

## **Abstract**

For a presentation at

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**Topic 22:** The Arab world: intercontinental crossroads between demographic transitions and population movements

**Session 2208:** Europe and the Maghreb: demographic ties

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## **Potential of Migration from the Maghreb to Europe**

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The presentation will be based on partial results out of a one-year research project at the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (BAMF) on “Migration Projections and Potentials of Migration from Africa to Europe”. The presentation “Potential of Migration from the Maghreb to Europe” covers data on migration stocks, flows and net migration from the Maghreb to Europe. Further actual (illegal) migration routes are described. The migration potential from the Maghreb to Europe is analysed inter alia by push- and pull- as well as by network-factors. Therefore, demographic development, political and economical, as well as social and ecological changes in the regions of origin of potential immigrants are studied. In order to address the interaction of various factors, information from migration and demographic statistics is linked with knowledge obtained in sociological and political science.

Africa is one of the most important regions of origin of migrants coming to Europe. Additionally, the significance of the Maghreb has increased because of growing emigration pressure. Meanwhile the Maghreb acts both as sending and receiving region as well as transit region for migrants from Sub-Saharan Africa to Europe. The high levels of population growth, unemployment, socio-economic and demographic pressure in Africa and the ongoing crises in Sub-Saharan Africa might further increase the migration potential in the long term. Therefore, future migration flows between the Maghreb and Europe, as well as the transit routes, will become more significant.