I would like to thank José R. Castelazo, president of the Board of INAP, and Héctor Zamitiz Gamboa, Head of this Journal, for their kind invitation to coordinate this journal’s issue; I am also grateful for the readers’ interest on an understudied topic in Mexico and other countries: migration public policies and the government’s and civil society’s efforts to achieve an effective governance.

This issue deals with Migration Public Policies and Civil Society in Latin America: The cases of Argentina, Brazil, Colombia and Mexico, as well as other contributions that broaden the analysis on migration policy management.

The Public Administration Journal also includes in the issue, an updated diagnosis on the migration situation of four countries in Latin America, highlighting main migration flows, legal framework, public policies and migration programs and civil society’s participation. Its goal is to perceive the degree of migration governance in these countries and influence the design, implementation and monitoring of public policies related to migration management.

The topic is important for several countries, including Latin American ones. Since the 1970’s migration processes have been more complex due to new forms of production, impacts of globalization, variations in economic cycles and demographic explosion.

Migration, in all of its forms, has become one of the most relevant topics in national and international agendas. It is estimated that 3% of

1 Leonir M. Chiarello (Coord.), (2011) New York: SIMN.
the world’s population does not live in their places of origin, it tends to live in production centers and this will keep on growing; this is why it has to be addressed at national, regional and international levels.

In the last couple of years, there has been an increased interest of numerous countries –not only the ones of origin, but also the ones considered as destination ones- to develop better international agreements on management of migration flows; a topic that affects them differently and especially migrants.

Migration touches sensible issues such as the population’s identity and nationalism, especially in countries of destiny. The most developed regions require additional workforce; however, they do not want it to be permanent and is highly stigmatized in times of high unemployment.

Immigration, emigration and trans-migration have become more limited in the last decade by migration control policies, which are associated with national security instead of public security. For several reasons, multiple impacts of migration in origin, transit and destiny countries and the lack of respect for human rights of many migrants worldwide, not just illegal ones makes it essential to address and regulate more efficiently migration public policies.

Management of migration flows, in this complex context makes it necessary to have explicit and inclusive public policies, based on recognition and protection of human rights of migrants and their families. On the other hand, an adequate management of migration flows requires the co-responsibility among countries of origin, transit and destiny; and at the same time, cooperation between government organisms and civil society organizations in the definition and implementation of policies and programs to ensure an efficient and legitimate governance of migrations.

One of the essential elements to define and implement public policies on migration is the diagnosis of elements connected to migration processes. Ignoring certain elements that are a part of migration processes and different understanding of the same processes affect inadequate or inefficient public policies to integrate migrant populations.

The essays included here are part of a research project promoted by the Scalabrini International Migration Network (SIMN), based on their vast intervention experience in the American Continent addressing migrants, refuges, displaces and trans-migrants, understood there
was a need to make a clear diagnosis of public policies and actions of civil society to promote the integration of migrants into society. To address this challenge in 2010 SIMN started an exhaustive continental research titled: “Exploratory Study on International Migration in the Western Hemisphere” (Mirkin, 2010 NY: SIMN), which presents a diagnosis of main migration trends and the answers given by States and civil society to migration movements in the American continent. In 2011, SIMN promoted a thorough investigation on migration public policies and the participation of civil society in the definition, implementation and monitoring of these policies in the four biggest countries in Latin America: Argentina, Brazil, Colombia and Mexico.

In 2012, Public Policies and Civil Society will be studied in Peru, Bolivia, Chile and Paraguay; thanks to this we will know how migration dynamics currently work, local, national and regional areas, legal frameworks and migration public policies will be studied. The participation of civil society in eight countries of Latin America with a strong migration tradition will be studied, similarities will be highlighted, differences in their geopolitical position and historical specificity of each country of the Latin American region.

SIMN is a non-profit organization created in 2006 to promote the dignity and rights of migrants, refugees, seamen, nomads and every person that moves internationally. It belongs to a Catholic organization, the Congregation of the Missionaries of St. Charles, created in 1887 by the blessed Juan Bautista Scalabrini (1839-1905), Bishop of Piacenza, Italy; he lived the exodus of Italian migrants to America which often lived in conditions of semi-slavery and promoted the creation of legislative and institutional instruments to legally and humanly protect migrants against all forms of exploitation.

The Scalabrini Network carries out its mission through centers for migrants and refugees, migrant homes, nursing homes, orphanages, clinics, kindergartens, schools, vocational centers, missions, cultural centers, and centers for seamen and parishes. All of the above address five important areas: migration and development; migration and integration; migration and human rights and democratic citizen participation, migration and peaceful coexistence.

Besides taking care of migrants and their communities, SIMN promotes interdisciplinary studies on migration supported by the Federation and the Center for Immigration Studies based in New York, Paris, Rome, Basel; and São Paulo and Buenos Aires in the American con-
tinent. Each one of these centers has a specialized research journal on international migration and the main actions promoted by political and social actors regarding migration governance. The *International Migration Review* (IMR) of the *Center for Migration Studies* (CMS) of New York; *Latin American Migration Studies* of the *Center for Latin American Migration Studies* (CEMLA) and *Travessia* of the *Center for Migration Studies* in São Paulo; those are the three main academic journals that deal with migration topics and edited by Scalabrini Migration Centers in the American Continent. The latter has been an active participant in international forums and groups on migrations of the UN; in 2013 the Second High Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development will take place.

The specific research *Migration Public Policies and Civil Society in Latin America: The cases of Argentina, Brazil, Colombia and Mexico* was developed for these four specific cases and divided into four parts: general analysis of migration dynamics, migration public policies, civil society’s participation on migration programs and policies and recommendations.

It is important to note that the main goals of this study is to influence the formulation of public policies regarding migration, some advances have been made.

The results of this investigation has been well received in Mexico, the Center for Migration Studies of the National Migration Institute (SEGOB); calling for a more humanitarian policy and less centered in migration security, it is no longer a faceless phenomenon, it does have one. The results of these investigations are also considered important because the Regulation of the Migration Law is being discussed.

In Colombia, this research contributed to the reflection on the process of implementation of the Immigration Department, with the participation of the Ministry of Labour and Foreign Affairs in April 2012 which replaced the Administrative Security Department (DAS), which emulated the *Department of Homeland Security* (DHS) in the US. New Colombian immigration institutions were present in the presentation of the initial publication in the Javeriana University in Bogota on May 8\(^{th}\), recognizing the importance of research in the promotion of ethical governance in migrations.

The presentation of the publication in Argentina, on April 11\(^{th}\) 2012, in the Center for Latin American Migration Studies (CEMLA) recog-
nized the important role civil society has played in the construction of migration policies, in the definition and implementation process of policies and monitoring them.

The results of the investigation were presented on April 27th during a session held by the National Immigration Council (CNIg) of Brazil, in Brasilia by the President of this same Council.

In short, we can say that research offers an updated diagnosis of the main trends of migration flows and initiatives put forward by political and social actors that work with immigrants, emigrants, transmigrants, refugees and displaced in Argentina, Brazil, Colombia and Mexico; allowing decision makers have new elements to define and implement public policies and programs on migration according to current international challenges.