

## **Action Plan to improve and enhance the migratory data production system and data sources in Serbia**

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## **LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS**

AP – Action Plan

CRMRS – Commissariat for Refugees and Migration of the Republic of Serbia

EU – European Union

ISS – Institute of Social Sciences

LFS – Labour Force Survey

MC – Master Class in Kanjiža

MG Profile of RS – Migration profile of the Republic of Serbia

MI – Ministry of Interior of the Republic of Serbia

SORS –Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia

SPR – Statistical Population Register

DGINS – Director Generals of the National Statistical Institutes

## 1. INTRODUCTION

One of the most important objectives of the SEEMIG project is finding adequate ways for improving statistics on migrations, demographic processes and changes regarding the labour market and human capital in order to get a better understanding of those mutually connected processes. Therefore, an Action Plan (hereinafter: AP) has been defined within Work Package 4, with the basic aim to improve the collection of existing data and to generate new data at the national, local, as well as regional and transnational level in South-East Europe. The AP should represent a framework of the national action plan of Serbia.

The elaboration of the AP is based on reports developed as a result of the work done on the SEEMIG project up to now. The AP basis consists of national reports on the analysis of the most important data sources on international migration in Serbia, especially in relation to the labour market and human capital, and the synthesis-based report on existing data production systems and major data sources in SEEMIG project partner countries. Furthermore, the report on SEEMIG pilot study in Hungary and Serbia (within the Labour Force Survey) in which methodological practises for future research on migrations have been analysed in order to fulfil the existing data bases, has also been extensively referred to in drafting the AP. Good practices of other SEEMIG partner countries on how to improve migration statistics on local/regional level have been indicated too. Inputs gained from the Master Class held in Kanjiža have been used in the final phase of drafting the AP.

The AP presents concrete measures for improving and supplementing statistical data on migration, labour market and human capital, in conformity with the objectives defined by the SEEMIG project. The AP measures are in line with the Wiesbaden memorandum (adopted by the DGINS conference in 2011), since it underlines a growing need for new or the improved social statistics to provide evidence for political decision making but also need for standardization. The AP also contains recommendations for enhancing the quality and quantity of data included in the transnational data base of the SEEMIG project. Recommendations are given for connecting systems for data production in Serbia with relevant systems in other countries of South-East Europe.

The time horizon of planned measures and recommendations of the AP is five years. Each measure foresees an institution competent for coordination and implementation as well as the level of intervention it relates to (national, local, regional). For each measure the priority level is also indicated, as well as its necessity and degree of urgency for realization. The defined measures contain clear time guidelines for each activity. A visual guide is shown through a Gantt chart.

The authors of the AP are aware that numerous challenges of political, financial, legal, staffing and technical nature will arise during elaboration of the national AP but none of those are insurmountable. All three SEEMIG project partners from Serbia were included in the drafting of the AP. The Institute of Social Sciences and the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia participated in all phases of the elaboration of the AP, while the Municipality of Kanjiža proposed measures for the AP on the local level. Important contributions were given by experts from The Ministry of Interior (Nenad Trajkovic) and CRMRS (Svetlana Velimirovic and Jovana Konjevic).

## **2. POSSIBILITIES OF SETTING UP DEVELOPMENTAL DATABASES ON NATIONAL, LOCAL AND TRANSNATIONAL LEVEL**

According to the Law on Migration Management in Serbia (2012) the responsibility for activities related to migration management lies with the Commissariat for Refugees and Migration of the Republic of Serbia. One of the duties of the CRMRS specified by this Law is the establishment of a unified system for collecting, organizing and sharing migration data. Exchange of data is to be achieved by interconnection of the migration relevant data sets of administrative data producers, so as to form a single Inter-organizational information system available to all state institutions included in the system.

Data producers involved in this unified system are obliged to submit to the CRMRS the data necessary for migration management and take measures for their protection; to cooperate and provide information about the migration data they need and to work on maintaining and improving the unified system.

Necessary steps towards the construction of a national developmental database on migration, labour market and human capital are:

- Defining the relevant legal framework
- Establishing the Population Register, and
- Inter-linking the relevant data sources.

SEEMIG Master Class conclusion related to the construction of the National database on migration, labour market and human capital was that this action would be possible only if CRMRS, MI and SORS standardize and share the data. They stressed that migration related institutions' cooperation should be improved and better managed.

DevInfo Data Admin software produced in the Statistical office of the Republic of Serbia is used to create databases available as desktop and web software. The DevInfo can be used as the basis for creating and further developing local databases on migration, labour market and human capital (see Chapter 4 for more details).

For continual maintenance of the already established SEEMIG database, it is necessary to recognize its significance on the national level and to institutionalize its maintenance. Taking the complexity and importance of the SEEMIG database into consideration in view of monitoring migration and demographic processes and their impact on the labour force market, as well as the fact that the data sources for certain indicators are various state institutions, we believe an institution on the national level should determine who would be responsible for updating the SEEMIG database. SORS will regularly provide and update all indicators within its competence and maintain the international partnership established during SEEMIG project.

### 3. NATIONAL LEVEL ACTIVITIES FOR MIGRATION RELATED DATA SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS

#### 3.1. Administrative data sources

The administrative migration-related data sources in Serbia are included in the partial records of state institutions: Ministry of Interior of the Republic of Serbia, Central Registry of Compulsory Social Insurance and Commissariat for Refugees and Migration of the Republic of Serbia. However, their data are available only through the Migration Profile of the Republic of Serbia – regularly published since 2010. Most of the indicators of international migration flows can be obtained from the records of Ministry of Interior. They refer to: temporary residence permit, resident populations and naturalization; statistics relating to the prevention of illegal entry and stay; as well as the statistics on forced migrations and international protection.

It should be underlined that the listed indicators in fact represent the flows of foreign citizens. On the other hand, immigration to Serbia in recent years mainly consists of Serbian nationals. Thus, it is possible to obtain data and evaluate immigration flow indicators only of foreigners and only indirectly, since the definitions used were not harmonized with the international standards. Data on emigration flows of Serbian citizens do not exist, because citizens who go to work/reside abroad mainly do not unregister their place of residence.

Since the need for creating a more coherent monitoring mechanism and control of migration flows has been recognized, the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia adopted the *Law on Migration Management (Official Gazette of RS, Number 107/2012)*, in November 2012.

An important step towards migration data system improvement on national level is legal authorization of the access of the relevant statistical offices/ institution to individual data. The aim is to produce a complete Legal framework that will support harmonization with EU regulations and facilitate communication among producers of migration statistics. Considering actual situation in the country and further activities necessary for improving national migration policy including adoption of the new bylaws under the Law on Migration Management by which it would be defined the institutional role and obligation of every actor in this complex process; inter-institutional agreement based on adoption of the common concept with all elements for enhancement of migration management, backed-up by mutual interest and understanding that this subject is of national importance. According to the cooperation with Eurostat defined under Statistical Strategy document, planned activities should be fulfilled in a five years period. Relevant Institutions for completing these activities are: Ministry of Interior, Commissariat for Refugees and Migration, SORS. Main relevant institution is still to be defined (there are different opinions among experts).

Besides authorizing the access to the administrative data sources for migration statistics, further steps should be taken by SORS and other relevant institutions for establishing the Inter-linked Register.

One of the expected obstacles, like data duplication in administrative data processing during creating new qualitative and reliable dataset, should be solved by avoiding this obstacle through introduction of new ID created by Ministry of Interior Unique Master Citizen Number (UMCN or JMBG in Serbian).

The main source of the migration data is Ministry of Interior that demands use of the gateways (procedures) defined by (official agreements) collaboration among institutions with respect to the privacy issues.

Secondary, to evaluate and discuss proposed improvements on expert level for statistical tracking of the international migration in Serbia, along with capacity building for deeper migration data analyses comparable with international data. Relevant data sources that should be inter-linked are: Population Register, Register on Foreign population in the country, Working Permit Register, National Health Insurance Fund with social ID, National Employment Service. The most important part of this process should be the establishment of the Statistical Population Register (SPR).

Establishing of the SPR has started in January 2014 within EU IPA 2012 project (SPR Project) in SORS. This project will last two years and its main objective is to test the possibilities of establishing a Statistical Population Register on the basis of all relevant administrative sources.

The main activities of SPR project will be:

- To establish the cooperation with the state authorities in charge of maintaining specialised administrative registers, as well as with local government representatives, in order to ensure precise information on all relevant registers and their contents;
- To define the contents and methodological backgrounds for the creation of SPR (learning good practice and experience of other countries that conduct statistical surveys on the basis of registers or by applying the combined method);
- To define the ways and instruments for taking over data from administrative registers that are needed to create and update the SPR;
- To select the sample for the pilot project conduct (1% of the total number of municipalities);
- To conduct the pilot project – to take over data from administrative sources for the selected municipalities, to test the possibilities of cross-comparing obtained data with census data, to analyse the coverage and quality of cross-compared data;
- To create the SPR and analyse the pilot survey results;
- To present results and adopt recommendations for further activities;

**Expected results of the SPR project are:**

- Established cooperation with the relevant authorities/institutions in the Republic of Serbia;
- Creation of the SPR for the selected municipalities;
- Review of the actual state and ensured all elements required for defining the implementation method for the 2021 Census

Regarding the implementation of these activities under jurisdiction of the Commissariat for Refugees and Migration and active participation of SORS, the authority of Ministry of Interior has a crucial role defined by Action Plan for implementation of the Strategy for Migration Management in the Republic of Serbia. Due to complexity of proposed activities and necessary technical support with additional costs by that, it is hard to strictly specify a time period for its accomplishment.

**For improving the knowledge of relevant legal regulations with regard to emigration and immigration** is necessary to provide capacity building for the SORS experts on migration statistics; to employ new statistical methods for data estimation and to establish a dedicated unit for migration statistics. Also, steps towards organisational change in other relevant institutions and the regular training of their staff should also be introduced. To achieve this inter-institutional partnership of data owners/users, institutions' experts and other staff, regular professional trainings is needed.

The derived conceptual framework that contains key definitions and indicators, methods for data processing and their estimation refers to the need for clean, reliable and combinable data source from Census, administrative sources and migration surveys. In this process the basic point is harmonization and application of the EU data standards and other international requirements for migration management through a uniform methodology harmonization with EU Regulation 862/2007. This will be aided by participation of SORS in the EU IPA 2011 project Migration Statistics for 2014-2015.

The expected results of this project are in line with the recommended activities:

- The statisticians/officials from the SORS are more familiar with EU concepts, definitions and challenges in the field of migration and international protection statistics;
- Contacts between SORS and other government bodies responsible for migration issues and data (and metadata) collection have been established and/or strengthened;
- The national systems of data and metadata collection in the SORS are improved and data collection and processing systems are strengthened;
- The quality of data has increased. Regular and timely provision of harmonised data and metadata of the SORS to Eurostat is ensured.

Although significant improvements has been achieved recently by SORS in enhancing the cooperation with the Ministry of Interior, a lot to be done remains till the end of the EU IPA 2011 project and after its completion.

According to the annual Regulation on defining the plan of official statistics knowledge improvement of relevant legal regulations with statistical expertise regard to emigration and immigration and intention to establishment of regular *Survey on International Migration* in SORS with capacity building should be concluded approximately in the next two years.

Introducing some of these activities is under authority of Ministry of Interior with SORS having a supportive role. SORS is a part of the Technical Working Group for migration management in Serbia framed by the Action Plan for implementation the Strategy for Migration Management in the Republic of Serbia. The accomplishment of the activities depends on the financial support from the Serbian authorities and the EU funds availability.

To review and discuss feasibility of introducing preferred changes defined by new migration related questions-indicators in the application forms owned by Ministry of Interior and Census questionnaire such as:

- Country of birth *as obligatory question*
- Country of birth of the parents

- Country of previous/next residence *as obligatory question*
- Intention and duration of staying in Serbia and abroad
- Reason for emigrating

Possibility of MIMOSA project introduction could be used as an attempt to overcome disadvantage of the “mirror statistics” currently used for emigration tracking in sending countries; methodology enhancement of migration statistics through developing and applying statistical models for producing migration estimation based on updated administrative and migration survey data in the country are some of activities needed in the future.

Producing international migration estimates on local level is a key requirement to provide a more holistic national picture of total international e/immigration. Local level estimates cannot be derived from statistical surveys so administrative sources should be used to produce an initial set of local level migration estimates considering both *short and long term migration*. The accomplishment of the proposed step depends on the financial support from the Serbian authorities and the availability of EU funds, especially to hire new experts and to increase the number of staff at the local level.

### **3.2. Labour Force Survey**

SORS is in charge of collecting, processing and disseminating the LFS data. The number of immigrants in Serbia is relatively low. The LFS sample size per survey round is approximately 9,000 households. Given the low levels and uneven territorial distribution of immigrants, it is not realistic to expect that the LFS sample could encompass them properly. Consequently, the immigrant population according to the LFS does not reflect the immigrant stock residing in Serbia. An additional specific module implemented in the regions with higher immigration (based on the foreigners’ records collected by MI) could be a solution for getting a more realistic picture of the immigrants living in the country. Yet, the introduction of this module depends on the availability of financial resources; the fact that we don’t expect and increase in the number of immigrants in the period covered by the Action plan and beyond certainly doesn’t help.

Regarding emigration the LFS considers as an emigrant a person who works abroad for less than a year, if her/his household is still residing in Serbia as for the Eurostat definition. However, the problem refers to the coverage of emigrants especially when the whole household went abroad.

Steps to increase the availability/coverage of foreigners by mitigating the language barriers during the fieldwork are considered to be irrelevant for Serbia during the period covered by the Action plan. The main reason lies in low levels of immigration. Thus, the foreign language interviewers or translated versions of LFS questionnaire would significantly raise the expenses of LFS comparing to possible benefits regarding the coverage issue.

A special ad hoc module aimed at boosting the immigrant sub-sample seems to be the proper step towards getting more realistic territorial distribution of immigrants. However, the costs of such an additional survey would be significantly higher than the LFS itself. Therefore this action doesn’t seem realistic in the forthcoming period particularly due to low levels of immigration.

The LFS questionnaires used in Serbia are fully harmonized with Eurostat legal acts and regulations. Migrants are defined as persons who have been residing in Serbia for less than a year and intend to

stay in Serbia for less than a year. However, migrants who have been residing in Serbia for less than a year with the intention of staying there for at least one year, as well as migrants who have been residing in Serbia for more than a year could be identified in the LFS database by the criteria of citizenship and country of birth.

Concepts for identifying foreign-born population are already standardized (questions on citizenship and country of birth are included in the questionnaire).

Since Serbia is a country of labour emigration, it is of special importance for the country to get as better information on emigrant stock as possible. Employing the LFS for this purpose could be beneficial given both the under coverage of the emigrant stock by the traditional census and the long period between consecutive census counts. Current LFS interview use the same set of questions for emigrants from Serbia as for those persons residing in the country. This provides a good basis for collecting relevant data on the most important demographic and socio-economic characteristics of emigrants. Yet, some improvements of the questionnaire are still possible; these are addressed in the text below covering the possibilities of using methods from the SEEMIG pilot study.

An additional code identifying when the whole household went abroad could be included in non-response codes in order to better identify the reason for the absence of the household. Yet, the issue is whether the neighbours know that all household members left the country, especially in urban areas.

The SEEMIG LFS pilot study showed that LFS as a nationally representative survey with a large sample size has the potential to serve as a basis for a reliable estimate on the number of emigrants from a country. A special module could be attached to a selected round of LFS every year in order to provide reliable estimation of the size and most important demographic and socio-economic characteristics of the emigrant stock from the country in a given year. However, introducing an additional module in the forthcoming period would be possible only if significant additional funds are provided.

### **3.3. Migrant-specific surveys**

Systematic, internationally standardized, survey-based migration-related data collection can be introduced by Eurostat (periodical LFS modules, for instance) and other EU organisations, or by other international organisations (OECD, United Nations, World Bank, ILO, etc.).

For carrying out migrant-specific surveys with the citizens of Serbia abroad, as well as with members of the Serbian diaspora it is possible to set up a basis starting from two other databases created by the “Office for Cooperation with the Diaspora and the Serbs in the Region”, a body within the Government of Serbia.

These two databases are:

1. A database collecting official evidence of organizations in the diaspora;
2. A database of highly educated persons and experts (researchers, artists, athletes, politicians, businessmen, media, etc.).

The migrant-specific surveys with Serbian diaspora from the related databases can be used for the different kind of research in the field of sociology, psychology, economy, public opinion research etc.

It is planned to be carried out through the cooperation between research institutes and the “Office for Cooperation with the Diaspora and the Serbs in the Region”.

### 3.4. Census

The 2011 Census in the Republic of Serbia was aligned with the international recommendations (Recommendations of the Conference of European statisticians for the 2010 censuses of population and housing, prepared in cooperation with the Statistical Office of the European Communities and Regulation (EC) No 763/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council on population and housing censuses). The content of the Census questionnaire covered all core topics relevant for monitoring international and internal migration.

Questions referring to migration included in the 2011 Census questionnaire are:

- Is the person permanent resident of the place of enumeration;
- Is the person present in the place of permanent residence in the critical moment of census;
- Reason of absence / presence;
- Duration of absence / presence (less than 1 year; 1 year and longer);
- How long does the person intend to be absent / present;
- Frequency of returning to the place of permanent residence;
- Place in which absence person is / place of permanent residence of temporarily present person (settlement, municipality / foreign country);
- Mother's place of permanent residence at the time of person's birth (settlement, municipality / foreign country);
- Is the person from AP Kosovo and Metohija internally displaced after the 24th march of 1999;
- Does the person continuously from birth live in the place of permanent residence;
  - a) Where did the person come from (settlement, municipality / foreign country);
  - b) Date of arrival;
- Has the person ever lived/resided outside of the Republic of Serbia continuously one year and longer;
  - a) Year of arrival / return to Serbia;
  - b) Country in which the person have lived;
  - c) The main reason of arrival / return to Serbia.
- Citizenship

The question on the legal status of foreign nationals was not included in the 2011 Census (it was non-core topic according to the International Recommendations), and is not planned to be included in the census to come. These data are collected by the MI.

The questions on place (country) of birth of parents (father and mother) were not asked in the censuses up to now. The introduction of this question would contribute to get a better insight into the origin of the population of Serbia (persons with a foreign background).

In order to get a better coverage of emigrants returned to the country, there could be a question on whether they lived abroad and then returned to Serbia, as well as on the total duration of their residence abroad – the number of years (and not only the year of return to Serbia). The possibilities

of carrying out census surveys regarding the migration phenomenon should be considered, including questions asking the intention to migrate.

All proposals above will be presented to the “2021 Census expert team” at the SORS and they will be preceded by:

- Adoption of the EU recommendations on Census of population in 2015
- Adoption of the EU Regulation on Census of population in 2017
- Adoption of the national Law on Census of population in 2019

#### **4. LOCAL LEVEL ACTIVITIES FOR MIGRATION DATA IMPROVEMENTS**

The local authorities have recognized the need for creating a local developmental database on migration, labour market and human capital. There are several sets of data which the local administration needs for evidence based policy making and implementation.

The Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia, in cooperation with partners at national and local level is producing DevInfo databases and also enables free access to them. DevInfo is a powerful database system for monitoring human development. It is a tool used for organizing, storing and presenting data in a uniform way to facilitate data sharing. DevInfo has features that produce tables, graphs and maps to be included in reports, presentation and advocacy materials. It is available as a desktop and web software. A new version of DevInfo (DevInfo 7) is a free web application (see at <http://www.devinform.org> for more details) that can be installed and set up at the local level. The variables included in DevInfo are related to demography, economy, education, health, environment, social care, information and communication.

One option for the local community is to use the existing DevInfo databases that contain data up to the municipal level, as the basis for further development of their own database. The existing data can be imported into new municipal database, but also new indicators can be added. The possible sources of data are the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia, local level data (administrative data, surveys etc.) and others. For instance, municipality Kanjiza has already developed the DevInfo database as part of the “Local Plan of Action for children”, so that the database can also be used as a source of data. In order to ensure the sustainability of the option suggested, it is necessary to create a dedicated team, assign clear responsibilities to its members and develop and implement a plan for including additional indicators to the existing DevInfo database (data sources, collection of data etc.). Additionally ad hoc training should be designed together with a plan for further data dissemination. Capacity building at the local government level requires training for both DevInfo Data Admin and for the use of the created database. Dealing with different data sets demands knowing its methodologies, which asks for an expert or regular education on the matter.

Local surveys could also be useful for collecting migration data. They should be carefully planned and conducted by institutions and experts that have experience in such activities. Data could also result from the international cooperation between Serbian communities and local governments from other countries. It was stated at the MC that local level surveys on labour force and migration are costly, and the Kanjiza municipality does not have experts who would be able to interpret the results of

those surveys. In order to overcome these obstacles, a MC suggestion was that local authorities in cooperation with SORS and relevant research institutes develop the local level survey methodology.

On-line platform for users originating from local municipality and living worldwide could be established. The website could provide relevant migration data.

During the SEEMIG project activities, the cooperation of migration relevant institutions on national and local level has been facilitated and some capacity has been built on local level.

## **5. IMPLEMENTATION POSSIBILITIES**

During the period covered by this Action Plan SORS will regularly provide and update all indicators in the SEEMIG database within its competence. The SORS and ISS will also maintain the international and national partnership established during the SEEMIG project. The possibility of establishing SPR on the basis of all relevant administrative sources will be tested in a two-year time. Once a year trainings aimed toward a better knowledge of data producers and users of relevant legal regulations with regard to emigration and immigration will be organized.

Harmonization and application of EU data standards and other international requirements for migration management through a uniform methodology harmonization with EU Regulation 862/2007 will be aided by the participation of SORS in the EU IPA 2011 Migration Statistics project for 2014-2015.

The additional code identifying when the whole household went abroad will be included in non-response codes in LFS (planned for 2015).

The costs of special ad hoc module aimed at boosting the immigrant sub-sample would be significantly higher than the LFS itself, therefore this action doesn't seem realistic in the forthcoming period particularly due to low levels of immigration. Introducing an additional emigrant module in the forthcoming period would be possible only if significant additional funds are provided.

The possibility of producing local level migration estimates considering both short and long term migration strongly depends on the financial support from the Serbian authorities and the availability of EU funds, especially to hire new experts and to increase the number of staff at the local level.

The databases for the migrant-specific surveys with Serbian diaspora are planned to be regularly updated during the whole period covered by the AP. It is expected to be at hand for conducting from 2017.

All AP national level activities related to the Census are in line with the adoption of the EU recommendations on Census of population from 2015, 2017 and 2019.

Starting from 2015 the Municipality of Kanjiza will establish local developmental database on migration, labour market and human capital based on DevInfo. It will be formed according to local needs and regularly updated.

**Table 3. Implementation plan for the AP proposals**

Activity		2015				2016				2017				2018				2019				
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4																	
Database	SEEMIG																					
	National																					
	Local																					
National	Admin																					
	Legal authorization of the access of the relevant statistical offices/ institution to individual data																					
	Steps toward creating better integrated data sources (integrated data sets, parallel use of several data sources)																					
	Steps toward a better knowledge of data producers/users of relevant legal regulations with regard to emigration and immigration (e.g. repeated trainings)																					
	Steps toward the harmonization of definitions in different migration data sets																					
	Steps toward improving data collection procedure, increase coverage and quality of data, updating the databases																					
	Steps toward the inclusion of migration-related questions into administrative and statistical data																					



	status of foreign nationals at the date of arrival and at the time of the census; country of birth or former citizenship of parents)																		
	Steps toward enhancing data on emigration and inclusion of supplementary questions regarding out-migration & return migration.																		
Local	Training of the employees																		
	Data base set-up																		
	Continuous data base maintenance and introduction of new indicators if necessary																		
	Conducting local labour force surveys																		
	Conducting local migration surveys																		

**Meetings with experts and/or stakeholders from the relevant institutions during the drafting process of the Action Plan (between November 2013 and January 2014):**

- 1. Nenad Trajković**, Head of Analytic Department, Ministry of Interior (23 December 2013 and 10 January 2014)
- 2. Svetlana Velimirović**, Commissariat for Refugees and Migration, deputy commissioner (23 December 2013 and 10 January 2014)
- 3. Jovana Konjević**, Commissariat for Refugees and Migration, (23 December 2013 and 10 January 2014)

## **6. PLAN FOR SUSTAINABILITY**

The SORS will continue to provide and update all indicators in the SEEMIG transnational database. The migration relevant institutions will be enlightened on the Action Plan and the national migration strategy through CRMRS, as an institution which coordinates state administration authorities performing activities related to migration management.

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**Table 1. Overview table of the activities related to the WP4 Transnational Database**

Activities	Level of intervention	Relevant stakeholder	Legal basis	Previous attempt for this type of intervention? If yes, why did not happen?	Possible difficulties	Rank of suggestion
Possible construction of a national developmental database on migration, labour market and human capital	National	Commissariat for Refugees and Migration with relevant state authorities and academic community	Law on Migration Management	No	Funding Data protection	1
Possible construction of local databases on migration, labour market and human capital	Local	Municipality of Kanjiza	Law on local self-government	No	Human capacities Funding Access to data Availability of data for smaller territorial units	3
Maintenance of SEEMIG transnational databases beyond SEEMIG's lifespan	Transnational	SORS	No	No	Funding	2

**Table 2. Overview table of the WP4 Summary report suggestions**

Data source type	Activities	Level of intervention	Relevant stakeholder	Legal basis	Previous attempt for this type of intervention? If yes, why did not happen?	Possible difficulties	Rank of suggestion
<b>Administrative data sources</b>	Legal authorization of the access of the relevant statistical offices/ institution to individual data	National	Data owner institutions involved in the integration of data sources	Legal framework of the Republic of Serbia according to migration  Law on Migration Management	No	The general public  Data protection  Opposing attitude of data owner institutions	1
	Steps toward creating better integrated data sources (integrated data sets, parallel use of several data sources)	National, European	Ministry of Interior; Commissariat for refugees and migration; SORS, Eurostat	Official Statistics Law  Law on Migration Management	No	Funding  Human capacities Timing of National Legal adjustment with EU regulations	2
	Steps toward a better knowledge of data producers/users of relevant legal regulations with regard to emigration and immigration (e.g. repeated trainings)	National, Local, Regional	Ministry of Interior; Commissariat for refugees and migration; SORS, local authorities		Yes	No	2
	Steps toward the harmonization of definitions in different	National	Data owner institutions involved in the integration of	Official Statistics Law	Yes		1

	migration data sets		data sources				
	Steps toward improving data collection procedure, increase coverage and quality of data, updating the databases	National, transnational, bilateral	Ministry of Interior; Commissariat for refugees and migration; SORS	The Law on Migration Management	Yes		2
	Steps toward the inclusion of migration-related questions into administrative and statistical data collections (e.g. country of birth, country of birth of parents etc.).	National	Ministry of Interior; Commissariat for refugees and migration; SORS	The Law on Migration Management	Yes		3
	Steps toward making better estimates	National	SORS	Official Statistics Law	Yes		2
<b>Labour Force Survey</b>	Steps toward the harmonization and wider selection of non-response codes, in order to identify when the whole household went abroad.	National	SORS		No		2

	<p>Steps towards using SEEMIG pilot methods (formulating new, constant LFS questions concerning outmigration)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- additional battery based on SEEMIG pilot experiences to be added on a yearly basis – preferably to be harmonized across countries</li> </ul> <p>local version of the above</p>	national and transnational	SORS, national statistical offices, Eurostat		SEEMIG LFS pilot study	harmonisation across countries	3
<b>Migrant-specific surveys</b>	Steps toward setting up longitudinal migration relevant survey	National, Local	Office for Cooperation with the Diaspora and the Serbs in the Region, academic community				2
<b>Census</b>	Steps toward the harmonization of questions referring to migration history	National	SORS	Official Statistics Law			3
	Steps toward the inclusion supplementary	National	SORS	Official Statistics		Too long	3

	questions regarding immigration (legal status of foreign nationals at the date of arrival and at the time of the census; country of birth or former citizenship of parents)			Law		questionnaire	
	Steps toward enhancing data on emigration and inclusion of supplementary questions regarding out-migration & return migration.	National	SORS	Official Statistics Law		Too long questionnaire	2
	Training of the employees	Local	SORS	Law on self-governments			
	Data base set-up	Local	SORS, local self-government	Law on self-governments	No		
	Continuous data base maintenance and introduction of new indicators if necessary	Local	local self-government with SORS support	Law on self-governments			
	Conducting local labour force surveys	Local	local self-government with SORS support	Law on self-governments	No		
	Conducting local migration surveys	Local	local self-government with SORS support	Law on self-governments	No		