX article in

The Conversation, *Why many policies to lower migration actually increase it* and invited MIGNEX to present findings in a webinar and discussion with EEAS colleagues in the country office in August 2024. There was an engaged discussion and many questions, with some officers across Brussels-based DGs also having joined, The EEAS Tunisia has also expressed interest for MIGNEX to speak with the Tunisia donor working group later in 2024.

Impact Narrative 4

Exploring the links between migration management, development processes, and migrant integration with GIZ Ghana and the President's Office of Ghana

Recognising the MIGNEX research on the role of diaspora members and return migrants in socio-economic development in home communities, the GIZ Ghana office reached out to the MIGNEX team and requested for a collaboration to participate in the 14th GFMD in Geneva, Switzerland. MIGNEX developed a side event with GIZ titled "Achieving Objective 19 of the Global Compact on Migration: how can government partnerships better support diaspora contributions to sustainable development?"

MIGNEX led on the organisation of the event and brought together a number of influential partners and panellists. This was a very successful collaboration among representatives of the Migration for Development and Equality (MIDEQ) Project, ODI, African Foundation for Development (AFFORD), Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), GK Partners, The Diaspora Office, Office of the President, Ghana, the Gambian Diaspora and Migration Directorate and MIGNEX.

This engagement led to a subsequent roundtable during the MIGNEX Policy Conference on diaspora engagement.

This also facilitated a relationship between the GIZ and the GFMD processes and there are plans for future collaborations to build capacity of civil society organisations in effectively participating in the GFMD and regional fora. The relationship and engagements have been facilitated by MIGNEX researcher Leander Kandilige (University of Ghana).

Impact Narrative 5

Enhanced understanding of Policy Coherence and

effectiveness of third country cooperation in an EU member state

MIGNEX research and engagement on the topic of Policy Coherence and effectiveness of third country cooperation has contributed to an enhanced understanding of policy coherence and effectiveness at the EU level; with a close examination of coherence with other policy objectives, prodding some stakeholders to reflect on their third country cooperation. This took place within the realm of the MIGNEX Policy Conference, which was structured around the topics most relevant to policy stakeholders, and ensured lots of time for discussion.

One policy actor described what happened next after the conference:

I mostly used MIGNEX research about rather contentious topics such as (forced) return and root causes of migration. Both are very relevant and heavily discussed topics in the development world regarding the role of development cooperation and possible development outcomes. I shared MIGNEX research among colleagues. In some specific cases related to the above-mentioned topics, I referred to the specific research to strengthen my arguments (for internal discussions) and help colleagues prepare for negotiations with commissioning parties (e.g. EU).

The research definitely helped in convincing my own colleagues (who are not experts in migration issues) in understanding the risks and challenges of engaging in this field and using ODA funding for impacts regarding e.g. forced returns. This in turn contributed to strengthen our position in negotiating requests from commissioning parties in engaging in this thematic field (for example, we managed to reorient a project towards a focus on reintegration instead of promoting forced return and facilitation of readmissions).

I will definitely continue using MIGNEX research as it offers a very broad database, sound research design, relevant research questions for implementation and easy-to-use research products.

Impact narrative 6

Strengthening understanding and evidence-based programming

on the migration-development nexus with Enabel – Belgian Development Agency

Building on a long-standing relationship with ENABEL through the End-User Board, ENABEL invited MIGNEX to deliver a workshop in Brussels in April 2024 in order to foster its thinking, approach and strategies on Migration and Development with a specific focus on countries where it implements human mobility projects (Guinea and Tunisia) and with a focus on action-research integration in such projects. This workshop involved ENABEL team members and Belgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs staff.

This workshop, delivered by MIGNEX researchers, aimed to align theory and practice and allow participants to improve their understanding of the Migration-Development nexus for future programming based on insights of the MIGNEX project. There was a rich discussion and exchange, helping participants to understand the findings more clearly.

Enabel was very interested in exploiting more of the insights for the implementation of their projects, particularly with relation to Guinea. There was keen interest in the findings and the ENABEL team has stated they would like to contract MIGNEX team members for further analysis of the data once MIGNEX has ended. They are currently investigating the option of including a research component in their Guinea projects, which would include MIGNEX data analysis.

14.6 Revised exploitation plan

In [Handbook Chapter 5](#) on Communications and Impact we presented the initial exploitation plan, here we provide an updated version based on the exploitation and facilitating actions that took place.

Table 2 Revised exploitation plan

<i>MIGNEX innovation</i>					
Type	Description	Foundation for exploitation	Exploitation agent(s)	Exploitation	Facilitating actions
Managerial	End-User Panel model for continuous engagement with stakeholders	Description in MIGNEX Handbook (D10.1, D10.6)	Managers of policy-oriented research projects	Application of End-User Panel model for maximizing impact, drawing upon lessons learned from MIGNEX	MIGNEX News Piece, social media posts
Methodological	Survey instruments for measuring potential migration	Description in Background Paper D2.3 and Handbook Chapter 7	Migration researchers and analysts	Application of MIGNEX survey instruments in future surveys	Promotion of D2.3 to the academic community through survey training videos; a public Survey CTO webinar; MIGNEX Insight Piece, a PhD course and academic conferences.

<i>MIGNEX innovation</i>					
Type	Description	Foundation for exploitation	Exploitation agent(s)	Exploitation	Facilitating actions
Empirical	QCA methodology for examining the causes and consequences of migration	Description in Background Papers D2.2, D6.4 and D7.5	Migration researchers, analysts, and graduate students	Application of MIGNEX-based QCA methodology in studies of migration and development	Promotion of D2.2, D6.4 and D7.5 to the academic community through social media and journal article.
	Survey dataset	Data and documentation in research data repository	Migration researchers, analysts, and graduate students	Secondary analysis of migration dynamics and/or migration-development links Use of MIGNEX data as baseline for repeat surveys in the same locations	Teaching data set already made publicly available, anonymised data to be released on Zenodo at the end of the project, methods used in various teaching and seminars, book chapters published on methodology.
	Policy Database	Data and documentation in research data repository	Migration researchers, analysts	Extensions of the Policy Database with new data for analyses of change over time	
Analytical	Conceptual tools for interpreting the role of the EU and Member States as global actors in the field of migration	Deliverables from WP9	EU and national policy-makers (bureaucrats and politicians); civil society	Use of MIGNEX conceptual apparatus in debate about the role of the EU and Member States as global actors in the field of migration	Liaison with Intergovernmental Consultations on Migration, Asylum and Refugees (IGC) and other actors at the Policy Conference
	Identification of possibilities and limitations for managing migration through addressing root causes	Deliverables from WP6 (especially D6.5)	EU and national policy-makers (bureaucrats and politicians); civil society	Use of MIGNEX results to guide policy and programming (possibly including avoidance of ineffective use of public funds); use of MIGNEX results in public debate about motivations for development cooperation and humanitarian efforts	Liaison with wide variety of stakeholders at the Policy Conference and other events. Report and policy briefs disseminated at Policy Conference; main implications shared on social media and in media piece.
	Identification of causes of policy incoherence in third-country cooperation on migration management	Deliverables from WP9 (especially D9.2)	EU and national policy-makers (bureaucrats and politicians);	Use of MIGNEX results to minimize incoherence and address dilemmas that are reflected in incompatible policy objectives	Closed meetings and conferences with policy makers in the final stages of the project at: 1) EUIA 2023 - Europe's Pathways to (Dis)Engagement with the World; 2) ISA 2024 Annual Convention 3) MIGNEX Policy Conference.

14.7 Quantitative indicators

Table 3 presents the ways in which we quantitatively measure uptake and application of insights from MIGNEX research. Most of the indicators in the table simply reflect uptake, e.g. in the form of views and downloads. In some cases, the goal originally stated has been achieved or exceeded, in others not. We recognise that the goals are, in many cases, extremely high, much higher than industry average.

In developing the goals for the Description of Action, we did not investigate industry averages in sufficient depth and were too ambitious in setting many of these goals. For instance, references in EU documents are extremely hard to achieve and largely out of our control, so setting such high targets was too ambitious. Reach also takes time and given the MIGNEX Policy Conference took place four months before the end of the project and the majority of key publications were published in the final year, we would expect that the quantitative outcomes will be much higher in a couple of years. It is also, not possible to track the number of times a URL has been shared, as such this data is not reported on.

We also acknowledge the limitations of using quantitative metrics to assess uptake and application, since this also has a qualitative dimension. For instance, even if there are few downloads, the insights can have reached crucial individuals. And, conversely, social media posts can be widely shared even if the underlying content is rarely read or reflected upon.

Find more detailed data on MIGNEX views and downloads in Table 4. and Table 5. in the Appendix.

Table 3 Quantitative indicators as set out in the Description of Action

	Output	Indicators	Goal	Outcome¹	Timing	Source
1	Policy Briefs	Downloads (avg. top 3)	1500	194	By M58	
2	Videos	Views (top video)	50	600	By M58	
3		Shares (top video)	50	²	By M58	
4	Reports	Downloads (top report)	2000	222	By M58	Google Analytics
5	Background papers	Downloads (avg. top 3)	500	406	By M58	
6	Case Study Briefs	Downloads (avg. top 3)	250	230	By M58	
7	Blog posts and opinion pieces	Views (avg. top 3)	2000	859	By M58	
8		Shares (avg. top 3)	50	²	By M58	
9	Social media	Use of #mignex	250	1900	By M58	Meltwater
10		Shares/retweets (avg. top 3)	100	57	By M58	Google Scholar
11	Conference	Number of participants	100	125	M56	Project records
12	Newsletter	Number of subscribers	500	761	By M58	Mailchimp
13	Dissemination activities	References in news media	25	47	By M58	Meltwater
14		References in EU documents	20	1	By M58	europa.eu

(1) As of August 2024 (2) Although a target metric, it is not possible to track URL shares from the website, and therefore we can't add the data here.

14.8 Plan for dissemination and exploitation of results post-project

The MIGNEX dissemination and engagement won't end at the end of the project in August 2024. We plan to continue to proactively disseminate the findings over coming years, engaging in policy discussions when it is strategically smart to do so, and continuing to monitor narrative shifts which will allow to reframe our work to new and engaged audiences. In practice, this will mean:

- The MIGNEX website will remain live until August 2026. After which the publications will be accessible at partner institutions websites and [Zenodo](#).
- The MIGNEX dataset will be publicly available on [Zenodo](#) when the project closes, and promoted to diverse end-users.
- MIGNEX team will continue to promote the use of the MIGNEX dataset; forming the basis of the University of Oxford's Masters on Migration Studies: Maastricht University's Public Policy Masters: a survey resource at IMC University of Applied Sciences Krems: MA, MPhil and PhD teaching at the University of Ghana: and mixed methods teaching at Lahore University of Management Sciences.
- MIGNEX team members will continue to publish scientific papers.
- MIGNEX team members will continue to seek opportunities to collaborate with partners using the dataset.
- MIGNEX team members will continue to share the MIGNEX findings in their work and speaking appointments (trainings, seminars, events etc.) when relevant.
- MIGNEX team members will use the #MIGNEX in social media dissemination.

14.9 Conclusion

As documented in this handbook chapter, MIGNEX has had wide-ranging impacts on academia, policy and practice. This was not a lucky accident, it was the result of strategic, high-quality communications, dedicated and skilled communications staff time and significant flexible budgets dedicated to communications and impact maximisation. Thinking about other research projects, our top three tips for success are as follows:

- 1. Build interest and engagement in the project from the beginning.** What worked for us was working with a board of policy stakeholders throughout the project, and sharing insights on research approaches and methodologies when empirical findings were not yet available.
- 2. Find creative ways to get attention.** It's a crowded space and policy and academic audiences are time-poor, so it is important to stand out. MIGNEX dedicated significant resources to develop a well designed, professional, easily recognisable brand. We invested time to share findings with diverse audiences in a variety of ways across different channels, for instance, carefully constructing scripts for videos that reflect the findings accurately, while still being accessible. Our videos and Op-eds then grew interest in MIGNEX, built our visibility among key audiences, and also resulted in further media hits.

- 3. Think about what stakeholders want.** To engage with stakeholders it's important to think about what they need to do their jobs well, in as little time as possible. We carefully crafted policy briefs that are quick and easy to read, while still driving home important messages. At the MIGNEX policy conference, we engaged policy-makers in a conversation, rather than presenting (at them). For many MIGNEX team members this was out of their comfort zone, but critical to achieving impact for MIGNEX.

This handbook chapter has given manifold specific examples of engagement, uptake and notable steps towards policy impact. Taking a step back, at the beginning of the project, we anticipated three expected impacts (see Text box 1 below) which MIGNEX has made significant progress towards.

For **Impact 1**, we have produced new insights on the relationship between migration and development, with particular insights deriving from the research-area-level research design, showing for instance that the drivers of migration are mostly divergent across different areas. We've provided relevant insights on the root causes of migration and related questions, while also making advances to the scientific literature.

In relation to **Impact 2**, we have considered policy coherence and the effectiveness of EU policies with regards to third countries both conceptually, and in relation to specific sets of policies. MIGNEX research encourages policy makers to be more considerate in the quest for policy coherence and encouraged a new approach in the relationship between the EU and non-EU partners for more meaningful and effective cooperation.

Regarding **Impact 3**, we have shed light on the connections across policy fields and the importance of indirect mechanisms that are easily overlooked in efforts to tackle challenges head-on. We've shown the best role for the EU is sometimes more of a facilitating or enabling one, and also a holistic one that averts the most glaring policy incoherences, even if 'policy coherence' remains an elusive objective.

Text box 1. MIGNEX expected impacts

Impact 1: A better understanding of the determinants of migration and the two-way interaction between migration and development processes. MIGNEX aims to contribute towards a better understanding of the differences between 'root causes' and 'other determinants' and how mechanisms function differently depending on the context. Our research areas are pertinent for migration towards Europe, ensuring that findings are relevant to European policy, as well as to policy-makers in country of origin and transit.

Impact 2: Enhanced policy coherence and effectiveness in the EU's approach to third-country cooperation on migration. Our efforts to achieve this impact focus on the EU's relations with countries of origin and transit, institutional coherence as well as strategic policy frames and the range of migration-relevant policies implemented by the EU and member states, seeking to ensure that MIGNEX research is sustainable and retains relevance once the project has been completed. We also consider coherence with other policy objectives, such as integration in host countries.

Impact 3: Stronger conceptual tools for interpreting the role of the EU and its Member States as global actors in the field of migration. MIGNEX research aims to provide clarity on

the range of different roles the EU and its member states can and do have – from partner to inhibitor – and the relationships between them..

We have not only made progress towards these expected impacts through our quality data, strong analysis and scientific advances, but also by reframing key insights for policy-makers in tailored publications and policy dialogues, without losing the nuance.

At the [MIGNEX Policy Conference](#), end-users engaged with our findings on: the root causes of migration, the impacts of migration, the quest for policy coherence, EU approaches to third countries and the role of the EU and its member states. We also know that the findings and publications have been shared by policymakers since, so we expect MIGNEX to continue leaving a significant mark on migration policy discussions in Europe and beyond in the years to come.

References

- Bensman, T. 2024. Yes, Kamala Harris Ran Biden's Utterly Disastrous Efforts To Increase Mass Migration. *The Federalist*, 30 July 2024. (Accessed 27 August 2024).
- Carling, J. (2020) Research ethics and research integrity, MIGNEX Handbook Chapter 4 (v2). Oslo: Peace Research Institute Oslo. Available at www.mignex.org/d013.
- Carling, J., Caso, N., Hagen-Zanker, J. and Rubio, M. (2023) The multi-level determination of migration processes. MIGNEX Background Paper. Oslo: Peace Research Institute Oslo. Available at www.mignex.org/d061.
- Czaika M. and Weisner Z. (2023) A Qualitative Comparative Analysis of the determination of migration processes. MIGNEX Background Paper. Oslo: Peace Research Institute Oslo. Available at www.mignex.org/d064.
- Czaika, M., & Godin, M. (2021). Disentangling the migration-development nexus using QCA. *Migration and Development*, 11(3), 1065–1086. <https://doi.org/10.1080/21632324.2020.1866878>.
- Dempster H., Carling J., Hagen-Zanker J. and Leach A. (2019) Communication and impact. MIGNEX Handbook Chapter 5. Oslo: Peace Research Institute Oslo. Available at www.mignex.org/d101.
- Dobbie, P. Hearing, R and Hagen-Zanker, J. (2024) Migration - What's Driving The Small Boat Journey?. *The Why Curve Podcast*. 2 May 2024. (Accessed 27 August 2024).
- Erdal, MB. (forthcoming, Autumn 2024) Implementing collaborative qualitative data collection. *Handbook of Research Methods in Migration: Second Edition* edited by William Allen and Carlos Vargas-Silva, Edward Elgar Publishing Ltd
- Erdal, M.B., Fitzmaurice, M., Ivanova, M., Hemat, L.E., Karl, E. (2023) Documentation of qualitative data collection, MIGNEX Handbook Chapter 11 (v2). Oslo: Peace Research Institute Oslo. Available at <https://www.mignex.org/d042>
- Erdal M.B. and Carling J. (2020) Qualitative Data Collection, MIGNEX Handbook Chapter 8 (v1). Oslo: Peace Research Institute Oslo. Available at www.mignex.org/d041.
- Godin, M., Vargas-Silva, C. (2022) Documentation of policy review, MIGNEX Handbook Chapter 12 (v1). Oslo: Peace Research Institute Oslo. Available at www.mignex.org/d052.
- Hagen-Zanker, J. Why many policies to lower migration actually increase it. *The Conversation*. 19 April 2024. (Accessed 27 August 2024).
- Hagen-Zanker, J., Carling, J., Caso, N., Hennessey, G., and Rubio, M. (2024) Documentation of survey data, Hanke Vela, J. 2024. *Brussels Playbook*. Politico. 24 April 2024. (Accessed 27 August 2024).
- Hagen-Zanker, Jessica (forthcoming, Autumn 2024). Using satellite maps to build sampling frames in migration surveys. In W. L. Allen & C. Vargas-Silva (Eds.). *Handbook of Research Methods in Migration* (2nd ed.). Edward Elgar.
- Hagen-Zanker, Jessica, Marcela G Rubio, Marta Bivand Erdal, How do perceptions, fears, and experiences of violence and conflict affect considerations of moving internally and internationally?, *Journal of Refugee Studies*, Volume 37, Issue 2, June 2024, Pages 416–437. <https://doi.org/10.1093/jrs/feae021>.
- Hagen-Zanker, J., Carling, J., Caso, N., Hennessey, G., and Rubio, M. (2024) Documentation of survey data, MIGNEX Handbook Chapter 10 (v3). Oslo: Peace Research Institute Oslo. Available at <https://www.mignex.org/d032>.
- Hagen-Zanker J, Hennessey G, Carling J and Memon R (2023) Survey data collection, MIGNEX Handbook Chapter 7 (v2). Oslo: Peace Research Institute Oslo. Available at www.mignex.org/d031.
- Luangrath, N. Turner, C. and Englebert, J. The Future of the European Union's Migration and Asylum System. *The Regulatory Review*. February 2024.
- Memon R., Rubio M., Marchand K., Hagen-Zanker J. and Siegel M. (2023) The indirect effects of migration on development. MIGNEX Background Paper. Oslo: Peace Research Institute Oslo. Available at www.mignex.org/d072.
- Pelter, E. 2024. When a Tale of Migration Is Not Just Fiction. *New York Times*. 18 May 2024. (Accessed 27 August 2024).
- Pichler, E. 2024. Die Ursachen von Abwanderung liegen in der jeweiligen Region (The causes of migration lie in the respective regions). *Die Presse*. 14 May 2024. (Accessed 27 August 2024).
- Weisner, Z. 2024. Forced migrant returns risks undermining EU's development aid strategy. *EU Observer*. 18 April 2024. (Accessed 27 August 2024).

Weisner, Z. New Insights into the Causes of Migration: The Importance of Good Governance. Welternahrung. Global Food Journal. June 2024. (Accessed 27 August 2024).

Zam Team. 2024. Simply putting money into complex problems has often disastrous consequences. Zam Magazine. 24 April 2024. (Accessed 27 August 2024).

Appendix 1. Data on downloads

Table 4. Downloads for all publications

Publication type	Publication title	Total downloads
MIGNEX Handbook Chapter	1: Project management and quality assurance MIGNEX	87
	2: Key concepts and definitions in the migration–development nexus MIGNEX	134
	3: Data management plan MIGNEX	75
	4: Research ethics and research integrity MIGNEX	123
	5: Communications and impact MIGNEX	192
	6: QCA conditions and measurement MIGNEX	40
	7: Survey data collection MIGNEX	400
	8: Qualitative data collection MIGNEX	137
	9: Country-level policy review MIGNEX	67
	10: Documentation of survey data MIGNEX	528
	11: Documentation of qualitative data collection MIGNEX	357
	12: Documentation of policy review MIGNEX	241
	13: Research Area Truth Table MIGNEX	206
	Handbook Chapters total downloads	2,587
MIGNEX Case Study Brief	Migration and development dynamics in Awe, Nigeria	80
	Migration and development dynamics in Baidoa, Somalia	147
	Migration and Development dynamics in Batu, Ethiopia	121
	Migration and development dynamics in Behsud, Afghanistan	147
	Migration and development dynamics in Boa Vista, Cabo Verde	127
	Migration and development dynamics in Boffa, Guinea	112
	Migration and development dynamics in Chot Dheeran, Pakistan	109
	Migration and development dynamics in Dialakoro,	243
	Migration and development dynamics in Down Quarters, Nigeria	77
	Migration and development dynamics in Ekpoma, Nigeria	117
	Migration and Development Dynamics in Enfidha, Tunisia	228
	Migration and development dynamics in Erigavo, Somalia (Somaliland)	115

	Migration and development dynamics in Gbane, Ghana	199
	Migration and development dynamics in Golf City, Ghana	199
	Migration and development dynamics in Hopa, Turkey	104
	Migration and development dynamics in Keti Bandar, Pakistan	138
	Migration and development dynamics in Kilis, Turkey	81
	Migration and development dynamics in Kombolcha, Ethiopia	98
	Migration and development dynamics in Moyale, Ethiopia	86
	Migration and development dynamics in New Takoradi, Ghana	135
	Migration and development dynamics in Redeyef, Tunisia	220
	Migration and development dynamics in São Nicolau, Cabo Verde	192
	Migration and development dynamics in Shahrake Jabrael, Afghanistan	164
	Migration and development dynamics in Shahrake Mahdia, Afghanistan	124
	Migration and development dynamics in Yenice, Turkey	72
	Migration and development dynamics in Youhanabad, Pakistan	115
	MIGNEX Case Study Briefs total downloads	3,550
MIGNEX Background Paper	Migration-relevant policies in Afghanistan	263
	Migration-relevant policies in Cabo Verde	133
	Migration-relevant policies in Ethiopia	461
	Migration-relevant policies in Ghana	301
	Migration-relevant policies in Guinea	270
	Migration-relevant policies in Nigeria	367
	Migration-relevant policies in Pakistan	300
	Migration-relevant policies in Somalia	248
	Migration-relevant policies in Tunisia	235
	Migration-relevant policies in Turkey	293
	An examination of the legislative framework in the EU migration and asylum law	378
	Comparative experiences of third-country cooperation	317
	Comparative experiences of transit migration management	304
	Development impacts of migration as reflected in focus groups	55

	Direct effects of migration on development	132
	Effects of involuntary immobility on development	71
	Empirical assessments of the development impacts of migration	59
	Exploring EU Migration Partnerships: The Cases of Turkey and Nigeria	117
	Internal (in)coherence in European migration policies	229
	Links between migration management, development and integration	209
	Measuring migration aspirations and related concepts	129
	Migration and alternative responses to dissatisfaction	94
	QCA of the determination of migration processes	6
	Qualitative Comparative Analysis for migration and development research	60
	Tackling the root causes of migration	104
	The determination of migration through focus group data	169
	The indirect effects of migration on development	85
	The multi-level determination of migration processes	380
	MIGNEX Background paper downloads	5,769
Policy Brief	Does informality lead to better or worse migration partnerships, and for whom?	40
	How do social remittances affect development?	45
	Implications of the proposed solidarity mechanism on the EU returns system	70
	Is policy coherence a smokescreen for a more restrictive migration agenda?	62
	Should the EU give up on readmission agreements as a foreign policy tool?	131
	The implications of (mis)managing transit migration	199
	The overlooked opportunities of short distance and short-term migration	81
	Transit migration policies in the European neighbourhood and their impact on nationals	149
	What are the root causes of migration?	235
	When does migration lead to positive economic outcomes?	43
	Policy Brief total downloads	1,055
MIGNEX Report	New insights on development impacts of migration MIGNEX	119

New insights on the causes of migration MIGNEX	222
Towards migration policy coherence MIGNEX	71
MIGNEX Report total downloads	412

Table 5. Top 10 downloaded publications, by publication type.

Publication type	No	Publication title	Total downloads
MIGNEX Handbook Chapter	1	10: Documentation of survey data	528
	2	7: Survey data collection	400
	3	11: Documentation of qualitative data collection	357
	4	12: Documentation of policy review	241
	5	13: Research Area Truth Table	206
	6	5: Communications and impact	192
	7	8: Qualitative data collection	137
	8	2: Key concepts and definitions in the migration–development nexus	134
	9	4: Research ethics and research integrity	123
	10	1: Project management and quality assurance	87
MIGNEX Case Study Brief	1	Migration and development dynamics in Dialakoro, Guinea	243
	2	Migration and Development Dynamics in Enfidha, Tunisia	228
	3	Migration and development dynamics in Redeyef, Tunisia	220
	4	Migration and development dynamics in Gbane, Ghana	199
	5	Migration and development dynamics in Golf City, Ghana	199
	6	Migration and development dynamics in São Nicolau, Cabo Verde	192
	7	Migration and development dynamics in Shahrake Jabrael, Afghanistan	164
	8	Migration and development dynamics in Baidoa, Somalia	147
	9	Migration and development dynamics in Behsud, Afghanistan	147
	10	Migration and development dynamics in Keti Bandar, Pakistan	138
MIGNEX Background Paper	1	Migration-relevant policies in Ethiopia	461
	2	The multi-level determination of migration processes	380
	3	An examination of the legislative framework in the EU migration and asylum law	378

	4	Migration-relevant policies in Nigeria	367
	5	Comparative experiences of third-country cooperation	317
	6	Comparative experiences of transit migration management	304
	7	Migration-relevant policies in Ghana	301
	8	Migration-relevant policies in Pakistan	300
	9	Migration-relevant policies in Turkey	293
	10	Migration-relevant policies in Guinea	270
	1	What are the root causes of migration?	235
	2	The implications of (mis)managing transit migration	199
	3	Transit migration policies in the European neighbourhood and their impact on nationals	149
	4	Should the EU give up on readmission agreements as a foreign policy tool?	131
	5	The overlooked opportunities of short distance and short-term migration	81
MIGNEX Policy Brief	6	Implications of the proposed solidarity mechanism on the EU returns system	70
	7	Is policy coherence a smokescreen for a more restrictive migration agenda?	62
	8	How do social remittances affect development?	45
	9	When does migration lead to positive economic outcomes?	43
	10	Does informality lead to better or worse migration partnerships, and for whom?	40
	1	Counting households using satellite maps – does it work?	2347
	2	Throwing development money at the ‘migration problem’– is it completely misguided?	1066
MIGNEX Insight Pieces	3	Conducting surveys safely during a pandemic: perspectives from Ghana	1065
	4	Reflecting on the change migration brings about: Migrant houses and socio-economic hierarchies in Pakistan	853
	5	Hope and despair in the Indus river delta: navigating the treacherous waters of capitalism, climate change and politics	812

6	Wandering and waiting: field observations as a key tool for qualitative data collection	726
7	Can asylum processing outside the EU reduce migrant smuggling?	416
8	Migration policy research in the times of the pandemic	383
9	What's next for EU policy on migration and development?	316
10	Forced migrant returns risks undermining EU's development aid strategy	171
