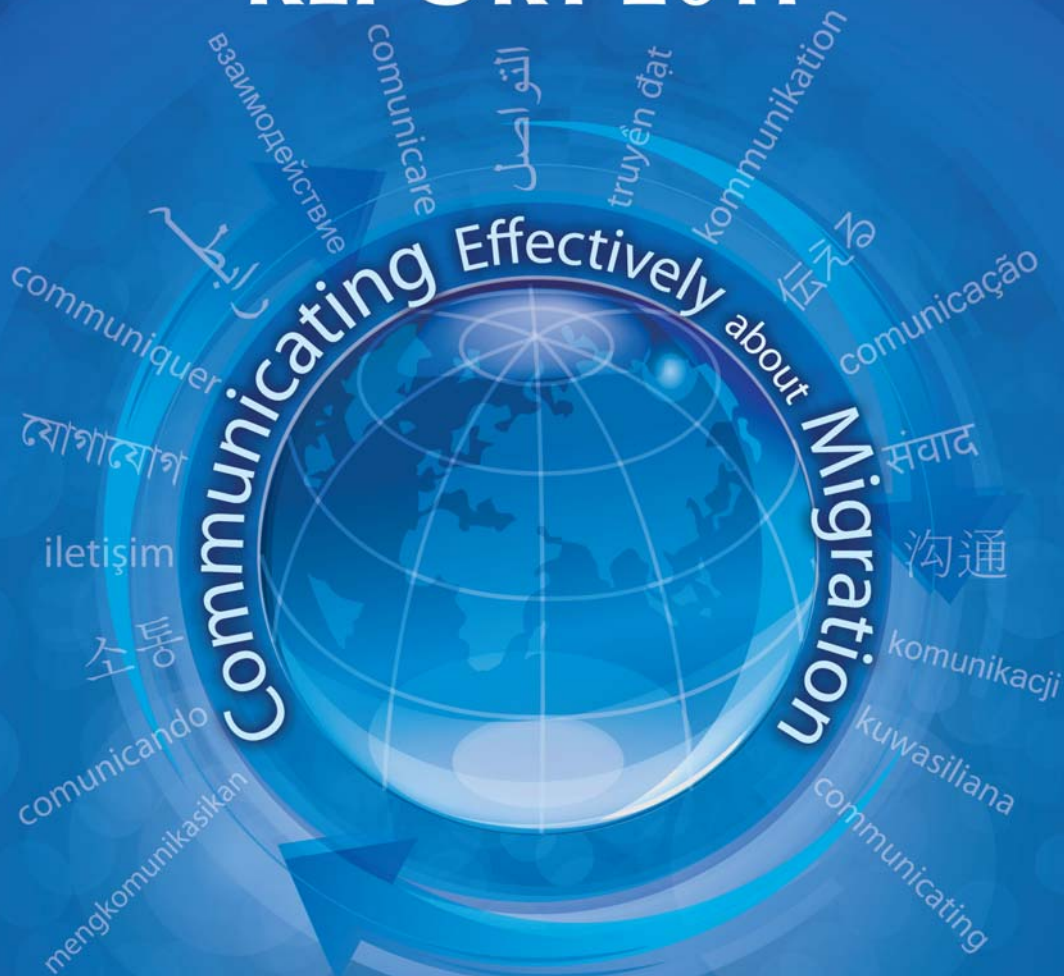


# WORLD MIGRATION REPORT 2011



International Organization for Migration (IOM)



## Communicating Effectively about Migration

- Official Launch -  
Tuesday, 6 December 2011

Palais de Nations  
Geneva, Switzerland





# Presentation Outline

1. The rationale behind the choice of the overarching theme for WMR 2011: Communicating Effectively on Migration
2. Key Findings and Observations
  - What are the determinants of perceptions?
  - Can they be influenced?
  - If so, how and to what extent?
3. The way forward





# I. Rationale for Choice of Theme

- Era of the greatest human mobility in recorded history, and despite communications revolution, migration remains one of the most misunderstood issues of our time.
- Why ? What can be done ?
- Confused discourse about migration:
  - Stands in the way of effective policy making;
  - Engenders harmful stereotypes, discrimination and anti-migrant sentiments;
  - Results in controversy about its value and benefits.



## II. Key Findings of WMR 2011

### Views are Diverse and Fluctuate

- There are public opinion **S** rather than a public opinion about migration.
- Public opinions and perceptions about migration vary significantly between and within countries (as well as between sub-groups within a community) and over time.
- Migration rarely identified as **the** issue of primary concern even during recessions. Migration is nonetheless consistently identified in opinion polls as an issue of public interest or concern.



## II. Key Findings of WMR 2011

### Factors Influencing Public Opinion

- Numbers matter: influence perceptions and often overestimated.





# II. Key Findings of WMR 2011

## Perceptions of Scale of Migration

General public tends to over-estimate the real scale of migration

Country	Perceived	Actual
Italy	25%	7%
Spain	21%	14%
USA	39%	14%
Canada	39%	20%

Perceived and actual percentage of the population made up of migrants, in four transatlantic countries, 2010

## II. Key Findings of WMR 2011

### Factors Influencing Public Opinion

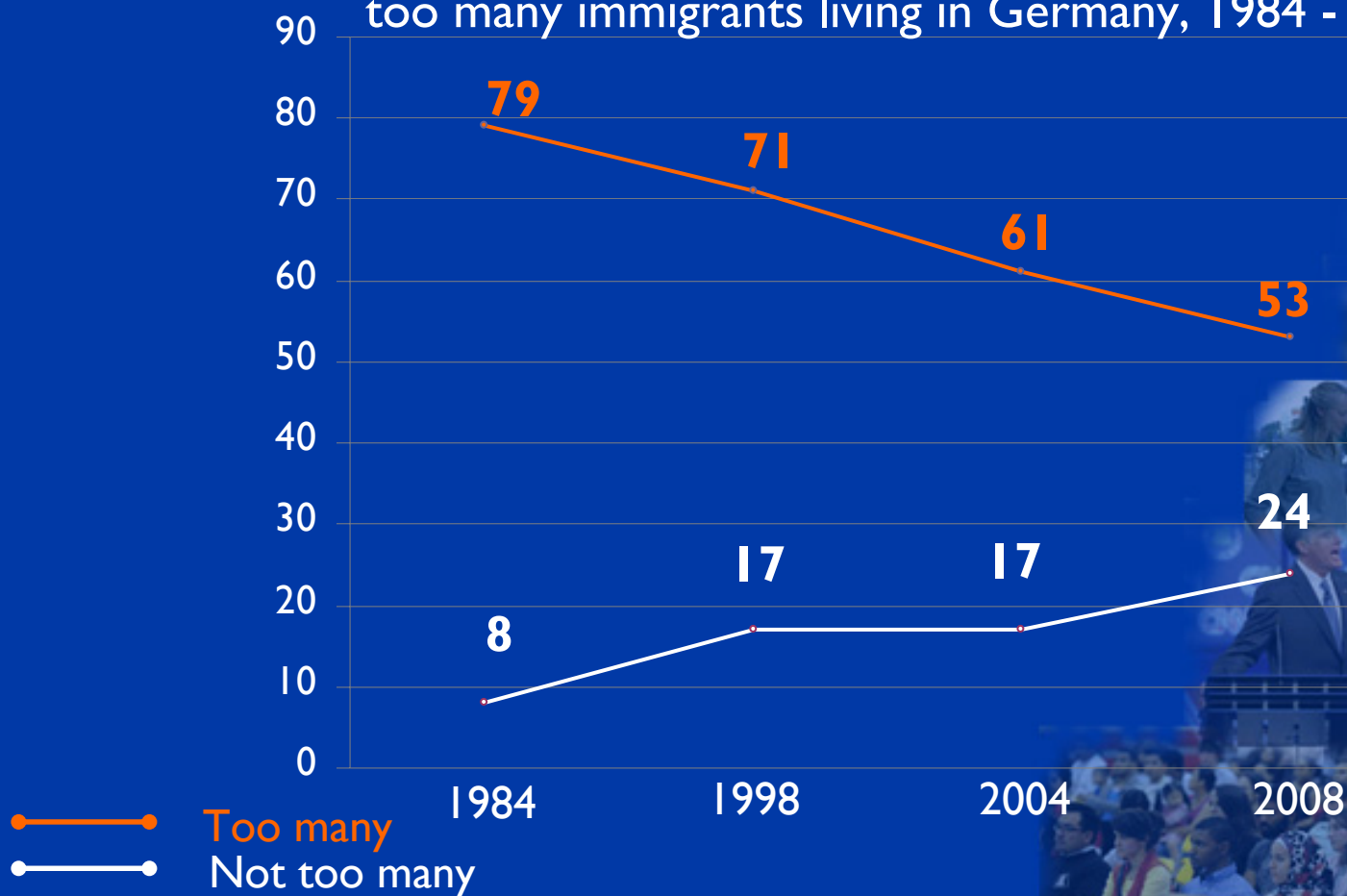
- Numbers matter: influence perceptions and often overestimated.
- Perception of who is a migrant;
- Perception of immigration status of the new arrivals;
- Perceptions influenced by economic and labour market conditions, and level of unemployment;
- Age, socio-economic background, ethnicity, educational attainment strongly influence responses to migration related surveys;
- Perceptions evolve over time.



# II. Key Findings of WMR 2011

## What Do People Think About Migration in Countries of Destination?

Percentage of surveyed persons who think there are too many immigrants living in Germany, 1984 - 2008



Source: Institut für Demoskopie Allensbach, cited in Abah, 2009



## II. Key Findings of WMR 2011

### What Do People Think About Migration in Countries of Origin?

- Emigration considered to be “a big issue” in many countries of origin; but
- Mixed views about the value of migration: opinion varies between migrants as “national heroes” or “deserters”;
- Ambivalence about return migration.



# II. Key Findings of WMR 2011

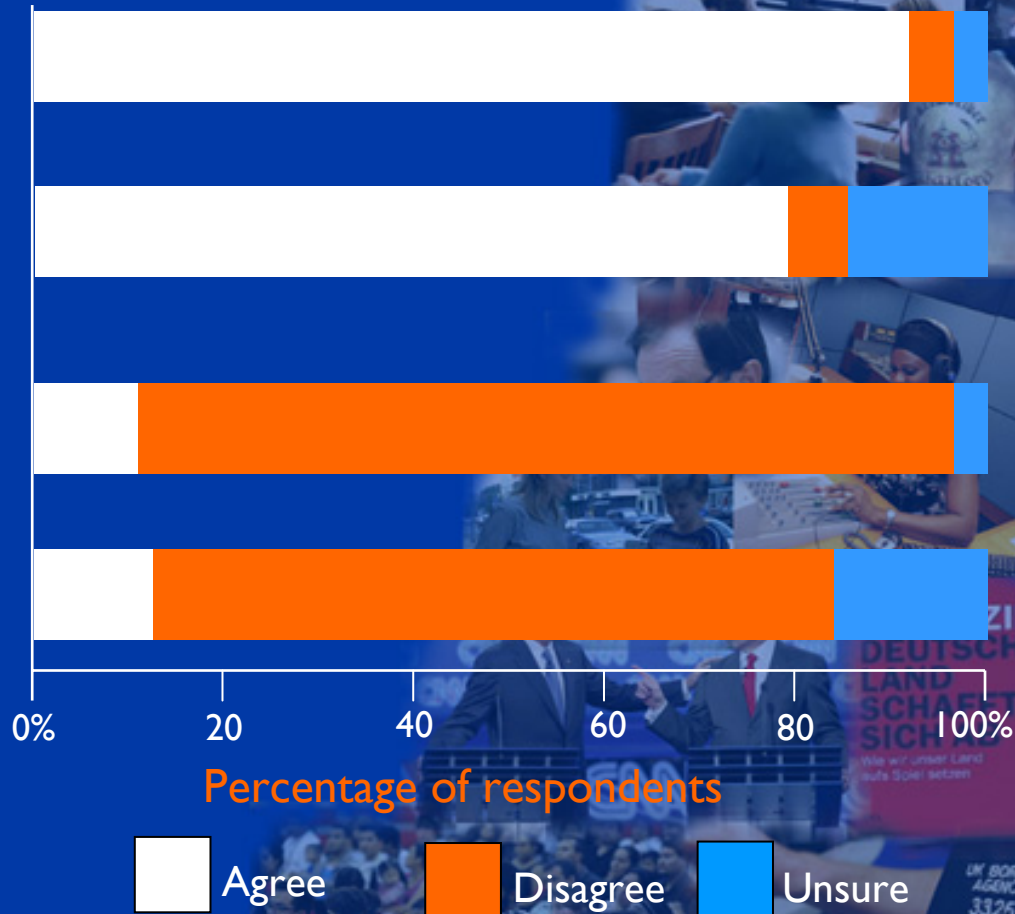
## What Do People Think About Migration in Countries of Origin?

They are adventurous people prepared to try their luck and have a go overseas

They are doing well for themselves away from home

They have let us down by leaving Australia

They too often delight in running Australia down from offshore



Australian attitudes towards expatriates (% of respondents)

Source: Adapted from Fulilove and Flutter, Lowy Institute 2004: 39.

# II. Key Findings of WMR 2011

## The Strong Link Between Media Coverage and Perceptions

Impact of media coverage of immigration on public concern, 2000 - 2006

- The media have a primary role in the shaping and framing of the debate in both countries of origin and destination;
- Evidence base is available but there is a disconnect between data producers and data users.





## II. Key Findings of WMR 2011

### Summary

- Conventional interpretations of migration do not reflect the reality of contemporary population mobility;
- Distorted communication about migration can trigger a vicious circle that leads to misinformation being perpetuated through government policy;
- Inaccurate presentation of migrants gives rise to stereotypes and negative portrayals leading to sense of marginalization;
- Accurately informing the wider public about migration may be the single most important policy tool for Governments;
- Perceptions, attitudes and opinions about migration are fungible and do shift over time.



## 3. The Way Forward

- Building an open, balanced and comprehensive migration discourse;
- De-politicizing the debate and directly addressing issues of concern;
- Working with the media to support balanced media reporting;
- Acknowledging migrants as active communication agents.





# Structure of the 2011 Report

- Chapter 1: Communicating Effectively About Migration
- Chapter 2: International Migration Annual Review 2010/2011
- Chapter 3: IOM Renewal and Growth since the end of the Cold War
- Chapter 4: Statistical overview of IOM activities 2001-2010







# Foundations of International Migration Law

*Editors:* Brian Opeskin, Richard Perruchoud  
& Jillyanne Redpath-Cross  
*Publisher:* Cambridge University Press  
*Date:* mid-2012





# Coverage of International Migration Law

- Contemporary patterns
- Sources of migration law
- Nationality
- Statelessness
- State sovereignty
- Freedom of movement
- Human rights of migrants
- Refugees & asylum
- Women & child migrants
- Human trafficking
- Human smuggling
- Migration by sea & air
- Labour migration
- Temporary migration under GATS Mode 4
- Institutions & processes (global, regional)
- Emerging legal issues





# Key features

- Readership:  
Policy makers, field officers, consular staff, students, lawyers
- Features:  
Case studies, text boxes, maps, further readings & resources
- Need:  
No current foundational text covers the broad field of IML
- Contributors:  
18 international authors with academic, policy and field expertise
- Translations:  
French and Spanish translations are possible with donor support

