

Using harmonized module on international migration and remittance flows in sample household surveys in the countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia

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List of acronyms

HBS – Household Budget Survey

LFS – Labour Force Survey

CIS – Commonwealth of Independent States

INTRODUCTION

1. The countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia have been using household surveys on different themes for exploring international migration many times. For that purpose, additional questions on migration and remittances for working migrants or additional thematic chapter (further in the text – module) were added to the surveys. However, the list of additional questions and the content of thematic modules have been ranging not only from country to country, but between different surveys conducted in the same country. As a result of that, we were able to significantly expand our knowledge about international migration and remittances, but providing the comparability of data between the countries of the region is the task still unsolved.
2. Obtaining comparable data on international migration and remittances is not possible without developing harmonized approach for conducting such surveys. The foundation of harmonizing approach is the consistent thematic module based on the standardized measurements of the scope, characteristics and influence of the migration and remittances. Ideally, the internationally coherent overall migration survey can be conducted in all countries of the region¹.
3. Data obtained through this approach will enable countries of the studied region to improve quality and dependability of the statistics which eventually will help develop even more effective measures to improve overall wellbeing of the population.
4. Up until now usage of the thematic modules on migration in multipurpose surveys was mostly aimed at evaluation of labour market situation in light of international migration. In that sense, questions on international migration were prevailing over the questions on remittances, and the fact of receiving remittances was usually related to a household member working abroad. At the same time, more and more specialized surveys, conducted in the recent years, were focused on studying different aspects of migration and remittances influence, such as wellbeing level or qualitative conversion of the human capital of the migrants and their family members left in the home country.
5. Potential capacity of some multipurpose surveys can be utilized for studying economic effects of migration and remittances at micro level. This refers to the surveys that have a task to study population life level and obtain data on their income and expenditures. The results of these surveys are used to evaluate poverty rate, to calculate indicators for minimum subsistence level, to assess low-income population rate and eventually for taking corresponding measures of social and economic policy.
6. This paper presents a variant of the migration and remittances harmonized module (further in text – harmonized module), that is recommended to be included into Household Budget Survey and integrated surveys that explore incomes and expenditures. This module has been developed considering guidelines for conducting migration questionnaires and experience

¹ Guidelines for using administrative sources and sampled international migration surveys in CIS countries. UNECE, New-York and Geneva, 2016

of the Eastern European, Caucasus and Central Asia countries in conducting multipurpose surveys where thematic module or additional questions on migration and remittances are included.

Chapter 1 Survey summary

7. The reason for selecting HBS to integrate harmonized module into it is that these types of surveys are used by countries, including countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia, to assess population poverty rate based on the household incomes and expenditures structure. By including this harmonized module into the survey we are able to study the connection between fact of receiving remittances and household welfare level. Besides incomes and expenditures indicators, HBS questionnaire includes more indicators that could be used to compare living standards of the households that receive and do not receive remittances. Particularly these are indicators related to housing facilities, usage of land and subjective evaluation of the poverty level.

8. Currently all countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia conduct HBS type surveys, although the names of the surveys differ from country to country (Table 1). HBS is combined with LFS in Kyrgyzstan, Moldova and Ukraine. Different households participate in two different surveys in Armenia, Moldova and Ukraine, while in Kyrgyzstan these two surveys are completely consolidated².

Table 1. HBS type surveys in countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia

Azerbaijan	Sample Survey of Household Incomes and Expenditures
Armenia	Integrated Survey of Household Living Standards
Belarus	Sample Survey of Household Living Standards
Kazakhstan	Sample Survey of Household Living Standards Evaluation
Kyrgyzstan	Integrated Sample Survey of Household Budgets and Labour Force
Republic of Moldova	Household Budget Survey
Russian Federation	Household Budget Sample Survey
Tajikistan	Household Budget Sample Survey
Turkmenistan	Household Budget Sample Survey
Uzbekistan	Household Budget Sample Survey
Ukraine	National Statistical Sample Survey of Household Living Standards
Georgia	Household Monitoring

9. Household Budget Survey (HBS) in Russia is conducted every three months covering 48 000 private households in all territorial entities on the Russian Federation. Besides that, Population Incomes and Social Programs Participation Survey is conducted annually covering 60 000 households in all territorial entities of the RF, and since 2017 once in five year the coverage is increased to 160 000 of households.

10. HBS is conducted with the help of several tools: 1) household questionnaire list; 2) household diary; and 3) household journal. Household Diary is used in all CIS countries to collect information about household expenditures for food and incomes in kind used for

² Consolidating HBS conducting experience in CIS countries. Statistics Methodology. CISSTAT. 2010. The document was reviewed at the Plenary Session of CISSTAT Board of Academics and sent to the national statistic offices with official letter No. 4- IOI/2-79 dated November 22, 2010.

consumption. Besides that, most countries use this form to register expenditures for purchasing non-grocery goods and paying utilities. Household journal is used by many countries for the purpose of more precise record of non-grocery goods and utilities expenditures. All CIS countries use questionnaires while conducting surveys that are filled out when interviewing household members. The questionnaires include wide spectrum of questions about household structure, the employment and education level of some members, about incomes, expenditures, living standards and possession of durable goods, land and participation in economic activities³.

11. Countries like Armenia, Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova and Georgia have experience of studying migration and remittances through HBS type surveys, but the approaches they use in putting together the thematic modules and questionnaires on migration and remittances differ a lot from each other. Differences are mostly related to the tools used (household diary or questionnaire) and place in the survey general questionnaire where the thematic module is integrated to, reference period applied in the questions about migration events and remittances' arrival, and finally total number of questions in the module and the numbers of questions related specifically to the migration and remittances (Table 2).

12. HBS conducted in Russia include questions about expenditures of the household members during making trips for different purposes (for work, vacation or tourism, for education, medical treatment, visiting) to other regions of the Russian Federation and abroad. OHN contains question about receiving remittances from other regions of Russia or from abroad. In case of a positive response, total amount of the received remittances in the previous calendar year (12 months) is recorded. Currently the methods of labour migration records are being improved for the purpose of obtaining information about number, structure, work time and incomes of the labour migrants.

Table 2. Experience of using thematic module and/or questions on migration and remittances within HBS type surveys

	Modules		Questions	
	<i>Migration</i>	<i>Remittances</i>	<i>Migration</i>	<i>Remittances</i>
Armenia	X	X		
Azerbaijan				X
Georgia		X		X
Kyrgyzstan			X	
Republic of Moldova			X	X
Russian Federation				X

13. Most of the times thematic modules or questions are placed into the household questionnaire. Moldova, for example, uses an alternative approach – they include question on

³ Consolidating HBS conducting experience in CIS countries. Statistics Methodology. CISSTAT. 2010. The document was reviewed at the Plenary Session of CISSTAT Board of Academics and sent to the national statistic offices with official letter No. 4- IOI/2-79 dated November 22, 2010.

receiving remittances in the household diary (Chapter: Cross-border remittances received by the household)⁴.

14. Place of module integration into the HBS type surveys depends on the general questionnaire structure. Having separate chapters on household incomes and expenditures can be advantage or disadvantage from the module integration convenience point of view. On one hand, questions on migration logically fit better after the questions on the household structure. During practical interviewing, questions on migration are always accompanied by the question on receiving remittances from a migrant-member of the household. On the other hand, questions on remittances as the additional income source and/or additional expenditure item logically fit better with corresponding chapters of the survey general questionnaire. But in that case there will be a gap between migration questions and remittances questions, and besides that, remittances questions might be asked more than once.

15. For example, Household Monitoring Survey in Georgia has several questions on migration in Chapter – Household Structure, while additional questions on migration and remittances are placed in Chapter – OTHER HOUSEHOLD INCOMES, CHANGES IN FINANCIAL STATE (Subsection 4. «Parcels received/sent from/to persons who left the household (temporary or permanently)»), between subsections «Changes in financial state of the household during the past three months» and «Expenses and incomes in foreign currency». Since the purpose of the section is to study changes in the financial state of the household during last three months, the same time period is used in the questions related to migration and remittances. Subsection 4 contains 10 questions total that cover internal, external migration and remittances between the households.

16. The Integrated Survey of Household Living Standards in Armenia⁵ includes detailed questions on migration and remittances in a separate module “Migration” that follows after the section “Household Structure” and contains total of nine questions, discussing internal and international migration (during three recent years) and remittances of cash or in-kind. 14 additional question about monetary remittances received and sent by the household are included into «Monetary and commodity flows between households» section. Thematic section covers domestic and cross-border remittances. These questions in both sections are asked about the period of “last 12 months”. The difference is that «Monetary and commodity flows between households» section accepts any person as a remittance sender, not only present/absent household member, but even a person that never resided in Armenia:

Did the household receive money or goods (as a gift or assistance) from an absent household member or any other person during the last 12 months? /За последние 12 месяцев домохозяйство получало деньги или товары (в качестве подарка или помощи) от отсутствующего члена домохозяйства или других лиц?*

1. Yes/Да

2. No – section I./Нет – раздел I

⁴ Republic of Moldova's experience in using Household Surveys for measuring migration and remittances. Workshop on the Migration Statistics, November 1-2, 2017, Geneva.

https://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/stats/documents/ece/ces/ge.10/2017/mtg2/Item_04_Presentation_6_UNECE_Migration_Moldova.pdf

⁵ Conducted in 2015.

№	<p>Number of the household member whom the money or goods were received from /идентификационный номер члена домохозяйства, от которого были получены деньги или товары</p> <p>For the none HH members/Для тех, кто не является членом домохозяйства</p> <p><u>To the interviewer: Внимание интервьюер:</u> <i>Put code 77 if this member was not absent from Armenia, or was absent only for a period up to one year / Впишите код 77, если этот член находился в Армении или отсутствовал не более 1 года</i></p> <p><i>Put code 99 if he/she was permanently absent for more than a year or never resided in Armenia / Впишите код 99, если он/она постоянно проживает за пределами Армении более 1 года или никогда не проживал в Армении</i></p>	Where does he/she live?/ Где он/она проживает?
	1	2

- *Перевод на русский язык- автора*

17. Using the separate migration and remittances modules would require additional time of the interviewer and also put more load on the respondents. One of the possibilities could be dividing the questions between the interviewer's visits. For example, in Armenia they ask questions on migration during the first visit, and questions on the remittances are asked during the fifth visit.

18. Selecting particular time period for assessment of migration event and receiving the remittances could be justified by the frequency of the conducted survey. For example, Household Monitoring Survey is conducted in Georgia each quarter, but collecting data for the Integrated Living Standard Survey in Armenia takes place monthly. Harmonizing questions on boundary period is possible if the frequency of migration and remittances information up-date is coordinated. Both question pools must be used at the same time in order to keep correlation between migration events and receiving of the remittances.

19. Total number of questions on migration and remittances used by the countries in their thematic modules varies from 10 to 25. Tentatively we can consider them as minimum and

maximum number of questions that could be included into the thematic module. Besides, the number of the questions on migrants' social and demographic characteristics could be reduced if the similar questions are included into other clusters of the household questionnaire. It means we should pay attention to the content of the Household Structure cluster, availability and content of Education and Employment Clusters.

Chapter 2 Harmonized Migration and Remittances Module

2.1 Characteristics of the harmonized module

20. Harmonized module is conceptually different from previous variants of thematic migration modules that were used or included in the general thematic Sample Surveys. Its purpose is not only to serve as an instrument of obtaining/updating key indicators on international migration and remittances, but to optimize task of these indicators' record when developing state policy measures of reducing population poverty rate defined by the Sustainable Development Goals 2030.

21. Evolving influence of the migration on the countries of origin, particularly economic aspect of this influence is evaluated through remittances that working migrant sends to his family back home. It is obvious that receiving remittance increases the income level of the households which in turn helps reduce the poverty at micro level.

22. Evaluation of the economic influence of the migration and remittances at micro level could be done through the Sample Household Survey. In that case indicators of the employment status of all household members, receiving state subsidies, overall household expenditures structure including paid services, possession of durables and others could be used as parameters of this evaluation. This way including harmonized module into HBS type surveys would enable us to make better-founded conclusions about the role remittances play in changing welfare of the households in the countries of origin.

2.2. Tasks of the harmonized module

23. Design of the harmonized module suggests dividing questions on migration and remittances between two different modules to separate the fact of one of the household members being a temporary emigrant and the fact of receiving remittances sent by individual who is not in family relation with the household. At the same time, harmonized modules seek to achieve several more tasks not covered by this particular survey.

2.1.1 Regular measurements of the international migration

24. First task is to include basic questions on measuring international migration in order to conduct frequent measuring of stocks and flows of migrants. For that purpose Migration Cluster of the harmonized module includes question on identifying migration status of the respondents based on the country of the respondent's residence criteria.

25. Questions on the country of birth and date of arrival can be included into the Household Structure Chapter in the questionnaire. According to the available data, nowadays, only Armenia

uses the question on the country of birth in their Household Structure Chapter in the Integrated Living Standards Survey.

2.1.2 Distinguishing between temporary and permanent emigration

26. Second task is to distinguish between short-term (temporary, being absent for more than three months but less than a year) and long-term (permanent, being absent for at least a year and more) external emigration. Due to some methodologies of the household definition, there are certain difficulties in identifying long-term migration with the help of HBS type surveys. Usually household members that are away for more than a year are not considered to be members of the household⁶.

27. In order to identify “long-term migrants”, former household members, harmonized module includes Permanent Emigrants Cluster. This way differences in the definitions of the households would not influence usability of the integrated module.

2.1.3 Expanding the Household with a Migrant Category

28. Third task of the module is expansion of the Household with a Migrant Category. It becomes possible thanks to the identification of the long-term migrants among former household members. The questionnaires in the countries of the region show that significant share of households receives remittances from individuals who are not household members. For example, HBS conducted in Moldova showed that 60% of all households receiving money, receive them from people who are not household members⁷.

29. Thanks to the identification of the permanent emigrants category among former household members, that have been away from the country for a year or more, it is now possible to compare two types of households – one with a temporary working emigrant and the other one with a permanent (working) emigrant, including relevant information about receiving remittances.

2.1.4 Standardizing the measuring of the remittances expenditures structure

30. The key thing that defines evolving effect of the remittances is the answer to the question, - What the households use the money they receive from abroad for? Consumption and investment are two types of expenditures that the remittances are used for, and the same way those spending are classified in migration surveys. Long-term evolving influence of the

⁶ Russia and Armenia are exceptions because their HBS methodologies count household members that have been away for longer than a year, but if they are in family relations to the other household members. Potentially it increases the chances of sampling bigger number of households with migrant – *Comment of the author*.

⁷ Moldova's experience in using HBS for measuring migration and remittances. Workshop on migration statistic, November 1-2, 2017, Geneva.

https://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/stats/documents/ece/ces/ge.10/2017/mtg2/Item_04_Presentation_6_UNECE_Migration_Moldova.pdf

remittances is related to investment-oriented financial behavior of the household expressed, among others, as investing into the human capital.

31. Because of this, the undeniable advantage of the harmonized module integration into HBS type surveys is the usage of the single classification for the aggregation and presentation of data on household expenditures for purchasing consumer goods and services. It is called the Classification of the Individual Household Consumption (CIHC) according to goals⁸. The classificatory separates four types of consumption: 1) non-durable goods; 2) half-durable goods; 3) durable goods; 4) services (see table 3 for details).

32. Applying basic chapters of the classification for formulating answer options for the questions on the remittances expenditures structure allows us to unify the list of options and make a more precise comparing of the countries and also obtain more detailed information about financial behavior of the household with/without migrants and households with/without remittances.

Table 3. Classification of the Individual Household Consumption by goals in HBS

Non-durable goods	Half-durable goods	Durable goods	Services
Food and alcohol	Clothes and shoes	Domestic articles, household appliances, daily maintenance	Health Services
Alcohol and tobacco products			Household services, water, electricity, gas and other types of fuel
			Transportation
			Communication services
			Education
			Hotels, cafes
			Vacations and recreation

33. Analysis of the HBS questionnaires in the countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia showed that 9 countries out of 11 (Azerbaijan, Armenia, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, Uzbekistan, Ukraine) use CIHC when processing the results of surveys, and the differences between countries' classificatory (in the list of good and services, level of aggregation by separate groups) do not cause system deviations. Countries that do not use CIHC (Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan) could also use harmonized questionnaire because their general approach of identifying households' expenditures is not very

⁸ Along with indicators created based on CIHC, data are aggregated based on the classification according the separation of consumption expenditures by basic groups of goods and services: for purchasing food, alcohol, non-grocery goods and paying for services

much different⁹. The fact that most countries use CIHC could potentially enable harmonization of the questionnaires in case the questions and results processing is based on the chapters of this classification.

34. The analysis of the questionnaires from multipurpose and specialized sample surveys in the regions shows, that countries used different answer options and question formulations in relation to remittances spending. Besides, module format creates limitations for the number of questions and the time used for each question. That is why the number of options for the question on remittances spending in the module questionnaire of the multipurpose survey is much less than in the specialized survey questionnaire:

Table 4. Examples of the questions on how the remittances are spent in the specialized survey and in the multipurpose sample household survey*

ILCS Armenia. Money and Commodity Transfers between Households. 2014	<i>For what purpose was the transferred money used?</i> (На какие цели был потрачен денежный перевод?)	<i>1. For the recipient's daily consumption expenses (including expenses on health, education and other) /на каждодневные расходы получателя, включая расходы на здоровье, образование и другое</i>
		<i>2. In the recipient's construction or acquisition of real and movable property.</i> /На строительство или приобретение недвижимой и движимой собственности для получателя
		<i>3. In the sender's (your) construction or acquisition of real property / На строительство или приобретение</i> недвижимой и движимой собственности для отправителя

⁹ Khasanov R., Khasanova S. Developing module questionnaire for household budget surveys. The report is prepared for UNECE, 2017
https://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/stats/documents/ece/ces/ge.15/2017/workshop_montenegro_2017/Report_PovertyQuestions_Rus.pdf

Tajikistan. Jobs, Skills, Migration, Consumption Survey. Remittances and gifts from non-household members 2013	<i>What was the main reason why [DONOR] provided this assistance? /Какова была основная причина предоставления [ДОНОРОМ] помощи?</i>	1. Purchase of food and basic necessities/покупка продуктов питания и предметов первой необходимости 2. Investment in construction/Инвестиции в строительство 3. Investment in HH Enterprise/Инвестиции в частный бизнес домохозяйства 4. Purchase of a durable good/Покупка товаров длительного пользования 5. Educational expenses/Расходы на образование 6. Medical expenses/Медицинские расходы 7. Wedding/ funeral/Свадьба/похороны 8. Child support/Помощь детям 9. Charity/Благотворительность 98. Other (specify)/Другое (уточнить)
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As you can see from these examples, the way questions are formulated causes one significant difference: in one case the question is asked about actual spending of the money, but in the other case it is asked about the purpose of the money they received. That said, in both cases the conclusion is drawn about the structure of the remittances expenditures, but it is actually impossible to compare the results because the answer options lists are not the same.

35. In order to achieve mutual approach in measuring structure of remittances expenditures, the harmonized module suggests to use wordings of the basic expenditure chapters from CIHC for making the list of options for the question - How, basically, has your household spent most of the money it received from abroad in the last 12 months?

2.2 Harmonized module structure

36. Harmonized module consists of two main question clusters – Migration and Remittances that are supposed to be used both in the country of origin and the country of destination.

37. Cluster 1 – Migration – contains questions for the country of migration destination and the country of origin and serves to obtain information about international migration experience that was not available at the moment of interviewing household members in the country of origin as well as the present household members in the country of destination. Questions of this cluster cover the following migrants description characteristics: duration of stay in the country of destination, main reason of departure/arrival, line of work, occupation/profession and sector of employment (for working migrants). In case the basic survey does not have separate Employment chapter (for example in case of integrating the module into Labour Force Survey) then the questions about employment and the corresponding codes are transferred from the main survey. Migration Cluster contains 4 questions for the country of origin and 4 questions for the country of destination.

38. Second question cluster of the harmonized module is about remittances. It contains questions about households in countries of both origin and destination: remittances from abroad, remittances to other countries. Both parts have pretty much similar questions that have the purpose of describing the role remittances play in the incomes and expenditures structure of the household's members living on the opposite sides of the border. In both cases boundary period of 12 months is applied. Questions in both parts cover remittances characteristics such as type of transfer (cash or presents/gifts), frequency of transfers (how many times a year), total amount of remittances during one year, channel of money transfer. The questions on the reasons of transfer (motivation of the sender) and the way received money are spent (consumption) and the strategy of the household financial behavior in relation to saved money are asked separately. Cross-border Remittances Cluster is completed by the question that is actually a subjective evaluation of how remittances influence the welfare of the recipient household. Remittances Cluster contains 7 questions for the country of origin and 6 questions for the country of destination.

39. Besides two main clusters – Migration and Cross-border Remittances – harmonized module contains two additional clusters – Returned Emigrants and Permanent Emigrants. Returned Emigrants Cluster is for the countries of origin to interview all respondents over 15 years old.

40. Returned Emigrants Cluster identifies experience of short-term (over 3 months but less than a year) or long-term migration (over 1 year) among present household members during 5 recent years. Cluster questions cover the following descriptive characteristics of the returned emigrants: age at the moment of last departure abroad, most recent country of destination, duration of stay, main reason of departure and return, employment status while abroad, occupation or profession that enabled his work activity abroad. Returned Emigrants Cluster is completed with the question on the migrator's intentions for the next year. This cluster is optional so it can be included into the survey along with Migration and Remittances Cluster at the country's discretion.

41. Permanent Emigrants is intended for the situations when methodology of the HBS type surveys does not allow to cover former household members that do not reside in the household any more, which means they reside abroad for a year or more although they may pay short visits back home. According to the household definition from the HBS methodology, these individuals are usually not included as household members¹⁰. Since the reference period for the identification of permanent migrants set in harmonized module is 5 years, there is an additional question about the citizenship of the country where this migrant lives. Other questions related to migration are about date of departure, reason for departure, country of current residence, line of work and occupation. Social and demographical characteristics of emigrant include gender, age in the moment of departure, current marital status.

42. Total number of questions in the additional clusters – Returned Emigrants and Permanent Emigrants – is 13, usage of the questions with a star (*) is optional at the discretion of the ministry responsible for survey conduction.

¹⁰ Except for Russia and Armenia (see ref. 7) where family members or relatives to the permanent members of the household, who have been away for more than a year are still considered as household members according to the HBS methodology.

Chapter 3 Instructions for the user

3.1 Comments on some questions of the harmonized module

3.1.1 Individual questions for each present household member

3.1.1.1 *Migration Cluster: questions for the country of destination*

M1. How long have you been living in this country?

In case the respondent has been residing in the country where the survey is conducted since his birth, he does not receive status of a migrant and does not participate in the further questioning in this cluster.

M2. What country did you come from?

M3. What was the main reason for your arrival?

M4. What are you doing now?

The question is intended for finding out about the respondent's line of work. Besides that, if the respondent chooses option "working", information about his employment sector can be obtained in the Employment Cluster of the questionnaire.

3.1.1.2 *Returned Emigrants Cluster*

RE1. Have you ever lived in any other country for several months (at least 3 months) or several years in the last five years?

Boundary (Limit) period of 5 years can be adjusted depending on the year, when they survey with harmonized module is conducted, and tasks that need to be achieved when collecting information about returned emigration.

RE2. When was the last time you left this country, not for holiday?

Provide information about the country of residence and duration of residence when answering this question.

RE3. What was the main reason for your departure?

Answer options in this and other questions on the reason of migration in other clusters include: work, education, family reasons, other.

RE4. Did you work while abroad?

This question is asked even if selected answer for the previous question was work. This is to identify not only "employed" (who left for the reason of working), but "working" migrants as well (whose main reason of departure was not related to work).

RE5. What was the main reason for your return?

RE6. Are you planning to go abroad for a period of 3 months to several years in the coming year?

3.1.2 Questions for the household head

3.1.2.1 Permanent Emigrants Cluster

PE1. Among those who previously lived with you, over the past 5 years, were those who went abroad and now live there permanently (1 year or more, including those who come for short visits)?

The way the question is formulated allows us to identify potential remittances senders in relation to this household. This way the category of senders includes not only temporary absent household members, but permanently absent former household members. In case the sender never resided at the studied household, the answer will have a special code. In order to obtain information about connection between the sender and the household that receives remittances from him, the question about relative connection with the head of the household is asked.

PE2. Since when has {NAME} been permanently living abroad?

PE3. What was the main reason for {NAME}'s departure?

PE4. What country does {NAME} live in now?

PE5. Has {NAME} gained the citizenship of this country?

PE6. What is {NAME}'s occupation in this country??

Minimum of the permanent emigrant's main characteristics are suggested in harmonized module, but it still enable us to obtain key information to improve migration statistics in the country of destination. The question on the citizenship and duration of residence is important for further details of cross-border remittances flows between the households.

3.1.2.2 Cross-border Remittances Cluster

Incoming/outgoing remittances

CR1. Over the past 12 months, have your household and/or its members sent/received money and/or parcels abroad?

This question formulation is identical to the one used in most questionnaires about remittances, it is in line with the remittances definition of the International Monetary Fund, including monetary and in kind remittances.

CR2. How many times in the last 12 months have you sent/received money or parcels abroad/from abroad?

This question is an alternative to the question about the frequency of receiving remittances to make it easier for the respondents to count. Based on the answer about the total amount of received remittances you can calculate average amount of one transaction.

CR3. To/From what country/countries did you send/receive money and/or parcels?

The answer assumes multiple options.

(The list of countries depends on the country where the survey is taking place).

CR4. What is the total amount of all remittances sent/received over the past 12 months abroad?

The amount is written down in the currency that the respondent used.

CR5. What was the most common way you/your household sent/received remittances abroad?

IR6. How, basically, has your household spent most of the money it received from abroad in the last 12 months?

The list of answer options is created based on CIHC considering key expenditure items used as options in the similar question in the questionnaires of multipurpose and specialized surveys in the region.

OR6. Why did you and/or members of your household send money abroad?

The purpose of this question is to find out the motives of the sender in addition to the question about the actual spendings of the money that is asked in the country of origin.

IR 7. In your opinion, over the past 12 months, how did remittances from abroad affect your family's financial situation?

The purpose of this question is to receive a subjective evaluation of the remittances influence. Similar question about subjective evaluation of the poverty level is asked in the HBS questionnaire.

Questions about outgoing remittances could be also used in the country of origin to evaluate counter flows of the remittances. In the similar way questions about the incoming remittances could be optionally used by countries like Russia, Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan and Armenia. These are countries with large diaspora abroad, and this pool of questions could be useful to obtain additional information during studying emigration and keeping the connection with the country of origin (temporary as well as permanent).

3.2 Integration of harmonized module into HBS

43. There are several reasons of harmonized module's success used within HBS type surveys for measuring migration and remittances. First of all, sample design should provide sufficient coverage of households with migrants in the countries of destination as well as in the countries of origin. On one hand, as the migration survey in the countries of region analysis shows, targeted households are pretty evenly distributed in the country that is supplying working migration. Thanks to that, probable sampling for conducting HBS will most likely allow to

adequately present sizes of working emigration¹¹. On the other hand, the situation in different countries might still be different. For example, the results of the working migration survey in Ukraine in 2008 and 2012 show that households with working migrants were not evenly distributed in the country territory. For example, sizes of labour emigration in western regions, situated next to the state border are a lot bigger than in other regions of the country (for example in central, northern, southern or eastern), and the number of labour migrants in southern and eastern regions are almost twice higher than in central and northern regions.

44. In the countries that are mostly the recipients of migration, it is recommended to apply judgmental sampling in order to improve coverage of households with immigrants. In other words, you need to select households in the areas with the biggest concentration of migrants based on the administrative data about distribution of foreigners in territorial entities. This approach will help cover respondents that would be classified as “long-term labour migrants” and residing in the country of destination one year or longer. It is hard to give specific recommendations about achieving best coverage of short-term migrants in the destination countries through HBS. On one hand, you could assume that households with long-term migrants would have short-term migrants as well (due to the social networking of the migrants), but this does not guarantee you would obtain quality and dependable information, because there is a large number of non-registered workers among these kinds of migrants. World practice shows that interviewing migrants of this category could be done with the help of alternative methods, such as anonymous on-line questionnaire¹². That is why harmonized module is less likely to be an effective tool for measuring short-term labour immigration.

45. Secondly, keeping in mind that HBS type surveys in the countries of this region differ by structure, it might require some modification of the harmonized module questions clusters in order to bring it in line with household questionnaire in that specific country. Together with that, you might have to adjust some formulations of the final modules in different countries, especially boundary periods, in case the module is simultaneously used in the donor country and recipient country. This will enable you to receive more specific evaluation of the developed tool effectiveness.

46. Thirdly, usage of the harmonized module in the destination countries might require additional adjustment, because this module was preliminary developed first of all for the countries of migrants’ origin, that is why it is more convenient as a tool for studying of emigration. Countries that mostly receive migrants, like Russia, Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan also can use this module for studying their emigration, especially since administrative sources do not provide full information about emigration size. Returned Emigrants Cluster could be adapted to be used as a tool for measuring returned migration, including through monitoring of the state programs on assisting compatriots return.

¹¹ O. S. Chudinovskiy Consolidation of the world experience in measuring labour migration based on sample population surveys. Report prepared for CISSTAT, Moscow, 2015.

¹² Berg, Lauri and Bassina Farbenblum. Wage Theft in Australia. Findings of the National Temporary Migrant Work Survey. November 2017.

47. Harmonized module could be helpful to all countries as a tool for studying internal migration. For example, for Russia, obtaining additional information on internal movements of their citizens is just as interesting as data on external migration.

3.3 Tabulation Plan

48. To analyze data obtained during the survey with harmonized module, we suggest using the following tabulation plan. It has been developed for achieving two tasks: 1) to describe cohorts of immigrants and emigrants; 2) to compare level of welfare in the households with and without migrants applying poverty estimations used by the countries.

M1. Distribution of migrants' cohorts by the destination country and duration of stay

Destination country	Country 1		Country 2	
<i>Duration of stay in the recipient country</i>	Over three months but less than a year	One year or longer	Over three months but less than a year	One year or longer
Gender				
<i>Men</i>				
<i>Women</i>				
Age				
<i>15-19</i>				
<i>20-29</i>				
<i>30-39</i>				
<i>40-49</i>				
<i>50-59</i>				
<i>60+</i>				
Education level*				
<i>Elementary</i>				
<i>General secondary</i>				
<i>Secondary vocational</i>				
<i>Academic degree</i>				

* List the educational levels set by the national educational legislation of the country

RM1. Distribution of the returned migrants over 15 years old by the reason of departure and destination country

Destination country	Country 1			
Reasons of departure	<i>Work</i>	<i>Education</i>	<i>Family circumstances</i>	<i>Other (including participation in the state program)</i>

<i>Destination country</i>	<i>Country 1</i>			
<i>Gender</i>				
<i>Men</i>				
<i>Women</i>				
<i>Age</i>				
<i>15-19</i>				
<i>20-29</i>				
<i>30-39</i>				
<i>40-49</i>				
<i>50-59</i>				
<i>60+</i>				
<i>Education level</i>				
<i>Elementary</i>				
<i>General secondary</i>				
<i>Secondary vocational</i>				
<i>Academic degree</i>				
<i>Duration of stay</i>				
<i>Over three months but less than a year</i>				
<i>One year or longer</i>				

PE1. Distribution of long-term emigrants by destination country, gender, age and education level

	<i>Destination country 1</i>		<i>Destination country 2</i>	
	<i>Men</i>	<i>Women</i>	<i>Men</i>	<i>Women</i>
Age				
<i>15-19</i>				
<i>20-29</i>				
<i>30-39</i>				
<i>40-49</i>				
<i>50-59</i>				
<i>60+</i>				
Education level				
<i>Elementary</i>				
<i>General secondary</i>				
<i>Secondary vocational</i>				
<i>Academic degree</i>				

IR1. Differences in the income structure of households in the country of origin depending on emigrants

Incomes structure, %	Households with temporary emigrant	Households with permanent emigrant	Households without emigrants
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Incomes structure, %	Households with temporary emigrant	Households with permanent emigrant	Households without emigrants
<i>Employment</i>			
<i>Self-employment</i>			
<i>Agricultural activities</i>			
<i>Renting out ...</i>			
<i>Properties</i>			
<i>Current transfers, received:</i>			
<i>Pensions</i>			
<i>Benefits including social insurance</i>			
<i>Social transfers in kind</i>			
<i>Other sources of income:</i>			
<i>Transfers from the other household</i>			
<i>Cross-border remittances</i>			

IR2. Household expenditures structure depending on the incoming cross-border remittances

	Households that receive cross-border remittances	Households that do not receive cross-border remittances
<i>Healthcare expenses, % in relation to consumer expenses</i>		
<i>Education expenses, % in relation to consumer expenses</i>		

49. These tables are merely examples of the data that you can expect to receive through harmonized module. HBS type surveys possess great potential for measuring how remittances and migration influence households' level of welfare. Some countries have already made a step in that direction, particularly Moldova, Azerbaijan and Armenia. At this stage it is important to learn lessons from their experience, to standardize the approach and spread the practice of regular evaluation of migration and remittance influence on reducing poverty rate in other countries on the region.