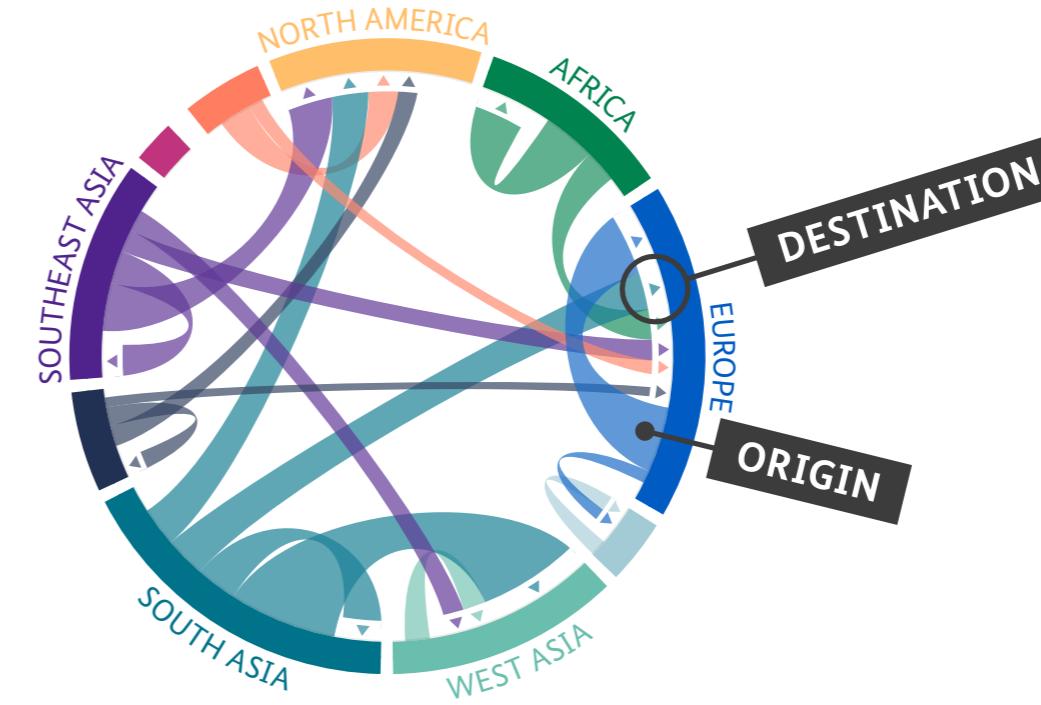


# Global Migration Flows 2015–2020



## How to read the plot

The outer circle segments represent origins and destinations of migration flows. Every country is assigned a unique colour. Migration flows are shown as links between origins and destinations, lightly coloured the same as the origin country. The width of a flow reflects the number of people moving.

The direction of a flow is indicated by its connection to the circle: → no gap between flow and circle segment indicates the migrant origin.

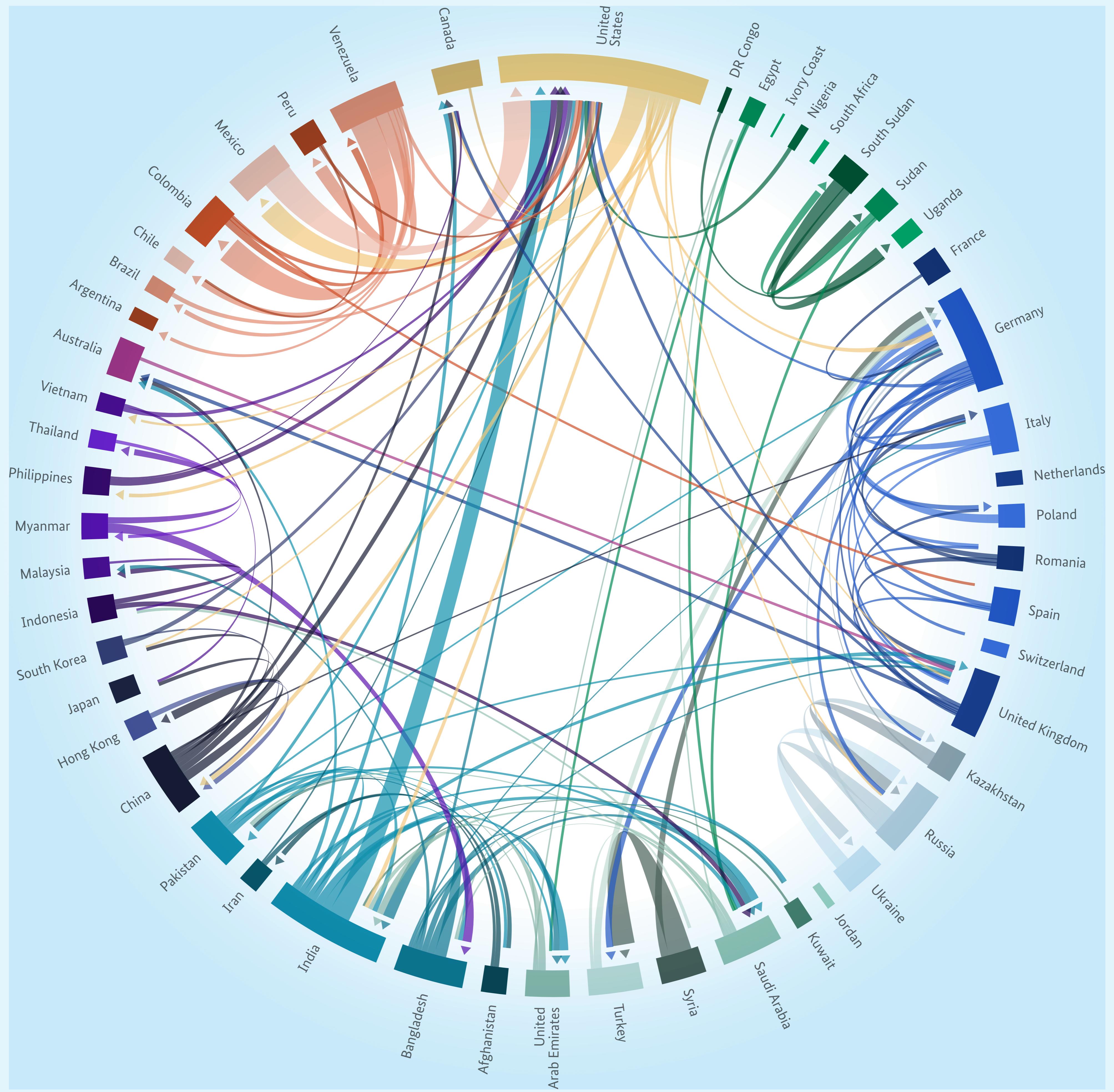
You can find an interactive visualisation of global migration flows here:  
[www.bib.bund.de/globalflows](http://www.bib.bund.de/globalflows)  
or scan this QR code.

## Who moves where?

Estimated migration flows between the 50 countries with the highest migration volume worldwide.

### Global Migration Flows 2015–2020

This poster shows international migration flows between the top-50 sending and receiving countries in the period 2015 to 2020. These flows represent about 75% of all human movement in the 5-year period.



### What the plot shows

This circular plot shows international migration flows between 2015 and 2020 – in one single graphic.

Specifically, it shows estimated flows between the top-50 sending and receiving countries worldwide. Only flows of more than 100,000 people are shown. Flows to other countries that are not part of the top-50 are not shown.

What spatial patterns do we see?

The plot tells 3 important stories:

1. The largest migration flows occur *within* world regions instead of *between* them.
2. The flows that cross the centre of the circle occur over larger distances and are relatively small in volume. The flow from India to the US is a notable exception to this trend.
3. The US have by far the largest migration volume, with a diverse set of origins and destinations, followed by India and Germany as important sending and receiving countries.

### How to read the plot

The outer segments of the circle are migrants' countries of origin and destination. Countries are clustered within world regions and share a similar colour (e.g. shades of blue for Europe). Flows have the same colour as the origin region.

The direction of a flow is also indicated by a small arrow. The wider a line in the plot, the larger the migration flow it represents.

The wider a country's segment, the larger its total migration volume. This also includes migration flows which are not shown. E.g., South Africa has a segment part to which no flows are attached, indicating smaller flows to/from countries not depicted here.

More details on the Circular Migration Plot can be found here: [www.bib.bund.de/globalflows](http://www.bib.bund.de/globalflows)

### Where do the migration data come from?

Given the lack of a globally comparable data set of migration flows, we use scientific estimates of international migration flows based on migrant stock data. The estimated numbers shown here are for the five-year period 2015–2020.

More details on the scientific estimation can be found here: Azose & Raftery, 2019: <https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.1722334116>. The data used originate from this data set (Abel, 2019): <https://doi.org/10.6084/m9.figshare.c.4470464> (Version 9)