

BMRC/IRMU

Knowledge Mobilization Working Group

Terms of Reference

Final

Overview

Established in 2016, Building Migrant Resilience in Cities (BMRC-IRMU) is a research partnership and a multi-sector collaboration. It draws on over 20 years of experience in bringing together a range of key actors working on issues of immigration and settlement through CERIS, a leading Ontario network of migration and settlement researchers, practitioners, and policymakers. Our unique initiative explores the concept of social resilience to examine how institutions can facilitate migrant settlement in urban areas across Quebec and Ontario.

Purpose

To advise the project leads to more effectively mobilize the knowledge and evidence related to emerging trends in international migration and resilience.

Definition

Knowledge mobilization will be used as the term to classify BMRC/IRMU efforts in turning research into action and for this endeavour is defined as: the process of making research, knowledge and evidence readily available to decision-makers, policy makers and practitioners who strive to enhance migrant settlement and to assess its impact in policies.

Principles

- Dedicated to exploring the concept of social resilience to examine how institutions can facilitate migrant settlement in urban areas across Quebec and Ontario
- Committed to trust and reciprocity: i.e. are willing to work together, share resources, and seek to achieve a collective result that each will benefit from; and that ultimately benefits the policy makers, decision-makers and practitioners as well as international students.
- Belief that evidence through research is foundational for best and leading practices international migration and resilience
- Recognize that a stronger link between research, community stakeholders and decision-makers/policy makers is required

Duties and Responsibilities

- Develop and oversee a knowledge mobilization plan that articulates objectives, desired practices and outcomes for targeted audiences with measures of success evaluated;
- Act as a catalyst in the exchange and dissemination of new and existing knowledge on international migration and resilience;
- Advise knowledge mobilization efforts for BRMC/IRMU research and knowledge mobilization projects;
- Advise on the best processes, tools and models for knowledge mobilization of research undertaken by the City Networks;
- Build and leverage partnerships and contexts among network members to combine resources and to seek out mutually beneficial opportunities to exchange and disseminate knowledge around international migration and resilience; and
- Ensure connectedness to other groups on international migration and resilience including research and evaluation to ensure this subject is built into policy, planning and practices.

Members

Members	City Networks/Organization
Brian Ray	University of Ottawa
Jane Wedlock	United Way
Alexandra Charette	Concordia University
Manolli Ekra	OCASI
Valerie Preston	BMRC/IRMU Team
Francine Schlosser	University of Windsor
Michael Johnny	York University- Knowledge Mobilization Unit
Shehnaz Fakim	BMRC/IRMU Team

Term

Members are asked to participate for 12 months, from March 2020 to March 2021, with a possibility of extension.

Chair:

The Chair is the Research Project Manager, BMRC-IRMU.

Meetings

All members are expected to:

- Participate in at least 10 meetings per year of 1 to 1.5 hours each, as needed
- Provide feedback on documents in between meetings
- Inform the co-chairs or project manager if they will miss a meeting

Frequency: The working group will meet at least 10 times from March 2020 to March 2021.

Decision-making and conflict resolution: Consensus decision making is preferred and voting can be conducted to determine level of consensus

Conflicts of interests: Members must declare conflicts of interest prior to the discussion of issues or at any time a conflict of interest or potential conflict of interest arises. A conflict of interest refers to situations in which personal, occupational or financial considerations may affect or appear to affect the objectivity or fairness of decisions related to the working group activities. A conflict of interest may be real, potential or perceived in nature. Individuals must declare potential conflicts to the Co-chairs of the Working Group and must either absent themselves from the discussion and/or voting, or put the decision to the Working Group on whether they should absent themselves.

Quorum: At least 50% of the members must be present for consensus to take place.

Minutes: Minutes will be sent by email to all members of the working group by BMRC/IRMU Staff.

Review

The working group will review these terms of reference in March 2021 and approve any continuation of this working group.