

## NCCR On the Move – Recommendations 6<sup>th</sup> panel review

### General impression

Last year the panel discussed a selection of planned and published papers, including the relationship of these papers with the core objective of the NCCR. The panel's main objectives in this debate was to assess, on the one hand, the integration of the NCCR projects toward the notion of the migration-mobility nexus and, on the other, the core output in terms of academic publications. Now, one year further and after having read the 6<sup>th</sup> progress report, the panel experts are impressed by the proactive and constructive way in which the teams have taken up last year's recommendations.

The internal discussions and all reflections the researchers dedicated to the migration-mobility nexus, make it a clear, more diverse, and dynamic framework. Moreover, the teams have now developed explicit linkages with the nexus in their projects. In this context, the panel enjoyed reading the progress report, but also thought the available posters were an excellent way of sharing the researchers' work in progress in a succinct manner.

Concerning the publication record, the panel commends the teams – once again – for the excellent and transparent presentation of their track record and academic output in a clear and visually attractive style. In general, the publications achieve very high to highest standards, as many of the teams have already published high-quality contributions in reputed journals, which reflects the ambitious standards the NCCR has set for the publications of the teams. The panel still notes some differences regarding the academic output across IPs that might reflect different stages of progress across the IPs. Overall, the panel is pleased to see the remarkable progress that has been made on these two key issues.

There are a number of additional impressive developments in this NCCR, the panel is glad to highlight: an innovative linkage of census and longitudinal register data and the migration-mobility survey; the policy relevance and influence on policy making in several domains; the quality and scope of the NCCR's education programme. The panel particularly appreciates the timely and thoughtful reaction of the NCCR on the Covid-19-crisis, including its impact on migration and mobility as well as the proactive and agile contingency planning of the teams, concerning their own ongoing research.

Based on its assessment, the panel concludes that the NCCR On the Move has now achieved a very high level of scientific quality, fruitful collaboration, leading to innovative research and impact on the field – as it is expected within this funding scheme.

### Recommendations

The main recommendations of the panel can be summarised as follows:

#### **Recommendation concerning the submission of a pre-proposal for the subsequent phase III:**

Based on its decidedly positive assessment and the remarkable leap of the NCCR since the last review, the Panel recommends unanimously that the Research Council shall invite the NCCR team to submit a pre-proposal for a subsequent phase III.

#### **Recommendation concerning the further development of the NCCR's research programme:**

The panel is pleased to see that the NCCR teams apply the migration-mobility nexus as a dynamic frame of reference and that their understanding of this notion continues to evolve along the conducted research. Hence, the panel encourages the NCCR to continue to develop this nexus, to frame additional "tests" for this framework, by including different perspectives and new directions in

their future research. The presented approach—to further refine and develop the nexus under the perspective of the current crisis as a critical juncture—seems a good entry point, and could potentially be expanded to other similarly significant global issues.

**Recommendation concerning structural achievements:**

The NCCR has developed a very impressive, interdisciplinary PhD programme including a uniquely broad range of subject matters in the field of migration and mobility studies. The panel recommends safeguarding and institutionalizing this programme within the University of Neuchatel as a structural asset and accomplishment of the NCCR.

**Recommendation concerning international collaborations:**

The NCCR has developed impressive external interdisciplinary collaborations with universities and other research institutions that focus on migration and mobility. The panel appreciates the time spent in forging these partnerships. Extending such collaborations to include partners in the Global South would extend the capacity of the NCCR to analyse migration and mobility from the perspective of scholars and issues arising in these regions.