

Global Migration Futures Workshop

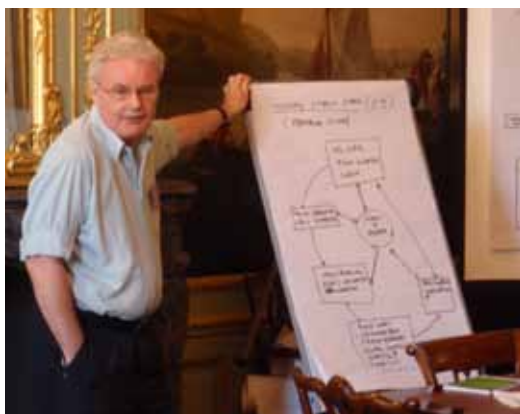
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International
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What will the world look like in 2050?

What can we say about the future of world migration? Traditional forecasting methods assume a continuation of recent trends. They often fail to take into account how future social, economic, political and environmental change may fundamentally alter the character, volume and direction of international migration in the long run.

A recent workshop in The Hague took a very different approach to thinking about the future of world migration. The two-day event was part of the 'Global Migration Futures' project run by the International Migration Institute in partnership with the James Martin 21st Century School and the Dutch Foundation The Hague Process on Refugees and Migration (THP).



Stimulating creative and unconventional thinking

The workshop adopted scenario methodologies normally used in business in order to stimulate creative and unconventional thinking about the future of world migration. The 20 participants included experts from the private sector, policy makers, academics, and NGO staff from across the world.



The workshop was organised around a number of interactive group exercises, in which participants built initial scenarios about the possible evolution of international migration up until 2050. Special attention was given to Northern Europe, Southern Europe, Asia and North Africa, and the Middle East.

Developing the scenarios

The next step is for the project team and the workshop participants to develop four scenarios arising from the workshop by adding more detail and substantiating them with quantitative and qualitative data.

These four scenarios will then serve to examine how future social, economic, cultural and environmental changes are likely to affect migration. The scenarios will be shared with the wider academic and policy community, to encourage thinking 'outside-the-box' by challenging underlying assumptions.

Two participants commented:

'It was really important to take part in the workshop...**I learnt a great deal** which I would now like to apply to my research'

'The work is **leading and cutting edge**. Not without its challenges but that's because it's innovative and experimental'

For further information please visit:
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