



## 2. Data Sources on International Migration in the Eastern Partnership and the Visegrad Countries

Béla Soltész

**Contributors:** Ekaterina Antipova, Liudmila Fakeyeva (BY), Dušan Drbohlav, Ondřej Valenta (CZ), Béla Soltész (HU), Andrei Crivenco (MD), Magdalena Lesińska (PL), Viliam Lauko, Ladislav Tolmáči, František Križan, Anna Mydlová (SK), Kostyantyn Mezentsev, Grygorii Pidgrushnyi (UA)<sup>1</sup>.

### 2.1 Introduction

This chapter presents an evaluative overview of the migration-related data sources and data production systems in eight countries: Belarus, Czechia, Georgia, Hungary, Moldova, Poland, Slovakia and Ukraine, respectively, organized according to the nature of the data production (administrative or statistical). Administrative data sources are further divided by their scope, i.e. whether the purpose of the data collection has been alien registration or it measured economic performance and social characteristics of the total population. In all three cases the description presents all the eight countries separately in alphabetical order. The descriptive part is followed by an evaluative analysis of the existing statistical data along with a set of recommendations for further improvement.

As a general rule, both immigration- and emigration-related data sources are presented here. However, these data sources are rather different as far as their accuracy is concerned. Data on emigration are either very inaccurate or even missing which is a significant problem if we take into consideration that most of these countries are net migrant-sending ones and for policymaking purposes accurate data on emigration seem more important to dispose of, than data on immigration.

Definitions regarding migrants and migration in this chapter, if not noted otherwise, follow the definitions enumerated in Article 2 of the Regulation (EC) No 862/2007 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 July 2007 on Community statistics on migration and international protection and repealing Council Regulation (EEC) No 311/76 on the compilation of statistics on foreign workers.

---

<sup>1</sup> Besides the input from EASTMIG project's country profile authors, the migratory data system analysis papers of three further projects are referred to here: CARIM-EAST, PROMINSTAT and SEEMIG. References are given by the name of the author(s) of the respective project outputs.

## 2.2 Data sources by category and country

Statistical data can be collected in different ways. Full-coverage data is usually collected by public authorities with the purpose of registering the population. Typically, these data are recorded on official forms when a person becomes subject of a procedure instituted by a public authority. These forms are processed with regard to the public authority's objectives, instead of statistical purposes. Therefore data might exist without being compiled into statistical tables. Rather strict laws on data protection regulate the use of administrative data.

Survey data, on the other hand, are registered for statistical purposes. The only full-coverage survey data is the population and housing census. The census is, therefore, the most accurate data source for scientific analysis. However, traditional census data are always outdated, as it takes two or three years to process and publish the results, and most countries hold a census only once every ten year. Other surveys do not cover the whole population, not even the large-scale and representative Labour Force Survey (LFS), the second most accurate survey data source for migration-related issues. Finally, small-scale and not representative surveys can yield important additional information regarding specific questions but they always have to be used having their lack of statistical representativeness in mind.

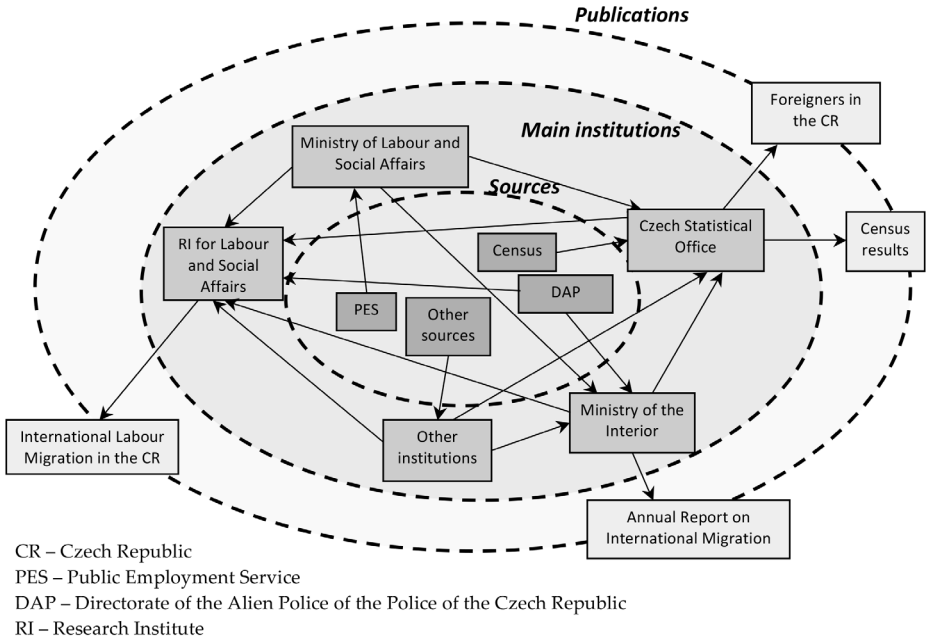


Figure 1. Basic Scheme of Statistical Context of International Migration in the Czechia

Source: Drbohlav & Valenta, elaborated for the EASTMIG report (2014)

Presenting statistical data sources, data production systems and the availability of data can focus on either the process or the results. The data production process described above is important to understand the reliability the representativeness and limitations of the data. However, policymakers and the general public are interested in the results of the data production, i.e. what sort of information can be extracted from the different data sources.

A model presenting the process of data production is compiled by the authors of the EASTMIG country report for the Czechia (Drbohlav and Valenta, 2014) which shows in a flowchart approach how the migration-related data in the Czechia (inner circle) gets processed by institutions (intermediate circle) and are made available for the general public (outer circle).

Another model presents data sources in Hungary in a cross-table approach focusing on the actual data to be retrieved from these sources in turn (Hárs, 2009). It is worth noting that ‘availability’ does not mean open and public access in this case as individual record data are, as already mentioned above, protected by strict laws. It is therefore the data collector institution that disposes of the detailed data, however, it does not necessarily mean a detailed and regular publication of them.

Table 1. Major data sources and available migration-related data content in Hungary

<i>Databases</i>	<b>Data source</b>	<b>Residence permit</b>	<b>Population register</b>	<b>Labour permit</b>	<b>Social security register</b>	<b>Tax register</b>	<b>Census</b>	<b>Labour Force Survey</b>
	<b>Data collector</b>	OIN	COAEPS	NES	NHIF	NTCA	HCSO	HCSO
	<b>Data type</b>	Admin	Admin	Admin	Admin	Admin	Survey (full)	Survey (sample)
<i>Does it contain data on migrants' characteristics?</i>	<b>Citizenship</b>	yes	Yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
	<b>Place of birth</b>	no	Yes	no	no	no	yes	yes
	<b>Economic activity</b>	no	No	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
<i>Does it contain data on these migrant groups?</i>	<b>Resident migrant</b>	yes	partially	no	no	no	no	no
	<b>Circular migrant</b>	no	No	partially	no	no	partially	no
	<b>Daily commuter</b>	no	No	yes	yes	yes	no	no
	<b>Regular migrant</b>	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
	<b>Irregular migrant</b>	no	no	no	no	no	no	no

OIN – Office of Immigration and Nationality (BÁH)

COAEPS – Central Office for Administrative and Electronic Public Services (KEKKH)

NES – National Employment Service (NFSZ)

NHIF – National Health Insurance Fund (OEP)

NTCA – National Tax and Customs Administration (NAV)

HCSO – Hungarian Central Statistical Office (KSH)

Source: Hárs (2009), p. 18.

In this chapter a simplified model will be used which synthesizes the two approaches.

Data sources are presented together with the institution which is the primary data collector (flowchart approach), with a focus on the data content to be obtained from a given data source (cross-table approach).

Main data collector institutions include in every country the Ministry of Interior and the Ministry of Labour. Within the ministries specialized and/or autonomous bodies can be in charge of migration-related activities such as the Office of Immigration and Nationality in Hungary or the Civil Registration Agency in Georgia. In other countries migration-related issues are handled in regular structural units of the responsible ministries.

Every country analysed here has its own Statistical Office which is responsible for collecting, processing and publishing the data received from administrative institutions. Furthermore, they conduct their own surveys, the two most important ones being the population census and the Labour Force Survey (LFS).

The census is held generally every 10 years (or 12-15 years in case of Eastern Partnership countries). It is operated on the basis of universal coverage and of compulsory participation.. Out of the eight countries analysed in this chapter, six have a traditional (survey-like) census and two, the Czechia and Poland, a register-based census combined with other sources. (Valente, 2010)

The Labour Force Survey is a regular, large sample survey that includes several thousands of households in a representative way. It is conducted monthly or quarter-yearly in a rotating sample and it contains questions on labour- education- and social protection-related issues. It is believed to be one of the most valuable sources on labour migration. Every EU member country plus some other countries (including Moldova, for example) conduct the LFS.

Main data collector institutions and characteristics of the two most important statistical surveys (population census and LFS) are synthesized in Table 2.

## 2.2.1 Administrative data on entry, stay and exit

### **Belarus**

The Department of Citizenship of the Ministry of Interior is the responsible authority for issuing permits on inward and outward migration. These include residence permits for migrants in Belarus, permits for employing foreign labour force, acquisition of Belarusian nationality, permits granted to people for permanent residence abroad and renunciation of Belarusian nationality respectively.

Foreigners staying in Belarus for more than 90 days are entitled to receive a temporary residence card which can be changed for a permanent residence card after one year of stay. Besides these permits, the State Customs Committee collects information on border crossing on the basis of migration cards foreigners are requested to fill in on arrival to the country. However, this card is rarely filled in by those who arrive to the country by means other than airplane.

For foreign nationalities from outside the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and for those Belarusian nationalities who move abroad (outside the CIS), the registry is

Table 2. Main data collector institutions and characteristics of the two most important statistical surveys

Country	Administrative data sources (collected by institutions of public administration)		Statistical data sources (collected by the Statistical Office)		
	Entry, stay and exit	Economic and social	Census type	Last census	LFS
<b>Belarus</b>	Department of Citizenship of the Ministry of Interior	Ministry of Labour and Social Protection	Traditional	2009	No
<b>Czech R.</b>	Ministry of the Interior, Directorate of the Alien Police	Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs	Registers combined with other sources	2011	Yes
<b>Georgia</b>	Ministry of Internal Affairs, Civil Registration Agency	Ministry of Education and Science, Central Bank	Traditional	2002	No
<b>Hungary</b>	Office of Immigration and Nationality, Central Office for Administrative and Electronic Public Services	National Employment Service, National Health Insurance Fund, National Tax and Customs Administration	Traditional	2011	Yes
<b>Moldova</b>	Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Information Technologies and Communications (Moldova), Migration Service of the Ministry of Internal Affairs (Transnistria)	Ministry of Labour, Social Protection and Family	Traditional	2004	Yes
<b>Poland</b>	Ministry of Interior, Border Guard	Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, Ministry of National Education, Social Insurance Institution, Ministry of Finance	Registers combined with other sources	2011	Yes
<b>Slovakia</b>	Bureau of Border and Alien Police of the Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs	Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family, Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport	Traditional	2011	Yes
<b>Ukraine</b>	State Department of Citizenship, Immigration and Registration of Individuals at the Ministry of Interior, State Border Service, Ministry of Foreign Affairs	State Employment Service	Traditional	2001	No

Source: own compilation.

rather accurate although it does not contain data other than citizenship (not even sex or age). Border crossing data include sex and age but their collection is not comprehensive

Most inward and outward migration to and from Belarus, however, happens within the CIS and remain unregistered. As there are no visa requirements for CIS citizens many of them stay in Belarus without temporary or permanent residence cards although they could have the right to apply for one (Shakhotska & Bobrova, 2012)

### **Czechia**

The Ministry of the Interior is the main state body in the field of international migration and collection of administrative migratory data. The central database containing data on all foreigners residing in the Czechia is called the Alien Agenda Information System (AICS). It gathers data on the basis of issued residence visa or permits, which are in the first instance produced by the Directorate of the Alien Police of the Police of the Czechia, which, in turn, also administers the register itself. The register also contains data on persons apprehended for illegal/irregular migration (i.e. for illegal border crossings and irregular stay in the Czechia) and on those expelled from the country. The Ministry of the Interior also runs a special information system on asylum seekers and on those who acquired asylum (Leontiyeva & Chytil, 2012)

The most relevant indicators recorded in the AICS are the following: sex, citizenship, date of birth, marital status, place and country of birth and type of residence respectively. Selected data from AICS are periodically issued by the Ministry of the Interior available in an aggregate form in publications of the Czech Statistical Office; the availability of the datasets for scientific purposes is however limited as these registers were established primarily for internal purposes of the Ministry and are utilized predominantly for national security reasons. (Drbohlav & Lachmanová-Medová, 2009)

### **Georgia**

The strict registration of internal and international migration characteristic of the Soviet Union was still in effect in the early 1990s in the newly independent Georgia. However, political and economic disruptions reached the state administration and registration of arrivals and departures became unreliable as a result. Until very recently the only source of migratory flows was the border crossing statistics which was compiled based on data collected at official border crossing points by taking a photocopy of the person's passport entering or leaving Georgia. Only citizenship was processed as a variable in yearly statistics by the Ministry of Internal Affairs. Furthermore those who entered or left the country on roads without an official checkpoint (and many people did so) were not included in any statistics.

In the past few years, several attempts were made to improve the data production on the entry, stay and exit of people. A Civil Registration Agency was founded to record the changes of residence, granting and renunciation of citizenship along with the natural increase or decrease of the population. Furthermore, as refugees and internally displaced people are an important issue in Georgia due to the civil wars' legacy there is a Ministry of Refugees and Accommodation operating in the country to collect official registrations on

refugees and internally displaced persons (only in terms of citizenship). Also, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has recently created a database on the Georgian diaspora abroad based on information obtained from consulates (Tukhashvili, 2012).

### **Hungary**

The main institutional body for immigration-related issues in Hungary is the Office of Immigration and Nationality (OIN), an autonomous institutional body under the auspices of the Ministry of Interior. It has operated an own statistical system since 2009 running a PHP programming language and uniting the sub-registers of the OIN. It contains data in a manner which does not allow the identification of the specific individuals, with access to four separate databases: IDTV System – third-country nationals database; EEA System – EEA nationals database; Asylum System – asylum seekers database; Visa Register System – visa issuance database.

The statistical system contains the subsystems' data, updated on a daily basis, except for IDTV which is updated once a month. OIN does not collect information on seasonal workers, as this data is collected and stored in a database maintained by Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Blue Card holders are not registered separately. Using data received from the OIN, it is the HCSO that regularly produces and publishes statistics on migration (flow), and on foreign residents (stock) (Urbán, 2013).

Besides the OIN it is the Central Office for Administrative and Electronic Public Services (COAEPS) a specialized body of the Ministry of Justice and Public Administration which provides an important data source on those foreigners who stay in Hungary. The COAEPS maintains a full coverage population register which contains the personal data and address of Hungarian citizens, immigrants with immigration or settlement permit, refugees, EEA citizens with residence permit, citizens with the right of free movement obtaining registration certificate or permanent residence card and persons granted international protection. Data are transmitted to the HCSO twice a year on the basis of which the Statistical Office produces flow data of emigrating and returning Hungarian citizens and data on new citizenships as well as on granted refugee status. Individuals with permanent address in Hungary are included in the population register, while third-country citizens residing in Hungary with residence permit are not. (Gárdos & Gödri, 2013)

### **Moldova**

The Republic of Moldova and its de facto independent part, the Republic of Transnistria have a complex and rather contradictory system for data production. In the official statistics of Moldova people entering/leaving to/from the country through the Transnistrian sector of the border (454 km) with Ukraine are not counted. The fact, that Moldovan citizens possess passports of different foreign countries (mainly Russia, Ukraine, Romania, Bulgaria) along with national identity documents makes registration difficult (Chudinovskih, 2011).

The Republic of Moldova has several databases of administrative sources, primarily the Ministry of Information Technologies and Communications (State Information Resources Center, SIRC “Registru”) and the Ministry of Internal Affairs (Bureau of Migration and Refugees, SIIAMA).



SIIAMA is an integrated automated information system and its data is further integrated to the State Register of Population, managed by the SIRC the data owner of “Registru”. This complex system contains information of migrants’ citizenship, country of previous residence in case of immigrants and country of destination in case of registered emigrants (Ganta, 2012).

Over recent years however the number of visits of Moldovan citizens abroad has been much higher than the number of entries into the country the Border Police of the Republic of Moldova indicated. Over the recent years this figure has fluctuated between 80 thousand and 125 thousand, the year 2009 being an exception as the peak of the economic crisis, when the number of entries of Moldovan citizens into the country exceeded the number of exits by 90 thousand (Mosneaga, 2013).

The Migration Service of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Transnistria started to use in 2005 a different information technology system allowing to record and register foreign citizens and stateless persons in the region with individual migration cards, including, in addition to passport data, the photo of the person’s face. Nonetheless, detailed data collected by this service on persons crossing the Transnistrian section of the border are not available for researchers.

It must be taken into consideration that the data provided by the statistical services of Moldova and Transnistria do not give a full picture as far as the extent of emigration is concerned. Deregistration is scarce and around 60,000 persons registered in the State Register of Population do not have a registered place of residence (Ganta, 2012).

## **Poland**

The Ministry of Interior of Poland operates three registers relevant to international migration: PESEL (population register), “System Pobyt” – set of registers concerning foreigners and Border Guard datasets.

“System Pobyt” includes datasets concerning residence permits for third-country nationals, EU citizens and their families, refugees, acquisition of citizenship, repatriation and irregular migration.

Border Guard datasets contain information on persons stopped by the Border Guard for crossing or attempting to cross the national border illegally and persons readmitted and expelled.

As far as foreigners are regarded in Poland the scope of data is also rather limited. The number of foreigners is calculated directly on the basis of the data from the PESEL register. It is a population register to register all the persons resident in Poland (both Polish nationals and foreigners). Although this population register is not an appropriate source the other dataset “System Pobyt” (which is a tele-informatic system composed of a number of registers concerning all types of foreigners’ residence permits, including EU citizens and third country nationals) is of a good quality with data input from several sources such as voivodeships, the Ministry of Interior, the Office for Foreigners Border Guard and Police. However, only selected statistics based on this system are published. Data on foreigners and foreign workers employed in Poland are also very limited and the scale of foreign workforce is generally described as underestimated (Kupiszewska, 2009).

## Slovakia

The main source of data within the Ministry of the Interior of the Slovak Republic is the Bureau of Border and Alien Police, which is a department of the Police Corps performing tasks in the field of border control as well as the struggle against illegal migration and smuggling, border control, risk analysis (it cooperates with FRONTEX agency), the analysis of travel documents, granting of residence permits to foreigners, control of aliens, expulsion of aliens, visa issues and in limited extent, in the asylum procedure and the implementation of the Dublin Regulation. It publishes basic statistics on a semi-annual basis and provides data on legal and illegal migration. Additional institutions under the Ministry jurisdiction include the Alien Police Department and the Migration Office.

The Alien Police Department is authorized to decide on the granting of residence permits and their renewal, withdrawal or cancellation in cases of foreign nationals. This Institution represents the first contact for foreigners in Slovakia. The competence of the institution covers both the control of legality of residence and residence rules compliance.

It is the responsibility of the Migration Office, organizationally under the Ministry of Interior, as a first instance institution to decide on granting asylum and subsidiary protection to foreigners. It is to represent the Ministry in the courts in matters of asylum, subsidiary protection and temporary shelter and it also operates asylum facilities for asylum seekers in Slovakia (Ministry of the Interior of the Slovak Republic, 2013).

The Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic is responsible for tasks associated with visa issues and admissions to Slovakia through consulates and embassies abroad. Above these functions it provides assistance in cases of voluntary returns of migrants, deportations and the preparation of readmission agreements. It does not publish statistical data separately but the information is provided to other state institutions.

## Ukraine

The main system of data collection in Ukraine is based on the register of the State Department of Citizenship, Immigration and Registration of Individuals at the Ministry of Interior (data collector, processed by the State Statistics Service of Ukraine). The register, called Registration of population at the place of residence, previously known as *propiska*, contains monthly and annual numbers of arrival from abroad according to country of previous residence. No further data (sex, age etc.) are collected, but it is registered at the municipal level, thus providing a geographically accurate picture on immigrants' distribution in the Ukrainian territory. On the other hand immediate registration is impossible given the freedom of movement in the CIS area.

The Ministry of Interior has recently created a specialized body called the State Migration Service of Ukraine. It collects and compiles a dataset on temporary residence (immigration permits), a dataset on Permission for permanent residence and a dataset on refugees in Ukraine. These datasets are not published.

Another relevant institution is the State Border Service of Ukraine which collects and compiles a dataset on crossing the national border. Although it is of universal coverage it records entries and exits and not the actual number of people inside and outside of the country

Regarding outward migration, the *propiska* and the crossing-border statistics are the main sources of administrative data, the former seriously underestimating the number of migrants. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs also holds record of the Ukrainian citizens abroad, i.e. of migrants temporary or permanent having registered on the consulates. Since these data can include both irregular migrants and those who did not de-register when leaving Ukraine it is suitable to show a more realistic picture of the Ukrainian citizens living in a given country of destination than official statistics. However, registration at the consulates is not compulsory, and neither the data is published regularly and in a systematic manner (Kupets, 2012).

## 2.2.2 Administrative data on economic and social characteristics of the migrant population

### **Belarus**

Labour-related data collection in Belarus is scarce. A' propos entry and exit statistics migratory movements within the CIS mentioned above to remain largely unregistered.

Labour data on emigration is therefore completed by a large scale survey. The Ministry of Labour and Social Protection in cooperation with the National Statistics Committee and the National Bank, prepare a "Balance Sheet of Labour Resources". The objective of this survey (covering 28,000 households per year) is to provide information on Belarusian citizens working abroad. Results, however, are not disseminated and data remain within the data collector institutions (Shakhotska & Bobrova, 2012).

### **Czechia**

Data on foreign citizens of employee status are collected and administered by the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (MLSA) fed into the database by local and regional offices of Public Employment Service. The MLSA thus gathers the following information: employment permits, Green Cards (since January 1, 2009) and Blue Cards (since January 1, 2011), information on employment of EU/EEA citizens and third-country citizens of no employment permit requirement.

Up to 2011 the database on employment at the MLSA covering all economically active persons was registered at the local and regional Public Employment Service offices including foreign citizens and was collected into an information system called "OK Práce" (Drbohlav & Lachmanová-Medová, 2009).

Since 2012 OK Práce has been replaced by an Agenda Employment Information System (AIS ZAM) (Štěpánková, 2013). Due to difficulties in transposition of the data between the two databases the statistics on foreign employment are not available "in a standard form" for the year of 2012.

The Agenda Employment Information System (AIS ZAM) contains, for the registered foreign citizens (employees), the following information: citizenship, district of economic activity, sex, age, employment over 12 months, first employment in the Czechia, type of residence, type of employment permit, required education, achieved education, type of economic activity – NACE (sections A-U), and classification of occupations (ISCO).

The principal publication informing about immigrants' economic activities is the annual bulletin "International Labour Migration in the Czechia" published by the Research Institute for Labour and Social Affairs (Horáková, 2012), built upon the data mainly from MLSA and Ministry of Industry and Trade.

### **Georgia**

The Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia holds record of the foreign students in the country, as well as of Georgians studying abroad. The small amount of data collected concerns the country of citizenship and the country of residence.

There is no detailed register of labour migration although the Central Bank of Georgia keeps record of the remittances sent to the country. It covers only the private account-to-account transfers sent from abroad calculated from the statistical accounts of the commercial banks (Tukhashvili, 2012).

### **Hungary**

In Hungary there are three major sources of data providing information of foreigners' economic activities: the National Employment Service, the National Health Insurance Fund and the National Tax and Customs Administration, respectively.

The National Employment Service (NES) registers data from permits and notifications at the county-level employment centres and data are collected at the National Labour Office (NLO), except for the Blue Card procedure where OIN is the data collector and it sends the data directly to the NLO. The NES's register of foreign workers was, until Hungary's EU accession, the main source of statistics on labour migration in Hungary, but this is no longer the case since EEA citizens are no longer included in the register. The registration of work permits for third country nationals (issued for two years but with the possibility of prolongation) is accurate, however, notification about the termination of the employment is usually neglected. Due to this factor the number of third country nationals working in Hungary is overestimated and EEA nationals are not covered in the data. From 1998 till 2010 the HCSO received regularly the data from NES's register of foreign workers but this practice ended in 2011 (Gárdos & Gödri 2013).

The National Health Insurance Fund (NHIF)'s register of social insurance includes foreign citizens only if they are entitled for health insurance and (either personally or through their employer) they apply to be included in the register. The entitlement is related to employment, thus its termination does not mean that the migrant has left the country. Individuals with a registered place of residence in Hungary are considered as "domestic" in the register including settled third country nationals, refugees and EEA nationals. As most foreign citizens living and working in Hungary are not considered foreigners from a social insurance point of view it is only the data on citizenship and place of birth, both included in the register that makes it possible to track migratory backgrounds. People who leave the country permanently, should de-register themselves at the NHIF, which they often do not accomplish, thus the register overestimates the number of citizens either Hungarian or foreigner residing in Hungary. The HCSO from 2014 onwards will receive full data files from the NHIF with record level (individual) data (Gárdos & Gödri 2013).

The National Tax and Customs Administration (NTCA), an autonomous body controlled by the Ministry of Economy collects data on income and revenue from natural and legal persons as well as data on VAT, purchases and real estates. Foreign citizens either with usual residence in Hungary or with a source of income from Hungary (e.g. property) are included in the tax register, independently of their status (EEA citizens, third country nationals with work permit or Blue Card holders) if they pay their personal income tax in Hungary. Thus third country nationals with valid permit but no income are not included in the data. Data on the income tax of migrants has become available since 2005 transferred from the NTCA to the HCSO once a year (Gárdos & Gödri 2013).

### **Moldova**

In Moldova labour-related information is collected mostly from the Labour Force Survey (see chapter 2.3.). Moldova is the only CIS country to conduct this survey regularly. However, administrative data on the immigrant and emigrant population's economic activity is almost non-existent. A private company, CBS-AXA collected information on labour migration and remittances through a sample survey (Ganta, 2012).

### **Poland**

The Ministry of Labour and Social Policy collects datasets on work permit, on registered cases of illegal work and on illegally working foreigners (historical data). It also compiles labour market statistics, statistics on social help benefits, and statistics on Poles working abroad within bilateral intergovernmental agreements (historical data). There is no central register for work permits as they are administered on the voivodeship level.

The Ministry of National Education operates an Information System on Education, containing data on every student enrolled in Poland including foreign citizens.

The Social Insurance Institution operates the Central Register of Insured Persons, the Central Register of Contribution Payers and the Pensions Pay-out Systems, the latter not being centralized in one register but operated on the voivodeship level. None of these registers is accessible for research purposes.

The Ministry of Finance operates the National Register of Taxpayers and it maintains a database on PIT (Personal Income Tax) payers (Kupiszewska, 2009).

### **Slovakia**

In Slovakia, the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family, and the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport are the main sources of data on foreigners' economic and educational characteristics.

The Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic provides information on the basis of two institutions. The first is the Central Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family. The Office operates in relation to the integration of foreigners and handles tasks associated with granting of work permits to foreigners and evidence of employed foreigners. Further fields of responsibility are granting and payment of social assistance benefits to foreigners and providing information and advice about employment opportunities. The second institution is the Center, an organizational part of the Ministry

of Labour, Social Affairs and Family to coordinate the integration of foreigners covering functions of the Department in matters of integration of foreigners: it coordinates the application integration measures arising from the concept of integration of foreigners, manages interdepartmental expert committee on Labour Migration and Integration of Foreigners and coordinates issues of employment, social security and health care.

The Central Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family regularly publishes data on employment of foreigners by nationality, employment of an EU / EEA and Switzerland and their family members, employment of foreigners with information cards without a work permit by nationality, and employment of foreigners in the territory of the Slovak Republic by districts.

The Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic provides information on the education of foreigners in the territory of the Slovak Republic. It covers fields like acquisition of Slovak language, the question of recognition of education documents as well as the recognition of professional qualifications acquired in the country of origin or any other country where the foreigner was educated or gained professional experience and practice. The main source of data on the number of children in schools by nationality and citizenship is the Institute of Information and Prognoses of Education, but it does not distinguish between children of foreigners from the EU / EEA and those of third world countries. It only states the total number of children with different nationalities highlighting the number of those who reside in the territory of Slovakia (Katerinková et al, 2010).

## **Ukraine**

The State Employment Service of Ukraine (a special body of the Ministry of Social Policy) keeps records of foreign nationals temporarily working in Ukraine. Citizenship and socio-demographic indicators are recorded but the register only covers foreign nationals legally employed.

Besides this register, the State Employment Service publishes a set of statistical compilations, such as the Analytical and Statistical Yearbook “Labour Market in Ukraine”, the dataset “Registered Labour Market” and the list of business entities licensed for mediation in employment for work abroad. It also keeps record of the Ukrainian citizens officially working abroad.

The State Statistics Service published special volumes (in 2008 and 2012) on the observations of labour migration issues in Ukraine: it can be considered the most exhaustive source of related data in the country, based on sample surveys and estimations. Regarding remittances the National Bank of Ukraine publishes a regular review on its estimations (Pozniak, 2012).

### 2.2.3 Statistical data on migrants from census and surveys

## **Belarus**

Statistics in official statistical collections of the National Statistical Committee of the Republic of Belarus is the main source of information about international migration in the

Republic of Belarus. The official statistics are presented on two spatial hierarchical levels – at the level of the state (macro data) and at the level of administrative regions (meso data).

Among the sources of data, the Population census is of crucial importance. The last census was held in 2009. It contained questions on country of birth and country of citizenship together with socio-economic characteristics. Based on the census results, an adjustment of the data on migrants was carried out to correct inaccuracies coming from low rates of registration and deregistration in the case of intra-CIS migration. There is no regular Labour Force Survey in Belarus (Shakhotska & Bobrova, 2012).

The statistical information about international migration at the micro level of the administrative hierarchy (administrative district) is collected in the archives of the National Statistical Committee of the Republic of Belarus in a primary form. Data presented at the national level have been available since 1989, at the micro level of the administrative districts they are available for the period from 1994 to 2012 years. General data includes volume of inflow and outflow, net migration in country, regions, districts and towns. The structure of migrants include age and sex structure, nationality, place of residence, place of previous residence, education, marital status, nationality, and purpose of stay. Main data about migration are presented for total population with a separation of urban and rural population.

The structure of international migration with regard to the causes and economy sectors statistical data are not standardized in the National Statistical Committee. Migration data are presented and examined in special sociological researches of national experts.

Illegal migration and refugee statistics are presented in the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Belarus at a state level.

On the whole, careful monitoring of the migration structure on state, regional and local levels is necessary both for migration management and for migration forecast. A standardization of data bases related to foreign migrants in Belarus is highly required.

The most important series of periodical statistical publications are the following: Main results of migration in the Republic of Belarus; Population of Belarus: Statistical Yearbook; Republic of Belarus: Statistical Yearbook; Regions of the Republic of Belarus: Statistical Yearbook; Population census of the Republic of Belarus, 2009, Volume 7. Migration of the Republic of Belarus; Population census of the Republic of Belarus, 2009, Volume 8. Spatial representation of the results of census of Republic of Belarus, 2009 (Section 6 Migration); Annual reference analytical report of the Department of Citizenship and Migration of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Belarus, respectively.

## **Czechia**

The Czech Statistical Office conducts its own survey every ten years – the Population and Housing Census. The Census collects data at three basic levels: individual, dwelling and a building level. At the individual level the Census identifies non-Czechs on the basis of their citizenship, as well as declared national or ethnic (not obligatory) affiliation. Other relevant information gathered is as follows: place of residence, place of residence one year prior to the Census, place of residence of mother at the time of person's birth, mother tongue, religious belief (information is not obligatory), educational attainment, field of

education, economic activity, occupation, status in employment, industry and location of place of work or school.

The latest Census took place in the Czechia in 2011. There are some shortcomings of the Census such as for example, incomplete data concerning these foreign nationals. Thus, for example, only about 60% of foreigners who should have been counted (according to the register of the Ministry of the Interior) were counted in the 2001 Census (Drbohlav & Lachmanová-Medová, 2009). On the other hand, the 2011 Census offered much more reliable numbers of foreign citizens (it represented 97% of the counts gained by the Ministry of the Interior within their registration mode).

The process of conducting the Census is always accompanied by anti-census campaigns, calling attention to issues of protection of personal data and their possible misuse. Also for this reason, Census 2011 made increased efforts to secure data protection; moreover, the questionnaire was made available on-line.

There is a regular Labour Force Survey held in the Czechia just like in other EU member states.

The Czech Statistical Office publishes yearbooks focusing on various aspects of foreign citizens' lives in the Czechia. Hence, the yearbooks represent a collection of selected data from the primary databases administered by the institutions stated above.

## **Georgia**

The National Statistics Office of Georgia organized the last census in 2002. It is a data source with universal coverage. It covers also the immigrant population (by country of birth and country of citizenship) if they have lived in Georgia for one year or more.

The Georgian census also contains data on emigration, i.e. on former household members of the respondent who currently reside outside the country. There is also a question on the reason of departure.

There is no regular Labour Force Survey in Georgia. Large gaps of knowledge on international migration were somewhat bridged by two ad hoc surveys conducted by the TACIS program and by the National Service for Statistics in 2008. The former reached 3,700 people and the latter, 7,000. Based on these results, the number of Georgians abroad and their countries of destination, sex, age, educational attainment, marital status and professional activity were estimated (Tukhashvili, 2012).

## **Hungary**

The Hungarian Central Statistical Office (HCSO) is the central body to elaboration statistical data. As mentioned above, it receives data from all relevant administrative bodies on a regular basis, and processes these data. Furthermore it conducts its own data collecting activities. From the point of view of international migration three categories of HCSO-collected data are relevant: census (and microcensus), Labour Force Survey (LFS), and other data collecting activities with a special focus on migration.

The population and housing census is one of the most important and most reliable data sources on migration, as a wide range of information is collected and it can be disaggregated according to country of birth and country of citizenship. The census covers all



Hungarian and EEA citizens, as well as third country nationals officially residing in the country or staying temporarily outside of it (for a period of less than 12 months). It has questions on citizenship and place of birth, and for those who indicate foreign citizenship and/or place of birth, questions are put on previous place (country) of usual residence, date of arrival in Hungary and additional address abroad. Concerning emigration questions are put whether and where the respondent ever resided abroad (for at least one year) together with the date of return in Hungary. Persons staying abroad temporarily (for a period expected to be less than 12 months) are included in the census, while those staying abroad for a longer time period are only recorded on the dwelling questionnaire, but no further data is collected on them. (Gárdos & Juhász, 2010)

Another important source of information is the Labour Force Survey (LFS), a representative international household survey on the economic activity of persons aged 15–74 years in the EEA and EU candidate countries. In Hungary it has been conducted since 1992, four times a year, in a rotating sample of approximately 38 thousand households. It features a wide range of socio-demographic and employment-related questions as well as information on citizenship, country of birth and country of previous residence (if relevant). Ad hoc modules were incorporated specifically on immigration (in 2008) and on emigration (in 2013).

Finally, other data collecting activities of the HCSO with a specific focus on migration include: 1) the statistical survey on people acquiring Hungarian citizenship (a form to be filled by all persons who took either a citizenship oath or pledge of allegiance), 2) the statistical survey on foreign citizens with settlement document (the same as above, for foreign citizens obtaining residence card, permanent residence card or settlement permit), and 3) the Immigrants 2002–2006 survey by the HCSO's Demographic Research Institute (DRI), a two-wave representative panel survey on immigrants' socio-demographic characteristics (Hárs, 2009; Gárdos & Gödri, 2013).

Institutions other than the Hungarian Central Statistical Office have also conducted small sample surveys on immigration-related issues. Including, but not limited to three research projects of the Institute of Ethnic and National Minority Studies of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences should be mentioned: 1) the Immigrant Citizens Survey in 2011–2012, funded by the European Integration Fund (EIF) and conducted in Budapest on a sample of 1200 immigrants, with the objective to evaluate the migrant integration policies and their effects on individual immigrants, 2) LOCALMULTIDEM, funded by the European Commission and implemented in Hungary on a sample of 900 immigrants, with the objective to measure immigrants' political integration on the local level, and 3) Immigrants in Hungary, 2009, financed by the European Integration Fund (EIF) and conducted on a sample of 1244 persons, investigating the composition, economic and cultural situation, and integration strategies of six immigrant groups in Hungary (Gárdos & Gödri, 2013).

### **Moldova**

Given the de facto independence of the Transnistrian part of the country currently there are two statistical bodies that organize separate population census. The National Bureau of Statistics of the Republic of Moldova organized the last census in 2004 and for 2014

a new round is scheduled. The State Statistics Service of the Ministry of Economic Development of Transnistria also organized and conducted a population census of the region in 2004, apart from the population census carried out in Moldova. Both provide valuable information on the extent of migratory movement and the structure of inward and outward migrants, containing data also on resident permanent population including both permanent resident immigrants and temporary emigrants.

Moldova is the only CIS country which has its own regular Labour Force Survey, conducted according to ILO's methodological recommendations (excluding Transnistria). As in the case of the census the LFS covers the resident permanent population, including both permanent resident immigrants and temporary emigrants. It contains questions concerning the reasons for staying abroad and the destination country (asked from the household members). The sample size is 4,000 households per month. In 2008 an ad hoc module on migration was included in the LFS.

Studies related to emigration and remittances sent by migrants are of great interest. Several of such research projects have been carried out with the help of funds provided by international organizations (the International Organization for Migration, the World Bank, the European Commission, etc.) (Ganta, 2012).

Further important sources of information about migration processes are sociological studies. Such sociological companies as CBS AXA and CIVIS, and sociologists of the State University of Moldova have accumulated extensive experiences in conducting research on labor migration. CBS AXA has experience in conducting monitoring sociological studies in 2004, 2006, 2008 and in 2009. The studies are funded by international organizations (the International Labor Organization, the International Organization for Migration, the World Bank, UNICEF, etc.). The Barometer of Public Opinion having been conducted twice a year since 1998, has added labor migration questions since 2004 (Mosneaga, 2012).

## **Poland**

The key institution involved in the collection of data relevant for research on migration and foreigners' integration in Poland is the Central Statistical Office (CSO), the main body responsible for producing and disseminating official statistics, collecting, storing and analysing statistical data. Publications of the Central Statistical Office constitute the main source of aggregate statistics. Some data are collected and analysed by the appropriate ministerial bodies such as the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, the Ministry of National Education, the Ministry of Higher Education and Science, the National Health Fund, the Social Insurance Institution and the National Labour Inspectorate.

Among the most reliable and relevant sources of statistics related to migration are: 1) National Population and Housing Census (carried out every ten years- the last one took place in 2011), 2) population registers (such as PESEL, Electronic System of Population Registration having functioned since 1979), and 3) sample surveys such as the Labour Force Survey (LFS) (Kaczmarczyk, 2011). The CSO is responsible for carrying out all of them. One of the most important characteristics (and weaknesses) of population related public

statistics in Poland is due to the definitions: immigrants are defined as persons who have arrived from abroad and have been registered as permanent residents of Poland; whereas emigrants are defined as persons who moved with an intention to settle down abroad and deregistered themselves from their permanent place of residence in Poland. As a result, there is a difference between population of Poland *de iure* (number of officially registered as residents in Poland) and *de facto* (number of persons actually residing on the territory of Poland). The difference between these two data could be significant, due to the fact that Poles commonly avoid the duty of deregistration while living temporarily or permanently abroad. It means in practice that there is a significant number of persons who are counted in official statistics as permanent residents of Poland even if *de facto* they have left Poland (i.e. who are *de iure* residents and *de facto* migrants) (Kaczmarczyk, 2011).

Besides the national census the crucial points from the aspect of migration research and analyses are the data related to registration and deregistration of permanent residence (flow data); datasets on persons registered for temporary stay and temporary absence due to their stay abroad (stock data as of 31 December collected by the CSO once a year from all local and regional communes); Labour Force Survey, including the datasets on persons abroad (prepared quarterly); dataset on births, marriages, divorces and separations; datasets on primary and secondary schools and on tertiary education institutions. (Kupiszewska, 2009)

The availability of data on migration and integration in Poland is described generally as very poor. (Kupiszewska, 2009) One of the reasons is that official data refer only to permanent migration whereas the data on the characteristics of migrants are also very limited. For example, there is no reliable information concerning employment rate, housing conditions or access to healthcare in relation to foreigners. Immigration flow data capture mainly Polish return migrants and foreigners who arrive for a long-term stay but not those coming for temporary stay. The LFS is an important source of emigration trends, however emigration of entire households is not captured in this survey and due to the scarcity of households with emigrants in the sample, its results should be treated with some care. (Anacka, 2008; Kaczmarczyk, 2011) Nevertheless, the LFS is currently probably the only source that can be used to investigate basic characteristics of emigrants. (Kupiszewska, 2009)

The number of foreigners in Poland is very small and the surveys such as the Labour Force Survey are not designed to capture them, therefore the annual results of sample surveys are not suitable for drawing general conclusions about the population of foreigners.

To conclude, there are serious gaps and weaknesses in the availability of proper and reliable data needed for research on migration processes. Except the regular publications of Central Statistical Office concerning population of Poland (such as the Demographic Yearbook of Poland published annually) and occasional reports on varied subjects related to migration and foreigners, a compilation of the most important aggregate statistics in the field of migration out- and inflows could be found in SOPEMI Reports prepared annually for OECD by the Centre for Migration Research University of Warsaw. Most of the SOPEMI Reports are available online as CMR Working Papers.

## Slovakia

Statistical data on foreign migration to Slovakia and some data on foreigners residing on the territory of Slovakia are being processed by the statistical Office of the Slovak Republic. Data are published on its website and publications dedicated to the phenomenon of international migration. The source of data on international migration of foreigners and citizens of the Slovak Republic are the census, the LFS and regular migration-related surveys.

Slovakia has a traditional census conducted every ten years and each foreign person who is temporary or permanent resident at the time of the census is included. Between censuses, the Statistical Office uses the report on change of address of permanent residence (Obyv 5-12) to update data on foreign residents.

There is a regular Labour Force Survey held in the Slovak Republic as in other EU member states. Due to its sample size the indicated number of migrant population is very low, moreover, as it covers households, not lodging houses, Ukrainian and Vietnamese migrant population is largely underestimated. (Katerinková et al, 2010)

Besides the census and LFS statistical surveys are conducted regularly on the migrant population. It is organized as a full survey annually by the Statistical Office under the “Programme of State Statistical Surveys, provided through the collection of statistical reports” Migration Report. The Slovak Ministry of Interior is the source on data about granting and neglecting of the citizenship. It provides and archives data on migrants at regional level using databases of Slovstat and Regional database.

Tables provided by Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic are the following: International immigrants in the territory of the SR by citizenship, sex and age group; by sex and single year age: nationals and non-nationals; by country of birth, sex and age group; by sex and single year age: native-born and foreign-born; by previous usual residence, sex and age group. The same breakdowns are available for international emigrants and usually for resident population. Acquisition of citizenship is registered by former citizenship, sex and age group, while in the case of losing Slovak citizenship the new citizenship and sex are recorded.

## Ukraine

The key institution involved in the collection of data on migration is the State Statistics Service of Ukraine which is responsible for collecting, producing and disseminating of the official statistics. Yearbooks, reports and other publications of State Statistics Service of Ukraine are the main sources of migration statistics. Some data are collected and analysed by other bodies, first of all – State Migration Service of Ukraine, Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine, State Employment Service of Ukraine, State Border Service of Ukraine, National Bank of Ukraine.

The most reliable and relevant source of statistics related to migration is the All-Ukrainian population census conducted by the State Statistics Service of Ukraine. But the last one was conducted in 2001 and the running of the next all-Ukrainian population census is expected only in 2016. There is no regular Labour Force Survey in Ukraine.

Main reports on international migration in Ukraine include: Statistical Yearbooks of Ukraine, Statistical publication “Regions of Ukraine” (dataset), Demographic Yearbook

“The population of Ukraine”, Statistical Yearbook “Labour in Ukraine”, Datasets “Demographic situation”, “Labour Market”, Report “Ukraine External Labour Migration” (2009), Report on the Methodology, Organization and Results of a Modular Sample Survey on Labour Migration in Ukraine (2013).

Surveys and analytical reports are also important sources of information on migration. For example, in Ukraine comprehensive studies were conducted: the National sample survey “Foreign Labor Migration in Ukraine” (2008, Ukrainian Center for Social Reforms in conjunction with former State Statistics Committee of Ukraine), research projects “The Labor Market in Ukraine: Challenges of Migration” (2008, Institute for Economic Research and Policy Consulting), “Studies of Needs of Ukrainian Labor Migrants” (2008, Center “Social Indicators”), etc. Additional source of data on migration are international databases and reports, in particular statistics of the Söderköping Process (that in 2011 was integrated into the Eastern Partnership Panel on Migration and Asylum), MIRPAL (Migration and Remittance Peer-Assisted Learning network), UNESCO Institute for Statistics databases, projects’ reports of IOM, ILO, UNHCR regional representation.

These sources provide data on labour migrant population structure by sex, age, marital status, place of residence, legal status in the host countries, jobs and professional groups, educational level, skills, forms of contract, size of average wages, level of social protection, the frequency and duration of labor migration, attitudes towards Ukrainian migrants, etc.

It should be noted that official data and data from surveys differ significantly, especially concerning the number of migrants temporarily working abroad. The comparison of data by countries is sufficiently conditional. Different sources provide different estimations of the number of migrant labour. Consequently, there are no fairly reliable data of the number of circular migration in Ukraine.

## 2.3 Evaluation of statistical data

Statistical data collection on international migration is a rather difficult issue all over the globe and the Visegrad and Eastern Partnership Countries are no exception to this rule. There are three types of drawbacks that hinder the completion of reliable datasets: 1) non-statistical, 2) objective and 3) operational, the latter two defined by Drbohlav and Valenta (2014) as two separate aspects of the problems concerning gathering and processing statistical data.

First, *non-statistical drawbacks* are related to historical, political, economic and cultural circumstances under which migration statistics operates, and the legislative bases thereof exists. In the post-Soviet area border issues are a very important hindering factor for reliable border crossing statistics: the non-recognized states of Transnistria, Abkhazia and South Ossetia have their own management of borders which makes it almost impossible for Moldovan and Georgian officials to compile a proper dataset on border crossings. Although in a very different legal and political framework, intra-EU mobility is also a drawback for migration statistics’ coverage. Countries within the Schengen area do not have a full coverage of entry and exit statistics as people are only registered when

entering or exiting the area of free movement. Similarly, free movement within the CIS, although recorded in border statistics, is not further refined according to length of stay since many intra-CIS migrants do not apply for permanent residence cards. To sum up, there are circumstances in every analysed country which lie outside the competence of statisticians and which make the compilation of proper inflow and outflow statistics very difficult if not impossible.

Besides these non-statistical problems statistical data collection's *objective drawbacks* are those that are related to the methodology of data collection. Most importantly, the data gathered by the respective data collector institutions (Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Labour etc.) concerning foreign citizens, also as employees and entrepreneurs, cannot be exhaustive by legal definition and practice. This fact also influences the official numbers of foreign residents in migrant-receiving countries which differ from real stocks. The reason for this difference is that the numbers provided are in fact numbers of issued permits (either residence or employment permits or trade licences), and not the number of foreign citizens holding these permits. This fact comes from the general (and to some extent comprehensible) effort of the state administration to divide the migrants into different exhaustive categories. The reality, however, is too complex to be captured in "two-dimensional tables". In this sense, systems of data collection (in the Czechia but also in other migrant-receiving countries) do not allow insight into the extent of foreign citizens falling into several categories of migrants (e.g. when a foreign citizen is a student and entrepreneur at a time), and changes in time in terms of "moving" within the given categories.

There might also be an overestimation of the numbers of foreign residents with employment permits or trade licences. The employment permits and trade licences are issued while a migrant is still in his/her home country. Therefore there is a certain possibility that the migrant will eventually never arrive to the country of destination. The more suitable indicators reflecting reality in case of employees there are the bigger number of permanent residence permits and employment permits with extended duration there might be (more in Schováňková & Drbohlav, 2012).

Another important factor to influence how extensively the number of foreigners can be counted is the limited interconnectivity of different registers often actively promoted by advocates of data protection. In Hungary, for example, every citizen used to have a Personal Identification Number (PIN), a single number identifying the citizens in different registers. However, in the political climate of the transition to democracy it was regarded as a tool of excessive surveillance. The Constitutional Court of Hungary in its Resolution 15/1991 declared the PIN unconstitutional. In the 1990s a complex system evolved in which a citizen was registered under three different identification numbers, namely the identification document number, the tax identification number and the social security number (Kerényi 1998). Although there is a widely shared consensus among statisticians that the present system causes unnecessary administrative burden and loss of data, the social and political climate favours data protection instead of database unification. An interim solution seems to be the interoperability that is aimed by Law CCXX of 2013, which states that different national and local databases should be connected in a way

that aggregate, and anonymous data could be transferred among them (SEEMIG 2014). In other countries there is an existing PIN but migrant employees, migrant entrepreneurs and/or selected professionals (e.g. doctors, dentists etc.) are accounted in separate labour databases. Linking of databases which were established for different purposes is usually forbidden by the law protecting personal data.

Another problematic issue is the institutional collection of data and its procedural circumstances. Administrative data collectors are not specifically interested in adding new items to their forms only for statistical purposes, thus – even if every administrative body has a regular data transfer mechanism to the HCSO – incoherences in categories may occur. Institutions also generally provide data in aggregates. Adding new items and providing more detailed breakdown would enable statisticians to create a consistent migration database with little or no additional costs.

As far as emigration is concerned it is very important to note that only an underestimated set of data that is available in all countries covered by the present analysis. Citizens, who leave their country of citizenship, should report it to different authorities which they rarely do. Deregistration, although in many countries it can be performed via internet as well, has no incentives, thus official emigration statistics is by no means reliable. There is a solid conviction that the data on emigration are significantly underestimated. This fact does not allow any thorough analysis of flows and dynamics of migrants travelling out of the region. Mirror statistics and survey data are available but they are far from being accurate (SEEMIG 2014).

Third, *operational drawbacks* are connected with actual practices which contribute to the final incompleteness of the data. First and foremost, no databases are able to comprise unregistered residents and workers. Although informing the respective employment authority about the employment of foreign worker is a legal duty for employers, there is a solid assumption that the duty is often not fulfilled and the real numbers of foreign workers (especially those of EU/EEA also in terms of residency) may be different from what is presented. This is the situation especially in case of seasonal workers who obtained employment permit but are not registered by the databases focusing on residence. In predominantly migrant-receiving countries as the Czechia the existence of irregular economic migrants' activities especially in construction, agriculture as well as accommodation and food services have permanently been maintained at a certain level by a constant demand for cheap and flexible labour force as well as by the complicated and demanding process of acquiring legal employment permit. (Drbohlav & Lachmanová, 2008)

Regarding the actual data entry, i.e. the administrative forms and survey questionnaires, the language issue is more than problematic. Most forms are available in national languages only, causing problems for the migrant population with little or no knowledge of that language. Treating this problem would require additional efforts and financing, but it would ensure better quality and more representative data. The Hungarian Central Statistical Office's Survey No. 1970, launched in 2003, could be an example. The questionnaire was designed for foreigners with residence permits but it was available only in Hungarian. The nonresponse rate was high until a Hungarian – English dual language

questionnaire was introduced in 2013. Training for responsible staff, translation of the questionnaire for other relevant languages and/or the development of an online questionnaire is planned as further steps.

## 2.4 Conclusion and recommendations

All eight countries analysed in this chapter rely on data collector institutions for entry, stay and exit statistics, as well as for labour market and social protection data. All countries have a population census and five of them hold a regular, large scale Labour Force Survey. Smaller sample surveys are conducted on migrant-specific issues, such as integration or remittances. Statistical data are regularly published in yearbooks and publicly available cross-tables. Data production on migration therefore has a solid institutional base in all eight countries, although Georgia and Moldova faces very serious problems in keeping a record of its population due to the differences of the *de iure* and *de facto* territory and the large emigrant stock with foreign passports. *Non-statistical drawbacks*, as exposed above, also include the lack of compulsory registration of entries and exits in the case of intra-EU and, in practice, also in the case of intra-CIS mobility. As these drawbacks are natural consequences of the border regimes held by these countries, they lie outside the scope of the recommendations of the present analysis. However, there are many ways in which migration statistics could be improved in the Visegrad and Eastern Partnership countries assessing either the objective or the operational drawbacks of the existing systems of data production

Regarding *objective drawbacks*, a rather urgent set of reforms should point towards the harmonization of definitions in datasets concerning migration in line with the definitions enumerated in Article 2 of the Regulation (EC) No. 862/2007 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 July 2007 on Community statistics on migration and international protection. The harmonization of time periods of permit categories (and the statistical nomenclature thereof) would also be crucial for compiling cross-country datasets. This would require the creation of statistical working groups with experts from each country, and an exchange of metadata for all relevant statistical publications in a regular manner.

Besides harmonization in definitions and time periods the legal authorization for the access of the statistical offices to administrative datasets would largely enhance the circle of reliable data sources. Either through one central database or through a set of sub-databases connected by processes which ensure interoperability among these registers would certainly be a step forward. In countries where data protection laws do not make it possible to interconnect databases effectively, a statistical identification number for migrants (without ever revealing information concerning its holders to institutions other than statistical offices) would help keeping track of foreign citizens, as well as of citizens who are reportedly living abroad. The problem with these proposals is that the general public is getting more and more hostile against centralization attempts of databases even if these would serve only a rationalization of already existing data collection processes.



Very much connected to this issue, is that incentives for deregistration would help improve the reliability of emigration statistics. Currently emigrants are not motivated to declare officially their departure – on the contrary, they feel suspicious for losing social security benefits or other entitlements. By providing positive incentives (e.g. tax exemptions) for those citizens abroad who declare their absence, de-registration would be a much more effective way of calculating the migrant stock abroad.

There are many *operational drawbacks* as well to cope with. One of the most promising fields to improve the quality of migration statistics is the improvement of data entry. By trainings and provision of informative material, personnel of administrative bodies could learn more about specific data registration procedures for migration-related issues. Increasing the coverage of the collected data could also be fulfilled at a relatively low cost. For all these actions building a partnership of statistical offices with main data collector institutions (Ministry of Interior and Ministry of Labour) would be the most important step completed with continuous funding for the increased workload of administrative staff.

Not only administrative workers but migrants themselves would need professional assessment to provide higher quality information. Questionnaires and forms should be translated to main immigrant languages and at the office spaces where migrants are generally attended (Office of Immigration, for example) mediators and translators could help the administrative process. The language issue is also relevant in the case of the census, the LFS and other survey-based data collection.

Finally, new and innovative methods should be used for boosting the migrant sample in representative surveys. Compilation of mirror statistics for data on emigrants should also be implemented on a regular and transnational basis. A network of statistical offices, together with regular regional conferences on the issue, would help professionals in the Visegrad and Eastern Partnership countries to understand better sociological and statistical realities of international migration in the region.

## References

- Anacka, M. (2008). Najnowsze migracje z Polski w świetle danych Badania Aktywności Ekonomicznej Ludności. Warszawa: CMR Working Papers, Nr 36/(94).
- Chudinovskih, O. (2011). Statistics of labor migration in the network MiRPAL. Report for Migration and Remittance Peer-Assisted Learning network. The section «Republic of Moldova» (pp. 65-73) was prepared by Nina Chesnokova, National Bureau of Statistics of the Republic of Moldova.
- Drbohlav, D., Lachmanová, L. (2008). Neoprávněné ekonomické aktivity migrantů v Česku – realita očima expert (Delfy výzkum). In: Drbohlav, D. (ed.): Nelegální ekonomické aktivity migrant (Česko v evropském prostoru). Praha: Karolinum, pp. 103-121.
- Drbohlav, D., Lachmanová-Medová, L. (2009). Country Report Czech Republic. Project report. Promoting Comparative Quantitative Research in the Field of Migration and Integration in Europe (PROMINSTAT), 6. FP.

- Ganta, V. (2012). Statistical data collection on migration in Moldova. Project report. Consortium for Applied Research on International Migration (CARIM East), Explanatory Note 11/18. European University Institute, Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies.
- Gárdos, É., Juhász, J. (2010). Country Report Hungary. Project report. Promoting Comparative Quantitative Research in the Field of Migration and Integration in Europe (PROMINSTAT), 6. FP.
- Gárdos, É., Gödri, I. (2013). Analysis of existing migratory data production systems and major data sources in Hungary. SEEMIG Working paper. Available at: <http://seemig.eu/downloads/outputs/SEEMIGDataSystemsCountryReportHungary.pdf> (downloaded on 12 January 2014)
- Hárs, Á. (2009). A harmadik országokból Magyarországon tartózkodó külföldi állampolgárok a statisztikai adatok tükrében. A migránsok számának, összetételének, szocio-demográfiai sajátosságainak meghatározása adatok összehasonlító elemzésével In: ICCR Budapest Foundation: Bevándorlók Magyarországon. Az MTA Etnikai-nemzeti Kisebbségkutató Intézet és az ICCR Budapest Alapítvány által végzett kutatás zárótanulmányai. Budapest: ICCR.
- Horáková, M. (2012). International Labour Migration in the Czech Republic. Praha: Research Institute of Labour and Social Affairs.
- Kaczmarczyk, P. (2011). Polska jako kraj emigracji i imigracji. In: Kaczmarczyk, P. (ed.). Mobilność i migracje w dobie transformacji: wyzwania metodologiczne. Warszawa: Scholar Publishing House.
- Katerinková, M., Jurčová, D., Csatári, F. (2010). Country Report Slovak Republic. Project report. Promoting Comparative Quantitative Research in the Field of Migration and Integration in Europe (PROMINSTAT), 6. FP.
- Kerényi, Gy. (1998). A tb-járulékok az APEH-nál: Adatbankrablás. Magyar Narancs, 1998/47. (11. 19.), available online at
- [http://magyarnarancs.hu/belpol/a\\_tb-jarulekok\\_az\\_apeh-nal\\_adatbankrablas-61231](http://magyarnarancs.hu/belpol/a_tb-jarulekok_az_apeh-nal_adatbankrablas-61231) (downloaded on 12 January 2014)
- Kupets, O. (2012). Statistical data collection on migration in Ukraine. Project report. Consortium for Applied Research on International Migration (CARIM East), Explanatory Note 11/15. European University Institute, Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies.
- Kupiszewska, D. (2009). Country Report Poland. Project report. Promoting Comparative Quantitative Research in the Field of Migration and Integration in Europe (PROMINSTAT), 6. FP.
- Leontiyeva, Y., Chytil, D. (2012). Statisticky a výzkumy imigrantů aneb Jak srovnávat nerovnatelné. In: Krejčí, J., Leontiyeva, Y. (eds.) Cesty k datům. Zdroje a management sociálněvědních dat v České republice. Praha. Sociologické nakladatelství, pp. 325-353.
- Mosneaga, V. (2013). Preventing Human Trafficking: the Republic of Moldova. Socio-Political Module project report. Consortium for Applied Research on International Migration (CARIM East), Explanatory Note 13/32. European University Institute, Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies.
- Pozniak, O. (2012). Statistical data collection on migration in Ukraine. Project report. Consortium for Applied Research on International Migration (CARIM East), Explanatory Note 12/02. European University Institute, Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies.

- Schováňková, S., Drbohlav, D. (2012). Prostorové rozmístění pracujících cizinců v regionech Česka v době globální ekonomické krize. Praha. *Ekonomie a management*.
- SEEMIG (2014) Managing Migration and its Effects in SEE – Transnational Actions towards Evidence Based Strategies: Action Plan for Hungary. Under revision at the time of writing, soon available at <http://seemig.eu/index.php/downloads-project-outputs>.
- Shakhotska, L., Bobrova, A. (2012). Statistical data collection on migration in the Republic of Belarus. Project report. Consortium for Applied Research on International Migration (CARIM East), Explanatory Note 11/16. European University Institute, Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies.
- Štěpánková, K. (2013). MPSV\_ odpověď na č.j. 2013/44966 Prosba o informace. Praha: Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, 18 July 2013.
- Tukhashvili, M. (2012). Statistical data collection on migration in Georgia. Project report. Consortium for Applied Research on International Migration (CARIM East), Explanatory Note 11/17. European University Institute, Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies.
- Urbán, F. (2013). Migration Statistics at OIN. Presentation held at the Office of Immigration and Nationality, Budapest, 26 September 2013.
- Valente, P. (2010). Census taking in Europe: how are populations counted in 2010? INED Population and Societies, No. 467, May 2010.

