

FOREIGNERS SEEKING REFUGE IN GERMANY

Quantifying the stock of foreigners seeking protection in Germany based on Residence Permit Data

The German Experience with Refugees and Asylum Seekers
since 2014

Outline

1. The problem to be tackled – stocks and flows

How many foreigners seeking refuge are there in Germany?
When did they come and where from?

2. Data sources and means of identification

Why use administrative data and how to proceed?

3. Data quality and acceptability

Will the public consider the data as good enough and ‘accept’ the given information? What is left to do, if not?

4. Outlook

Foreigners seeking refuge – the problem of stocks and flows–

- Like in many countries, there is *data on asylum applications* and *decisions* in Germany. These data *don't tell the whole story* though.
- What *additional information* is needed? On persons with an asylum decision pending, with protection granted, with protection denied? Number of cases? Characteristics of the persons concerned?
- Is there a need for *linking stocks and flows*? Is such a linking *feasible*? What *extra insight* will we gain?

Data sources and means of identification

- Potential data sources are *administrative data* and *surveys*; specific information is needed when trying to identify foreigners seeking refuge.
- We use the *information on residence permits* in the German *Central Register of Foreigners (CRF)* for identifying foreigners seeking refuge.
- The source contains *demographic* and *migration-related*, but *no socio-economic information* (e.g. education, labor market participation etc.)

Data quality and acceptability

- All aspects of *data quality* are particularly *crucial* when dealing with a *sensitive topic* such as refuge.
- The *quality* of ‘*Residence Permit*’ data in the CRF is considered to be *good* though *not complete*. Other information (e.g. marital status) needs more work, and overall *completeness* is *not established* yet.
- We don’t know yet, whether the public will *accept the new information ‘as is’*, or if one will *doubt* some or all the information contained.

Outlook

- Results will be made available shortly as tables on our *website* and as an *electronic publication*.
- All data are accessible via the link <https://www.destatis.de/EN/FactsFigures/SocietyState/Population/MigrationIntegration/MigrationIntegration.html> in the tab *“Persons seeking protection”*
- Detailed data will be made available in our *dissemination data base* GENESIS beginning of year 2018.

Outlook – 2

- The next step will be *analyzing* the *user feed-back*.
- Then we will explore the feasibility of *enriching* the existing *administrative data set* on foreigners seeking refuge *with socioeconomic survey data* from the LFS by means of *stochastic matching*.
- Other *European countries* may use *this* or a *similar approach*, as *Regulation (EC) 862/2007* requires all EU-Member States to collect statistical data on a *harmonized list of residence permits*.

THANK YOU!

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