Overview of Research on Migration
This is a short note to update the Population and Migration group on the research that is being undertaken inside the Scottish Executive. It also highlights other significant pieces of work that relate to migration that we are aware of.

There is no doubt that the issue of migration is moving quickly up the agenda and is being talked about in a range of ways: from economic and labour force impact, to the increased demand for local government services, to social integration and citizenship.

Because the agenda is so broad and, currently, no one department or agency within Scotland “owns” the migration agenda, it is important that, both from a policy and analytical perspective, we: a) identify the questions/issues we all share an interest in, b) make full use of the sources we have available to us and can identify any gaps and c) wherever we can, pull our resources to undertake research and analysis of the highest possible quality.

Scottish Executive Research
The Scottish Executive is involved in a number of projects and programmes that relate to the issue of migration:

The Welsh Assembly’s research programme on the Welsh economy contains a project to explore the impact of migrant workers from the EU A8 countries, looking specifically at the views of employers. The Scottish Executive (FCSD, ETLL and OCEA) is supporting/co-funding this project and there will be a sample of Scottish employers covered in the work. The project is out to tender at present. The Home Office published a similar piece of research in April.

The International and Europe research team, that works on the Fresh Talent agenda, published 3 reports recently, which are of relevance: the Fresh Talent Progress Report; the Experience of People who Relocate to Scotland; and the Phase 1 Evaluation of the Relocation Advisory Service. These are available on the internet. Researchers are also currently drafting a comparative paper on immigration policy.

ESRC Demography Programme: 6 projects, co-funded by the Scottish Executive and GROS, are aiming to develop greater understanding of the key aspects of fertility, migration and ageing to inform the evidence base on demographic issues in Scotland. Of particular interest to the migration agenda will be the papers on Scottish Graduate Migration (paper available); Scottish Migration to and Return from South East England (due March 07); and Macroeconomic Impacts of Demographic Change in Scotland (paper available).

The Centre for Families and Relationships has agreed to commit 5 days work in early 2007 to review the literature that exists on the issue of “family” in migration. This has been agreed in conjunction with researchers in FCSD, DD and OCR. The scope of the review will be confirmed after the conference that is being run by CRFR on Thursday 23rd November, “Migration, Families and Relationships”.

Analysts in a number of departments and agencies have been meeting formally and informally to keep track of and identify shared interests within the migration agenda. For instance, a meeting of FCSD, OCS, DD, ETLL and GROS analysts to discuss statistics on migration took place two weeks ago. A short paper is now being drafted to try and capture some of the areas of shared interest with a view to identifying possible areas of joint-work in the short, medium and long-term.
As well as the GROS group on Population and Migration, Ian Sanderson, head of ASG, also chairs a group on Demography.

Other Research

Economic Research and Modelling

From an economic perspective, there is a growing interest in the research and modelling, such as the application of AMOS in the ESRC demography paper on the macroeconomic impact of demographic change in Scotland, which leads to conclusions being drawn about the number of migrants required to, for instance, address falling working population. There is clearly a debate to be had about how these models relate to the Scottish context. The Irish government are interested in this kind of work as well, although they talk about it in terms of the number of migrants needed to sustain economic growth levels.

Determinants and Patterns of East-West Migration in Europe - Edinburgh University

Edinburgh University currently houses the EU Excellence Grant Project on "Expanding the Knowledge Base of European Labour Migration Policies" (see www.migration-networks.org). The project was recently transferred from Hamburg. The research includes a project involving fieldwork in Romania and Poland: the research compares determinants and patterns of east-west migration from four villages, examining the impact of policy change (visa requirements, free movement, bilateral programmes, regularizations) on decisions to migrate; and the role of migrant networks in influencing and facilitating migration.

Citizenship and Migration Group - Edinburgh University

Christina Boswell, who leads on the project mentioned above, has set up a group to discuss the issue of citizenship and migration. It recently held a workshop attended by a number of key international academics – this included a roundtable discussion with the Scottish Parliament’s Futures Forum. A paper will be available shortly.

A8 Nationals in Glasgow – Glasgow City Council

Glasgow City Council have commissioned research to investigate the numbers of A8 nationals living in Glasgow and their experience and needs. It wants to profile the A8 population so that their effect on the local economy can be estimated and local agencies can think about what is required to meet the needs of this group.

Research Sources on Migration

RIIM - Research on Immigration and Integration in the Metropolis, Simon Fraser University and University of British Columbia, Canada
http://www.riim.metropolis.net/frameset_e.html

MigRes – migration resources for scholars and students working on immigration in Europe, European University Institute
http://www.iue.it/RSCAS/Research/MIGRES/

COMPAS - the Centre on Migration, Policy and Society, University of Oxford
http://www.compas.ox.ac.uk/index.html

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