

## **Priorities in International Migration Research:**

### **The case for a World Migration Survey, again....**

IUSSP Scientific Panel on International Migration:  
Strengthening the Knowledge Base for Policy

During the last years there has been a growing recognition that traditional tools of data collection (censuses and surveys) and registries (border-crossing records, permits of stay/work, education/health statistics; etc.) miss a significant part of migrant flows and stocks (short-term, circular, irregular, etc.) and are not able to provide insights on the migratory dynamic, that is its determinants and consequences. The call for timely, reliable and comprehensive data on international migration has been made not only by experts and researchers but also by policy makers and international organizations. The Global Compact for Migration has clearly stated as one of its objectives to collect and utilize accurate and disaggregated data as a basis for evidence-based policies; and the inclusion of migration in the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals also calls for an improvement on data on international migration.

Advocacy and argument for a World Migration Survey (WMS) as a means to overcome some of the limitations of traditional sources of data has regained impulse in the last years. In 2017, the IUSSP Ad Hoc Panel on strengthening migration data, research and training stated in its intervention to the consultative phase for the Global Compact on Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration that “Governments and other stakeholders should consider launching a World Migration Survey, which would be a timely initiative.”

This presentation addresses three specific dimensions of the rationale for and implementation of a World Migration Survey: (a) key concepts and relationships to be measured in a survey and priorities for comparative analysis of migration processes; (b) technical challenges in developing the research design and sampling frame for a world migration survey; and (c) leadership in implementation of a world migration survey and analysis of comparative results. In presenting this paper, members of the IUSSP Scientific Panel on International Migration: Strengthening the Knowledge Base for Policy are seeking critical and constructive input from members of the European Association for Population Studies to develop a comprehensive and grounded argument for a World Migration Survey.