

Young Policy Network on Migration

International mobility, migration and the resulting diversity within societies will continue to impact the national and global political agenda in the decades to come. In order to address the challenges and opportunities that go along with these developments, it is important to have an encompassing understanding of the different relevant policy fields and to develop active networks between different stakeholders.

Aim

The aim of the Young Policy Network on Migration (YPNM) is to create an interdisciplinary network of young aspiring professionals all working in the field of migration but in different institutional frameworks, thus considering the phenomenon of migration from different perspectives and under different prerogatives. The YPNM wants to bring together migration researchers and migration practitioners who have gathered initial work experiences in the field in order to enhance the exchange between them, thereby enabling cross-learning and a change of perspectives among the participants. Young scholars will gain insight into the policy making process on migration and the practical real-life challenges. Young practitioners will gain understanding of the state-of-the-art in research topics and the macro issues academics examine. Commonly, the fellows will discuss how research can be most relevant for – and best communicated to – policy audiences, and will reflect on future challenges of migration policies.

Issues

The YPNM will focus on the issues of migration and mobility (here understood as the process of emigrating for longer or medium term), as well as on diversity in immigration countries. It will address motives for and forms of mobility, international border regimes, cooperations and policy deals regarding the phenomenon of migration. Merging the academic and the practical perspective, the YPNM will examine how mobility changes societies, and what policy strategies might result out of the challenges and opportunities posed by mobility. In this sense, it also aims to foster collaborative creative thinking about the future of diversity and migration management.

Formats

The YPNM will bring together 26 select fellows from Switzerland, Germany, other European countries, as well as the USA and Canada. The network is currently designed to meet for two years with a first week-long meeting from January 29th to February 2nd, 2018 in Switzerland and a second one in January 2019 in Berlin. The network meetings will offer a mix of formats.

They will include classic formats such as lectures by high-level speakers and discussion groups on specific sub-topics in which the participants present and discuss their own work. In order to encourage the consideration of a topic from different perspectives and to favor creative thinking on strategies, scenarios and solutions in a longer term perspective, the seminar will contain interactive formats and collaborative activities. Site-visits to relevant locations or institutions will provide participants with a concrete hands-on experience in migration and integration management.

Coordinators

The YPNM is coordinated by the Swiss Forum for Migration Studies (SFM) of the University of Neuchâtel in close cooperation with the German Marshall Fund of the United States (GMF). It is funded by a generous grant of the Mercator Foundation Switzerland and the NCCR – on the move.

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