Annex II

Possibilities of using SEEMIG pilot methods (formulating new, constant LFS questions concerning outmigration)

On the basis of experiences earned in the SEEMIG-LFS pilot study it was concluded that being a nationally representative survey with a large sample-size, the LFS has the potential to serve as a basis for a reliable estimate of the number of emigrants coming from a country. We propose to attach a special battery to the LFS, but only on a time to time basis.

According to our proposal, based on the SEEMIG pilot study, each household in the LFS sample, should be asked whether or not (a) a current household member, (b) a former household member (someone who left more than a year ago), (c) a sibling of any of the household members, (d) a child of any of the household members is currently living abroad. The distributions of the answers given to these questions will then serve as a basis for an estimate of the emigrant stock data in a given year. To calculate this estimation, we advise to use the "Generalised Weight Share Method" to handle the indirect nature of the data collected. Further refinements to the estimates can be made by taking into account the information on the *time of emigration* as well as the *temporal patterns of the stay* (permanent stay or some form of commuting). These data are also collected from the LFS household-members.

Besides estimating the mere number of emigrants, the battery should also aim at collecting some basic demographic and social data on them. Although substantial sample-attrition can be expected at this stage of the study, the methodology can still provide unique information on the composition of the stock of emigrants on a yearly basis. It is very important however to limit the battery only to the most important set of data. We recommend therefore to collect information on the followings:

- gender
- year of birth
- highest level of formal education
- current labour market situation
- country of stay

A detailed description of the methodology proposed will be given in a separate paper.