

Report

Working Group A: Migration and Security

Vladimir Shkolnikov
OSCE, Warsaw

Key Points of Discussion:

The need to distinguish individual-level from aggregate-level data and to address the balance between human rights concerns such as individual data protection, on one hand and the state's security and its responsibility to protect its citizens on the other hand.

Key Data Elements that are needed to address the issue:

Migration should not be viewed through the prism of security. Rather security is only one of the aspects connected to migration.

Principal data collection agencies concerned (domestic or otherwise):

Cooperation on both international and national levels is seen as essential prerequisite for sharing data. A number of examples of regional cooperation were given by the two groups. These included the SECI center that connects 12 countries of South Eastern and Central Europe, as well as cooperative arrangements in the South of Africa, South America and Eastern Europe. The need for internal cooperation and co-ordination was also mentioned. Governmental agencies in the same country often have difficulties sharing information.

Major challenges:

A number of challenges to co-operation were identified. On the macro level these include issues such as mutual trust, the will to cooperate, and common perceptions of security. On the micro level technical challenges include differences in legislation, terminology, as well as technical capacities.

Effective approaches:

Luckily, a number of ways to overcome these challenges were also identified. On the macro level these include international conventions. The Palermo Convention on combating organized crime (exact title?) and protocol on combating trafficking in human beings were mentioned. On the micro level, solutions include technical co-operation programmes, including IOM Programmes.

On more specific security-related issues, the participants mentioned advanced passenger screening and development of alert lists as priority areas.