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EUPHA – 2021 - Preconference

Beyond the COVID-19 Syndemic: Lessons Learned for Migrant and Ethnic Minority Health

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WHO Technical Guidance: Collection and Integration of Data on Refugee and Migrant Health in the WHO European Region

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The Current Status Quo

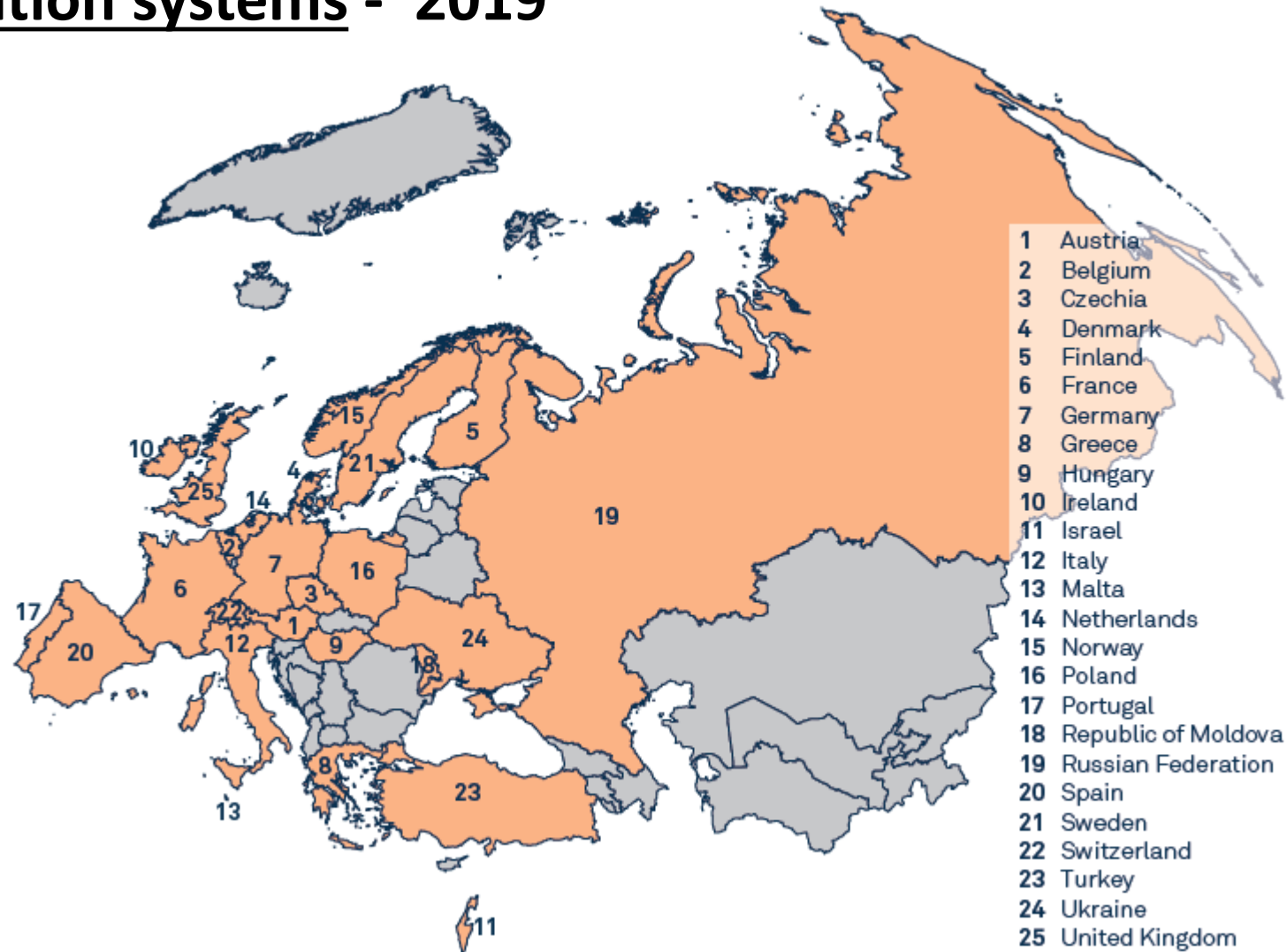
- Varying definitions – not comparable
- **Health data available** but cannot be disaggregated by migratory status
- **Migratory status data exists**, but not connected to health data
- Stand alone data collection systems
- Data not representative of migrant population (hard to reach)
- Data protection and sharing concerns





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Member States of the WHO European Region with available refugee and migrant health data as part of national health information systems - 2019





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Objectives

”To provide practical guidance for integrating migration health data into national health information systems (HIMS) and promote harmonization of data reporting across MS in the WHO European region.”

Aim

To improve collection and availability of refugee and migrant health data





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Methodology

Please see the technical guidance:

<https://www.euro.who.int/en/health-topics/health-determinants/migration-and-health/publications/2020/collection-and-integration-of-data-on-refugee-and-migrant-health-in-the-who-european-region-2020>

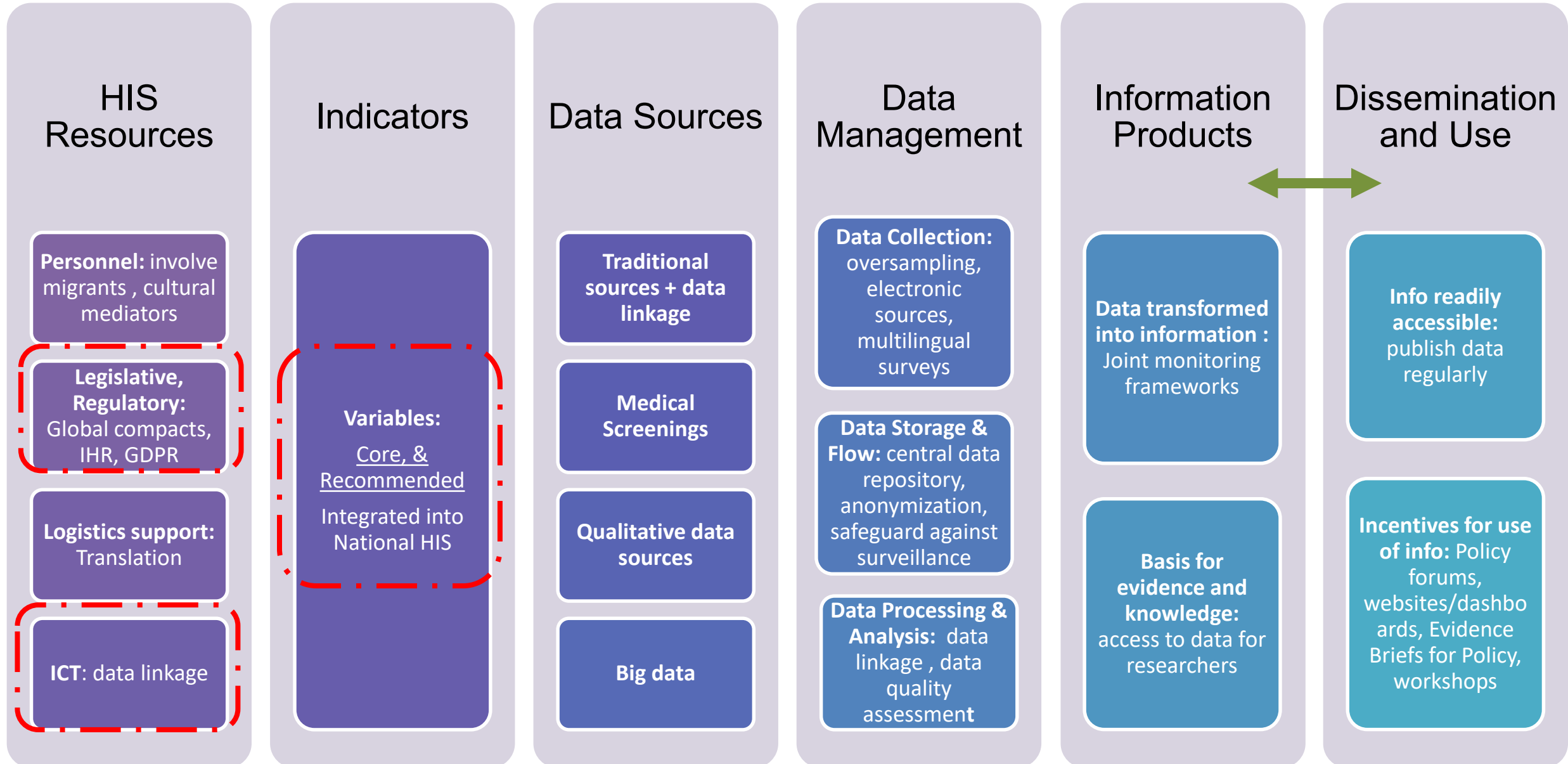


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Why integration into national HIMS?

- Sustainability
- Part of routine health systems and HIMS strengthening process
- Comparability
- Increased availability of refugee and migrant health data
- A systematic approach for migration health data collection
- Cases where a separate HIS could be necessary:
 - Ports of entry
 - Major transit hubs
 - When national systems are unable to adapt/support

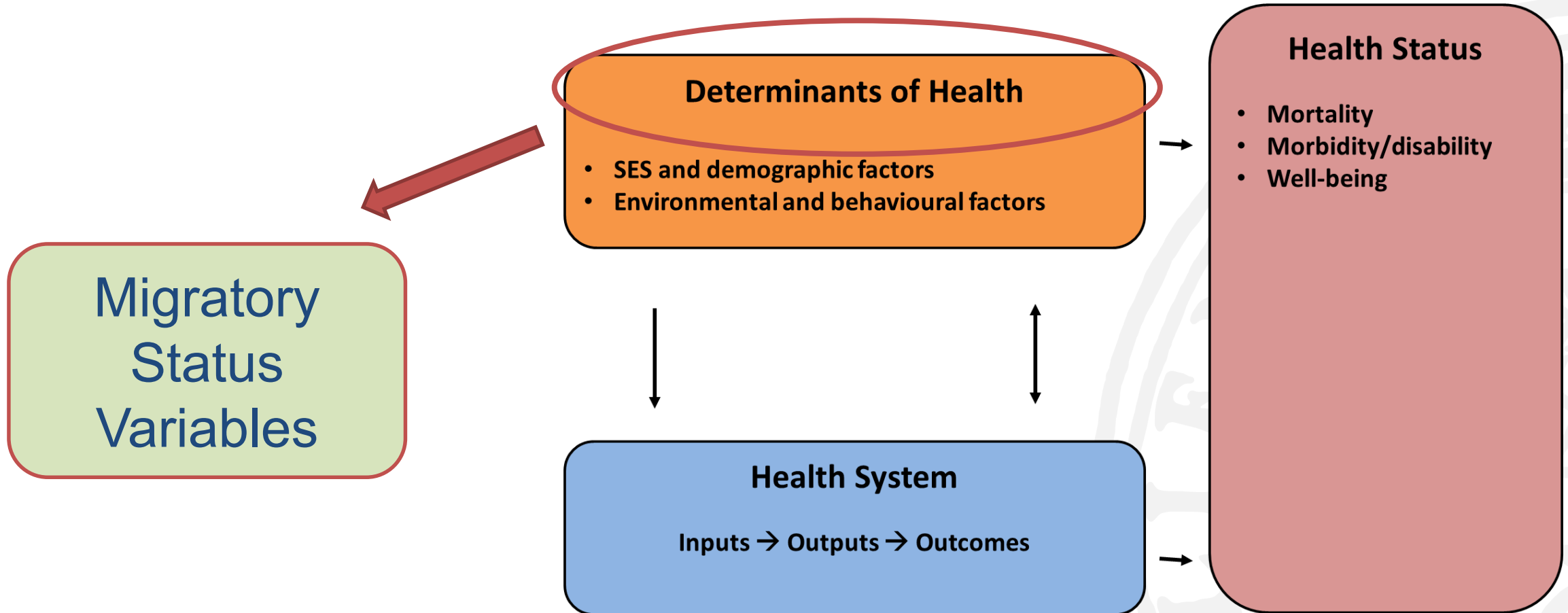
Six Components of HIS





Variables

For migration health data



Domains of measurement for health information systems
(HMN 2nd Edition, 2012)



Integration of variables into national HIS

For migration health data

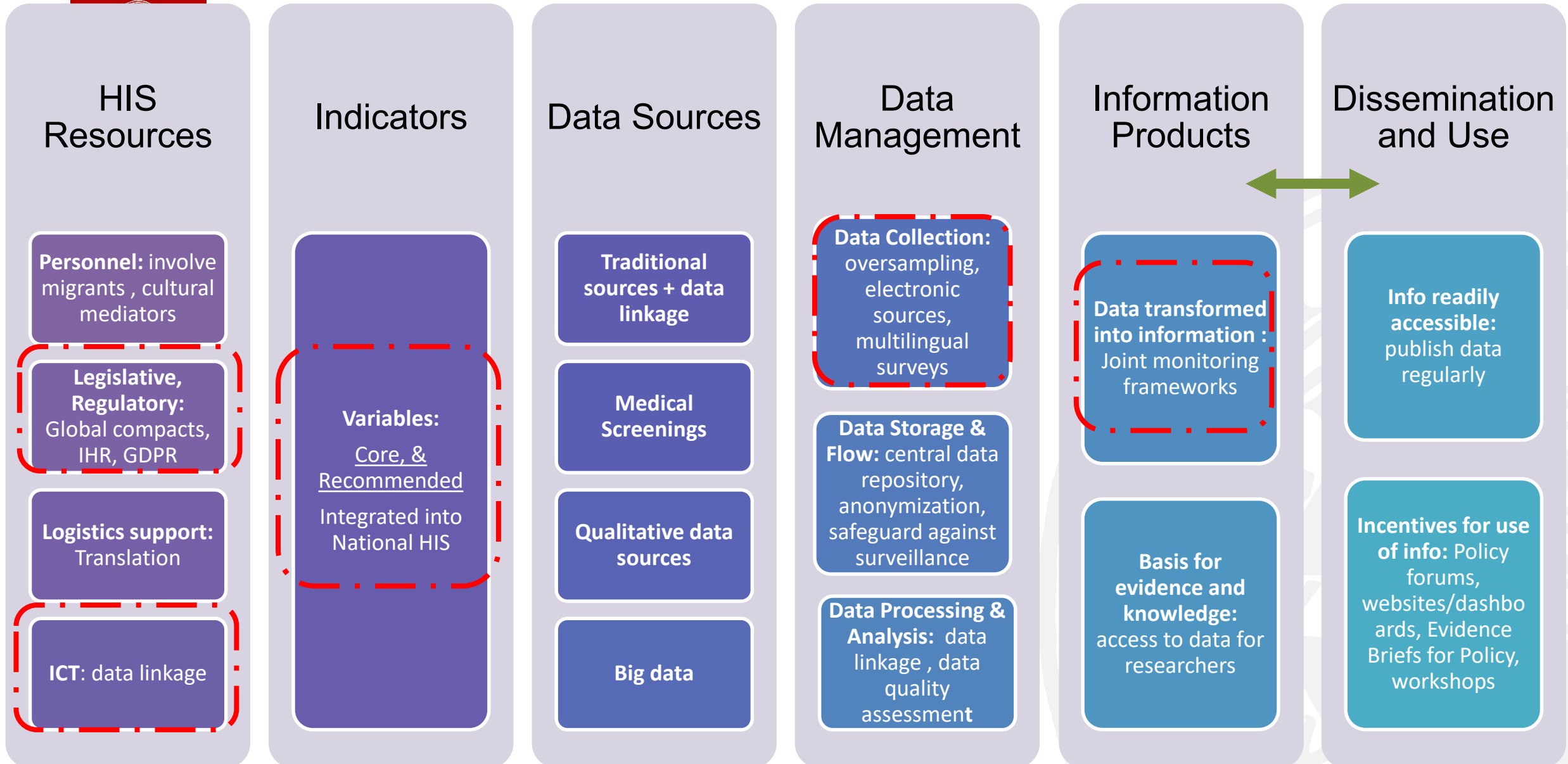
CORE VARIABLES (4)

- Country of Birth (COB)
- Country of Citizenship
- Year & Month of Arrival
- COB of Both Parents

RECOMMENDED VARIABLES (4)

- Reasons for Migration
- Ever Resided Abroad
- Knowledge of the official language(s) of the host country
- Legal Status

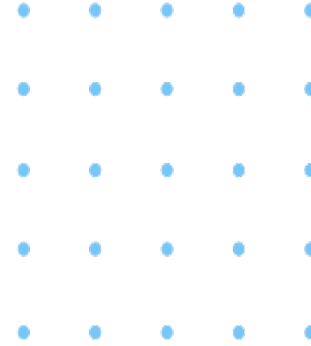
Six Components of HIS





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Policy Considerations





National Level: for migration health data

Create inventory of current data sources within the national HIS

Organize a Multi-stakeholder national working group

Develop a strategy for collection/integration of migration health data within national HIS

Integrate 'core variables' into **routine** data collection systems

Modify/clarify regulations to allow for collection and sharing of relevant data

Introduce measures to prevent unauthorized **access/use** of the data

Provide training for data collectors

Establish electronic data collection systems as best practice

Consider innovative sampling strategies

Use multilingual survey instruments, interpreters and cultural mediators

Use data linkage techniques

Collect qualitative migration health data as well

Make available **anonymized** data in an easily accessible and usable format

Analyze & publish available data at regular frequencies & facilitate public access

Regional Level: for migration health data

Organizations should develop guidelines and resolutions to call upon MS to collect migration health data

International and intergovernmental organizations should act as liaising agents

Integrate core migration health variables into already existing reporting frameworks

A supra national body could initiate the creation of a regional dataset for migration health

Organizations should facilitate the processes necessary to develop consensus on the definition of 'migrant'



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Thank you!

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