

Questions regarding the paper

- What is the background and main purpose of the paper you published / to which you contributed?

The aim of the publication is to give a perspective on Code implementation from the EU region. We initially wanted to compile this publication on the base of national level experience produced by HW4A partners, but this production developed with some delay and therefore we decided to use the publication to analyse 3 cross cutting trends emerging from partner countries, but not fully documented by them. In this sense, the publication is not conceived as a research report, but as a fresh discussion of existing evidence and policies.

- Do/did you intend the paper to influence policies in the field of mobility, migration and international recruitment of health personnel? If, yes, in which sense?

The aim of the publication is to give visibility to these 3 cross cutting issues and, in this way keep them in the agenda.

- What kind of evidence did you use for / refer to in the paper (statistical data, scientific research reports, existing laws and commitments, personal or institutional experiences, voices from the ground, other), and how did you generate / access it?

The source of evidence is pre-existing evidence, gathered by authoritative sources (WHO, EU..., the Lancet.): the value of the publication is that this evidence is discussed from a specific point of view. Actually in some sections the focus is primarily on policies, and therefore the "evidence" is not constituted by data, but by policies themselves, which are analysed and discussed.

- Were there any particular challenges in the making of the paper (access to data, collaboration, finances, etc.)?

The challenge was in the explicit inter-sectoral nature of the discussion, which required competence and judgement in multiple sectors of analysis (education and training, migration policies, health policies, fiscal policies, trade policies, EU institutions..)

General assessment of evidence based advocacy and policy

- How relevant are data and scientific evidence for policy-making compared with other factors (e.g. economic and political environment, interests and power relations, values, ideologies, personalities)? How would you see opportunities and challenges for evidence based policy making?

Evidence is useful if your counterpart is very competent. Unfortunately, this is rarely the case with policymakers. So, overall, political environment and an advocacy strategy may often be more relevant

- What evidence is missing when it comes to translating commitments (such as the adoption of the WHO Global Code of Practice on the international recruitment of health personnel by all WHO member states) to political action? Or is the lack of evidence rather used as an excuse for inaction?

In global health advocacy the comparability of national/regional data is often a challenge. However, I do not think that low comparability of evidence can impede advocacy, as even non fully comparable evidence can be used for advocacy purposes.

- What role does evidence play for your own advocacy work?

I would rather say that accurate "documentation" of any advocacy statement is key (must be backed by research, be it pre-existing or originally produced)