

**ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**

**CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS**

Group of Experts on the Impact of Globalisation  
on National Accounts (GGNA)

First Meeting

Geneva, 11-13 May 2009

Item 7 of the provisional agenda – Remittances and labour mobility

**COUNTRY COMMENTS ON ISSUE PAPERS 12 AND 13:**

**I. QUESTIONS AND ISSUES**

**1. Remittances (issue paper 12)**

- (a) Is there one measure of remittances that should be preferred over others?
- (b) Is there a problem in remittance measures that combine transfers with compensation of employees?
- (c) Is there agreement with the exclusion from remittances of the various forms of corporate giving discussed in the paper? With the exclusion of the value of volunteer time? With the exclusion of migrants' investments and savings in their home countries?
- (d) Does the diversity of sources and methods used to compile remittances statistics significantly hamper international comparisons of remittances statistics?
- (e) Would participants like to comment upon compilation methods for remittances that have proved particularly successful or particularly troublesome in their own countries?

**2. National accounts and economic migration: work of foreigners in the Czech Republic (issue paper 13)**

- (a) The estimate of the number of illegal immigrants based on the number of expatriated foreigners is considered as the weakest point of the Czech approach to remittances estimates. Is there better approach how to estimate number of illegal foreign workers?

- (b) As the main criterion for the Czech residency or non-residency is used one year permanent stay in the Czech Republic. Are there any other criterions used in other countries?

## **II. COMMENTS FROM COUNTRIES**

### **A. ARMENIA**

#### **1. Remittances (issue paper 12)**

- (a) Yes
- (b) Yes
- (c) Yes
- (d) Yes
- (e) Difficulties in:
- private money flows/transfers separation of capital transfers from FDI.
  - estimation of salaries/wages of employed in enclave territories.

#### **2. National accounts and economic migration: work of foreigners in the Czech Republic (issue paper 13)**

- (a) Illegal immigrants are only negligible number and are not considered as a serious problem for Armenia.
- (b) For statistical purposes Armenia uses the same principle – one year permanent stay on the territory of the country. The tax authorities are using different criteria – spending 182 days of the year in the country.

### **B. BULGARIA**

#### **1. Remittances (issue paper 12)**

- (a) Sharing experience between countries should lead to identifying the preferred measure of remittances. The outcome of the discussion will be very useful for the Bulgarian national accounts as it is intended to cover the aspects of national accounts work on elaboration of indicators in relation of GNI.

(b) It is important to find the proper way to identify the remittances and compensation of employees according to the National accounts requirements.

(c) No comments received.

(d) We agree with the intention that common methodology be applied by all countries in order to ensure the consistent and synchronized elaboration of the indicators.

(e) No comments received.

## **C. TAJIKISTAN**

### **1. Remittances (issue paper 12)**

(a) It is assumed that 90% of remittances in Tajikistan are processed via credit banks and systems for money transfers. Data on remittances in Tajikistan are based on the information reported by credit institutions that provide service on money transfers without opening a customer account.

(b) There are problems. Because of some methodological difficulties there is no way to separate transfers and compensation of employees within the money flows passing via credit banks and systems of money transfers.

(c) Yes, we would agree with the exclusion from remittances of the various forms of corporate giving as well as of migrant's investment and savings in their home countries.

(d) We consider that the diversity of sources and methods for compilation of remittances hamper the international comparability and support the further development of integrated methodology that will improve the comparability of these data.

(e) The remittances statistics in Tajikistan is based on data from credit institutions and money transfer operators. These formal channels represent about 90 per cent of all the money transfers. The other 10 per cent pass through informal channels and present major problems, because our surveys show that the structure of these channels changes often. In this area we need technical assistance.

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