

EU-ARMENIA TWINNING PROJECT

Activity 2.7

Methodology for migration statistics and increased use of electronic data II

Demographic Statistics

Yerevan, 6-10 February 2017





Mandatory result

Mandatory result MR3 related to this activity

Migration statistics improved concerning data collection, coverage, timeliness and quality

Benchmarked by

- Methodology on migration statistics updated (April 2017)
- Staff of NSSRA trained on issues related to migration statistics (July 2017)



Purpose and expected output of 2.7

Purpose

- Review of data collection and discussion on needed revisions concerning IT issues
- Continued review of methodology

Expected output

- Mission report on recommendations for improvement of data quality, methodology and usage of primary data sources.
- A lining up of work program for the final activity on migration statistics:
 - 2.8: Follow-up on achievements and recommendations for the next experts visit (6-9 June, 2017)



Main focus of the mission:

- to improve migration statistics methodology
- to discuss the preparation of a technical specification for production of international migration statistics in Armenia
- to discuss various IT issues
 - technical assistance and proposals for how to make statistical process for production migration statistics more efficient etc.



Conclusions (1)

- The new Demographic Yearbook of RA has been discussed (published in the end of November 2016).
- There are big progress and success in the publication, chapter 7 “MIGRATION” concerning meta data and definitions, explanations, information about current situation of the data sources in RA for production of migration statistics, etc.
- Some clarification of the presentation of main indicators is needed for clarification of migration processes, in general in the chapter 7



Conclusions (2)

- Work on updating the methodology on migration statistics is on track and project benchmark will be achieved within deadline (April 2017)
 - Good work done by Demography division.
- ILCS ad-hoc migration module is improved according to recommendations on previous mission
 - New improved survey data is foreseen for year 2017
 - It might be possible to use the main module of ILCS for preparation of statistical information about the socio-economic characteristics of migrants.



Conclusions (3)

- The draft technical specification for production of RA international migration statistics was discussed:
 - Good work done by Demography division.
 - Comments and proposals from MS Experts for improvement of the specification have been taking into account
 - The specification is an important technical document, and should be used and shared by 3 divisions (Demography, Households surveys and IT).



Conclusions (4)

Issues related to cooperation with IT department:

- There is a risk that unnecessary misunderstandings in the communication between the Demography division and the IT division can lead to decrease of quality
- There is a need of technical specifications of the existing systems used by the Demography division, which can improve the quality of the produced data
- The IT staff of NSSRA is very professional and can work with administrative data on personal record level for production of migration statistics, but with increased amount of work with administrative data in general, IT staff might get overloaded, which could lead to delays and drop of quality



Recommendations (1)

It is recommended that technical specifications for existing systems should be prepared by the Demography division with consultation from IT division.

This will help clarify existing data production process and eliminate risk of occurrence of poor quality data.

Having specifications in document form will also shorten adaptation period for new staff members in Demography division and in IT division as well.



Recommendations (2)

- More cooperation between statistical divisions and IT division is recommended
- For better results and efficient work with digital data production in NSSRA, it is recommended to standardize the communication between statistical divisions and IT division:
 - Standardized request forms to streamline technical specifications.
 - Statistical surveys managers should use the standardized forms in order to clearly communicate with IT
 - Must be developed in cooperation between statistical divisions and IT and approved by top management
 - When approved, the technical specifications are clear and can be used to ensure transparency in the production processes, and good quality of final statistical information



Recommendations (3)

- To consider that usage of bigger amounts of administrative data will require:
 - more IT specialists (programmers)
 - training for the IT specialists in MS Server administration and data querying
 - a more structured procedure for internal communication between statistical units and IT
- Further cooperation with owners of administrative data is essential for the possibility to NSSRA to get data in personal records level
- Training and study visits to some NSI of European “register country” should be useful in the nearest future



Recommendations (4)

- NSSRA specialists should analyze possibilities to publish annual migration statistics data earlier, (improve timeliness)
- To add in annual publication more statistics (in absolute numbers) about emigrants / immigrants and their characteristics, the definitions of used indicators (crude emigration / immigration rate)
- To prepare and publish the metadata document
- To publish migration statistics in some structured parts: migration trends, asylum, irregular migration, remittances, etc.



Road map and time plan (1)

Homework to be conducted by NSSRA before end of April 2017:

- Finalize updated methodology on Migration Statistics in accordance with recommendations from Lithuanian experts
- Finalize Technical Specification for production of international migration statistics in cooperation with the IT-division



Road map and time plan (2)

Homework to be conducted by NSSRA before end of May 2017:

- Set up an internal process for cooperation with IT division on development and regular updates of technical specifications, based on standardized cooperation document
 - Separate specifications have to be made for all existing systems
- Develop a draft version of a document on internal standardized cooperation between subject matter statistical divisions and the IT division
- Organize a high-level meeting with National Security Service of RA in order to keep pressure on getting access to required administrative data