

Abstract

This technical report presents new estimates of net migration at high spatial resolution produced by the Joint Research Centre (JRC) – Knowledge Centre on Migration and Demography (KCMD). The development of new net migration data is the first step of a broader JRC project aimed at analysing the relation between climate change, population distribution and related migration.

The report uses demographic indirect estimation techniques based on population data from the JRC Global Human Settlement Layer (GHSL) to estimate five-year net migration from 1975 to 2015 at a spatial resolution of about 25 km. Notably, the recent definition of Degrees of Urbanization proposed by the European Commission and developed by the JRC is applied to distinguish net migration in urban and rural areas. Findings from the new datasets constitute the basis for further analyses on the relation between climate change and migration.

Two validation exercises of the new database are performed. First, when net migration estimates are aggregated from 25 km resolution to the country-level, a positive correlation with country net migration estimates from UN DESA is observed. Second, when focusing on Europe, the new estimates are coherent with Eurostat net migration figures at subnational (NUTS3) level.