The Data Situation
What migration data do countries produce and provide?

- No data
- Residual data (= net migration calculated via a residual method)
- Partial information; only immigration data (w. details); asylum claims; residence permits
- Gross migration data (immigration + emigration); absolute numbers; ideally by age and gender

Demographers then have to rely on data published by:
- UN Pop Div,
- OECD
- US Census Bureau
Why it makes sense to have good data on immigrants (or emigrants): an extreme case

United Arab Emirates:
- Native population
- Labor migrants
- Total population

Source: UNPD
Even within the EU data on migration are not collected and processed in a uniform way

- Population register / electronic census
- Systematic individual registration system / door-to-door census
- Incomplete registration
- No register / registration
Even for the past: size and direction of flows unclear

European countries with the largest positive and negative net migration balances 2005-2009

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>EUROSTAT</th>
<th>USCB</th>
<th>UNPD</th>
<th>WiC</th>
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Source: Eurostat, USCB, UNPD, WiC
Estimated annual gross immigration to EU28 based on first residence permits by reason of entry, 2008-2016, absolute numbers

What to leave out:
- Humanitarian residence permits (use asylum statistics)
- Residence permits newborn children with foreign citizenship

What is not in here?
- Intra-EU migration of EU citizens
- Privileged immigration/return migration of EU citizens (e.g. German Aussiedler)
Asylum in Europe
Asylum applications in the EU 28, 2006-2016

Main problem: double count

Source: Eurostat
Alternative source:
Irregular migrants and refugees disembarked in Italy, Greece, Spain and Cyprus, 2017

Source: Frontex, UNHCR, DG Home
A big unknown: „normal“ irregular immigration to Europe by „overstayers“
The example of Western Africa
Tricky Realities
• Immigration better documented than emigration
• Political interests to downplay emigration and to oversell immigration
• Legal / registration / tax status of people with more than one residence badly reflected in statistics on population and migration
Agenda
• Better migration data
• “Hybrid” data via systematic linking of different sources
• Getting rid of net migration as a convenient “work around”
• Improving population forecasts by giving more emphasis to the modelling of migration
Core question: What future levels of international migration are to be expected? Same, more, less? Direction?
The number of people living outside their country of birth (migrant stock) is growing, the flow of migrants is not growing

Absolute numbers of foreign-born people and number of those who have moved over the previous 5 years, 1965-2015

UN Population Division, Abel
The likelihood of moving across borders is declining since the 1990s

Share of recent migrants in global population, 1965-2015, in %

UN Population Division, Abel
Major Global Projections

UN Pop. Div. US CB WiC

Global net migration needs to be zero
Basic assumption: Global convergence

Total fertility (period TFR)/number of children per woman 1950-2015 (actual), 2015-2100 (projection)

The same convergence logic is applied to international migration

Source: UN Population Division, WPP
United Kingdom
Annual number of international migrants (flow), 1950-2015 (actual), 2015-2100 (projection)

Source: Buettner and Muenz, UNPop Div, USCB, WiC
Romania
Annual number of international migrants (flow), 1950-2015 (actual), 2015-2100 (projection)

Source: Buettner and Muenz, UNPop Div, USCB, WiC
Morocco
Annual number of international migrants (flow), 1950-2015 (actual), 2015-2100 (projection)

Source: Buettner and Muenz, UNPop Div, USCB, WiC
Migration flows: Uncertain past, uncertain future – Niger

Source: Buettner and Muenz, UNPop Div, USCB, WiC
Easy to predict
Africa vs. Europe
Population 1950-2100

Source: UN Pop. Div., WPP
Less easy to predict
Migration & Development Nexus
Differences to fertility:

- Relationship between development and migration is not linear, but hump shaped
- Global net migration needs to be zero at any given year
Average emigration rate of sending countries per decade (1960-2000)
The European External Investment Plan

No need to emigrate

Healthy families give back to their communities
Is this going to happen during our life times?
Hard to predict
Political Instability
Political fragility index 2016

Responsible for large-scale displacement

Source: Fund for Peace
Thank you!

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