



ABSTRACT WORKING PAPER 3.1

ANALYSING MIGRATION FLOWS FROM AND TO ENC THROUGH THE MIG-SEARCH DATABASES

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As recognised in the Europe 2020 strategy, the European Union (EU) has a clear demographic challenge for the next decades. The EU will need to import foreign labour in response to gloomy demographic forecasts, in the context of ageing populations, low birth-rates, and prospects of a collapsing social security system, but it is also necessary to remain competitive in a global scenario and this means that we have to attract and retain the more skilled migrants. This also requires improving the current control over migration flows and this is one of the reasons why the European migration policy was integrated into the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) from the very beginning. The EU neighbouring countries are the main countries of origin and transit of legal and illegal migration towards Europe. Moreover, their geographical proximity, economic, cultural and historical links make them an important potential source of labour force.

The objective of this paper is twofold: first, to collect statistical information on migration flows and its potential determinants and second, to specify and estimate gravity models in order to provide benchmark scenarios for policy analysis. In particular, two datasets have been compiled: the MIG-SEARCH database and the MIGEU-SEARCH database. The MIG-SEARCH database includes data for nearly 200 countries for a long time period starting in 1960 and ending in 2010 and it provides information on bilateral migration flows and stocks and several variables related to the economic, social, political and cultural pull and push factors identified by the literature. The MIGEU-SEARCH database provides similar information only for the EU27 countries and a shorter period (2002-2007), but data are available at the yearly frequency. In fact, the MIGEU-SEARCH focuses on within Europe migration flows using annual data before and after the last accession to the EU.

The descriptive analysis of these two datasets shows some interesting facts regarding population trends and migration flows in the EU and ENC. The main conclusion is that we expect a clear increase in migratory pressures from ECN to the EU in a near future. The rest of working papers in this work package will carry out in-depth analysis about several policy dimensions using the same dataset and a similar methodology that will permit to improve the main conclusions from this benchmark model.