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**STATISTICS ON MIGRATION AND MIGRATION**

**MOVEMENTS IN THE FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA**

Submitted by The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia<sup>1</sup>

**Introduction**

Tracking the movements and changes within the population of every state is of significant importance because: age, gender, education and other structures are important for the real evaluation of the total existence in every state. The changes within the structure of population in our country are significant and intensive especially during the period of transition. Not only natural but also mechanical intensive migrations have a big influence over these changes.

There is a lot of influence upon the intensity of these movements (natural and mechanical) caused by the transition process, economy, and uncertainty in the state and the area because of frequent military conflicts.

Therefore, a detailed and quality study of the intensity directions and characteristics of these evident movement of the population is necessary, especially migrations in the country.

**Tracking migration in our country**

In 1987, Internal migration statistic were introduced when were followed (registered) all the migrations in the country, as well as migrations from one republic to another. This means following the internal but not external (international) migrations.

After independence of the country, Statistical Office introduces surveys on migration of population in The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

Statistical surveys on migration movement in the country content:

- internal migration
- international migration (external migration and the Immigrated and Emigrated foreigners survey)

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The observation unit of the survey called "Population Migration" is the act of moving of each citizen (and of each person under legal age as well) who has changed the place of his/ her dwelling. We observe all foreigners who report a migration into or out of the country due to their having arrived from/gone to another state.

A migrant is considered to be any person who moved to another settlement of the same municipality; to a settlement of another municipality, as well as to other countries from the territory of our country.

### **Data Sources**

The basic information resources of migrations are: the Census of the population and regular statistic migration researches.

Records on settling-in settling out at the subsidiary (i.e. regional) offices of the Ministry of Interior Affairs - represent the data sources for population flows in the country.

Data collection is done currently -monthly, but the publication of data is annual.

The State Statistical Office is the one which carries out all activities concerning the collection, manual coding processing and publishing of the statistical data.

### **Definitions and classifications**

Data about migration movement received by the census are the most detailed information, which provide information assessment, which might be obtained in inter-census periods.

The content of regular statistical surveys of migration is coordinated by the international standards and national specifics are respected as well.

Surveys include demographic and social-economic variables. These provide detailed analyses and comparison to other social – demographic studies. The major part of data is published national classifications, and in the near future practical application of ISCO, ISCED, NACE and other international classifications are expected.

In this context the following variables used in the statistical research of migration will be pointed out:

#### *Demographic variable:*

Name, Surname, Name of one parent, gender, PIN, Place of birth, marital status, Stated ethnic affiliation, Citizenship, Education, Reason for migration, Previous place, New place.

#### *Economic variable:*

Occupation ( before the arrival in the country), economic status , Occupation ( current) for employed person.

### **Current activities**

In regard to the current military activities in the region more massive border crossings into the country (legal and illegal) have been identified. Regular activities have been directed towards taking evidence of illegal border crossings. A very interesting data shows that in 2000, 9771 foreign citizens were discovered in the territory of the country who crossed the state border out of the designated checkpoints. It was noticed that the biggest number of illegal crossings in the state were on the Yugoslav border, and the majority of them were citizens from Romania, Albania, Moldova and other states. The current significance and delicacy of this issue imposes the need of taking over changes of legal regulations.

The procedure of bringing up the new Asylum Law will implement the Convention of refugee status since 1951 and the Protocol of refugee status since 1967. In this direction preparation for introducing new provision within the national Criminal Law is in procedure, and the criminal act "trade with people". Trade with people, especially with women and children is more intensive. The country, as a transit area has been facing this problem, so the introduction of the new provision is of considerable interest.

### **Collaboration with the Reporting Department**

The State Statistical Office is the one which carries out all the activities concerning the collection, processing and publishing of statistical data. The legal regulative on population movements in the country, as well as the movements and stays of foreigners is to be implemented by the body responsible for organization of the Ministry of Interior Affairs.

The affairs with reference to the control of the movement and stay of foreigners in the country are in the responsibility of the Ministry of the Interior Affairs. This type of organization scheme covers legal population movements. The coverage has a high level of obtaining data; coordination between responsible bodies is in same line.

Activities concerning the illegal movements should to be directed in line for providing data on the number of forbidden illegal emigration, that is number of persons deported to other countries.

### **Problems which might occur during the survey**

Following and analyzing migration the conclusion for the internal migration within the country, is that the survey covers a satisfactory level. Activities for further improvement of the quality of the survey are in progress. The special problem appears for the people moving outside the country. The reason for that is because the citizens are not doing their duty by reporting it. This fact disables the achieving of any result for this kind of migration.

This is confirmed by more analysis and estimates, which are prepared for the external migration. Biggest problem in the migration in analyzing this type of migration (external migration) is in the incompleteness of the basic source of the information. A real overview of how prevalent the structure and changes in external migrations can be achieved only by using information from more sources.

Basic problem in the migration of the population appears due to lack of data for current migration and the only available information for the changes of the amount regional characteristics and structural characteristics and the other characteristics of the population are those from the census of the population.

According our conclusions, overcoming of this problem is possible with establishing of more information sources and interview researching.

### **Possible forms for overcoming the problems in the external migrations**

Insufficient covering of the external migrations disables reception of appropriate information. This information is useful for the preparation of the estimates for the number of population, macroeconomic planing and other types of analysis concerning the population.

Concerning the importance and complexity of migration movements, the necessity for other measures and activities are unavoidable.

That would be continuous and overall statistics, which should follow the external migration through interviews and collecting the information from the boundary offices and establishing the register of the population and its continuous update.

With everything mentioned above and implementing other methods for collecting data following results should be achieved:

- More realistic overview of the dimensions of modern migration to and from the country, and its structural characteristics
- Information on the number and structure of our people working abroad and members of their families living with them according to social-economic and demographic characteristics.
- Reception of relevant information for the reasons and consequences from the long duration movement on the development of the country.

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