

*CLIMATE MIGRATION IN URBAN AREAS:
CHALLENGES, REPRESENTATIONS AND INCLUSION
(NC.0078)*

An Action Agenda for the City of Paris

CONFIDENTIAL

Human mobility to, from and within urban areas in the context of climate change, disasters and environmental degradation

Cities are at the forefront of two of the most pressing issues of our time: combating climate change and managing migration. Cities account for more than 70% of the world's greenhouse gas emissions, and are confronted with many of the impacts of climate change on their territories. Migration is also transforming urban areas, driving urbanisation, growth and diversity. Although migration policies are determined at national level, cities play a leading role in managing migration, as the first destination for migrants.

By 2050, 68% of the world's population is expected to live in urban areas. Internal and international flows generate both opportunities and challenges for cities, migrants and governments. Migration from rural areas to cities is increasing under the growing pressure of climate change and environmental degradation, as well as the growing number of disasters, combined with other political, economic and social factors. Droughts, floods and scarcity of resources are forcing people to leave their places of origin, whether they come from the South or the North. In 2018, it is estimated that one migrant in five lives in a city. At the same time, cities are also likely to experience departures, both temporary and long-term, in the context of climate change. While people with sufficient social and financial resources may be able to leave the city in the event of a heatwave or flood, others may find themselves trapped or find other places to settle within the city.

Cities are undermined by the loss of natural surfaces, the omnipresence of artificial infrastructures and higher levels of pollution, combined with high population density, putting pressure on resources. A series of socio-economic and political factors, such as land tenure problems and inadequate housing, structural inequality and marginalisation policies, non-existent disaster risk management, limited access to services and formal employment opportunities, poor resource management and weak governance have led to migrants being particularly exposed to climate risks, with limited adaptive capacities and disproportionately affected by disasters: reinforcing a vicious circle of poverty, vulnerability and repeated and prolonged displacement.

Despite this, migrants are unique sources of diversity and innovation. In the context of climate adaptation, in particular, they bring diverse knowledge and skills, including disaster risk reduction strategies, meet the demand for green jobs, improve the cultural offer, and provide sustainable alternatives to reduce the environmental impact of cities. Taking migrants into account is essential to making cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable in order to achieve SDG 11. In this context, the role of local governments is essential, as is the inclusion of migrants in local decision-making and the sequenced implementation of climate adaptation policies. Let local experience serve as a roadmap for national frameworks to ensure the recognition, reception, inclusion and protection of migrants in the context of the challenges and opportunities presented by climate change and its consequences.

Objectives of the project

IOM MECR presented to the Deputy Mayors of the City of Paris the results of the deliverables produced as part of the pilot project "Climate Migration in the Urban Environment: Challenges, Representations and Inclusion", a pilot project managed by IOM MECR, in partnership with the Hugo Observatory of the University of Liège, and developed in collaboration with the City of Paris. The objectives of the project were 1) to better understand how Parisians perceive migration and climate change and 2) to assist Paris City Council in its efforts to better understand how climate and environmental change will affect migration and urbanisation trends and to include these considerations in urban planning and key sectoral policies. Among the expected results, an action programme has been drawn up, listing recommendations to help Paris better plan inclusive urban policies in the context of climate adaptation policies. Five main thematic areas have been identified: urban planning, employment, health, participation and inclusion, advocacy and international cooperation. These recommendations cover several areas, and stress the importance of implementing inclusive adaptation measures and encouraging collaboration with different stakeholders, such as diasporas, the private sector, emergency services and health professionals. These results will feed into various public documents of the city, such as the Paris Climate Plan and the Local Urban Plan.

The project is based on three pillars, in line with global and IOM priorities, and meets the following objectives:

- I) **Gathering data and improving knowledge:** contributing to a better understanding of the impacts of climate change on migration to and from cities, in order to better inform decision-making in terms of urban planning and the development of climate policies, as well as the reception and integration of migrants.
- II) **City-to-city dialogue and partnerships:** to encourage and strengthen dialogue between different interested cities around the world and to promote ambitious and accelerated action to meet the challenges of climate change and migration in cities.
- III) **Policy support:** to support cities in their efforts to integrate considerations relating to the impacts of climate change on migration into their climate policies and into their management of the reception and integration of migrants, to create synergies between these different sectors and to develop inclusive and sustainable urban policies.

Facts & figures

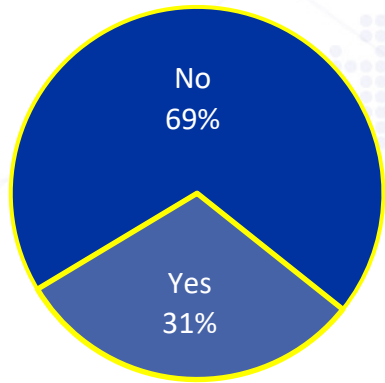
- 20% of migrants live in the world's top 20 largest cities (IOM, 2015)
- An additional 350 million people living in urban areas are estimated to be exposed to water scarcity from severe droughts at 1.5°C warming, and 410.7 million at 2°C warming (IPCC, 2022).
- In 2022, 45,000 new internal displacements were observed in France due to fires (IDMC, 2023).
- In 2018, family reunification was the number one reason for arriving in Paris, followed by student and economic reasons. Humanitarian reasons, such as the granting of refugee, stateless or subsidiary protection status, came 3rd. Each of these categories is likely to be linked, often indirectly, to the impacts of climate change, disasters and environmental degradation (Insee, 2019).
- International migration flows to Paris are expected to increase by 28% to 34% by 2050 due to rising temperatures (IOM, 2022).
- While countries are trying to limit the rise in average global temperatures to 1.5°C as a result of the Paris Agreement, the Paris region has already exceeded 2°C of warming compared with the pre-industrial era.

Migrations to, within and from Paris

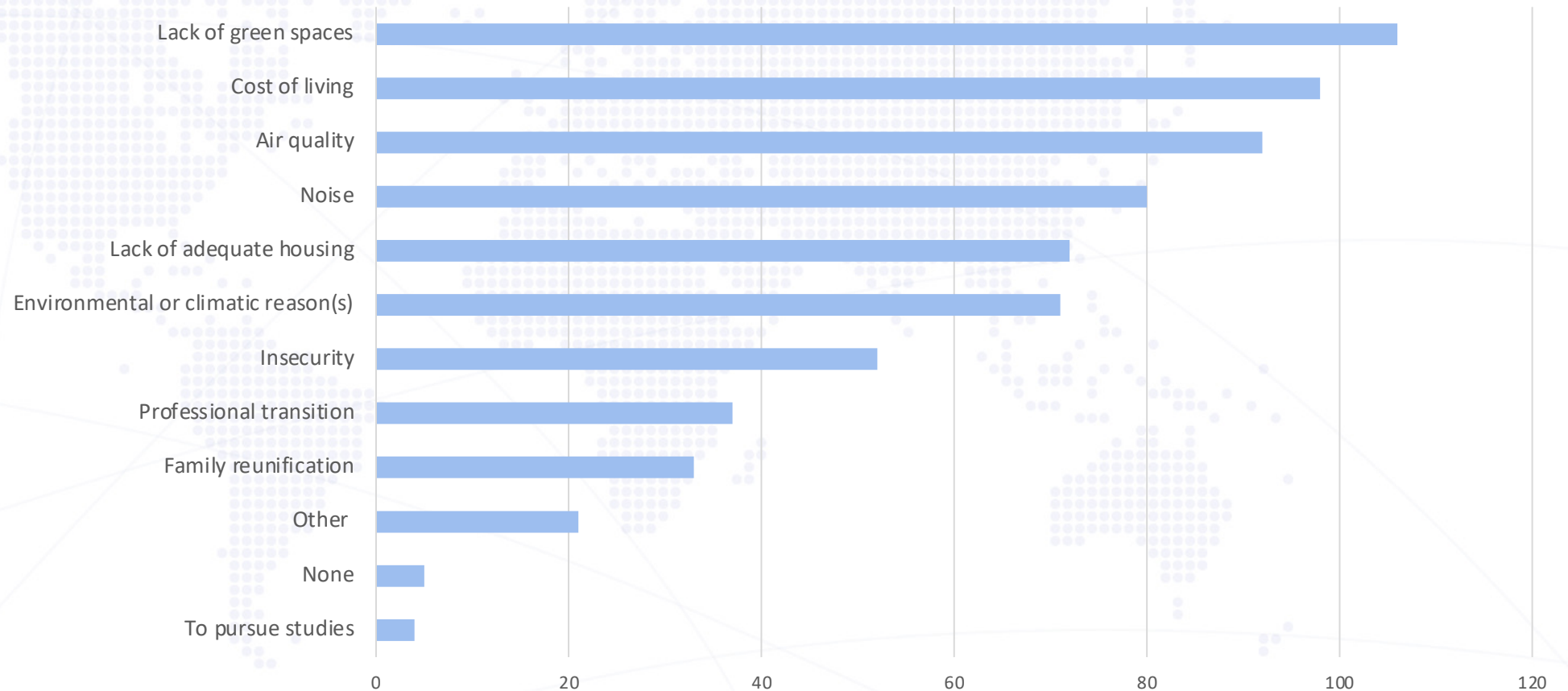
- Family reunification and student reasons = 1st reasons for admission. Otherwise, flows linked to the social, economic and cultural attractiveness of Paris (pull factors). Incoming flows: environmental factor still not very present.
- The arrival of climate migrants in Paris would be perceived as a future issue, of international origin and less certain than departures from Paris.
- Accelerated warming in Paris, felt by the population: will lead to internal displacement or displacement to other French regions/internationally.
- Moving out of the city would be the first measure considered by Parisians to cope with the consequences of climate change > concerns office jobs (teleworking) → Exposure to risks + vulnerabilities + ability to adapt: refers to socio-economic inequalities

As a major urban centre bringing together diasporas, Paris is at the heart of these dynamics. The capital is both a reservoir of greenhouse gas emissions and a densely populated area. It therefore has a responsibility, while having limited legal capacity and resources, to be an agent of change through successful adaptation planning.

Popular survey: *Are you thinking of leaving Paris soon?*



For what reasons would you like to leave Paris?



Goals of the recommendations

- Increasing the resilience of Parisian residents to climatic hazards;
- Prepare the city to receive people moving in the context of climate change;
- Anticipating migratory flows into and out of Paris and understanding their causes and dynamics;
- Promote the positive contribution of migrants, displaced persons and diasporas to climate action.



These recommendations are part of various political processes: the 2030 Agenda, the Paris Agreement, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Global Compact for Migration, the Nansen Initiative Agenda, etc. They are also rooted in human rights standards and principles, and apply across the entire link between humanitarian action, development and peace.

Urban
planning

Employment

Healthcare

Participation
& Inclusion

Advocacy &
Diplomacy

URBAN PLANNING

1. Encourage the creation of accommodation and living spaces that reduce exposure to risk and act as meeting places and social cohesion areas

- Combining accommodation, social cohesion and energy transition
 - Increasing the number of accommodation places
 - Temporary hybrid projects, e.g. Grands Voisins in Paris
- Quality of accommodation
 - Energy renovation (insulation, heating, ventilation, etc.) of privately rented properties
 - Flexibility of adaptation measures, e.g. modularity
 - Materials and techniques: inspiration from Mediterranean and arid climates
 - Reuse

URBAN PLANNING

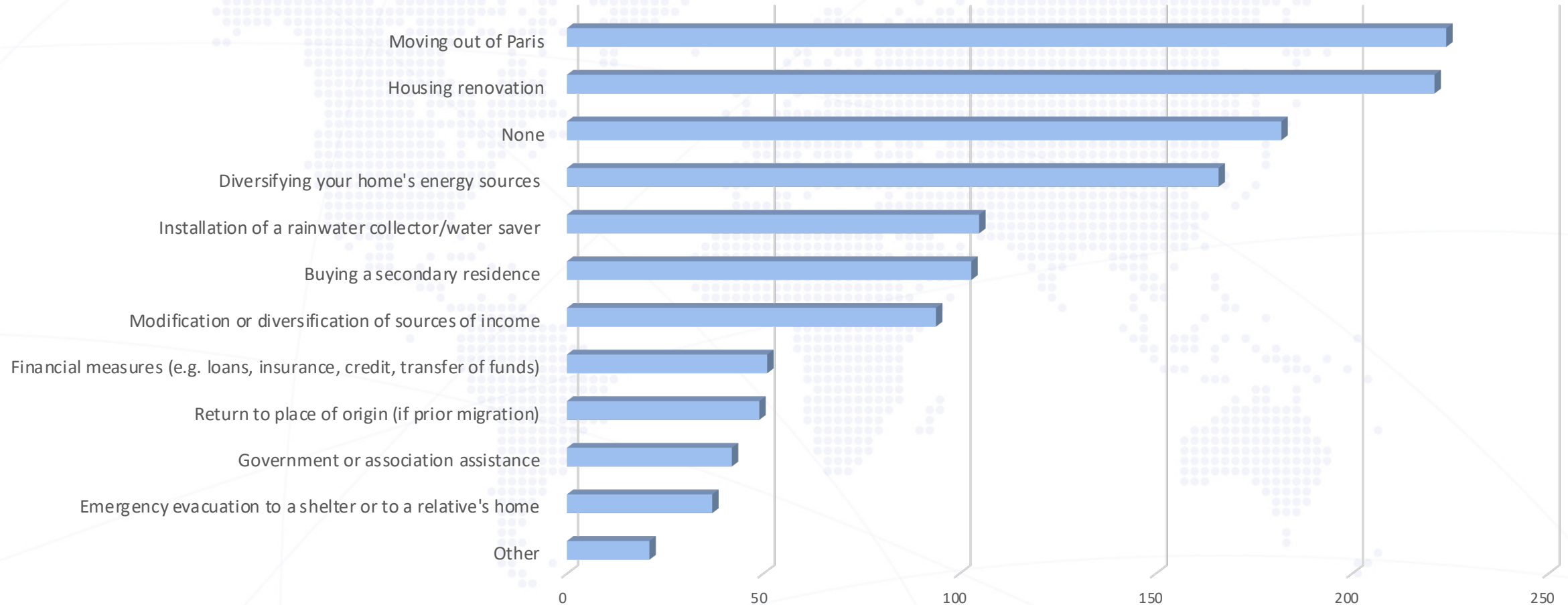
- Creating green spaces
 - = Spaces for social cohesion and physical and mental health
 - Greening projects
 - Community gardens
- Construction of climate 'refuge' areas
 - Reception and emergency areas, shelters, mutual aid and social networks
 - Self-reliance and decentralisation of resources
- When an in situ adaptation strategy is no longer an option...
 - Planned relocation
 - Land in public trust, purchase/repurchase of housing



Best practices: Transforming the inner ring road around Paris into a forest; climate refuges [BCNUEJ](#), The Harris Recovery, Post Disaster Relocation and Buyout programme in Houston, Texas,...

Popular survey:

Current or future personal measures to deal with the consequences of climate change and/or the increasing scarcity of resources:



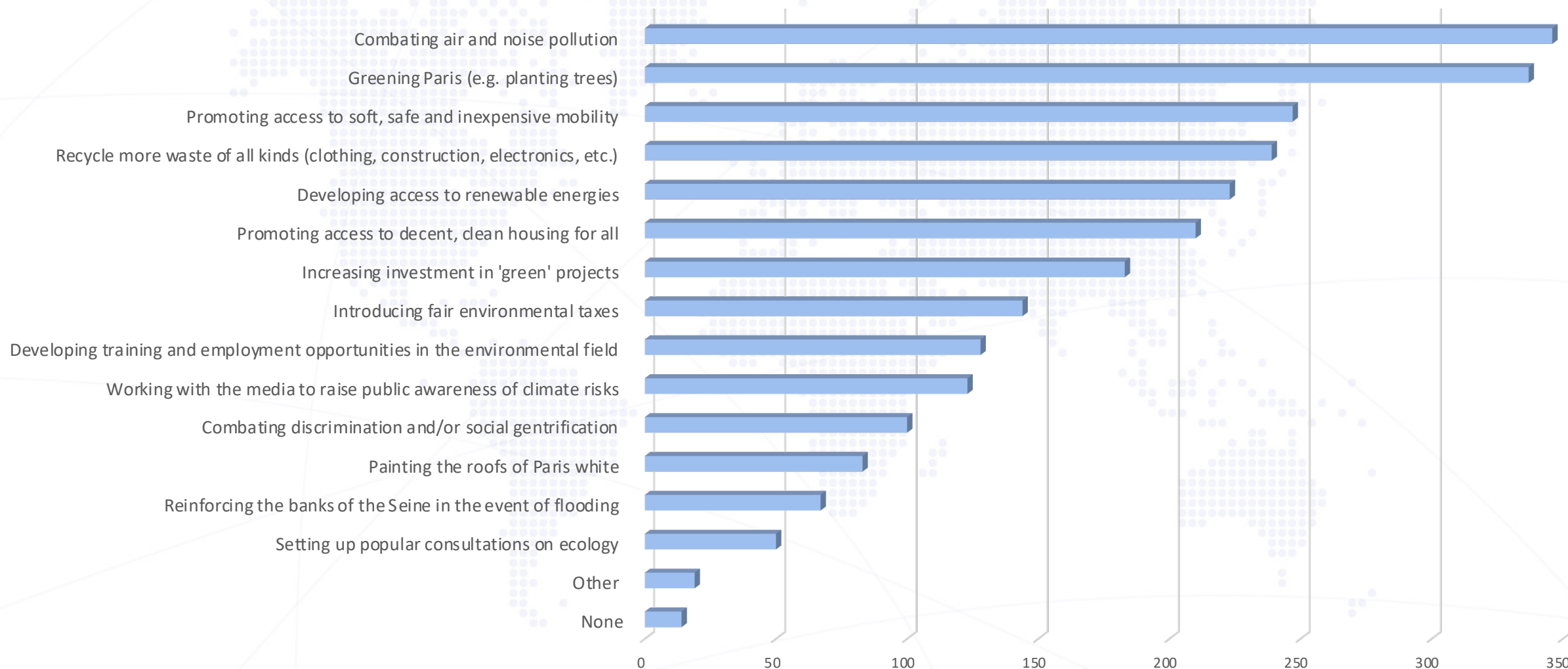
URBAN PLANNING

2. Continue to implement a sustainable and inclusive transport policy

- "Combating noise and air pollution" + "Access to soft, safe and inexpensive mobility"
= Priority measures to be taken
- Make access to public transport even more inclusive to prevent social exclusion:
 - Make cycling, a tool for "freedom" and sport, accessible by extending self-service.
 - IDF-mobilités: facilitate access to the Navigo card for asylum seekers and refugees (DA: proof of tax status (CMU-C), refugees: domiciliation, etc.).
 - Continuing to connect the city centre to neighbourhoods beyond the ring road
- Incorporate the symbolism of the transport card into integration policies

Popular survey:

Priority public measures to be taken as part of Paris' socio-ecological transition:



EMPLOYMENT

3. Provide migrants with opportunities for voluntary work, further training and learning French, leading to "green" jobs, by increasing cooperation between the various players in society

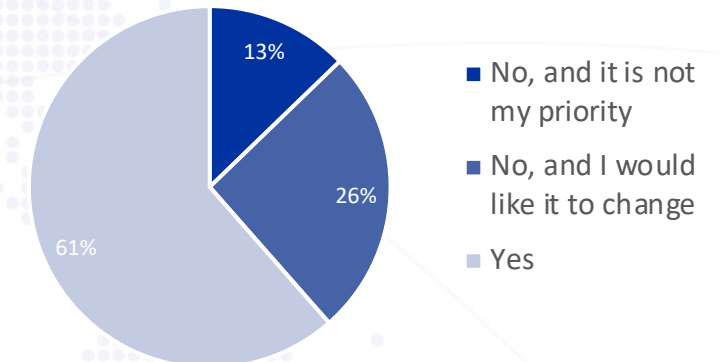
- Discrimination, unemployment +, salaries -, drudgery +.
- Climate adaptation = new opportunities for access to employment
 - Initiatives already supported by DAE but need to be generalised
- Pathways to employment
 - Integration projects: on-the-job training
 - Unaccompanied minors: Initial training for "green" jobs
- Learning French
- Collaboration between companies, associations and Pôle Emploi

EMPLOYMENT

4. Increase employment opportunities in the field of ecological transition, taking advantage of migrants' skills and ideas to innovate and respond to shortages

- Sources of innovation and creativity
 - Enhancing the value of manual work
 - Call for projects: highlight the skills of migrants + promote training
- Shortages of labour, including construction
 - Renovation advisers
 - Reuse
 - Construction techniques > warmer climates
 - Waterproofing and neighbourhood involvement
- Food and (peri-)urban farms
- The 5Rs of the circular economy > recycling, sewing, repairing...

DO YOU THINK YOUR JOB IS IN LINE WITH YOUR ENVIRONMENTAL CONVICTIONS?



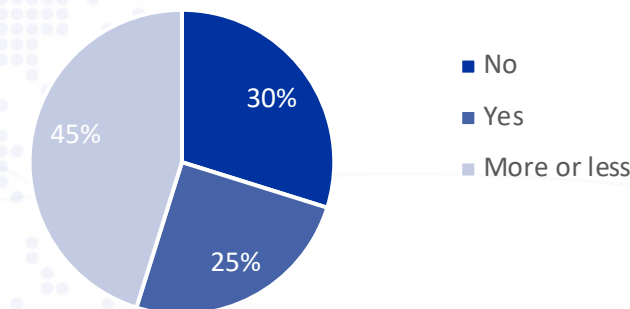
Best practices: La Cité Maraîchère de Romainville, IOM's MITSA project, Refugee Food/Refoodgee

EMPLOYMENT

5. Mobilise migrants' knowledge and skills as part of a solid disaster risk reduction plan, while taking account of their vulnerabilities

- An ageing population: more preparedness needed
- Focus on preventive measures to reduce exposure to risk
- Society as a whole needs to be mobilised
- Identification of the socio-economic and institutional obstacles that make it difficult for migrants to participate in the collective effort to reduce risks
- Inclusion in preparedness plans and emergency communication systems
- Integrating heritage: languages, knowledge and beliefs in terms of risk management

DO YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO
IN THE EVENT OF AN EXTREME WEATHER
EVENT?



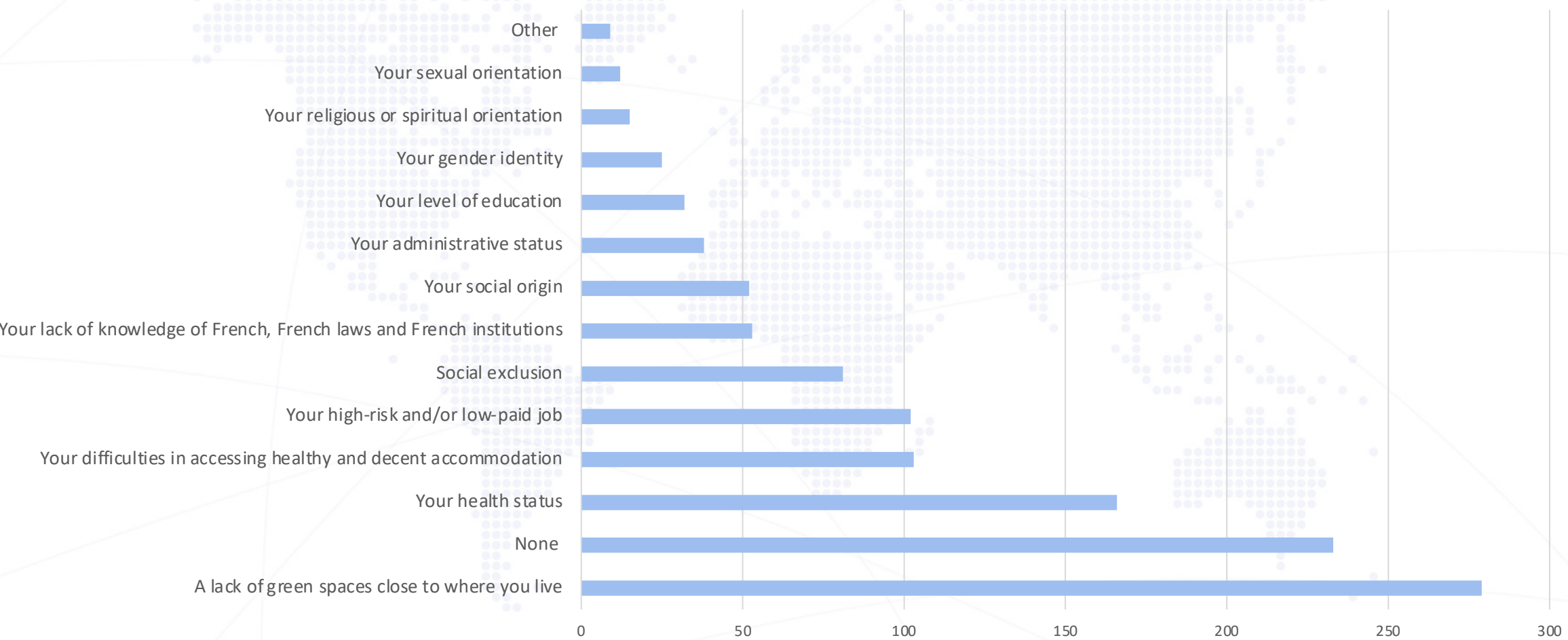
Good practice: employing asylum seekers and refugees as volunteers in the Brandenburg regional fire brigade (Germany)

HEALTHCARE

6. Ensure access to physical and mental health services for all migrants, regardless of their administrative status

- Impact of climate change on physical health: respiratory diseases > cold, osteoarticular and cardiovascular pathologies > hot, skin diseases > camps
- Mental health: PTSD, depressive symptoms > linked to migratory trajectory, uprooting and living conditions in Paris
- Holistic and preventive health approach
- Training professionals in specific vulnerabilities; combating discrimination and prejudice
- Guaranteeing anonymity
- Access to mental health care
- The problem of interpreting and cultural barriers
- Minorities: women, LGBTQIA+, etc.

Popular survey:
Do you think that one or more of the elements below increase your vulnerability to climatic events?



HEALTHCARE

7. Guarantee access to water for all as a tool for health and adaptation to heat waves, by ensuring that migrants are included in the decision-making process when initiatives are put in place

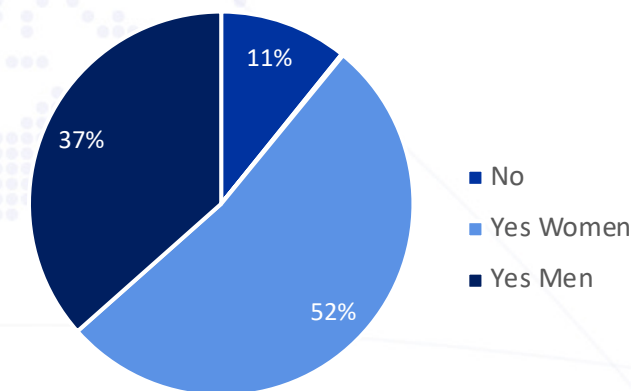
- Climate change → river flows → inflows to urban storage reservoirs → vulnerability of urban water services to hydrometeorological extremes
 - 92% of respondents said they had already been affected by a climatic event, and 85% had already been affected by a heat wave. Likely to cause internal and external flows
 - Access to water, hygiene and sanitation services for the most vulnerable - particularly women - is compromised
- Improved communication around rest rooms
 - Increasing the number of street water points > accommodation and living conditions are prerequisites
 - Installation of showers, toilets and water points in and around the camps
 - Continuing to diversify sources of supply > shelter areas
 - Cooling the city and urban heat islands: vegetation, green spaces, fountains, irrigation, etc.

HEALTHCARE

8. Develop training for healthcare professionals to include knowledge and practices that can cope with the health consequences of climate change

- 21% of the population of Greater Paris will be over 65 in 2050
 - 25% of respondents believe that their state of health increases their vulnerability to climatic events: the most vulnerable people / precarious living conditions will be the most affected.
 - Another angle: people born outside the EU are a growing source of professional staff in the medical, medico-social and social work sectors.
- Information is a public health issue and a tool for integration > Limited knowledge about climate migration
 - Awareness of the health consequences of disasters, e.g. COVID-19
 - Detecting people whose health is vulnerable to climatic hazards
 - Mental health: anxiety > holistic approach
 - Special attention to elderly migrants → integration practices (isolation) and care

Are you worried about climate change ?



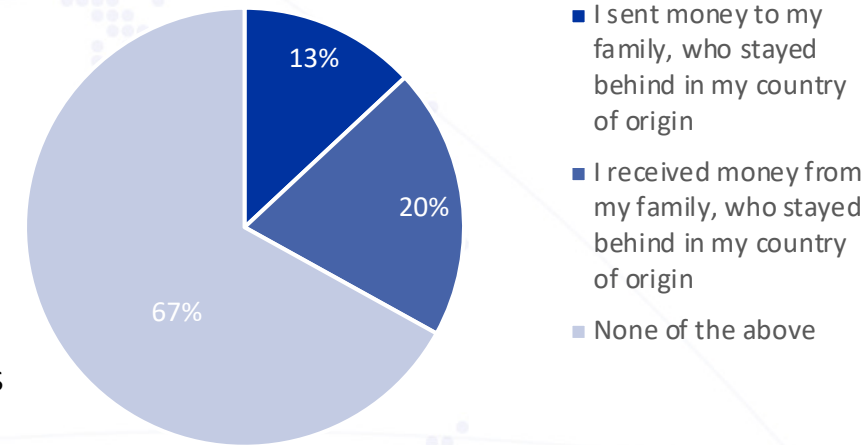
Best practices: WHO Academy, The Lancet Countdown on Health and Climate Change

PARTICIPATION & INCLUSION

9. A better understanding of the role of diasporas in the process of integrating migrants and transferring knowledge and technology

- Great diversity of diasporas in Paris
- Key role in migration trajectory and integration capacity
- In 2021, France = 8th largest remittance-sending country → 16 bn/year
- 1/3 of respondents were not born in France, but sent/received money from their family

- Collaboration with these diasporas to enable consultation and raise awareness
- Platform bringing together diasporas based in Paris
- Remittances > Invest in development or risk reduction programmes
 - Reduce transaction costs
 - Remove barriers to the use of digital transfers, through cooperation programmes
 - Economic incentives: tax exemption, attractive investment conditions
- Cooperation programmes with key cities of origin



PARTICIPATION & INCLUSION

10. Encourage the active participation of migrants in defining and implementing climate adaptation policies

- Promote a system of direct and transparent democracy
- Failure to represent diversity of opinion, gender and origin = risk of 'maladaptation'
- Inclusive thematic policy planning process
- Increasing the participation of all in the "Deciding for Paris" budget
- Setting up programmes to promote access to political leadership positions
- Civic, social and economic rights → Foreign Residents Council
- Broaden the scope of the Paris Citizen Card > official document



Best practices: 'Montréal Inclusive'; Bristol's 'Stepping up' programme; New York's IDNYC municipal identity card

PARTICIPATION & INCLUSION

11. Promote art, culture and education as tools for integration, advocacy, resilience and the dissemination of knowledge relating to climate and climate migration

- Art and culture = tools for projection, stabilisation, socialisation for migrants and resilience in the face of the impacts of climate change
- Paris = a unique place to use these tools
- 82% believe that climate change is one of the most important challenges facing Paris, but 20% of survey respondents did not know how to answer questions on this subject
- Promoting integration through culture and the arts through increased support for associations
- Using the Climate Academy as a platform for disseminating knowledge and educating people about the issues at stake
- Collaborating with artists and collectives, as well as other cities, for the purposes of popularisation and advocacy
- Recognising the creativity that stems from art as a source of innovation for adapting to the impacts of CC

ADVOCACY & DIPLOMACY

12. Continue the networking of the City of Paris with other local authorities, in order to bring the voice of local governments to advocacy actions for the reception of migrants and refugees, and climate diplomacy

- The City of Paris is already a member of many local authorities and participates in local and global processes.
- The role of cities in international climate governance is growing
- Promote the creation of a local authority → Advocate for the recognition of climate migration issues
- Call on the national government to incorporate the climate-migration nexus into existing national strategies, and call for cities to be consulted in this process.
- Call on the national government to join and actively implement existing global treaties
- Call for the need to put in place robust frameworks that are informed by local perspectives
- Lobby government and European bodies (CoR) to facilitate the admission and stay of people displaced across borders in the context of disasters (Nansen Agenda)

Conclusion

- These recommendations are food for thought, directions to explore > projections will vary
- Integration context: importance of a transdisciplinary approach
- Consideration of incoming, internal and outgoing movements (urban exodus)
- Accommodation and employment are the priority issues, which increase exposure to risks and from which other obstacles to integration arise.
- Principle of climate justice = the most vulnerable are the most affected
 - The fight against discrimination = a priority, because discrimination continues unabated
 - Women are more affected by the consequences of climate change than other respondents
 - Policies by age group → vulnerability varies
- Increase data production and analysis + harmonisation at European level (other major cities)
- Exchanges of best practices: potential of implementing a sister cities program

The pilot project was managed by the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), in partnership with the Hugo Observatory of the University of Liège, and developed in collaboration with the City of Paris.

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