

7. Research gaps and opportunities for joint actions

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In the previous chapters, the authors of four thematic reports and eleven country reports identified a total of 55 research gaps and 14 data infrastructure requirements, which may serve as groundwork for future demographic research and other activities conducive to the integration of research, policy and practice. The identified research gaps and data needs can be summarised and clustered in the following priority topics and respective subthemes for actual implementation:

Research gaps

Attitudes to migration

- Formation of attitudes and beliefs, especially in ageing societies
- Potential alignment of attitudes to migration with factual evidence

Migrants' health

- Detailed analyses of life and health situation of older migrants
- Longitudinal and/or comparative studies on health across the life course of migrants
- Health-related risks among migrants (including mental health, risky behaviours, lifestyles)
- Healthcare utilisation among older migrants
- Integrated view on health, social policy and welfare systems

Care of older migrants

- Integrated research on formal and informal care (including gendered family networks, role of migrant families in old age care)
- Migrants' care demand in the future (covering interactions of health and migration, also for identifying policy levers to improve the individual health status, and also the quality of life)
- Older migrants' access to old-age care homes and services
- Cultural norms and expectations

Healthcare provision by migrants

- Barriers to health work and social care work (e.g. work permits, misalignment between career aspirations and available jobs)
- Role of migrants in service delivery and the provision of culturally sensitive care services

- Transnational care-migration-chains (e.g. impact on families left)

Migrants in the pension system

- Pension outcomes in different pensions systems for different migrant groups (i.e. cross-sectional comparative analyses by country)
- Pension outcomes in country of origin and country of destination (i.e. longitudinal analyses, if possible register-based)
- Effects of circular migration on pension outcomes

Specific groups and phenomena

- Research on specific (“other”) migration groups (e.g. intra-European migrants, circular or irregular migrants) and their motives
- Migrants’ intentions to stay

Data needs

Thematic data needs

- Public perceptions and attitudes towards immigration (i.e. individual level, over time, linked to specific events)
- Recruitment data of health and social care workers
- Migrants’ pensions in countries of origin and countries of destination
- Correction of migrants’ length of stay in the data (including methodological issues)

New and expanded data sources

- New data sources, either through:
 - Data linkage (e.g. of registry and survey data)
 - New data collections (especially longitudinal)
- Expansion of existing data collections and survey programmes, ideally to include all areas and life stages of migrants

Possible actions for the JPI MYBL

The possibilities for action for the JPI MYBL to address the identified research gaps and data needs can be grouped in three main categories, namely joint funding, mutual scientific learning and exchange, as well as outreach and dissemination.

Field of action: Joint funding

- Joint research call on demographic change and migration, covering identified research gaps and defining specific requirements, e.g.:
 - Mandatory involvement of key stakeholders and institutions (e.g. migrant organisations, training and education organisations, employers, such as care providers, planning authorities, regional organisations)
 - Comparative transnational and interdisciplinary perspective
 - Implementation of a quantitative-qualitative approach
 - Knowledge transfer between academia, public and vice versa
- Regional joint research call, e.g. among Nordic countries
- Joint research call, possibly linked to data infrastructure measures: “Combined” research call, in which researchers design the “ideal” data infrastructure for their research on demographic change and migration

Field of action: Mutual scientific learning and exchange

- Joint research workshops
 - To define the scope of specific research fields (e.g. migrant health, “other” migrants),
 - To discuss content-related or methodological issues among researchers and other stakeholders (e.g. national authorities, policymakers, migrant organisations, care providers, recruiting agencies for care personnel),
 - To bring together (formerly disjoint) research communities (i.e. interdisciplinary, transnational).
 - JPI MYBL knowledge transfer workshop, e.g. in Poland (or Czech Republic)

Field of action: Outreach and dissemination

- Development of a joint research agenda on demographic change and migration, possibly in close collaboration with other trans-national initiatives (e.g. other JPIs):
 - To involve scientific and non-scientific stakeholders (e.g. research funding organisations, data centres, migrant organisations, municipalities, health and care practitioners)
 - To address general knowledge gaps
 - To prepare policymakers for the increasing number and share of older persons with a migrant background.
- Stakeholder workshops to initiate a knowledge transfer between academia, policymakers, the public and vice versa (possibly involving older migrants and/or migrant organisations)