

Topic: Building a database on diaspora policies and social protection

Abstract: In recent years, there has been a growing interest among migration scholars for diaspora institutions and more broadly homeland policies of engagement with nationals residing abroad (see work by Delano, Gamlen, Iskander, Ragazzi...). In this context, several attempts to classify sending states according to their level of engagement with nationals abroad (as well as non-nationals considered as the polity) have emerged (Weinar, Gamlen). They however usually present two limitations. First, they tend to focus on large-sending states from the Global South therefore neglecting the developments in this area in the North (including among EU Member States). Second, the focus on policy innovations among diaspora scholars often entails that the role of more classic forms of protection for nationals abroad through diplomatic and consular network is often undermined. In this lecture, we intend to present a typology of EU Member States based on the level of development of their social protection infrastructure, a concept that covers both diaspora institutions and consular networks and policies. To do so, we rely on our diaspora policy database created within the framework of the ERC project Migration, Transnationalism and Social Protection (MiTSoPro) that collected large amount of data on these policies using a standardized questionnaire filled by diaspora policy experts in 40 countries (including EU-28).

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