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#### SELECTED METHODS TO IMPROVE EMIGRATION ESTIMATES

### **MEASURING EMIGRATION AT THE CENSUS: LESSONS LEARNED FROM FOUR COUNTRY EXPERIENCES \***

Draft version

Note by UNECE Secretariat

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

4. Many countries experience problems in providing accurate data on international emigration. Reliable estimates of emigration flows and stocks are often requested since policy makers need good statistical information to manage international emigration and assess its consequences. Various statistical sources are used to provide data on migration outflows and stocks of nationals living abroad but their accuracy is in most cases unsatisfactory.

5. Various countries experiencing intensive emigration tried to estimate it through an “emigration module”, in the form of specific questions on absent persons included in the last population census. The objective of this research is to evaluate the quality of data collected through emigration modules used in censuses in four countries (Georgia 2002, Moldova 2004, Poland 2002 and Tunisia 2004) through the comparison of these data with statistics produced by main countries of destination. The final objective is to identify good practices for those countries that are considering to using an emigration module for the next census.

6. The first important aspect that emerged from the exam of practices adopted by these countries is that different approaches were used in treating emigrants with respect to the count of resident population. In particular, some countries included emigrants in the resident population irrespectively of duration of absence. In view of the next census round, it’s important that countries collecting information on emigrants strictly apply residency rules, with particular reference to duration of absence. Therefore, those persons living abroad for 12 months or more should be excluded from the count of resident population.

The four countries used different definitions to identify emigrants at the census: in particular, different criteria were adopted in terms of duration of absence, also depending on administrative rules in place, and different approaches were utilized in identifying respondents to which questions on absent persons were asked. Moreover, countries targeted different groups of emigrants: some concentrated on those who left the country in most recent years while others tried to cover a broader group of emigrants, including those who left the country up to 10 or more years before the census. These choices clearly affected census results, in terms of coverage as well as on accuracy of collected information.

7. From the comparison of census data on emigrants with corresponding data supplied by the main destination countries, it can be said that emigration data from the census provide good coverage of:

- ◆ emigrants who left the country in the years immediately before the census (up to 5 years);
- ◆ emigrants who are more likely to keep close ties with their country, mainly because of close family ties and/or because of geographical proximity
- ◆ emigrants who are still included in the registration system of the country of origin, where such administrative registers exist.

8. It derives that emigration modules/questions at the census are not able to provide an accurate count of the total number of emigrants residing abroad. However, such approach can be useful to collect information on selected groups of emigrants, as for example on those who emigrated recently and/or on those who have close family ties in the country of origin. Moreover, the emigration module can be a useful tool to gather information on additional aspects, such as:

- ◆ socio-economic profile of households having a member living abroad

- ◆ reason of emigration
- ◆ identification of geographical regions/population groups most affected by emigration

9. Countries wishing to include an emigration module at the next census should pay attention to the following aspects:

- ◆ Clear separation between count of resident population and count of emigrants, with the latter being excluded from the resident population if their absence lasts 12 months or more
- ◆ Identify the group of emigrants that can be covered by the emigration module, such as those emigrated in the years immediately before the census and/or those who have family ties in the country of origin;
- ◆ Clear definition of respondents, in order to avoid the risk of overcounting (the same emigrant reported by two or more respondents)
- ◆ The use of a separate module, different from the main census form, appears to be preferable since it makes clear the distinction of resident from non-resident population, for the purposes of the statistical count
- ◆ Questions on emigrant persons should focus on objective and simple topics and their number should be very limited

10. This exercise showed that the use of immigration data produced by destination countries is an extremely useful source of information on emigrants, especially on national citizens living abroad. The use of statistical data from destination countries should be encouraged and it could provide a fairly accurate count of citizens living abroad. In this context, using the emigration module could be considered as an important tool to derive statistical data on selected groups of emigrants and/or on some qualitative aspects of emigration.

## BACKGROUND

11. In many countries it is difficult to estimate the number of nationals or, more generally, of former residents that have left the country to live abroad. Reliable estimates of migration outflows and stocks are often requested to understand international emigration and assess its consequences. Various statistical sources are used to provide data on migration outflows and stocks of nationals living abroad. Following earlier experiences, some countries made use of an 'emigration module' during the 2000 round of population censuses to collect data on emigration. Through the utilization of an emigration module at the census, it is possible to give answers, though partial, to various questions related to emigration when other sources are not available:

- how many nationals (or residents) are living abroad?
- what are the main destination countries?
- how long have emigrants been absent from the country of origin (or when did they leave to go abroad)?
- what are the reasons for moving abroad?
- what is the social and demographic profile of these people?

12. The objective of the present study is to evaluate the quality of data collected through emigration modules through the comparison of this data with statistics produced by destination countries. The final objective is to identify good practices for those countries that are considering to utilize an emigration module for the next census. The experience of four countries (Georgia, Moldova, Poland and Tunisia) that used an emigration module at the last census has been considered in this analysis.

## 1. 'EMIGRATION MODULES' USED IN SELECTED COUNTRIES AT THE 2000 CENSUS ROUND

13. This chapter examines the 'emigration modules' utilised by four selected countries (Georgia, Moldova, Poland and Tunisia) in their last national census. The first paragraph focuses on the different standards used to define the term 'emigrant', the second paragraph presents some methodological aspects concerning the selection of respondents and the final paragraph examines the type of information collected.

**Table 1 - Census round 2000: time frameworks and estimated volumes of emigrants in selected countries**

|  | <b>Georgia</b> | <b>Moldova</b> | <b>Poland</b> | <b>Tunisia</b> |
|--|----------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|
| <b>Date of census</b>                      | January 2002   | October 2004   | May 2002      | April 2004     |
| <b>Resident Population</b>                 | 4.371.535      | 3.383.332      | 38.230.000    | 9.910.872      |
| <b>Emigrants</b>                           | 113.726        | 273.056        | 786.085       | 75.773         |
| <b>Ratio emigrants/resident population</b> | 2,6%           | 8,1%           | 2,1%          | 0,8%           |

### 1.1 Definitions of 'emigrants'

14. The selected countries have used quite different definitions to identify emigrants to count at the population census. In this regard, the following two dimensions have to be taken into consideration for a correct understanding of the various definitions used:

- ◆ Duration of stay abroad
- ◆ Administrative linkages

15. In relation to minimal duration of stay abroad, the four selected countries of emigration present quite different approaches, largely influencing their respective results. In Georgia, only persons who left the country for more than 12 months were defined as emigrants. Georgia collected information about all persons who left the country in the intercensus period (1992-2002). The minimal period of absence was lower in Tunisia, where emigrants were defined as all those persons who had stayed or intended to stay out of the country for more than 6 months. Moreover Tunisia focussed on emigrants who left the countries in the five years prior to the census. In the case of Poland, a stay abroad of 2 months is sufficient to be considered as emigrant, while no indication on duration of absence was used in Moldova. Important differences also exist in terms of the emigration period: while In Moldova and Poland there was no specific time coverage, but absent persons were counted irrespective of when they left the country.

16. In addition to duration of absence, some countries consider administrative linkages in the definition of an 'emigrant'. In the case of Moldova and Poland, the *formal registration in the country of origin* determines if a person has to be enumerated as an 'emigrant'. Emigrants are defined as permanent residents who are 'temporarily' abroad, i.e. persons who moved abroad without deregistering from their country of residence. Emigration is considered to be 'temporary', regardless of the duration and reason for absence.

**Table 2 - Definitions used at national census: resident population and emigrants (as measured by the ‘emigration module’)**

|                             | <b>Definition of resident people enumerated by the census</b>   | <b>Definition of ‘emigrant’</b>   | <b>Inclusion of emigrants in resident population</b> |
|-----------------------------|---|---|--|
| <b>Georgia</b> <sup>1</sup> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Persons residing permanently at the given place (regardless of their whereabouts during census)</li> <li>• Persons present in Georgia for ≥ 12 months</li> <li>• Temporary residents (≤ 12 months residing in Georgia) and temporary absentees (absent for ≤ 12 months)</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Person who had left Georgia within the period of the last 10 years (at census survey)</li> <li>• Person absent from Georgia for &gt; 12 months (at census survey)</li> </ul>   | Not included   |
| <b>Moldova</b> <sup>2</sup> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Citizens of Moldova who reside in the country (regardless if temporarily abroad at census survey)</li> <li>• Foreign citizens and persons without citizenship with residence in Moldova at census survey</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Permanent (de jure) resident registered for residence in the Republic of Moldova</li> <li>• Person gone temporarily abroad due to work, studies, visiting family or friends, holidays etc. (regardless of the duration and reason of absence)</li> </ul> | Included   |
| <b>Poland</b>               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Permanent (de jure) residents registered for residence in Poland (regardless of citizenship and place where they reside at census survey)</li> <li>• Temporary immigrants excluded (regardless of the duration of their stay)</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Permanent (de jure) resident registered for residence in Poland</li> <li>• Person staying abroad for &gt; 2 months (regardless of the period of stay)</li> </ul>   | Included   |
| <b>Tunisia</b>              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Persons staying (or intending to stay) in Tunisia for ≥ 6 months</li> <li>• Absentees &lt; 6 months</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Person residing abroad for ≥ 6 months (at census survey)</li> <li>• Member of a family nucleus<sup>3</sup> and residing within a household in Tunisia 5 years prior to the census</li> </ul>   | Not included   |

<sup>1</sup> The Census covered only the territory under the jurisdiction of the Georgian Government (Abkhazia and South Ossetia were not included).

<sup>2</sup> Census covered only the territory under jurisdiction of the Government of Moldova (area of the Left bank of the river Dnestr was not included).

<sup>3</sup> A family nucleus can be composed by: a couple with or without children, a mother widowed or divorced with children, a woman widowed or divorced without children, a father widowed or divorced with children, a man widowed or divorced without children

## 1.2 Identification of respondents

17. When collecting information on absent persons, the identification of respondents is of primary importance, highly influencing the coverage and the accuracy of the collected data. Who should be asked for? Who might provide the most reliable and appropriate information on absentees?

18. It is common practice to ask information on absent persons to their previous household members. Overcounting problems may arise when more than one household could report an absent person or, on the other hand, undercoverage will occur when the household of the absent person does not exist any longer, for example in the case the entire household emigrated following the absent person.

19. The four countries had a quite similar approach and mainly relied on household members of emigrated person, also because they are more likely to provide accurate information on absentees. Georgia asked all registered household members and in their absence to any other adult member of the same household. Similarly, Poland inquired family members of the absentee or other persons living with him/her before his/her departure. Moldova asked all the household members of the absentee, while Tunisia limited the data collection to the former family nucleus of the emigrant (i.e. wife and unmarried children).

20. Some of the selected countries also identified and defined alternative respondents who could provide information on absentees in absence of all household members of an emigrant. Poland collected information on emigrants (with no household members living in the country at census date) by asking the absentee's neighbours and/or persons renting the emigrants residence. Similarly, Georgia census asked information on emigrants to people having no family ties with the absentee.

**Table 3 - Typology of proxy respondents providing information on emigrants**

|                |   |
|----------------|---|
| <b>Georgia</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Registered household members</li> <li>• Any adult member of the household (in absence of registered household member)</li> <li>• If whole household abroad:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Relatives</li> <li>- Neighbors</li> <li>- Local administration authorities (town, village)</li> </ul> </li> </ul> |
| <b>Moldova</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Absentee's household members</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Poland</b>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Family members of absentees</li> <li>• Persons living with the family member before the departure in a joint household</li> <li>• Neighbours of the absentee and/or persons renting the emigrants residence</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Tunisia</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Former family nucleus of the emigrant (spouse and unmarried children)</li> </ul>   |

## 1.3 Census questionnaire and questions on emigration

21. The method used to collect information on migrants and the type of questions have an impact on relevance and accuracy of data. In this regard, two main aspects are particularly important:

- Separate module vs. inclusion of questions in the main form
- Topics covered by questions on emigrants

22. Two countries used a separate emigration module complementing the main questionnaire of the census. Georgia elaborated a specific census questionnaire for emigrants

(form EM - 12 questions) added to the census form. Tunisia presented two modules on migration within the national census questionnaire: the first one on mobility, internal migration and immigration, the second one on international emigration (VII - 8 questions). Poland included some few questions on emigration in the main questionnaire (Form A) and utilized an additional module to investigate long-term and internal migration (M -12 questions). Moldova, instead, added some specific question regarding migration in the second form (2P) of the main census questionnaire.

23. Coming to the content of the questions, it is crucial to be aware *ex-ante* of the output type the adopted questions are going to produce. What kind of information on emigrants should be collected? What kind of information is useful for the development of policies?

24. It is fundamental to express all questions in a clear and precise way, leaving no space for interpretation and misunderstandings. A well-defined formulation is an essential prerequisite for the reliability and comparability of the data outcome. The table below summarises the different questions utilised by the four selected countries with the purpose of collecting useful information on current emigration patterns. The type of questions can roughly be classified into four main categories: general information, legal linkages, duration of absence and additional data.

25. All the selected countries of emigration collected through a separate module on emigration or additional questions in the main census questionnaire some main general information on the emigrant (name, sex, marital status, relationship to head of household, etc.) Georgia and Moldova, furthermore, ask for the religious belief of the emigrants. Poland, compared to the other countries is not directly enquiring the mother tongue of an emigrant, but ask instead for the 'most frequently spoken language at home'. Tunisia collected only the year of birth, while the other countries ask for the complete date of birth (day, month and year).

26. With regard to the legal linkages, all countries collected information about the place of birth and the citizenship of the emigrant. In addition, Georgia and Moldova ask for the emigrant's nationality, i.e. the ethnic group an emigrant is belonging to.

27. Coming to the duration of absence of an emigrant, some differences between the adopted questions were observed: Georgia and Tunisia asked for the year of emigration (Georgia census also the month of emigration) and thus collecting indirectly information on the period of stay abroad. Moldova and Poland, instead, asked both directly for the duration of absence, but adopting a different categorisation: under 1 year/1 year or more (Moldova), since birth/since 1988 or longer/since 1989 or shorter (Poland). Furthermore, Moldova asks for the duration of permanent residence in the current place. Only Georgia asks for the intention of the emigrant to return to his/her country of origin.

28. The additional data mainly focus on the place/country of residence and the reason for moving of an emigrant. Georgia and Tunisia ask both for the country of destination (without specifying if transitory or final destination). Georgia, however, collected information also on the country of current residence. Similarly, Moldova enquires the current residence of an emigrant at census date. Poland, instead, only asks for the place of previous residence without collecting any information on the country of destination. All countries enquire the reasons for moving but adopt a quite dissimilar codification of answers (see table 4). In addition, Georgia asks for economic relationship with the rest of the family of the emigrant (material aid)

Table 4 - Comparison of questions on migration adopted in the main census questionnaires and in the 'emigration modules'

| Type <sup>4</sup> | Questions  | Georgia   | Moldova  | Poland  | Tunisia   |
|-------------------|--|---|--|---|---|
|                   |  | Specific form in main questionnaire (Form EM -15 questions)   | Questions in main questionnaire (Form 2P)  | Questions in main questionnaire (Form A)  | Specific module within main questionnaire (VII - 8 questions)   |
| G                 | Name   | • Last name, initials   | • First name, last name, father's name   | • Surname, Name   | • First name, surname   |
| G                 | Sex  | • Male or female  | • Male or female   | • Male or female  | • Male or female  |
| G                 | Date of birth                                    | • Year, month, day, age   | • Year, month, day, age  | • Year, month, day,   | • Year  |
| G                 | Language   | • Language of his/her nationality<br>• Other languages  | (Native language)<br>• Open answer   | (Most frequently spoken language at home)<br>• Open answer  | ND  |
| G                 | Religion   | • Orthodox Christian, Roman Catholics, Gregorian... none  | • Open answer  | -   | ND  |
| G                 | Educational level                                | • Higher, unfinished higher, secondary vocational... illiterate   | • Higher, secondary vocational/high... alphabetic  | • Higher, post-secondary, secondary, primary, others<br>• Are you attending school?   | ND  |
| G                 | Marital Status                                   | • Married, widowed, never married, divorced, separated  | • Single, married (registered), married (unregistered), number of spouse, widowed, divorced, separated                                     | • Single, legally married (and living together), legally married living separately, widower, divorced, legally separated<br>• Month, year of current marriage   | ND  |
| G                 | Relationship to head of household                | • First person, spouse, son/daughter, mother/father... no relationship                                  | • First resident, husband/wife, son/daughter... not-relative   | • Head of household, husband/wife, cohabitant, ...non-relative person   | • Open answer   |
| L                 | Place of birth                                   | • Country, autonomous republic, region  | • Region, municipality<br>• Other country  | • Poland<br>• Other country (specify)   | ND  |
| L                 | Nationality/Ethnicity                            | • Open answer   | (Ethnicity)<br>• Open answer   | -   | ND  |
| L                 | Citizenship                                      | • Georgian<br>• Stateless<br>• Other country  | • Republic of Moldova<br>• No citizens<br>• Foreign citizens other countries   | • Polish (only)<br>• Both - Polish and other (specify)<br>• Only others (specify)   | ND  |
| D                 | Date of emigration                               | • Year, Month   | -  | -   | • Year  |
| D                 | Duration of absence                              | -   | • Under 1 year<br>• 1 year and more  | • Since birth<br>• Since 1988 or longer<br>• Since 1989 or shorter (month, year)  | -   |
| D                 | Duration of permanent residence in current place | -   | • From birth<br>• Year of permanent living<br>• Place of previous residence<br>• Arrived from rural or urban settlement                    | -   | -   |
| D                 | Intention to return                              | • Yes/no<br>• Year  | -  | -   | -   |
| A                 | Country of destination                           | • Various options   | -  | -   | • Open answer   |
| A                 | Country of current residence                     | • Various options   | (Residence/Situation at census date)<br>• Present<br>• Temporarily absent<br>• Other settlement of Republic<br>• Abroad (indicate country) | (Permanent/temporary stay in Poland at census date)<br>• Live permanently - present<br>• Live permanently - absent stay in other place Poland<br>• Live permanently - absent stay abroad (indicate country)<br>• Stay temporarily - arrived from other place in Poland<br>• Stay temporarily - arrived from abroad (indicate country) | -   |
| A                 | Place of previous residence                      | -   | -  | • Other locality in Poland (province, community, urban/rural area)<br>• Abroad (country)  | -   |
| A                 | Reason of emigration                             | • Improvement of living conditions (employed before emigration?)<br>• Refugee<br>• Education<br>• Other | (Reason for absence)<br>• Work<br>• Studies<br>• Other   | -   | • Job seeking<br>• Change of employment<br>• Acquisition of accommodation<br>• Better accommodation conditions<br>• Marriage<br>• Family unification<br>• Return to place of origin<br>• Studies<br>• Other |
| A                 | Material aid/remittances                         | • Emigrants aid family<br>• Family aids emigrant<br>• No  | -  | -   | -   |

<sup>4</sup> Keys: G =General information, L = Legal linkages, D = Duration of absence, A = Additional data.



### 3. COMPARISON OF DATA FROM ‘EMIGRATION MODULES’ WITH DATA FROM HOST COUNTRIES

29. Data obtained through the ‘emigration module’ questions in the national censuses have been compared with statistics collected in the main host countries. Total counts and distributions by demographic attributes (sex, age, marital status) and reasons for moving were compared. The objective was to assess the coverage and the accuracy of data collected through the censuses, as well as to get some indications on the various approaches used to build the emigration modules.

#### 3.1 Main host countries and sources of information

30. Table 5 gives an overview of the main destination countries for each of the four selected countries, according to data collected at the population census.

**Table 5 - Migrants from selected countries of emigration to main host countries**

| Georgia      |        |       | Moldova      |        |       | Poland       |        |       | Tunisia      |       |       |
|--------------|--------|-------|--------------|--------|-------|--------------|--------|-------|--------------|-------|-------|
| Host Country |        | %     | Host Country |        | %     | Host Country |        | %     | Host Country |       | %     |
| Russia       | 72950  | 64.1% | Russia       | 153356 | 56.2% | Germany      | 294304 | 37.4% | France       | 31955 | 42.2% |
| Greece       | 18421  | 16.2% | Italy        | 53010  | 19.4% | USA          | 158009 | 20.1% | Italy        | 16973 | 22.4% |
| Germany      | 4847   | 4.3%  | Romania      | 10515  | 3.9%  | Italy        | 39262  | 5.0%  | Lybia        | 5368  | 7.1%  |
| USA          | 4316   | 3.8%  | Portugal     | 9467   | 3.5%  | Canada       | 29117  | 3.7%  | Germany      | 4933  | 6.5%  |
|              |        |       | Ukraine      | 8582   | 3.1%  |              |        |       | U.S.A.       | 1995  | 2.6%  |
| Total        | 113726 | 100%  | Total        | 273056 | 100%  | Total        | 786085 | 100%  | Total        | 75773 | 100%  |
| Top four     | 100534 | 88.4% | Top five     | 234930 | 86.0% | Top four     | 520692 | 66.2% | Top five     | 61224 | 80.8% |

31. Table 6 below summarizes the various sources of data provided by destination countries, as well as definitions adopted by the same countries.

**Table 6 - Data source for comparison received from host countries**

|         | Data source  | Definition of immigrant  | Country for comparison             |
|---------|--|--|------------------------------------|
| Germany | Stocks (resident permits holders)<br>Alien population register | Stock of foreign citizens recorded in the population register. Includes asylum seekers living in private households. Foreign-born persons of German origin (Aussiedler) excluded.  | Poland, Tunisia, Georgia.          |
|         | Flows, Central Population register                             | Criteria for registering foreigners: holding a residence permit and intending to stay in the country for at least 1 week. Includes asylum seekers living in private households. Inflows of persons of Germans origin excluded. | Poland, Tunisia, Georgia.          |
| Italy   | Stock of foreigners with stay permits - Register               | Holders of a residence (stay) permit at a relevant date. (Children under 18 who are registered on their parents' permit are not counted)   | Poland, Moldova, Tunisia.          |
|         | Flows  | Issue of residence permits, including short term ones (excluding renewals).  | Poland, Moldova, Tunisia.          |
|         | Stock  | Holders of residence permits. Does not include those with temporary permits (less that six months in duration) and students. Minors are registered in parents' records.  | Moldova, Tunisia.                  |
| Spain   | Stocks of migrants<br>Flows                                    | Statistics based on the International Questionnaires. Data for 2003 worked out using the new cast method (instead of being based on data provided by the Residential Variation Statistics).                                    | Georgia, Moldova, Poland, Tunisia. |

|                           |                                      |  |                   |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|-------------------|
| <b>Canada</b>             | Census 2001                          | Foreign-born not naturalized   | Poland            |
| <b>USA</b>                | American Community Survey 2001, 2002 | Foreign-born immigrants (naturalized and foreigners) The universe is limited to the private household population, and excludes the population living in institutions, college dormitories, and other group quarters. Data are based on a sample and are subject to sampling variability. | Poland            |
|                           | Census 2000                          | Foreign born immigrants (naturalized and foreigners)   | Poland            |
| <b>Russian Federation</b> | Census October 2002                  | Stock of foreign citizenship residents and temporary migrants  | Moldova, Georgia. |
| <b>Israel</b>             | Flows                                | MOI Population register file includes persons entering the country for permanent residence under the Law of Return or the Law of Entrance.   | Georgia           |
| <b>Ukraine</b>            | Census December 2001                 | Stock of residents of foreign citizenship  | Moldova, Georgia. |
| <b>France</b>             | Stock                                | Rolling census (sample)  | Tunisia, Poland.  |
| <b>Greece</b>             | Census 2001                          | Stock of foreign-born citizens   | Georgia           |

### 3.2 Comparability of data

32. It should be remembered that, when comparing data from countries of emigration and host countries, reference populations may be quite different, since the defining criteria may vary. Among the possible reasons for discrepancies, the following ones should be highlighted:

- In some countries ‘citizenship’ is regarded as main criterion, while in others reference is made to the ‘place of birth’. In particular with regard to ‘citizenship’ it should be remembered that due to naturalization procedures the same person might be recorded with a different citizenship in the country of emigration and in the host country.
- Data collected in a census is based on information provided by respondents, while statistics based on registers are to a certain extent influenced by rules and procedures governing administrative processes.
- The moment of the census in countries of emigration does not coincide with the reference date of statistics received from the destination countries.
- For political reasons, some areas were not included in the national census program in Georgia (Abkhazia and South Ossetia) and Moldova (left bank of the river Dnestr and the town of Bendery). On the contrary, host countries identify migrants who arrived from these areas as immigrants from Moldova or Georgia respectively.

### 3.3 Country cases

33. This part presents a comparative analysis between the data collected on emigrants/immigrants by the selected countries of emigration (through ‘emigration module practices’) and the data collected by main respective countries of destination. For each country of emigration, the ‘data coverage’ on migrants will be examined, focusing at first on the recorded number of emigrants/immigrants and secondly on the main characteristics of the emigrants, i.e. the demographic attributes (sex, age, marital status), the duration of absence and the reasons for moving.

### 3.3.1 Georgia

34. Georgia provided a set of tables based on data collected at the 2002 census. However, quite a few of them could be compared with statistics from the destination countries: emigrants by sex, country of destination and current residence. To a certain extent this data could help to figure out and to monitor 'interim' migration up to the country of final destination. Unfortunately, the period of second move was not identified, thus only the data on current residence was used for comparison.

35. From the host countries, the Russian Federation provided data from the 2002 Census, rather close in terms of time framework to the Georgian census, covering citizens of Georgia that were residents of the RF and temporary migrants. Germany provided information on the stock of foreigners (citizens of Georgia) that were registered in Germany by 31/12/2001. Ukraine provided statistics of residents with Georgian citizenship (Census, December 2001). Data on immigrants with Georgian citizenship was received from Spain for the date 01/01/2002.

**Table 7 - Number of Georgian migrants in main countries of destination**

| Host country              | Data source                        | Stock of migrants |          |          | Coverage     |          |          |
|---------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------|----------|----------|--------------|----------|----------|
|                           |                                    | <i>Total</i>      | <i>M</i> | <i>F</i> | <i>Total</i> | <i>M</i> | <i>F</i> |
| <b>Germany</b>            | German data (stock)                | 11739             | 5092     | 6647     |              |          |          |
|                           | Georgian data                      | 4847              | 2277     | 2570     | 41,3%        | 44,7%    | 38,7%    |
| <b>Greece</b>             | Greece (census 2001)               | 22875             | 9839     | 13036    |              |          |          |
|                           | Georgian data                      | 18421             | 8141     | 10280    | 80,4%        | 82,7%    | 78,9%    |
| <b>Russian Federation</b> | RF data (census 2002) <sup>5</sup> | 52918             | 31754    | 21164    |              |          |          |
|                           | Georgian data                      | 72950             | 46346    | 26604    | 137,9%       | 146,0%   | 125,7%   |
| <b>Ukraine</b>            | Ukraine (census 2001)              | 6006              | 3479     | 2527     |              |          |          |
|                           | Georgian data                      | 2015              | 1361     | 654      | 33,5%        | 39,1%    | 25,9%    |
| <b>Spain</b>              | Spanish data                       | 1771              | 1149     | 622      |              |          |          |
|                           | Georgian data                      | 858               | 618      | 240      | 48,4%        | 53,8%    | 38,6%    |

36. The surplus (137,9%) of the Georgian data in respect of the RF data could be caused by the naturalization of immigrants from Georgia. Only in 2000-2001, more than 43000 Georgian citizens were naturalized in the RF.

37. It should be emphasized that Georgia suffered a dramatic population decrease caused by emigration after the previous population census in 1989: Greek population present in Georgia decreased by 85%, Russians by 80% and Armenians by 44%.<sup>6</sup> The approximate net out-migration during the inter-census period is supposed to be around 1.2 million persons (i.e. about 1 million persons if we exclude the population of Abkhazia and South Ossetia not covered by the Georgian census in 2002).<sup>7</sup>

<sup>5</sup> In October 2002 (RF census date) there were 6604 temporary migrants from Georgia in the RF, 5945 of them – of Georgian nationality. For comparison with Georgian data only RF data on residents (52918) was used. Data on citizens of Georgia residing in some other countries was obtained from available sources including the Internet.

<sup>6</sup> The mentioned nationalities are to be intended as ethnicity, not as citizenship.

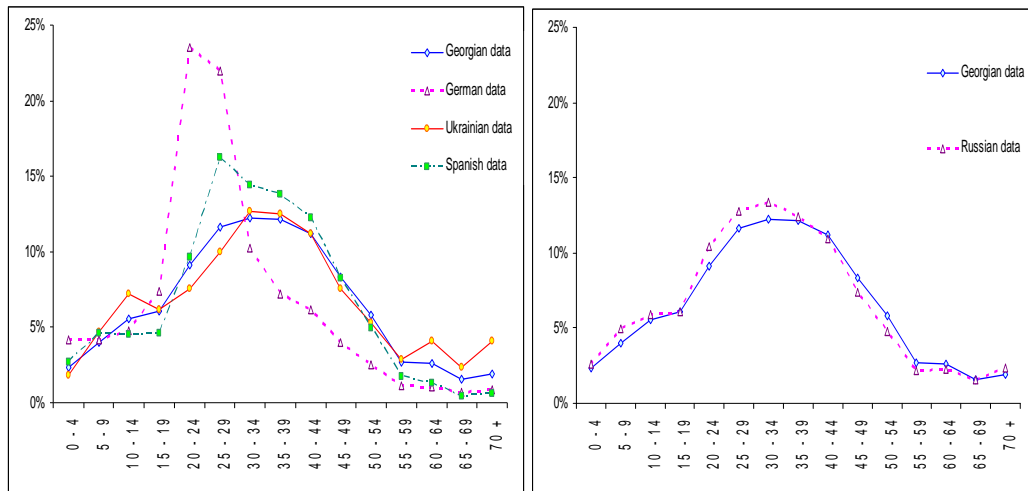
<sup>7</sup> The population of the country in 1989 was 5400000. The natural increase within the period between the census was 182500, therefore, the residual (estimated net migration) by 2002 was 1211500. Source -Demographic Yearbook of Georgia 2005.

38. Greece is one of the main countries of emigration from Georgia. According to the 2001 Greek census, 71000 immigrants were born in Georgia, out of whom 22900 persons have the Georgian citizenship (Census data 2001). The Georgian census showed 18624 emigrants staying in Greece in January 2002, which is close to the stock of foreign Georgian citizens in Greece.

### AGE STRUCTURE

39. Due to the lack of detailed Georgian data on the age structure of emigrants in each host country, the data provided by the main countries of destination was compared with the age structure of the whole stock of emigrants from Georgia (to all countries of destination). As 64% of all Georgian emigrants moved to the Russian Federation, the aggregate Georgian data was separately compared with the data received from RF.

**Chart 8 - Age structure of migrants from Georgia to host countries (for Georgia average data for all destinations), %**

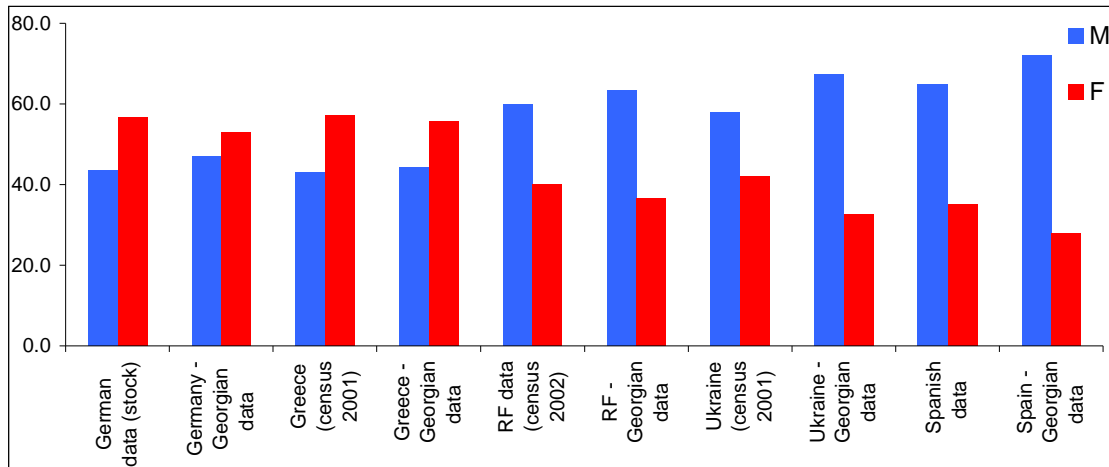


40. As shown by the charts above, the age composition of migrants from Georgia differs between the main countries of destination. In Germany, for instance, Georgian immigrants are much younger than those in the RF and Ukraine. As the average data for all destination countries was used for Georgia, it is impossible to value the adequacy of Georgian data in terms of coverage. Only the curves of Georgian and RF data tend to merge. However, as average parameters are often influenced by other components of the migrants stock such a coincidence of figures may be accidentally.

### SEX COMPOSITION

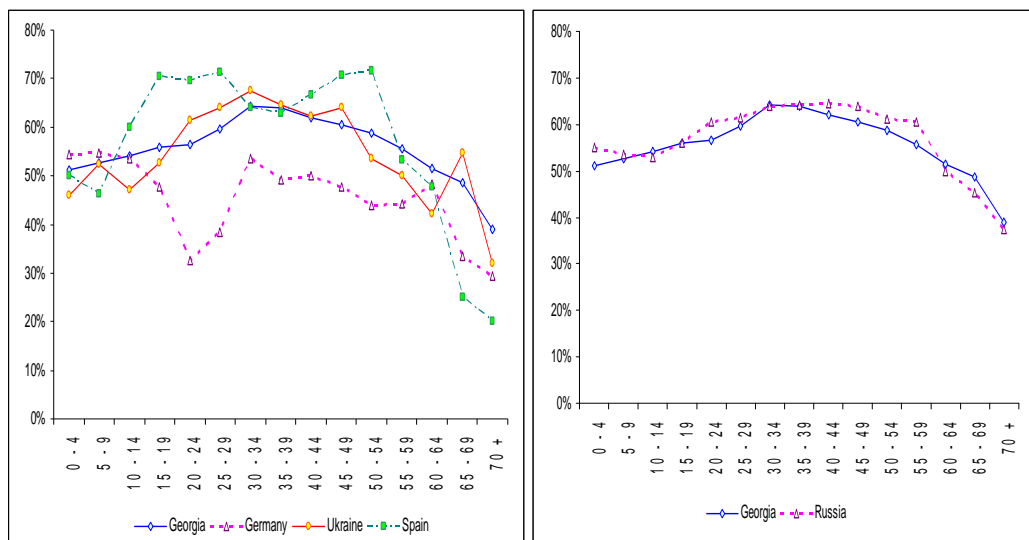
41. Similarly to the age structure, also the ratios of male and female emigrants differ relevantly between the main countries of destination, especially within the younger age groups emigrated to Spain and Germany.

**Chart 9 - Sex composition of migrants from Georgia to host countries, %**



42. Unfortunately, Georgian data does not provide information on sex composition by age groups for each main country of destination. Thus, as for the comparison on the age structure, the data received from the main countries of destination was compared with the Georgian aggregate data (and separately between Georgian and RF data).

**Chart 10 - Sex composition of migrants from Georgia to main host countries by age groups (for Georgia average data for all destinations), %**



43. Such variations in the demographic characteristics of migrants from Georgia suggest a more diverse tabulation of the data collected through the 'emigration module', which could provide a clear picture of the differences between emigrants stocks in various countries of destination.

44. Separated data tabulation is also necessary to proceed for the inter-country data comparison on the marital status, the duration of absence and the reason for moving.

45. According to the inter-country data comparison, Georgia lost many more migrants than those captured by the 'emigration module'. The inefficiency of the methodology adopted for the collection of data may be particularly evident in the case of whole households moving abroad with no proxy respondent left to report for these migrations in the national census questionnaire. Such deficiencies should stimulate national statisticians to clarify definitions and standards utilized for emigrants. For instance, a more limited time framework could be adopted, collecting data only on emigrants who left the country recently (5 years prior to the census).

### 3.3.2 Moldova

46. Similar to Georgia, also Statistics Moldova could not provide detailed demographic information (age, sex, marital status) on its emigrants in the different countries of destination. Thus, once more, the aggregate values of the entire amount of emigrants (in all host countries) were utilized for data comparison. Contrary, Moldova collected data on the duration of absence and the reason for moving (both crosscut by sex) for each country of destination. Destination countries' data was received from Russian Federation (national census data 2002), Italy (population register on inflows 2000-2004 and residence permits statistics on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2003 and 2004), Ukraine (national census data 2001) and Spain (stocks data on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2004 to 2005 and flows data on 2001-2004).

## NUMBER OF MIGRANTS

**Table 8 - Number of Moldavian migrants in main countries of destination**

| Host country              | Data source  | Stock of migrants |       |       | Coverage |        |        |
|---------------------------|--|-------------------|-------|-------|----------|--------|--------|
|                           |  | Total             | M     | F     | Total    | M      | F      |
| <b>Russian Federation</b> | RF data on citizens of Moldova: residents and temporary migrants in the RF 10/2002               | 60608             | 38018 | 22590 |          |        |        |
|                           | Moldavian data (cohort of emigrants with period of residence in the RF since 10/2002 and before) | 34964             | 22194 | 12770 | 57,7%    | 58,4%  | 56,5%  |
| <b>Italy</b>              | Italian data (estimation for 10/2004)  | 39905             | 12116 | 27789 |          |        |        |
|                           | Moldavian data (emigrants in Italy 10/2004)  | 53010             | 17857 | 35153 | 132,8%   | 147,4% | 126,5% |
| <b>Ukraine</b>            | Ukrainian data (census 2001)   | 13522             | 6439  | 7083  |          |        |        |
|                           | Moldavian data (migrants staying abroad since 2001 and earlier)                                  | 1273              | 728   | 545   | 9,4%     | 11,3%  | 7,7%   |
| <b>Spain</b>              | Spanish data (stocks of Moldavian citizens residents of Spain, estimation for 10/2004)           | 8012              | 4446  | 3566  |          |        |        |
|                           | Moldavian data   | 3868              | 2388  | 1480  | 48,3%    | 53,7%  | 41,5%  |

47. The underestimation of emigrants in RF and Ukraine can partially be explained by the differing census dates (RF - October 2002, Ukraine - December 2001, Moldova October 2004). Thus, a comparison between selected cohorts of emigrants (obtainable from Moldavian data) staying in the RF for  $\geq 2$  years and in Ukraine for  $\geq 3$  years would have been more appropriate. Furthermore, Moldova data shows that more than 60% of emigrants stayed in the RF and Ukraine for less than one year. Frequent and short-term trips characterize the pattern of migration between these countries. Census questionnaires did not ask whether the period of the migrant's absence was interrupted or not, thus respondents could also report shorter periods of absence (e.g. most recent move out his or her country of origin). Similar to the case of Georgia, whole households moving abroad and/or members joining a household already living abroad may be not recorded as no one report for their emigration.

48. Italian data on stocks seems to be closer to the data collected in Moldova: the overestimation of 32% of emigrants in respect to the data on immigrants from Moldova was more considerable for males than for females (46% and 26% respectively). This result could occur due to the data collection methodology adopted in Italy, which usually does not catch immediately recent movements. Besides, temporary or seasonal migrants do not intend to register at all.

In contrast, Spanish statistics counted more than twice the amount of migrants in respect to the estimations of Moldavian data, probably due to different definitions used for the data collection.

## AGE STRUCTURE

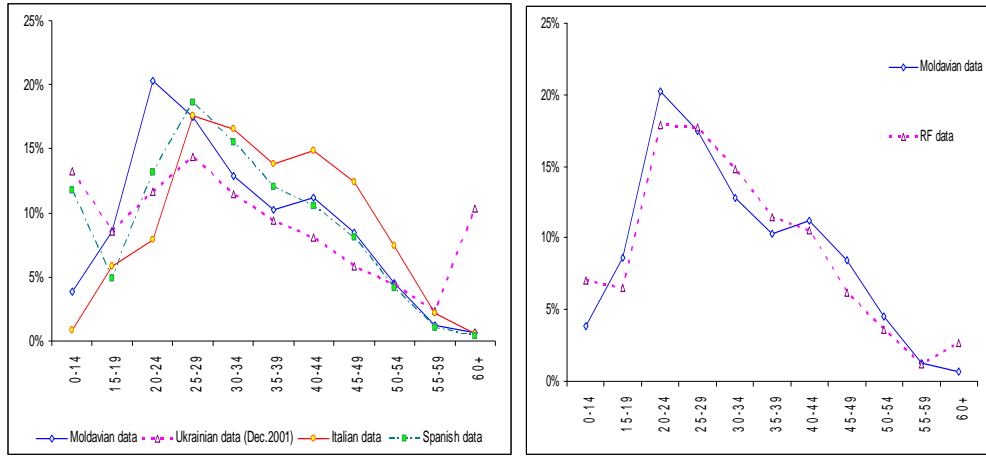
49. Similarly to the case of Georgia, the lack of detailed data on the age structure and on the sex composition by different age groups for each main country of destination only allows a comparison with the aggregate Moldova data on the whole stocks of emigrants to all the countries of destination. As also for Moldova the majority of emigrants moved to the Russia Federation, thus Moldova data on age structure and on sex composition by different age groups were separately compared with the data received from RF.<sup>8</sup>

50. The average age structure of emigrants from Moldova is significantly influenced by migrants in the RF, which make up 56% of the whole stock. Indeed, as shown by the chart below, the curves of Moldova and RF are very similar, while the age curves of the other countries of destination differ relevantly from the Moldovan curve. As already mentioned in the chapter on Georgia, the characteristics of migrants largely depend on the country of destination, thus it might be useful to produce separate statistics for each country.

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<sup>8</sup> Given the available information, this procedure seems to be the only way to proceed for any data comparison. As the large majority of Moldavian emigrants moved to RF, the comparison of the aggregate Moldova data with the RF data is the more reliable.

**Chart 11 - Age structure of migrants from Moldova to host countries (for Moldova average data for all destinations), %**

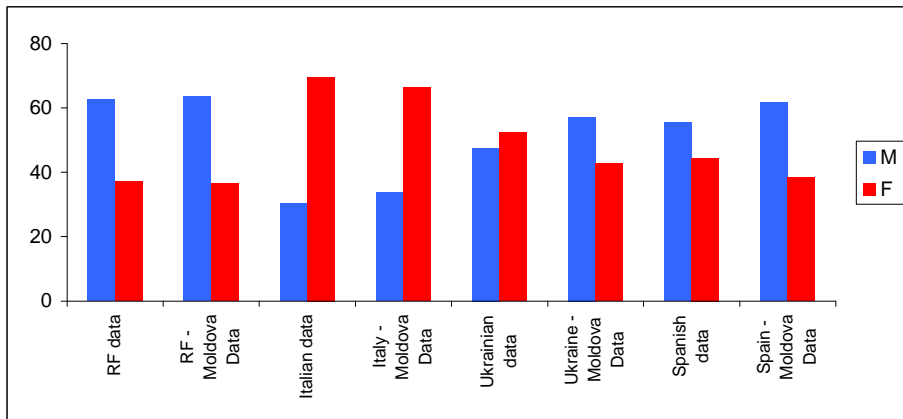


51. The high percentage of children among immigrants from Moldova in Russia, Spain and to some extent also Ukraine may indicate how these countries host entire households coming from Moldova.

**SEX COMPOSITION**

52. The data on the composition of males and females among migrants provided by Moldova and the respective countries of destination are quite similar for the RF and Italy. Contrary, Ukraine presented an opposite sex composition, while Spain showed a significant difference in the percentage value.

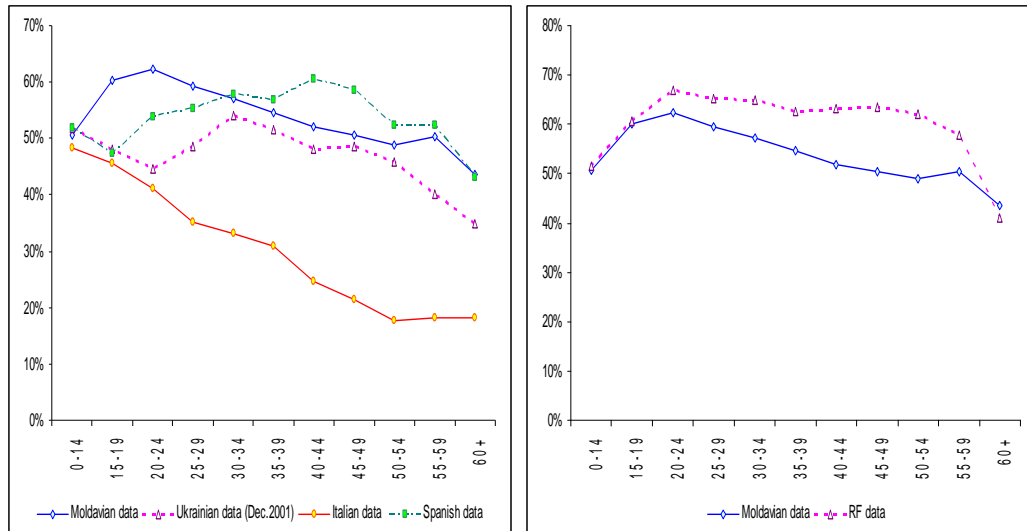
**Chart 12 - Sex composition of migrants from Moldova to host countries, %**



53. Furthermore, the data provided by the main countries of destination presented significant variations of the male ratio in the different age groups of immigrants from Moldova. As Moldavian data only covers the whole stock of emigrants, it is impossible to proceed for an appropriate assessment of the coverage of this parameter.



**Chart 13 - Sex composition of migrants from Moldova to main host countries by age groups (for Moldova average data for all destinations), %**



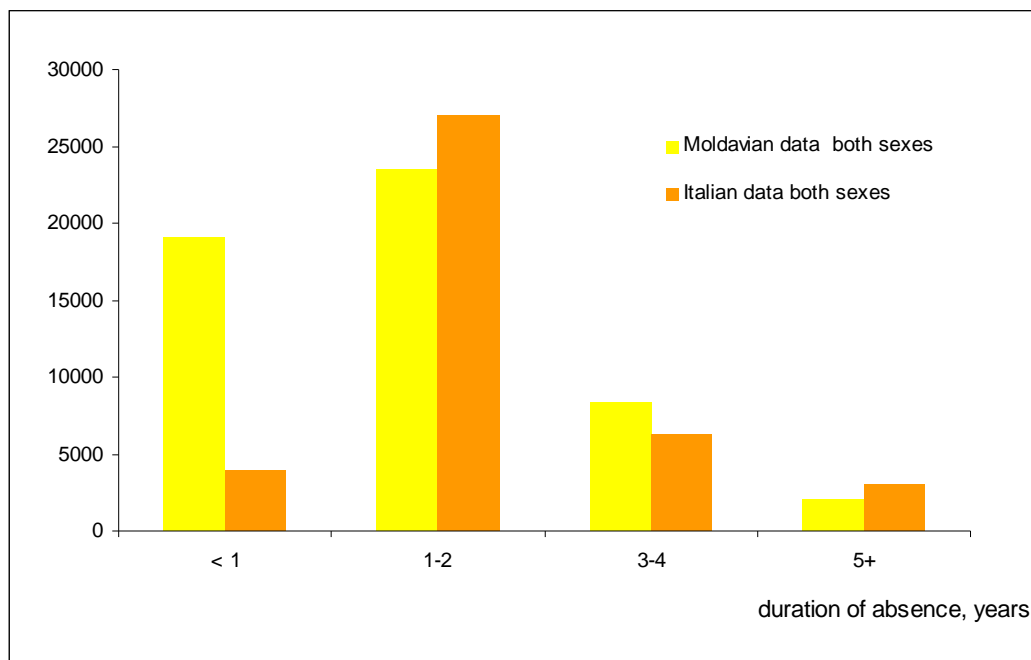
#### DURATION OF ABSENCE

54. Data on the duration of residence (year of arrival) was provided by Italy and Ukraine. However, the comparison seems to be possible only with Italian data as cohorts of migrants from Moldova to Ukraine with a period of absence of  $\geq 3$  years are quite small in number<sup>9</sup>.

55. The data analysis showed a significant underestimation of the Italian data in the most recent cohort of migrants in Italy. The cohort of immigrants with a period of stay in Italy of less than 1 year (stock data) made up only 21% of the same cohort of emigrants from Moldova, while data on the annual issue of stay permits (flows) were over 60%. This may indicate that short-term arrivals are rather numerous and should perhaps be analyzed as a separate cohort.

<sup>9</sup> Only 15 % of the whole stock (1273 persons out of 8582, Moldavian data) stayed in Ukraine since 2001 or earlier (10% arrived in 2000/2001, 5% earlier). Similarly (according to the Ukrainian census), 64% of immigrants from Moldova arrived in 2000-2001 and 36% in 1999 or earlier.

**Chart 14 - Cohorts of migrants from Moldova to Italy by period of absence**

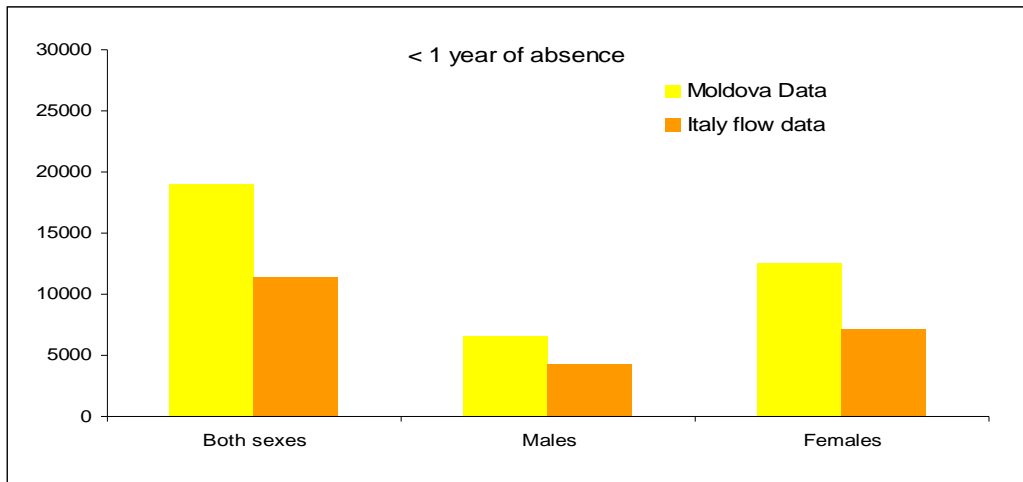


56. The main discrepancy was observed among female migrants leaving Moldova the year prior to the census who particularly liable to be excluded in the Italian statistics of stay permit holders (stocks). The underestimation of female migrants from Moldova in Italy probably occurred due to the difference between males and females in the pattern of migration; probably females take more frequent trips and on average stay abroad for a shorter period of time. Volumes of cohorts of migrants that arrived in Italy from Moldova earlier are recorded similarly.<sup>10</sup>

57. In regard of short-term arrivals, Italian statistics of flows appeared to be much closer to the Moldavian estimations.

<sup>10</sup> The comparison between the Italian and Moldavian data was facilitated by the fact that the Moldova census divided emigrants by period of absence and destination country, and Italian data was distributed by year of arrival. The only presumption we need to make is as follows: immigrants in Italy who were granted a stay permit in 2004 should be compared with emigrants from Moldova that had stayed abroad for less than 1 year by October 20, 2004.

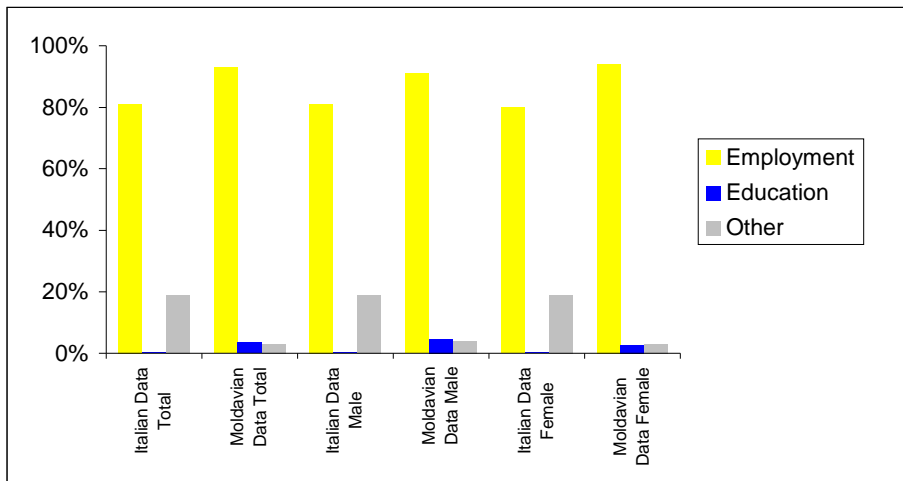
**Chart 15 - Inflow of Moldavian migrants to Italy and cohort with <1 year of absence from Moldova, 2004**



**REASONS FOR MOVING<sup>11</sup>**

58. Data collected in Moldova showed about 17000 more labor migrants than was observed by Italian statistics (also due to a dissimilar timeframe of reference, i.e. Moldavian data of October 2004, while Italian data of December 2004). The different methodology used for the data collection may suggest that many of the labor migrants work without any stay permit. Besides, in 2004 new policies on work permits might have decreased the officially registered number of immigrants that stayed in Italy for employment reasons.

**Chart 16 - Reasons for moving of migrants from Moldova to Italy, 2004, %**



59. Summarizing, it should be underlined how the data collected through the ‘emigration module questions’ seem to be efficient in terms of age structure and sex structure, partially also

<sup>11</sup> Data on the migrant stock in Italy provided at the end of 2004 was compared with data on the whole stock of emigrants from Moldova in October 2004, independently of the period of stay in Italy.

for the duration of absence (for cohorts that arrived more than 1 year ago). Nonetheless, it appears useful to proceed for a detailed tabulation that illustrates more accurately the basic demographic parameters of emigrants residing in different country of destination.

### 3.3.3 Poland

60. Statistics Poland provided the largest data variety on emigrants in the main different countries of destination: age, sex, marital status, year of departure and reason for moving. These information were compared with statistics provided by Canada (census data 2001 on foreigners), Italy (stay permits on 31/12/2001 and 2002), Germany (stock of foreign population on 31/12/2001 and 2002, Central Register of Foreigners), Spain (stock of foreign population on 01/01/2002) and USA (American Community Survey, mid-year Polish-born population, both naturalized and non-citizens, 2001 and 2002).

### NUMBER OF MIGRANTS

61. If we consider the absolute values on Polish migrants, the figures show to be rather similar (especially those for Germany and Italy, and partially the migrants stock of Spain). Contrary, the Polish data clearly diverse with the Canadian data, probably due to the dissimilar definitions used in the census, or due to the numerous cohorts of immigrants of Polish origin that moved to Canada and the USA more than 10 years prior to the census.

**Table 9 - Number of Polish migrants in main countries of destination**

| Host country   | Source of data                                | Stock of migrants |        |        | Coverage |        |        |
|----------------|---|-------------------|--------|--------|----------|--------|--------|
|                |   | Total             | M      | F      | Total    | M      | F      |
| <b>Germany</b> | German data (31/12/2001)                      | 310432            | 156291 | 154141 |          |        |        |
|                | Polish data                                   | 294304            | 139103 | 155201 | 94,8%    | 89,0%  | 100,7% |
| <b>Canada</b>  | Canadian data (2001)                          | 66235             | 31575  | 34660  |          |        |        |
|                | Polish data (migrants absent for > 12 months) | 26319             | 12773  | 13546  | 39,7%    | 40,5%  | 39,1%  |
| <b>Italy</b>   | Italian data (31/12/2001)                     | 32889             | 9190   | 23699  |          |        |        |
|                | Polish data                                   | 39262             | 11533  | 27729  | 119,4%   | 125,5% | 117,0% |
| <b>Spain</b>   | Spanish data (01/01/2002)                     | 18818             | 9411   | 9407   |          |        |        |
|                | Polish data                                   | 14492             | 6610   | 7882   | 77,0%    | 70,2%  | 83,8%  |
| <b>USA</b>     | USA ACS data (2001)                           | 205425            | 96010  | 109415 |          |        |        |
|                | Polish data (over 2 months of absence)        | 158009            | 75137  | 82872  | 76,9%    | 78,3%  | 75,7%  |
|                | Polish data (> 12 months)                     | 136455            | 65161  | 71294  | 66,4%    | 67,9%  | 65,2%  |

### AGE STRUCTURE

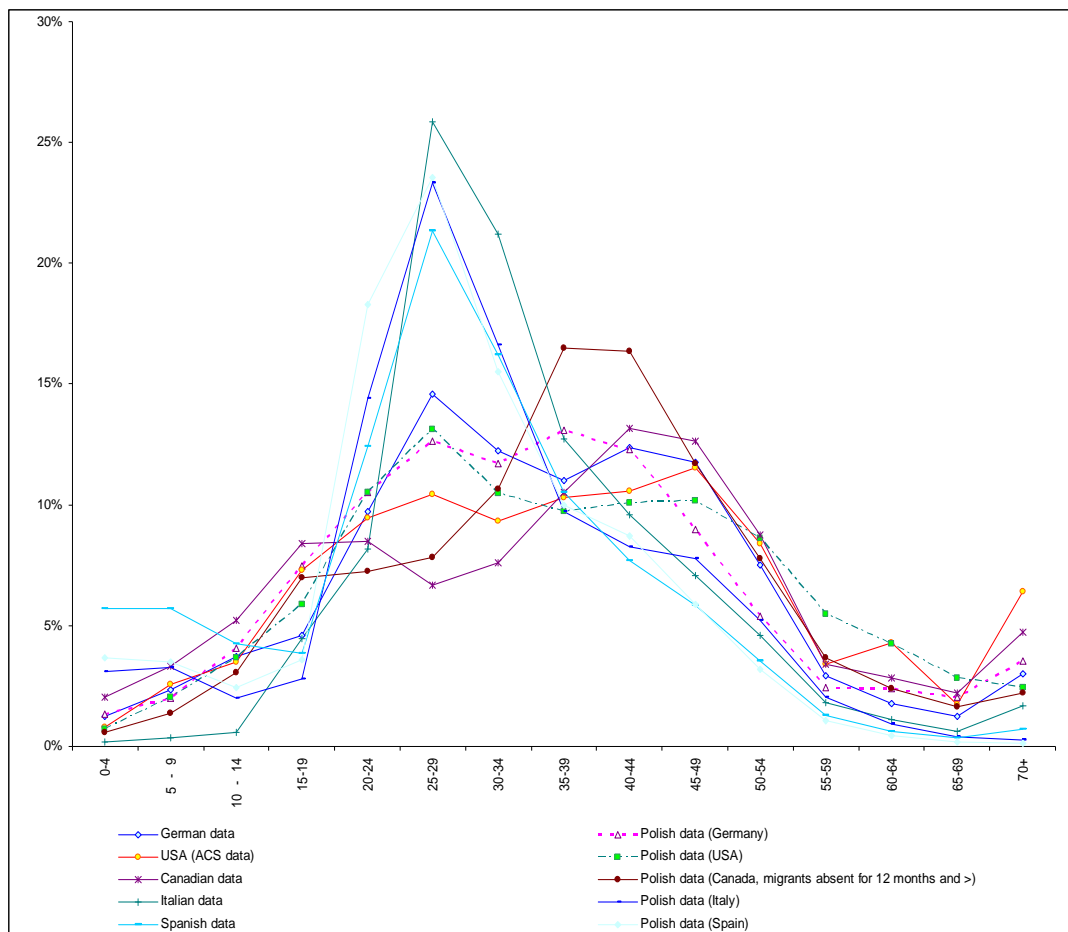
62. Except for Canada, the Polish data on the stocks of migrants is very similar (for all age groups) to the data of the main countries of destination, in particular with the one received from

Germany and Italy (see Annex 3). Italian data show some lower figures on minors, but mainly due to the fact that children are recorded in the parent's stay permit.

63. In the case of the USA, the numerous cohorts of past migrations may influence the age structure of the immigrant stock, as in the meantime these migrants could have been naturalized as US citizens (thus not covered by the Polish census, if also deregistered as permanent resident). However, the profile of the stock of non-citizens of Polish origin and emigrants from Poland in the USA is rather similar (confirming that usually emigrants do not deregister when leaving their country of origin)

64. Canada census data recorded fewer persons in the main working age groups (25-44 years) and more children and old persons (60+) among emigrants from Poland in respect to the Polish data. In the case of Canada and to a lower extent US, a peak in age group 70+ prove that the migration of parents with children were mainly for permanent rather than temporary residence.

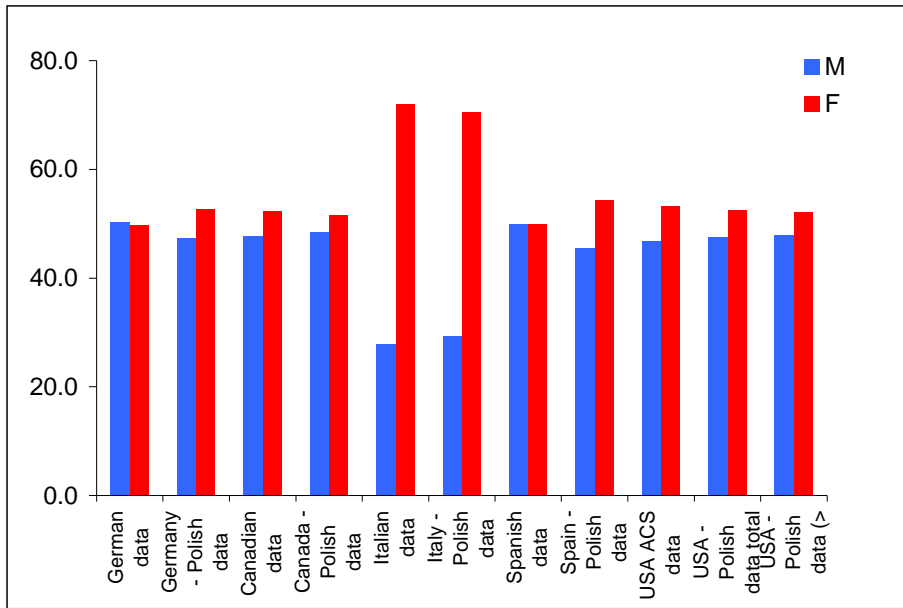
**Chart 17 - Age composition of migrants from Poland in main host countries, %**



**SEX COMPOSITION**

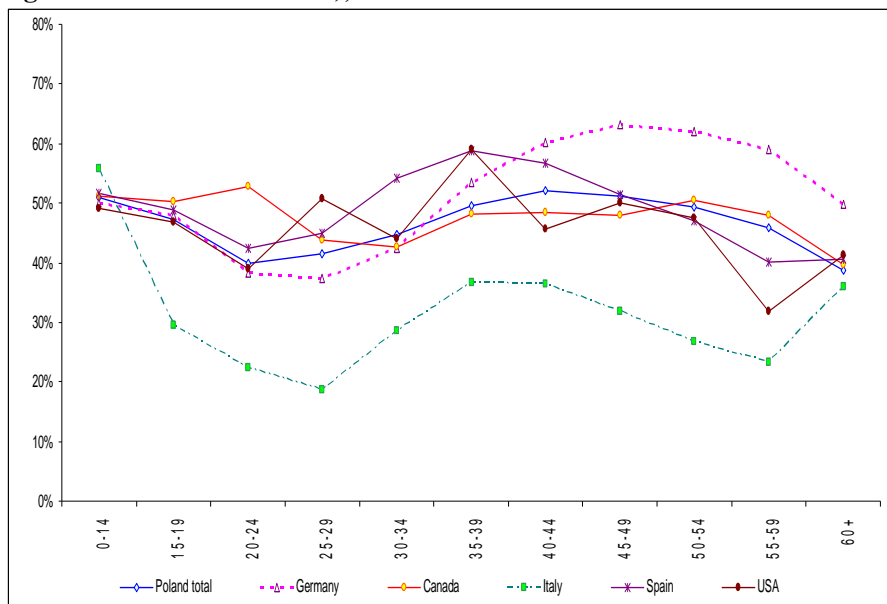
65. No particular discrepancy in the distribution by sex of Poland migrants was observed. Polish data on emigrants to Spain show a slightly higher percentage of females, while the difference with the German data is mainly due to the underestimation of male emigrants living in Germany.

**Chart 18 - Sex composition of migrants from Poland to main host countries, %**



66. The average male (and female) ratio of emigrants from Poland seems to suffer the strong influence of two different components: high percentages of males in most age groups in Germany and high percentages of females in Italy. Unfortunately, the Polish data does not provide information on the sex composition of emigrants by age groups in each main country of destination. Thus, similar to the cases of Moldova and Georgia, the aggregate Polish data for all destination countries was used for comparison. As it was noted in the sections on Moldova and Georgia, it is worth tabulating information on the age structure and sex composition of emigrants for every destination country.

**Chart 19 - Sex composition of migrants from Poland to main host countries by age groups (for Poland average data for all destinations), %**

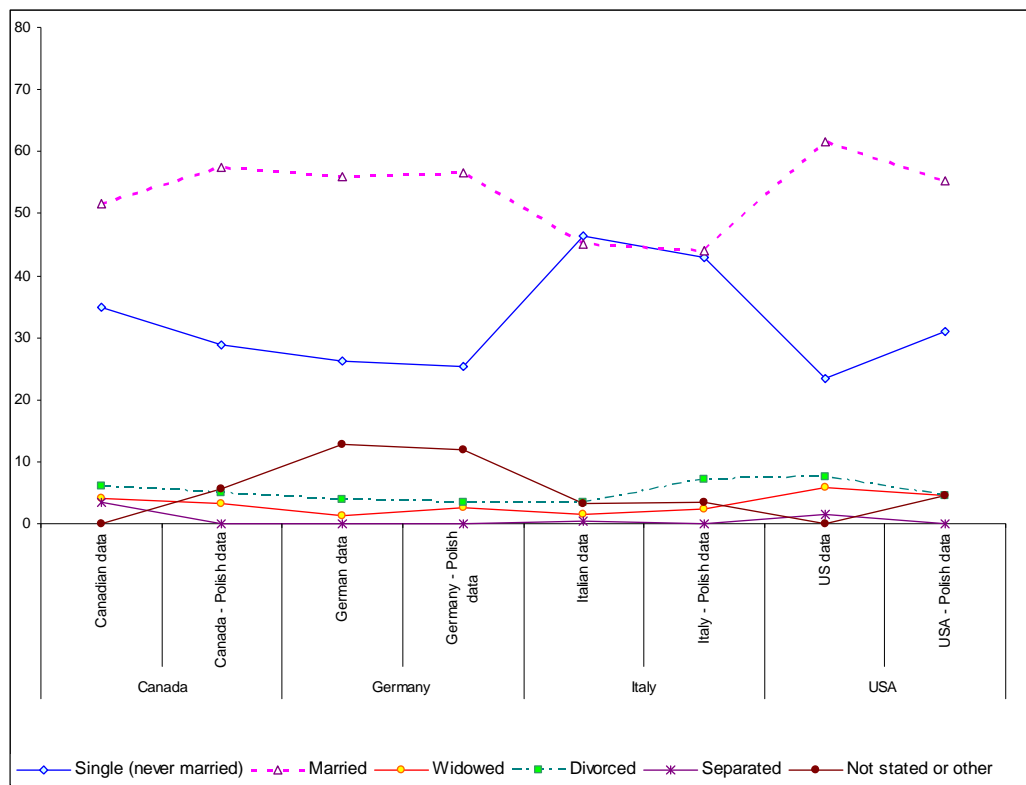


## MARITAL STATUS

67. For the comparison of the marital status of Polish emigrants data on the cohorts of emigrants with a period of stay of over 12 months were utilized. The absolute numbers on marital status are rather similar in Germany and Italy, while they differed in Canada and the US (Annex 4). Significant differences have been observed between the marital status of short-term and long-term emigrants from Poland.

68. The comparison is quite problematic as the categories of marital status differ from country to country. In the Polish census data, for instance, 'separated' persons were included in the category 'other', while Germany and the USA did not have the category 'separated' at all (thus separated persons could be included both into 'married' or 'divorced'). Furthermore, the profile of the stock of Polish emigrants in Germany is influenced by a rather high percentage of persons with 'not stated' marital status. A data comparison on 'never married/single' persons (and to a lower extent 'widowed' persons) would be statistically more reliable.

**Chart 20 - Marital status of migrants from Poland to main countries of destination aged 15 years and above, %**



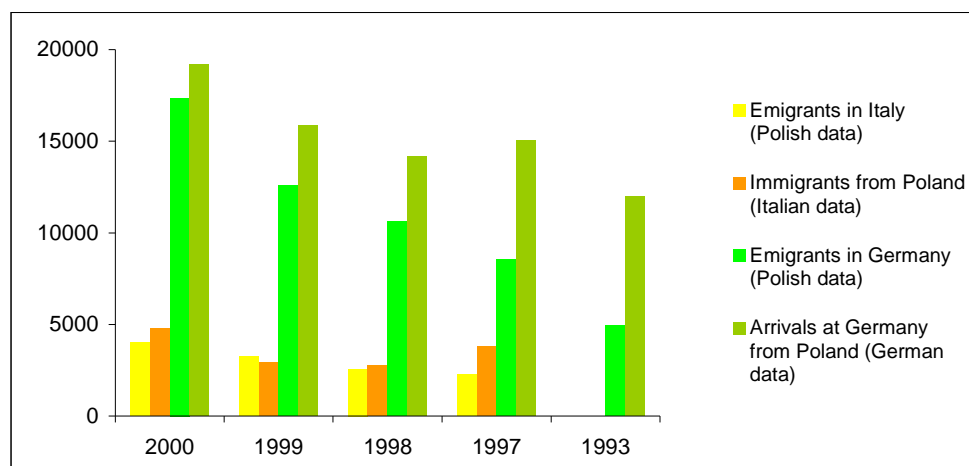
## DURATION OF ABSENCE

69. Polish data on absentees indicates the year of departure (2001 and before) of each migrant. The cohort with a period of absence between 2-12 months was counted separately (i.e. persons moving between June 2001 and March 2002). This cohort was rather numerous, especially in Spain, Italy and the UK. However, to obtain reliable results, only the data on

cohorts leaving in 2000 or earlier were used for comparison (i.e. migrants staying abroad since more than 12 months - see Annex 5). The first period of migration relates to years 2000-2001, the second to the years 1998-1999 and the third one to those migrants moving in 1997 or earlier.

70. The data collected on Polish migrants in Canada and the US were similar only for recent moves. The whole stocks, instead, are quite dissimilar, mainly due to the cohorts that moved to Canada and the USA long time ago. In Italy, cyclical regularization programs caused the data fluctuations on recorded immigrants. Despite the similarity shown by Polish and German data on the number and age structure of migrants from Poland, in regard of the duration of absence the 'emigration module' appears to be effective only for the cohorts of recent migration: the number of emigrants to Germany recorded in Polish data were equal to 91% of the Polish immigrants registered in Germany in the year 2000, still 79% in 1999, about 57% in 1997 and only 41% in 1993.

**Chart 21 - Data on flows of Polish migrants to Italy and Germany, by year of departure/arrival**

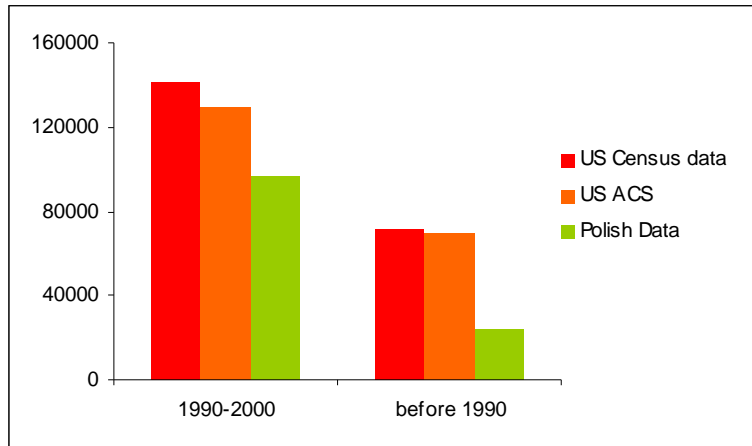


71. Census data of destination countries seem to represent the stocks (rather than the flows) of Polish migrants, as some of immigrants could have left the destination country at census date in Poland. Italian data (stay permits) seems to provide more valuable information, than German statistics as latter points out extremely high volumes of polish immigrants. This discrepancy is mainly caused by the aliens records methodology adopted in Germany, which includes the numbers of short-term visitors.

72. In 2000, the USA Census Bureau published data on Polish-born immigrants in the USA by period of entry (before and after 1990) and citizenship (with or without US citizenship, i.e. naturalized or not). Polish census data showed a higher convergence with US data on the most recent cohorts of immigrants in the USA (moving between 1990 - 2000 and not yet naturalized): the emigrants counted in Poland make up 68% of the Polish-born foreigners recorded by the US Census and 74 % of the US American Community Survey (ACS). Data comparison of arrivals prior to 1990 differs relevantly, presenting very low levels of coverage (about 35%).



**Chart 22 - Stock of migrants of Polish origin in the USA in 2000 by period of arrival**

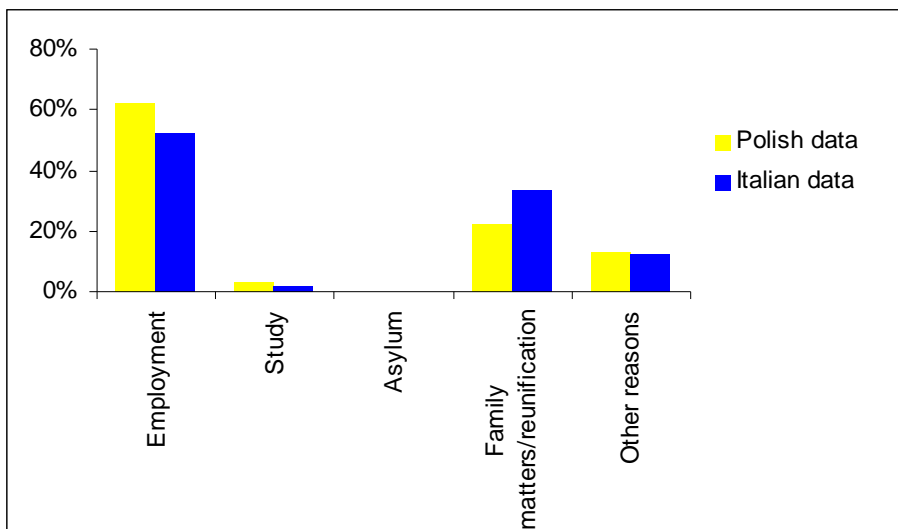


**REASONS FOR MOVING**

73. From all the countries of destination only the Italian data provides some information on the reasons for moving of Polish migrants. Comparing the results, it comes out that the proxy respondents of Polish emigrants mentioned ‘employment related reasons’ more often than emigrants themselves recorded in Italy.

The data on stocks of migrants that moved for family related reasons are rather similar. The slight difference in the figures may be caused by a less clear formulation of the answer option adopted in the Polish census compared to the one contained in Italian registration records: indeed, ‘family matters’ does not necessarily mean the same as ‘family reunification’.

**Chart 23 - Reason for moving of migrants from Poland to Italy**



74. Summarising, the data collected through the ‘emigration module questions’ adopted in the Polish Census shows to be reliable in terms of the age structure and sex composition (especially in comparison with data on migrant stocks provided by Germany and Italy, both in terms of absolute numbers and percentage).

75. Furthermore, the coverage of data seems to depend highly on the duration of absence: data on recent cohorts is much more congruent than for those moving long time ago. In order to obtain adequate information, a time period of reference up to 5 years prior the census date seems to appropriate.

76. Finally, the comparison of more 'qualitative' parameters, such as marital status and reasons for moving, is highly influenced by the adopted definitions/standard and the accuracy of the information collected through the census.

### 3.3.4 Tunisia

77. The Statistical Institute of Tunisia (INS) provided information on emigrants that left the country within a 5-year period before the census (from April 1999 till April 2004), crosscut by age and sex, as well as the respective countries of destination. The emigrants covered within this 5 year interval represent about 9% of the estimated stock of emigrants living abroad (843204 in 2003 according to consular records).<sup>12</sup> Furthermore, a separate tabulation for nationals (Tunisian citizens) and foreigners-born emigrants was given.<sup>13</sup>

78. Statistical data for comparison were received from Germany (total stock of foreigners/citizens of Tunisia and stock of those arrived within the 5 years before 2004, both for 31/12/2003 and 31/12/2004). Two types of data were received from Italy: the stock of residence permits holders (citizens of Tunisia, both total and those who arrived within the 5 years before the reference date, for 31/12/5 2003 and 31/12/2004) and data on migrant flows of citizens of Tunisia for 1999-2003.

79. By the end of 2003, the '5-year stock' constituted 30% of all the citizens of Tunisia residing in Germany and about 38% residing in Italy. As the Tunisian 'emigration module' was addressed to persons who had been absent from the country for at least 6 months up to a maximum of 5 years prior to census date (i.e. April 1999 - April 2004), data comparison had been done with the Italian and German statistics on the '5-year stocks' for the date 31/12/2003. Spain only furnished aggregate data on immigrated Tunisian citizens, which does not allow proceeding for an appropriate data analysis of the 5-year cohort. Thus, the results of the data comparison may be partially biased.

80. French data appeared rather different due to a different sample size and other peculiarities of data collection methodology adopted by the rolling census.

### NUMBER OF MIGRANTS

81. On average, Tunisian data more or less concurs with the statistics received from Germany and especially from Italy. Contrary, due to uncertain time intervals, the Spanish data shows clear discrepancies. Nonetheless, if we assimilate the Spanish numbers to the German and Italian data (by supposing that the recent cohort of Tunisian immigrants in Spain also constitutes about 30-40%), then the figures become quite similar (about 350-400 persons, instead of 1192), showing a rather good coverage with the data of the Tunisian census.

<sup>12</sup> Philippe Fargues, International migration in the Arab region: trends and policies, paper presented at the UN expert group meeting on international migration and development in the Arab region. Beirut, 15-17 May 2006, p.25.

<sup>13</sup> Although, foreign-born emigrants had only a partial coverage and represented a very low percentage of total emigrants from Tunisia not numerous (0,9%, i.e. 701 persons, ).

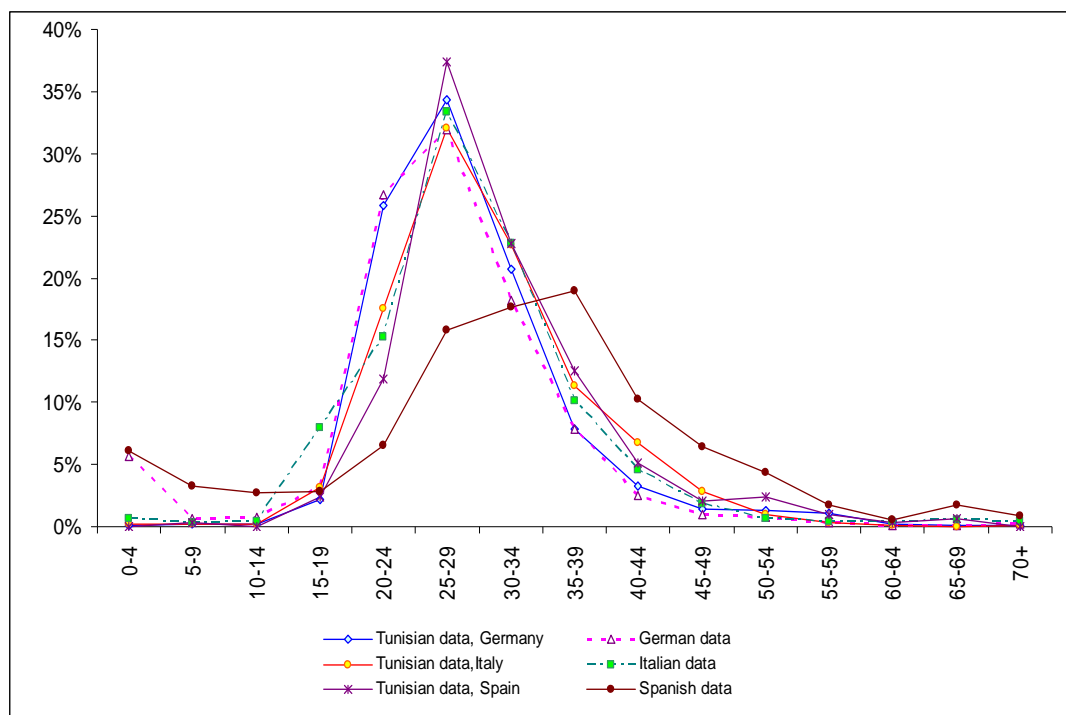
**Table 10 - Number of Tunisian migrants in main countries of destination**

| Host country | Source of data                            | Stock of migrants |       |      | Coverage |       |       |
|--------------|---|-------------------|-------|------|----------|-------|-------|
|              |   | Total             | M     | F    | Total    | M     | F     |
| Germany      | German data<br>(5-year stock, 31/12/2003) | 7386              | 5405  | 1981 |          |       |       |
|              | Tunisian data                             | 4933              | 4171  | 762  | 66,8%    | 77,2% | 38,5% |
| Italy        | Italian data                              | 23931             | 16791 | 7140 |          |       |       |
|              | Tunisian data                             | 16973             | 15016 | 1957 | 70,9%    | 89,4% | 27,4% |
| Spain        | Spanish data (stock<br>01/01/2004)        | 1192              | 845   | 347  |          |       |       |
|              | Tunisian data                             | 294               | 239   | 55   | 24,7%    | 28,3% | 15,9% |

### AGE STRUCTURE

82. The age curves of migrants produced by Tunisian and respectively Italian and German data almost merge. The data on the age composition of Tunisians concurs particularly from the age group 15 years upwards (see also Annex 6). German statistics seems to be most reliable as children were counted on the same level as adults. Contrary, Italian data on residence permits tends to underestimate minors, as they are registered under their parents' stay permit. A similar underestimation of young aged persons resulted from the 'emigration module' adopted in the Tunisian census, thus, finally almost no discrepancy was found between the Italian and Tunisian data in this age group.

**Chart 24 - Age structure of migrants from Tunisia to main host countries, %**

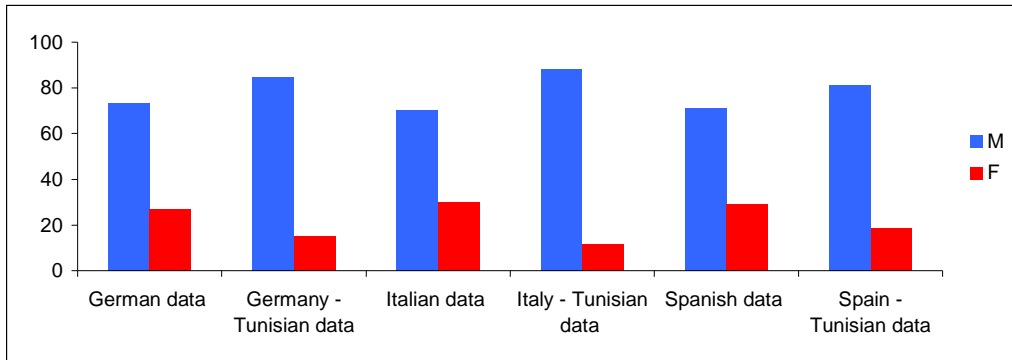


SEX COMPOSITION

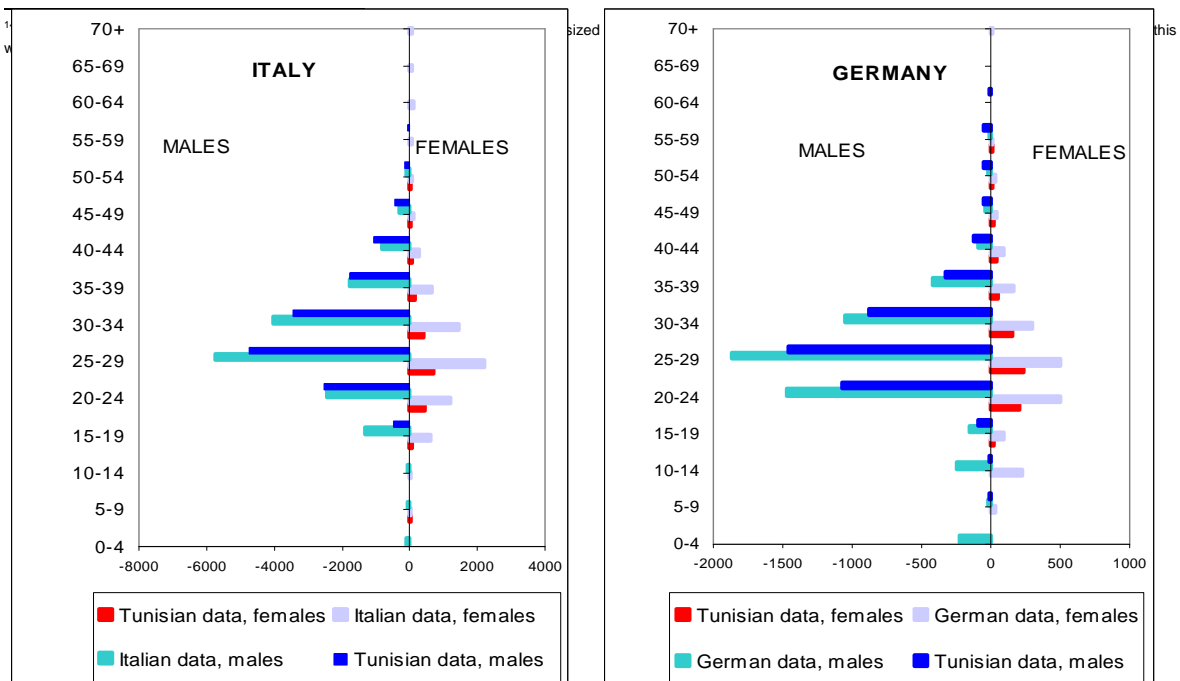
83. Certain differences between the data provided by the Tunisian census and the statistics on immigrants received from Germany and Italy were observed in relation to the sex composition of Tunisian migrants: while the coverage of male migrants reached respectively about 67% and 71%, female migrants were recorded much less by the Tunisian data (only 38% and 27% of the female immigrants registered respectively in Germany and Italy).

84. In Tunisia, usually the husband emigrates first, and only in a second phase his wife and children join him abroad. While still living in Tunisia, a wife of an emigrant reports the emigration of her husband. Contrary, once a woman with her children joins her husband or family abroad, nobody in the country of origin will account for her emigration.<sup>14</sup> Due to this emigration pattern and the methodology of data collection used in the Tunisian census, female and child emigration is largely underestimated.

**Chart 25 - Sex composition of Tunisian migrants in main countries of destination, %**



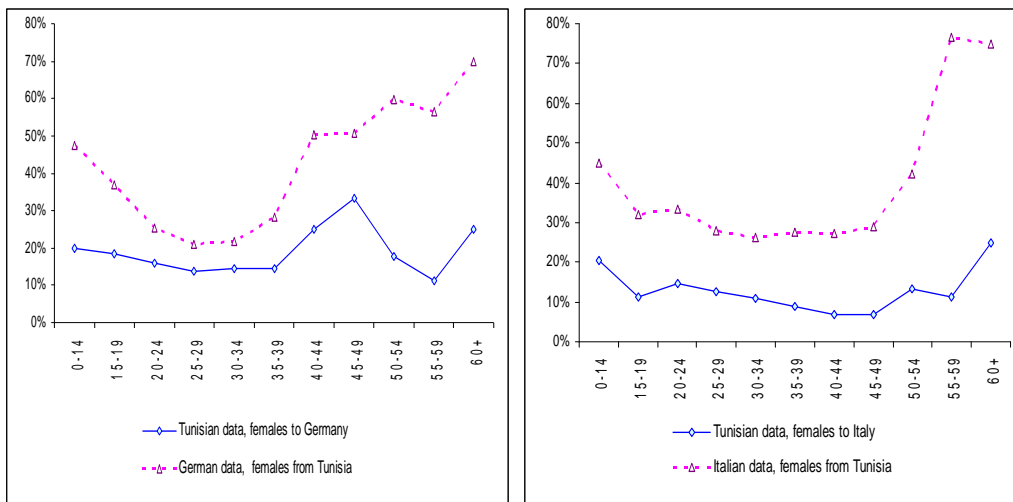
**Chart 26 - Migrants from Tunisia to Germany and Italy, by sex composition and age groups**



85. Consequently, the male ratio among registered by the Tunisian data is significantly higher than the one recorded on Tunisian immigrants in German and Italian data (particularly in the oldest and youngest age groups).<sup>15</sup>

86. Contrary to the previous countries, in the case of Tunisia it seems worth presenting the data divergence in the female ratio instead of the male ratio. Indeed, the table below clearly shows the extent of the underestimation of female migration in different age groups, characterizing the Tunisian data collection.

**Chart 14 - Sex composition of migrants from Tunisia to main host countries by age groups, %<sup>16</sup>**



87. No data was received from Statistics Tunisia on the marital status of emigrants, while on the duration of absence only the aggregate data for all countries of destination was provided. Finally, the reason for moving could not be compared due to the missing data from the main countries of destination.

88. Summarizing, it must be underlined once more how the Tunisian data collected appear to be more reliable in regard of male emigration. Indeed, the stock of male absentees is rather close to the stock of male immigrants in Germany and in Italy, while women and minors are significantly underestimated. The resulting output is a biased sex (and partially also the age) structure of the Tunisian stock of emigrants.

## CONCLUSIONS

89. The comparative analysis of the data collected through the 'emigration modules' of Georgia, Moldova, Poland and Tunisia with the immigration statistics of the respective main countries of destination showed advantages and disadvantages of using such modules to collect information on emigration.

<sup>15</sup> However, as very few persons are counted in the youngest and oldest age groups (in Tunisian data), the males and females percentage in these groups are statistically less reliable.

<sup>16</sup> The numbers of migrants in the youngest and oldest age groups are inconsiderable (especially for Tunisian data).

90. From this comparison exercise it emerges that the shorter the period of absence (i.e. the more recent the year of emigration), the more complete and reliable is the information collected on the account of the emigrant. In the case of Poland, for example, it was observed that data coverage was highly dependant on duration of absence of emigrants: data collected on recent cohorts was very close to immigration data of destination countries. Thus, a limited time framework such as, for instance, a 5-year period prior to the census date, seems to be more appropriate to collect more reliable data on emigrants.

91. Furthermore, the data collection worked slightly better for emigrants who are still included in administrative processes (e.g. population register in Poland) and/or those who are more likely to keep close ties with their country (e.g. Poland data on emigrants in Italy and Germany compared to those in USA and Canada), in particular if members of the family nucleus are left behind (e.g. Tunisian male in France).

92. On the other hand, it is clear that emigration questions at the census cannot cover cases when the entire household has left the country or when it's not clear which household members should report about absent persons. In this regard, a more limited time framework (such as a 5-year period prior to the census date) seems to increase the probability of finding a household member in the country of origin, reporting reliable information on the emigrant. The constraint of whole households moving abroad and the lack of available proxy respondents may also produce biased data on age structure and sex composition.

93. With respect to the structure/design of the 'emigration module questions' some relevant differences were observed in the national census of the selected countries of emigration. Georgia and Tunisia used a separate module, complementing the main census questionnaire, focusing only on emigrants. The number of questions in the 'emigration module' varies significantly between the selected countries of emigration. Given that questions are asked to proxy respondents, it is suggested that their number should be quite limited.

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