



Filling the 'migration gaps'

Can research outcomes help us improve migration statistics?

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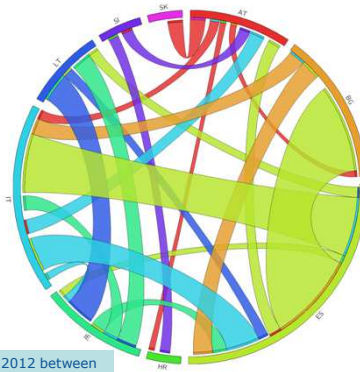
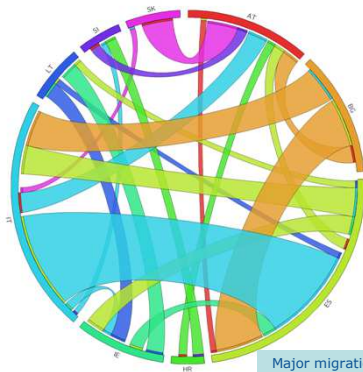
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The mirror reflects biased images...

using immigration data...

...and emigration data



Major migration flows in 2012 between selected EU Member States.
Source: Eurostat

Eurostat

2003-2013: a '*golden decade*' in migration (statistics) research

- Large research projects on migration (mostly with EU support):
 - **COMPSTAT, THESIM, MIMOSA, PROMINSTAT, CLANDESTINO, IMEM,...**
- Several methods for consistent migration estimates proposed in international scientific literature
- Intensification of activities at international level:
 - **UNECE guidelines on data exchange, Eurostat WG technical discussions,...**

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Formal endorsement of estimation methods in **migration** statistics

- Excerpt from Art.9 EU law 862/2007 on migration statistics:

As part of the statistics process, scientifically based and well documented statistical estimation methods may be used.

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Formal endorsement of estimation methods in **demographic** statistics

- Excerpt from EU law 1260/2013 on demographic statistics:

Article 7

Data sources

The data shall be based on the data sources chosen by the Member State in accordance with national law and practice.

Scientifically-based and well-documented statistical estimation methods shall be used, where appropriate.

From theory to practice...

- Potential limiting factors:
 - **limited awareness of available solutions**
 - **required technical skills (and tools)**
 - **(perception of) not yet mature method(s)**
 - ...
- Risk of mismatching between migration estimates across countries
 - **who is best placed to run the exercise?**

What to do then with those estimates?

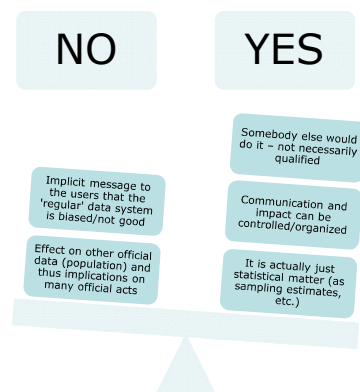
- Should be used only for validation?
- Should be used only for analytical purposes? (distinction between *statistics* and *estimates*?)
- Should national official **migration** statistics be adjusted accordingly?
- Should national official **population** statistics be adjusted accordingly?

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Estimation: to use it or not to use it?



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The need for progress

- Not negligible contribution to population dynamic
- High policy relevance
- Inherent difficulty to measure migration
- 4-decade efforts on data sources not yet/always conclusive (but don't stop!)

***Filling the gap by bridging the gap
between statistics and research!***

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