

Migration impact assessment: A state of the art

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[Introduction] Migration is as old as humanity itself. Indeed it is no exaggeration to state that the evolution of human settlement and socioeconomic-cultural development was shaped by migration. Throughout history, individuals and families have relocated, sometimes over considerable distances, to seek new opportunities or escape current threats. While migration has always implied the crossing of real, or imagined, frontiers and the residing in communities that are in many ways different from one's birthplace, only after the emergence of the nation-state in the 19th century did a distinction between internal and international migration formally arise and, with it, the question of how the settlement of new arrivals – or the emigration from a country – impacted on a nation's citizens.