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SELECTED METHODS TO IMPROVE EMIGRATION ESTIMATES

COMPARABILITY AND EXCHANGE OF INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION STATISTICS IN THE CIS COUNTRIES *

CONTENTS

* This paper has been prepared by Olga Chudinovskikh, Moscow State Lomonosov University, at the invitation of the secretariat.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report describes the analysis of the statistical data and sources on international migration from the11 countries of the CIS[1]. Data on migration flows and stocks was collected with the objective to explore the availability of data on international migration in the participating countries and to compare the data on migration as provided, respectively, by the receiving and sending countries. A regional approach to the study of international migration in the CIS countries is particularly appropriate since these countries represent a 'migration system': in fact a large portion of the migration flows of these countries occurs between them, with some notable exceptions such as Moldova and Ukraine; which also have migration exchange outside the region

From the data and information collected, it appears that administrative and legislative regulations have a strong impact on the definitions used and statistics produced. In some cases this is the main reason for the underestimation of certain categories of flows of international migrants. The relatively low figures on migration flows suggest that the migration regime of this region, often based on visa-free agreements, has an impact on the statistical data derived from registration systems.

In terms of data availability, almost all of the CIS countries regularly produce figures on migration flows. Such data is mainly based on the registration procedures of the population in the 'place of residence'. The time criterion to determine the place of residence is used in several states, but almost everywhere a foreigner must have a residence permit to be registered and included into the statistics of flows. A comparison of the data on migration flows as registered by receiving and sending countries showed very similar figures in certain instances, as for example in the case of migration flows between Belarus and Ukraine, the Russian Federation and Ukraine, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan, Armenia and Ukraine. In other cases, however, there were important discrepancies between the data produced by, respectively, the country of origin and the country of destination.

Data on the stocks of foreigners and the foreign born population is in most cases restricted to census data only, which makes further comparisons with data on migration flows or citizenship acquisitions difficult. Data on population groups based on one variable only (be it country of birth, citizenship, or nationality/ethnicity) is usually unsatisfactory when the goal is to extract information on international migrants. The recent history of these countries, which were all part of the Soviet Union until 1991, and the naturalization procedures make the interpretation of data on foreigners or foreign born residents difficult. A more extended set of variables should be used to better identify persons with a migration background.

[1] The following countries provided the requested data and information on sources: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan.

Based on the results of the analysis, it can be said that data sharing, both at a national and international level, is crucial for improving data quality and availability. Data sharing at a national level is essential to overcome some of the weaknesses identified: interaction between statistical and administrative authorities may improve data collection procedures and bring definitions more in line with international standards. In any case, the utilization and dissemination of available administrative data should be encouraged to increase the scientific knowledge of international migration. All possible ways should be explored to improve collaboration and produce better data, which is the ultimate objective of all interested parties. Data sharing at an international level is extremely important to better assess the quality of national data and better understand the dynamics of international migration and estimate its consequences. Mechanisms to allow such an exchange of data on a regular basis should be put in place, ensuring that the data is properly documented, adequately processed and widely disseminated.

Given its role in providing good quality data on stocks of international migrants, the next census round should be fully utilized to produce more relevant data on international migration, exploring all the possible dimensions and variables that can produce useful and internationally comparable data. Some promising examples of using household sample surveys to produce data on international migration should also be considered as a possible solution to existing data gaps.

I. BACKGROUND

1. Many countries trying to compare data on emigration using immigration statistics are faced the problem that different definitions are used in the process of migrant identification. The majority of the countries of the CIS region have an advantage – as they use a very similar measurement method of migration flows. It means that the possibility to compare this data seemed to be very strong. The importance of data sharing within the state is determined by the special regime of migration in the region: the major part of both immigrants to / and emigrants from the states are involved in migration exchange between the CIS countries (table 1). Migration management in the states as a rule is focused on problems inside the region.

2. The states of the region are closely tied with extremely large volumes of short-term and long-term labour migration, which as a rule are dramatically underestimated both in receiving and sending countries. However, immigration and emigration influence the size of the resident population and the social context of the country in general, that makes it a special subject of investigation. For instance, in 2007, the Federal migration service of the Russian Federation issued 1,821,748 work permits[2] to citizens of the CIS countries (85% of the total amount).

3. The reported project was undertaken to check the availability and comparability of data collected in the CIS countries from the point of view of possible data exchange. To collect the data for comparison a series of templates was prepared by the UNECE Statistical Division, and the countries were asked to use all available sources, including population censuses, registers,

[2] Work permit is valid for 1 year.

administrative records, household surveys and data from the authorities responsible for migration management.

Table 1 Ratio of migrants to/ and from the CIS countries and states outside CIS in migration flows (aggregated data for 2000-2006) per cent

	Immigrants			**Emigrants**		
	CIS	**OUTSIDE CIS**	**TOTAL**	**CIS**	**OUTSIDE CIS**	**TOTAL**
Armenia	68,1	31,9	100	78,5	21,5	100
Azerbaijan	97,3	2,7	100	96,7	3,3	100
Belarus	88,6	11,4	100	62,3	37,7	100
Georgia (CENSUS 2002, life time migrants 2000-2001)	88,4	11,6	100	NA	NA	NA
Kazakhstan	90,3	9,7	100	73,1	26,9	100
Kyrgyzstan	98,3	1,7	100	92,6	7,4	100
Moldova CSB data	52,2	47,8	100	70,4	29,6	100
Russia	95,0	5,0	100	52,2	47,8	100
Tajikistan	99,3	0,7	100	99,6	0,4	100
Turkmenistan	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Ukraine	85,1	14,9	100	61,2	38,8	100
Uzbekistan	97,3	2,7	100	90,3	9,7	100
TOTAL	86,8	13,2	100	72,2	27,8	100

4. The requested data (all data - by sex and year from 2000-2006) were as follows:

a) Flows of immigrants by country of origin;
b) Flows of immigrants by citizenship irrespectively of the country of origin;
c) Flows of emigrants by country of destination;
d) Flows of emigrants by country of citizenship irrespectively of the country of destination;
e) Immigrants by place of residence one year before (flows);
f) Stock of foreign resident population by citizenship;
g) Stock of foreign born resident population by country of birth;
h) Citizenship acquisition by country of previous citizenship (annual positive decisions on applications);
i) Population balance (components).

5. This information was supposed to be enough to describe the situation about data availability, to compare at least the principle data on international migration and to assess the possibility of data combination and exchange. Besides, it was an opportunity to revise once again the available sources and to systematize the definitions used for migrant identification. It seemed useful to test the possibility and analyze the results of the data exchange between the states of a vast area with a high ratio of intra-regional migration. Data on refugees and asylum seekers as well as about foreign workers (or nationals employed abroad) were not requested.

II. DATA AVAILABILITY[3]

6. The data was provided by 11 countries. Three sets of tables were received from Moldova: one file from the NSI and two files from the Population Register (for temporary and permanent residents)4; for the purpose of comparative analysis it was decided to use data from the National statistical Bureau, although population register data was also used to explore the available variables.

7. It was expected that there would be a big difference in the availability of data of certain types. Data on migrants flows were available more often than data on their citizenship; information on stocks of foreign and foreign born population in most cases was based on population censuses, some of them conducted before 2000.

Table 2 Data availability

	All requested data	**Data provided for both sexes only**	**Data provided not for all years 2000-2006***	**Not available**	**Total**
Template table 1. Immigrants by country of previous residence	6	4	1	0	11
Template table 2. Immigrants by citizenship	3	2	1	5	11
Template table 3. Emigrants by country of next residence	6	4	0	1	11
Template table 4. Emigrants by citizenship	2	1	1	7	11
Template table 5. Resident population according to country of residence one year before and sex	0	0	2	9	11
Template table 6. Resident population by citizenship	1	2	5	3	11
Template table 7. Resident population by country of birth	1	0	7	3	11
Template table 8. Citizenship acquisition by previous citizenship	2	4	0	5	11
Population balance (both sexes)	11	0	0	0	11

* Several countries provided statistics from population censuses conducted in 1999.

[3] Acknowledgements. We would like to thank the representatives of national statistics agencies and migration authorities for provided data and consultations: Nina Cesnocova and Iuriu Golus (Moldova), Liudmila Torgasheva and Igor Gromov (Kyrgyzstan), Liubov Zadoyenko (Ukraine), Rza Allakhverdiev (Azerbaijan), Elena Kislitsyna (Tajikistan), Gagik Gevorgyan (Armenia), Marina Rakhmaninova (Russian Federation), Khalida Kambarova (Kazakhstan), Paata Shavishvili and George Mebonia (Georgia), Natalya Roganova (Uzbekistan).

[4] After consultation with Ms. Nina Cesnocova, temporary and permanent residents were combined into one table and further comparison of the data was done using both NSI and PR files. The population register in Moldova was established rather recently and is in the process of building its capacity.

8. The data provided by the countries differed from the point view of completeness and comparability. Data on flows of immigrants and emigrants (**Template tables 1 and 3**) as a rule were available in all countries although 4 countries did not provide information on the sex of migrants. Data on immigrants in Georgia related to a 2 year period before the Population census (2002) and included migrants who have resided in Georgia since 2000 and 2001.

9. **Template table 2** (information on the citizenship of immigrants) was provided by 6 countries, however only part of it was used in the analysis. The most suitable information was received from Ukraine, Belarus, Moldova and Russia (although the RF began to process statistics on citizenship only in 2002). Although Georgia provided all the requested information, it could hardly be used in comparative analysis as the figures were very low (just a few persons). Kyrgyzstan began to produce statistics on the citizenship of migrants only in 2006.

10. **Template table 4** (citizenship of emigrants) was available only in 4 countries: Moldova, Kyrgyzstan (only for 2006), Russia (since 2002) and Ukraine. Data provided by Belarus in table 4 included only nationals.

11. **Template table 5** appeared to be the most difficult to fill in**.** Although the countries provided some data based on the last population censuses, this information appeared to be missing. There was no special question about place of residence 1 year ago in the census programs. As a rule, it was asked if a person had lived in a given place since birth and if not - since what year he or she had lived there (and what the previous region/country of residence was). Georgia and Moldova (population register data) provided the same information that was presented in the template table 1. The Central Statistical Bureau of Moldova also provided data on migrants who had resided in the country for 1 year (arrived in 2004). The results of the comparison of this data with statistics of emigration to Moldova from the other states in 2004 showed a very good correlation of both sources.

12. **Template tables 6 and 7** (data on the foreign born and foreign population stock) was available for all years (2000-2006) only in Moldova and was based on the Population register. Formally, information on stocks was unavailable only in two countries: Azerbaijan and Uzbekistan, but, as a rule, the other countries used the population census to estimate the stocks both of the foreign and foreign born population, and this data was available only for one year. The censuses in Belarus, Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan were conducted in 1999, so the reference interval was different from that which was required. Kyrgyzstan, in addition to the census data, provided statistics from two household surveys (2005 and 2006, data extended to the universe). Among the states without a population register, only Statistics Belarus makes an annual estimation of the resident population (nationals and foreigners) using current data from the ministry of interior on foreign residents (persons with a residence permit over 1 year)). The foreign-born population of Belarus was estimated on the base of the census-1999. Therefore, table 6 was in fact available in 7 countries: Armenia, Belarus, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russia and Tajikistan. Template table 7 with data suitable for analysis was provided by Armenia, Georgia, Moldova, Russia, Ukraine, Kyrgyzstan (2005-2006).

13. **Template table 8** included information on citizenship acquisition and was received from 6 countries. Only three of them provided data that could be used for further work. During 2000-2006 quite a few people obtained citizenship in the countries of Armenia, Azerbaijan and

Moldova (225, 78 and 743 persons respectively. The data for Armenia was available only for 2006). Belarus provided statistics that were not divided into the countries of previous citizenship. Data from Ukraine and Russia seems to be quite adequate for the purposes of comparison

14. It could be noticed that annual data on flows of immigrants were available in all countries while the data on emigrants was not so available. Information on stocks of foreign and foreign born population in most cases was based on population censuses, some of them conducted before 2000. Data on the citizenship of migrants and on the citizenship acquisition process also appeared to be available only in some countries, however, the collected information seemed to be enough for comparative analysis at least on the basis of some states.

III. SOURCES

A. SOURCES ON FLOWS

15. The main system of migration data collection in CIS countries is inherited from the period of the Soviet Union. Official statistics of flows produced by the NSIs are based on primary individual information received on paper carriers from the police (or other authorized agencies responsible for the registration of the population). There are only two exceptions to this rule: Moldova, which established a population Register several years ago, and Georgia, which abolished registration in the early 1990's and now (since 2004) is also on its way to establishing a PR (annex 2).

16. Some countries since the 1990's have used two types of registration - in a place of residence or in a place of stay, and the statistics include only the first category of migrants. This means that the comparability of such data seems to be good only if the rules of registration and definitions of the place of residence are similar.

Box 1 Method of collection of statistics on migration flows in the CIS countries.

This method of migration data collection comes from the early 1930's, when the passport system was established in the USSR. Registration and de-registration of the population in (or from) the place of permanent residence was accompanied by the filling in of several forms, one of them – for the purposes of statistical observation, the other - for police use only. Information on children (if they have no passports - i.e. under 14 or 16 years old) moving with adults is to be included into the statistical form of an adult (only once). If a child is moving alone, a separate form is to be filled out. This method of data collection is still in use in CIS countries for the estimation of both internal and international migration.

Ukraine recently began to use copies of police forms for statistical purposes: although the coverage of migration flows has improved, the list of available variables has shortened. The primary forms are collected and passed on monthly to the statistical bodies for computer input and further processing. In Kazakhstan, nationals are registered in the agency of the Ministry of Justice, and foreigners – in the Ministry of Interior. Statistics on foreigners are based on special 'statistical' coupons attached to the migration card of each foreigner. Both coupons to migration cards and statistical forms filled out for nationals are sent to the national statistical body for processing.

Data on emigration is collected in a similar way when a person is officially de-registered from the place of residence. In Russia the "departure" forms are filled out only in the case of emigration abroad, while other countries use both arrival and departure forms to measure internal migration.
The list of questions in the form make it possible to collect a variety of information about a migrant. Coverage strongly depends on the accuracy of registration. As a rule, children are registered much worse than adults are, and many emigrants do not de-register before departure, as some personal rights (for example – to have a residence (dwelling space) in the country of origin) require this kind registration.

B. SOURCES ON STOCKS

17. The foreign and foreign-born population are, as a rule, estimated through the population censuses. Moldova can also use the Register data. The census is a good source of information, but there are long time intervals between each one, and they can not provide up-to-date information both on the foreign born and foreign population.

18. In some countries, statistical bodies (and it is not typical up to the moment) receive information on the foreign population (residents or issued permits to stay) from the Ministry of Interior. As a rule, the diversity of available variables is very poor. Some important data on migration is not available even by sex or age. The data will never improve until there is no demand for improvement, and the national statistical institute should interact with the migration authorities. In the RF, data on issued residence permits and residence permits holders is available by request. Only Kyrgyzstan used the national household sample survey to estimate the foreign and foreign-born population in the country.

19. In the CIS countries annual statistics of flows in most countries is based on primary information on persons registered (or de-registered) in the police agencies, while data on stocks are mainly collected within population censuses. Population (of foreign population) registers are used only in Moldova (and partly in Georgia).

IV. DEFINITIONS

20. UN Recommendations on Statistics of International Migration define an international migrant as "a person who changes his or her country of usual residence. A person's country of usual residence is that in which the person has a place to live where he or she normally spends the daily period of rest". For estimation of migration flows 1 year time criterion is used (presence in the country of destination and absence from the country of origin).

21. Statistics of flows observes persons who are de-jure registered and de-registered in a certain place of residence (address) by the police or other authorized agency. As a rule, a place of residence is defined as a dwelling where a person lives predominantly or permanently, while a place of stay is defined as a dwelling where a person lives temporarily; the "daily period of rest" is not mentioned anywhere (see annex 3 for more detailed definitions of place of stay and residence used in the CIS countries) . It means that a time criterion is necessary to separate temporary stay from permanent residence. However not all the countries use it in their practice

and even if they do, time limit may differ, and, what is more important, 'the one year' criterion seems not to be used anywhere.

22. Only some countries[5] of 11 use the time criterion to identify if a person must be registered in a place of residence or in a place of stay (see annex 3 for the details of time limits). Belarus and Russia do not use it. A 6 month criterion of stay in the new place (for registration in *the place of residence)* is used in Georgia, Ukraine, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Moldova and Tajikistan. Some countries use different criteria for nationals and foreigners or define it only for foreigners.

Box 2 Registration in a place of stay and place of residence in the RF.

Since 1996 a person in the RF can be registered in a place of stay and in a place of residence. Statistical data are collected only about the second category of migrants, although the first category is rather numerous. Before 2000 foreigners from the CIS countries in Russia could be registered in a place of residence without any residence permit if they proved their right to dwell in a certain place. When this rule was established in 2000 many migrants did not manage to get the residence permit as is was provided to the closest relatives only – children and spouses of the RF residents. Therefore other relatives could be registered only in a *place of stay* (irrespectively of how long they in fact resided in Russia). Statistics on international migration immediately 'lost' a lot of migrants, as the primary forms were not filled out for them. It is the main explanation of dramatic decrease in immigration to the RF since 2001. Since 2002 there was one more change in rules of data collection which again caused underestimation of international migrants (see chapter 9). According to the rules there is no time limit *of stay* and the period of registration of a RF citizen is determined by the dwelling space owner.

23. Very often time criterion is connected with the status of a foreigner, as an application for a residence permit (and further registration in a place of residence) is necessary after a certain period of stay. In all the CIS states, a foreigner must have a residence permit if he or she wants to reside in the country and be registered in a place of residence. If a foreigner does not have a residence permit, only registration in a place of stay is possible and in this case statistical forms are not filled out[6].

24. There are many long term visa holders who do not need a residence permit. In some countries this may influence the accuracy of migration statistics based on registration in the place of residence. Such migrants are registered only in a place of stay, although the duration of stay may last several years. Work and educational visa holders can extend the expiry date as many times as they require. Therefore, the underestimation of immigration may be considerable. The same persons are not de-registered as emigrants in their countries; although formally the balance is correct, the true situation is not shown[7]. However, this issue deals with migrants from the states with a visa regime, citizens of the CIS countries except Georgia and Turkmenistan do not need a visa to travel within the region.

[5] This information was not provided by all the countries.
[6] In Russia, before 15 January 2007, foreigners with temporary residence permits could also be registered only in a place of stay although such a permit was valid for 3years. In Armenia, an ordinary residence permit can be issued for a person which have resided in the country for 3 years as a temporary residence permit holder (except special categories of migrants).
[7] In 2007, the Federal migration service of the Russian Federation issued over 303 thousand multi-visas, among them 64 thousand educational and 238 thousand – work visas.

25. In all the countries, the migrant must confirm his or her right to stay or reside in a certain residence, i.e. - provide authorization signed by the flat /house owner, or a document proving the migrant's ownership of the dwelling.

26. As a rule, the registration agency belongs to the Ministry of Interior. There may be a special division responsible for registration – like the Federal migration service in the RF and Department of citizenship and registration of physical persons in Ukraine. In Kazakhstan, nationals are registered in the agencies of the Ministry of Justice, and foreigners; in the Ministry of interior. The population register of Moldova is managed by the Ministry of informational development, but the Ministry of Interior issues residence permits for foreigners and collects its own statistics.

27. Statistics of immigration and emigration in the CIS countries depends on definitions of place of residence and place of stay, as well as on time criterion used to define both categories. The time criterion to separate temporary and permanent residence is not applied everywhere and may differ from 30 days (I Azerbaijan) to 3 years (in Armenia). In all the states a foreigner can become a resident only after gaining of a residence permit.

V. VARIABLES

28. The depth of any analysis depends on the variety of characteristics of the observed object or process. Social and demographic information on migrants is very important to understand the reasons and consequences of migration. Although in many cases countries did not provide statistics by sex, some other available variables were marked.

Table 4 Number of countries that process information by the following variables

Variable / Template	**Table 1**	**Table 2**	**Table 3**	**Table 4**	**Table 5**	**Table 6**	**Table 7**	**Table 8**
Age	9	3	8	3	2	6	3	0
Citizenship	4	6	4	4	1	9	-	6
Country of birth	3	2	3	3	1	3	8	1
Country (place) of previous residence	11	1	0	0	3	0	0	0
Educational attainment	7	1	7	1	1	3	2	1
Ethnicity/ nationality	9	2	8	2	2	4	4	1
Marital status	6	2	5	2	1	2	1	1
Reason for migration	4	1	2	1	0	1	0	0
Activity status	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	
Sex	8	4	8	3	3	8	8	2

29. The number of available variables depends on the source of information. A very diverse set of data is collected through a census, however, the process of data processing is sometimes limited by financial considerations. Variables of statistics of flows depend on what information is included in the primary forms and what tabulation is planned. Rosstat have used modern forms since 1996, but information on citizenship has been processed only since 2002, as well as some other variables.

Table 5 Availability of variables for different types of data in selected countries

KYRGYZSTAN								
Template table No.:	**1**	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**6**	**7**	**8**
Age	x	x	x	x	NA	x	x	NA
Marital status	x	x	x	x	NA			NA
Citizenship	x	x	x	x	NA	x		NA
Country of birth	x	x	x	x	NA		x	NA
Reason for migration	x	x	x	x	NA			NA
Ethnicity/nationality	x	x	x	x	NA			NA
Educational attainment	x	x	x	x	NA			NA
Activity status	x	x	x	x	NA			NA
Country of previous residence	x				NA			NA
MOLDOVA (POPULATION REGISTER)								
Template table No.:	**1**	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**6**	**7**	**8**
Age	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Marital status	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Citizenship	x	x	x	x	x	x		x
Country of birth	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Reason for migration								
Ethnicity/nationality	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Educational attainment	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Activity status								
Country of previous residence	x				x			
RUSSIAN FEDERATION								
Template table No.:	**1**	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**6**	**7**	**8**
Age	x	x	x	x	NA	x		NS
Marital status					NA			NS
Citizenship	x	x	x	x	NA	x		x
Country of birth					NA		x	NS
Reason for migration	x		x		NA			NS
Ethnicity/nationality	x		x		NA	x	x	NS
Educational attainment	x		x		NA			NS
Activity status					NA			NS
Country of previous residence	x	x			NA			NS

* NA – not available, NS – not specified

30. Data on age, sex and the country of previous residence is available for flows of immigrants and emigrants. Only 4 countries produce data on the citizenship of migrants. Qualitative characteristics that are necessary to describe migrants are available in a larger number of countries: ethnicity (9), educational attainment (7) and marital status (6). Only four

states process data on the reason for the move, although this information seems to be rather formal.

31. An advantage of the Population register of Moldova was proven by its wide-range of available variables. All the required statistics (templates 1-8) are available by age, marital status, country of birth, ethnicity and educational attainment. Besides Moldova, most of the necessary variables could be provided by the statistical agencies of Kyrgyzstan and the Russian Federation (table 5). As a rule, the data obtained from national ministries of interior (-residence permits, citizenship acquisition) is not available even by sex.

32. The countries that use primary statistical forms do not always process all the collected information for budgetary or other considerations. Some available data is not inputted or, even if it has been inputted, not processed[8]. For example, data on migrants' citizenship is collected but not processed in Azerbaijan and Armenia, data on the place of birth is included in the primary form used in all the countries except Kazakhstan, but is inputted and processed in only 3 of them: Ukraine, the RF and Moldova. There are certain differences in the list of available variables, and the reason for move is, perhaps, the most rare one.

VI. POPULATION BALANCE AND MIGRATION STATISTICS

33. Appropriate migration statistics are so important because of their impact on population estimates. They mean that the coverage of migration influences the parameters of national accounts and data used for population projections and regional development plans.

34. Eight countries out of 11 included data on immigrants and emigrants (templates 1 and 3) in the population balance, while the other three - Georgia, Moldova and Tajikistan - used migration data for population estimation in a different manner. Statistics Ukraine revised the net migration in 2000 and 2001 after the census - 2002 and since 2003 has used regular data on in and out migration flows (templates 1 and 3).

35. The statistical bureau of Moldova used annual data on flows of immigrants and emigrants from the templates 1 and 3, however some slight (and not dramatic) adjustments were undertaken annually. The most considerable adjustment was done for the year 2000, when the negative net migration was reduced from - 6380 to - 2818 persons. Adjustments are based on the correction of error in provisional estimations of population size. As a rule, this difference (error) is not considerable and is caused by the final corrections of birth and death numbers at the end of the year. The adjustment for 2000 was caused by an error in estimation of emigration. Total net migration in 2000-2006 was negative -28,5 thousand, while annual adjustments reduce it by +4 thousand.

[8] A special questionnaire was sent to the NSIs of the CIS countries to clarify what variables are included in the primary form and what are actually inputted and processed. Answers were received from 8 countries.

36. Georgia did not provide annual data on flows of immigrants and emigrants due to the absence of a regular system of migrants registration and data collection[9]. Data on immigration flows (template 1) was based on the Census 2002 and data on emigration (template table 3) contained some information from the Central register of aliens (CRA), but it included just a few persons and could be hardly used in the calculation of population balance. However, the estimated population by the end of the year differed from the population at the beginning of the year not only by the value of the natural increase. In some way, net migration appeared to be taken into account as well. According to the explanation provided by Statistics Georgia, this difference is based on data on entries and exits collected by the Border police of Georgia. Such a methodology of net-migration estimation is unlikely to provide accurate results, and seems to be a forced measure. The number of supposed fluctuated within the period of observation from -35 thousand in 2000 to + 76 thousand in 2006 and was equal to -41 thousand for the whole period.

37. Tajikistan included data on immigration and emigration into the population balance, but there were annual adjustments of net migration. As was commented upon by Statistics Tajikistan, the population balance includes both *internal* and international net migration. Internal net migration (between regions of the country) theoretically should be equal to zero but due to a certain time lag between the moment of departure and registration in the new place of residence there is some difference in the numbers of arrivals and departures by the end of the year. This residual is equal approximately to 3000 persons annually and is used for the adjustment and correction of the population balance. Total net migration for the period 2000-2006 was equal to -63,9 thousand while adjustments increased negative net migration to -82,3 thousand. After the next census, the population quantity will be adjusted as well.

38. All the countries with regular systems of population registration and the collection of migration statistics include net migration into population balance estimations. Censuses of population data are used for adjustments of annual statistics. Therefore, there is a demand for data accuracy from both sources, because the estimates of the population would be unsatisfactory if migration is intensive and not measured well.

VII. COMPARISON OF FLOWS OF IMMIGRANTS AND EMIGRANTS : BETWEEN RECEIVING AND SENDING COUNTRIES

38. Relatively low figures of migration flows in the data prove that this region has a special migration regime, when thousands of migrants move on a temporary basis to get a job. A visa-free system greatly facilitates regular visits to the country of origin, and many migrants do not apply for resident status and do not intend to become nationals of the destination country. Their families remain in the home country. Partially it is caused by underdeveloped legislation and difficulties in obtaining permanent resident status. In Russia, the process of Residence permit acquisition is rather complicated and most migrants can not apply for it or do not want to do it.

[9] The population register in Georgia is being created.

39. The accuracy of comparison strongly depends on what countries are being compared: there are states with intensive and numerous migration flows, while some directions of migration are very 'weak'. Annual numbers may be hardly comparable for the same reason.

40. The procedure of comparison was as follows: the data of country X on total emigration to country Y from 2000 until 2006 was compared with the total immigration from X counted in the country Y. Comparison of data was sometimes difficult because the figures were very low (even aggregated volumes of flows within the 7-year period). For instance, in 2000-2006 Ukraine counted only 108 emigrants who left for Tajikistan, Belarus – 51 emigrants who moved to Tajikistan , Azerbaijan – 47 persons who emigrated to Moldova etc.

41. Understanding of coverage both of immigrants and emigrants is important. Theoretically, and ideally, data on emigrants collected in the country of origin should coincide with data on immigrants from the same country in the country of destination, i.e. each migrant should be recorded twice[10]. To get information on the "degree" of coverage of immigration, it is necessary to carry out a reverse procedure. Table 6 shows that in Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan the number of immigrants from the other CIS countries by 60% exceeded the amount of emigrants who left for these countries and were de-registered in the countries of origin. Kyrgyzstan also demonstrates a better coverage of emigrants (170% of immigrants from Kyrgyzstan were counted in the other countries). In the absolute figures Ukraine has the biggest 'overestimation' of immigration (to be more precise – the most considerable positive residual) - about 65,000 persons during the 7-year period.

Table 6 "Coverage" of immigrants counted in the countries of destination and emigrants counted in the countries of origin. 2000-2006, persons

	Difference between immigrants counted in the country of destination and emigrants counted in the countries of origin	Difference between emigrants counted in the country of origin and immigrants counted in the countries of destination	'Coverage' of immigrants (immigrants to emigrants)	'Coverage' of emigrants (emigrants to immigrants)
Armenia	-1626,5	-10909	0,80	0,84
Azerbaijan	-1802,5	-23361	0,88	0,58
Belarus	17968	-5634,5	1,19	0,90
Kazakhstan	10990,5	22515,5	1,03	1,05
Kyrgyzstan	11069,5	76449	1,60	1,70
Moldova CSB	-4206	-48496,5	0,73	0,42
Moldova PR	-9137	-50890,5	0,41	0,39
Russia	-133632	-100423,5	0,90	0,77
Tajikistan	1117,5	14765,5	1,14	1,26
Ukraine	64606,5	-15700	1,35	0,94
Uzbekistan	17032,5	143904	1,61	1,34

[10] Enrico Bisogno. Measuring emigration: various options for a difficult challenge. Expert Group Meeting on measuring international migration. New York, 4-7 December 2006, PowerPoint presentation.

42. A much lower immigrant flow was observed in Moldova (especially by its Population Register that covered about 41% of the inflow of migrants from the other 9 countries of the CIS). As the official statistics of emigration in Moldova since 2002 are totally based on population register data both sources covered only about 40% of emigrants.

43. The Russian Federation also demonstrates an 'underestimation' both of immigrants (about 134 thousand) and emigrants (over 100 thousand). The coverage of immigrants is not so bad (about 90% of emigrants to RF are counted in the other countries), while emigrants are registered worse (77% of immigrants from the RF in the CIS).

44. To understand the degree to which data is different or similar on the same migrant flows collected in sending and receiving countries, the aggregated data (for the whole period) was transformed into a matrix (annex 5, table A). Then the data on immigrants in the countries of destination were related to the number of emigrants from the countries of origin (Annexes Table B), and vice versa – the number of emigrants were related to immigrants to evaluate the coverage of emigrants in the country of origin. In both cases is was supposed that the comparison will show the degree of 'underestimation' in one of the compared countries.

45. Amongst all the countries (coverage of counter flows in both countries), Belarus and Ukraine demonstrated a figure closest to the '1' ratio (table D, annex 5); Russia and Ukraine (the number of immigrants in the RF was very close to the number of emigrants counted in Ukraine). The correlation in data between Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan was rather good (about a 90 per cent correlation), and between Armenia and Ukraine (also about 90 per cent).

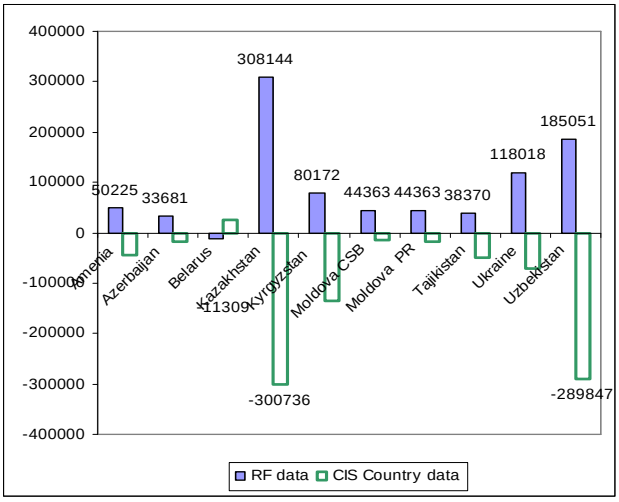
46. A problematic correlation was demonstrated between the data on immigrants and emigrants from Armenia to Ukraine (there were twice as many immigrants than emigrants), from Moldova to Belarus – 2.2 ; from Russia to Uzbekistan (2.3 times more immigrants than emigrants - 22206 to 9550 persons respectively). There were even more unsatisfactory ratios, but the numbers of migrants were too low to consider the comparison to be reliable.

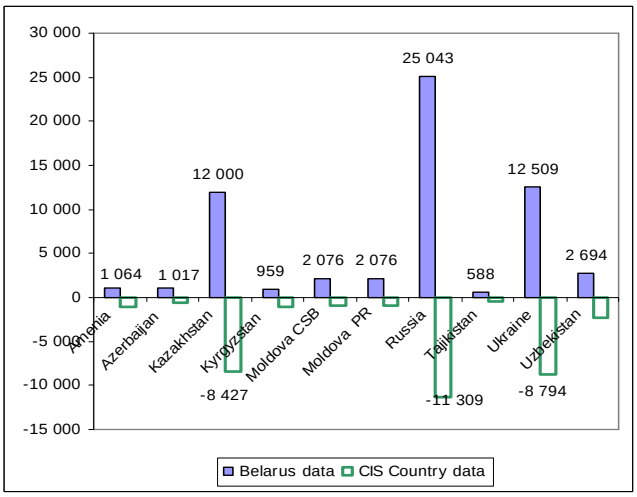
47. As the estimation of emigration is the most interesting and difficult issue, we shall focus on these results. Technically it is the same procedure of reversal data correlation, but for the purposes of comprehension of how good the coverage of emigrants is it is better to use this option. (Table E Annexes). The coverage of emigrants was the poorest in Moldova (all directions, but especially to the RF and Ukraine – 46% and 40% of immigrants from Moldova respectively), in Azerbaijan regarding emigration to Ukraine (32% of immigrants from Azerbaijan to Ukraine); in Russia (the data on emigration to Kyrgyzstan – covered only 40% of immigrants from the RF to Kyrgyzstan). The best coverage of emigration from Russia was observed in the direction of Azerbaijan and Armenia. Moldova 'underestimated' the migration inflow from the RF.

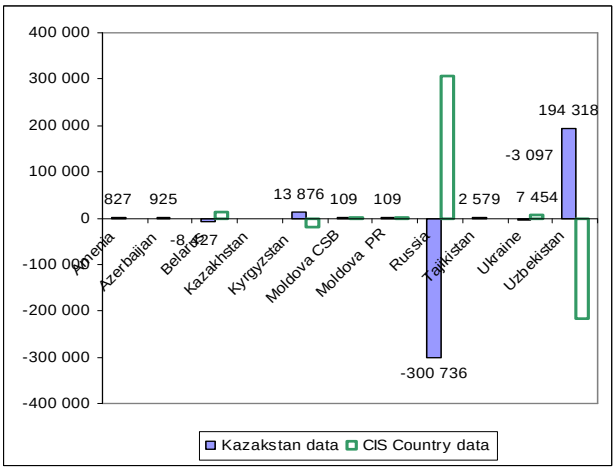
48. It should be taken into account that for political reasons some regions of states such as Moldova, Georgia and Azerbaijan are not under central jurisdiction. National statistical offices do not collect data about migration from these regions while countries of immigration count these migrants according to their previous country of residence. Therefore, if a migrant from the region of the Left bank of the River Dnestr (or, from Abkhazia) arrives in Russia, his or her

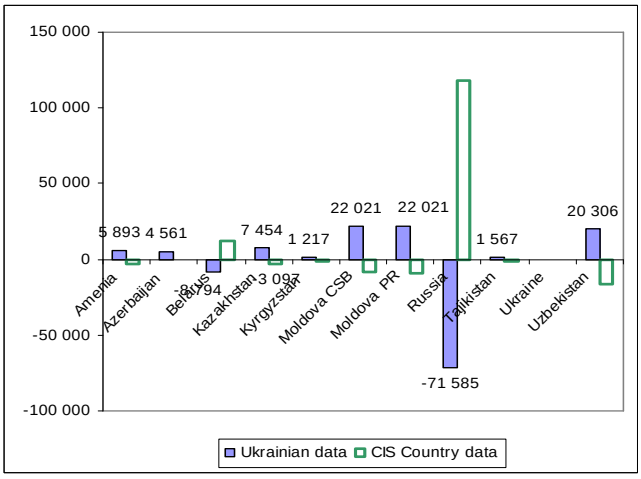
previous place of residence would be registered as Moldova (or Georgia). Sometimes these flows may be rather considerable.

Chart 1 Comparison of net migration estimated in the Belarus, Kazakhstan , the RF and Ukraine and the other CIS countries. 2000-2006, persons





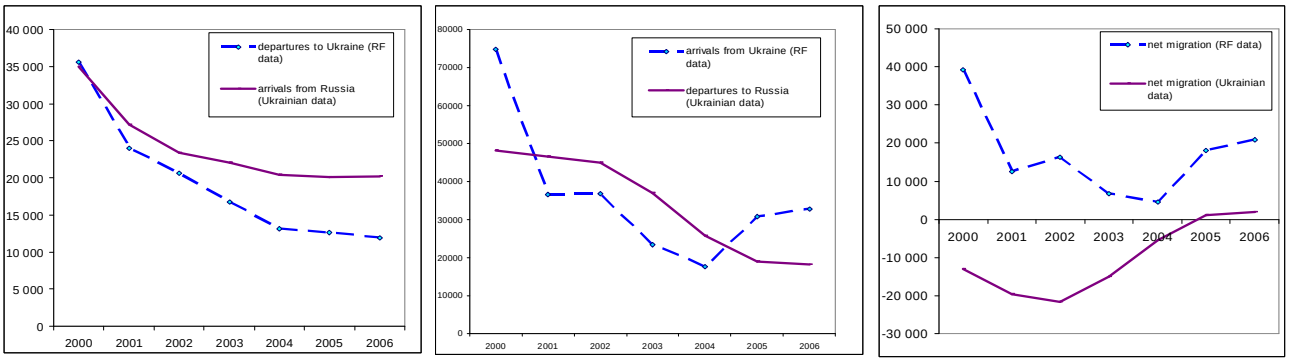




49. The results of migration exchange between the countries could also be compared using the data on net migration estimated in the country of origin and country of destination (Table C, Annex 4). The countries with the biggest flows show considerable difference in the estimation of net migration. More often, sending countries show a smaller size of negative net migration (Chart 1). In the case of migration exchange with Russia, Uzbekistan 'overestimated' migration loss, during the period of observation the difference came to about 100,000 persons (Russia did not count these people). In the case of Belarus (the only CIS state that as well as Russia has a positive net migration) Moldova, Azerbaijan, Russia and Ukraine 'underestimated' the negative net migration by about 40%. A more detailed analysis proved that both the volume of net migration and the correlation between immigrants and emigrants may vary from year to year. It is worth doing a comparison of annual data in order to monitor the possible changes.

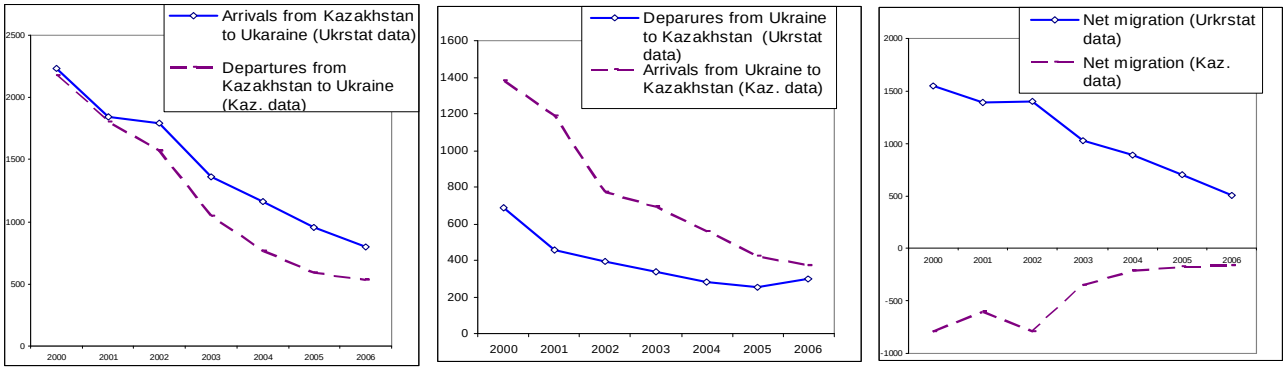
50. *Russia and Ukraine* (chart 2) A comparison of annual data on migration flows between Ukraine and Russia gave unlikely results: since 2005 both countries had positive net migration in mutual migration exchange (although the figures are hardly comparable: in 2006 Russia had + 20,795 and Ukraine + 2,017 'net-migrants'). Russian statistics demonstrates an increasing numbers of immigrants from Ukraine in 2005 and 2006, while Ukraine shows a simultaneous decrease of emigration to the RF. Of course, it might have happened due to some registration peculiarities or de-registration of migrants. An additional investigation should be undertaken by national statistical institutes to clarify the situation and avoid the incorrect interpretation of the real trends.

Chart 2 Migration flows and net migration in Ukraine and the RF. 2000-2006, persons



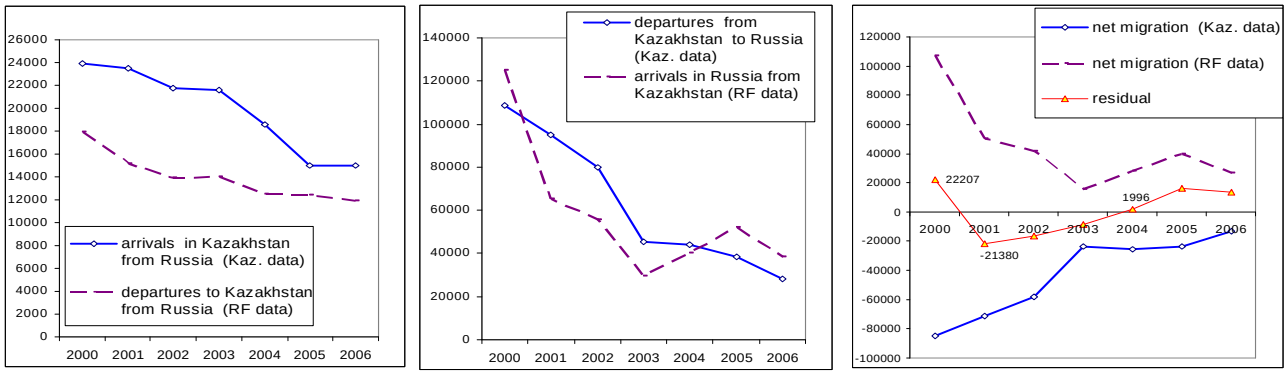
51. *Ukraine and Kazakhstan* (chart 3). Since 2002, departures from Kazakhstan to Ukraine started to be registered worse than arrivals to Ukraine, while volume of the counter flow seems to be estimated almost similarly both in Ukraine and Kazakhstan. Net migration in 2000-2006 to Kazakhstan was 'underestimated', in Ukraine it was almost 3 times higher, although the volume is rather small (in 2007 – 164 persons to Kazakhstan and + 502 to Ukraine).

Chart 3 Migration flows and net migration in Kazakhstan and Ukraine. 2000-2006, persons



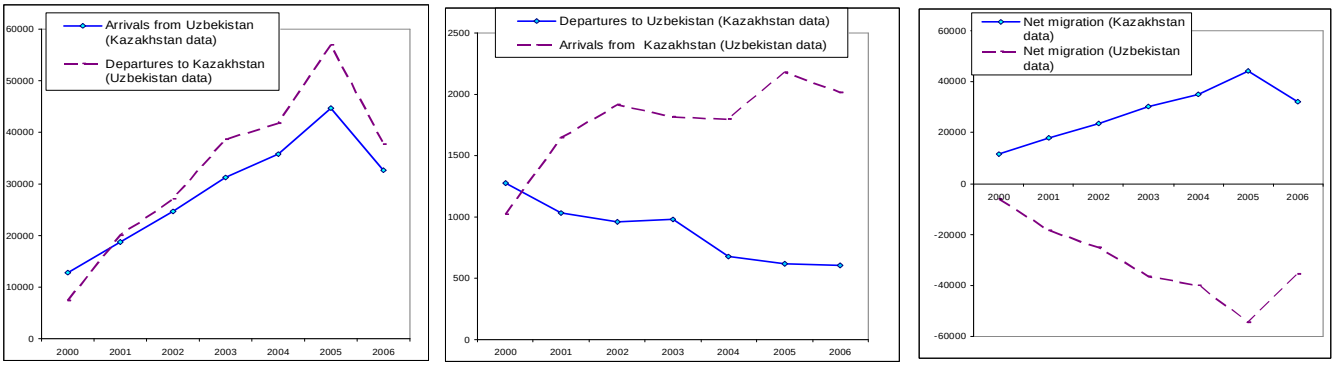
52. *Kazakhstan and the Russian Federation* (chart 4) Rosstat 'underestimates' emigration *to* rather than immigration *from* Kazakhstan, therefore net migration appears to be higher, but the general trend seems to be the same. Although the total difference in the coverage of net migration in Kazakhstan and Russia is not dramatic (+308 thousand in Russia and -301 thousand in Kazakhstan within the 7- year interval), it masks considerable annual differences.

Chart 4 Migration flows and net migration between Kazakhstan and the RF 2000-2006, persons



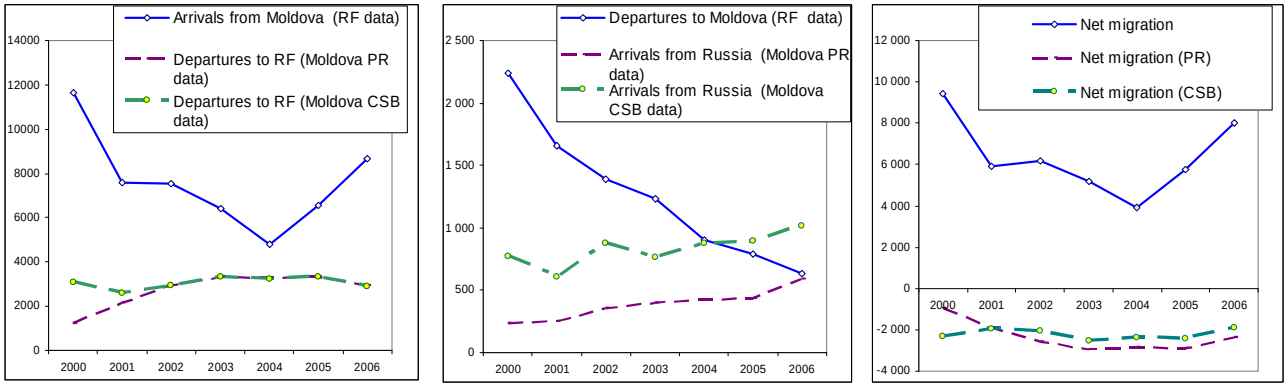
53. *Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan* (chart 5). These countries demonstrate fairly close data on the flows in the same direction. Even in the case of a good correlation in data a certain difference could be noticed in the estimation of emigrants by the statistical agency of Kazakhstan and immigrants from RK in Uzbekistan. However, the numbers are relatively low and do not influence the situation in general: the absolute volume of net migration in both countries are very similar for every year of observation.

Chart 5 Migration flows and net migration in Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan. 2000-2006, persons



54. *Moldova and Russian* (chart 6) The case of Moldova is of special interest. Comparing the statistics of Moldova (collected by the Central Statistical Bureau and data obtained from the Population register) with statistics of Russia, we can see that CSB data appears to be more complete as it includes information from the Ministry of interior, and provides better coverage of some categories of migrants that are underestimated by the PR. The main problem in data comparability can be seen on the second chart – the statistics of Moldova and Russia demonstrate opposite trends in migration to Moldova: Rosstat observes a permanent decrease in emigration and Moldova observes a simultaneous increase in immigration from Russia.

Chart 6 Migration flows and net migration in Moldova and the RF. 2000-2006, persons



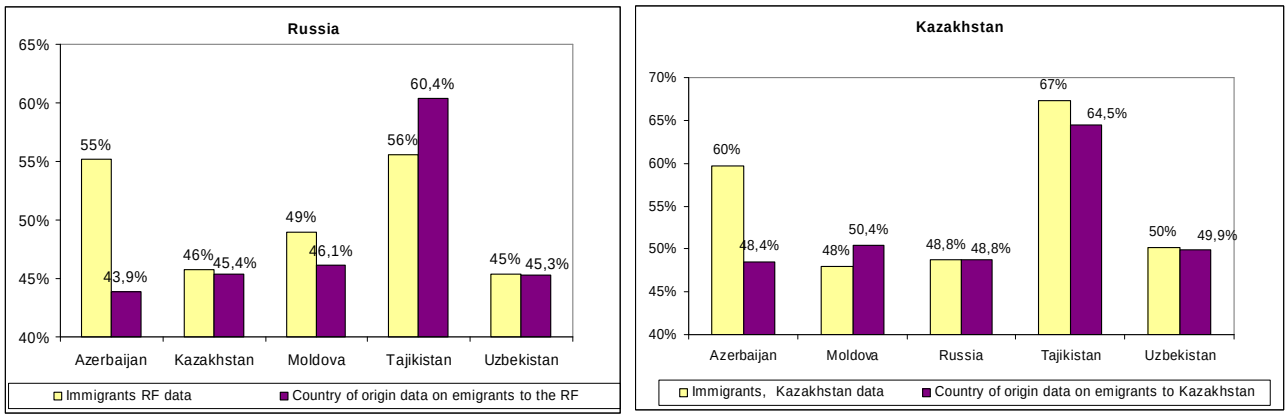
55. *Georgia* was the only country which abolished the system of registration in a place of residence (so called "propiska") after the country had declared its independence, and it did not simultaneously introduce any alternative. Current statistics of migration were undermined and the Census-2002 became an unique chance to collect information on recent migration trends. Statistics Georgia provided data on life-time migrants who moved to Georgia from abroad in 2000-2001. The comparison of data with statistics on emigration to Georgia from the CIS countries (Table 7) showed that the annual figures differed at least twice (there were more immigrants to Georgia than emigrants from the country). It seems that the aggregated data on emigrants for 2 years - 2000 and 2001 looks very similar to the data on immigrants who arrived in Georgia in 2000. However, the figures are rather low (except migration from the RF) and it may be just a coincidence. Besides, Georgia did not count immigrants on the territory of Abkhazia, while the countries of emigration identified the direction of emigration for these persons as "Georgia" and theoretically there should be fewer immigrants to Georgia than emigrants from the country.

Table 7 Georgian census data on life time immigrants (20001-2001) and statistics of emigration to Georgia from the CIS countries

Country of origin	2000 (Census of Georgia data)	2001 (Census of Georgia data)	2000 (Country of origin data on emigrants)	2001 (Country of origin data on emigrants)	2000-2001 Country of origin data
Armenia	192	405	66	61	127
Azerbaijan	180	344	97	53	150
Belarus	29	46	5	26	31
Kazakhstan	72	99	38	42	80
Kyrgyzstan	5	7	12	6	18
Moldova	12	17	0	0	0
Russia	3200	3746	1 802	1 339	3 141
Tajikistan	5	12	8	18	26
Turkmenistan	1	11			
Ukraine	271	441	207	97	304
Uzbekistan	25	29	21	10	31
Total	3992,0	5157	2256	1652	3908

56. *Sex composition of migration flows* (chart 7). To check the 'quality' of coverage it is necessary to compare some other characteristics of flows. Five countries provided information on the sex of immigrants and emigrants. The comparison was sometimes not possible because of the very low number of migrants.

Chart 7 Males ratio among immigrants and emigrants from selected CIS countries in Russia and Kazakhstan. 2000-2006, %



57. Russia and Kazakhstan were chosen as the data is more substantial. There was a certain difference in data collected in Azerbaijan on emigrants and in Kazakhstan and Russia on immigrants from this state: the percentage of males among immigrants was obviously higher than among emigrants counted in Azerbaijan. It may mean an 'underestimation' of either the emigration of males from Azerbaijan or the immigration of females in the countries of destination . The flows from other countries demonstrate very a similar sex composition of flows. However, the comparison was limited due to the very low figures of immigrants and emigrants in some countries. (For more detailed data see annex 1).

58. The comparison of data on flows showed that statistics of immigration and emigration collected in receiving and sending countries respectively seem to agree well in some cases, but it is obvious that aggregated data is not good enough for the analysis both in terms of period of observation and variables. It means that comparison of annual data demonstrates considerable annual fluctuations, besides, more variables are necessary to understand if we compare the same populations.

VIII. CITIZENSHIP OF EMIGRANTS AND IMMIGRANTS: COMPARISON OF DATA ON FLOWS

59. The comparison is based on information received from Belarus[11], Ukraine and Moldova from 2000 - 2006. The period of observation for the RF differed (2002-2006) due to the lack of data for the previous years. Data provided by some other countries showed very low numbers of foreign migrants and could hardly be used in analysis.

[11] Belarus was the only country which provided in table 2 statistics on residence permits issued for foreigners by the MOI.

60. Some considerations are to be taken into account. There was a very important limitation in the analytical capabilities of the data collected on the citizenship of immigrants and emigrants (templates 2 and 4). The requested information included only the citizenship (and sex) of immigrants and emigrants, *irrespective of the direction of migration*. It was not possible to define where the citizens of each country arrived from or moved to, and it is clear that both parameters (citizenship and direction of migration) do not necessarily coincide. It could be assumed that citizens of Kazakhstan are more likely to move to Kazakhstan from the RF, and citizens of Ukraine move to Ukraine. Data on ethnicity perhaps could be helpful here as many countries have this information (although ethnicity also does not necessarily coincide with the direction of migration or citizenship). As the nationals were not distributed by the countries of origin and destination as well, it blocked further comparison of data.

Table 8 Ratio of foreigners in flows of immigrants in/ and emigrants from the CIS selected countries, (Belarus*, Ukraine, Moldova PR – 2000-2006, Russia – 2003-2006), %

	Immigrants (statistics of the country of destination)				Emigrants (statistics of the country of origin)		
Country of citizenship	UKRAINE	RUSSIA	MOLDOVA	BELARUS	UKRAINE	RUSSIA	MOLDOVA
Armenia	64,4%	12,1%	101,4%	105,6%	87,0%	8,3%	100,0%
Azerbaijan	64,6%	8,2%	97,1%	96,3%	65,5%	12,3%	78,6%
Belarus	31,1%	4,8%	74,2%		5,3%	1,6%	5,2%
Georgia	65,1%	5,0%	101,7%	100,9%	61,4%	5,4%	64,7%
Kazakhstan	35,9%	6,5%	89,3%	38,2%	31,4%	4,0%	40,2%
Kyrgyzstan	46,1%	4,9%	100,0%	53,4%	48,0%	5,4%	75,0%
Moldova	25,8%	5,7%		81,1%	23,8%	5,6%	
Russian Federation	38,6%		53,5%	92,0%	11,8%		2,6%
Tajikistan	43,9%	6,0%	91,7%	75,6%	88,9%	5,4%	88,9%
Turkmenistan	61,6%	6,4%	91,7%	44,7%	89,2%	7,3%	50,0%
Ukraine		9,4%	80,2%	74,0%		6,2%	9,8%
Uzbekistan	36,3%	11,4%	101,6%	139,8%	59,5%	8,3%	97,6%
Total foreigners**	43,8%	**8,2%**	81,3%	82,8%	10,1%	**3,2**%	14,4%
Total nationals	53,4%	89,7%	18,7%	17,2%	88,2%	95,4%	85,6%

* Data on nationality of emigrants from Belarus were not provided.

** Stateless and 'unknown' are not included

61. The following data was compared: flows of immigrants by countries of origin and citizenship (templates 1 and 2 respectively), and flows of emigrants by countries of destination and citizenship (templates 3 and 4 respectively).

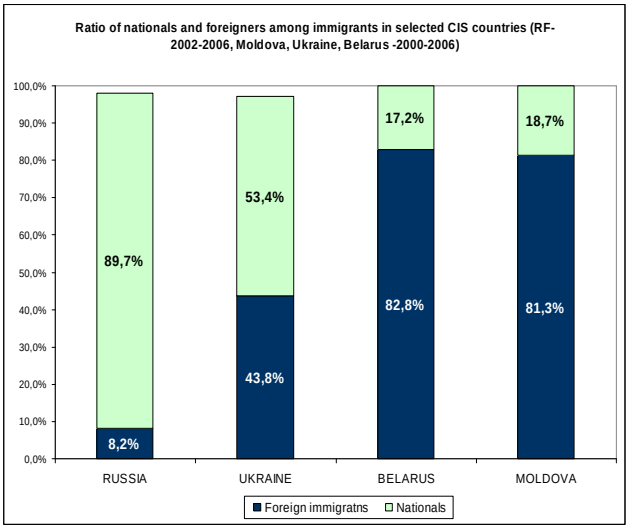
62. The composition of migration flows by citizenship differs not only by countries, but also by the direction of migration (immigration or emigration). The ratio of foreigners in migration flows is the main feature distinguishing the selected countries.

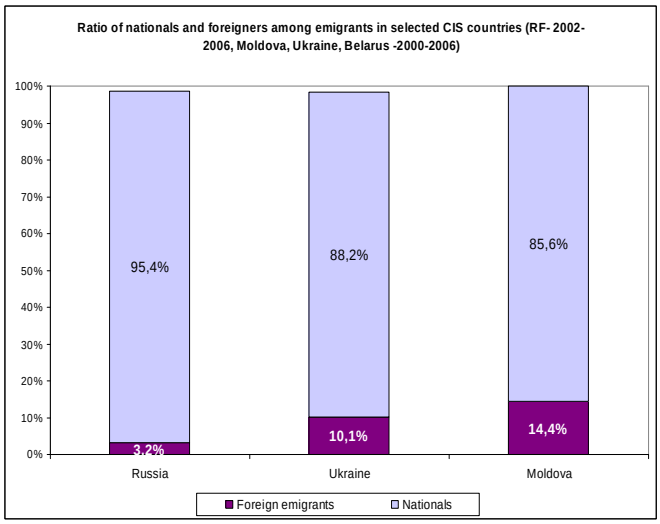
63. Immigrants in Moldova and Belarus are mainly foreigners. In Ukraine, the average ratio of foreigners is about 43%, but it strongly depends on the country of origin and may vary from 25% (in the case of Moldova) to almost 65% (in the case of the countries of Caucasus). Russia demonstrates the smallest ratio of foreigners among immigrants.

64. International agreements on simplified procedure of citizenship acquisition have a strong impact on the composition of immigration flow by citizenship. Soon after arrival, immigrants acquire citizenship in the country of destination and after that are registered and included in statistics as nationals of this country. This can explain a lower percentage of foreigners among immigrants from Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan in Ukraine. A similar situation is observed in Russia. Many nationals of Moldova have double citizenship (Ukrainian is the second), this fact may explain a rather low ratio of foreigners among immigrants from Moldova in Ukraine.

Chart 8 Ratio of foreigners and nationals in migration flows in selected CIS countries , %

(a) Immigration (b) Emigration





65. Certain trends can be observed in the ratio of foreigners among immigrants from 2000-2006; the ratio was decreasing in Moldova (from 83% in 2000 to 78% in 2006) and increasing in Ukraine (from 37% in 2000 to over 51% in 2006). In Belarus and Russia there were fluctuations, but they do not allow us to make any definite conclusions because the observation period is rather short.

66. The composition of emigrants by nationality in three countries is more or less similar; about 88-95% of emigrants are nationals. The percentage of nationals in the flow of emigrants depends on the direction of emigration: the majority of emigrants from Belarus and Ukraine to Russia are nationals of the country of origin, while emigrants that move to the countries of Caucasus and Central Asia are foreigners (possibly they are nationals of the country of destination). The emigration of foreigners from Russia is underestimated for the reason described below.

67. The main problem concerning the data on the citizenship of migrants is the extremely low percentage of foreigners in migration flows in the Russian Federation. It was observed within the whole period of time since the data started being processed, and can be explained as follows: a) since 2000 there have been dramatic changes in data collection procedures and b) (for immigrants only) there are a lot of immigrants who acquire RF citizenship in a simplified manner (the procedure takes 3 months from arrival) and which are registered and counted as nationals.

a) The statistics collected in the RF was seriously affected in 2002 when certain changes occurred in the rules of data collection. Since 2002, the methodology of data collection was established only for nationals. This affected both the estimation of in and out migration of foreigners in Russia, although emigrants are more likely to be RF nationals moving abroad.

b) The simplified way to gain RF citizenship is available either on the basis of the multilateral international agreement (signed in 1999 by Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and the Russian Federation), or, if a foreigner belongs to one of the special categories – for instance, if he or she is married to a person (or has a parent) who is a citizen of the RF, etc. Acquisition of citizenship according to the international agreement may take only 3 months, while the 'family reunification' method may take about 12 months[12]. Applicants without "privileges" must stay in the country for a certain period of time with the status of a residence permit holder until they can gain RF citizenship. Citizens of the abovementioned states do not need a residence permit to apply for RF nationality. On arrival they submit the necessary application for citizenship and a decision is made in 3 months. Therefore, these persons, 3 months after arrival theoretically can be registered in the place of residence as RF nationals. As the percentage of immigrants from these states is rather high (especially from Kazakhstan – about 26-30 % of annual inflow; 4% and 6 % from Belarus and Kyrgyzstan respectively) it influences the volume of the whole flow. (More detailed information about the average period of time to gain RF citizenship was not available).

Box 3 Reasons for underestimation of foreign migrants in Russia

In 2002 the new federal Law on status of foreigners in the RF was adopted. This Law (for the first time in the RF history) defined basic principles of Foreign population data bank creation but nothing was said about communications between administrative sources of data and Russian official statistics. Besides, nothing was written about necessity to collect primary information for the needs of Rosstat. It means that since 2002 there is no any legal act which prescribes either to fill in the primary statistical form for foreigners registered in Russia, or to send any statistical data on migration flows from the Federal migration service to Rosstat[13].

[12] In 2007, about 362 thousand foreigners gained RF citizenship, among them only 157 persons did it in the standard way, 254.5 thousand – in a simplified manner and 107.2 thousand on the basis of international agreements.

[13] These commentaries were included into introduction to the Demographic Yearbook of Russia (chapter 7 "Migration", "Methodology description"), and Migration Statistics Yearbook of Russia-, although it can not explain the size of migration flows underestimation. It means , that since 2002 citizenship appeared to become a criterion for exclusion of migrants from statistical observation. IN the end of 2006 a bilateral decision was reached between FMS and Rosstat and since 2007 the data will be colleted on migrants which get the temporary residence permit as it is obligatory before an application for a permanent residence permit.

Theoretically no statistical forms for foreigners who arrive in or leave from Russia should have been filled in and forwarded to Rosstat. It was expected that Rosstat would receive information only on migration of the RF nationals. In practice, in some regions police agencies (due to the tradition) continued to collect primary data for Rosstat; in the other, they stopped collecting data for Rosstat because of the understanding that it was no more needed. For example, according to Rosstat data in 2002 and 2003 in Moscow there were absolutely no (zero) immigrants with foreign citizenship. During 2003-2006 among 42527 international migrants which arrived in Moscow there were only 41 persons with foreign citizenship and 3249 were stateless or did not identify their nationality. The RF capitol is one of the most attractive regions for foreign migrants and such low figures of foreign immigrants seem to be unrealistic. Within the same period several thousands of foreigners got residence permits in Moscow but were not included to official statistics. Similar situation was observed in many other regions of the RF. In 2007 7,672 thousand foreigners (from all the countries of origin) were registered in a *place of stay* and only 183 thousand in a place of residence[14].

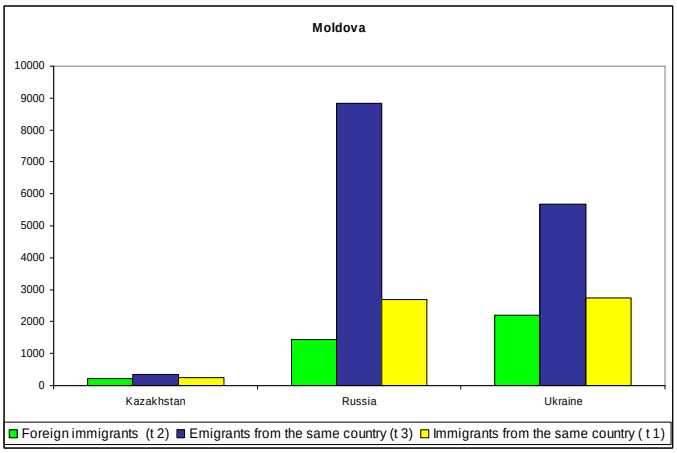
68. *The numbers of foreign immigrants can be also compared with flows of emigrants from the country of the same nationality (*keeping in mind that data on the country of emigration was not available). On average, the results of such a comparison were satisfactory , except in the case of Russia (for the reasons mentioned above). In the receiving country 'x', the number of foreign immigrants of a certain nationality 'y' was rather close to the number of emigrants who moved from 'y' to 'x'. However, it is clear that emigrants from any country may have different nationalities and citizens of the same state may emigrate to different destinations. The charts present the data on the main countries of migrants' origin in selected countries (the RF is excluded to make the data on other countries more 'visible').

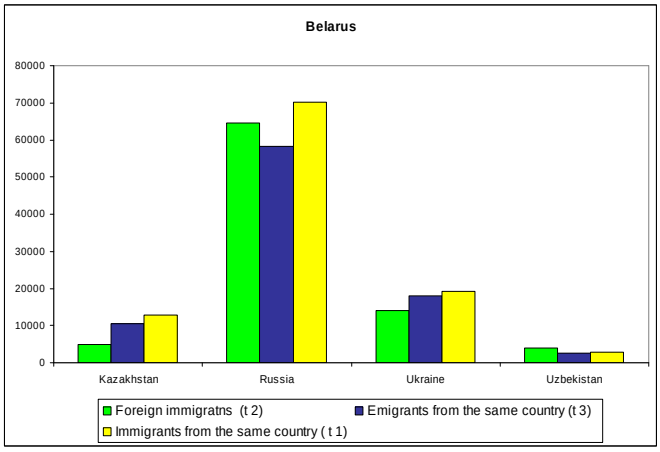
69. In Belarus, the number of *foreign i*mmigrants who got residence permits from MOI was very close to the amount of emigrants who had left for Belarus from the country of the same nationality. In Moldova, a considerably lower number of immigrants make it difficult to interpret the data, although the number of foreign immigrants is very close to the number of immigrants registered in Moldova. In Ukraine, the number of foreign immigrants is half the number of emigrants from the same countries in Ukraine. However, the difference is even bigger if foreigners are compared with statistics of immigrants from the same countries in Ukraine. In the case of the RF, the same discrepancies in the estimation of migration of foreigners can be observed: while emigrants and immigrants from the main countries of origin look very muck alike, the number of foreigners is extremely low.

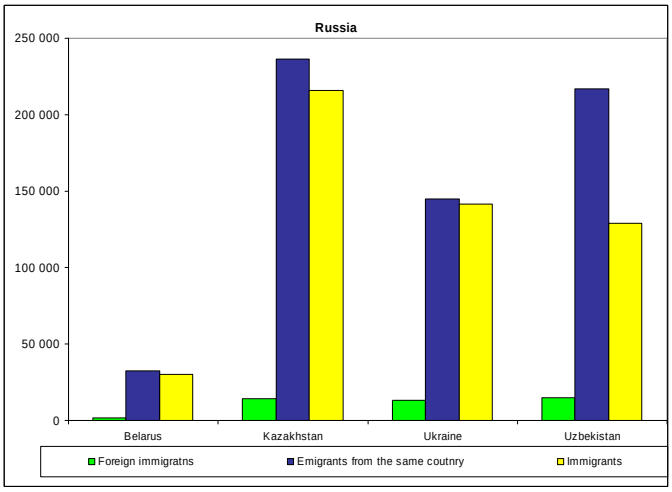
70. About 90% of immigrants in Belarus and Moldova and less than ½ in Ukraine are foreigners. In Russia, the percentage of foreigners is extremely low because of the revised data collection procedure and the fairly large number of foreign immigrants who gained RF citizenship very soon after arrival, and are now registered as nationals.

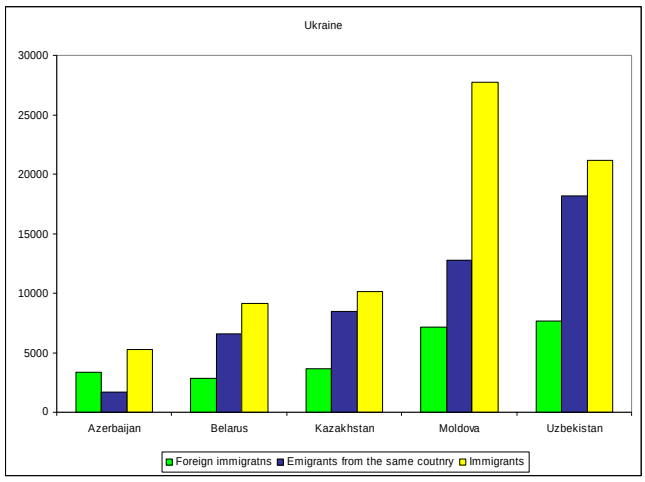
[14] Residence permit holders

Chart 9 Numbers of foreign immigrants, total immigrants and emigrants from selected CIS countries in Belarus, Moldova, Ukraine (2000-2006) and Russia (2002-2006)









IX. COMPARISON OF DATA ON MIGRATION WITH INFORMATION ON CITIZENSHIP ACQUISITION

71. To bridge the data on immigrants and emigrants with statistics of citizenship acquisition, information from Belarus, the Russian Federation and Ukraine were used. All the countries are receiving countries for many emigrants from the former USSR republics of Central Asia and the Caucasus, although Ukraine is also sending emigrants to the RF[15]. The comparability of statistics was problematic for the other countries which provided these statistics as well. The number of persons who acquired new nationality were extremely low as the process depends on whether the state is a sending or receiving country.

[15] Positive net-migration in Ukraine in exchange with Russia should be analyzed more thoroughly as the RF data does not confirm it.

72. Statistics of citizenship acquisition are, perhaps, most dependent upon politics. Sometimes it is difficult to explain the difference or similarity between data on immigration and on citizenship acquisition. Legislation establishes special terms of citizenship acquisition for different types of foreigners, that imply different periods of waiting. For instance, in Russia it may be 3 or (normally) 5 years after arrival, the same is in Ukraine, etc. Some categories of immigrants (which may be very numerous) acquire citizenship through a simplified procedure in just a few months after arrival, while others must wait[16]. This may influence the aggregated data.

73. To make a sensible comparison it is necessary (at least) to have the data on the year of arrival, the type of citizenship acquisition (simplified or normal) and the year of application for the citizenship. New administrative rules and changes in legislation may cause temporary fluctuations in data, so it worth knowing this context as well. Too many unknown variables may influence the results of comparative analysis.

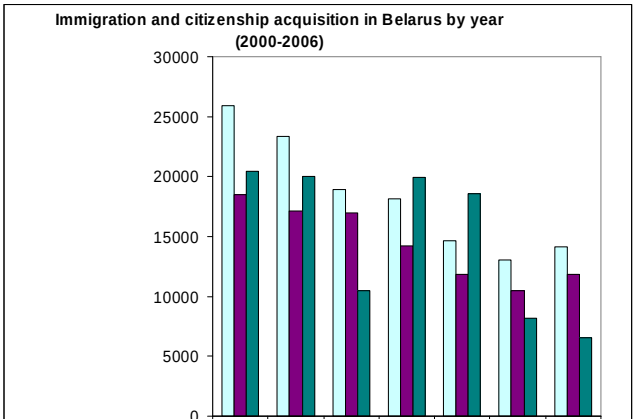
74. *Belarus* (chart 10). Data on the citizenship of emigrants from Belarus was missing because only information on exit permits issued to nationals was available (but not by the countries of future residence). Data on citizenship acquisition were available for 2005 and 2006. On average, data on citizenship acquisition correlates with statistics of immigration. In 2000-2002, the number of persons who acquired Belarusian citizenship was lower than the amount of immigrants. This "residual" was compensated for in 2003-2004, when citizenship was granted more often than immigration facts were registered. Since 2005, there was an obvious decrease in the procedures of citizenship acquisition, in any case it correlates with decreasing numbers of immigrants. Additional information is necessary to make the analysis better grounded. As Belarus is a participant of the international agreement on simplified terms of citizenship acquisition (and one of a few receiving countries of the CIS), many immigrants from Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan first acquire citizenship of Belarus and later are registered as national immigrants. As a result, the number of foreign immigrants is much lower than the number of persons who have acquired citizenship in the RB.

75. *The Russian Federation* (chart 11). In 2003, the new legislation (adopted in 2002) was brought into force, and the extremely low figures on citizenship acquisition in 2003 can be explained through some administrative factors (total – 272.7 thousand in 2002, only 38.1 in 2003 and over 333 thousand in 2004). Since 2004 it can be seen that the number of persons who have acquired RF citizenship is higher than number of immigrants counted in the RF and emigrants counted in the countries of origin. The closest in number (to the persons that had acquired citizenship) was the stock of residence permit holders.

[16] In Russia, the period of simplified citizenship acquisition differs: for citizens of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Belarus it takes 3 months (without residence permit), for citizens of visa-free states - 8 months, and for other foreigners – up to 12 months, in this case temporary residence permit is obligatory to apply for the RF citizenship..

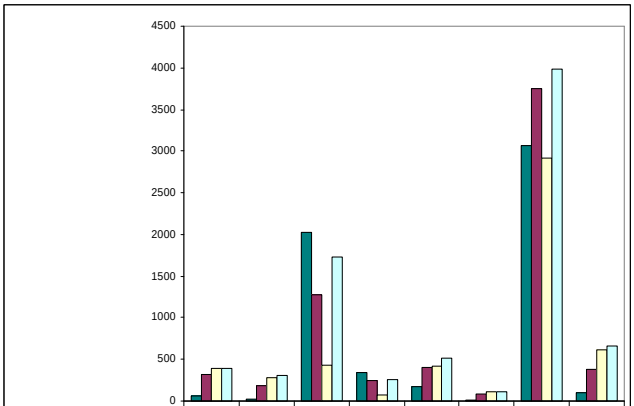
Chart 10 Immigrants and citizenship acquisition in Belarus, 2000-2006 , persons

(1) by year (2000-2006)



	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Total immigrants	25943	23355	18939	18146	14642	13031	14124
Total foreign immigrants	18517	17135	16941	14197	11842	10484	11869
Total citizenship acquired	20433	20025	10503	19930	18597	8182	6570

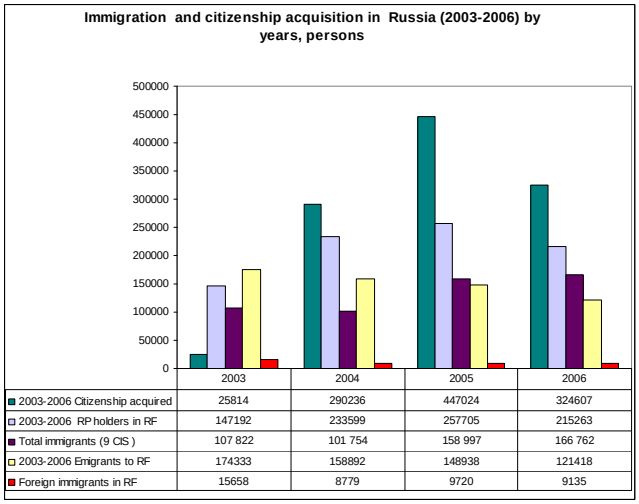
(b) by selected countries of origin



	Armenia	Azerbaijan	Kazakhstan	Kyrgyzstan	Moldova	Tajikistan	Ukraine	Uzbekistan
2005-2006 Citizenship acquired	61	21	2025	341	166	16	3070	98
2005-2006 Emigrants to Belarus	321	189	1274	245	406	84	3752	382
2005-2006 Foreign immigrants in Belarus	387	277	424	73	415	109	2914	616
Immigrants in Belarus (total)	387	308	1726	261	514	110	3986	658

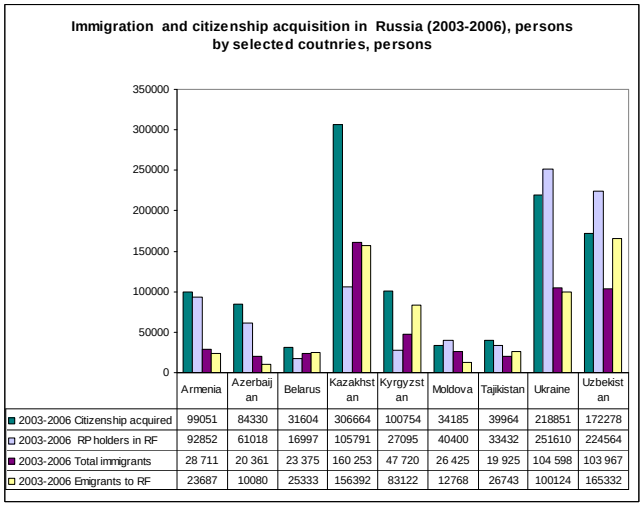
Chart 11 Immigrants and citizenship acquisition in Russia, 2003-2006, persons

(1) by year (2003-2006)



	2003	2004	2005	2006
2003-2006 Citizenship acquired	25814	290236	447024	324607
2003-2006 RP holders in RF	147192	233599	257705	215263
Total immigrants (9 CIS)	107 822	101 754	158 997	166 762
2003-2006 Emigrants to RF	174333	158892	148938	121418
Foreign immigrants in RF	15658	8779	9720	9135

(b) by selected countries of origin



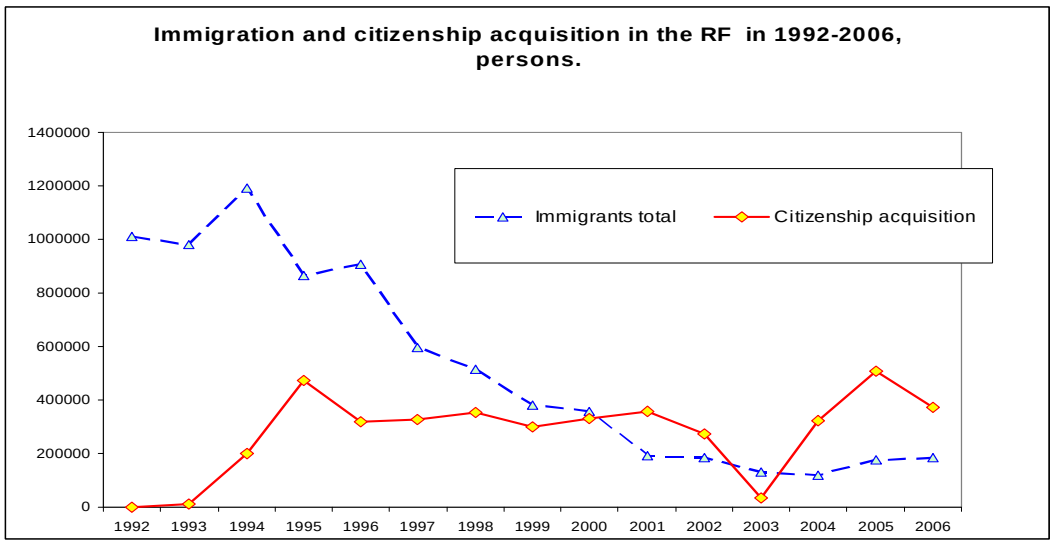
	Armenia	Azerbaijan	Belarus	Kazakhstan	Kyrgyzstan	Moldova	Tajikistan	Ukraine	Uzbekistan
2003-2006 Citizenship acquired	99051	84330	31604	306664	100754	34185	39964	218851	172278
2003-2006 RP holders in RF	92852	61018	16997	105791	27095	40400	33432	251610	224564
2003-2006 Total immigrants	28 711	20 361	23 375	160 253	47 720	26 425	19 925	104 598	103 967
2003-2006 Emigrants to RF	23687	10080	25333	156392	83122	12768	26743	100124	165332

76. The main difference between the countries is as follows: except the cases of Belarus, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan the number of residence permit holders is bigger than the number of immigrants. Chart 11 (b) shows that the former nationals of these three countries are more numerous than the other categories of immigrants. The difference between the number of persons granted RF citizenship and the number of immigrants was very big. Howevere I is clear that the majority of persons who have gained the RF citizenship first should have arrived to the RF. As it was explained by an expert of the Federal Migration service of the RF, it is not given that all of these people, after gaining citizenship, were registered in a *place of residence (and included into the Russian statistics of immigration).* Those who did not have their own

dwelling might have been registered in *a place of stay* in hired apartments or at their relatives' places. In this case, these migrants will not be registered in the statistics, although they arrived in the RF for residence and have been de-registered in the country of origin[17]

77. In part, the discrepancies in the data observed within the rather short time period 2000-2006 can be explained if we extend the period of observation back to the 1990's. Chart 12 shows that in the first half of the 1990's many more immigrants arrived to the RF than there were persons granted RF citizenship. From 1992 to 2006, about 7.8 million immigrants arrived at the RF and 4.2 million persons gained RF citizenship. From 1992 to 2006, 88% of all immigrants arrived in Russia before 2001 and 12 % after. About 60% of all persons which were granted RF citizenship became RF nationals in 1992-2000, and about 40% in 2001-2006.

Chart 12 Immigration and citizenship acquisition in Russia in 1992-2006, persons



78. In the 1990's, thousands of migrants (mainly Russian speaking people with Russian ethnicity) arrived in Russia from the former USSR republics having passports issued in the USSR. Many of these people did not apply for RF citizenship immediately as those passports were still valid in Russia New legislation regarding the RF citizenship was adopted in 2002. It established rather strict rules for persons who did not have passports (i.e.- citizenship) of the Russian Federation. In 2002-2004 the issuance of a new type of passport was campaigned for in Russia. Immigrants who arrived in the 1990's began to apply for RF citizenship to get valid documents. A special amendment was included into the Law to facilitate the procedure of citizenship acquisition for these people. This means that at the beginning of the new century there was a certain amount of migrants who had arrived many years ago but only since 2002 began to apply for RF citizenship[18].

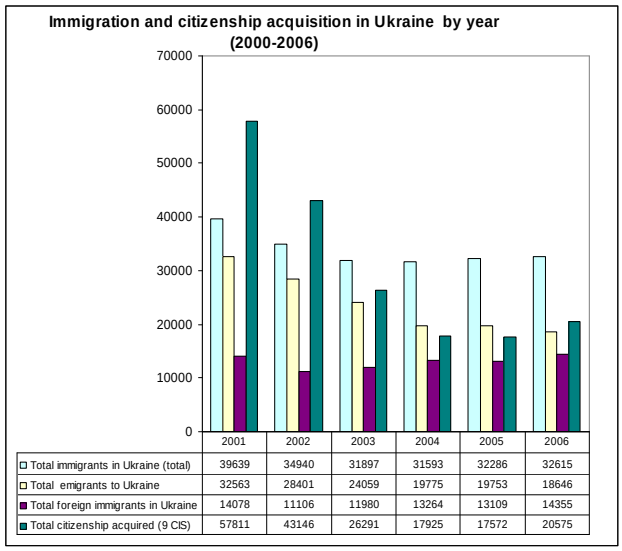
[17] De-registration in the country of origin is one of the conditions of application for RF citizenship (information provided by the FMS of Russia expert Vladimir Burov).
[18] Taking into account that since the middle of the 1990's migration has been underestimated by official statistics, the potential may be even larger.

79. In any case, the preliminary conclusion, (perhaps disappointing), may be as follows: two types of administrative data (citizenship acquisition and residence permits) accord much better than the administrative data and official statistics of migration. More thorough research should be done to understand the reason for such dramatic discrepancies in data on immigration and citizenship acquisition. In general, an analysis of administrative data for the RF showed that in this country, residence permit holders acquire RF citizenship rather quickly. As only certain categories of foreigners may utilize this privilege, this could be an additional characteristic of immigrants in Russia: many of them have family ties with other RF nationals.

80. *Ukraine* (chart 13) Data on immigrants shows a decline in the procedures for obtaining citizenship, and emigrating to Ukraine, while according to the Ukrainian statistics the flows of foreign immigrants are even growing and the total amount of immigrants has been rather stable since 2002. The comparison is correct in the case of the Caucasian states: the number of foreign immigrants was very close to the number of persons who acquired citizenship within the same time interval.

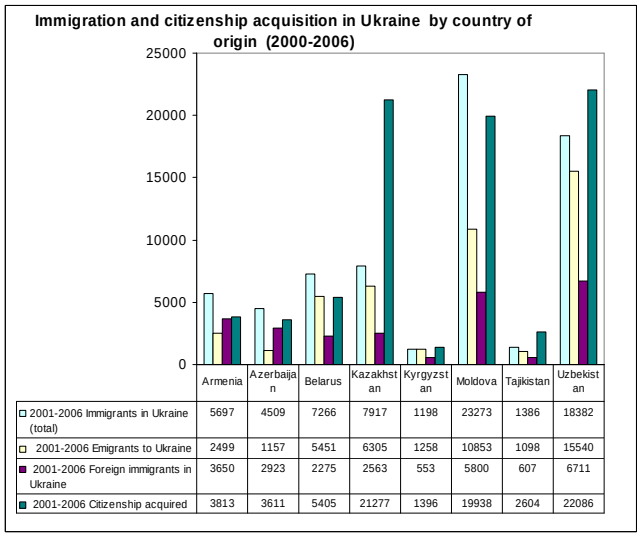
Chart 13 Immigrants and citizenship acquisition in Ukraine, persons

(1) by year (2000-2006)



	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Total immigrants in Ukraine (total)	39639	34940	31897	31593	32286	32615
Total emigrants to Ukraine	32563	28401	24059	19775	19753	18646
Total foreign immigrants in Ukraine	14078	11106	11980	13264	13109	14355
Total citizenship acquired (9 CIS)	57811	43146	26291	17925	17572	20575

(b) by selected countries of origin



	Armenia	Azerbaijan	Belarus	Kazakhstan	Kyrgyzstan	Moldova	Tajikistan	Uzbekistan
2001-2006 Immigrants in Ukraine (total)	5697	4509	7266	7917	1198	23273	1386	18382
2001-2006 Emigrants to Ukraine	2499	1157	5451	6305	1258	10853	1098	15540
2001-2006 Foreign immigrants in Ukraine	3650	2923	2275	2563	553	5800	607	6711
2001-2006 Citizenship acquired	3813	3611	5405	21277	1396	19938	2604	22086

81. An extremely high number of immigrants from Uzbekistan who acquired Ukrainian citizenship may be explained through the process of repatriation of the Crimea Tatars from Uzbekistan to Crimea and their naturalization in Ukraine[19]. The correlation between the data on immigrants from Kazakhstan in Ukraine and persons who acquired Ukrainian citizenship occurred as a result of factors similar to those in the RF (naturalization of migrants who moved

[19] There was a big diaspora of Crimean Tatars in Uzbekistan after they had been deported from Crimea in the middle of the XX century, since the 1990's the process of repatriation is still going on. In 2002 the estimated stock of Crimean Tatars outside Ukraine was equal to 250-300 thousand persons.

to Ukraine in the1990's) and by the simplified procedures of citizenship acquisition within the bilateral agreement.

82. In the case of Moldova the situation is different. Moldova is one of a few countries that recognized double citizenship, so nationals of Moldova may be citizens of Ukraine and any other state, and hence do not need to disclaim their previous citizenship or immigration for residence. Besides this, there is a special agreement on cross-border co-operation between the countries which facilitates the acquisition of Ukrainian citizenship for residents of certain regions of Moldova. In any case, the political context is very important in Moldova as well as in the other CIS countries.

83. Citizenship acquisition data in the CIS countries to a big extent depends on legislation peculiarities that define the special terms for immigrants from selected countries. The conditions and circumstances of citizenship acquisition are affected by many political factors and the history of geo-political transformations in the CIS in 1990's.

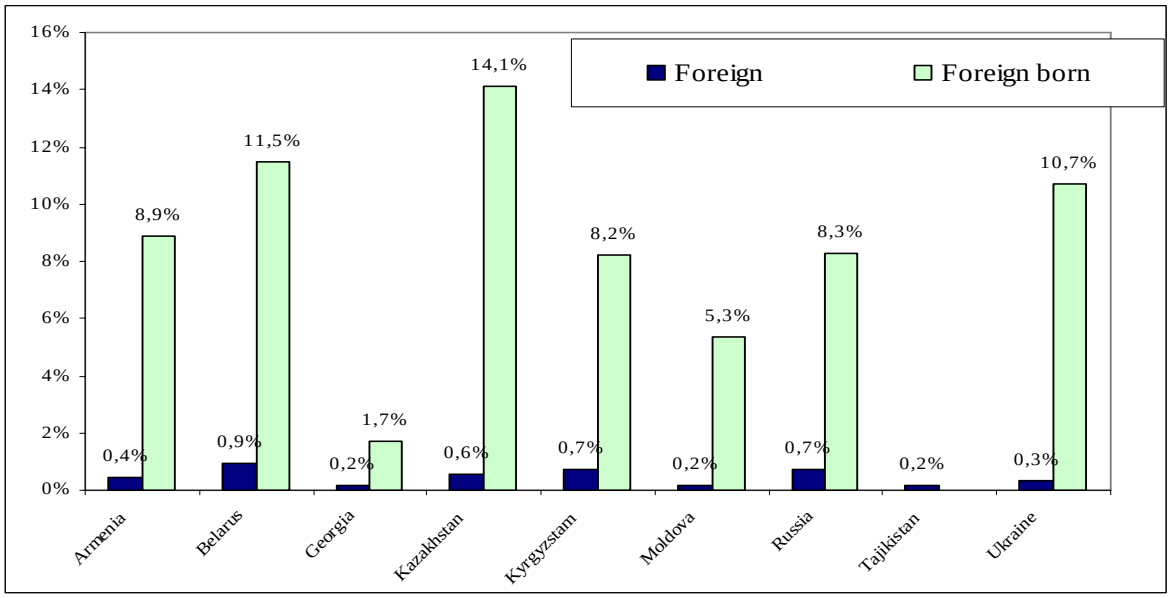
X. STOCKS OF THE FOREIGN AND FOREIGN BORN POPULATION AND CITIZENSHIP ACQUISITION

84. The main problem of compilation of this data with statistics of citizenship acquisition is as follows. It is necessary to know the time of arrival as a large number of foreign born migrants moved many years ago – before the breakup of the USSR when the migrants had the same citizenship. Although the ratio of persons born outside the country is not very big[20] , it can be used to show the results of recent migration only if the data is arranged by time of arrival. The percentage of persons who arrived in the country before the breakup of the USSR was rather high: in Ukraine it was 85% and in Belarus – 68% of the population was born outside the country. If we want to analyze trends in citizenship acquisition it is worth to choose the data on foreign population (if possible – of recent years of arrival). In most countries, the percentage of the population that is foreign born was higher than the ratio of the foreign born population, but the ratio of the foreign population in the countries of the CIS is very low.

85. Information on the foreign and foreign born population provided by the CIS countries was based on the recent population censuses. In Moldova, the same data (besides the census-2004) was obtained from the population register.

[20] except in the case of Kazakhstan, which could be an interesting pattern for investigation if data on citizenship were available

Chart 14 Ratio of foreign and foreign born population in total resident population of selected CIS countries % (Source – National Censuses round 2000, stateless and unknown are not included)



86. Statistics Belarus provided information on the stock of foreign residents based on residence permits holders in the country in 2000-2006 (table 9). Census 1999, information was available only for foreign-born persons. The aggregate number of foreign residents appeared to be more numerous than the number of persons who acquired Belarusian citizenship (from 5 to 18 times in different years of observation). In 2000, citizenship was granted to 20.4 thousand persons, while there were about 95 thousand foreign residents in the country. In 2006, the proportion was 6.5 to 117 thousand persons respectively. Only in the case of Kyrgyzstan (although the numbers are rather low), Kazakhstan and Ukraine did the not differ so much, but still could not explain the regime of citizenship acquisition by foreign residents of the country. It means that additional information is necessary to better understand the trends in the process of citizenship acquisition and residence permit issuance in Belarus.

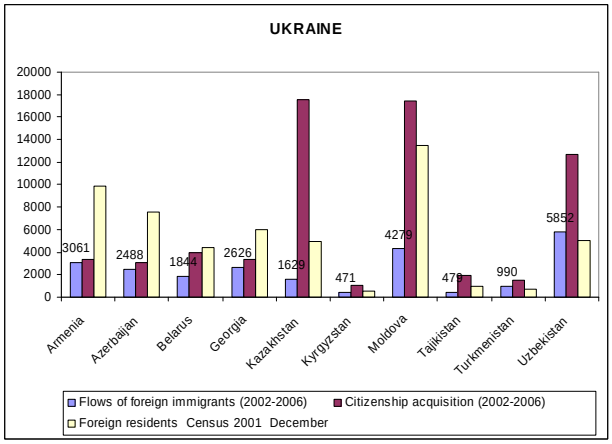
Table 9 Resident foreign population (Template 6) and citizenship acquisition in Belarus, persons

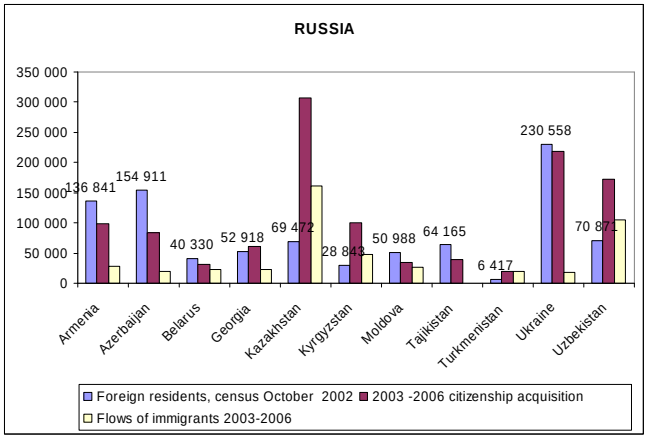
	Foreign Population		Citizenship Acquisition	
	2005	2006	2005	2006
Kazakhstan	4 271	4 145	1132	893
Russia	71 921	77 176	1296	1415
Ukraine	17 578	2 473	1724	1346
Kyrgyzstan	294	266	160	181
Total	111 098	117 372	8182	6570

87. *The Russian Federation* provided data of the population Census 2002 on the foreign resident and foreign born population. In October 2002, there were over 1,025,413 foreign residents in the RF (88% of them – nationals of the CIS states); 429,891 - stateless persons and

1,269,023 residents who did not identify their nationality. Comparing the data on the stock of resident foreigners in October 2002 with the number of persons who acquired RF citizenship in 2003-2006, we can suppose that the figures were very close in the case of Ukraine; if we add immigrants who arrived within the same period to the stock of foreigners from these states (in 2002) it can be supposed that emigrants from Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia also acquired RF citizenship by the end of 2006. However, additional information is necessary both on migrants and persons granted RF citizenship to check if it was the same population.

Chart 15 Foreign resident population, flows of immigrants and citizenship acquisition in Ukraine and Russia (period after the population censuses)





88. *Ukraine.* At the moment of the Census 2001, the foreign population of Ukraine was 167,984 persons and 18,472 of them were nationals of the CIS countries. 82,550 residents were stateless and 40,364 – did not identify the citizenship. Comparison of the data seems to not be effective enough as the data differs dramatically. The number of persons who acquired Ukrainian citizenship was close to the stock of foreigners of the same nationality that resided in Ukraine at the time of the census, but it is not clear how many foreign immigrants (who arrived in Ukraine after the census) also acquired Ukrainian citizenship. Only in the case of Moldova did it seem that foreigners who have resided in Ukraine at the time of the census were granted Ukrainian citizenship within the next few years.

89. The results of compilation of data on citizenship acquisition and stocks appeared to be not satisfactory. Such analysis can be effective and explicable only in certain cases and additional information is necessary for a better interpretation of these statistics.

XI. AN EXPERIENCE OF COMPILATION OF DATA FROM DIFFERENT SOURCES

90. Additional information on migration was available for the Russian Federation. Besides the template tables prepared by Rosstat, some data from the Federal migration service was available: the number of residence permits (permanent – PRP and temporary - TRP) issued in 2003-2006, and the number of foreigners with valid residence permits for the same years. This data was compared with statistics of foreign immigrants in the RF and emigrants from the CIS countries to the RF.

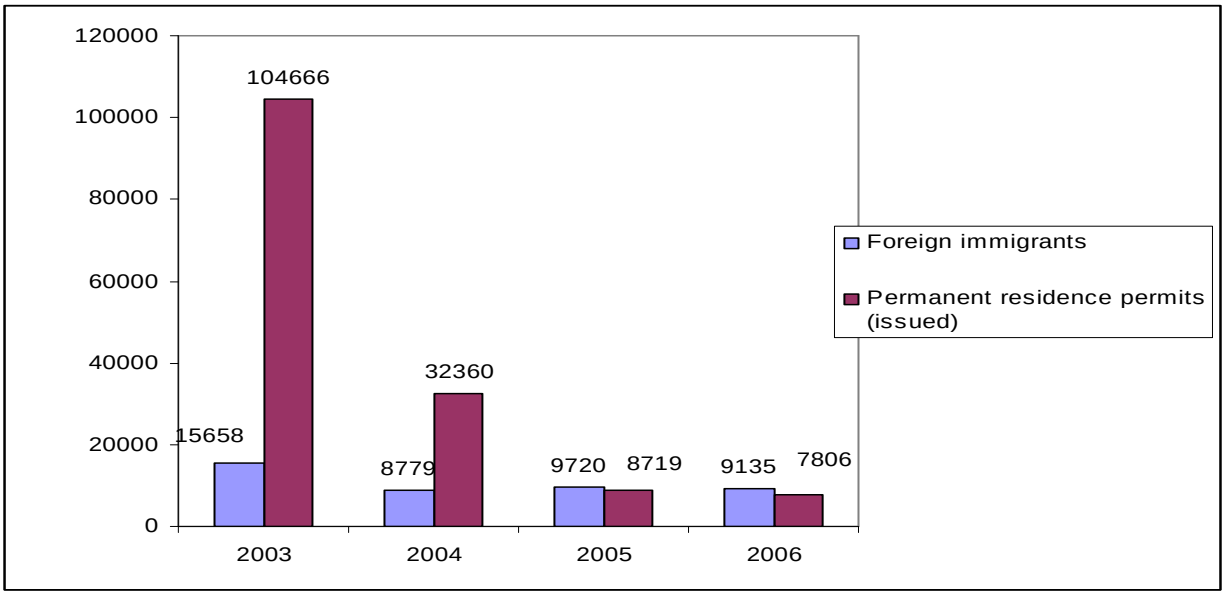
91. Data on flows of all immigrants (template 1) and issued permanent residence permits[21] (PRP) did not correlate well because many immigrants (even foreigners) did not need residence permits for the reasons mentioned above. It could be supposed that official statistics of foreign immigrants includes only those persons who obtain a permanent residence permit. This assumption was confirmed by the FMS data on issued PRP's. After the new law started working a campaign was conducted in 2003-2004 to change the documents (for valid residence permits); and since 2005 the number of issued permanent residence permits became very close to the number of foreign immigrants registered by Rosstat. This means that many foreign immigrants with temporary residence permits could be registered as residents only 1-3 years after the date of arrival, when they obtain a permanent residence permit. Therefore the year of arrival of nationals and foreigners in the data collected by Rosstat may differ.

92. The correlation of data on immigration and issued permanent residence permits is not complete: the figures (immigrants and issued RP) are very close in the case of Kazakhstan, rather close in the case of Kyrgyzstan , Ukraine and Belarus, more or less close in the case of Armenia, but are quite different in the case of Uzbekistan and Azerbaijan. Anyway, the size of the largest flows of immigrants was rather similar to the number of citizens of the same states who obtained the permanent residence permit within the period of observation. The average correlation of foreign immigrants counted by Rosstat to the number of issued permanent residence permits is very close to one.

93. Issued temporary residence permits correlate well with statistics of emigration collected in the countries of origin only if citizens of these states in future may need a residence permit to apply for RF citizenship. The number of emigrants from Tajikistan and Uzbekistan (counted in these countries) was rather close to the number of temporary residence permits issued to the citizens of these states. However, taking into account a very intensive labour migration from these countries to the RF, the figures included in the official statistics (both from FMS and national statistical institutes) seem to be rather small. For example, in 2006, Rosstat registered 6523 immigrants from Tajikistan, while FMS reported that 60,362 Tajik workers were hired in the RF; for Uzbekistan the numbers were 37,126 and 81,210 respectively. The correlation between emigration and temporary residence permit issuance in the RF depends on the citizenship of the emigrants. In 2005-2006 Rosstat counted 325,759 immigrants (both foreigners and nationals) from the CIS countries, NSIs of the countries of origin counted 270,356 emigrants to the RF (except Georgia and Turkmenistan, which did not provide data on emigrants) and the FMS issued 287,176 Temporary residence permits. The average correlation of the number of emigrants and TRPs was nearly 0.9, but the difference between the countries was extremely big.

[21] As a rule, application for a permanent residence permit is possible only after at least one year of temporary residence in the RF with the status of a TRP holder. TRP is issued for 3 years. Both TRP and PRP allow a foreigner to apply for RF citizenship. A temporary residence permit as well as RF citizenship can also be obtained before migrating to Russia, if a person applies to the RF consulate. (Information on these persons was not available). The waiting time for the temporary residence permit normally lasts for 6 months,

Chart 16 Issued permanent residence permits (FMS of Russia data) and number of foreign immigrants (Rosstat data) in Russia



94. Statistics on residence permit holders and citizenship acquisition appeared to be closely connected. Both temporary and permanent residence permit holders may apply for the RF citizenship and the terms of the decision waiting time are the same.

Table 10 Residence permits holders in the RF and citizenship acquisition, persons

	2003*	2004	2005	2006	2003-2006
Total RP holders	213444	298015	321396	269212	1102067
Citisenship acquired	38 117	333117	508457	371782	1251473

* changes in legislation

95. The degree of correlation depends on what country has been chosen for comparison. Ukrainian citizens must reside in a status of a residence permit holder to acquire RF citizenship. It is shown on the chart how the stock of residence permit holders step by step (year after year) acquire Russian nationality. Citizens of Kazakhstan use their right to apply for RF citizenship in a simplified way – without a residence permit and it also can be seen on the chart. Perhaps only those persons who do not want to get the RF citizenship but want to reside in Russia legally are 'long-term' residence permit holders.

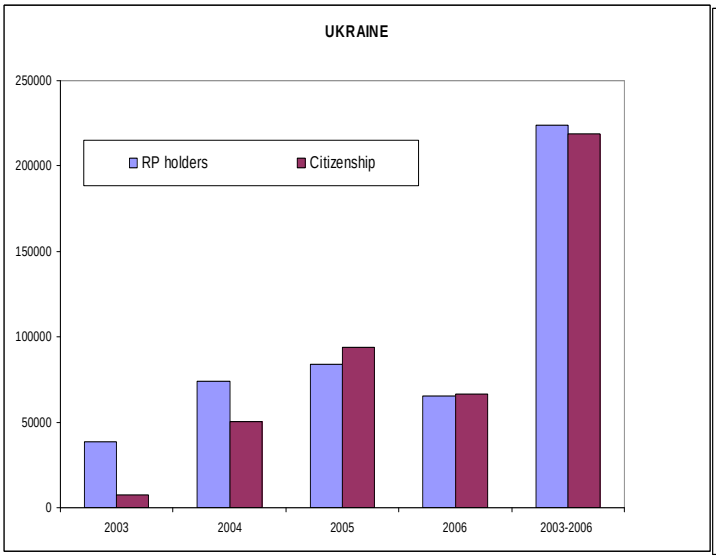
96. *Border statistics* sometimes is used to estimate the trends and consequences of international migration. However, there are many limitations that should be taken into account[22]. None of the CIS countries are isolated, therefore border statistics in the case of these states should be used and interpreted very carefully. As a rule, data at the borders is collected better at entry rather than exit; the means of transport also influence the coverage, information on the

[22] UN Recommendations on Statistics of International Migration. Rev. 1, 1998 , paragraphs 68-75

passengers traveling by train[23] is usually less precise than information collected in airports and other computerized border crossing points, where a migrant applies to an officer (and not an officer passing through a train to check the documents and collect information). Besides, information on migrants (travelers) with a visa is supposed to be more accurate than the data about persons who do not need a visa to enter this country, etc. Therefore we can not be sure if we are dealing with real trends or with errors in data collection until it is clear which country the traveler resides in permanently, how long he or she intends to stay in the country of arrival etc. For example, Statistics Moldova showed that during the last several years the country has had a negative net migration, while border crossing data shows an annual increase.

Chart 17 Residence permit holders and persons granted the RF citizenship (country of origin - Ukraine and Kazakhstan)

(a) Ukraine



(b) Kazakhstan

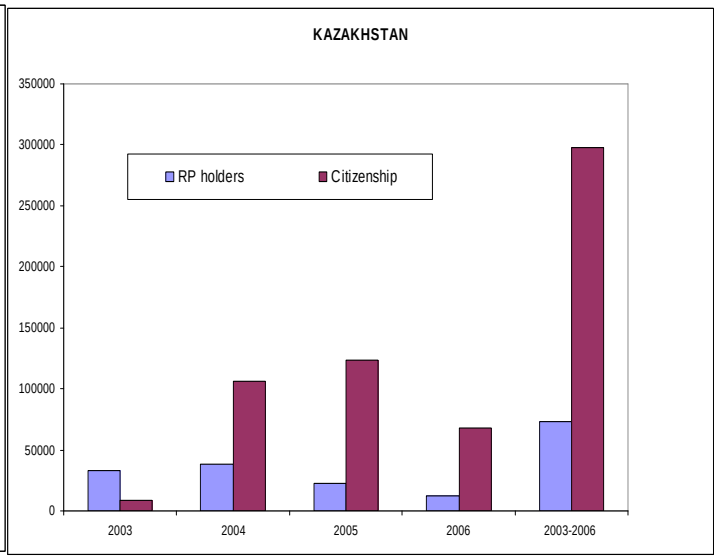


Table 11 Border statistics in selected CIS countries (2003-2006)

		2003	2004	2005
Russia	Entries	22521059	22064213	22 200 649
	Exits	20642260	20944886	20 801 886
	Residual	1878799	1119327	1398763
Ukraine	Entries	4388787	18583260	20488701
	Exits	3456212	17041128	19263665
	Residual	932575	1542132	1225036
Moldova	Entries	314883	364846	507014
	Exits	277906	358325	482274
	Residual	36977	6521	24740

Source: Migration trends 2004-2006 , Soderkoping Process Countries, 2007; Rosstat data.

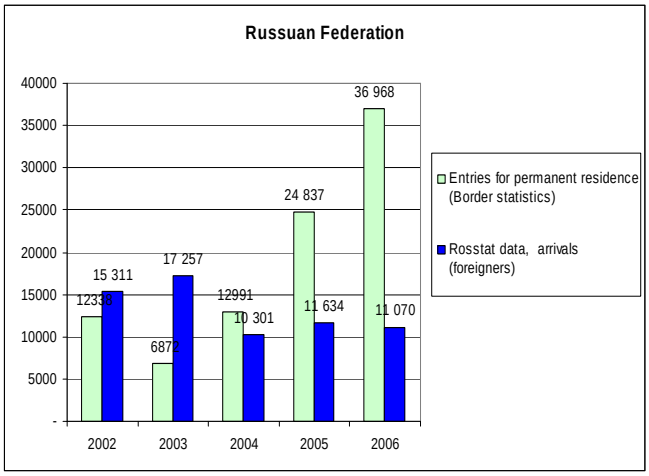
[23] According to the RF Border Service data, in 2006 about 32% of foreigners arrived in Russia by train.

97. The Federal Border service of the Russian Federation publishes data on entries and exits by purpose of the trip, including – "to the place of permanent residence". As a rule, the other types of purpose of a trip depend on the type of visa, but more than a half of all foreigners arrive in Russia from the visa-free countries of the CIS (about 56%, or 13 million entries and more than 11 million exits per year in 2005-2006). This means that caution is needed in interpreting this data, as it may include both persons who immigrate to the country for permanent residence, and people who have visited a foreign country (Russia) and are on their way home. Many of them travel several times a year, so the double count (or triple count, etc.,) is inevitable. Looking at the chart 18 ("b", exits) it is very difficult to suppose that the emigration of *foreigners* from Russia is so intensive. Chart 18 shows that the number of emigrants from the RF which were de-registered in the place of residence for the reason of emigration is just incomparable with the number of persons who crossed the border for the same reason (permanent residence).

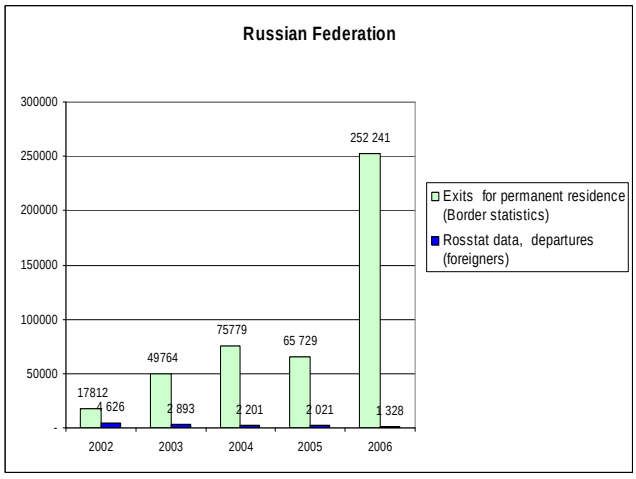
98. Perhaps data on entries for permanent residence is more comparable with immigration statistics. Data on foreign immigrants and persons who entered the RF for residence in 2002 and 2004 looks very similar but in 2005 and 2006 the figures were quite different.

Chart 18 Comparison of data collected at the borders and by the national statistical institute in the Russian Federation. Migration for permanent residence, persons

(a) Entries



(b) Exits



99. Foreigners who moved to the RF for residence declare the purpose ("move to the permanent place of residence") when crossing the border, but many of them have to apply and wait to obtain residency status (residence permit issuance). Only after they get this permit will the purpose of their migration be realized. A residence permit allows a foreigner to be registered in the place *of residence,* and only then will this be included into the statistics of immigration produced by Rosstat.

100. Therefore, border records perhaps could be better compared to the FMS data on applications for residence permits. Besides, many foreigners can acquire RF citizenship rather quickly. The waiting period may be only 3 months, and a person could wait for the citizenship to be registered in a place of residence as a RF national. It means that the migrant has crossed the

border as a foreigner and a little bit later (within the same year) was registered in a place of residence as a national.

101. Statistical data can be compiled with information from other sources, although the methodology of data collection should be clear. Border statistics are not the best source to combine with data collected through population registration procedures as they include border crossings rather than actual migrations. Administrative data on residence permits from the national migration authorities could be a good source to explain some peculiarities in official statistics of international migration.

XII. CONCLUDING REMARKS

99. The preliminary analysis of the available data from the CIS countries showed that data on flows are available in all countries except Georgia (until the Population Register is activated), only several countries process data on the citizenship of immigrants and fewer - of emigrants. Information on stocks is provided mainly by the population Censuses. The reliability of information on foreigners in flows of immigrants and emigrants depends on the data collection procedures and the terms of citizenship acquisition for immigrants from different countries. Data of flows is collected through registration in a place of residence, and a foreigner, as a rule, must have a Residence permit. A time criterion for registration in a place of residence is used in several countries but may be different for nationals and residents and what is more important from the UN recommendations.

100. The best results in the comparison of flows of immigrants were demonstrated by Belarus and Ukraine (the coverage of the same flows between the countries was almost 1 to 1); Russia and Ukraine (the number of immigrants in the RF was very close to the number of emigrants counted in Ukraine), Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan, Armenia and Ukraine. A problematic correlation was demonstrated between the data on immigrants and emigrants from Armenia in Ukraine (there were twice as many immigrants than emigrants), from Moldova in Belarus – 2.2; from Russia in Uzbekistan (2.3 times more immigrants than emigrants).

101. The estimation of emigrants from Moldova has some differences, especially to the RF and Ukraine which are 46% and 40% respectively, and in Azerbaijan regarding emigration to Ukraine (32% of immigrants from Azerbaijan in Ukraine); in Russia (data on emigration to Kyrgyzstan – covered only 40% of immigrants from the RF in Kyrgyzstan). The most satisfactory coverage of emigration from Russia was observed in the direction of Azerbaijan and Armenia.

102. Statistics of citizenship acquisition in different countries correlate with different data. In the RF it depends on a) the annual stock of residence permits *holders* (that shows the relatively short waiting period) and b) the number of immigrants from the countries with a simplified procedure of citizenship acquisition that do not need a residence permit.

103. Data on the stocks of the foreign born population can hardly be used to monitor the process of immigrant naturalization, although data on foreign residents may possibly be more adequate, but only for the years close to the Census. In general, this data (at least obtained from

the censuses of 2000 round) does not explain much and can hardly be compared with statistics of flows (except in the case of Georgia and Moldova).

104. The results of comparative analysis will be more accurate if more detailed information is available; aggregated and averaged data may hide important differences in volumes and composition of migration flows and stocks.

105. The compilation of statistical data is useful when information collected by the national migration authorities is used as the main source of data, while border statistics has obvious limitations. Representative sample surveys are not used regularly and not in all the countries of the region. The analysis confirmed that both registration based systems and censuses of population should be improved to provide better statistics of international migration both in terms of coverage and diversity of data.

106. In the case of CIS countries the coverage and correlation of the data strongly depends on geo-political context , historical background, national legislation and international agreements in the region that determine the process of migration , registration and citizenship acquisition.

107. However, the efficiency of data exchange seems to be positive; the comparison of information allows the main differences to be observed, stimulates the search for the reasons behind these discrepancies and eliminate their effects. Besides, it is a strong stimulus for the exchange of information both on changes in the methodologies of data collection, as well as on the political context which may influence trends in migration management and the naturalization process in the countries joined into a migration system.

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