

# Guide on the Compilation of Statistics on

# International Migration in the Euro-Mediterranean Region



**This publication has been drafted in the framework of *MEDSTAT II*, the Euro-Mediterranean regional statistical co-operation programme funded by the EU.**

## The *MEDSTAT* programme

The European Union's policy toward the Mediterranean region is shaped by the Euro-Mediterranean partnership (or Barcelona Process) established as a result of the Barcelona Conference held in 1995.

In the area of statistics, EU Member States and Mediterranean partners have intensified their relations since 1996 through the *MEDSTAT* regional statistical co-operation programme, financed under the MEDA regulation.

With a budget of EUR 20 million, *MEDSTAT I* was implemented from 1996 to 2003. *MEDSTAT II* was launched in 2006 for a 45-month period with a budget of EUR 30 million.

*MEDSTAT* aims to respond to the needs of the association agreements, particularly in relation to free trade, sustainable development and social development. It contributes to the supply of statistical information that is useful in monitoring the progress of Euro-Mediterranean co-operation. Its objective is to harmonise statistical methods in line with European and international norms and standards and to improve the coherence of data in the Mediterranean partner countries as well as their comparability with the statistical data of the EU and EFTA countries.

*MEDSTAT* also aims to improve the quality of services provided to users by the national statistics institutes and the other partner bodies involved in the production of statistics. The provision of up-to-date, reliable and relevant high-quality statistical data is vital for political decision making and to ensure good governance.

From December 1996 until March 2003, *MEDSTAT I* covered several statistical sectors. Among them, the environment was the subject of a second project, *MEDSTAT-Env II*, which was implemented between 2003 and 2006.

From January 2006 to November 2009, *MEDSTAT II* has been working on extending the qualitative work already done by organising training and by contributing technical resources to the information systems of national institutes and other statistics producers in the Mediterranean countries. Special attention is paid to the coherence of data, to their harmonisation and dissemination in nine statistical sectors: trade in goods and services, transport, migration, tourism, the environment, national accounts, social statistics, energy and agriculture.

The programme currently involves 10 partners: Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, the occupied Palestinian territory, Syria, Tunisia, and Turkey.

**This publication can be consulted in English and French at the following website address:**  
**<http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/medstat>**

**For further information, please contact: EUROPEAID-INFO-MEDSTAT2@ec.europa.eu**

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# Guide on the Compilation of Statistics on International Migration in the Euro-Mediterranean Region

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## Acronyms and abbreviations

ACMACO	Association Club Mohamed Ali of Labour Culture (Tunisia) [Association Club Mohamed Ali de la Culture Ouvrière]
ADETEF	Association for the Development of Exchanges of Economic and Financial Technologies (France) [Assistance pour le Développement des Échanges en Technologies Économiques et Financières]
AFVIC	Association of Friends and Families of Victims of Clandestine Immigration (Morocco) [Association des Amis et Familles des Victimes de l'Immigration Clandestine]
AGDREF	Electronic Management of Permis of Foreign Citizens Residing in France [Gestion informatisée des dossiers de ressortissants étrangers en France]
AIDELF	International Association of Frenchspeaking Demographers [Association Internationale des Démographes de Langue Française]
AIRE	Register of Italians residing abroad [Anagrafe degli Italiani Residenti all'Estero]
AMERM	Moroccan Research Association on International Migration [Association Marocaine de Recherche sur la Migration Internationale]
CAPMAS	Central Agency for Public Mobilisation and Statistics (Egypt)
CARDS	Community Assistance for Reconstruction, Development and Stabilisation (programme)
CARIM	Consortium for Applied Research on International Migration (EUI)
CAS	Central Administration for Statistics (Lebanon)
CBS	Central Bureau of Statistics
CBSS	Crossroads Bank for Social Security (Belgium)
CECLR	Center for Equality of Chances and Fights against Racism (Belgium) [Centre pour l'Égalité des Chances et la Lutte contre le Racisme]
CEFMR	Central European Forum for Migration Research
CES	Conference of European Statisticians
CGD	Center for Global Development
CIRCA	Communication & Information Resource Centre Administrator (EC portal)
CISP	International Committee for Population Development (Italy) [Comitato Internazionale per lo Sviluppo dei Popoli (Italy)]
CMR	Centre of Migration Research, Warsaw University (Poland)
CNR-IRPPS	National Research Council - Institute for Research on Population and Social Policies (Italy) [Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche - Istituto di Ricerca sulla Popolazione e sulle Politiche Sociali]
COMPSTAT	Comparing National Data Sources in the Field of Migration and Integration (project)
CPR	Central Population Register
CREAD	Center for Research on Economy Applied to Development (Algeria) [Centre de Recherche en Economie Appliquée au Développement]
CSO	Central Statistical Office
CST	Center Sampling Technique
DGSN	General Direction of National Security (Morocco) [Direction Générale de la Sécurité Nationale]
DHS	Demographic and Health Survey
DIOC	Database on Immigrants in OECD countries
EAPS	European Association for Population Studies
EC	European Commission
EIF	European Institute for Research on Integration (Austria) [Instituts für europäische Integrationsforschung]
ELIAMEP	Hellenic Foundation of European and Foreign Policy (Greece)
EMN	European Migration Network

ENP	European Neighbourhood Partnership
ETF	European Training Foundation
EU	European Union
EUI/RSCAS	European University of Florence, Robert Schuman Center for Advanced Studies
Eurostat	Statistical Office of the European Commission
FYROM	the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
GDGS	General Direction of General Security (Lebanon)
GFMD	Global Forum on Migration and Development
HCP/CERED	High Planning Commission, Center for Demographic Studies and Research (Morocco) [Haut Commissariat au Plan, Centre d'Etudes et Recherches Démographiques]
HCP/DS	High Planning Commission, Direction of Statistics (Morocco) [Haut Commissariat au Plan, Direction de la Statistique]
IAOS	International Association of Official Statistics
ICMPD	International Center for Migration Policy Development
IDEA	Mediterranean and Eastern European Countries as new Immigration Destinations in the European Union (project)
IECM	Integrated European Census Microdata (project)
IHSN	International Household Survey Network (project)
ILMAS	Implementation of the Legislation on Migration and Asylum Statistics (project)
ILO	International Labour Organization
IMES	Institute for Migration and Ethnic Studies, University of Amsterdam (Netherlands)
IMIS	Integrated Migration Information System (project)
IMISCOE	International Migration, Integration and Social Cohesion
INED	National Institute for Demographic Studies (France) [Institut National d'Etudes Démographiques]
INSEA	National Institute of Statistics and Applied Economy (Morocco) [Institut National de Statistique et d'Economie Appliquée]
INSEE	National Institute of Statistics and Economic Studies (France) [Institut National de la Statistique et des Études Économiques]
IOM	International Organisation for Migration
IPS	International Passenger Survey
IPUMS	Integrated Public Use Microdata Series - International (project)
IRD	Institut de Recherche pour le Développement]
ISTAT	National Institute of Statistics (Italy) [Istituto Nazionale di Statistica]
IUSSP	International Union for Scientific Study of Population
JHA	Justice and Home Affairs (EC General Direction, currently JLS)
JLS	Justice, Freedom and Security (EC General Direction, formerly JHA, acronym from the French label)
LFS	Labour Force Survey
LSMS	Living Standards Measurement Survey
MAFE	Migration between Africa and Europe (project)
MEDSTAT	Euro-Statistical Cooperation (programme)
MENA	Middle-East and North Africa
MICS	Multiple Indicator Clusters Survey
MiNS	Migration in National Surveys (project)
MIMOSA	Modelling of statistical data on migration and migrant populations (project)
MIREM	Return migration in the Maghreb (project) [Migration de Retour au Maghreb]
MPC	Mediterranean Partner Countries
NATAC	The Acquisition of Nationality in EU Member States: Rules, Practices and Quantitative Developments (project)

NIDI	Netherlands Interdisciplinary Demographic Institute
NSI	National Statistical Institute
NSSG	National Statistical Service of Greece
OECD	Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
OFPRA	French Office for the Protection of Refugees and Stateless [Office Français de Protection des Réfugiés et Apatrides]
ONS	Office for National Statistics (United Kingdom)
ONS	National Office of Statistics (Algeria) [Office Nationales des Statistiques]
oPt	occupied Palestinian territory
OTE	Office of Tunisians abroad [Office des Tunisiens à l'Etranger]
PCBS	Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics
PROMINSTAT	Promoting Comparative Quantitative Research in the Field of Migration and Integration in Europe (project)
RAM	Network Africa Migration [Réseau Afrique Migration]
ROUTE	European comparative research on ulterior trajectories and tendencies among ex-appliers of a regularisation request (project)
SARP	Algerian Society of Research on Psychology [Société Algérienne de Recherche en Psychologie]
SIE	DG Statistique et Information Economique (Statistics Belgium)
SOPEMI	Permanent Observation System on International Migration [Système d'Observation Permanente sur la Migration Internationale]
STATEC	Central Service for Statistics and Economic Studies (Luxembourg) [Service Central de la Statistique et des Etudes Economiques ]
THESIM	Towards Harmonised European Statistics on International Migration (project)
UCL-GéDAP	Catholic University of Leuven, Study Group Applied Demography (Belgium) [Université catholique de Louvain, Groupe d'études de Démographie Appliquée]
UK	United Kingdom
UN	United Nations
UNDESA	United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
UNECA	United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
UNECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
UNESCWA	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
UNGMD	United Nations Global Migration Database
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNSD	United Nations Statistics Division
WFS	World Fertility Survey

## Introduction

The policy of the European Union (EU) towards the Mediterranean region is largely shaped by the Euro-Mediterranean partnership (the Barcelona Process) established as a result of the Barcelona Conference held in 1995. In the statistical domain the EU Member States and Mediterranean Partner Countries (MPCs) have intensified their relations since 1996. Financed under the MEDA instrument, these relations are promoted through the regional statistical co-operation programme MEDSTAT.

In the first MEDSTAT Programme (MEDSTAT I, 1996-2003), the Migration Sector focused on the assessment of the legal framework, existing data sources, users' needs, the development of relations among the national agencies, the enhancement of administrative systems and migration modules in surveys and censuses, and some data collection tests. In the current MEDSTAT Programme (MEDSTAT II, 2006-2009), the emphasis is placed on strengthening the production, exchange, comparability, dissemination and the final use of statistics, as well as the ownership and sustainability of activities. However, the activities for Migration Sector mostly aim to strengthen the capabilities of MPCs to produce, in the long term, statistics on flows and stocks of international migration using administrative data and statistical operations.

This Guide has been prepared as an output two regional events organised for the Migration Sector during 2008: the training held in Lisbon (12-15 February 2008) and the workshop held in Wiesbaden (10-13 March 2008). The document was discussed with representatives from Eurostat and other international organisations, as well as experts working in the EU Member States and the MPCs.

The Guide provides a summary of the concepts and frameworks underlying the measurement of international migration, mostly stocks and flows, and the various administrative and statistical sources available to provide or contribute to the estimates of international migration. A number of handbooks, manuals, and recommendations already exist and provide comprehensive accounts of the concepts, definitions, data collection systems and sources. Some of these are referred to in the text and links below.

The objective of the present Guide is to make the above-mentioned documents particularly relevant to the MPCs in the MEDSTAT II Programme and possibly other countries in the EU, Western Balkans, and the European Neighbourhood Partnership (ENP) countries. The Guide compiles the information on international requirements and sources in one publication and informs readers where to find more details. References and links included at the end of each chapter or section, possibly in English and French, also refer to manuals and other documents published under MEDSTAT (I and II), as well as activities, projects, and pilot works on the topic that have been or are being carried out in the MPCs and other countries.

Documentation from all MEDSTAT II events, as well as many documents referred to here, may be found on Eurostat's CIRCA website, under the MEDSTAT II Temporary File Repository (<http://forum.europa.eu.int/Public/irc/dsis/Home/main>, userid: medstat2, password: circa007). The final reports of the two regional events mentioned above are especially recommended.

The following short forms are applied for some of documents reported under 'Further reading and links':

- [1] available at CIRCA (MEDSTAT II Temporary File Repository specified above)
- [2] available at Eurostat website (<http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/>)
- [3] available at website of last Joint UNECE / Eurostat Work Session on Migration Statistics held in Geneva in March 2008 (<http://www.unece.org/stats/documents/2008.03.migration.htm>)

## A. Concepts

### A.1. Concepts of flows and stocks of international migration

The search for a meaningful yet practical and pragmatic approach to defining and measuring the international migration dates back to the 1922 International Labour Conference that noted the lack of uniformity among the ILO countries. The first set of United Nations (UN) Recommendations produced in 1953 focused on permanent immigrants and emigrants with long-term being defined as the intention to remain in the country of origin or destination for a period exceeding one year. The concept of usual residence was introduced but it was not defined. The 1976 UN Recommendations attempted to deal with this issue but introduced a rather convoluted definition, involving being continuously present or absent from a country for more than a year. The latest UN Recommendations produced in 1998, define an international migrant simply as "any person who changes his or her country of usual residence". It was recognised that national definitions would reflect national needs, whether for monitoring regulations and laws or for demographic and statistical purposes and that the international recommendations, therefore, would need to be complementary.

A change of country of usual residence involves three concepts, namely space or geography, time, and usual residence. In particular, the usual residence is not always straightforward in a mobile world where people may have more than one residence, have a legal and de facto residence, or still have an attachment to the country of origin many years after living elsewhere, or living in an institution for some time but without relinquishing the family home. The UNECE Conference of European Statisticians Recommendations for the 2010 Censuses of Population and Housing provide specific guidance on how the usual residence should be decided for such groups. The UN Recommendations also distinguish the long-term migrants (12 months or more) from the short-term migrants (3 months or more but less than 12 months) and, within this time frame and by purpose of visit, short-term migrants from visitors. Time can also be a problem: many sources provide data on intentions to remain inside or outside a country for a year or more, which could differ from actual time spent in the host country or abroad. Furthermore, the time element from administrative sources will reflect the laws and regulations of each country. Also, the geographic space may change over time following the separation of territories belonging to a particular state, unification of states, or border changes in general.

The flows and the stocks of migrant population are among the more frequently encountered concepts in measuring international migration. The migration flows represent the movements of persons to (immigrations) or from (emigrations) a country or territory during a given period of time, generally a calendar year. The difference between the immigrations and emigrations in a given period constitutes the net migration for this period. The stock of migrant population refers to the migrant population staying in a country or territory at a given moment in time. The two concepts generally apply to both the national and non-national populations living in that country or territory, the population born in that place or abroad, or other specifications.

Traditionally the stock measures relate to the country of birth or the country of citizenship, although there is an emerging attention to features referring to the migration background of people. The population census has been the traditional source but household surveys and register data have now also become the key sources. Problems of interpretation of stock data include those countries where the nationality laws state that a child has the nationality of his or her parents rather than the one of the country of birth, as well as changes in nationality and changes in the geographic or political configurations of the countries. For such reasons it could be useful to cross-classify individuals by country of birth and country of citizenship.

Concerning migration flows, the estimates of immigration and emigration normally relate to the country of citizenship and the country of origin and/or destination. Basic variables for analysing flows include sex, age, economic status, economic activity, and reason for migration. Such variables are also used to analyse stocks. Many flow tables relate to the calendar year though some countries produce statistics for mid-year to mid-year or even quarterly.

As described below, the EU system mostly refers to statistics on long-term migration defined according to the UN recommendations.

## A.2. Concepts of other related topics

The increasing use of administrative data (mainly based on population registers and residence permit databases) results in migration statistics limited to authorised or declared migration. As a consequence, migration statistics often covers only legal migration. Therefore, an important part of immigration may not be reflected by statistics: illegal immigrants (except when illegal migrants are registered), non-declared or non-registered immigrants (for example, EU citizens in a few EU countries), immigrants who are considered to be short-term or non-permanent immigrants independently from the actual duration of stay. On the opposite side, migration reflected by the official statistics may be disconnected from de facto immigration, for example, when regularisation is considered immigration, deportation is considered emigration, or when the migration date is replaced by the dates of registration or regularisation. In this context, the inclusion of asylum seekers may have a non-negligible impact. Actually, although the UN does not recommend a particular treatment for this category, the specific legal status of asylum seekers is often used to justify their exclusion from the resident population and consequently from migration statistics at the national level, either completely or temporarily until the final decision regarding their application.

Due to the possible acquisition of citizenship either after immigration or directly at birth for descendants of immigrants, the citizenship may not reflect person's "origins". In fact, data by country of citizenship does not reflect the impact of migration but rather the interaction between the citizenship law and migration. Since the harmonisation of citizenship law is very limited, the impact of acquisition differs widely between countries and the comparison of national data by country of citizenship may be misleading. For instance, in Europe the proportion of foreigners is among the highest in countries such as Latvia, Germany, and Austria due to the restrictive citizenship law, whereas such proportion is relatively low in countries like France, the Netherlands, or the United Kingdom where citizenship laws are more liberal. Therefore, it is useful to develop statistics on acquisition of citizenship in order to understand the impact of the 'acquisition of citizenship' component on the evolution of the population by citizenship. In addition, it would be useful to develop alternative indicators focusing on population with a migration background based on the country of citizenship, citizenship at birth, or ethnic origin as recommended for censuses.

The range of migration phenomena and necessary measurements are quite wide and continue to evolve. Besides the flows and stocks of international migrants, asylum seekers, refugees, and the acquisition and loss of citizenship, new migration-related themes such as migrants' remittances, management of labour migration, brain drain, migration and development, as well as human smuggling and trafficking have emerged. Extensive consideration and resources are now applied for addressing such issues.

### Further reading and links

-*Recommendations on Statistics of International Migration, Revision 1*, Statistical Papers Series M, No. 58/Rev.1, ST/ESA/STAT/SER.M/58/Rev.1, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Statistics Division, New York, 1998, available at <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/pubs/gesgrid.asp?ID=116> (in English, French, Russian, Spanish, Arabic and Chinese), further referred as *Recommendations on Statistics of International Migration*, United Nations, 1998

-*International Migration Statistics: Guidelines for Improving Data Collection Systems*, Richard Bilsborrow, Graeme Hugo, Amarjit Oberai and Hania Zlotnik, International Labour Office, Geneva, 1997

-*United Nations Economic Commission for Europe. Conference of European Statisticians Recommendations for the 2010 Censuses of Population and Housing*, Prepared in cooperation with the Statistical Office of European Commission (Eurostat), United Nations New York and Geneva, 2006, available at <http://www.unecce.org/stats/publ.htm> (in English, French and Russian)

-*Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses. Revision 2*, Statistical Papers Series M, No. 67/Rev.2, ST/ESA/STAT/SER.M/67/Rev.2, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Statistics Division, New York, 2008, available at <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/sources/census/census3.htm>

-*Towards Harmonised European Statistics on International Migration*, Michel Poulain, Nicolas Perrin and Ann Singleton (eds), Louvain-la-Neuve, Presses Universitaires de Louvain, 2006, description and main conclusions available at , further referred as THESIM book, 2006

-*Draft Manual on Statistics of Asylum Seekers and Refugees*, Rob van der Erf, 1998, Luxembourg, Eurostat, Working Paper 3/1998/E/n°18

-*Acquisition and loss of nationality. Policies and trends in 15 European States*. Summary and Recommendations, Results of the EU-project: The Acquisition of Nationality in EU Member States: Rules, Practices and Quantitative Developments (NATAC), Rainer Bauböck, Eva Ersbøll, Kees Groenendijk and Harald Waldrauch (eds.), Institute for European Integration Research, Austrian Academy of Sciences, Vienna, January 2006, executive summary available at <http://www.imiscoe.org/natac>

## **B. International frameworks, instruments and activities**

### **B.1. International frameworks and instruments for statistical production and data collection**

Each country will have its own framework for producing stock and flow statistics on international migration. This section will reflect the administrative and statistical sources available and the definitions and measurements related to these sources.

National needs regarding migration statistics is an important factor. For example, the laws and regulations need monitoring: each country will need to estimate the net international migration to produce annual population estimates and to analyse the effect of both immigration and emigration on the labour force, in some cases the skilled and highly qualified.

The 1998 UN Recommendations on Statistics of International Migration recognised the importance of such national needs adopting The two-stage pragmatic approach. Firstly, a detailed framework for the compilation of statistics on inflows and outflows was developed and included codes for the source, the time or duration indicator, and the availability of statistics. Taxonomy of inflows and outflows by entry status in the receiving country and by citizenship, as well as definitions underpinned this framework. The Recommendations included a set of tables on flows, stocks, and asylum statistics. Secondly, as countries attempted to comply with the recommendations on the framework and tables, gaps and difficulties would emerge; therefore, it was proposed that countries should formulate strategies to deal with such problems. The reference for the Recommendations and two commentaries are included in the readings listed below.

Migration data collection is important in various administrative levels: information may be collected by local or regional authorities, various Departments and Ministries, and other organisations, such as research institutes. At the international level, questionnaires have been sent out by such organisations as the United Nations Regional Commissions, the United Nations Statistical Division (UNSD) in New York, Eurostat, ILO, and OECD. Since the early 1990s many of the international requirements have been met through the Joint UNSD, Eurostat, UNECE and ILO Questionnaire on Migration Statistics (Joint Annual Data Collection on International Migration Statistics) - the yearly data collection in the EU and UNECE region based on a common questionnaire. The objectives of this exercise have been to reduce the burden on countries (single questionnaire instead of many) and to enhance the consistency of the statistical outputs. The return of the questionnaires was voluntary under what is known as a 'gentleman's agreement'.

The questionnaire is based on 13 tables covering migration flows, population stocks, acquisition of citizenship, and active/working population. Generally, the data is disaggregated by sex, age groups, and citizenship (also by country of birth for population stocks, country of previous residence for immigration, and country of next residence for emigration flows). For comparison between countries, the UN Recommendations for the sector have been used. The data collection has evolved for the EU Member States but it still suffers from missing data and diverging national due national legislations or available sources. In the future, more improvement is expected in the implementation of recently adopted regulation on Community statistics on migration and international protection statistics.

The majority of the results of the Joint Annual Data Collection is published by Eurostat in year-books, *Statistics in Focus* and other publications and is continuously made available free-of-charge online through the public database on Eurostat's website <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat>. Eurostat also publishes metadata and methodological documents. Recent publications include a *Statistics in Focus* on migration trends in the EU-27 Member States and the acquisition of citizenship in the EU.

The **Eurostat Working Group on Migration Statistics**, the **Joint UNECE / Eurostat Work Session on Migration Statistics** and other regular and ad hoc meetings facilitate the exchange of information on practices and data, monitor the application of international requirements and harmonisation of results, conduct evaluation activities, and define the instruments for new areas of intervention under the coordination of international organisations. Both the Eurostat Working Group and the Joint Work Session meet each 12 to 18 months, depending on needs. The last Joint Work Session held in Geneva in March 2008 (<http://www.unece.org/stats/documents/2008.03.migration.htm>) focused on methods to improve the measurement of migration flows (mainly emigration, including the exercises on using immigration data for measuring emigration), the measurement of migration through household surveys, as well as challenges in defining and measuring difficult-to-count categories of migrants (e.g. irregular migration). The Work Session agenda well illustrates the topics currently under discussion and some major activities at national and international levels.

Improvements in statistics are needed for many purposes including addressing the policy needs by the European Commission. For example, migration statistics are crucial for the **EC Directorate General for Justice, Freedom and Security** (DG JLS) for developing EU policies and procedures and monitoring their impact, as well as for the newly established Solidarity and Management of Migration Flows Programme providing financial resources to the EU Member States to implement migration, asylum, and border policies in the period 2007-2013. The link [http://ec.europa.eu/justice\\_home/fsj/immigration/fsj\\_immigration\\_intro\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/justice_home/fsj/immigration/fsj_immigration_intro_en.htm) gives a general presentation of the EU immigration policy including the relevant acquis and the latest developments and accomplishments in migration matters.

In 2003 DG JLS established the **European Migration Network** (EMN), a network of national contact points with objective to provide up-to-date, comparable, and reliable information on migration and asylum issues in the EU Member States, to analyse statistics and prepare national, synthesis reports, and studies, as well as to provide recommendations. The link <http://emn.sarenet.es/html/index.html> provides access to the EMN site, including September 2008 information leaflet.

Given the EU-wide need for better and more comprehensive statistics, the DG JLS and Eurostat launched an informal process of consultation and cooperation with national data providers in 2003. This process provided guidance to the *Regulation on Community statistics on migration and international protection* (see complete name and link below). The Regulation adopted in July 2007 made it obligatory for all EU Member States to provide data to Eurostat.

A number of features of these Guidelines could be applicable elsewhere:

- The Regulation was drafted by the Commission but with input from representatives of NSIs, Ministries of the Interior, and experts in the field, including the THESIM Project.
- As a framework regulation it sets the parameters; the specific details on which countries are consulted are presented in the Commission Regulations.

-The requirements on data collection are partly similar to the current Joint Annual Data Collection but include other data relevant to the migration (on residence permits, asylum, and measures against illegal migration). Besides the statistical requirements, the Regulation sets the reference periods and timing of data collection.

-Whenever possible the definitions are taken from the UN Recommendations on international migration.

-Countries remain free to use their own sources and methods but are required to supply metadata such as sources, indicators of quality, estimation methods, as well as any revisions to past figures.

-Some flexibility is permitted in updating the contents of data collection and future definitions.

-The first reference year is 2008 with the report to the European Parliament in 2012.

The links below provide reference the EU Regulation and some of its critiques representing the positions of various EU countries and researchers.

Many other international organisations, such as UN Population Division, UNSD (both part of UNDESA, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs), UNESCWA, UNECA, the World Bank, ILO, IOM and OECD are involved in the production and use of data on international migration for their respective countries and areas of interest. The activities of these entities for enhancing the production of statistics relevant for this Guide are provided in chapters C and D, only some references to general activities or specific initiatives are provided here.

The **United Nations Population Division** (<http://www.un.org/esa/population/unpop>) maintains several datasets which are relevant for the analysis of levels and trends of international migration, characteristics of migrants, and the relation between migration and development. It also undertakes regular studies on national policies and their impact of migration and organises meetings, such as the annual **Coordination Meeting on International Migration** (<http://www.un.org/esa/population/migration/coord/index.html>). The United Nations Population Division supported the **2006 High-Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development** and the subsequent creation of the **Global Forum on Migration and Development** (GFMD), an intergovernmental initiative to address the migration and development interconnections in practical and action-oriented ways, which convened for the first time in Brussels in July 2007 (<http://www.gfmd-fmmd.org>) and then in Manila in October 2008 (<http://government.gfmd2008.org>).

Within the framework of these recent initiatives, the United Nations Population Division has developed the United Nations Global Migration Database (UNGMDB), a comprehensive collection of empirical data on the stock of international migrants by country of birth, citizenship, sex, and age as enumerated by population censuses, population registers, nationally representative surveys, and other official statistical sources from more than 200 countries and territories in the world. This database was developed with support from UNICEF and UNDP's Special Unit for South-South Cooperation and in collaboration with the UNSD, the World Bank, University of Sussex, and the Minnesota Population Center. The UN Population Division also holds a database on annual migration inflows and outflows (*International migration flows to and from selected countries*) and prepares five-year estimates of migrant stock for all countries and territories in the world by sex (*Trends in total migrant stock, 1960-2005*). The UNGMD and the 2005 revisions of other data sources above are all accessible through the link [www.unmigration.org](http://www.unmigration.org).

The **UNSD** collects statistics on migration flows and stocks of migrant population through the Demographic Yearbook data collection system consisting of three separate questionnaires (<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/sconcerns/migration>) and disseminate these statistics to other institutions in order to minimise the international data collection burden on the countries. The institution also provides guidance on the methods of statistical production and facilitates information exchange through international meetings and publications (<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic>). Following a proposal expressed by an experts' group meeting held in September 2006, the UNSD is currently working on Handbook on Statistics

of International Migration. Expert's meeting held in September 2007 provided support to the preparation of this publication by evaluating draft technical reports on concepts, methods, and the use of population censuses and surveys. Preceding sentence should be checked for context - original meaning unclear AM The handbook should be finalised in 2009 with the inclusion of parts on the use of administrative data and combining the sources.

Among the UN initiatives to report here, after an important expert meeting in November 2005 (<http://www.escwa.un.org/divisions/scu/migration/maine.asp?menuID=16&topic=Information&lang=e>), the UNESCWA plans to organise a regional workshop on migration statistics in June 2009 as a potential foundation of support and coordination for the countries in the region. It may be useful to note that UNESCWA is also trying to cover Morocco, Algeria and Tunisia, countries falling outside of its region.

The UNHCR ([www.unhcr.org](http://www.unhcr.org)) collects and compiles data on asylum seekers, refugees, internally displaced people (IDPs) protected/assisted by UNHCR, returned IDPs, stateless persons, and other persons of concern to UNHCR. More specifically, the data refer to asylum applications, refugee status determination, recognition rates, refugee populations and movements, demographic characteristics (age and sex), as well as major locations (camps, centers, urban areas) of these populations. The UNHCR Statistical Online Population Database (<http://www.unhcr.org/statistics/45c063a82.html>) provides these data and information for more than 150 countries.

The World Bank mainly concentrates on issues relating to international migration and development giving special attention to filling the gaps in existing knowledge about migration and related themes, such as remittances, reduction of poverty, gender differences, and brain drain. Its activities include extensive data gathering and analysis on the developmental impact of migration, so as to identify migration policies, regulations, and institutional reforms that could lead to improved development outcomes. Information on the migration topics and data also by region, can be obtained at [www.worldbank.org/migration](http://www.worldbank.org/migration), and at website of the Program on International Migration and Development under the responsibility of the Development Research Group (<http://econ.worldbank.org/external/default/main?menuPK=1572917&pagePK=64168176&piPK=64168140&theSitePK=1572893>). Specific activities relating to the production of migration statistics and synergies with MEDSTAT II on model questionnaires for migration surveys are described in Section B.2 and Chapter C.

In addition to its contribution to the *Joint Questionnaire on Migration Statistics*, the ILO publishes 12 series of statistics on international migration by key economic characteristics (economic activity, employment) and basic demographic variables (sex, educational attainment,) through its LABORSTA database (<http://laborsta.ilo.org>). The organisation also develops methodologies and tools to increase the data regularity and to improve the comparability of statistics on international migration through labour force surveys, particularly regarding the data on the social and economic characteristics of migrants (see the *ILO Labour Migration Module* in Section C.7) and on forced labour migration. The ILO conducts analytical studies on topics of special interest such as remittances or migration of high-skilled labour. Methodologies and studies are available at <http://www.ilo.org>. As a part of a larger initiative to develop the contribution of migration to economic integration and the development in Africa, the ILO has recently undertaken a mapping of migration data available in West, North, and East Africa (<http://migration-africa.itcilo.org>).

The IOM collects statistics on repatriation and resettlements of refugees, the returns of highly qualified persons, victims of trafficking, stranded transit migrants, internally displaced peoples, as well as other relevant categories. The organisation is also active in building data collection and statistical production capacity at national and regional levels and developing mechanisms for sharing migration data between the countries. IOM's activities on migration data and an organisation-wide compilation of research projects and projects with research component were summarised in 2008 in a bulletin and a compendium. These outputs are available at <http://www.iom.int/jahia/Jahia/policy-research>. The recently published *World Migration 2008: Managing Labour Mobility in the Evolving Global Economy* is accessible at <http://www.iom.int/jahia/Jahia/publications>.

From 2001 to 2005 the IOM together with governmental agencies implemented the Integrated Migration Information System (IMIS), the technical match-making tool for labour migration between Egypt and Italy (<http://www.iom.int/jahia/Jahia/facilitating-migration/labour-migration/pid/2028>). IMIS+ started in February 2008. Furthermore, the IOM and the Austrian Federal Ministry of Interior are currently working to create a set of guidelines for the collection of comparable indicators on human trafficking.

The work of **OECD** in the area of international migration is based on regular monitoring of migration movements and policies in member and non-member countries, focusing on the economic and social aspects of migration, management of labour migration to support economic growth, labour market integration of immigrants in the OECD countries, and on the links between migration, demography, and economic growth in the countries of origin. In these activities OECD relies on the data for the member countries, as well as the Baltic countries, Bulgaria, and Romania, as provided by a network of correspondents constituting a continuous reporting system on migration (SOPEMI). These national data are published in the *International Migration Database*. A second database (DIOC - *Database on Immigrants in OECD countries*) compiles data from OECD population censuses to provide comparable stocks of migrants detailed by country of birth and other variables. In addition, to improve the international comparability of data, the organisation has developed estimates of foreign-born population by various socio-economic variables for inter-censal years and standardised statistics on permanent-type migration (see under Section C.3). These statistics are based on the legal status of individuals as a complement to the concept of duration of residence, established by the UN Recommendations. All databases, methodological papers and publications including the yearly *International Migration Outlook* are accessible at [http://www.oecd.org/topic/0,3373,en\\_2649\\_39023663\\_1\\_1\\_1\\_1\\_37415,00.html](http://www.oecd.org/topic/0,3373,en_2649_39023663_1_1_1_1_37415,00.html).

Further information on these institutions and their activities may be obtained through their individual websites or the webpage of the Coordination Meeting on International Migration organised annually by the United Nations Population Division.

### Further reading and links

- Recommendations on Statistics of International Migration*, United Nations, 1998, (complete reference under Chapter A)
- Migration statistics: international frameworks for cooperation*, David Thorogood, presentation to the MEDSTAT II Task Force of March 2007, [1]
- Joint Annual Data Collection (extract), [1]
- How the UN Recommendations on international migration statistics are followed by the 25 EU countries?*, paper prepared by Xavier Thierry, Anne Herm, Dorota Kupiszewska, Beata Nowok and Michel Poulain on behalf of the THESIM team, XXV IUSSP International Population Conference, Session 73 International migration statistics and measurement, Tours, July 2005, available at <http://www.uclouvain.be/7823.html>
- Les Recommandations des Nations Unies en matière de collecte des statistiques de migration internationale sont-elles réellement recommandable pour l'Europe ?* John Kelly, Anne Herm, Michel Poulain, in *Les migrations internationales: observation, analyse et perspectives*, Proceedings of AIDELF Seminar, Budapest, 20-24 September 2004, PUF -AIDELF, Paris, 2007, available at [www.aidelf.ined.fr/colloques/Budapest/Seance1/S1\\_KellyHermPoulain.pdf](http://www.aidelf.ined.fr/colloques/Budapest/Seance1/S1_KellyHermPoulain.pdf)
- Recent migration trends: citizens of EU-27 Member States become ever more mobile while EU remains attractive to non-EU citizens*, Eurostat Statistics in Focus N. 98/2008, Luxembourg, 2008, [2]
- Agenda and Minutes of the Eurostat Working Group on Migration Statistics, Luxembourg, 3-4 June 2008, available at <http://circa.europa.eu/Public/irc/dsis/migrationasylum1/library>
- Agenda and Final Report of the Joint UNECE / Eurostat Work Session on Migration Statistics, Geneva, 3-5 March 2008, [3]

-Annual Policy Reports and Annual Reports on Asylum and Migration Statistics, European Migration Network, various years, available at <http://emn.sarenet.es/html/index.html>

-*Regulation (EC) No 862/2007 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 July 2007 on Community statistics on migration and international protection and repealing Council Regulation (EEC) No 311/76 on the compilation of statistics on foreign workers*, Official Journal L 199, 31/7/2007 (usually referred here as EU Regulation), available in all EU languages, English version at <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2007:199:0023:0029:EN:PDF>

-*The new EC regulation on migration statistics. Main challenges to implement EC regulation on migration statistics: a country perspective*, Gustav Lebhart and Stefan Marik-Lebeck (Statistics Austria), document submitted to the Joint UNECE / Eurostat Work Session on Migration Statistics, Edinburgh, 20-22 November 2006, available at <http://www.unece.org/stats/documents/2006.11.migration.htm>

-*Notes on the proposal for the EU regulation on migration statistics and implementation in Italy*, Maria Pia Sorvillo (ISTAT), note for the MEDSTAT II Study Visit to Italy held in 19-21 February 2007, [1]

-*Présentation et commentaires critiques du Règlement européen sur les statistiques de migrations internationales*, Xavier Thierry, INED, presentation for the MEDSTAT II Study Visit to France, 13-16 November 2007, [1]

-*SIGMA The bulletin of European Statistics 01/2008. People count - Focus on demographic statistics*, Luxembourg, 2008, available at [http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page?\\_pageid=1073,46587259&\\_dad=portal&\\_schema=PORTAL&p\\_product\\_code=KS-BU-08-001](http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page?_pageid=1073,46587259&_dad=portal&_schema=PORTAL&p_product_code=KS-BU-08-001)

-Agenda, technical reports and final report of the UN Expert Group Meeting on the Use of Censuses and Surveys to Measure International Migration, New York 24-28 September 2007, <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/meetings/egm/migrationegmsep07>

## **B.2. Scientific initiatives and projects supporting the production, improvement, and dissemination of migration statistics**

In addition to national and international efforts to improve migrations statistics, several recent scientific initiatives and other projects undertaken at the EU level provide a precise assessment of data collections on migration statistics in/for Europe and the Mediterranean Region, as well as practical recommendations concerning future possible improvements or good practices.

- CARIM (*'Consortium for Applied Research on International Migration'*) is an initiative of the European University of Florence, Robert Schuman Center for Advanced Studies (EUI/RSCAS) launched in 2004 for observing, analysing, and forecasting migration movements, their causes and impact in Europe and 12 Southern and Eastern Mediterranean countries (the 9 MPCs plus Turkey and, since February 2007, Libya and Mauritania), which are studied as origin, transit and immigration countries. CARIM is comprised of three different parts: a co-ordination unit, a network of members in the countries, and topic experts. The activities of CARIM covering the economic and demographic, legal, and socio-political aspects of international migration include the creation and diffusion of databases (of statistics, legal provisions and policy documents), training, scientific meetings, summer schools, research and the production of reports. Particular research areas include circular migration or continuous legal movements between two countries, (for example, for work), transfers/remittances, integration of migrants, and irregular migration.

Concerning the database on statistics on migration and related phenomena (Demographic and Economic Module), CARIM has included some relevant and useful census and survey results using individual records and collated stock and flow data on migrants for a given country from the sources of different sending/receiving countries. Besides the tables-based indicators and estimates produced by the NSIs, the CARIM database also presents the results of surveys carried out by universities and research institutes, as

well as data directly collected from national authorities holding administrative sources (for example, statistics based on consular registration, police estimates on irregular migration). By publishing non-official statistics it is hoped that the NSIs will use and improve these alternative sources.

Comprehensive overview of the major developments concerning migration to, through, and from each of the 12 Southern and Eastern Mediterranean countries (from the demographic-economic, legal, and socio-political perspectives) as well as a thematic section are published in the main CARIM reports for 2005 and 2006-2007, which include statistical appendices (more information: [www.carim.org](http://www.carim.org)).

- THESIM ('*Towards Harmonised European Statistics on International Migration*'), 2004-2005 is project of the European Commission Research Directorate-General (DG Research) that was carried out under the coordination of UCL-GéDAP to assess the availability, reliability, and comparability of migration statistics in the EU25 countries during the preparation of the EU regulation on statistics related to international migration and protection. The THESIM final publication describes national data collections and data sources on international migration statistics for 25 EU Member States (flow data, stock by citizenship, residence permits' data, asylum statistics, statistics on acquisition of citizenship, data related to refusals, apprehensions and removals of illegal migrants). It also provides a comparative view of current data collections and available statistics in the EU25 region. In addition, this publication also summarises the efforts undertaken on harmonisation and lists recent meetings and publications (more information: [www.uclouvain.be/7823.html](http://www.uclouvain.be/7823.html)).

- IMISCOE ('*International Migration, Integration and Social Cohesion*') is a multi-disciplinary European network including 23 research institutes. This network, which was established in 2004, does not focus primarily on statistics but rather on potential indicators related to migration and integration. IMISCOE is coordinated by IMES, University of Amsterdam (more information: [www.imiscoe.org](http://www.imiscoe.org)).

- NATAC ('*The Acquisition of Nationality in EU Member States: Rules, Practices and Quantitative Developments*'), 2004-2005 is a project of DG Research under the coordination of the Institute for European Integration Research (Austrian Academy of Sciences). It describes citizenship legislation in the EU and addresses the availability and quality of statistical data (more information: <http://www.imiscoe.org/natac>).

- CARDS Migration, 2005-2008 is a project of the EC aiming to improve the production of international migration statistics in the Western Balkans (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Kosovo, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, and Serbia). It includes the assessment of data availability, reliability, and comparability with UN recommendations, as well as EU regulations on migration statistics. These reports follow the same format as the THESIM national reports (more information: [michel.poulain@uclouvain.be](mailto:michel.poulain@uclouvain.be)).

- Reports on Romanian and Bulgarian migration statistics produced within the framework of the Annual Statistical Report of the EMN in 2007 to assess their data availability, reliability, and comparability with the EU regulation on statistics related to migration and international protection. These reports follow the same format as the THESIM national reports in order to extend the project to all EU27 Member States (more information: [michel.poulain@uclouvain.be](mailto:michel.poulain@uclouvain.be)).

- MIREM ('*Migration de retour au Maghreb*'), 2007-2008 is a project undertaken by the European University Institute to understand the factors shaping returnees' patterns of reintegration in Algeria, Morocco, and Tunisia through field surveys and data analysis (more information: Section C.8, [www.mirem.eu](http://www.mirem.eu)).

•MIMOSA ('Modelling of statistical data on migration and migrant populations'), 2006-2009 is a project funded by Eurostat and undertaken by a group of research centers lead by NIDI. Its objective is to produce an estimation method for missing data on international migration in the European Union, including an evaluation of recent immigration and emigration data produced by pairs of countries (more information: [willekens@nidi.nl](mailto:willekens@nidi.nl)).

•PROMINSTAT ('Promoting Comparative Quantitative Research in the Field of Migration and Integration in Europe'), 2007-2009 is the updated and extended COMPSTAT, covering the EU27 Member States. COMPSTAT (Comparing National Data Sources in the Field of Migration and Integration) is a DG Research project undertaken in 2001-2002 for establishing an inventory of databases and statistics available in the 6 EU Member States (more information: [www.compstat.org](http://www.compstat.org), [www.prominstat.org](http://www.prominstat.org)). PROMINSTAT is conducted by a consortium of 18 partner institutions under the coordination of ICMPPD.

•CLANDESTINO ('Irregular Migration: Counting the Uncountable. Data and Trends Across Europe') is a research project lead by ELIAMEP to provide an inventory of data and estimates on irregular migration, to discuss ethical and methodological issues linked to the production of these data/estimates, and to propose a methodology for evaluating available data/estimates (more information: <http://www.eliamep.gr/en/clandestino>).

•IDEA ('Mediterranean and Eastern European Countries as new Immigration Destinations in the European Union') aims to analyse the causes, characteristics, and impact of migratory flows in the new European immigration destinations, in order to understand how they have changed from net emigration to net immigration areas. This project is coordinated by the CMR / Warsaw University (more information: <http://www.idea6fp.uw.edu.pl>).

•MAFE ('Migration between Africa and Europe') is a recently launched project under the coordination of INED to improve understanding of the underlying causes and consequences of migration between the selected countries of Africa and Europe through data collection and analysis (more information: Section C.8, [cris.beauchemin@ined.fr](mailto:cris.beauchemin@ined.fr)).

•The project 'International Migration from Middle East and North Africa and Poverty Reduction Strategies' undertaken by the World Bank to measure development and reduce poverty includes some activities on migration statistics. Currently, these activities are conducted in four pilot countries (Maghreb countries and Egypt). These countries were selected due to high levels of skilled emigration to Europe and financial transfers. Therefore, as a specific action, national household surveys relevant for migration have been identified and analysed to define the relationship between migration and the living conditions of households. Results of the project will be disseminated through publications and events (more information: [jkeller@worldbank.org](mailto:jkeller@worldbank.org)).

•ILMAS ('Implementation of the Legislation on Migration and Asylum Statistics'), 2008-2009 is a Eurostat project to help countries produce the statistics required by the new EU regulation (more information: [david.thorogood@ec.europa.eu](mailto:david.thorogood@ec.europa.eu)).

•'Commission on International Migration Data for Development Research and Policy', is a group of distinguished international experts led by the Center for Global Development (CGD) to discuss and suggest possible initiatives that would improve the availability of data on international migration and development (more information: [http://www.cgdev.org/section/initiatives/\\_active/migrationanddevelopment](http://www.cgdev.org/section/initiatives/_active/migrationanddevelopment))

•For Maghreb countries, a survey programme to improve understanding the migration processes from Sub-Saharan Africa in both dimensions of transit migration and final destination was recently undertaken under the coordination of CISP and RAM (more information: Section C.8, [cisp\\_algerie@hotmail.com](mailto:cisp_algerie@hotmail.com)).

Among the initiatives above, THESIM, IMISCOE, NATAC, PROMINSTAT, CLANDESTINO, IDEA, and MAFE were undertaken under the 6th or 7th Framework Programme of Research and Development of the European Commission. CARIM which was initially funded by the EuroMed Migration I Project (part of the so-called JHA-Regional MEDA programme<sup>1</sup> is currently supported by the AENEAS Programme<sup>2</sup>. The latter also funds the World Bank project referred to in the list.

## Further reading and links

- THESIM book, 2006 (title and complete reference under Chapter A)
- International migration statistics in Bulgaria*, Report of the meeting organised in Sofia on 6 March 2007, Michel Poulain, Dorota Kupiszewska and Nicolas Perrin, 2007
- Report on the situation of international migration statistics in Romania*, Report of the meeting organised in Bucharest on 7 March 2007, Michel Poulain, Dorota Kupiszewska, Nicolas Perrin and Dorel Georghiu, 2007
- The data collection for statistics on international migration: An assessment of the situation in the Balkan countries*, Report of the CARDS Migration Project, Michel Poulain and Nicolas Perrin, 2008
- Acquisition and loss of nationality. Policies and trends in 15 European States*. Summary and Recommendations, Results of the EU-project: The Acquisition of Nationality in EU Member States: Rules, Practices and Quantitative Developments (NATAC), Rainer Bauböck, Eva Ersbøll, Kees Groenendijk and Harald Waldrauch (eds.), Institute for European Integration Research, Austrian Academy of Sciences, Vienna, January 2006, executive summary available at <http://www.imiscoe.org/natac>
- Mediterranean Migration - 2006-2007 Report*, edited by Philippe Fargues, CARIM, 2007, available at [www.carim.org/index.php?areaid=8&content.id=9](http://www.carim.org/index.php?areaid=8&content.id=9)

## C. Data sources

### C.1. Border data collection systems

#### Overview

Most countries, including all MPCs, operate a system of border controls which gathers data at the time of the travellers' entry into and/or departure from the country. The collection of data at the border can be based on administrative or statistical criteria. According to the former, the status of persons arriving and departing is established on the basis of documentary evidence (for example, passports, visas, residence permits). The use of statistical criteria requires that information would be gathered by means of standardized forms (border cards) filled in by arriving and departing passengers.

The data collected at the border are primarily intended for entry control purposes, usually being an instrument of the Department of Police or State Security within the portfolio of the Ministry of Interior. Nevertheless, the extension of the border data collection system to provide information on international migration can be achieved with relatively low effort and cost.

<sup>1</sup>Regional cooperation programme in the field of justice, in combating drugs, organised crime and terrorism as well as cooperation in the treatment of issues relating to social integration of migrants, migration and movement of people.

<sup>2</sup>AENEAS is the EC Programme with Third Countries in the Management of Migration Flows launched in 2004. This programme was recently replaced by the Thematic Cooperation Programme with Third Countries in the Development Aspects of Migration and Asylum set up within the framework of the 2007-2013 financial perspectives ([http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/where/worldwide/migration-asylum/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/where/worldwide/migration-asylum/index_en.htm)).

While border data reflect the actual people movements, the system has a number of drawbacks. Firstly, in order to avoid too much bureaucracy for visitors, only limited information can be collected. If there is only a minimal verification of the cards filled in by the travellers, the reliability of the information gathered may be low. Secondly, migration questions, if included, are likely to reflect the conditions on entry, for example on intended length of stay and purpose of the visit. It is unlikely that foreigners requested to report their intended length of stay would state that it is longer than that allowed by the visa or permit they hold. The same may apply to the purpose of the visit: someone holding a tourist visa is unlikely to report that the purpose of the visit is actually work/employment. Thirdly, not all the collected information is recorded or eventually processed. In addition, the data may not be available in a useful form, for example, as an electronic database.

A number of strategies have been used to reduce the data-collection load at the border and/or the data-processing load: some countries only collect data from a representative sample of passengers; other countries collect data only from certain categories of passengers, such as foreigners or temporary visitors, while countries with long land borders sometimes limit themselves to collecting data from passengers at air- and seaports only.

International recommendations for identifying migrants at the border focus on the concept of changing country of usual residence as the key factor in distinguishing migrants from the other travellers. The UN recommendations adopted in 1976 and revised in 1998 require collecting the following information: *(intended) duration of stay; country of (usual) residence; country of citizenship; and purpose of stay.*

*(Intended) duration of stay* in the country of destination is one of the key items of information necessary to distinguish migrants from the other travellers, and the long-term migrants from the short-term ones. In the case of foreigners, declared intentions may be checked against the validity of visas or permits. For arriving citizens, information on intended duration of stay in their own country provides the only means of identifying incoming long-term migrants on a prospective basis.

There are various options for recording the duration of stay:

- i) Asking the traveller to fill in intended duration of stay and code afterwards.
- ii) Asking the traveller to fill in intended duration of stay in pre-coded answers, for which the UN then recommends:
  - less than three months,
  - at least three months but less than one year,
  - one year or more, but a limited duration,
  - an unlimited duration,
  - uncertain or unknown duration.
- iii) Inferring expected duration of stay from the permit or visa.

The traveller's *country of usual residence* is the country where the migrant lived during the year preceding his or her arrival in the receiving country. The UN suggest to do this by establishing in which country the traveller has last lived for a period of at least 12 months.

As for the *country of citizenship*, a traveller may have dual citizenship but usually only the one corresponding to the passport presented by the traveller is recorded.

Information on the *purpose of stay* is one of the means by which the various categories of travellers may - at least partially - be identified. The UN strongly recommends that international migrant foreigners are classified according to the reason for their admission as established by the receiving state (the intentions, desires or expectations of the migrant foreigner involved should not be the basis for classification). Departing citizens may be classified either according to the formal reasons for their admission by the receiving state or according to their own stated purpose of staying abroad (the latter clearly is more practical).

The UN recommendations also include other variables on characteristics of migrants to be recorded for every arriving and departing international migrant (irrespective of citizenship): date

of arrival/departure, sex, date of birth, country of birth, marital status (all migrants 15 years and over), address, as well as information on education, occupation and employment.

### Main activities and results

- Most MPCs require all travellers to complete border cards on arrival and departure. Furthermore, the majority of the MPCs have fully computerised data entry at the borders for administrative purposes. Earlier border cards are being abolished with arrivals and departures being registered electronically in several countries. Optical reading of passports and recognition of biometric characteristics could lead to less detail being collected, though the link to a central database could be a solution. However, despite the limitations, the counts based on border cards or border registration have improved.
- In Jordan, up to 1995, border cards had to be filled in for each passenger with a passport. Thereafter, the use of border cards has gradually been phased out in the 13 border posts over a period of about 10 years, and a computerised system has been introduced. Under the new system, a computerised record is assigned to each passenger with a passport and the information needed for administrative and security purposes is entered into a computerised system directly by the border police. Detailed tabulations on the number of arrivals and departures are produced by the Ministry of Interior and supplied quarterly and annually to the Department of Statistics and the other Ministries.
- In Syria, a pilot study of modified border cards to measure international migration was undertaken under MEDSTAT I. In the light of the evaluation of the pilot's results, it was decided to make a number of modifications to the pre-coded questions and to have the cards printed in French as well as Arabic and English. It was also decided that two cards for arrivals and departures should be used - one for foreigners and the other for non-Syrian Arabs. There is no card for Syrian nationals. Two cards are filled in on arrival: one card is left with the border authorities and the other is kept by the passenger to be submitted to the border authorities at departure. The following items were added to the border cards for non-Syrians: expected duration of stay, purpose of visit, country of usual residence, and original citizenship. It was also decided to ask the departing Syrian nationals questions on expected duration of stay outside country, purpose of visit, and country of destination.
- In Lebanon, entries and exits at borders are centrally registered by the General Directorate for General Security (GDGS) through reading of passports for Lebanese citizens and manual registration of border cards data for foreigners. This system has allowed the Central Administration for Statistics (CAS) and DGGS to develop and launch a pilot project on using border data with the technical assistance of MEDSTAT. Individual migratory trajectories were reconstructed on the basis of individual recorded entries and exits in order to identify long-term immigration (identified as immigration followed by a cumulative duration of stay exceeding 6 months over a period of 1 year) and long-term emigration (identified as emigration followed by a cumulative duration of absence exceeding 6 months over a period of 1 year). One key problem to be solved is the correction of illogical trajectories (for example, two entries without any intermediary exit and the identification of individuals appearing with two different identities (for example persons having used different passports). As a consequence, a methodology was developed that enabled to determine with high probability that the movement was for a unique individual (for example, similar names without exact match due to different transcriptions for persons having the same date and place of birth, inversion of months and day of birth for persons having the same name). After this validation phase, the migrations following the international recommendations may be identified. Statistics using this method should be easily produced on regular basis.
- Some use of border crossing databases is also carried out by CBS-Israel for the purposes of checking and improving measurements based on other sources. This procedure will also be applied in the forthcoming census.

## Further reading and links

- MEDSTAT I Programme. Adapting border card systems in the Mediterranean region to measure international migration and international tourism: new initiatives and technical guidelines*, Jeannette Schoorl, in collaboration with Ibrahim Ali and Samir Farid, Eurostat Working Papers and Studies KS-CC-06-003-EN-N, Luxembourg, 2006, [2]
- Task Force MED-Migration 2005. Main conclusions*, Brussels, 10-11 October 2005
- Migration statistics in the MEDSTAT II Programme. Demand of international cooperation and coordination*, Giambattista Cantisani and Youssef Courbage, document submitted to the Joint UNECE / Eurostat Work Session on Migration Statistics, Edinburgh, 20-22 Nov. 2006, available at <http://www.unece.org/stats/documents/2006.11.migration.htm>
- Modifications of border cards in Syria to measure international migration: results and evaluation of the pilot study*, CBS-Syria, presentation to the MEDSTAT II Training 2008 (available in Arabic only), [1]
- Travail pilote dans l'exploitation des données individuelles des passages aux frontières au Liban*, Lara Badre, presentation to the MEDSTAT II Workshop 2008, [1]
- A special methodology using a border crossing database for the estimation of international migration flows*, Michel Poulain, document prepared for the MEDSTAT II Workshop 2008, [1]
- Steps Necessary for the Israeli system to Conform to International Requirements for Migration Statistics*, Ahmad Hleidel (CBS-Israel), document prepared for the MEDSTAT II Workshop 2008, [1]

## C.2. Population registers

### Overview

During the last decades, population registers have become the main source of migration statistics at the European level. The use of population registers promote the development of new quantitative approaches (for example, migrant life history analysis). Population registers can be defined as administrative systems organised to continuously register the population of a given territory. Most of the population registers were initially developed on the basis of an initial census that was regularly updated through the registration of birth and deaths, places of residence and their changes, as well as additional variables and their modification (citizenship, marital status). Where legally possible, these registers can be checked with census results and updated accordingly, at least for the countries that still not use the population register directly as the basis for their Census.

In fact, several types of registers exist. Initially, all systems were based on local population registers updated locally. In this type of register, when an internal migration occurs, the exchange of messages between the municipalities of origin and destination allows the registration of the immigrant at the place of arrival and the simultaneous removal of the emigrant in the register of the municipality of origin. This system still exists in such countries as Germany, Italy, Switzerland, and Ukraine, however, it is being progressively replaced by central population registers (CPR) in most of the other countries (the Nordic countries, Belgium, the Netherlands, most of the Eastern European countries where the centralisation is rapidly progressing). Actually, the centralisation helps to avoid double-counts and to develop controls of the database coherence at the national level. In addition to this distinction between central and local database, the registration in countries such as Germany or Switzerland is characterised by the existence of separate registers for aliens. During the last decades, three main developments that have increased the reliability of registration took place: computerisation, centralisation, and interconnection with other administrative data sources.

Reliable population registers are powerful statistical instruments: they can be considered as continuous censuses. They can produce migration flow data and the cost of their statistical use is cheaper than the organisation of specific statistical operations such as censuses and

surveys. In spite of major statistical advantages, limits or constraints of population registers should not be ignored. Firstly, the State must develop specific administration in order to maintain such a system. Ideally, all public agencies should base their activity on reliable population registers in order to develop modern administrative registers. These registers must use standardised identification number and standardised variables in order to facilitate exchanges. The legal possibility of linkage between administrative database, exchanges and transfers of data (in particular to the NSI) is an essential element for improving reliability and enabling statistical use. Even if these technicalities are addressed, the quality of the data relies on the declaration of inhabitants reporting (or not) their migrations and, in general, the level of confidence between the population and the state (which may be low due to historical misuses of population registers). Historically, the lack of efficient system for exchanging information between municipalities and other administrations resulted in frequent double counts or inconsistencies. In addition, the coverage of population is often restricted to the *de jure* population. Finally, the registration of emigration is often deficient due to the lack of incentives to declare the departure and the existence of advantages linked to the registration (for example, social benefits, residence permits). As a consequence, in several EU countries, the reliability of population registers is not good enough to directly estimate the number of inhabitants (for example, in nearly all Central and Eastern European countries) or the migration flows (Estonia).

As a particular case of population registers covering only the foreign population, the so-called alien registers in general allow the application of similar methods for the production of migration statistics for this population category. Countries without a population register often maintain alien registers. Moreover, some countries hold separate registers of nationals residing abroad (for example, AIRE in Italy), which could, in principle, be useful for counting stocks of nationals abroad. However, such potential is limited by the quality of registration and de-registration, and by practical constraints.

### Main activities and results

- Currently population registers are the main data source for migration flow data and directly or indirectly for population stock in the EU Member States. Most of the Eastern European countries are revising either the organisation of the population registration system (in order to centralise and computerise it and to achieve a better coverage of foreigners but sometimes also to abandon practices inherited from the Communist period) or the production of migration statistics (in order to produce statistics on the basis of extract of the computer database rather than on the basis of paper statistical forms, in order to cover more categories of migrants). Only seven out of twenty-seven countries do not have or use this type of register (Cyprus, France, Greece, Ireland, Malta, Portugal, and United Kingdom).
- In addition, population registers may be used to derive statistics on populations with a migration background using information on changes of citizenship and place of birth of parents, as is done in Belgium, the Netherlands, and the Nordic countries (see references below). In fact, the variable content of existing registers in these countries was extended. The Nordic countries introduced common rules for recording international migrations between their territories and in 1969 established an information exchange system to avoid double registration. The intensive continuous cooperation between the population registration authorities in the Nordic countries includes meetings/discussions between statisticians.
- Based on their experience, several Northern EU and EFTA Member States countries have provided advice on the implementation or improvement of civil registration systems, population registers, and other administrative sources for statistical purposes. An example of such advice is the contribution of Statistics Norway in Moldova, the occupied Palestinian territory, and Albania. Concerning Albania, after several years of work supported by Norway and later by other countries and institutions, a CPR has been set up and is planned to be the basis for the electoral roll and for issuing identity cards in 2009. The documentation on this Norwegian/Albanian cooperation is given under 'Further reading and links'.

- For several years UNECE and Eurostat have encouraged the discussion on the use of population and other administrative registers both in general and through a joint work session specifically devoted to this topic. The last work session was held in 2002. In 2007 UNECE produced a publication on best practices in the use of registers for population and social statistics in the Nordic countries. References to the last work session meeting and the publication are provided in the links below.

- The case of Italy may be referred to for the production of yearly basic migration statistics based on the collection of administrative data from different population registers. In fact, population registration in Italy is based on local population registers (anagrafi) maintained by each of the about 8100 municipalities. Updates for change of residence are operated through notification from one municipality to another (or consulates, in the case of international movements). These registers include a limited amount of information and have no direct link through a CPR (a project for linking these registers through a National Index after their full computerisation is under way). Yearly statistics on migration flows by sex and citizenship, stocks by sex and citizenship, and stocks by sex and age groups are derived from the aggregation of results collected through specific summary forms sent to ISTAT by each municipality. In addition, after some 9-12 months, statistics on migration flows by sex, citizenship and age groups are compiled using copies of the individual notifications of change of residence provided by each municipality.

- Among the MPCs, only Israel holds and uses a CPR for statistical purposes. In particular, a methodology for linking border crossings and the population register has been developed in order to estimate emigration flows. Also, the population register is one of the sources used by CBS-Israel in the 2008 Integrated Census of Population and Housing. Computerised population registers also exist in Egypt and in the occupied Palestinian territory. However, these registers are limited to nationals and are not updated regularly mainly due to the lack of provisions forcing citizens to register the changes of residence or international movements and, therefore, are not used for statistics. Discussion on the establishment of a population register, which would also be useful for statistical purposes, has started in Morocco.

### Further reading and links

-THESIM book, Chapter 3 *Registration of the Resident Population*, Michel Poulain, pp. 109-132, 2006, (title and complete reference under Chapter A)

-Selected document and Final Report of the Joint UNECE / Eurostat Work Session on Registers and Administrative Records in Social and Demographic Statistics, Geneva, 9-11 December 2002, available at <http://www.unece.org/stats/documents/2002.12.registers.htm>

-*The demographic characteristics of immigrant populations in Belgium*, Michel Poulain and Nicolas Perrin, in *The demographic characteristics of immigrant populations*, Werner Haug, Paul Compton and Youssef Courbage (eds.), Council of Europe Publishing, Strasbourg, Population studies n°38, 2002 (available at [http://www.coe.int/t/e/social\\_cohesion/population/Publications](http://www.coe.int/t/e/social_cohesion/population/Publications), available also in French)

-*Appréhender "objectivement" les origines en Belgique: alternatives méthodologiques et implication statistiques*, Nicolas Perrin, Luc Dal and Michel Poulain, communication to the conference *Statistiques sociales et diversité ethnique: doit-on compter, comment et à quelles fins?*, Montreal, 6-8 December 2007

-*The Norwegian population statistics system - an overview*, Kåre Vassenden (Statistics Norway), paper presented to the 14 Nordic Demographic Symposium - NORDIC 2001, Tjøme, Norway, 3-5 May 2001

-*To measure and monitor internal migration based on national population register*, IAOS Conference Ottawa, Canada, Statistics Sweden, Background facts Population and Welfare Statistics 2006:7, available at [http://www.scb.se/statistik/\\_publikationer/BE9999\\_2006A01\\_BR\\_BE96ST0607.pdf](http://www.scb.se/statistik/_publikationer/BE9999_2006A01_BR_BE96ST0607.pdf)

-*Register-based statistics in Nordic countries. Review of best practices with focus on population and social statistics*, Johan-Kristian Tønder, Finn Spieker, Pekka Myrskylä, Claus-Göran Hjelm and Harald Utne, UNECE, United Nations Publications, Geneva, 2007

-*Selected Documents on the Modernisation of the Civil Registration System in Albania*, Statistics Norway, Department of Social Statistics, and the Albanian Ministry of Local Government and Decentralisation, Documents n. 2004/2, available at [www.ssb.no/emner/02/90/doc\\_200402/doc\\_200402.pdf](http://www.ssb.no/emner/02/90/doc_200402/doc_200402.pdf)

-*Selected Documents on the Modernisation of the Civil Registration System in Albania, Vol. II*, Halvard Skiri, Børge Strand, Mirela Talka and Helge Brunborg, Statistics Norway, Division for Development Cooperation, Documents n. 2005/14, available at [http://www.ssb.no/emner/00/90/doc\\_200514/doc\\_200514.pdf](http://www.ssb.no/emner/00/90/doc_200514/doc_200514.pdf)

-*The Italian system of municipal population registers and its use for migration statistics*, Enrico Tucci and Giambattista Cantisani, presentation to the MEDSTAT II Training 2008, [1]

### **C.3. Residence permits**

#### **Overview**

The registers of residence permits are an important source for producing regular and various statistics on international migration: they facilitate good coverage, their costs are limited, and the data is often available in electronic format. Therefore, in spite of several limitations (for example, irregular or unreliable registration of definitive departures or emigrants, delays in renewing permits, limited registration or lack of coverage of selected categories such as minors and undocumented migrants), this type of data source can be used to estimate several basic indicators such as the stock of foreigners, new immigrants, and status changes.

Some conceptual and methodological issues need to be resolved before producing comparable measures based on this data source, for instance, the definition of a first permit and subsequently of a migrant on the basis of issued residence permits or the differentiation between short-term and long-term migrants. However, the most important prerequisite for the statistical development of this source is the improved cooperation between national statistical institutes and ministries of interior which administer the system and maintain this type of source.

In most of the EU countries, the databases on residence permits are increasingly used to produce statistics related to foreigners and international migration. The appropriateness of using individual records and applying statistical criteria in the preparation of tables is widely recognised.

In the case of MPCs, although the registers of residence permits were a source for regular statistical production in the seventies in some countries (for example, Lebanon, with tables published in the annual yearbook), their statistical use has been limited since then. However, between 2000 and 2003, MEDSTAT I supported the awareness on the use and the enhancement of the residence and work permit systems. After evaluating the MEDSTAT I experience and recognising the potential of the registers of residence and work permits, the Task Force in charge of defining the mandate of MEDSTAT II Migration (Brussels, October 2005) agreed on the need for the improvement of the NSI capacities to measure, in the long term, migrants' flows and stocks concentrating exclusively on these sources. The orientation work jointly carried out by the national coordinators and international experts at beginning of MEDSTAT II (Spring 2006) identified the relatively comprehensive registration of foreigners by issuing residence permits through quite advanced technical infrastructures. Among other features, several countries apply a control procedure to residence permits' holders temporarily leaving the national territory by asking them to notify of the departure, an important variable in analysing the data for statistical purposes.

#### **Main activities and results**

- The work within the MEDSTAT I Programme referred to above mostly consisted of the so-called Action C for the analysis and adaptation of the systems in the Maghreb coun-

tries aiming at measuring international migrants' flows and stocks. The work ended in a publication mainly focused on the presentation and analysis of national systems, methodological considerations and recommendations, and a suggestion of a detailed set of tables to be produced using residence permit data (see below).

- A new EU regulation establishing a common system of electronic residence permits was implemented in the Member States at the end of 2006. Apart from harmonising the procedures and parameters and facilitating the collection of data, the new system allows a different registration of minors in these countries, such as Italy, where they are registered with less information on the permit granted to one of the parents. As a consequence, the coverage of the yearly tables produced from this administrative source according to different combination of variables will be significantly enhanced. Presentations and demonstrations on the EU-coordinated electronic residence permits were shown to the MPC delegates during study visits in Italy and Belgium.

- The relevance of this source within the EU was recently reinforced by the launch of a pilot exercise and then a new collection of residence permit data by Eurostat. Although nearly all countries should be able to provide such data (and most of them already provide partial statistics), the quality of existing figures is still highly questionable. In most countries, the use of individual data is rapidly increasing as the micro-data are progressively made available for statistical purposes by the ministries of interior.

- Experiences in the EU include developments of immigration flows based on the administrative data in the format made available as individual records by the Ministry of Interior (source AGDREF, for foreigners) and the Office of International Migration (for minors benefiting from family reunification measures). Statistical tables resulting from such developments comply with the international recommendations and present breakdowns are by sex, age, country of citizenship, type of admission, year of entry, and other variables. Results and methodologies are published at [http://statistiques\\_flux\\_immigration.site.ined.fr](http://statistiques_flux_immigration.site.ined.fr).

- The OECD has recently started compiling "standardised statistics on permanent-type migration" for its member countries mostly based on the residence permit data. Given the difficulties in complying with the UN International Recommendations on migration, the OECD has adopted an alternative approach based on the stay or residence rights in the receiving countries. The term "permanent" or permanent-type" migration has been used to avoid confusion with the UN definitions. This statistical compilation aims at ensuring international comparability, identifying the different categories of migration (for example, migrant workers, accompanying family members, family reunification and family formation) and at distinguishing short-term movements from long-term flows. These objectives determined the choice of residence permit data as the main data source. The standardised series resulting from this exercise are, for most of countries, lower or even significantly lower than the published statistics on international immigration based on different data sources. For certain countries, the reason is clear: the standardised series excludes certain short-term movements. In other cases, the differences are due to the definitions used for official immigration statistics. Thus, for example, in Germany, high official immigration figures from the registration of moving into a private dwelling from abroad for more than one week is not covered by the registration of work permits for certain groups such as seasonal workers and international students. A recent document on this exercise and its results for 2006 is accessible through the link below.

- The promotion of using permit data under MEDSTAT II was already successful in Morocco, where in the beginning of 2008 individual records from the system of residence permits for the years 2005-2007 were provided from the Ministry of Interior, Direction Générale de la Sécurité Nationale (DGSN), to the Haut Commissariat au Plan / Direction de la Statistique (HCP/DS). By using these data the Moroccan experts highlighted several constraints (such as the non-coverage of minors and other selected categories, the definition of reference date of entries, the linkage of files and the inability to distin-

guish between first issue and renewals), as well as several opportunities for improvement (the attribution of individual identification numbers, the adaptation of administrative forms, and the introduction of a new application linking the registration of residence permits and border crossings).

#### Further reading and links

-*MEDSTAT Programme. Adapting residence and work permits registers in the Mediterranean region to measure international migration flows and stocks. Technical manual and guidelines*, Jamal Bouchachen, Eurostat Working Papers and Studies KS-CC-06-002-EN-N, Luxembourg, 2006, [2]

-*Task Force MED-Migration 2005*. Main conclusions, Brussels, 10-11 October 2005

-*Carte électronique pour étrangers*, presentation of the Office des Etrangers of Belgium to the MEDSTAT II Study Visit from Lebanon to Belgium, 20-21 September 2007, [1]

-THESIM book, Chapter 4 *Registration of Permit of Stay*, Xavier Thierry and Yves Breem, pp. 133-150, 2006, (title and complete reference under Chapter A)

-*Recommandations pour l'élaboration des données des registres des permis de séjour pour les statistiques de migration*, Xavier Thierry, presentation to the MEDSTAT II Task Force, Brussels, 13-14 March 2007, [1]

-Standardised statistics on immigrant inflows. Results, sources and methods, Pauline Fron, Georges Lemaitre, Thomas Liebig, Cécile Thoreau, OECD, 2008, available at [http://www.oecd.org/about/0,3347,en\\_2649\\_33931\\_1\\_1\\_1\\_1\\_1,00.html](http://www.oecd.org/about/0,3347,en_2649_33931_1_1_1_1_1,00.html)

-*L'utilisation des microdonnées relatives à la délivrance des titres de séjour en France : un changement de cap ?*, Xavier Thierry, in *Les migrations internationales: observation, analyse et perspectives*, Proceedings of AIDELF Seminar, Budapest, 20-24 September 2004, PUF - AIDELF, Paris, 2007, available at [www.aidelf.ined.fr/colloques/Budapest/Seance1/S1\\_Thierry.pdf](http://www.aidelf.ined.fr/colloques/Budapest/Seance1/S1_Thierry.pdf)

-*Utilisation des données individuelles des permis de séjour pour la production de statistiques migratoires au Maroc*, Abdelilah Zerrou and Bouchra Bouziani, presentation to MEDSTAT II Workshop 2008, [1]

#### C.4. Other administrative sources

##### Overview

In addition to traditional databases used to estimate migration flows and stocks like population registers and residence permits' database, several specific administrative files could be used as a source for estimating specific migration issues: visas' databases, consular registers, work permits' registers, social security databases, asylum seekers' databases, specific part of the immigration services or police databases related to the prevention of illegal migration and returns of illegal migrants.

These different databases only cover specific categories of migrants. In some cases, the completeness of the registration and/or the update of the situation of registered persons are not ensured and should be carefully checked. However, they can be used as alternative or complementary sources to derive partial estimates for specific flows. Legal immigrations of specific foreign citizens required to receive a visa before immigration can be estimated on the basis of the number of visas issued. Emigration flows of nationals can be estimated on the basis of new registrations in consular registers, whereas stock of emigrants in a given country may be based on the number of emigrants recorded in the local consular registers. When certain foreign citizens must have work permits before being allowed to work, the number of new work permits may be used to estimate labour immigration. Work permit data are often published but its interpretation is difficult due to the high number of exceptions. When the social security system is well developed, the registration of immigrants in the database can be used to measure specific categories of immigrants and foreign workers.

When there is an incentive for immigrants to register, other databases can be used for estimates and quality control. Such databases could be, for example, those of national insurance, which would require a new immigrant to register in order to work legitimately, or health insurance in order to get medical treatment. In addition to the estimation of specific migration flows, the comparison of alternative data sources can be used to check the reliability and coverage of current estimates for specific categories.

### Main activities and results

- Currently nearly all countries maintain databases on visas and should be able to provide detailed data on applications, grants, and refusals of visas. The collected information is often considered to be reliable and may be used to understand the visa examination procedure, its length, the refusal rate, as well as to estimate immigration from specific countries. However, few countries publish this type of data.
- In countries where social security covers the vast majority of the population, registration and de-registration within the system is currently investigated to try to derive an estimation of immigration as in Germany or emigration as in France (see references below). Similar activities can be found in the United Kingdom (using the National Health Service database) or Ireland (using the Central Records System held by the Department of Social and Family Affairs that records all individuals registered in the tax or social welfare systems).
- To overcome the lack of data, information from consular registration is sometimes used in the EU and the MPCs. For example, INE-Portugal uses consular registers to improve the measurement of emigration. The results of consular registration are widely used to give a measure of Moroccan residents abroad, although these are not yet included in the official statistics. In fact, while waiting for the introduction of new application for consular registration to allow a link of files and thus to avoid duplication of registration, the HCP/DS of Morocco is considering a way to improve the counts annually available through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
- An interesting and innovative exercise in using administrative registers is the Belgian project '*European comparative research on ulterior trajectories and tendencies among ex-appliers of a regularisation request*' (ROUTE), undertaken by several universities under the coordination of the University of Leuven and with cooperation from national centers and federal authorities. This project also seeks to develop and implement a quantitative methodology for the longitudinal follow-up of socioeconomic trajectories of immigrants whose stay in Belgium has been regularised. The researchers will compile and link through the unique National Register number the administrative data available from the registers of Immigration Office and from the Crossroads Bank for Social Security (CBSS, "*Banque carrefour de la sécurité sociale*", see under Chapter D). The construction of a specific database will allow producing statistics, cross-tabulations, and graphics to analyse the annual socio-economic trajectories of the target population. The ROUTE project is twofold. First, it will provide objective information on the group of regularized immigrants and their life stories from a longitudinal perspective. This type of information is particularly relevant to the political decision-making process, especially since the new regularisation measures are pending in Belgium. Second in the next phase of the project, the resulting linkage methodology and the use of administrative data for longitudinal follow-up research will be extended to the other categories of immigrants, for example students, family reunification, economic immigrants, refugees (more information: [johan.wets@hiva.kuleuven.be](mailto:johan.wets@hiva.kuleuven.be)).

•During the last decade, several initiatives aimed to a better statistical approach for the asylum procedure. In addition to the general efforts made by Eurostat and UNHCR to enhance data collection in this field, statisticians and demographers highlighted biases resulting from the use of simple decisions statistics, in particular, when estimating recognition rates. The use of cohort approach was strongly recommended (see the studies done under the supervision of Rob van der Erf and the two other references listed below). Similar recommendations were made for statistics on acquisitions of citizenship.

### Further reading and links

-*Autres registres ou fichiers administratives*, Nicolas Perrin, presentation to the MED-STAT II Training 2008, [1]

-*Aperçu des données statistiques disponibles sur la délivrance et le refus des visas*, Nicolas Perrin, 2007, *Revue du droit des étrangers*, n°143, pp. 138-146

-*Transnational working biographies: What should we measure? Nationality, place of residence, place of employment or place of birth?*, Jochen Baumann, Humboldt University (Germany), and Tatjana Mika, German Pension Insurance (FDZ-RV), Proceedings of the International Conference on Social Statistics and Ethnic Diversity: Should we count, how should we count and why?, Montreal, 6-8 December 2007, available at <http://www.ciqss.umontreal.ca/fr/SSDE>

-*Le nouveau système statistique d'assurance maladie permettrait-il une estimation des flux d'émigration ?* (France), Benoit Riandy, in *Les migrations internationales: observation, analyse et perspectives*, Proceedings of AIDELF Seminar, Budapest, 20-24 September 2004, Paris, PUF - AIDELF, 2007, available at [www.aidelf.ined.fr/colloques/Budapest/Seance1/S1\\_Riandey.pdf](http://www.aidelf.ined.fr/colloques/Budapest/Seance1/S1_Riandey.pdf)

-THESIM book, chapters 5, 10 and 13 (*Registration of Asylum Seekers, Statistics on Asylum Applications and A Cohort Approach to Measuring the Asylum Procedure*, Rob van der Erf, Liesbeth Heering and Ernst Spaan, respectively pp. 151-166, 249-259 and 289-319, 2006, (title and complete reference under Chapter A)

-Selected document and Final Report of the Joint UNECE / Eurostat Work Session on Registers and Administrative Records in Social and Demographic Statistics, Geneva, 9-11 December 2002, available at <http://www.unece.org/stats/documents/2002.12.registers.htm>

-*Swiss-Swedish Joint Study on Cohort-Based Asylum Statistics*, Torsten Torstensson, Isaksson Krister, Stéphane Cotter and Marcel Heiniger, 1998, Luxembourg, Eurostat (WP 3/1998/E/n° 2), [2]

-*Draft Manual on Statistics of Asylum-seekers and Refugees*, van der Erf, Rob, 1998, Luxembourg, Eurostat (Working Paper 3/1998/E/n° 18), [2]

-Le suivi longitudinal des populations réfugiées reconnues. Un exemple d'utilisation de registres administratifs, Philippe Wanner, 2006, paper presented at Chaire Quételet 2006 "Les systèmes d'information en démographie et en sciences sociales. Nouvelles questions, nouveaux outils ?", available at [www.uclouvain.be/demo](http://www.uclouvain.be/demo)

-THESIM book, Chapter 14 (*A Cohort Approach to Acquisition of Citizenship Statistics*, Nicolas Perrin, pp. 321-336), 2006, (title and complete reference under Chapter A)

## C.5. Population Censuses

### Overview

Historically the Census has been the key source on immigration (through such questions as country of usual residence at a specified date in the past or duration of residence in the country or year of arrival in the country) and on stocks (through questions on country of birth or country of citizenship or parents' countries of birth). A full account of the various migration topics, both core (recommended) and non-core (optional), definitions, classifications and gui-

delines are included in the UNECE Recommendations for the 2010 Censuses of Population and Housing (full reference below).

In the absence of flow data, particularly on emigration, many countries have used census statistical comparisons, commonly referred to as demographic accounting, to provide an estimate of net international migration over the inter-censal period, often ten years. Undercounting in one or both censuses could make this method unreliable.

International migration is dynamic with the potential for annual fluctuations and changing trends. Therefore, while the census normally covers the entire population (that is, a full count rather than a large sample), its main disadvantage is that it is held infrequently (however, it should be noted that register-based censuses provide scope for more frequent estimates). Its further disadvantage is that traditionally the census has not been used to provide information on emigration, mainly because it is difficult to cover the households or families where all the members have left the country.

Given that most censuses are only held once every ten years and with the increasing interest and importance of international migration to the governments and other bodies, as a result of unprecedented increases in population mobility stimulated by the global economy and rapid advances in the means and ease of travel, all potential sources are being further explored. This includes administrative data, such as the data collected at borders or from permit issues, surveys, and censuses.

An advantage of the census is that it is easier to incorporate international definitions or ask questions to meet known needs. Consequently, many countries are now using the census (and household surveys) to cover emigration, either in estimating emigration, intending emigration, or return migration. The approach can either be through questions in the census itself or as separate module.

### Main activities and results

- An inventory of data sources, including the census, and statistics available in countries or from international organisations was made under MEDSTAT I. However, this inventory was taken some ten years ago and a further inventory of topic matter, questions, definitions and approaches is to be undertaken. After 2000, an inventory of census migration questions in the MPCs and proposal of an emigration module for censuses (Action A) were included in MEDSTAT I. For all the activities above the results were published in Eurostat Working Papers (see reference below).

- The preparation of an emigration module deals with four main approaches pursued by countries to establish the international emigration movements involving their territories: (i) bilateral projects comparing flow data among countries of origin and destination; (ii) a Portuguese survey carried out simultaneously with the LFS on vacant dwellings which could have been previously occupied by departing households or families; (iii) the collection of partial information through the census either (from heads of households or from siblings) and then, using statistical models, producing emigration estimates; and (iv) the collection of emigration statistics through a module in the census.

The emigration module consists of the three questions and a simple information table which is completed according to the replies to these questions:

- Question 1: Has any member of the household emigrated during the past x years?
- Question 2: Has any former member of the household (that is any person who, at the time of the census, was not living any more in the same dwelling of the household being enumerated), emigrated during the past x years?
- Question 3: Did this person constitute by himself or formed part of another household that emigrated entirely during the past x years?
- Information table: name, years of age, sex, country of destination, and year of departure for each emigrated person.

It is suggested that a relatively short period (i.e. not more than five years) is used and that the module should be fully tested during the preparation for the census.

•Migration questions and modules were included in the censuses of Jordan (2004), Morocco (2004), Syria (2004), Tunisia (2004), Egypt (2006), the occupied Palestinian territory (2007), and Algeria (2008). For example, the 2004 Census in Morocco included questions on place of birth, last place of residence, duration of residence, place of residence at the time of the enthronement of the current King (for a low response error), and place of residence one year ago. The answers to these questions provided information on both internal and international migration. The census also included an emigration module on return migrants (emigrants who have returned to live in Morocco). Migration modules were also included in last census questionnaires of Tunisia, Egypt, the occupied Palestinian territory, and Algeria. Further information can be obtained from the contributions to the MEDSTAT II regional events held in the beginning of 2008, from National Coordinators for the countries or, alternatively, from the publications on the inventory results. Israel will be estimating emigrants in their 2008 Integrated Census of Population and Housing by merging data from the CPR, the border police, and the national insurance files; the data from past censuses will also be used (Emigrants' Stock Model).

•The European country experiences in applying the UN 2000 Recommendations on Censuses may be widely accessed through the links listed below. The UNECE report published in 2007 on UNECE country practices in the 2000 round of censuses contains the results of a survey of the census methods and technologies as well as the conformity to the UN recommendations on topics. 43 out of 55 UNECE countries have responded. Australia also took part in this project. All 44 countries included a question on the country of birth, while 42 countries except for the United Kingdom and Israel included a question on citizenship. Given the problems with citizenship in measuring stocks (some people have dual or multiple citizenships or may acquire the citizenship of their new country of residence), 20 countries included a question on multiple citizenship and 8 - on the citizenship at the time of birth. Other related topics are ethnic group (included in the censuses in 27 countries), language (33 countries), and religion (22 countries). 11 countries included a question on reasons for migration. On international migration flows, 31 of the 44 countries included a question or questions on place of usual residence at a fixed date in the past. The majority (22) included the UN recommended core question on the country of usual residence one year prior to the census, a question considered to be particularly useful for monitoring and analysing internal migration or movement within a country. Country of usual residence five years ago was included in the censuses of 5 countries, while 4 countries asked for the usual residence at the date of the last census.

•The UN Recommendations for the 2010 Censuses went further than previous Recommendations by including sections on census methodology and technology covering such topics as confidentiality, quality assurance, metadata, evaluation of coverage and quality, field operations and processing. The section on topics was also more detailed. For example, for stocks, a cross analysis of country of birth (native or foreign), parent countries of birth (native or foreign) and citizenship (foreign) was used to define 'ever international migrants' and other groups, such as descendants of the foreign-born. A detailed description of each group resulting from this cross-classification is included in the Recommendations (page 92).

Regarding citizenship (core topic or highly recommended topic), it is proposed that countries should collect information on all citizenships held by respondents and that citizenship should be coded according to the UN Statistical Classification (for reference see below).

Regarding migration flows, the core topics include 'ever resided abroad' and the year of arrival in country, as well as the place of usual residence one year prior to the census. The non-core or optional topics, cover place of usual residence five years prior to the census, reasons for migration, country of previous usual residence, and total duration of residence. For stocks the non-core topics are country of birth of parents and citizenship acquisition. Full details including derived classifications are in the Recommendations.

•The UN Recommendations are being used in the dissemination plans being developed by Eurostat that may be of interest outside the European Union. As with international migration, the basis for the supply of data from Member States from the 2010 round of censuses will be a Regulation rather than a voluntary 'gentleman's agreement'. Historically, the supply of tables from Member States has been late, bearing in mind that the EU total is required and pre-defined tables offer no flexibility for meeting ad hoc requests and needs. On the other hand, microdata raises questions of confidentiality and quality (sampling error). As a result, a new conceptual approach, the Census European Hub, is being developed. The approach will specify the census hypercubes. The hypercubes consist of classifications of data on selected variables that provide flexibility without compromising confidentiality. Enquiries would be directed through a central point in Eurostat and then to Member States who would use the hypercubes to meet the request. The work on this is at the specification and testing stage and the final plan is expected in 2010.

•With reference to general methodological aspects it may be useful to mention the newly introduced rolling census in France in which a part of population (sampled population in big municipalities and all population in 1 out of 5 small municipalities) is covered each year and the census results are produced each year based on investigations over five consecutive years. This innovative technique is described in the readings available in English or French and many other documents, including the Eurostat and UNECE general publications referred to below.

#### Further reading and links

-*International Migration Statistics in the Mediterranean Countries: current data sources and statistics available from international organisations*, David Pearce, Eurostat Working Papers 3/1998/E/no 12, [2]

-*International Migration Statistics in the Mediterranean Countries: current data sources and statistics available in the countries, Revised version*, David Pearce and Daniela Rotolone, Eurostat Working Papers 3/1998/E/no 20, [2]

-*International Migration Statistics in the Mediterranean Countries, Summary Report of Missions to the 12 project countries*, David Pearce, Eurostat Working Papers 3/1999/E/no 18, [2]

-*MEDSTAT Programme. Census migration questions in the Mediterranean countries. An inventory and comparative overview*, Reno Camilleri, Eurostat Working Papers and Studies KS-CC-06-003-EN-N, Luxembourg, 2006, [2]

-*MEDSTAT Programme. Estimating emigration through an emigration module in the census. A proposal for the next censuses*, Reno Camilleri, Eurostat Working Papers and Studies KS-CC-06-003-EN-n, Luxembourg, 2006, [2]

-*Documentation of the 2000 Round of the Population and Housing Censuses in the EU, EFTA and Candidate countries*, Byron Kotzamanis, Giambattista Cantisani, Arij Dekker, Despina Logiadou-Didika, Marie-Noelle Duquenne and Alberto Castori, Eurostat Working Papers 3/2004/F/n°1 and n°2, [2]

-*Conference of European Statisticians Recommendations for the 2010 Censuses of Population and Housing*, Prepared in cooperation with the Statistical Office of European Commission (Eurostat), United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, United Nations New York and Geneva, 2006, available at <http://www.unece.org/stats/publ.htm> (in English, French and Russian)

-*Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses. Revision 2*, Statistical Papers Series M, No. 67/Rev.2, ST/ESA/STAT/SER.M/67/Rev.2, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Statistics Division, New York, 2008, available at <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/sources/census/census3.htm>

-*Measuring population and housing. Practices of UNECE countries in the 2000 Round of Censuses*, UNECE, United Nations, New York and Geneva, 2007, available at <http://www.unece.org/stats/archive/01.01a.e.htm>

-The Need for and Use of Census Data on Migration, Richard Bilborrow, XXV IUSSP International Population Conference, Side Meeting on Censuses in the XXIst Century. Improving Data Utilization and Dissemination, Tours, July 2005, available at <http://www.iussp.org/France2005/sidemeeteng.php>

-*Part Two: Measuring International Migration through Population Censuses*, ESA/STAT/AC.132/2, United Nations Expert Group Meeting on the Use of Censuses and Surveys to Measure International Migration, New York, 24-28 September 2007, available at <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/meetings/egm/migrationegmsep07/default.htm>

-*French new census-method and utilization*, INSEE, presentation to the IPUMS Seminar held in Paris in 2006, available at <http://www.iecm-project.org/index.php?module=gc&type=file&func=get&tid=8&fid=document&pid=56>

-*Le recensement en France : du recensement général au "recensement tournant"*, INSEE, presentation to the Joint UNECE / Eurostat Work Session on Census, Astana, 4-6 June 2007, available at <http://www.unece.org/stats/documents/2007.06.census.htm> (available also in English and Russian)

-*Standard Country or Area Codes for Statistical Use*, Statistical Papers Series M, No. 49/Rev.4, ST/ESA/STAT/SER.M/49/Rev.4, United Nations Statistics Division, New York, 2005, available at <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/methods/m49/m49.htm>

-*Approche de la migration à travers le Recensement algérien de 2008*, Omar Benbella, presentation to the MEDSTAT II Training 2008, [1]

-*The 2008 Israel Integrated Census of Population and Housing*. Basic conception and procedure, Charles S. Kamel, February 2005, available at [www.cbs.gov.il/mifkad/census2008\\_e.pdf](http://www.cbs.gov.il/mifkad/census2008_e.pdf)

-*Emigration in the 2008 Israeli Integrated Census*, Michal Sabah, presentation to the MEDSTAT II Training 2008, [1]

-*La mesure de l'émigration à travers le Recensement de la Population de la Tunisie*, Nadia Touihri, presentation to the MEDSTAT II Training 2008, [1]

## C.6. Passenger Surveys

### Overview

Passenger Surveys are normally addressed specifically to measure migration and/or tourism. They are based on face-to-face interviews and are best suited to countries where, because of increasing volumes of passenger movement, entry and exit points are controlled and the number of points is relatively low. For these reasons, islands are particularly suited for such surveys. Passenger surveys are or have been used to measure international migration in the United Kingdom, Ireland, and Cyprus. However, a major problem is that with large numbers of passengers, the number of international migrants in the sample is relatively low leading to large sampling errors. A further problem is that migration is determined when the traveller arrives in or departs from the country and, therefore, reflects intention.

A detailed account of the problems in using passenger surveys is included mostly in the ILO Guidelines.

### Main activities and results

- The International Passenger Survey (IPS) is a sample survey of all passengers travelling through major air and seaports of the United Kingdom. Response is not compulsory. The IPS is used to produce data on people coming to, or leaving the UK, whatever the duration of the intended stay. People entering legally (with visa), but staying afterward illegally, may be in the scope of the survey. The survey also collects information on financial flows (including their purpose) and other information useful to the tourism policy.

The IPS is based on face-to-face interviews with a sample stratified to ensure that it is representative by mode of travel (air, sea, and tunnel), as well as route and time of day (except out-of-hours traffic). A complex weighting procedure is used. Contacts are asked a brief series of questions to identify whether or not they are migrants, for example, how long they intend to stay/be away to/from the UK. People answering that they want to stay inside/abroad UK for at least one year are considered to be migrants if they have lived outside the country for at least one year. Only those in the latter group are asked for a full interview.

The number of interviewed people is generally quite small (they represent approximately 0.5 percent of the estimated annual immigrants and 0.3 percent of the estimated emigrants); however, the ONS has introduced a migration filter to identify migrants at an initial screening stage and thereby increase the number of migrants interviewed. Since 1999, the IPS included some routes between the UK and the Republic of Ireland (all routes are not included); however results are not used to estimate this particular flow and estimation are based on data issued by the Irish Statistical Office. Also, the IPS excludes asylum seekers and other visitor switchers. Asylum seekers applying at the border follow different procedures from other passengers (and they cannot meet the interviewers and be interviewed. However, Home Office (Ministry of Interior) information on status changes for asylum seekers and visitors is used to correct the IPS data for inflows.

As a sample survey, the IPS is subject to uncertainty but standard errors can be calculated. Unfortunately, these standard errors are quite large when we consider single countries of citizenship. Shortcomings or errors may come from non-responses or respondents deliberately concealing their migration intention from the interviewers. It is possible that immigrations may be overestimated (as people may more easily declared they intend to stay at least 12 months) while emigrations may be underestimated (as people will prefer to say that they are leaving for short). An illustrative Quality Review of IPS was carried out some years ago.

- CYSTAT, the NSI of Cyprus, established passenger surveys in two steps. A Passenger Survey - Arrivals was introduced in June 1997 as a 24-hour basis border survey covering a sample of all travellers arriving at all points of entry (two international airports and two ports). The survey questionnaire, which was initially designed for tourism purposes, was modified in 2001 so as to take into account the UN revised recommendations on migration. It also uses the basic information from ship manifests. The passenger sample is merged with the information on passenger movement from the flight's country of origin supplied by the Department of Civil Aviation and Ports. The survey provides information on sex, age, country of citizenship and, for the interviews at airports only, the country of usual residence, purpose of travel, and intention of stay. In April 2002, a Passenger Survey - Departure was introduced at two airports to the needs for tourism and migration data. The sample scheme allows for measurement of quantitative aspects of inbound tourism and permits estimation of the number of emigrants. The survey provides information on sex, age, citizenship, purpose of travel, and country of next residence.

The IPS in Cyprus has two limitations. First, it does not take into consideration the growing number of persons entering or leaving through the Green Line with the Turkish-occupied part of Cyprus. Second, it is clear that the number of emigrants is underestimated compared to the number of immigrants. The reason for that is explained above in the UK text. Accordingly, CYSTAT only considers immigrations estimated by the IPS for updating population stocks and not the estimated number of emigrations.

### Furhter reading and links

*-International Migration Statistics: Guidelines for Improving Data Collection Systems*, Richard Bilsborrow, Graeme Hugo, Amarjit Oberai and Hania Zlotnik, International Labour Office, Geneva, 1997

- *The National Statistics (NS) Quality Review on International Migration Statistics*, Office for National Statistics and the Home Office, January 2004, available at <http://www.statistics.gov.uk/about/data/methodology/quality/reviews/population.asp>

## **C.7. Household Surveys**

### **Overview**

Household surveys are increasingly being used to estimate immigration (flows and stocks) and emigration (actual, intended, or return). While the sample sizes are relatively small and the surveys tend to be voluntary, leading to both sampling and non-sampling errors, they are held frequently, in many cases - annually.

Specific surveys such as the Labour Force Survey, Demographic and Health Surveys, or Multi-Purpose / Omnibus Surveys can be used. The amount of information asked may need to be restricted compared with specialised migration surveys, so as not to overburden the respondents and hence affect response rates. Also, interviewer level of expertise in international migration is likely to be lower. However, the advantage of the general household surveys is that with only a few questions on migration it is possible to generate a wealth of information on the social and economic characteristics of the migrants. Similarly to the Census, another advantage of household surveys is that international definitions can be used and the questions can be designed to meet user needs.

### **Main activities and results**

- The inventory of data sources and statistics carried out under MEDSTAT I and published in Eurostat Working Papers also covered surveys. In some cases, the surveys included migration questions but in many instances this was not so; and where they did it was often only to provide estimates on stocks, not flows. Eurostat Working Paper 3/1998/E/no20 was particularly informative on this issue (see reference under B.5 Population censuses).

An inventory of recent work and tests for the MPCs is planned for a regional workshop to be organised in February 2009 under MEDSTAT II.

- Problems in producing reliable statistics on emigration have also led several European countries to test or use household surveys. In the United Kingdom, a test was carried out in December 2005-January 2006 using the Omnibus (multi-purpose) Survey. 1800 adults were sampled each month with an overall survey response rate of 67 percent. The test was based on the experience of Ireland where questions on emigration were included in the National Household Survey (LFS) and relatively accurate estimates were obtained due to the quality checks against administrative and statistical data. The UK test included questions on emigration (based on the Irish questions), intended emigration in next 12 months and previous immigration using the UN 2010 Census Recommendations. A description of the test and results is published in Population Trends 127.

- In order to provide valuable information for relevant policy fields and monitoring progress towards the common objectives of European Employment Strategy and the Social Inclusion Process, a special migration module was introduced in the 2008 Labour Force Surveys under the EU coordination. The module facilitated a complete identification of the population of migrants and their immediate descendants and provided comparable data at the European level, a comparison between migrants (and their descendants) and nationals for the main labour market characteristics of (employment/unemployment rate, temporary vs. permanent employment, skill.), as well as analysed the factors affecting integration in and adaptation to the labour market. MEDSTAT II has been informed about these national operations via study visits to the countries.

- Several relevant exercises have been conducted in the MPCs. The list includes the migration module for a household survey MICS 3 in Lebanon, the drafting of which was assisted by MEDSTAT II. The module covers the migration of Lebanese (family and re-

latives of the reference person) and change of residence in order to provide information on internal and external migration. Questions on the intention to emigrate were dropped due to the first tests results. A pilot survey will help to define the final version of the module. Egypt tested a migration module added to the July 2007 Labour Force Survey. This test carried out by CAPMAS in cooperation with the ILO (see below) comprised 25 migration questions, including questions on transfers or remittances in finance or in kind and reasons for emigration. Modules on emigration were also included with the 2007 Labour Survey and 2008 Multi Purpose Survey in Syria and with the Palestinian Demographic and Health Surveys in 1995 and 2004. In Morocco, a module on international migration and remittances was tested in the Survey of Living Conditions 2006-2007, while the topics will also be addressed in the Demographic Survey. In Tunisia, a panel survey approach, with half the sample being retained in the following year, has been tested.

- In order to assist the collection of good quality data and promote harmonisation, different initiatives support the improvement and sharing of practices in using household surveys for measuring migration at global or regional levels. These initiatives are undertaken under the UNECE / Eurostat framework, the UN affiliated programmes and specialised agencies, the World Bank Development Research Group (*'Measuring Migration: Best practices'*), MEDSTAT II, and other international entities through preparation of methodologies and survey instruments and holding of meetings and training courses. A main activity jointly undertaken by UNECE, the World Bank, and US Census Bureau is described in Section C.8.

- Recently developed *ILO Labour Migration Module* is a comprehensive and important tool that can be used as a model for the development of a specialised migration survey. In essence, however, it was developed as a flexible and customisable tool for attachment to existing household surveys, particularly the Labour Force Surveys. As in the case of Egypt mentioned above, countries can choose the questions to be included in their LFS (with the technical input from the ILO), depending on the type of migration experienced in the country (origin and/or destination countries), key topics of interest, and the required detail of the information. Universal coverage is dependent on the specific rules governing each survey but roster information is normally collected for all household members, while detailed questions are asked of respondents aged 15 years and older. Apart from Egypt, sections of this module have been piloted in Armenia, Thailand, and Ecuador.

- Several initiatives actually allow sharing online copies of questionnaires, methodologies, and microdata of surveys and censuses. These initiatives mostly include the following:

- '*Living Standards Measurement Survey*' (LSMS, available at <http://go.worldbank.org/PLXWMCNJ0>) which was established to explore ways for improving the type and quality of household data collected by statistical offices in developing countries;

- '*International Household Survey Network*' (IHSN, available at <http://www.internationalsurveynetwork.org>), a network of international organizations and agencies acting as documentation source for undertaken surveys;

- '*Migration in National Surveys*' (MiNS, [http://www.migrationdrc.org/publications/resource\\_guides.html](http://www.migrationdrc.org/publications/resource_guides.html)), a source of instruments and data for censuses and household surveys dealing with migration available within '*Resource Guides: Household Surveys with Migration Related Components*' established at Development Research Center on Migration, Globalisation and Poverty at the University of Sussex;

- '*Integrated Public Use Microdata Series - International*' (IPUMS, <https://international.ipums.org/international>), a project coordinated by the Minnesota Population Center which is dedicated to collecting and distributing census data from around the world; and

- '*Integrated European Census Microdata*' (IECM, <http://www.iecm-project.org>), an IPUMS-related initiative for the provision of census microdata to the European coun-

tries carried out by the Centre d'Estudis Demogràfics in collaboration with Minnesota Population Center.

### Further reading and links

-*Part Three: Measuring International Migration through Sample Surveys*, ESA/STAT/AC.132/3, United Nations Expert Group Meeting on the Use of Censuses and Surveys to Measure International Migration, New York, 24-28 September 2007, available at <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/meetings/egm/migrationegmsep07/default.htm>

-*Using the Omnibus Survey to test questions on emigration*, Helen Evans, Roma Chappell and Emma Wright, Population Trends 127, Spring 2007, available at Office for National Statistics website [www.statistics.gov.uk/products/p6303.asp](http://www.statistics.gov.uk/products/p6303.asp)

-*Estimation of annual international migration from the Labour Force Surveys of the United Kingdom and the continental European Union*, Michael S. Rendall, Cecilia Tomasini and David J. Elliot, Statistical Journal of the UNECE, 20, 2003, pp. 219-234

-*The 2008 ad hoc module of the EU LFS: describing and analysing migrants, opportunities and limitations*, Omar Hardarson (Eurostat), document submitted to the Joint UNECE / Eurostat Work Session on Migration Statistics, Edinburgh, 20-22 November 2006, available at <http://www.unecce.org/stats/documents/2006.11.migration.htm>

-*Regulation (EC) No 102/2007 of 2 February 2007 adopting the specifications of the 2008 ad hoc module on the labour market situation of migrants and their immediate descendants, as provided for by Council Regulations (EC) No 577/98 and amending Regulation (EC) No 430/2005*, Official Journal No L 28/3, 3/2/2007, available in all EU languages, English version at [http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/site/en/oj/2007/l\\_028/l\\_02820070203en00030007.pdf](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/site/en/oj/2007/l_028/l_02820070203en00030007.pdf)

-*Migration Estimation Based on the Labour Force Survey: An EU-15 Perspective*, Mónica Martí and Carmen Ródenas, International Migration Review, Volume 41, Spring 2007, n°41, pp. 101-126

-*Labour Force Survey. Ad-hoc module 2008 on labour market situation of migrants and their descendants*, presentation by Mario Albisinni and Federica Pintaldi (ISTAT) to the MEDSTAT II Study Visit from Jordan to Italy, 2-6 July 2007, [1]

-*Mesure de la migration à partir des données des enquêtes au Liban*, Lara Badre, presentation to the MEDSTAT II Workshop 2008, [1]

-*Egyptian Labour Migration Survey*, Tamy Abdel Hady, CAPMAS, presentation to the MEDSTAT II Training 2008, [1]

-*La mesure de la migration à travers l'Enquête Annuelle de la Population et de l'Emploi en Tunisie*, Nadia Touihri (INS), presentation to the MEDSTAT II Workshop 2008, [1]

## C.8. Household Migration Surveys

### Overview

Specialised household surveys on international migration constitute the most appropriate data collection system to gather the information needed to study the *determinants or consequences* of international migration that cannot sufficiently or efficiently be collected by other methods. Population censuses, continuous population registers, and border or admission data collection systems can collect basic data on the *numbers of migrants* and a few characteristics; however, none of these existing systems collects information on the situation of the migrant *prior to migration*, which is vital for investigating either the determinants or consequences of migration for international migrants and their households. In particular, the most commonly available source of data on international migration, the population census, usually suffers from using a narrow definition of international migrants, collects very limited information on the characteristics of persons and their households (including nothing on the pre-migration situation), and usually identifies only the stock of lifetime migrants rather than the recent migration flows. Household surveys, on the other hand, are usually the main source of information on why, when, and how migration has occurred.

The conclusions of the Task Force for MEDSTAT II Migration sector held in Brussels in 2005 included the mandate for the migration sector to address "satisfying users' needs by conducting a 'qualitative' survey" (for example, *Push and pull factors for international migration*).

In designing household migration surveys, special attention should be given to three topics: target population, data collection approaches, and sampling design.

The target population: Household international migration surveys gather data from the migrants themselves or indirectly from (proxi) respondents who provide information about persons who have moved from their household, to whom they are usually related. A survey should collect data on recent events for data quality and for obtaining timely information on the factors that shape migration. It is therefore strongly recommended to focus attention on persons who have changed country of residence within a recent time period, such as 5 years preceding the survey (at most 10 years, as used in the NIDI/Eurostat surveys undertaken in 1997).

Data collection approaches: a household survey of international migration should gather information on the determinants of out-migration from the country, return migration to the country, and the intentions to migrate. The questionnaires should also include modules dealing with 'emerging issues' of international migration for which data are required such as circular migration, migration of highly skilled persons, irregular migration, and remittances. The measurement of migrants' remittances is widely and increasingly addressed in recent national surveys often undertaken under the coordination of international organisations.

The ideal approach for studying the *determinants of emigration* of individuals from an origin country O is to collect data from samples of migrants in each of the major countries of destination, D1, D2, D3, from persons who migrated there from O in the previous x (for example, five) years, plus data from non-migrants in O, which serves as the appropriate "control" population. Another approach is to collect data from a single destination country; however, this leads to biased estimates. The most common approach is to carry out a single survey in the country of origin, in households with and without international out-migrants. The main limitation of a single survey is that it cannot collect data on whole households that moved.

The ideal approach for studying the *determinants of return migration* is to interview migrants who had left O for D but returned to O, and to collect data on emigrants from O to D remaining in D (who constitute the "at risk" population of return migrants who did not return) from proxy respondents remaining in O, though the data could not be as detailed.

Finally, for *potential migrants*, all individual adult members of origin households would be asked if they intend to migrate or not.

Sample design: The general principle is that the sample should be a *probability sample*. Only probability samples allow statistically valid inferences to be made about the population the sample represents based on the analysis of the survey data. A *probability sample* is the one in which every element in the sample (whether an individual migrant or a household containing an immigrant or out-migrant) has a known non-zero probability of selection.

Migrants, however, tend to be *rare elements* in a country's total population, and this calls for specialized sampling procedures. For example, the sample design for the major NIDI/Eurostat study of international migration in the region uses two phases (*two-phase or sequential sampling*) to select both migrant and non-migrant households (see below). First, areas are sampled in purposively chosen regions, whereby areas with high (expected) proportions of migrants are over-sampled. Then, the two-phase sampling operation is performed in the final-stage sampling areas. In phase 1, all households in the sampled areas are 'screened' to prepare a list of those that are migrant households and non-migrant households. In phase 2, households are then sampled according to pre-defined numbers or proportions sought of the two types. The objective of this sampling strategy is to ensure that a sufficient number of migrant households is selected, that is, 'disproportionately', taking into account the 'rare' but unknown prevalence of such households in the general population. The above two-phase, multi-stage,

stratified cluster sampling strategy is not self-weighting, so that sample design weights must be derived from the overall selection probabilities of households. As the magnitude of weights affects analytical results, it is important to avoid making errors by ensuring that each step in the implementation of a sample design in the field is carefully recorded, documenting households selected, visited, and refusals, to develop appropriate compensation weights.

## Main activities and results

- The main example of specialized international migration surveys in the region is the NIDI/Eurostat survey on '*Push and pull factors for international migration*'. The project focused on migration from the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean region and from Sub-Saharan Africa to the EU. The project involved conducting surveys in both the sending and the receiving countries. Five countries of origin participated in the survey, Egypt, Morocco and Turkey - in the Mediterranean region, and Ghana and Senegal - in West Africa. Primary data collection was undertaken in two countries of destination in the Mediterranean region: Italy and Spain. In addition, the Netherlands has been included in the project, based on the analysis of secondary data. In Spain, migrants from Morocco and Senegal were interviewed, in Italy - migrants from Ghana and Egypt. The secondary analysis in the Netherlands included Turkish and Moroccan migrants. The surveys were carried out in 1997 and the project was concluded in 2000. The project included both a single-round *micro-level* survey (household and individual data for migrants and non-migrants) and a *macro-level* survey (contextual data at the national, regional, and local or community levels) in each of the selected sending and receiving countries.

- A number of crucial concepts and definitions were adopted for the purpose of this study. The usual concept of *household* was extended to include not only those persons who live together and have communal arrangements concerning subsistence and other necessities of life but also those who currently reside elsewhere but whose principal commitments and obligations are to that household and who are expected to return to that household in the future or whose family will join them in the future. Therefore, both the household and the shadow household are captured within the definition, a necessary extension for the migration studies.

- The developed sampling procedures and data-processing programmes were geared to the specific characteristics and problems of the project. In the sending countries, the sample design was a stratified, multi-stage cluster sample comprising households with and without migrants, in which the former were over-sampled. The sample size consisted of 1,600-1,800 households. In principle, in each of these countries, the stratified samples were distributed over four regions, identified on the basis of the level of socio-economic development and the history of international migration. Italy and Spain opted for different sampling approaches because of the financial implications of screening households and the lack of appropriate sampling frames. Moreover, the requirement to incorporate undocumented immigrants further complicated the matter in receiving countries. In Spain and Italy sample sizes were about 1,200 each. In Italy, the sample design was based on the Center Sampling Technique (CST), a methodology developed just a few years before this operation and further refined in the following years. This method selects samples that well representing both legal and illegal foreign immigration without having lists of households or registers from which to extract the sample units. The CST is based on the migrants' need to attend at least one aggregation point (a "center") for social contacts, health care, religion, leisure, or simply for everyday needs. The method was presented at a MEDSTAT II Study Visit and the last UNECE / Eurostat Work Session.

- Another relevant, more recent example of migration surveys is MIREM ('*Return Migration in the Maghreb*'), a programme of specialised surveys on return migrants, to assess the impacts of their migration experience on them, their families, and communities in the origin country, and sometimes the country itself. These surveys were carried

out from September 2006 to January 2007 by CREAD in Algeria, AMERM and INSEA in Morocco, and OTE in Tunisia under the coordination of the European University Institute. The surveys covered both migrants who returned voluntarily and those who were forced to return. It investigated the situation before their migration, their experience while abroad, and conditions in their origin country after returning. Data were obtained on their socio-demographic characteristics, professional situation and skills, social and financial capital, migration experience, return reasons, reintegration experience, as well as the current situation and perspectives on the entire experience.

- MAFE (*Migration between Africa and Europe*) is a recent project aiming to improve understanding of the underlying causes and consequences of migration between Africa and Europe. It is an extension of a previous project focusing on Senegal, Ghana, and the Democratic Republic of Congo with France, Italy, and Spain as destination countries. The Project intends to foster the policy dialogue and collect comparable data, including longitudinal data, in both sending and receiving countries. The research is based on three steps: i) the survey on each member of the household and those who emigrated abroad or are married to an international migrant; ii) the in-depth survey on a household member for a 'biographical' interview on the household; iii) tracing household members in the destination countries and interviewing them on biographical basis. This survey approach of using a common questionnaire on a specific topic is analogous with the World Fertility Surveys of about 30 years ago and follow-up Demographic and Health Surveys. Further information on this survey is available through the document on reasons and conditions for improving migration surveys in the MPCs listed below or the survey's coordinator at INED.

- Among the EU Member States, Spain, France, and Italy have recently implemented or are organising specialised household surveys on immigration. The common focus of these surveys is the socio-economic characteristics, migration and work experience, living and health conditions, integration and social participation of immigrants, with details differing in each country.

The *National Immigrant Survey* carried out in Spain during November 2006 - February 2007 was broadly based on the improved population registration system (*Padrón*) updated on monthly basis. The survey focused on persons born abroad who were older than 15 years and had been living in Spain for more than 1 year or were planning to do that. Country of birth was considered the most appropriate aspect for investigation of historical immigration flows. The Spanish questionnaire also included modules on the composition and relationships of the household and family of immigrants, for the family regardless of the location of their members, their legal status in Spain and contacts in the country of birth. The survey implemented in France in the last quarter of 2008 by INED and INSEE (*Life histories and family origins*) focused on the integration of immigrants and their descendants. Data were collected through a sample of immigrants (that is, foreign born and with foreign citizenship at birth), persons born in French overseas territories, descendants of these two categories of persons, as well as a number of reference persons. The questionnaire also included questions on health, access to health care and personal experiences of discrimination. Finally, a survey on *Health conditions of foreign residents* is planned to be carried out in Italy at the end of 2009.

The Spanish and French surveys were presented at both the last UNECE / Eurostat Work Session and the study visits organised under MEDSTAT II (see links below).

- For the MPCs, some migration-related surveys were recently implemented in Tunisia and Egypt (with similar operations in Albania, Moldova, and Ukraine) under the European Training Foundation project *Patterns of Migration and Human Resources Development Issues* ([http://www.etf.europa.eu/web.nsf/pages/Projects\\_EN?opendocument](http://www.etf.europa.eu/web.nsf/pages/Projects_EN?opendocument)) and in the Maghreb countries under an initiative undertaken by CISP. The latter was a survey programme to better understand the migration processes from Sub-Saharan Africa to the Maghreb countries for the dimensions of transit migration and final destination. Therefore, the three surveys investigated the causes of migration flows, the paths, modalities, costs and difficulties of travels, the living and working conditions in the host countries, and the expectations and perspectives of immigrants from Sub-Saharan Afri-

can countries. These surveys were funded by the UNHCR and the EC and were conducted under the framework of the Network "Afrique Migration" with support of AMERM and AFVIC in Morocco, ACMACO in Tunisia, and SARP in Algeria.

- In MEDSTAT II Training in Lisbon and Workshop in Wiesbaden it was noted that many of the countries in the region which have significant numbers of their citizens working abroad were precisely those lacking adequate sources of information on international migration. To fill that gap, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, the occupied Palestinian territory, and Syria are considering or planning to conduct specialised household surveys on international migration. The MPCs also noted that if comparability and harmonisation were to be attained across countries and maintained within countries over time, it was important to establish internationally validated guidelines for the design and implementation of such surveys and thus recommended MEDSTAT II to develop model questionnaires and related instruments for coordinated household international migration surveys. These model questionnaires should include modules dealing with out-migration, return migration, and intention to migrate, as well as 'emerging issues' of international migration for which data are required such as circular migration, migration of highly skilled persons, irregular migration, and migrants' remittances. The World Bank, UNESCWA and CARIM could support the development of such model questionnaires. Plans are also underway for the preparation of immigration surveys in Israel and Jordan, respectively on the economic and social integration of last year's immigrants and the socio-economic impact of recent immigration.

- Concerning the measurement of migration and remittances through household surveys in sending and receiving countries, many initiatives have been undertaken in the last few years at regional and international level under the coordination of ILO, IOM, the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank, OECD, and other international organisations. The estimation of the volume and kind of annual transfers and the evaluation of their impact on development have been pursued with questions included in existing national surveys (such as LFS), specific modules in international surveys (such as LSMS), or specialised surveys on migration and remittances. The Africa Migration and Remittances Project supported by the World Bank is one of the most relevant initiatives under the last category. Although their goals are the same, the different types of surveys and other methodological differences have led to a lack of comparability in the results. The recognition of these constraints by the Joint UNECE / Eurostat Work Session held in Edinburgh in November 2006 resulted in a request to UNECE, the World Bank, and the US Census Bureau to organise an experts' meeting in Suitland (Maryland, USA), in January 2008 to discuss the national and international practices in using household surveys for measuring this topic (website <http://www.unece.org/stats/documents/2008.01.migration.htm>). The discussion in this meeting and the following UNECE/ Eurostat Work Session originated the "Suitland Task Force" for supporting the NSIs and international organisations in improving the collection of data on migration and remittances.

The Suitland Task Force will be in charge of consolidating the existing knowledge, clarifying methodological issues under discussion, as well as suggesting best practices and developing standards for survey modules, data tabulation, and dissemination. A comprehensive description of objectives, activities, and outputs of this task force are provided in the reading list below.

- MEDSTAT II has organised a training course on the methodologies for measuring the impact of migrants' remittance flows on household budgets and national accounts. The macroeconomic level (Balance of Payments and National Accounts) and the microeconomic level (multiple purposes and thematic household surveys) were addressed. The training was organised in Lisbon on 17-21 November 2008 jointly by the sectors of Social Statistics, Migration, and National Accounts. Specialists from INE-Portugal, the Bank of Portugal, and Eurostat, as well as a professor from the University of Geneva contributed to the training. Participants from the MPCs were requested to fill out a questionnaire in advance to report on their current activities in the area of remittances flows and issues they wanted to be addressed. During the training each country delegation

made a presentation on their national system and discussed their difficulties and plans for the future. The main outcomes of this training were the following:

- Exploring the changes in the international recommendations for measuring remittances through the latest version 6 of the IMF Balance of Payments Manual (BPM6);
- Learning about the new methods for collecting data on remittances through household surveys;
- Learning from the Portuguese experience in terms of measuring remittances through National Accounts and Balance of Payments, and macro-econometric modelling for estimating remittances flows;
- Exchanging experiences between the MPC participants and discussing sub-regional migration and remittance issues common to neighbouring countries.

### Further reading and links

- *Recommendations on Statistics of International Migration*, United Nations, 1998, (complete reference under Chapter A)

- *Part Three: Measuring International Migration through Sample Surveys*, ESA/STAT/AC.132/3, United Nations Expert Group Meeting on the Use of Censuses and Surveys to Measure International Migration, 24-28 September 2007, New York, available at <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/meetings/egm/migrationegmsep07/default.htm>

- *One-way or both-ways migration surveys*, Jean-Louis Rallu, paper presented to the 2nd Conference of the EAPS Working Group on International Migration in Europe, Rome, 25-27 November 2004, available at <http://library.imiscoe.org/record/158055>

- *Household International Migration Surveys*, Samir Farid, presentation to the MEDSTAT II Training 2008, [1]

- *Motifs et conditions pour l'amélioration des enquêtes migration dans les Pays Partenaires de la Méditerranée*, Youssef Courbage, document prepared for the MEDSTAT II Workshop 2008, [1]

- *Push and pull factors of international migration*, NIDI/Eurostat, 2001, project documentation and publication available at <http://www.nidi.knaw.nl/web/html/pushpull/index.html>

- *Design of samples for international migration surveys: methodological considerations and lessons learned from a multi-country study in Africa and Europe*, George Groenewold and Richard Bilsborrow, in *International Migration in Europe. New Trends and New Methods of Analysis*, Corrado Bonifazi, Marek Okólski, Jeannette Schoorl & Patrick Simon (eds.), IMISCOE Research, Amsterdam: Amsterdam University Press, 2008, p. 293-312

- *Coordinated migration surveys: A powerful but difficult task*, Giuseppe Gesano, presentation to the MEDSTAT II Task Force Migration, Rome, 20-21 May 2008, [1]

- *Center sampling: from applicative issues to methodological aspects*, Gian Carlo Blangiardo, Proceedings of the XLII Riunione Scientifica dalla Società Italiana di Statistica, Bari, 9-11 June 2004, CLEUP Padua, Vol. I, p. 377-388, available at <http://www.sis-statistica.it/files/pdf/atti/RSBa2004p377-388.pdf>

- *Experiences and methods for estimating the presence of foreigners in Italy* (including Center Sampling Technique), Gian Carlo Blangiardo, presentation for the MEDSTAT II Study Visit to Italy held in June 2007, [1]

- *Return Migrants to the Maghreb: Reintegration and Development Challenges*, Jean-Pierre Cassarino (ed.), MIREM Global Report 2007, RSCAS / European University Institute, Florence, January 2008, available at [http://www.mirem.eu/research/reports/global/global-report?set\\_language=en](http://www.mirem.eu/research/reports/global/global-report?set_language=en)

- *Profils des migrants subsahariens en situation irrégulière en Algérie*. Rapport Intermédiaire de Recherche, CISP/SARP, 2007, available at <http://www.ram-network.org/Profils-des-migrants-subsahariens.html>

-*The 2007 National Immigrant Survey: extending the knowledge on immigrants beyond registers*, Ignacio Duque and Orlando Montoso (INE-Spain), document submitted to the Joint UNECE / Eurostat Work Session on Migration Statistics, Geneva, 3-5 March 2008, [3]; presentation on the National Immigrants Survey 2007 provided to the MEDSTAT II Study Visit to Spain, Madrid, 22-25 September 2008, [1]; methodological documents, tools and results available at [www.ine.es](http://www.ine.es)

-*Survey on integration of migrants and their descendants*, INED- INSEE, document submitted to the Joint UNECE / Eurostat Work Session on Migration Statistics, Geneva, 3-5 March 2008, [3]

-*Egypt International Migration Survey 2008*, Taher Hassan Saleh, presentation to the MED-STAT II Workshop 2008, [1]

-World Bank Africa Migration Project (Migration, Remittances and Development in Africa), available at <http://go.worldbank.org/VX9QV9FIA1>

-*A comparison of recent internationally coordinated household surveys on international migrant remittances: in search of common ground*, Jason Schachter, Expert Group Meeting on the Contribution of Household Surveys to Measuring Remittances, Suitland, Maryland, 14-15 January 2008, available at <http://www.unece.org/stats/documents/2008.01.migration.htm>

-*Creation of the Suitland Task Force on the Contributions of Household Surveys to the Measurement of Migration and Remittances*, Victoria Velkoff (US Census Bureau), document submitted to the Joint UNECE / Eurostat Work Session on Migration Statistics, Geneva, 3-5 March 2008, [3]

-Training material, documentation and final report of the MEDSTAT II Training Course on Methodologies for Measuring the Impact of Migrants' Remittance Flows on Household Budgets and National Accounts, Lisbon, 17-21 November 2008, [1]

## D. Integration of sources and comparison of results

The analysis of migration can cover both quantitative and qualitative aspects with information drawn from various sources, including research and scientific reports. There is a need, however, to provide a best estimate of annual net migration for population estimates and for projections as well as a host of other purposes.

Further administrative and statistical sources can be used to inform or check estimates. It is also important that the potential in administrative sources is kept under a continuous review and that similar definitions are used across various statistical sources.

Estimating the migration phenomena in a specific country through the data available in the other countries is an emerging approach. This solution, which is based on the possibility to have registered international migration referring to the same person in the national systems of pairs of countries, the frequent limitation or unreliability of data, and the aim to reduce costs, particularly applies to the migration flows for which the same movement in the two opposite directions (exit from a Country A and entry to a Country B) is in principle registered and counted.

As emigration is the most difficult phenomena to measure, the focus is on measuring emigration flows through the immigration data available in the receiving countries. Actually these mirror statistics are not implemented in the Euro-MED Region under the banner of official statistics. Given the limited availability of data in most countries, such statistics are collected and used mainly by international organisations with some use by researchers. On the other hand, the immigration estimates can be compared with, for example, national insurance data or social security statistics to assess whether the migration estimates are consistent with, for example, people wanting to work or to claim national benefits. In principle, the data on stock of foreigners living in a given country can be compared with statistics based on consular data, that is, the registration of non-nationals living in the same country undertaken by the consular ser-

vices of each foreign country. However, such comparisons may be limited to the countries of citizenship that have a relevant number of nationals living in the given country and, therefore, a consulate. Moreover, the specific purposes of consular registration and the propensity of people to registration and de-registration limit the reliability of this source. However, there could be some improvement with the more frequent extension of voting rights to nationals living abroad and also the possibility, in the long term, to create a linkage between local registers thus reducing double-counting.

### Main activities and results

- In the United Kingdom, estimates of annual net international migration come from various sources, namely the International Passenger Survey, data on asylum seekers and visitor switches to migrants (for example to marry) from the Home Office (Ministry of Interior) and, for migration with the Irish Republic, the Irish Labour Force Survey for out-flows and the National Health Service Central Register (new patients) and Irish Country of Residence Survey for inflows. Thus, there is a combination of data from both statistical and administrative sources.

- Many population censuses recently undertaken in Europe and elsewhere represent relevant cases of integration of sources, even in the preparatory stage. For the migration component, the practise of the 2008 Integrated Census in Israel of combining the data available from different sources may be recalled (see Section C.5).

- The integration of sources can consist of carrying out statistical operations to supplement measurements made from administrative sources. An example of such practice over the last few years is illustrated by the activity implemented by Statistics Lithuania to overcome the wide omission in the declaration of migratory movements abroad in order to amend register-based statistics for both migration flows and stocks. The Undeclared Emigration Survey was carried out by supplementing the Lithuanian LFS of 2006, 2007, and 2008 with an *ad hoc* module. The added module included questions on family behaviour. Where the members of the household or neighbours declare that the sampled person has emigrated, they are asked to answer the questions in the added module. The presence of declared and undeclared emigration was determined by linking administrative sources with the survey micro-records. The respective totals of emigration flows for 2001-2007 were estimated together with the main socio-economic characteristic of emigrants. Results for both years revealed that only each one in two or one in three resident of Lithuania declares his/her departure when emigrating. A pilot Immigration Survey aiming to assess undeclared immigration, in particular for undeclared returning national migrants and their main demographic, socio-economic characteristics, was also compiled with the LFS in 2008. The preliminary results of the survey showed that in 2001-2007 about the same proportion of immigrants (one in two or one in three) declared the fact of re-immigration: they were abroad for at least one year or longer without declaring the change of residence. The coefficients of variation were quite high - about 16 per cent; however, the estimates could be used to monitor the processes of international migration and to evaluate inter-census estimates of the size of the population and migration flows.

- An interesting exercise was recently undertaken in Italy linking residence permit data at the time of the last regularisation schemes. Apart from accompanied minors, all foreigners legally residing in Italy hold a valid residence permit. Data are provided for statistical purposes, on an annual basis, in the format of individual, not nominative records and only report about the present situation. Also, records are identified by a unique code generated by an *ad hoc* procedure, which was changed several times over the years, following various reorganizations of administrative procedures and database design. In general, this structure does not allow observing the changes of status or territorial movements of permit holders between two subsequent permissions. However, an *ad hoc* linkage between the databases of consecutive years was possible and was carried out for 2002-2003 (the period just including last regularisation scheme which allowed about

650,000 foreigners to obtain a valid residence permit) and 2006-2007 (the most recent period). Results of this record-linkage were used for an in-depth analysis of changes of status in the type of permits (by reason and duration of stay), transitions in and out of the labour market, and other migratory paths, including territorial mobility of foreigners legally living in Italy.

- In Belgium, the Crossroads Bank for Social Security (CBSS) was created in the 1990's to improve the efficiency of the social security system. In order to fulfil its objective, a data warehouse focusing on labour market and social protection was created to facilitate the access to all administrative databases related to this field (population register, social security databases) and to support the development of statistical production and scientific researches ([http://www.ksz.fgov.be/Fr/statistiques/stats\\_home.htm](http://www.ksz.fgov.be/Fr/statistiques/stats_home.htm)). This data warehouse allows a detailed monitoring of the social situation on the basis of applications, producing regular report on specific topics and ad hoc applications developed on request, in particular, for scientific projects. During the last years, it was the basis of many studies related to migration and integration of population with a migration background (see examples below).

- The comparison of statistics on annual migration flows provided by the European countries as both sending and receiving countries showed relevant differences, due to the application of different definitions and different rules and practises of registration in the administrative registers. This was the main result of the exercises carried out by the international organisations, national statistical institutes, and experts at regional and bilateral level. These exercises, which started with the double matrix on immigration and emigration statistics for the year 1972 prepared by UNECE, include several studies of the flows between Belgium and Italy, Belgium and Denmark/Sweden (both based on individual records), and between other pairs of countries, new comparisons between EU15 and Central European countries, the analysis within the projects THESIM, MIMOSA and ILMAS. Apart from the application of common definitions, the use of different sources, as well as the use of other country results is recommended to the countries. On the other hand, these exercises also showed positive results. Because of the common rules for recording international movements and data exchange, the Nordic countries succeeded in improving considerably the comparability of their annual statistics on flows. Also, a recent exercise between Belgium and the Netherlands included validating the methodologies used to improve the statistics on emigration flows that can be derived from population registers. References on the main cases above are listed under 'Further reading'.

- Further comparisons of statistics between the EU and the MPC countries include the cases of Maghreb countries searching for data on national emigrants in the main destination countries in Europe in the results of population censuses and other more up-to-date and frequent sources. The main reason for the differences, however, often remains the count of persons with double citizenship.

An example of possible data exchange between the EU and the MPCs is found in a request of census data that was addressed in 2007 by INSEE, Division of Surveys and Demographic Studies, in order to improve the measurement of emigration flows from France. The data request was for tables on residents born in France cross-classified by:

- country of citizenship, country of citizenship at birth, sex and year of birth,
- country of citizenship, country of citizenship at birth, sex and year of arrival in the country.

Unfortunately, the current conditions do not allow for a detailed response to such a request. However, the type of requested information clearly shows the need that could be satisfied from both sides at least through the decennial censuses.

- An important initiative was recently promoted jointly by the UNECE and Eurostat to assess the measurement of emigration through data available in immigration countries and to establish the guidelines and tables for data exchange. The main feasibility exercise involving 19 UNECE countries divided in four clusters was carried out between Novem-

ber 2005 and June 2006. The investigation was unanimously considered useful. However, it was recognised that this approach may be difficult to implement due to conceptual, methodological, and definitional differences, as well as the lack of data and the difficulty to launch a new and complicated data collection. This approach is also recommended for countries where emigration data do not exist, are unreliable, or are limited to some categories of migrants. Generally speaking, comparisons of data among pairs of countries may help improve the reliability of data in both sending and receiving countries; however, the degree of usefulness for a given sending country may depend on the quality of the country's own emigration statistics.

The guidelines comply with the UN recommendations by focusing on the annual number of long-term immigrants and the threshold of actual / intended residence of twelve months. The tabulation consists of three types of stock and flow tables distinguishing immigrants from a country X and their descendants, including their place of birth and change of citizenship. These results outside the Joint Annual Data Collection or usual census tabulation programme would be extremely useful for users in MED countries, even if limited to the decennial censuses.

- Another initiative undertaken by UNECE was a study on the comparison of census results on emigration and statistics available in main destination countries. The experience focused on four countries implementing the emigration module in their last census ( Georgia and Tunisia) or including specific questions in the main census form (Moldova and Poland). In the case of Tunisia, the module counted and characterised those who had emigrated in the last five years and were abroad from at least 6 months by asking, respectively, about the place of residence and the presence in the household 5 years prior to the census date. This comparative study indicated that the census does not provide an accurate count of the total number of emigrants residing abroad mainly because of the difficulty of capturing whole emigrating households and children born. However, it was emphasised that such approaches can be useful to collect information on selected groups of emigrants. In fact, the results were reliable for emigrants who had left the country up to 5 years before the census and kept close ties with the country (for example, Polish data were better for emigration to Italy and Germany than emigration to the US or Canada), who are members of the family nucleus left behind (for example, Tunisian males), and who are still included in an administrative register (such as in Poland). The conclusions of this exercise included the recommendation to have an emigration module in future censuses and to investigate geographical distribution and other qualitative aspects of people who emigrated during a relatively short previous period more than their count or the count of emigrants living abroad.

- After the examples above, the reference to a more specific aspect of measuring flows and stocks of irregular migrants can be reported. Estimates of unauthorised/undocumented migration have been undertaken using several methods. The classification of these methods has been provided as an *ad hoc* contribution by MEDSTAT II to the last Joint UNECE / Eurostat Work Session (see reading list below). These methods, which do not necessarily encompass the production of the new data, can be grouped in three categories. *Direct methods* may be based, for instance, on specific or *ad hoc* administrative sources (border apprehension data, results of regularisation schemes) and field surveys (Snowball Sampling, Center Sampling Technique referred under Section C.8). Some of the *indirect methods* are those based on the comparison of census, registers, and eventually demographic data (for example, differences between the estimated emigration and recorded immigration data), surveys of "key informants" or complementary sources (for example, registers of school enrolment, household surveys). Experiences suggest that the applicability of methods depends on country circumstances, some preliminary knowledge of qualitative information on irregular migration processes, and adequate time and financial resources. Also, a lot can be learned from the existing migration research, the study of other hidden populations, the application of multiple methods, and the triangulation of several independent estimates. New data sources and methods could be developed further with help of new technologies and administrative innovations for example, visas, travel documents or border control tools based on biometrics).

## Further reading and links

-*Data sources for International Migration in the UK, Appendix A of International Migration. Migrants entering or leaving the United Kingdom and England and Wales, 2004*, National Statistics, London, 2004, available at [http://www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme\\_population/MN31.pdf](http://www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme_population/MN31.pdf)

-*Measuring undeclared migration and improvement of international migration statistics by Statistics Lithuania*, Dalia Ambrozaitiene, document submitted to the Joint UNECE / Eurostat Work Session on Migration Statistics, Geneva, 3-5 March 2008, [3]

-*Changes of status of immigrants in Italy: results of a record-linkage on administrative sources*, Sergio Carfagna, Domenico Gabrielli, Maria Pia Sorvillo, Salvatore Strozza, EAPS European Population Conference 2008, Barcelona, July 2008, available at <http://epc2008.princeton.edu/download.aspx?submissionId=80562>

-THESIM book, Chapter 2 (*Recommendations on International Migration Statistics and the Development of International Data Collection*, Anne Herm, pp. 77-106), 2006

-*Topography of Belgian Labour Market. Employment: gender, age and origin*, Sara Ver-tommen, Albert Martens, Nouria Ouali ([http://www.kbs-frb.be/uploadedFiles/KBS-FRB/Files/FR/PUB\\_1629\\_Ullens\\_TopogrBelgianLabourMarket.pdf](http://www.kbs-frb.be/uploadedFiles/KBS-FRB/Files/FR/PUB_1629_Ullens_TopogrBelgianLabourMarket.pdf))

-*Migrations familiales*, Petra Heyse, Fernando Pauwels, Johan Wets, Christiane Timmerman, CECLR, 2007, available at [http://www.diversite.be/?action=publicatie\\_detail&id=37&thema=4](http://www.diversite.be/?action=publicatie_detail&id=37&thema=4)

-*La fiabilité de la mesure des courants de migration internationale entre la Belgique et l'Italie*, Enrico Bisogno and Michel Poulain, Eurostat Working Papers 3/1999/E/n°4, Luxembourg, 1999

-*La mesure des courants de migration internationale entre la Belgique, d'une part, le Danemark et la Suède, d'autre part*, Ingvar Johannesson, Anita Lange, Michel Poulain, Eurostat Working Papers E4/1997-2, Luxembourg, 1997

-*Confrontation des statistiques de migration intra-européennes : Vers une matrice complète ?*, Michel Poulain, Eurostat Working Papers 3/1999/E/n°5, Luxembourg, 2001, [2]

-*The MIMOSA Model for Estimating International Migration in the European Union*, James Raymer and Guy Abel, document submitted to the Joint UNECE / Eurostat Work Session on Migration Statistics, Geneva, 3-5 March 2008, [3]

-*Summary Report of the Data Exchange Exercise and Guidelines on the use and dissemination of data on international immigration to facilitate their use to improve emigration data of sending countries*, document submitted by the UNECE / Eurostat Task Force on Measuring Emigration using Immigration Data to the Joint UNECE / Eurostat Work Session on Migration Statistics, Geneva, 3-5 March 2008, [3]

-*Methodologies for the estimation of stocks of irregular migrants*, Michael Jandl, paper prepared on behalf of MEDSTAT II for the Joint UNECE/Eurostat Work Session on Migration Statistics, Geneva, 3-5 March 2008, [3]

## E. Conclusions

Measures of migration largely depend on the sources available, each with well documented limitations. Available sources vary between countries; therefore, each country will have unique solution when using and combining sources, either to produce the best estimates or to improve the existing estimates.

A comparison table on the use of different main sources and its positive and negative features is annexed to this Guide. The table constitutes an adaptation of the pros and cons table on data sources on emigration that is annexed to the UNECE / Eurostat guidelines on measuring emigration using immigration data. This document is referred to below together with other documents and publications providing similar information.

All administrative sources primarily serve the non-statistical purposes; therefore, the coverage, definition, and availability of data depend on the national policies and legislation on migration and international movements, as well as the rules and procedures of registration. Thus, as an example, registers of residence permits would not cover nationals and non-nationals belonging to selected countries where there are bilateral permission-free agreements. Moreover, for most of these sources the coverage and quality of data depend on people notifying or informing about their international migration in a timely manner. Furthermore, there may be no notification of a movement, as is often the case for permanent or long term emigration.

On the other hand, the administrative sources enable continuous data collection and therefore frequent availability of data, normally with very limited costs. Such sources may also be very informative, as is the case of border crossing registration based on detailed border cards.

Population censuses and surveys have the obvious statistical advantage in measuring migration flows and stocks or even other phenomena such as the living conditions of immigrants and the impact of emigration on the household. Also, these sources provide information on people regardless of their legal status, thus reducing the risk of omission due to specific legal provisions for staying in or leaving the country, or to delays in the administrative registration. The population censuses are certainly the main sources for population stocks, with information usually collected on citizenship, country of birth, and citizenship/ethnicity. In addition, the possibilities to cross-analyse by other variables (for example, place of residence five years before census date, changes of citizenship, parents countries of birth) can be used to identify persons with a migration background.

The disadvantages of sample surveys are associated with sample size, sample frames, sample design and the ensuing sampling error and the statistical significance of any estimates. Population censuses and household surveys have problems in collecting complete data on emigration, since they can not fully cover the movements of single persons and whole households emigrating before the fieldwork. Finally, censuses and migration-related surveys are expensive and can not be carried out frequently.

Concerning the measurement of the basic aspects of migration, the main conclusion is that there may be more solutions or at least more reliable and comprehensive data for immigration flows and stocks of immigrants than for emigration flows and stocks of emigrants. The measurement of emigration is more problematic because of the propensity for greater failure of de-registrations in administrative sources such as population registers and the exclusion of whole households who have emigrated in the case of censuses and household surveys. Also, the measurement of stocks of emigrants abroad for a given country is complex both for administrative sources, due to the coverage limitations mentioned above, and for statistical operations. For the latter, a country would need to know the main countries of emigration and even then the censuses in those countries may be taken at different times using different definitions and concepts.

The options above, though difficult, are available to the countries of the Euro-Mediterranean Region, many of whom are still finding it difficult to produce the basic information on international migration on a regular basis and according to the international standards. Such approaches have been adopted by many countries outside the Region as the reading links in the Guide indicate.

Many countries have not exploited the potential of administrative sources, although the possibilities offered by some good practices exist in the Mediterranean Region, especially the residence permits and the registration of border crossings. However, such countries are not only improving what is already tabulated from the administrative sources but also starting to use individual records and linking data available from the administrative sources, as illustrated by several practices reported in this Guide. The registration of border crossing passages, the ongoing developments of national systems in all countries, the fast evolution of ICT instruments, the exchange of information, and the recent experiences of Morocco and Lebanon under MEDSTAT II may speed up this process, although constructive collaboration between national statistical institutes and other national agencies remains the key challenge for such developments. These processes should be accompanied by a dialogue between the ministerial authorities of the Euro-Mediterranean countries dealing with migration policies, in order to take into account the legal provisions, administrative rules, and instruments for data registration. Activities recently started under the EuroMed Migration II Project (<http://www.euromed-migration.eu>) may significantly contribute to this long-term objective.

Concerning the statistical sources, migration is addressed in different ways in the population censuses and other household surveys undertaken by the MPCs, though some progress has been made for example in the use of international recommendations in censuses. The conduct of surveys still relies on the availability of external funding. The convergence of views for coordinated migration surveys could be an important input into conducting similar operations in most the MPCs countries by 2011.

International migration statistics unlike many other areas of statistics involves at least two countries. As indicated in the Guide, many improvements in measuring international movements have been helped by the cooperation between countries. Such examples include both micro and macro data: an obvious case on the former is the exchange of data on new registrations where the country of destination informs the country of origin and vice versa. While international organisations collect national data, for example, from censuses and surveys, an exchange of data between the pairs of countries can also be useful if there are substantial and historically established movements between them.

Given the worldwide nature of migration, its growing importance within a global economy, and links to development as well as the increased ease of travel, international recommendations can play a key role in helping countries not only improve the quantity and quality of statistics but also enhance the international comparability of the data. International initiatives by the many bodies involved are therefore to be welcomed. The exchange of good practices throughout the world is also very beneficial because the experiences of one country could be applicable elsewhere. This was evident at the Workshops held in Lisbon and Wiesbaden in early 2008 but it is also true outside the Region. The EU, UN, and other institutions play a key role in facilitating exchanges of information and practices.

An experts' meeting called by the Finnish Ministry of Foreign Affairs for preparing the Round Table Session 3.1 for 2008 Global Forum on Migration Development (GFMD) has recently prepared a set of key recommendations on improving data on migration and development. These include

- adopting international recommendations such as the UN Recommendations on Censuses,
- sharing data,
- make further and better use of administrative data,
- develop standardised questionnaire modules relating to migration,
- release and share, where possible, anonymised micro data,
- create National Task Forces to produce regular country reports,
- enhance international cooperation through various means.

Strengthening data and research tools was also discussed at the GFMD held in Manila from 27-30 October 2008. It emphasized the need for good quality, up-to-date and more comparable migration data and encouraged the effort towards common definitions and methodolo-

gies across countries. New approaches could be useful to produce evidence-based information that can be of immediate use to the policy-makers and users in all regions. A proposal from Manila was to set up an *ad hoc* Working Group on Data and Research on Migration and Development.

This Guide has attempted to illustrate how improvements in the use of various sources, both statistical and administrative, can be achieved by describing international recommendations, concepts and definitions, best practices, the experiences of the MPCs and selected European Countries, as well as problems and difficulties. The progress clearly depends on both national and international activities and information sharing is the key component for its success. It is expected that the international frameworks such as the Suitland Task Force would make a major contribution in this regard.

### Further reading and links

-*Recommendations on Statistics of International Migration*, United Nations, 1998, (complete reference under Chapter A)

-THESIM book, *Conclusions: Scientific recommendations*, coordinated chapter, pp. 360-369, 2006 (title and complete reference under Chapter A)

-*Guidelines on the use and dissemination of data on international immigration to facilitate their use to improve emigration data of sending countries*, UNECE / Eurostat Task Force on Measuring Emigration using Immigration Data, document submitted to the Joint UNECE / Eurostat Work Session on Migration Statistics, Geneva, 3-5 March 2008, [3]

-*Final Report of the Joint UNECE / Eurostat Work Session on Migration Statistics*, Geneva, 3-5 March 2008, [3]

-*Main conclusions of the MEDSTAT II Task Force Migration*, Brussels, 13-14 March 2007 (available also in French), [1]

-*Main conclusions of the MEDSTAT II Task Force Migration*, Rome, 20-21 May 2008 (available also in French), [1]

-*Recommendations on Data Collection and Research on Migration and Development*, Expert Meeting for the preparation of the GFMD Round Table Session 3.1, Finnish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and ICMPD, Helsinki, 1 October 2008

-*Final Conclusions and Recommendations of the Chair*, Esteban B. Conejos, Jr., Undersecretary of Foreign Affairs for Migrant Workers' Affairs and Special Envoy to GFMD, Republic of the Philippines, GFMD, Manila, 27-30 October 2008, available at <http://government.gfmd2008.org>

## Annex 1 - THESIM Glossary

The following text is a copy of the glossary produced for THESIM Project, available at THESIM book, pp. 11-18, 2006, (title and complete reference under Chapter A)

This glossary includes working definitions of key terms and concepts that are often used in the THESIM book. These are not necessarily official definitions but scientific definitions presented in order to help the reader to go easily through that book. Some of these definitions are extracted from EU directives and regulations, UN recommendations, DG JLS, EMN or IOM glossaries<sup>3</sup>

*Alien:* A person who is not a citizen or national of a given State. Synonym of foreigner, non-citizen and non-national.

*Appeal:* A procedure undertaken to request a review of a decision by bringing it to a higher authority; often the submission of a lower court's or agency's decision to a higher court for review and possible reversal.

*Applicant:* A person who formally requests some government or legal decision or action, such as the granting of refugee status, citizenship, a visa or a residence permit.

*Asylum seeker:* A person who has requested asylum in a country and is awaiting a decision on their application under relevant national and international instruments (mostly under Article 1 of the Geneva Convention related to the Status of Refugees of 28th July 1951). This definition generally refers to all who apply for protection on an individual basis, irrespective of whether they lodge their application on arrival at an airport or land border, or from inside the country, and irrespective of whether they entered the territory legally (e.g. as a tourist) or illegally.

*Citizen:* A person who holds the citizenship of the country concerned. Often synonym of national.

*Citizenship:* Term currently used by the international organisations to mean the 'legal bond between a person and a State'. The concept of 'EU citizen' has been introduced for every person holding the citizenship of an EU Member State. This brings along a distinction between citizenship which may relate to a supranational body like EU and nationality which means exclusively membership of a nation. Often synonym of nationality.

*Country of usual residence:* The country in which a person lives, that is to say the country in which the person has a place to live where they normally spend their daily period of rest. Temporary travel outside this country for purposes of recreation, holiday, visits to friends and relatives, business, medical treatment or religious pilgrimage shall not change a person's country of usual residence. Usual residence is also a synonym of habitual residence.

*Dependant:* In general use, one who relies on another for support. In the migration context, a spouse and minor children are generally considered 'dependants', even if the spouse or partner is not financially dependent. See also family members.

*Domicile:* See residence

<sup>3</sup> DG JFS, EMN and IOM glossaries may be found on the following websites  
[http://europa.eu.int/comm/dgs/justice\\_home/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/dgs/justice_home/index_en.htm), <http://www.europeanmigration-network.org> and  
<http://www.iom.int>

*Dublin Convention:* Convention adopted in 1990 between by EU Member States, determining which one is responsible for examining an application for asylum lodged in one of the contracting States. The full title is 'The Convention Determining the State Responsible for Examining Applications for Asylum Lodged in One of the Member States of the European Communities'. The Convention prevents the same applicants from being examined by several EU Member States at the same time, as well as ensuring that an asylum seeker is not redirected from State to State simply because no one will take the responsibility of handling his/her case.

*Ethnic nationality:* Concept which may be considered as synonym either of ethnicity or nationality, used in some countries in addition to citizenship. Ethnic nationality is often a self-declared adherence to a specific ethnic group and this information is collected at census but also sometimes in administrative registration. It should not to be confused with citizenship.

*EU citizen:* See citizenship.

*Family members:* Somebody married to the person concerned as well as dependent children and other dependent persons who are recognised as members of that person's family in procedures for the granting of visas, residence permits, citizenship, any refugee status etc. Family members may not be included in relevant statistics as they are not always required to make a separate application.

*Family reunification/reunion process:* Whereby family members already separated through forced or voluntary migration regroup in a country other than the one of their origin. It is a reason for being granted a visa or a residence permit.

*Foreigner:* Usually a synonym of alien, non-citizen and non-national.

*Freedom of movement:* According the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the EU adopted in 2000, every EU citizen is entitled to travel freely around the EU Member States and settle anywhere within its territory without special formalities. This fundamental right of free movement extends to members of the EU citizen's family and applies regardless of their citizenship, situation or the reason for travel or residence. Some EU Member States have applied transitional arrangements that restrict freedom of movement of citizens of new Member States.

*Geneva Convention status:* Refugee status granted within the meaning of Article 1 of the Geneva Convention relating to the Status of Refugees of 28th July 1951 to a person "owing to well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, is outside the country of his nationality and is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country; or who, not having a nationality and being outside the country of his former habitual residence as a result of such events, is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to return to it".

*Identity document:* A piece of documentation designed to prove the identity of the person carrying it, such as a passport, ID card or travel document.

*Illegal entry:* Act of crossing borders without complying with the necessary requirements for legal entry into the receiving State.

*Illegal/irregular migration:* These terms are often used interchangeably in policy contexts. A commonly used approach is to consider that 'illegal migration' refers to the illegal crossing of borders only, while 'irregular migration' covers a number of irregularities in the status of migrants (e.g. illegal residence after the expiry of visas (visa over-stayers) or the illegal employment of foreigners in an otherwise 'regular' situation). At EU level, the term 'illegal migration' is generally used to refer to the illegal entry and/or stay of international migrants who are citizens of third countries. These and other specific terms will be explained where appropriate.

*International immigration:* Within the framework of the EU Regulation an international immigration is defined as a movement of a person who enters a country to establish his/her new

place of usual residence in the territory of the country concerned for a period that is, or is expected to be, of at least twelve months, having previously been usually resident outside the country. This definition is identical to the UN recommended definition of long-term immigration.

*International emigration:* Within the framework of the EU Regulation an international emigration is defined as a movement of a person who leaves a country to establish his/her new place of usual residence outside the territory of the country concerned for a period that is, or is expected to be, of at least twelve months, having previously been usually resident within the country. This definition is identical to the UN recommended definition of long-term emigration.  
*International immigrant:* A natural person undertaking an international immigration.

*International emigrant:* A natural person undertaking an international emigration.

*International protection:* EU concept introduced in order to replace the protection status previously provided on the basis of unharmonised rules by each EU Member State. This new concept is comprised of the two separate but complementary elements of Geneva Convention refugee status and subsidiary protection status.

*Ius sanguinis/ ius soli:* A legal basis for determining citizenship respectively by blood line or by place of birth. Most countries use a combination of these two bases of citizenship law to grant citizenship.

*Long-term migrant:* Concept proposed in the UN recommendations on international migration statistics (UN, 1997) to specify migrants whose duration of stay in the country of immigration or outside the country of emigration is one year or more. This definition is compatible with the definition of international immigrant and international emigrant proposed above and included in the EU Regulation.

*Long-term resident:* Status that third-country nationals may acquire if they have been resident in an EU Member State on a continuous and legal base for at least five year. Periods of residence as an asylum seeker or as a person enjoying temporary protection are not taken into account unless the applicant for long-term resident status is subsequently recognized as a refugee<sup>4</sup>.

*Migration:* This broad definition includes all types of movements involving a change of residence, either across an international border, or within a State. It is a population movement, encompassing any kind of movement of people, whatever its length, composition or causes; it includes migration of refugees, displaced persons, uprooted people, and economic migrants.

*National:* A person who holds the nationality or citizenship of a given State. Usually synonym of citizen.

*Nationality:* Membership of a nation. In most EU Member States it is a synonym of citizenship while in the new Member States of Central and Eastern Europe it is often a synonym of ethnic nationality or ethnicity.

*Naturalisation:* Process of granting by a State of its citizenship to an alien through a formal act on the application of the individual concerned.

International law does not provide detailed rules for naturalisation, but it recognizes the competence of every State to naturalise those who are not its nationals and who apply to become its nationals.

<sup>4</sup> Council Directive 2003/109/EC of 25th November 2003, p. 44.

*Net migration:* Migration balance, resulting from the difference between number of immigrations and emigrations. This balance is called net immigration when immigrations exceed emigrations and net emigration when emigrations exceed immigrations. It may also be calculated by subtracting natural increase (difference between number of births and deaths) from the change in the total population. See also total migration.

*Non-national:* Synonym of alien, foreigner and non-citizen. See also national.

*Permit:* Document, usually issued by a government authority, which allows something to exist or someone to perform certain acts or services. In the migration context, reference to residence permits or work permits is common.

*Place of usual residence:* See country of usual residence and residence.

*Population stock:* In a broad sense, all persons living on a given territory at a given time. More precisely the *de facto* population is that living effectively on the territory as a matter of fact while the *de jure* population is that living on the territory and having the legal right to do so. The latter is also called the legal population and is often the only one considered from an administrative point of view.

*Readmission agreement:* Agreement which addresses procedures for one State to return individuals (own national, third-country national or stateless person) in an irregular situation to their home State or a State through which they passed en route to the State which seeks to return them.

*Refugee:* This term refers strictly speaking to those asylum seekers who have been granted Geneva Convention status. However it is commonly used to refer to all those asylum applicants who receive any international protection.

*Resettlement:* Authorisation given to third-country nationals or stateless persons to reside in one of the EU Member States for the purpose of international protection within the framework of a national or EU resettlement scheme.

*Residence:* The fact of living in a given place for some time; the place where one actually lives to be distinguished from the domicile that is considered as the legal or *de jure* place of residence. A person thus may have more than one place of residence at a time but only one domicile or legal place of residence. In addition among all places of residence, the one where the person concerned spends most of his/her daily rest is called the place of usual residence.

*Residence permit:* Document issued by a State confirming that the alien has the right to live therein on a permanent (unlimited) basis (permanent residence permit) or for a fixed duration of time (temporary residence permit).

*Return migration:* In the general migration literature it means the movement of a person returning to his/her country of origin or habitual residence usually after spending at least one year in another country. In the spirit of the EU Regulation returns include solely voluntary repatriations and non-voluntary repatriations of illegal migrants following an administrative or judicial order to leave, whether undertaken as part of a voluntary return scheme or whether enforced.

*Safe country of origin:* A country of origin of asylum seekers is considered safe if it does not generally produce refugees. Receiving countries may use the concept of safe country of origin as a basis for rejecting summarily (without examination of the merits) particular groups or categories of asylum seekers.

*Safe third country:* A safe third country is considered by a receiving country to be any other country, not being the country of origin, in which an asylum seeker has found or might have found protection. The notion of safe third country (protection elsewhere/first asylum principle) is often used as a criterion of admissibility to the refugee determination procedure.

*Short-term migrant:* Concept proposed in the UN recommendations on international migration statistics to specify migrants whose duration of stay in the country (immigration) or outside the country (emigration) is more than three months and less than one year. This concept is not considered in the EU Regulation.

*Stateless person:* A person who is not considered as a national by any State under the operation of its law<sup>5</sup>. As such, a stateless person lacks those rights attributable to citizenship.

*Subsidiary protection status:* A form of international protection status, separate but complementary to Geneva Convention refugee status, granted by a Member State to a third-country national or stateless person who is not a refugee but is otherwise in need of international protection and is admitted as such to the territory of this Member State.

*Temporary protection:* Procedure of exceptional character to provide, in the event of a mass influx or imminent mass influx of displaced persons from third countries who are unable to return to their country of origin, immediate and temporary protection to such persons, in particular if there is also a risk that the asylum system will be unable to process this influx without adverse effects to its efficient operation, in the interests of the persons concerned and other persons requesting protection.

*Third-country national:* Any person who is not a citizen of the European Union. See EU citizen.

*Total migration:* The sum of the immigrations and emigrations yields the total volume of migration, and is termed total migration.

*Unaccompanied minors:* A third-country national or stateless person below the age of eighteen, who arrives on the territory of a Member State not accompanied by an adult responsible for them whether by law or custom, and for as long as they are not effectively taken into the care of such a person. It includes minors who are left unaccompanied after they have entered the territory of the Member States.

*Visa:* An endorsement by a consular officer in a passport or a certificate of identity that indicates that the officer, at the time of issuance, believes the holder to fall within a category of non-nationals who can be admitted under the national laws. A visa establishes the criteria of admission into a State. Different types of visas may be granted depending on the purpose of the request and in some countries special long-term visas are considered as first residence permits.

<sup>5</sup> Art. 1, UN Convention relating to the Status of Stateless persons, 1954.

## Annex 2 - Table on pros and cons of data sources on migration

Main use	Pros	Cons
<b>Border data collection systems</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- flows of nationals and non-nationals entering/leaving the country through an official border post</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- continuous or regular and fairly exhaustive data collection systems for administrative purposes</li> <li>- cover arrivals/departures irrespective of people's legal status</li> <li>- provide main demographic characteristics and variables</li> <li>- may provide detailed data and data on small population groups (case of detailed border cards)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- only covers arrivals/departures through official border posts</li> <li>- difficulties to distinguish between migrants and other categories of peoples (depending on detail of border cards where applied); migrants are usually a minority of all people crossing a given border</li> <li>- may collect only people's intention which may differ from subsequent reality</li> <li>- people may be subject to different degrees of control and registration depending on their citizenship, mode of transport and border post</li> <li>- maintenance and updating of systems may be a heavy burden (e.g. entering border cards data)</li> <li>- linkage of entries and exits at individual level may be difficult or not possible</li> </ul>
<b>Population registers</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- flows of legally resident population</li> <li>- stocks of legally resident population</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- exhaustive coverage of legally resident population and registered changes of residence</li> <li>- continuous data collection systems for administrative purposes, with limited or no costs for the statistical exploitation</li> <li>- provide main demographic characteristics and variables</li> <li>- provide detailed data and data on small population groups</li> <li>- data may be available annually or more often</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- statistical data collection is not a priority: definitions, coverage and availability depend on legislation, administrative rules and interests/incentives to register/de-register</li> <li>- illegal/undocumented residents are not covered</li> <li>- number of socio-economic variables limited in reference to the related legislation</li> <li>- registration may be considerably delayed compared to the time of actual migration event</li> <li>- period of intended absence is usually not registered</li> </ul>
<b>Residence permits</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- flows of non-nationals with a valid residence permit</li> <li>- stocks of non-nationals with a valid residence</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- exhaustive coverage of legally resident non-national population (or certain subsets thereof)</li> <li>- continuous data collection systems for administrative purposes, with limited or no costs for the statistical exploitation</li> <li>- provide main demographic characteristics and variables</li> <li>- provide detailed data and data on small population groups</li> <li>- data may be available annually or more often</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- definitions, coverage and availability depend on legislation and administrative rules</li> <li>- only certain subsets of non-national population may be covered (e.g. permanent residents)</li> <li>- naturalized citizens and illegal/undocumented residents are not covered</li> <li>- number of socio-economic variables limited in reference to the related legislation</li> <li>- registration may be considerably delayed compared to the time of actual migration event</li> <li>- period of intended absence is usually not registered</li> </ul>

<b>Consular registers</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- stocks of nationals living abroad</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- continuous data collection for administrative purposes</li> <li>- provide data on small population groups</li> <li>- data may be available annually or more often</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- definitions, coverage and availability depend on legislation and administrative rules</li> <li>- not necessarily exhaustive; based on self-declaration of emigrants; does not cover nationals who avoid registration; does not cover necessarily nationals who reside illegally in the country</li> <li>- changes due to deaths, onward migration, naturalizations etc. are not necessarily taken into account</li> </ul>
<b>Population censuses</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- outflows of persons usually resident but temporarily absent at the time of the census (short-term emigrants)</li> <li>- outflows of former household members usually residing abroad at the time of census (long-term emigrants; if an emigration module is used)</li> <li>- flows of short-term immigrants</li> <li>- flows of long-term immigrants</li> <li>- stocks of population by citizenship, country of birth and nationality/ethnicity</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- exhaustive coverage of usual resident population at a given date</li> <li>- provide main demographic characteristics and variables</li> <li>- provide detailed data and data on small population groups</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- generally not a very reliable source for emigration; cannot cover all people who are not present anymore at time of census, in particular the whole emigrated households</li> <li>- normally carried out at long intervals only; data rapidly out of date</li> <li>- heavy burden in terms of data collection, which implies to limit the size of the questionnaire concerning specific topics</li> </ul>
<b>Passenger surveys</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- flows of nationals and non-nationals entering/leaving the country through an official border post</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- cover arrivals/departures irrespective of people's legal status</li> <li>- provides main demographic characteristics and variables</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- only covers arrivals/departures through official border posts</li> <li>- difficulties to catch migrants as they are usually a minority of all people crossing a given border</li> <li>- not suited for every country (e.g. with long land borders)</li> <li>- collects only people's intention which may differ from subsequent reality</li> <li>- possible problems with sample size, frame and design, and statistical significance of results</li> <li>- data on small population groups are not available or may be not reliable</li> </ul>
<b>Household surveys (including migration modules)</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- flows of short-term emigrants</li> <li>- flows of long-term emigrants</li> <li>- flows of short-term immigrants</li> <li>- flows of long-term immigrants</li> <li>- stocks of population by citizenship and country of birth</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- may have high frequency of data collection (annually or quarterly)</li> <li>- large representative sample of the total population</li> <li>- provide a large number of demographic and socio-economic variables even with only the inclusion of few questions on migration</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- less reliability as migration is not the main focus of survey</li> <li>- based on proxy interviews with people who stayed behind (cannot adequately cover persons who are not present at time of survey anymore); information received may be unreliable or out of date</li> <li>- possible problems with sample size, frame and design, and statistical significance of results; limited number of households with migrants in the sample and exclusion of emigrants without household members in the country</li> <li>- data on small population groups are not available</li> </ul>
<b>Migration surveys</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- outflows of persons (in general: nationals) with household members/relatives/neighbours who stayed behind</li> <li>- inflows of persons and households</li> <li>- stocks of population by citizenship and country of birth</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- large representative sample of target population</li> <li>- provide a large number of demographic and socio-economic variables</li> <li>- allow to study determinants and impacts of migration</li> <li>- allow to study the attitude towards migrating abroad</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- exclusion of emigrants without household members in the country</li> <li>- data available at long intervals and for certain periods of time only</li> <li>- relatively costly</li> <li>- based on proxy interviews with people who stayed behind (cannot fully cover persons who are not present anymore at time of survey); information received may be unreliable or out of date</li> <li>- possible problems with sample size, frame and design, and statistical significance of results</li> </ul>

Source: Authors' adaptation of the table on pros and cons of data sources on emigration annexed to Guidelines on the use and dissemination of data on international immigration to facilitate their use to improve emigration data of sending countries, the document prepared by the UNECE / Eurostat Task Force on Measuring Emigration using Immigration Data for the Joint UNECE / Eurostat Work Session on Migration Statistics, Geneva, 3-5 March 2008, available at <http://www.unecce.org/stats/documents/2008.03.migration.htm>.

## Annex 3 - List of contacts

(As of December 2008)

'\*\*' denotes experts who have contributed to activities undertaken under MEDSTAT II Migration

'\*\*\*' denotes National Coordinators for MEDSTAT II Migration

NB: Turkey is reported under Candidate Countries, although also belonging to the Mediterranean Partner Countries.

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Mr Said Zouneibiri

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