



THE MIGRATION POLICY INSTITUTE: A UNIQUE CROSSROADS FOR GLOBAL RESEARCH AND POLICY DEVELOPMENT

A DECADE OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

THE MIGRATION POLICY INSTITUTE | An independent, nonpartisan, nonprofit think tank in Washington, DC (with offices in New York, Brussels, and Bangkok) dedicated to analysis of the movement of people worldwide.

OUR VISION

The Migration Policy Institute (MPI) fills a strong and growing demand for pragmatic and thoughtful responses to the challenges and opportunities that large-scale migration, whether voluntary or forced, presents to communities and institutions in an increasingly integrated world. It does so by providing analysis and evaluation of migration and refugee policies at the local, national, and international levels. Through its research and policy work over the past decade, MPI has become *the* most widely recognized and respected resource on immigration and immigrant integration analysis and policy design. At a time when polarizing rhetoric has crowded out thoughtful, workable policy responses in the United States and internationally, MPI's analysis and leadership are needed now more than ever.

The Institute is guided by the philosophy that international migration needs active and intelligent management. When such policies are in place *and are responsibly and consistently administered*, they bring benefits to immigrants and their families, communities of origin and destination, and sending and receiving countries.

OUR HISTORY

Founded in late 2001 by Demetrios G. Papademetriou and Kathleen Newland, MPI grew out of the International Migration Policy Program at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. At its founding – and today – the Institute remains the only stand-alone, independent, and nonpartisan US think tank on international migration and immigrant integration.

OUR ACHIEVEMENTS

MPI's accomplishments in the domestic and international realms are many, flowing from several critical roles that the Institute plays:

- ✓ The ***indispensible convener*** that has the connections and reputation to bring to the table a diverse, balanced, and thoughtful array of stakeholders to discuss and analyze key immigration and immigrant integration topics in a safe space and make recommendations for improving practices, programs, and policies.
- ✓ The ***wise counselor*** that leverages the knowledge, judgment, and experience of veteran migration experts to provide policymakers with advice and guidance as they set policy agendas and develop or reshape policy.

- ✓ The **careful researcher** that sifts through data and policy and political developments to map the current landscape, pinpoint emerging trends, and offer sound, pragmatic recommendations.
- ✓ The **valued educator** that provides accurate, unbiased data and analysis to the media, practitioners, researchers, policy advisors, and others.

I. MPI's Convening Role

Shortly after the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks dramatically reordered the US policy landscape, MPI convened a panel of high-ranking experts to examine the government's post-9/11 immigration measures in terms of their effectiveness in fighting terrorism, impact on civil liberties, and consequences for American's sense of community as a nation of immigrants. The report, ***America's Challenge: Domestic Security, Civil Liberties and National Unity After September 11***, was widely heralded as an important addition to the discourse and its analysis and recommendations were echoed in subsequent government and civil-society reports.

In 2005, MPI convened the bipartisan, high-level ***Independent Task Force on Immigration and America's Future*** to propose fundamental reforms to the nation's immigration laws and system. Co-chaired by former Republican Senator and Cabinet member Spencer Abraham and former Democratic Congressman Lee Hamilton, the task force included an array of senior stakeholders in government, business, labor, and other fields. Aided by prominent task force members such as Senator John McCain (R-AZ) and Senator Edward Kennedy (D-MA), the panel's final report articulated a vision that promotes US global competitiveness in the context of post-9/11 security imperatives while addressing the nation's immigration challenges. Several of the report's recommendations have been included in virtually every major piece of legislation proposed and its main thrust has been endorsed by every major blue-ribbon panel and report since then.

The ***Transatlantic Task Force on Immigration and Integration*** was convened by MPI in 2006 with the Bertelsmann Stiftung to promote thoughtful immigration policies and assess and respond to the profound challenges of integrating immigrants and building stronger communities. The panel's distinguished membership included a former President of the German Bundestag (Rita Süßmuth), future President of Greece (George Papandreou), former European Commissioner for Home Affairs (Antonio Vitorino), former Foreign Minister of Spain (Ana Palacio), and prominent US policymakers such as Senator Lamar Alexander (R-TN) and Congressman Xavier Becerra (D-CA).

The Transatlantic Task Force evolved in 2008 into the ***Transatlantic Council on Migration***, a unique deliberative body convened by MPI with support from several US and European foundations that examines vital policy issues and informs migration policymaking processes across the Atlantic community. The Council, which includes former US Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff, former British Home Secretary Charles Clarke, and former Italian Prime Minister Giuliano Amato, meets twice yearly with leading policymakers, researchers, opinion shapers, and others to promote better-informed policymaking by proactively identifying critical policy issues and serving as a resource for governments.

The **Regional Migration Study Group**, launched in 2011, is working to identify a collaborative, regional approach to migration and human-capital development issues to bring long-term stability, prosperity, and competitiveness to Central America, Mexico, and the United States. The study group, which will issue its final recommendations in 2013, is co-chaired by former Mexican President Ernesto Zedillo, former US Secretary of Commerce Carlos Gutierrez, and former Guatemalan Vice President Eduardo Stein. About 20 former ministers and civil-society leaders from the United States, Mexico, El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras round out the group.

II. MPI's Consultation Work

From MPI's work providing the philosophical and policy framework for the comprehensive immigration reform framework endorsed by President George W. Bush and Mexican President Vicente Fox in 2001, and every administration since then, to its work advising European Union presidencies on immigration and immigrant integration issues, the Institute plays a vital role in melding its detailed comparative research and analysis of underlying migration trends and data with thoughtful policy design and responses.

MPI has advised a number of EU Member States while they held the rotating six-month EU presidency, helping them develop and articulate the analytical foundations for their immigration and immigrant integration policy agendas. The EU presidencies advised to date include:

2003 – Greece

2004 – the Netherlands (MPI was responsible for the development of the EU Common Basic Principles on Integration)

2007 – Germany and Portugal

2009 – Sweden (MPI helped develop the EU's five-year plan on migration policy, the Stockholm Programme)

2010 – Spain

The Institute has also served formally as the relevant EU Member States' intellectual partner in three out of all four ministerial meetings of ministers responsible for immigration and integration, the most recent having been organized by Spain.

Finally, MPI has and continues to serve an important role advising governments in other countries, including Canada, Mexico, Norway, and the United Kingdom; and is continuously engaged with US administrations and executive-branch agencies as well as state government agencies and administrations. (MPI experts were selected by the governors of Maryland and Illinois to serve on prominent immigrant integration commissions.)

III. MPI's Research

MPI has published more than 300 books and reports, sharing its research findings widely with interested publics, stakeholders, policymakers, and members of the media. Virtually all of the Institute's research is shared online, at no cost. The Institute's work has been downloaded nearly 8 million times since 2007, and more than 1 million MPI web pages are viewed annually.

MPI's research, typically viewed as among the most accurate, careful, and impartial sources of research and analysis on US and international migration issues, is cited by other researchers, used by government and civil-society organizations, shared in classrooms and with practitioners across a range of fields, and quoted by news organizations.

The Institute also disseminates its work through the Migration Information Source, the Institute's online journal (delivered also in a bimonthly newsletter) and the Data Hub, a unique online library that brings together US and international migration, remittances, and other data. More than 22,000 people receive MPI's Migration Information Source and Data Hub free, electronic newsletters.

IV. MPI's Educational Work

Over the Institute's first decade, MPI experts have:

- ✓ Logged nearly 6,000 unique interviews with US and international print and broadcast media outlets
- ✓ Testified more than 15 times before the US Congress and met dozens of times with the US President and other world leaders
- ✓ Organized more than 210 public briefings and conferences in the United States and internationally
- ✓ Conducted countless briefings for high-level US and international government administrators and policymakers
- ✓ Participated in numerous high-level convenings and blue-ribbon panels, and chaired prominent panels, such as the World Economic Forum's Global Agenda Council on Migration
- ✓ Served as keynote speakers at hundreds of events in the United States and more than two dozen other countries

The Institute also conducts an Immigration Law and Policy Conference every year with Georgetown University Law Center and the Catholic Legal Immigration Network Inc. that draws hundreds of participants to hear from leading national and state policymakers, administrators, researchers, and politicians.

And in 2008, MPI's National Center on Immigrant Integration Policy launched the nationally recognized *E Pluribus Unum* Prizes to draw attention to exceptional immigrant integration practices and educate publics, media, and government leaders on the importance of such work. Assisted by a prominent advisory group comprised of educators, immigrant service providers, business leaders, and others who cull through the hundreds of applications received annually, MPI has bestowed four \$50,000 *E Pluribus Unum* Prizes each year since 2009 at awards ceremonies featuring White House and high-level executive branch and congressional speakers.

OUR PROGRAMS

The US Immigration Policy Program: The US immigration system is near universally viewed as broken. Achieving any type of overall reform will require forward-thinking ideas and fact-based analysis around which a national consensus can be built. MPI has played a key role in framing the issues for consensus building by examining and supplying ideas and analysis to US policymakers, opinion shapers, media, and the public regarding legal immigration, border security, immigration enforcement, employment verification, and a host of other topics.

The International Program: MPI's international work continues to rapidly expand its reach, now encompassing the creation of a new legal entity – MPI Europe – with an office in Brussels; the Transatlantic Council on Migration; the Regional Migration Study Group; ongoing relationships with nearly a dozen European countries and throughout much of North America; a growing presence in Asia; and several comparative research projects conducted with the European University Institute and other European partners on US-EU immigration systems.

National Center on Immigrant Integration Policy: The Center is an invaluable crossroads for elected officials, researchers, state and local agency managers, grassroots leaders and activists, local service providers, and others who seek to understand and respond to the challenges and opportunities today's high rates of immigration create in local communities. Key services the Center provides include: policy-focused research; policy design; leadership development; technical assistance and training for government officials and community leaders; needs assessment, program planning and evaluation services; as well as an electronic resource center on immigrant integration issues.

Migrants, Migration, and Development: While governments, multilateral agencies, and development specialists have only recently rediscovered the connections between migration and development, MPI's program has been working to translate research on the actual and potential contributions of migrant communities to sustainable development in their countries of origin into policy guidance. MPI in 2011 helped organize the State Department's first-ever Global Diaspora Forum, and is partnering with the State Department and others to launch the International diaspora Engagement Alliance (IdeA). MPI also plays a key role in the annual Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD).

Refugee Protection: MPI has developed substantial expertise relating to the law and practice of protecting refugees and internally displaced people in areas of conflict, as well as in the industrialized countries. The program on refugee protection and humanitarian assistance works to assess emerging issues and controversies, to promote secure solutions, and to enlarge the international consensus on provision of protection and assistance. It has also taken a leading role in the debate over effective institutional arrangements for comprehensive protection.

OUR BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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Antonio Vitorino, *Partner, Gonçalves Pereira, Castelo Branco & Associados, former Deputy Prime Minister of Portugal, and former European Commissioner for Justice and Home Affairs (1999-2004)*

OUR SUPPORT

The Institute has been fortunate enough to receive financial support from dozens of foundations and other entities over its first decade, with sustained multi-year support in particular from the following foundations: Annie E. Casey Foundation, Bertelsmann Stiftung, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Carnegie Corporation of New York, Ford Foundation, Foundation for Child Development, the Gulbenkian Foundation, the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, the Luso-American Foundation, MacArthur Foundation, Open Society Foundations, and Rockefeller Foundation.

For more on the Migration Policy Institute's mission, research, sources of support, and staffing, visit: www.migrationpolicy.org.

If you have any questions about MPI or its work, please contact Michelle Mittelstadt at mmittelstadt@migrationpolicy.org or 202-266-1910.