

**SEEMIG - Managing Migration and its Effects in SEE –
Transnational Actions towards Evidence Based Strategies
SEEMIG - SEE/C/0006/4.1/X**

**Work Package 3: Conceptual Framework for modelling longer term migratory,
labour market and human capital processes**

**Data requirement paper for measuring longer term migratory,
labour market and human capital processes**

Final Version

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1. Introduction

1.1. SEEMIG objectives

SEEMIG aims to better understand and address the longer term migratory, human capital and demographic processes of the SEE area, as well as their effects on labour markets and national/regional economies in order to enable public administrations to develop and implement policies and strategies by using enhanced data sets and empirical evidence. As such, SEEMIG seeks to be a useful tool in the harmonisation process of migration statistics.

In this endeavour, the project will build on data collection and sharing initiatives undertaken in the region and beyond; for example the United Nations (UN), Eurostat and other initiatives carried out by, amongst others, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the International Labour Organization (ILO). SEEMIG also builds on important projects carried out in the field of international migration (statistics), such as the projects 'Towards Harmonised European Statistics on International Migration' (THESIM)¹, 'Promoting Comparative Quantitative Research in the Field of Migration and Integration in Europe' (PROMINSTAT)², 'European Observation Network, Territorial Development and Cohesion' (ESPON programme)³ and 'Migration Modelling for Statistical Analyses' (MIMOSA)⁴. SEEMIG also considers ongoing projects dedicated to addressing similar challenges (in particular 'Making Migration Work for Development' (MMWD), 'Regions benefitting from returning migrants' (Re-Turn)⁵, and 'The Determinants of International Migration' (DEMIG)⁶) to enhance the use of synergies and to regularly reflect upon their spatial and methodological experiences and approaches. SEEMIG seeks to complement rather than to duplicate these activities and aims to provide clear added value for stakeholders concerned with the different policies shaping migratory processes. It should allow strategy-building by extrapolation on the national as well as the local level. It is therefore relevant that all participating institutions in SEEMIG make efforts to produce local level data.

1.2. Purpose and aims of paper

To assure that migration management and related policies are effective, it is essential that these actions are founded in evidence-based and reliable information. This is even more relevant, as public opinion and political discourse often lack accurate information and knowledge in this field. Scientifically solid, accurate and continuous measurement and monitoring of migration trends and related processes are an imperative and integral undertaking in this regard. Although this measurement and monitoring activity is not easy, in conceptual as well as practical terms (some challenges will be discussed in this paper), this exercise is very relevant.

A range of significant initiatives to enhance data collection on international migration have been carried out in recent years. While this paper firstly seeks to give guidelines for the data collection activities within the SEEMIG project, it secondly aims to contribute to earlier data harmonisation activities in the region and contribute to the general improvement of availability, accuracy and harmonisation of international migration statistics in the SEE region by identifying relevant indicators for the measurement of migration trends and related processes. The identification of indicators

¹ <http://www.uclouvain.be/en-7823.html>

² <http://www.prominstat.eu/drupal/?q=node/64>

³ <http://www.espon.eu/main/>

⁴ <http://mimosa.gedap.be>

⁵ www.re-migrants.eu

⁶ <http://www.imi.ox.ac.uk/research-projects/demig>

builds on the rationale and findings of the 'SEEMIG Conceptual Study' and the therein developed conceptual framework.

The paper will first discuss general problems and limitations related to data collection on international migration, especially regarding their usability and homogeneity as well as harmonisation efforts in this regard. This will heighten the awareness of involved project partners and policy-makers of possible constraints and challenges. Furthermore, advantages and disadvantages of main data sources as well as stock and flow statistics will be discussed. A special focus will be placed on statistics regarding emigration, remittances and irregular migration, as they are of particular importance for the SEE region. In the following chapter, relevant indicators for the key factors of change for measuring longer-term migratory, labour market and human capital processes are defined. The approach is two-fold: a total of 45 relevant indicators have been defined for the measurement of migration processes and effects related to human capital, demographic, socio-economic development and the labour market. These indicators should feed into the metadata assessment of Work Package (WP) 4 of the project and be included in the SEEMIG database. Of these relevant indicators, 15 indicators have been defined as core indicators for the measurement of these processes. These core indicators should serve as a benchmark list of indicators. SEEMIG partner countries and SEE countries in general should undertake measures to be able to produce these indicators in the framework of their future data collection activities. Finally the paper formulates general conclusions for the following project activities.

Based on the outputs of this paper, a 'dynamic historical analysis of longer term migratory, labour market and human capital processes' for the participating countries in the project will be carried out. The findings of this paper will also provide main indications for the SEEMIG online database on migration statistics as well as the population projection activities of the project.

In the context of the aforementioned WP 3 dynamic historical analysis, a glossary of migration-related terms will be included. It should serve as reference point for future project activities. The glossary will be mainly based on terms defined by the United Nations, the EU Regulation on Community statistics on migration and international protection (EC Regulation No 862/2007), the Glossary on Asylum and Migration of the European Migration Network (EMN 2012) and the IOM Glossary on Migration (2011).

1.3. Methodology

This paper has been elaborated by the SEEMIG project partner at the Department of Geography and Regional Research at the University of Vienna, leader of WP 3, in close cooperation with the contributing partners.⁷ The paper is based on a comparative literature review of definitions, statistics and conceptualisations of international migration.

All partners of the project were consulted and involved in the research activities on a continuous basis throughout elaboration of the study. Initial comments were received in response to a questionnaire circulated by the University of Vienna in July 2012. Additional comments received at the SEEMIG Transnational Working Group and SEEMIG Panel of Experts Meeting in Bratislava on 20 September 2012 were also incorporated into the paper.

A first draft version was discussed at a working meeting held in Vienna on 5 November 2012 between the Lead Partner and the Work Package leaders of WP 3 and WP 4. The meeting presented essential input to the study. The paper was also reviewed by the SEEMIG Transnational Working Group Members and SEEMIG Panel of Experts, representing a large pool of expertise in sociology, economics and developmental studies, before being finally submitted to the SEEMIG Steering Committee for approval.

⁷ The contributing partners are: Hungarian Central Statistical Office, Hungarian Central Statistical Office-Demographic Research Institute, School on Local Development - University of Trento, Institute of Informatics and Statistics – Slovakia, Romanian Institute for Research on National Minorities, National Statistical Institute of the Republic of Bulgaria, Institute of Social Sciences - Serbia and the Institute for Economic Research – Slovenia.

1.4. Policy needs for evidence and statistics on international migration

In the wake of increasing international migration movements following the fall of the Iron Curtain and the globalisation of economic activities, international migration has attracted growing attention from policy-makers in recent decades (cf. Dumont and Lemaître 2005). In their search to better manage and steer migration, they have increasingly called for evidence-based information and statistics on migration and asylum. Within the context of the European Union, the need for comparative data and information on migration has increased with the growing competence of the European Union in this policy area since the Amsterdam Treaty (1997) and the Tampere Council Meeting (1999), which called for a common EU policy on asylum and migration. The Hague Programme⁸ (2005-2010) identified the need for common analysis of migratory phenomena including the collection, provision, exchange, efficient use of up-to-date information. Furthermore, the current Stockholm Programme,⁹ which sets out the European Union's priorities for the area of justice, freedom and security for the period 2010-2014, reemphasises the need for better exchange of comparable information among European Union Member States across the wide range of asylum and migration policy developments.

1.5. Acknowledgment

This paper has been elaborated by the SEEMIG project partner at the Department of Geography and Our thanks go to all contributors and reviewers, to the Transnational Working Group Members and Panel of Experts and especially to Attila Meleghe and Kathrin Gruber for permanent and competent support and Katie Klaffenböck for the proof-reading; however, the authors remain responsible for any error or misinterpretation.

⁸ <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:C:2005:053:0001:0014:EN:PDF>
⁹ <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:C:2010:115:0001:0038:en:PDF>

2. Measuring International Migration

2.1. Challenges and harmonisation efforts¹⁰

There is no common method of gathering data on international migration. Instead, until today, nation states' respective perspectives on definitions, data collection, policies and regulation of international migration persist (cf. Fassmann 2010; Fassmann, Reeger and Sievers 2009). The nationally used conceptualisations and employed instruments are often long-established and they have evolved in the course of time and against the background of country-specific historical and political contexts and circumstances. As a consequence of this historically grown 'methodological nationalism' (Fassmann 2010: 36), a very unsatisfying situation has developed in which nation states organise their migration statistics in different ways regarding definitions, methods of data collection, thematic areas considered relevant and availability of information. Consequently, as there is no consensus on how to conceptualise and measure migration, the resulting data are neither comparable across national borders nor over time (cf. Fassmann 2009a).

This lack of availability, accuracy and comparability have long been known (UN 1949, Herm 2006) and major efforts to standardise statistics on international migration have been undertaken on the international level for more than one and a half centuries. The congresses of the International Statistical Institute in Vienna (1891), Budapest (1901) and Berlin (1903) criticised the fact that differences in concepts and techniques make international comparisons of existing data impossible (cf. Fassmann, Reeger and Sievers 2009: 17). After the First World War, new international organisations became involved. The first resolutions on migration statistics were formulated by the International Conference on Emigration and Immigration in Rome in 1924 (UN 1949). The United Nations, in particular, has sought to enhance the quality and comparability of migration statistics. In this endeavour, the UN develops recommendations in all fields of population data. In 1998, for example, the UN Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs formulated a definition of an international migrant for the measurement of migration flows (UN 1998). In practice, however, and as briefly explained in the SEEMIG Conceptual Paper only a few countries can follow the United Nations recommendations when collecting migration data.¹¹ As a consequence, national legislation and national definitions determine the basis for the collection of statistics until today, which is the main reason for the incompatibility of data from different countries (UNECE and UNFPA 2011: 15). To further tackle these differences, the United Nations seeks to coordinate statistical activities and to bring together officials from national statistical agencies in conferences and trainings sessions in order to allow for exchange and dialogue (see Herm 2006, IOM 2003, Kraly and Gnanasekaran 1987). The elaboration of training tools and practical guides on migration data collection represent another effort in the attempt to enhance international migration statistics (see for example UNECE and UNFPA 2011, CGDEV 2009).

On the European Union level as well, major efforts have been undertaken regarding the harmonisation of statistics of migration and integration. Firstly, a number of important research projects have been funded which aimed to take stock of national data collection in the field of migration and asylum, amongst them 'Comparing National Data Sources in the Field of Migration and Integration' (COMPSTAT)¹², 'Towards Harmonised European Statistics on International Migration' (THESIM)¹³, 'Promoting Comparative Quantitative Research in the Field of Migration and Integration in Europe' (PROMINSTAT)¹⁴ and 'Migration Modelling for Statistical Analyses' (MIMOSA)¹⁵.

¹⁰ For a more detailed historical overview of harmonisation efforts see Herm 2006.

¹¹ For further information see SEEMIG Conceptual Paper

¹² <http://research.icmpd.org/1243.html>

¹³ <http://www.uclouvain.be/en-7823.html>

¹⁴ <http://www.prominostat.eu/drupal/?q=node/64>

¹⁵ <http://mimosa.gedap.be/>

Secondly, a number of regulations have been adopted for the data collection in this field (i.e. EC Regulation No 862/2007 on Community statistics on migration and international protection, EC Regulation No 763/2008 on population and housing censuses, and Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on European statistics on demography COM(2011)903. Regulation 862/2007/EC on Community statistics on migration and international protection was adopted by the European Parliament and the European Council to reinforce the exchange of statistical information on asylum and migration and to improve the quality of Community statistical collections in terms of availability, reliability and comparability. The regulation establishes common rules for the collection and compilation of Community statistics. These had been until then based on gentlemen's agreements. It provides clear definitions for important terms, such as 'immigration', 'emigration' and 'usual residence'. In addition, it details which data European Union Member States are obliged to transfer to Eurostat.

The regulation, however, does not by itself solve all the problems of data collection in the field of international migration and asylum; it rather provides a firm basis on which to continue the development of European migration statistics (European Commission 2009: 3). For example, European Union Member States can independently decide which sources they use to collect data from, which means that the fundamental problem has not been solved (Fassmann, 2009a). As a consequence, while Austria, Sweden and Germany send migration flow data based on population registers to Eurostat, the United Kingdom's data on migration is collected in the framework of the International Passengers Survey. Furthermore, although the regulation covers a broad range of migration-related statistics, it does not go beyond producing counts of the numbers of migrants, with only basic disaggregation by administrative immigration categories and by age and sex (Radermacher and Thorogood 2009: 3). Hence, little or no information is available to assess the social and economic characteristics of migrants. For this purpose, steps have been taken on the European level in the direction of statistical mainstreaming of migration, which entails the inclusion of migration-related variables into a wide range of statistics.

However, despite these efforts, the concepts and techniques used to measure migration in individual countries still differ greatly (Fassmann, Reeger and Sievers 2009: 217). The OECD (2002: 283) notes for the international context: 'Compared to some other areas of statistics, such as labour force data, there exists little international standardisation of migration statistics'. However, the harmonisation of migration statistics cannot be avoided; such data are the essential basis for both an objective discourse as well as the development of immigration policies (Fassmann 2009a: 43). Keeping in mind the major efforts that have already been invested into the harmonisation and data quality of migration statistics, it becomes clear that patience is required. Recent IMISCOE research and the PROMINSTAT project confirm: as the lack of harmonisation also has to do with the persistence of (national) conceptual frameworks and counting methods (Fassmann 2009a: 21), the harmonisation of data collection systems in the European Union [as well as beyond] cannot be achieved rapidly and needs time to take place (Kraler and Reichel 2010: 21).

However, even after a satisfactory level of harmonisation has been achieved in the course of time, it must be remembered that when examining statistics in general, and as such also migration statistics, that 'statistics are not synonymous with reality but are, rather, a way of representing the complexity of the world in categories and figures attached to such categories' (Fassmann, Reeger and Sievers 2009: 17). They therefore will always need to be analysed and regarded with caution and acknowledgement of the fact that they are only one aspect of the reality of migration.

2.2. Main data sources

As mentioned above, a major challenge for the comparability of international migration statistics is the fact that national administrations employ different instruments and sources to collect data in this area. Administrations refer to data that have been collected for either administrative or statistical

purposes, and by different methods such as sample surveys, censuses, registers or at borders. The data sources can allow for micro data or aggregate data to be produced and they can cover different thematic areas of migration, for example international protection or residence permits. The most important data sources for the project are discussed below regarding some of their strengths and weaknesses. The SEEMIG Analysis on Data Production Systems (WP4) will reveal different data sources and production systems and therefore help in better understanding aspects of data availability, reliability and comparability in SEE countries.

2.2.1. Census

Census data is generally regarded as the most essential source of information on the structure of the immigrant population stock. It provides a broad range of descriptive variables about characteristics of migrants and allows for comparison between the migrant and non-migrant population. For this purpose, for the 2010 round of censuses, the Statistics Division of the UN Department on Economic and Social Affairs (UN 2008) recommended ‘core topics’ (e.g. citizenship, previous place of usual residence) and ‘non-core topics’ (e.g. reason for migration, country of birth of parents) that should be included in the census in order to describe migration in a direct or indirect way.

In the majority of countries, censuses are carried out in the traditional way, that is, through face-to-face interviews and questionnaires. However, a number of countries which dispose of a developed population register increasingly conduct censuses through collecting the information by combining personal data from different registers. Some countries combine both (traditional and register) methods. Map 1 below provides an overview of the methods used by European countries during the last census round in 2010/2011.

Map 1: Methods used by European countries in 2010/2011 to enumerate their population



Source: Valente 2010

Next to these advantages, census data nevertheless pose problems related to migration. Firstly, the definition of the place of usual residence for the inclusion of individuals in the census may lead to the exclusion of specific groups of the population in some countries. For instance, in some countries asylum seekers are excluded from the resident population and therefore are not covered in the census. Furthermore, depending on the national definition of international migration, short-term

immigrants or emigrants may or may not be included. Due to its nature, no census covers international emigration (Van der Erf, Jandl and Reeger: 2005). Finally, if countries have to conduct censuses in the traditional way of interviewing and questionnaires, it is very costly for national governments. Consequently, censuses are only carried out in these countries every five or ten years and data that can be employed for migration research is mostly outdated.

2.2.2. Sample surveys

Sample surveys are another important data source for international migration. They are a flexible tool for collecting detailed information on migrants. They can generally be divided into two types: specialised household surveys focussing solely on migration, and general topic surveys conducted by national statistical offices including a few migration-related questions. The latter can also be organised as a micro-census. Micro-censuses consist of a fixed range and variable set of questions on changing topics and are periodically carried out in some countries to complement the census. The inclusion of a number of questions from the census in the micro-census aid to bridge the long gaps between one census and the next (Van der Erf, Jandl and Reeger: 2005). The fact that these micro-censuses are increasingly organised as internationally comparable surveys, such as the European Labour Force Survey, presents another important advantage of this data source.¹⁶

In contrast, one big disadvantage is the often small sample size, which reduces the possibility to break down data for example by citizenship, in particular when too many variables are crossed. The official character of the survey furthermore results in the fact that the sample only includes officially registered foreign citizens. Another disadvantage is that the immigrant population is generally underestimated as surveys collect insufficient data on those who have arrived recently and is thus biased towards the long-established immigrant population. It is also a weak source for small area statistics. As replies to the survey are non-compulsory in most countries, the high non-response rates are another inconvenience.

2.2.3. Registers

Registers are regularly or continuously updated data systems which contain information about the current status of individuals. Register data are therefore not a snapshot of the population (e.g. every 10 years) but a continuous update of the resident population. Countries have installed various forms of registers for different groups of persons, for example, population registers, registers of foreigners or registers of asylum seekers.¹⁷

As registration is usually mandatory for the (respective group of) population covered by the register and as registers are administrated both locally and centrally, data derived from these sources are in general reliable, accurate and up-to-date. However, register data are often not available and there are differences in quality and the form of collection. While excellent population registers have been installed in Belgium, Austria and the Nordic countries, in some countries, such as Italy and Spain, population registers exist only on the local level. In Germany as well, the population register is only partially centralised.

A major disadvantage of statistics derived from registers is that they are only a by-product of administrative procedures that focus on issues such as taxation or the regulation of migration. They depend consequently on the specific legal requirements of the respective state at a specific point in time. For this reason, these statistics are not comparable among countries or over time (Fassmann 2009b: 32). Furthermore, they are collected by administrative staff and not by staff trained in

¹⁶ However it should be noted that for small countries it is not obligatory within the European Labour Force Survey to collect all variables on migrants.

¹⁷ There are many further registers with limited applicability, but they might be useful for specialised thematic research, e.g. health insurance databases, higher education enrolment data or even hunting organisation licenses.

statistics, which may reduce the quality of the collected information. Another disadvantage is that they only provide very basic social information on individuals. In rare cases, they provide information on the place of birth, the previous place of residence, the reason for migration or other characteristics of the individual such as the highest educational attainment or professional status. As more and more countries' census data is founded in register-based data, the problem arises that less information on the social characteristics of migrants is available in these countries than there was before, when traditional censuses were carried out. Finally, issues related to the definition of 'usual residence' and 'resident population' as well as questions regarding the de-registration of emigrants remain problematic.

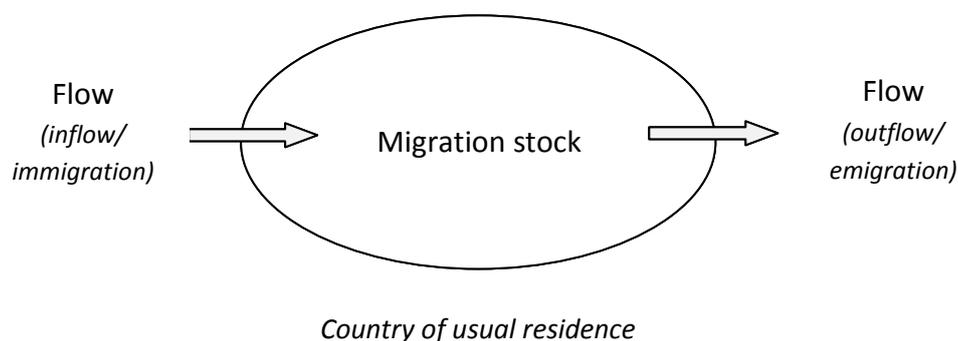
2.3. Stock statistics versus flow statistics

Migration statistics can be differentiated into the two main categorisations of stocks and flows. While the first refers to the number of migrants who reside in a country at a given point in time, the second relates to the number of migration-related events or administrative procedures that occurred within a specific time period. For a schematic differentiation of stocks and flows, see graph 1.

2.3.1. Flow statistics

Flow statistics on international migration capture the size of international migration movements from and into a specific geographical unit within a specific time period (usually a year). As such, they are more adept than stock statistics at showing current migration trends and are therefore increasingly employed by countries to measure international migration (Fassmann 2009b).

Figure 1: Illustration of migration stock and flows



Source: UNECE and UNFPA 2011: 20, modified by authors.

Flow statistics are generally collected in the framework of administrative procedures, for instance registrations and de-registrations in population registers. When looking at data on migration flows, limitations of these data sources described above (chapter 2.2) must be taken into account. Further weaknesses that are related to flow statistics are for instance, the fact that the quality of flow data is affected by national methods of measurement and criteria for the minimum duration of stay established for counting migrants (UNECE and UNFPA 2011: 20). Thus, the number of procedures only refers to an administrative reality and does not always coincide with the number of migration-related events or number of migrants. Also, in many cases, migration data on flows of nationals are less complete and accurate than migration data on foreigners (ibid: 20). As such, statistics on emigration flows are in general less reliable than statistics on immigration flows. This problem will be specifically addressed in chapter 3.4.1.

The PROMINSTAT project (Kupiszewska et al. 2010: 46) summarises the challenges related to the European context and concludes that 'internationally comparative research on migration flows in Europe is currently generally not possible. The main problem is the comparability of data, in

particular the differences in definitions and sources used in various countries and in the coverage of the statistics. These differences imply that comparing migration flows in various countries would be often like comparing pears and apples.'

2.3.2. Stock statistics

Stock statistics relate to the size of a population group that is usually resident in a country at a specific point in time and which has directly or indirectly experienced a (common) event (for instance if members of the group have migrated or are descendants of migrants). According to the prevailing national conceptualisations of the respective country, the migration stock can refer to different groups of persons: for example foreign citizens (criterion citizenship), foreign-born (criterion country of birth), population with foreign origin or background (criterion country of birth of parents), ethnic group members (criterion ethnicity) or ever international migrants (criterion experience of residence abroad). All of these criteria have advantages and disadvantages and it is questionable whether one single criterion is a valid construction for measuring international migration.

The criterion '*country of birth*' is most often used to define migration stock. It is unique, does not change over time and usually refers to the fact that the person has migrated in his/her life. However, while in some cases nationals may also be included in the stock, the second generation of migrants is always excluded when applying this criterion. Furthermore, borders may change and create de facto migrants as defined by this criterion, such as through the division of a formerly unified state e.g. Yugoslavia.

The main reason for using the criterion '*citizenship*' is that this information is relevant in legal terms and is available in many statistical data sources. On the other hand, it is a very unstable condition and not unique. Depending of the varying national naturalisation policies (*ius sanguinis* versus *ius solis*), second-generation foreigners who might have never migrated themselves are counted as foreign citizens, while immigrants who have been naturalised are counted as nationals. Furthermore, citizenship is not always related to migration but can reflect national policies directed towards specific minority groups or result from specific historical and political contexts (for example Russian minorities in Latvia).

The criterion '*country of birth of parents*' is particularly important in the context of growing populations of second generation of migrants. The main challenge regarding this criterion is, however, the non-availability of information in many countries/statistics. In contrast, the criterion on '*ethnicity*' is never used alone as a main criterion to identify the migration stock. It is a very sensitive measure and it is likely that survey respondents may choose to answer this information incorrectly.

To obtain a more objective picture of the population stock, it is therefore advisable to mix a number of the above-mentioned criteria with additional information (UNECE and UNFPA 2011). For instance, data on the country of birth should be combined with the information about the year of migration or the duration of stay. This is particularly important in the SEE context due to the factor of dual citizenship.¹⁸

For the context of SEEMIG, it is proposed to use both the criteria of 'citizenship' and 'country of birth'. Furthermore, if possible, the 'country of birth of parents' should be collected and SEEMIG partner countries should invest in the improvement of data collection regarding the availability of these three criteria. Furthermore, both flow and stock data should be used in the project.

¹⁸ When analysing information related to ex-Yugoslavian countries, special attention must be paid to whether the country was still unified or already divided at the time of birth. There are a great number of persons in the successor countries with dual citizenship. This can blur the migration picture, since these persons should not actually be considered immigrants.

2.4. Focus on specific data

2.4.1. Emigration and Return migration

Statistics on emigration are of special concern within the framework of attempts to improve the quality of international migration statistics. This is due to the fact that proper statistics on emigration do not exist in many European countries (Fassmann 2009, Kupiszewska et al. 2010). As a consequence, the actual numbers of emigration are underestimated in the emigration statistics in many countries. Van der Erf, Jandl and Reeger (2005:10) go so far to say that ‘even when emigration required consent of the responsible municipality and landlord, statistics on emigration did not do justice to reality and they are still notoriously poor’.

One of the main reasons for the unreliability of emigration statistics today is that many emigrants do not de-register when leaving the country because there are few incentives to do so. In addition, some emigrants may fear losing a number of their rights after official emigration. Another reason is that there are often no motivations for local authorities to maintain accurate statistics on emigrants. On the contrary, for the purpose of fiscal equalisation, it is beneficial for them to have large numbers of residents.

The quality of statistics on emigration flows is particularly poor. Firstly, data on emigration flows often stem from administrative registers which are afflicted with the concerns raised above. It seems therefore important to introduce mechanisms which induce emigrants to de-register, such as the Scandinavian countries have introduced. Nowok, Kupiszewska and Poulain (2006: 220) emphasise that ‘most efforts should be focussed on the registration of emigration, of both nationals and non-nationals, by facilitating the administrative procedure and by introducing incentives for both the people concerned and the local administration to register the move’. Statistics on emigration flows can also derive from household sample surveys; however, even in this framework it is difficult to collect information on persons abroad.

No standard definition exists regarding the *stock of emigrants*; countries rather refer to a number of different populations of concern: citizens living abroad (with or without their descendants), native-born population living abroad or citizens living abroad and their descendants. Data on the stock of emigrants can be derived from registers of consular/embassies. These data are, however, generally incomplete, as registration at the consulate is often not compulsory. Against this background, it is suggested by international agencies that the best estimates on the stocks of emigrants from a given country can be achieved by drawing upon statistics on immigrants by country of birth, citizenship and country of previous residence collected in (main) countries of destination. A number of exchange exercises have been carried out and guidelines and recommendations have been formulated for this undertaking (see for example UNECE and Eurostat 2010, 2008, 2006).

The comparison of statistics on emigration in the country of origin with these so-called ‘mirror statistics’, i.e. the data collected in the country of destination is recommended as being especially useful as they allow for the detection of contradictions. A comparison of the data with the mirror-statistics of the most popular destination countries showed, for example, that absolute numbers indicating the emigrant stocks measured by the census in the country of origin do not coincide with the number of immigrants registered in the destination country; only the sex-age structures of the stocks were similar (UNECE and UNFPA 2011).

In order to foster their own data sources for estimating their emigrant population, some countries have included an ‘emigration module’, a battery of questions specifically focussed on the topic of emigration, into their population censuses or household surveys. However, collecting statistics on households which have emigrated entirely remains a challenge.¹⁹

¹⁹ SEEMIG will undertake a pilot project exactly because these kinds of data are largely inaccurate in the region.

As return migrants are potential drivers of development and brain gain for their countries of origin, data and information on *return migration* is important. Information on patterns, timing and conditions of return, measures of integration in the country of origin are especially relevant. It is therefore recommended that SEEMIG also examines this group.

2.4.2. Remittances

As briefly outlined in the conceptual paper, the concept of remittances and consequently data on remittances has a number of limitations (Woeger in Kraler and Reichel 2010). It is the nature of the flows which is seen as the biggest problem for the collection of data on remittances. Officially recorded remittance data on the international level are collected by the International Monetary Fund (IMF), which publishes annual data in its Balance of Payment Statistics Yearbook. Data presented in this publication are collected from national banks who themselves base their reports on reports prepared by money transfer operators, statistics provided by national statistical offices and ministries and reports prepared by international organisations.

However, although on the aggregate level the transactions may be substantial, the small size of individual transactions means that they often also go undetected by typical data source systems. Remittance flows often involve small transactions by private persons who use a range of different and often informal or personal transaction channels (Eurostat 2008). According to the World Bank (2006), further key problems regarding the improvement of data on remittances relate to the fact that (IMF) definitions and concepts are inconsistently applied by different countries. Another factor is that low priority is given to data improvements: large outflows are from countries where remittances are relatively small in balance of payments while countries with important inflows may have difficulties collecting data due to capacity constraints.

In light of the growing importance of data collection on remittances for the purpose of policy-making, tremendous work has been going on at the international level to enhance statistics on remittances. Amongst others, an international expert group called the Luxembourg Group on Remittances, which was founded in 2006, was tasked with elaborating guidelines for compiling statistics on remittances (IMF 2009). Research recommends further that household surveys could be used as an additional source of data next to reports of national banks. Surveys could particularly provide important information on remittance behaviour and determinants of remittances. In general, however, until now only a few European household surveys contain remittances variables (Woeger in Kraler and Reichel, 2010:66).

2.4.3. Irregular Migration

Research has shown that irregular migration and related organised criminal activities such as trafficking in human beings are very much present in the SEE and CEE regions (Shelley 2010, Kara 2009, Hughes 2005, Zimic 2003). Irregular migration, and particularly the fight against it, is an area of migration that is of particular concern to policy-makers in general. For years they have called for accurate statistics on the phenomenon. Due to the very nature of irregular migration, however, the actual numbers of irregular migrants are difficult to assess and no exact data on this type of migration exist. Instead, available estimates and recorded cases of irregular migration in official statistics only show a fragmentary picture of the real situation (cf. IOM 2006: 36).

Data on irregular migration also vary from one country to another; depending on the national legislation of the respective country, irregularity can refer to different conceptualisations. In general, these conceptualisations can be categorised into irregular entry, irregular stay or irregular employment. However, due to the very different national policies and legal frameworks, it varies very strongly from country to country who falls within one of these categories. Furthermore, in many cases one single individual may shift between different forms of (ir)regularity within one country. For

example, a person can enter a country legally and due to the non-extension of a residence permit fall into an irregular situation. Others might be staying regularly in a country with a valid residence permit, but may work irregularly if their residence permit does not allow for employment or employment in specific areas of work. Additionally, due to changes in the legal framework relating to migration, the number of persons irregularly residing and working in a country is subject to significant variations over time within one single country.²⁰

Despite the limited illustrative power of statistics on the full extent of irregular migration, administrative records of cases of irregular migration (numbers of refusals at borders, apprehensions, returns) are important indicators for migration management. As such, the collection and sharing of information and statistics on irregular migration by the main responsible authorities represents an essential part of methods that are employed to prevent and fight irregular migration. These statistics are usually used for illustrative rather than analytical purposes and primarily refer to irregular migration flows rather than stocks. Additionally, a number of specific methods for the estimation of the stock of irregular migrants have been developed in the last years. A recent inventory and a critical assessment of data and estimates in selected European Union Member States have been carried out in the framework of the research project CLANDESTINO²¹.

²⁰ For further information on the measurement of irregular migration see also Massey and Capoferro 2007, Heckman 2007.

²¹ <http://clandestino.eliamep.gr/>

3. Thematic Indicators

In the following chapter, main thematic indicators for measuring the key factors of change of longer term migratory, labour market and human capital processes are identified. Indicators can be generally described as quantitative or qualitative factors or variables with the help of which theoretical and not immediately measurable constructs – for example the integration of immigrants – can be measured. They should be reliable, measure the respective phenomenon, and the measurement should be independent from the instrument of measurement.

As internationally agreed upon indicators and approaches for analysing the effects of migration do not exist to-date (IOM 2011), the recommendations of earlier work in this area have been considered when developing the indicators. EC Regulation No 862/2007 on Community statistics on migration and international protection, the European Union Zaragoza indicators on Immigrant Integration (Eurostat 2011), OECD key indicators on international migration and recommendations of the IOM Migration Profiles (IOM 2011) have been taken into account and followed to the greatest extent possible.

The identified indicators for the measurement of longer term migratory, labour market and human capital processes relate to the following thematic areas:

- Migrant stock and trends
- Population size, structure and distribution
- Labour market characteristics and effects of migration on the labour market
- Macro-economic development and migrant participation
- Social development, living conditions, poverty and social cohesion

The approach for identifying indicators is two-fold: a total of 45 relevant indicators have been defined for the measurement of migration processes and effects related to human capital, socio-economic development and the labour market. These indicators refer to an ideal situation of data availability. Of these relevant indicators, 15 indicators have further been defined as core indicators for the measurement of these processes.²² These core indicators should serve as a benchmark list of indicators for SEEMIG partner countries and SEE countries in general. Increased efforts should be invested so that national data collection systems are able to produce data according to these indicators.

All indicators refer to annual data. If possible, the data should be disaggregated by age (age groups of five years) and sex. However, disaggregation by more characteristics would be desirable and, if available, data should be disaggregated by as many social characteristics as possible. The geographical unit level is indicated only for a select number of indicators. It is important to note, however, that there is a great need for data disaggregated by regional/local units in order to illustrate regional disparities. The more indicators can be broken down by geographical unit, the better.

²² 'Core indicators' are marked in the tables below in **bold**.

3.1. International Migration Trends and Migrant Stock²³

Migrant Stock	
1	Usually-resident population by citizenship, sex and age
2	Usually-resident population by country of birth, sex and age
3	Usually-resident population by country of birth of parents, sex and age
4	Emigrant stock by country of destination, sex and age on 1st January
5	Estimates on the irregular migration present in the country
Immigration (Inflows)	
6	Immigrants by citizenship, sex and age
7	Immigrants by country of birth, sex and age
Emigration (Outflows)	
8	Emigrants by citizenship, sex and age
9	Emigrants by country of birth, sex and age
International protection	
10	First asylum applications by citizenship, age and sex
11	Persons granted international protection status by status granted, citizenship, age and sex
Internal migration	
12	Persons who changed their place of residence by citizenship, age and sex within the country
13	Persons who work in a location different from their residence

3.2. International Migration and Human Capital

Population size, structure and distribution	
14	Total fertility rate by citizenship or country of birth
15	Population growth rate by citizenship or country of birth
16	Life expectancy at birth by citizenship or country of birth
17	Total usually-resident population by age and NUTS 3 regions by age and sex
18	Usually-resident population, aged 25-74 years, by educational attainment (ISCED) and citizenship/country of birth
19	Numbers of immigrants, aged 25-74 years, by educational attainment (ISCED), citizenship and sex
20	Numbers of emigrants, aged 25-74 years, by educational attainment (ISCED), citizenship and sex
21	Usually-resident population by ethnicity distributions (citizenship, place of birth or mother tongue)
22	Immigrant share of low-achieving 15-year-olds in reading, mathematics and science
23	Immigrant share of 30-34 year-olds with tertiary educational attainment

²³ All data refer to a given reference year and to a certain date within the year (e.g. 1st of January).

3.3. International Migration and Labour Market²⁴

Labour market characteristics and effects of migration on the labour market	
24	Population by activity status by sex, age, citizenship and country of birth
25	Labour force participation rate by citizenship and country of birth
26	Employed persons by economic activity (NACE) and sector of economy (NACE), citizenship, country of birth, age and sex
27	Unemployed persons by sex, age, citizenship, country of birth, educational attainment (ISCED), economic activity (NACE)
28	Stocks of foreign-born labour force
29	Job vacancies by occupation (ISCO)
30	Labour costs
31	Inflows and outflows of seasonal workers by age, sex and citizenship

3.4. International Migration and Social and Economic Development²⁵

Macro-economic development and migrant participation	
32	Gross Domestic Product (GDP) (in USD)
33	Gross Domestic Product (GDP) (in USD) per capita
34	Economic growth rate
35	Imports and exports
36	Public debt in million USD
37	Informal economy as estimated percentage of GDP
38	Inflows, outflows and stock of foreign-direct investment
39	Inflows and outflows of total remittances in million USD
Living conditions, poverty and social cohesion	
40	Infant mortality rate
41	Relative poverty by age and sex
42	Distribution of population by income group
43	Purchasing power of salary
44	Total expenditure on social protection and welfare per head of population
45	Proportion of immigrants that have acquired citizenship in the total immigrant stock

3.5. Additional information

In addition to the data mentioned above, information on the following areas is needed:

- the institutional framework regarding immigration/emigration,
- the policy framework regarding immigration/emigration

²⁴ All data refer to a given reference year and to a certain date within the year (e.g. 1st of January).

²⁵ All data refer to a given reference year and to a certain date within the year (e.g. 1st of January).

- the legal framework regarding immigration/emigration as well as
- the labour market policy in the specific region/country including information on public expenditure on labour market policy, labour market policy interventions and
- public attitudes towards migration

This information is important to put the data into a broader policy context and general situation of the respective country.

4. Considerations and Conclusions

The data requirement offers an overview of general challenges related to international migration statistics and of the harmonisation efforts in this area. Furthermore, relevant indicators for measuring long-term migratory, labour market and human capital processes were identified. The following conclusions and considerations are raised for the future work packages of SEEMIG: the broader list of 45 relevant indicators defined in chapter 3 for the measurement of migration processes and effects on human capital, socio-economic development and the labour market should serve as a basis for the historical country reports and feed into the metadata assessment of WP4 as well as be included in the SEEMIG database. Of these relevant indicators, 15 indicators have been defined as core indicators for the measurement of these processes. These core indicators represent a benchmark list of indicators of particular importance for the measurement of international migration statistics. SEEMIG partner countries as well as the SEE countries in general should invest in enhancing statistics in this direction in order to be able to collect data on these indicators.

Figure 2: Benchmark list of core indicators

Core Indicators
1. Usually-resident population by citizenship, sex and age
2. Usually-resident population by country of birth, sex and age
3. Usually-resident population by country of birth of parents, sex and age
4. Emigrant stock by country of destination, sex and age
5. Immigrants by citizenship, sex and age
6. Emigrants by citizenship, sex and age
7. First asylum applications by citizenship, age and sex
8. Total fertility rate by citizenship/country of birth
9. Usually-resident population, aged 25-74 years, by educational attainment and citizenship
10. Population by activity status and citizenship
11. Employed persons by economic activity (NACE), sector of economy (NACE), citizenship, age and sex
12. Unemployed persons by sex, age, citizenship, educational attainment (ISCED), economic activity (NACE)
13. Gross Domestic Product (in USD) per capita
14. Economic growth rate
15. Inflows and outflows of total remittances (in million USD)

The paper would like to give some suggestions for the application of the proposed indicators (core and non-core) in the future project activities of SEEMIG (especially WP3 and WP4 activities). As mentioned in chapter 3, the proposed indicators describe an ideal situation of available data. The authors are aware that many of the proposed indicators may not (yet) be available in the SEEMIG partner countries. Either they are not available at all or, if available, are not collected according to the recommended disaggregation. This has also already been partly confirmed in the valuable feedback received from contributing partners at the review of earlier versions of the paper.

However, as the aim of SEEMIG is to contribute to the improvement of migration statistics in the region, one activity in this endeavour is to map and detect problems related to availability of data and gaps to an ideal situation of data collection by showing that there is still room for further improvements (by official statistics / national statistical organisations). It is therefore recommended that SEEMIG partners should try their best in the following WPs 3 and 4 to provide the data for the proposed indicators according to the suggested criteria.

If the data cannot be provided as requested:

- 1) Contributing partners are asked to describe and suggest what would need to be done in the future by the national/regional/local stakeholders in order to make these data available. This is an important activity of reflection which will directly feed into policy recommendations and training activities of WP6.
- 2) The most appropriate alternative data that is currently available should be provided. For the readability, analysis of this data and comparability with other data, it is essential that this data is accompanied by metadata information regarding used data sources, employed definitions, time frame, etc.

The paper would finally also like to draw some general preliminary conclusions for data collection on international migration statistics, which shall serve as starting point for reflection on the data availability and data source analysing activities of WP4 and the general approach of the future SEEMIG project activities:

- *Significance of timely and accurate migration statistics for policy-making:* In order to assure that statistics are relevant to policy-making, data that is provided must be up-to-date, accurate, reliable, comparable and valid. This raises the need to follow a sustainable approach which allows keeping the SEEMIG database up-to-date beyond the project implementation period.
- *Improvement of quality of international migration statistics:* The findings of earlier studies highlight that the quality of international migration statistics in general and especially in the SEE Region must be improved, especially regarding the coverage of all groups of migrants, including asylum seekers, students and own nationals. Specific thematic data collections are of particular concern and need increased attention (for example irregular migration). The most important area of concern is data collection of emigration. However, data on some other thematic areas related to migration are also of poor quality, for example, income statistics. Furthermore, approaches towards data collection within countries must be harmonised and reasons for diverging data results discovered. Finally, as the SEE region is very heterogeneous, there is an important need for data that is disaggregated by regional units in order to illustrate and be able to tackle regional disparities.
- *The special role of statistical offices:* The improvement of statistical aspects of data quality can only be expected if the statistical institutes make their own significant contribution. Improvement of data quality can frequently be a resource consuming process that often requires unique solutions. In order to reduce the registration errors, the available data sources that have not yet been used should regularly be sought and assessed in terms of usability for producing more accurate estimates. Moreover, stronger, mutually supportive working relationships with the data owners should be established.
- *Need for better comparability of international migration statistics:* To assure better comparability of international migration statistics between countries, it is particularly important to harmonise nationally employed approaches, conceptualisations and definitions, especially regarding 'place of residence' and 'duration of stay'. Additionally, changes in data collection systems are important, especially an approach towards register-based data. However, constraints remain; in particular those related to the supply of financial resources and socially accepted level of control of the society.
- *Requirement for new data sources and ways of data collection:* In the long run, it is recommended to increasingly carry out special surveys on migration in general and in the SEE region. Alternatively, the inclusion of migration modules into existing household surveys should be emphasised. Furthermore, longitudinal surveys and longitudinal data collection

should be undertaken in order to enable the analysis of change over time on an individual level. Additionally, different data sources should be combined (e.g. labour force survey and census). Newly collected data should also detail as many social characteristics of migrants as possible. Exchanging data ('mirror statistics') between countries is important, especially for statistics on emigration. To maximise the value of exchanges of aggregate data, harmonised definitions and concepts should be applied. For this purpose, appropriate procedures need to be agreed upon.

- *Necessity of using innovative and problem-solving approaches:* The challenge in the context of SEEMIG is not only the improvement of availability, reliability and the comparative value of data as there are clear limitations to this undertaking. Instead, as SEEMIG has to carry out the planned activities effectively on the basis of the data currently available, elements and units of analysis must be identified to circumvent existing problems which cannot be solved immediately but only in the long-term.
- *Importance of reflecting on a full picture of migration:* when looking at migration processes in the SEE region and in general, the overall historically structured situation and development of the region must be considered. Thus, the changes of international borders over time in the region or different migration (visa) regimes must be considered in the analysis of trends. For the analysis of this broader context, it is also important to link various fields in statistics (e.g. labour market, education) and make evaluations in this respect.

Glossary

This glossary should be understood as an attempt towards a common SEEMIG terminological starting point. It compiles a range of core terms and definitions, derived from the following sources (highest priority first): EU Regulation (EC) No 862/2007, Eurostat, Glossary of the European Migration Network (EMN), glossaries developed by international bodies, such as the ILO, IOM, OECD, UNHCR.

Asylum-seeker: a person who has applied for asylum or refugee status, but who has not yet received a final decision on his or her application. (UNHCR)

Asylum application: The application made by a person which can be understood as a request for international protection under the Geneva Convention. Any application for international protection is presumed to be an application for asylum unless a person explicitly requests another kind of protection that can be applied for separately. (derived from EMN Glossary)

At-risk-of-poverty rate: share of people with an equivalised disposable income (after social transfer) below the at-risk-of-poverty threshold, which is set at 60 % of the national median equivalised disposable income after social transfers. (Eurostat Glossary)

Brain Drain: Emigration of trained and talented individuals from the country of origin to another country resulting in a depletion of skills resources in the former. (IOM Glossary)

Brain Gain: Immigration of trained and talented individuals into the destination country. (IOM Glossary)

Circular migration: The fluid movement of people between countries, including temporary or long-term movement which may be beneficial to all involved, if occurring voluntarily and linked to the labour needs of countries of origin and destination. (IOM Glossary)

Citizenship: the particular legal bond between an individual and his or her state, acquired by birth or naturalisation, whether by declaration, choice, marriage or other means according to national legislation. (Regulation (EC) No 862/2007)

Country of birth: the country of residence (in its current borders, if the information is available) of the mother at the time of the birth or, in default, the country (in its current borders, if the information is available) in which the birth took place. (Regulation (EC) No 862/2007)

Country of birth of parents: the country of birth of the mother if mother and father were born in different foreign countries. (IOM Glossary)

Country of destination: The country that is a destination for migratory flows (regular or irregular). (IOM Glossary)

Country of origin: the country that is a source of migratory flows (regular or irregular). (IOM Glossary)

Country of transit: the country through which migratory flows (regular or irregular) move. (IOM Glossary)

Development: the process of 'creating an environment in which people can develop their full potential and lead productive, creative lives in accordance with their needs and interests...[and] expanding the choices people have to lead lives that they value'. (UNDP)

Emigrant: a person undertaking an emigration (Regulation (EC) No 862/2007)

Emigration: the action by which a person, having previously been usually-resident in the territory of a state, ceases to have his or her usual residence in that state for a period that is, or is expected to be, of at least 12 months. (derived from Regulation (EC) No 862/2007 modified)

Employed persons: are persons: a) aged 15 year and over; b) who during the reference week performed work, even for just one hour a week, for pay, profit or family gain, c) who were not at work but had a job or business from which they were temporarily absent because of, e.g. illness, holidays, industrial dispute or education and training. (derived from Eurostat, LFS)

Equivalent disposable income: the total income of a household, after tax and other deductions, that is available for spending or saving, divided by the number of household members converted into equalised adults; household members are equalised or made equivalent by weighting each according to their age, using the so-called modified OECD equivalence scale. For further information see (http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/statistics_explained/index.php/Glossary:Equivalent_disposable_income)

Family migration: A general concept covering family reunification and the migration of a family unit as a whole. (IOM Glossary)

Forced migration: a general term that refers to the movements of refugees and internally displaced people (those displaced by conflicts) as well as people displaced by natural or environmental disasters, chemical or nuclear disasters, famine, or development projects. (IASFM)

Forced return: the compulsory return of an individual to the country of origin, transit or third country, on the basis of an administrative or judicial act. (IOM Glossary)

Foreigner (foreign national, alien): a person belonging to, or owing an allegiance to, another State. (IOM Glossary)

Gross Domestic Product: an aggregate measure of production equal to the sum of the gross values added of all resident institutional units engaged in production (plus any taxes, and minus any subsidies, on products not included in the value of their outputs). The sum of the final uses of goods and services (all uses except intermediate consumption) measured in purchasers' prices, less the value of imports of goods and services, or the sum of primary incomes distributed by resident producer units. (United Nations and others, System of National Accounts 1993).

Gross Domestic Product (GDP) (Real): An inflation-adjusted measure that reflects the value of all goods and services produced in a given year, expressed in base-year prices. Often referred to as "constant-price", "inflation-corrected" GDP or "constant dollar GDP".

Immigrant: a person undertaking an immigration. (Regulation (EC) No 862/2007)

Immigration: the action by which a person establishes his or her usual residence in the territory of a state for a period that is, or is expected to be, of at least 12 months, having previously been usually resident in another state. (derived from Regulation (EC) No 862/2007)

Infant mortality rate: Probability of dying between birth and exactly one year of age expressed per 1,000 live births.

Integration: while the term is used and understood differently in different countries and contexts, 'integration' can be defined as the process by which migrants become accepted into society, both as individuals and as groups. It generally refers to a two-way process of adaptation by migrants and host societies, while the particular requirements for acceptance by a host society vary from country to country. Integration does not necessarily imply permanent settlement. It does, however, imply consideration of the rights and obligations of migrants and host societies, of access to different kinds of services and the labour market, and of identification and respect for a core set of values that bind migrants and host communities in a common purpose. (IOM Glossary)

Internal migration: a movement of people from one area of a country to another area of the same country for the purpose or with the effect of establishing a new residence. This migration may be temporary or permanent. Internal migrants move but remain within their country of origin (e.g. rural to urban migration). (IOM Glossary)

Irregular migration: movement that takes place outside the regulatory norms of the sending, transit and receiving countries. (IOM Glossary)

ISCED: The International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED) was developed by UNESCO and seeks to facilitate comparisons of education statistics and indicators across countries on the basis of uniform and internationally agreed definitions. (UNESCO)

ISCO: The International Standard Classification of Occupations (ISCO), developed by the International Labour Organisation (ILO), is a tool for organizing jobs into a clearly defined set of groups according to the tasks and duties undertaken in the job. (ILO)

Highly-skilled/qualified migrant: While there is no internationally agreed definition, two overlapping meanings are often intended. In very general terms a highly skilled migrant is considered to be a person with tertiary education, typically an adult who has completed at least two years of post-secondary education. In a more specific sense, a highly-skilled migrant is a person who has earned, either by tertiary level education or occupational experience, the level of qualifications typically needed to practice a profession. (IOM Glossary)

Labour migration: Movement of persons from one State to another, or within their own country of residence, for the purpose of employment. Labour migration is addressed by most States in their migration laws. In addition, some States take an active role in regulating outward labour migration and seeking opportunities for their nationals abroad. (IOM Glossary)

Labour force participation: the ratio of the labour force to the working age population, expressed in percentages. (OECD Glossary, Resolution Concerning Statistics of the Economically active Population, Employment, Unemployment and Underemployment, adopted by the 13th International Conference of Labour Statisticians, October 1982)

Long-term immigrant: a person who moves to a country other than that of his or her usual residence for a period of at least a year (12 months), so that the country of destination effectively becomes his or her new country of usual residence. From the perspective of the country of departure the person will be a long-term emigrant and from that of the country of arrival the person will be a long-term immigrant. (UN 1998)

Migrant (international): refers to *immigrant* and *emigrant*

Migrant stock: the number of migrants residing in a country at a particular point in time. (IOM Glossary)

Migration: The movement of a person or a group of persons, 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 and causes; it includes migration of refugees, displaced persons, economic migrants, and persons moving for other purposes, including family reunification. (IOM Glossary)

NACE: The statistical classification of economic activities in the European Community (NACE) designates the nomenclature of economic activities in the European Union. (Eurostat)

Net migration: the difference between immigration into and emigration from the area during the year (net migration is therefore negative when the number of emigrants exceeds the number of immigrants). (Eurostat Glossary on Demographic Statistics)

Persons with foreign background: persons whose parents were born outside the country. The persons in this group may or may not have directly experienced an international migration. (CES Recommendations for the 2010 Censuses of Population and Housing)

Population growth rate: Population growth rate (PGR) is the increase in a country's population during a period of time, usually one year, expressed as a percentage of the population at the start of that period. It reflects the number of births and deaths during the period and the number of people migrating to and from a country.

Public debt: are the external obligations of the government and public sector agencies. (IMF External Debt Statistics: Guide for Compilers and Users)

Real Gross Domestic Product (GDP): see *Gross Domestic Product (GDP) (Real)*

Refugee: a person who, "owing to a well-founded fear of persecution for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinions, 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. (Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, 1951 as modified by the 1967 Protocol)

Remittance: transfers of emigrants to the country origin. While under remittances most commonly money transfers (*economic remittances*) are understood, remittances also refer to *social remittances*, *technological remittances* and *political remittances*. (derived from Conceptual paper)

Residence permit: A document issued by the competent authorities of a State to a non-national, confirming that he or she has the right to live in the State concerned during the period of validity of the permit. (IOM Glossary)

Return migration: The movement of a person returning to his or her country of origin or habitual residence usually after spending at least one year in another country. This return may or may not be voluntary. Return migration includes voluntary repatriation. (IOM Glossary)

Short-term migrant: a person who moves to a country other than that of his or her usual residence for a period of at least 3 months but less than a year (12 months) except in cases where the movement to that country is for purposes of recreation, holiday, visits to friends and relatives, business, medical treatment or religious pilgrimage. For purposes of international migration statistics, the country of usual residence of short-term migrants is considered to be the country of destination during the period they spend in it. (UN 1998)

Transnational migration: the process by which immigrants forge and sustain simultaneous multi-stranded social relations that link together origin and destination. (Glick-Schiller, N., Basch, L. and Blanc-Szanto 1995)

Unemployed persons: comprise persons aged 15 to 74 who were: (a) without work during the reference week, i.e. neither had a job nor were at work (for one hour or more) in paid employment or self-employment; (b) currently available for work, i.e. were available for paid employment or self-employment before the end of the two weeks following the reference week; (c) actively seeking work, i.e. had taken specific steps in the four week period ending with the reference week to seek paid employment or self-employment or who found a job to start later, i.e. within a period of at most three months. (Eurostat, LFS)

Usual residence: the place at which a person normally spends the daily period of rest, regardless of temporary absences for purposes of recreation, holiday, visits to friends and relatives, business, medical treatment or religious pilgrimage or, in default, the place of legal or registered residence. (Regulation (EC) No 862/2007)

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