

**UN STATISTICAL COMMISSION and  
UN ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**

**STATISTICAL OFFICE OF THE  
EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES (EUROSTAT)**

**CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS**

Joint ECE-EUROSTAT Work Session on Migration Statistics  
organised in cooperation with the UN Statistics Division  
(Geneva, 21-23 May 2001)

**STATISTICS OF INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION IN SLOVENIA**

Submitted by the Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia

**1. INTRODUCTION**

In this paper I intend to present changes in contents, methodology and organisation achieved in Slovenia in the field of migration statistics in the last decade after declaring the independence of Slovenia in 1991. Beside that, I would like to describe how we produce international migration statistics and explain our plans for the future.

Collecting data on migration has a long tradition in Slovenia. In 1953 the local registers were established throughout Slovenia on the basis of the 1953 Population Census and the duty to register the residence was regulated by the law. Already 20 years ago Slovenia made a strategic decision to create register-oriented statistics. Introduction of the personal identification number in the present form in 1980 was the prerequisite for realising such a project. Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia (hereinafter the NSI) established the Central Population Register (hereinafter CPR) and since that maintained the CPR as a computerised database composed of individual administrative records on certain demographic, migration and other administrative events as logical wholes. On the basis of the National Statistics Act, adopted in 1995, the transition period of three years was determined for the transfer of CPR management to the Ministry of the Interior. This was done in August 1998, but the NSI keeps the status of authorised user also for obtaining individual data. The National Statistics Act is the legal foundation for obtaining individual data from all administrative sources and for the creation of statistical registers from which it is possible - taking into account statistical confidentiality - to disseminate only aggregates and anonymous micro data to users. The obtaining of individual data from different administrative sources was, is and will continue to be the strategy, the tactics and the action of Slovenian NSI.

**2. SOURCES OF DATA ON INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION**

Until the technical modernisation and before the new Law on CPR was accepted in January 1999, the so called "old" CPR contained only data on citizens of the Republic of Slovenia (hereinafter citizens of the RS) and all events for this group of population. That was a great disadvantage and deficiency of the whole system and the consequence was that we could not produce statistical data on migration of foreigners from the CPR.

According to the Law on Foreigners, the body responsible for collecting the data on foreigners and maintaining the records on them is the Ministry of the Interior. Because of the new legislation and because of newly established records on foreigners, the Ministry of the Interior has succeeded to prepare the stock and the flow data on foreigners as late as 1995. Since then they have allowed us to include also this population group to the population of Slovenia - which is also in compliance with international recommendations. The present definition of the population of Slovenia, which has been applied for publishing data on population since 1995, differs from

the definition that was used for the data published until 31 December 1994 according to the Central Population Register in two things:

- citizens of the RS who have permanent residence in Slovenia but are temporarily residing abroad for more than three months are no longer included in the population of Slovenia,
- data on the number of foreigners with permanent or temporary residence in Slovenia and the data on refugees and persons under temporary protection are taken into account.

Data on migration of citizens of the RS are mediated on electronic media by the Ministry of the Interior to the NSI as individual data, while the same ministry supplies aggregated data on immigration of foreigners. So we are relatively easily able to present separate data on migration of citizens and of foreigners, which is the principal request of the Recommendations on Statistics of International Migration, Revision 1 (hereinafter Recommendations).

### **3. COLLECTING OF DATA ON INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION OF THE CITIZENS OF THE REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA**

The entire collecting system and the coverage of migration in Slovenia totally depends on individual respect of legal obligations of registering the change of residence. We do not use any other source for collecting data on international migration. In our opinion there is no other source with better results and better data. Data on migration (internal and international) are collected by the same questionnaire (Registration of Permanent Residence and Departure Notice; Registration of Change of Address - SEL-1). Every citizen of the RS is obliged to fill in the questionnaire at the department for internal affairs at the administrative unit of permanent residence.

From 1982 to 1991 all local registers of population were gradually equipped with computers, joined in the common network to the central computer centre. Instead of on paper (questionnaires), the data were mediated to the CPR in the electronic form. This was the first comprehensive rationalisation of statistical surveys in Slovenia that has resulted in a considerably smaller extent of work relating to coding, entering or archiving of data.

Ministry of the Interior once a week mediates all transactions on migration that are necessary for updating the CPR data. All raw data are in this phase of procedure transformed to the certain events as they are defined in the documentation for interactive processing and maintaining of the CPR. The basis for defining migration events is the relation between two different migration areas that appear for each migration (emigration area and immigration area). According to the type of migration different events are defined:

| Code of event | Content of event                        |
|---------------|---|
| 501           | Immigration from abroad                 |
| 502           | Internal migration (two types)          |
| 503           |   |
| 504           | Emigration to abroad                    |
| 505           | Departure for temporary residing abroad |
| 506           | Arrival after temporary residing abroad |

### **4. PREPARING THE STATISTICAL DATA ON INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION OF THE CITIZENS OF THE REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA**

The role of the NSI in the processing of the basic, administrative data from the CPR is to prepare statistical data on the basis of defined contents. Contents of data on international migration is relatively modest:

- PIN (age)

- sex
- place of birth
- marital status
- educational attainment
- place of residence in Slovenia (present, former)
- the country of previous / next residence
- type of event
- date of event

The PIN allows us to link data on international migration to other statistical registers, for example to the Statistical Register of Employment. So we are able to connect also data on previous or present economic activity. The quality of data on migration is because of their administrative character for a wide spectrum of users (e.g. taxes, internal affairs, health insurance) very good and the data are all-out checked. The main defectiveness that we are aware of is coverage of migration movements. We suppose that a certain part of emigration is not registered and there are delays in reporting arrivals or departures that could be measured also in years. The number of emigrants is without any doubt underestimated because we do not take into account administrative corrections of the register as a migration event.

## **5. NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN THE FIELD OF INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION STATISTICS IN 1999**

According to the Recommendations, we introduced two novelties in 1999:

1. for the first time we take into account as international migration events departures for temporary residing abroad and arrival after temporary residing abroad (codes 505 and 506) and so we harmonised flow data with our population (stock) statistics. We excluded the citizens of the RS who are temporarily residing abroad from the population of Slovenia already in 1995;
2. we started to implement the Recommendations about the actual duration of stay and distinguishing between short-term and long-term migrants.

For distinguishing the two categories, the Recommendations introduce an actual duration of stay, which means that distinguishing is only possible after a year from the first day of the migration event. Due to the fact that we usually publish migration data for a calendar year, we could, in the first year, only publish the data about international short-term migrants who moved in and out of the country or vice versa in the same calendar year. The data about international long-term migrants for the year X can only be published in the year X+2. A prerequisite for linking migration events for a person is the person's PIN. But since we want to publish the data on international migration already in the year X+1, we excluded all repeated migration events for the same person in the same year. We talk about repeated migration in the case when there are at least two migration events for an individual person in a certain period, which are consistent - immigration can be followed only by emigration and vice versa. In the case of immigration we measure duration of stay in the country, while in the case of emigration we measure duration of absence from the country.

## **6. PREPARING THE STATISTICAL DATA ON INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION OF FOREIGNERS**

As we already mentioned, data on immigration of foreigners are mediated in the aggregated form every three months. Every foreigner needs permission for residing in Slovenia. Most permissions are issued for a one-year period with the possibility of prolonging. We suppose that most foreigners intended to live in Slovenia for at least one year and so all these data are included in our statistics as long-term immigration. Foreigners who do not prolong their stay in Slovenia normally do not report their departure. That is why we estimate the emigration data of foreigners in the NSI. We take into account the stock data at the beginning and at the end of the year, vital statistics and, of course, immigration data. For corrections we also use the data on acquisition of citizenship of the RS for foreigners living in Slovenia.

## **7. PLANS FOR THE FUTURE FOR IMPROVING THE DATA ON INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION**

The new Central Population Register Act from January 1999 provided that CPR is the central data collection containing data on citizens of the RS as well as foreigners with permission for residing and on all other foreigners who have certain rights or duties in Slovenia (e.g. asylum seekers, persons under temporary protection). The period of two years was determined for acquiring and entering of all missing data from the competent bodies. By the end of 2001 we expect that the CPR will become the only source of data on international migration which will allow us to monitor the migration data on foreigners in the same way as we do with the data on citizens of the RS. Beside that, an important Act on Registration of Residence was adopted in 2001 that equalised the duty of registering of residence for both citizens and foreigners in the same way. Data will be collected with the same questionnaire.

The NSI will be able to process the administrative data on migration and present the figures as the statistics in the same platform. The additional variable - citizenship - was introduced, so we will have no problem to present separate data on international migration of the two different population components.

## **8. MIGRATION STOCK**

According to the Recommendations, the migrant stock of a country consists of persons who have ever changed their country of usual residence - that is to say, persons who have spent at least one-year abroad and consequently had to immigrate from any other country. The only relevant source for the migrant stock in such a sense is also in Slovenia the Population Census. Only for the 1991 Census we are able to prepare the data on foreign-born population by the definition of paragraph 189 of the Recommendations (the foreign-born population of a country includes all persons who have that country as country of usual residence and whose place of birth is located in another country). By that definition we lose the data on re-emigrants who returned to the country of birth after residing abroad. By the proposal of the Census 2002 Act, we for the first time intend to collect data on last previous country of usual residence for all international migrants.

We are also able to provide annual data on migrant stock from our two sources described before (the CPR and records of foreigners). Migrant population is apprehended in two different ways:

1. it might base on citizenship (foreign population)
2. it might base on the country of birth - de facto place of birth (foreign-born population).

The link between migration flow statistics and data on migrant stock is for citizens of the RS almost complete. For foreigners there is a discrepancy because of persons under temporary protection who are not included in flow data, but only in stock data. The biggest difficulty is caused by the incapability of linking records from different sources on change of legal status of foreigners. The new CPR will allow us also to track change of legal status (foreigners with temporary residence  $\Rightarrow$  foreigners with permanent residence  $\Rightarrow$  citizens of the RS).

## **9. CONCLUSION**

Statistical Office of the RS has relatively little impact on managing of administrative registers in the quality of input data. On the other hand, the CPR is because of mass-use and wide range of users such a quality source of data that we are not thinking about including any other source of data. Unfortunately, the NSI did not succeed to include into the contents of the new Act on the Register of Residence also a variable "reason for migration", which is one of the basic requests by the Recommendations. We are aware of the importance of data on the reason for international migration, so will try to collect the answer to this variable in our 2002 Census for all migrants (internal and international).

- - - - -