Integration Monitoring and Evaluation

Dr. Jean-Pierre Gauci
The People for Change Foundation

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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