

**SIXTEENTH COORDINATION MEETING ON
INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION**

Population Division
Department of Economic and Social Affairs
United Nations Secretariat
New York, 15-16 February 2018

**CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE INTERNATIONAL METROPOLIS PROJECT
TO THE GLOBAL DISCUSSIONS ON THE RELATIONS BETWEEN MIGRATION AND
DEVELOPMENT¹**

OAS SICREMI presentation UNDESA 2018

¹ The views expressed in the paper do not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of the United Nations Secretariat.

Contribution of the Continuous Reporting System on International Migration in the Americas (SICREMI) to the Objectives of the Global Compact for Safe, Ordered and Regular Migration and to the Objectives for Sustainable Development (ODS)

Presentation of SICREMI

SICREMI is an OAS initiative whose general objective is to contribute to improving migration governance in the Americas through the facilitation of dialogue, cooperation, institutional strengthening and access to information.

The SICREMI is a proposal for the continuous generation of reliable and timely migratory information based on the Continuous Reporting System on Migration (SOPEMI, for its acronym in French), created by the OECD for its Member states.

The SICREMI methodology is an adaptation of SOPEMI, with adjustments resulting from a participatory process that includes the Member countries of the network of national correspondents, as well as contributions from national and international organizations linked to the field of migration.

Countries have joined the project progressively, reaching twenty-two participating countries as of January 2018. Each one designates a correspondent who is responsible for the preparation of a national report that includes both quantitative information (population immigrant, migratory flows, refugees, asylum seekers, etc.) and qualitative (normative frameworks, policies and programs implemented by countries in international migration).

To date, four reports on "International Migration in the Americas" have been generated (SICREMI / OAS-OECD 2011, 2012, 2015 and 2017). The fifth SICREMI 2019 Edition is in its planning stage. Since the first report in 2011, the SICREMI has positioned itself as a benchmark in information on migration at the hemispheric level, and has been cited in publications and documents of international organizations (World Bank, IDB, ILO, IOM, ECLAC, UNHCR, UN-Population Division), academics and political forums (South American Conference of Nations, Regional Conference on Migration, among others).

Comparative advantages of SICREMI

a) The SICREMI initiative is **unique** in the Hemisphere, because of its breadth of coverage, its content (statistics on migration flows, legal frameworks and public policies on migration) and its degree of currency of data (regular bi-annual reporting). **No other entity offers this particular data set and information** on the subject of migration.

- Immigration statistics for participating countries, emigration statistics for all countries of America (**covers about 95%** of immigration / emigration).
- Its bi-annual periodicity **allows to report four times** on the situation of migration in the Americas during inter census periods that are at least ten years long.

b) It allows the elaboration of outcome indicators of policies and access to rights. (e.g.: Mercosur policies, consular policy in relation to demand for services, identification of challenges)).

c) Enables collaboration on a regional/international level: It allows international comparisons of results of migratory policies through standardized and harmonized data on the migratory categories

d) Analyzes the labor market outcomes of emigrants from the Americas in the OECD countries, which receive almost 80% of emigrants from the Americas, through indicators such as the unemployment rate, employment rate, participation rate, overqualification of migrants.

e) Considers the gender perspective in the analysis of the type of work that migrant men and women perform, unemployment rates, access to residency.

f) Analyzes the settlement of emigrants from the Americas in countries of destination through aspects such as length of stay and acquisition of nationality.

g) Reports on new developments in the regulatory frameworks, policies and programs that countries carry out in migration.

h) Integrates information from diverse sources, providing a hemispheric perspective in issues such as migratory flows, asylum seekers, remittances, stock of migrants.

i) Includes technical articles on aspects such as measurement of international migration, estimation of irregular migration, among others.

j) Strengthens the institutional capacity of national institutions to produce quality data, following established parameters for the report and creates or improves, as the case may be, the channels of communication and cooperation between the different entities linked to the production of migratory information at the national level (e.g., coordination and cooperation between ministries of foreign affairs, statistical institutes, migration institutes, etc.).

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development::

The SICREMI initiative aims to contribute to the accomplishment of the SDGs related to migration. The SICREMI contributes directly to the achievement of the following goals:

Target 8.5.2 – Labor market outcomes → The SICREMI provides disaggregated data of unemployment rates of migrants from the American living in the OECD countries.

Target 10.7 - Governance of migration → providing evidence to support solid migration policy

Target 17.18 - Generation of data disaggregated by immigration status → The SICREMI has the ability to generate high-quality, timely and reliable data, in accordance with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics.

Zero Draft - Actionable commitments:

The SICREMI initiative collaborates for the accomplishment of Objective 1. The SICREMI collects accurate, reliable and comparable data that is disaggregated by sex and migration status. The SICREMI team focuses in harmonizing methodologies across the participating countries, fosters capacity building in data collection and disseminates data among key actors to foster evidence-based public policy and research.

k) The SICREMI has added 19 countries from the Americas to the UNDESA 2015 list of those which have a complete set of data on international migration flows.

Gaps in the current evidence base

After the preparation of four SICREMI reports (2011, 2012, 2015, 2017), limitations persist in the production and management of migratory information. Among others, we highlight the following:

1) Needs to improve migration statistics vary according to countries.

- 2) The absence of disaggregated data by sex of the information in 40% of the countries generates a severe limitation in the analysis of the gender gap.
- 3) Also, absence of disaggregated data by age group, making the analysis of vulnerable groups situation such as children and adolescents invisible.
- 4) For the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, there is a general lack of information on the situation of immigrants in the labor market. Not every country in the region counts with a labor force survey and the ones that do, they do not collect data by migratory status.
- 5) Although in many cases data is captured, it is not processed and used due to lack of demand.

Recommendations for the further development of data, research and training to support the implementation of the Global Compact

- 1) Establish a basic group of data to be collected that covers a set of dimensions of migration, such as flows, integration and impact of policies.
- 2) Development of a strategy to raise awareness among governments on the relevance of availability of quality data on migration to boost demand
- 3) Identify at a national level the type of data that produces the most value in terms of formulation and implementation of policies that contribute to better governance of migration (example: Migration Value Navigator)
- 4) Deepen the collaboration among the various international agencies linked to migration in order to strengthen the articulation between States that contributes to the generation of quality data.

Links to publications are available at:

SICREMI 2017: <http://www.oas.org/documents/eng/press/SICREMI-2017-english-web-FINAL.pdf>

SICREMI 2009-2015: <http://migracionoea.org/index.php/en/sicremi-en.html>