Integration Monitoring and Evaluation

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Monitoring and Evaluation

• Evaluation:
  ▫ Measure by measure
  ▫ Key component of good administration and planning

• Monitoring
  ▫ Longer term review of policies
  ▫ How is the policy framework helping reach the intended targets?
Context

• Different migration realities across the participating countries
  ▫ Short / long histories of migration
  ▫ Countries of immigration / emigration
  ▫ Small / large migrant populations
  ▫ Colonial histories

• Complex and differential impact of migration:
  ▫ Economic situation
  ▫ Demographic situation
Context (Cont.)

- Differing levels of engagement with migration
  - Political level
  - NGOs & Academics
  - Existence of migrant community organizations
  - Institutional Fragmentation

- Approaches to migration:
  - Commodification of migrants
  - Securitization of migration
  - Negative portrayals
Context (Cont.)

• Negative public discourse on migration and integration

• Integration has become a ‘dirty’ word in some EU Countries

• EU attempts at developing a common approach to integration
Placing

• Evaluation as afterthought

• Monitoring as requirement

  ▫ Aims and Objectives -> why are evaluations important? And if they are important, how can we make sure that they are adequately implemented?

• Monitoring as a key component of an integration policy / strategy
What to monitor?

• Presumption of a target
  ▫ Assumption that target is equal treatment with citizens (?)

• What does integration mean? What does an ‘integrated migrant’ look like?
  ▫ Without such targets, monitoring and evaluations will not lead to the desired outcomes / results
What to monitor? (cont.)

• Policy Indicators
  ▫ Conditions for entering the labour market
  ▫ Conditions for accessing education

• Outcome Indicators
  ▫ Level of employment
  ▫ Level of over-qualification
  ▫ Indicators over a time-period
Actors

- Who is doing the monitoring and evaluation?
  - Impacts on the purpose of the evaluation and how it is conducted
  - Role for academia, think tanks, NGOs

- Often fragmented, project based, informal
  - Coordination vacuum
  - Policy vacuum
Actors (Cont.)

- How inclusive are monitoring practices?
  - Are migrants / migrant representatives / MCOs involved?

- Funders (EU)
  - Paper trail v. impact

- Impartiality v Vested Interest
  - Interest in saying that my project was a success?
Indicators

• Basic set of indicators at EU Level

• Some countries have national sets of indicators (AT, BE)

• Some MS are developing such indicators (IT)

• Others have the opportunity to develop the indicators in view of forthcoming policies (MT)
Building Blocks

• Data to inform monitoring and evaluation
  ▫ Outcome data not always available
  ▫ Conflicting data about similar issues
  ▫ Data often institutionally tinted
  ▫ Gatekeepers for data

• Resources
  ▫ Most NGOs and other stakeholders do not have the resources to conduct wide ranging evaluations
  ▫ Core component of project planning?
Impact

- To what extent do monitoring and evaluation inform future measures, initiatives and policies?
  - Depends on:
    - Who is doing the monitoring?
    - What is being monitored?
    - How is the monitoring being conducted?
    - Political will to improve the integration framework

- Difficult to assess, but findings do not seem promising.
Focus on vulnerability

• None of the existing systems have a specific focus on vulnerability

• Data is often segregated by:
  ▫ Gender
  ▫ Age

• Little to no other detailed breakdown of data or monitoring
Take Aways

• The specific needs of vulnerable migrants need to be considered within broader monitoring

• Policy evaluations are important – but we must look at the impact on real lives

• Benchmarks and targets are necessary to monitor progress
Take Aways (Cont.)

• Outcome data needs to be collected, in the right format to allow for monitoring and evaluation

• Monitoring and evaluation is resource and commitment intensive. Political will is key but nudging never hurt.
Recommendations

- Prioritize evaluation and monitoring
- Develop data collection
- Inclusive monitoring
- Mainstream vulnerability