



Who is a migrant?

First results from a world survey
on national migration definitions

Giampaolo Lanzieri

Eurostat

Background

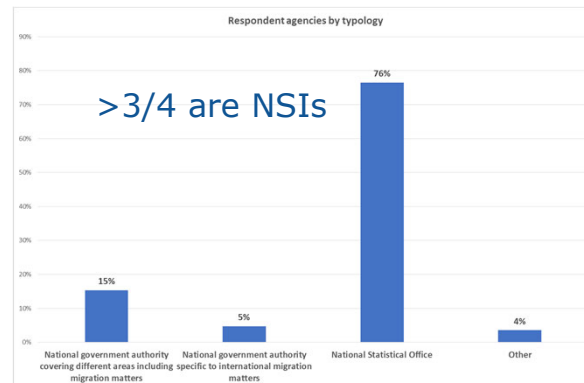
- *On-going work on the revision of the UN recommendations on international migration statistics by the UNSD Expert Group on Migration Statistics*
- *Global survey on various features related to migration statistics launched in summer 2019*

2

UNECE Work Session on Migration
Statistics, Geneva, 29-31 October 2019



My (non-random) sample: 85 agencies in 71 countries



3

UNECE Work Session on Migration
Statistics, Geneva, 29-31 October 2019



Caveats

- *Survey data processing still ongoing – final values and conclusions may change*
- *Further respondents may be added*
- *Here only unidimensional explorative analysis on few selected topics*
- *Categories "Other" and "Not applicable" are excluded*
- *"Other" may be reclassified in predefined categories*

4

UNECE Work Session on Migration
Statistics, Geneva, 29-31 October 2019



Measures used for the stock of international migrants

- *Question 8 (multiple answers):*

How do you measure the “stock of international migrants”, i.e. migrants who are part of the population of your country on a reference date?

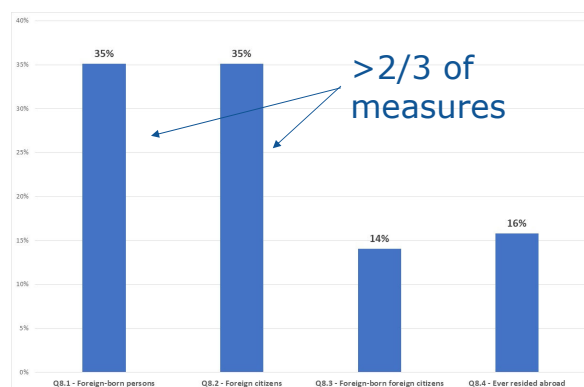
- **Number of foreign-born person**
- **Number of foreign citizens, including stateless persons**
- **Number of foreign citizens who were born abroad**
- **Number of persons who have ever resided abroad in the past**
- **Other (specify)**

5

UNECE Work Session on Migration
Statistics, Geneva, 29-31 October 2019



'Country of birth' and 'Citizenship' are the main measures for stocks



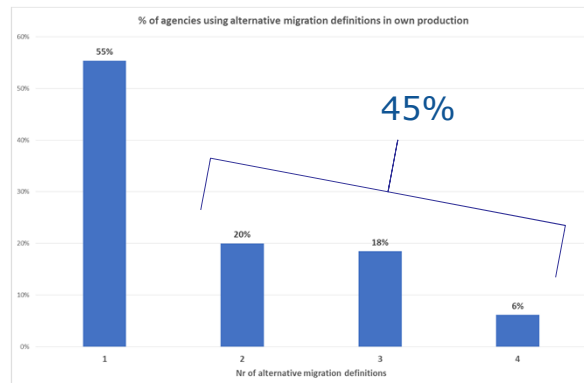
Notes: n=114 (applied measures); others: 21; not applicable: 8 (agencies); no reply: 4. % excluding the latter 3 categories.

6

UNECE Work Session on Migration
Statistics, Geneva, 29-31 October 2019



About half of the agencies apply more than one definition for stocks



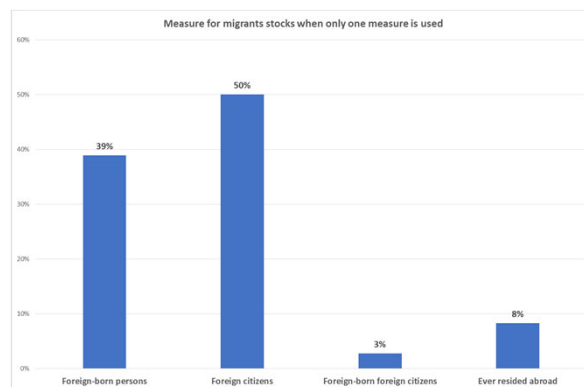
Notes: n=65 (agencies with at least one measure).

7

UNECE Work Session on Migration
Statistics, Geneva, 29-31 October 2019



'Citizenship' is the most used among single measures for stocks



Notes: n=36 (agencies with single measures).

8

UNECE Work Session on Migration
Statistics, Geneva, 29-31 October 2019



Statistical unit for stocks

- *Question 11 (single answer):*

Which is the "statistical unit" in your international immigration stock tables?

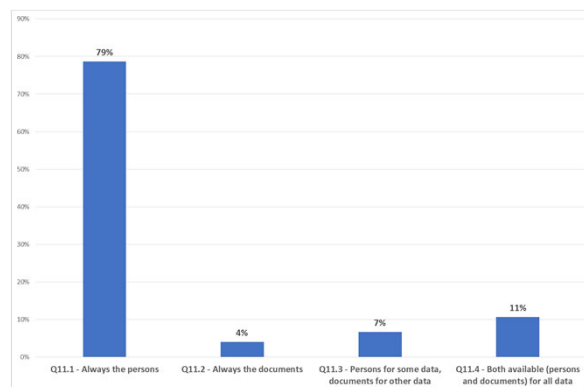
- Always the persons (i.e., immigrants resident at the reference date)
- Always the documents (e.g., valid residence permits / visa at the reference date)
- Persons for some data, documents for other data
- Both available (persons and documents) for all data
- Other (specify)

9

UNECE Work Session on Migration
Statistics, Geneva, 29-31 October 2019



Over 15% of agencies rely or may rely on documents for the stocks



Notes: n=75 (agencies); others: 2; not applicable: 8. % excluding the latter 2 categories.

10

UNECE Work Session on Migration
Statistics, Geneva, 29-31 October 2019



Measure used for the inflow of international migrants

- *Question 13 (single answer):*

How do you measure the "flow of immigrants", i.e. persons who are becoming part of the population of your country in a selected period?

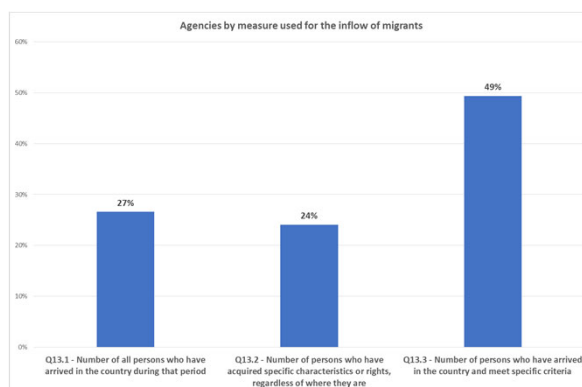
- Number of all persons who have arrived in the country during that period
- Number of persons who have acquired specific characteristics or granted specific rights during that period (e.g., national citizenship, recording in national registers, new residence permits or visa, etc.), regardless of where they are
- Number of persons who have arrived in the country and meet specific criteria
- Other (specify)

11

UNECE Work Session on Migration
Statistics, Geneva, 29-31 October 2019



About half of agencies using 'arrivals' or not requiring factual entry



Notes: n=79 (agencies); others: 2; not applicable: 4. % excluding the latter 2 categories.

12

UNECE Work Session on Migration
Statistics, Geneva, 29-31 October 2019



Criteria to be classified 'immigrant'

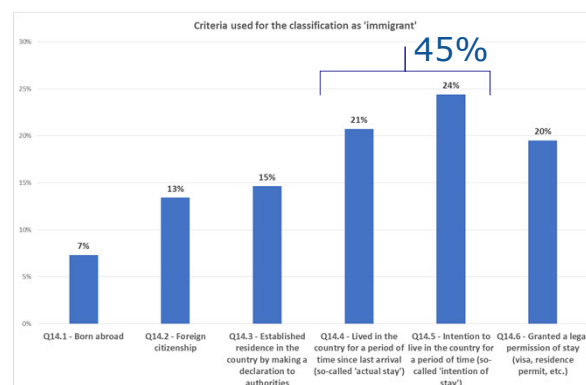
- *Question 14 (multiple answers):*
Which specific criteria do you apply to qualify a person who has arrived in your country as an "immigrant"?
 - Born abroad
 - Foreign citizenship
 - Established residence in the country by making a declaration to authorities
 - Lived in the country for a period of time since last arrival (so-called 'actual stay')
 - Intention to live in the country for a period of time (so-called 'intention of stay')
 - Granted a legal permission of stay (visa, residence permit, etc.)
 - Other (specify)

13

UNECE Work Session on Migration
 Statistics, Geneva, 29-31 October 2019



'Duration of stay' is less than half of the applied criteria



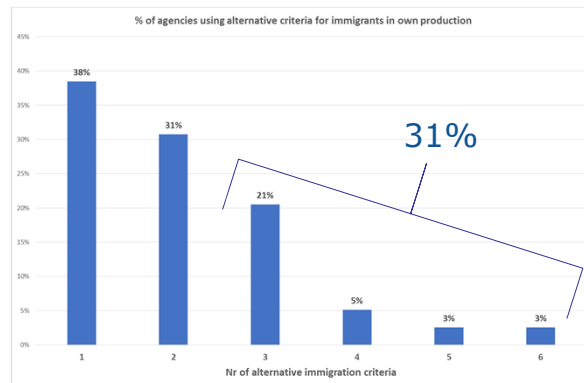
Notes: n=82 (applied criteria); not applicable: 46 (agencies). % excluding the latter category.

14

UNECE Work Session on Migration
 Statistics, Geneva, 29-31 October 2019



About 1/3 of the agencies apply more than two criteria for inflows



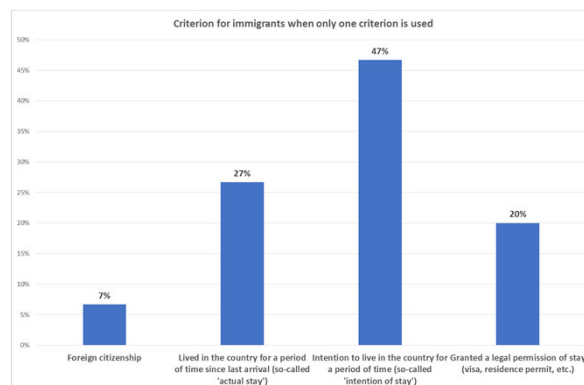
Notes: n=39 (agencies with at least one criterion for immigration).

15

UNECE Work Session on Migration
Statistics, Geneva, 29-31 October 2019



'Intention of stay' is the most used among single criteria for inflows



Notes: n=15 (agencies with single criterion for immigration).

16

UNECE Work Session on Migration
Statistics, Geneva, 29-31 October 2019



'Actual stay' and 'intended stay' more used separately

Number of agencies		Intention of stay		Total
		No	Yes	
Actual stay	No	26%	31%	56%
	Yes	23%	21%	44%
Total		49%	51%	100%

Notes: n=39 (agencies with at least one criterion).

17

UNECE Work Session on Migration
Statistics, Geneva, 29-31 October 2019



Length of 'duration of stay'

- *Question 15:*

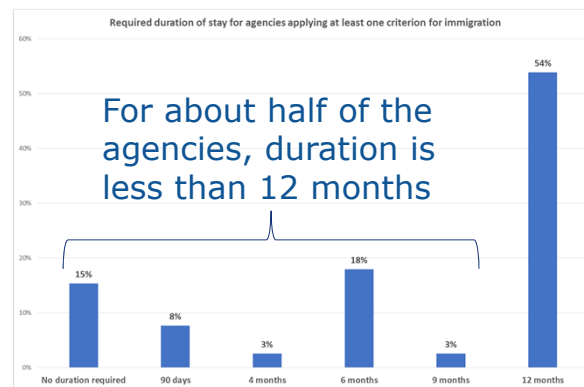
Please provide the required duration of stay in the country to be considered "immigrant", if there is a duration element in the criteria above.

18

UNECE Work Session on Migration
Statistics, Geneva, 29-31 October 2019



Required duration of stay – if any – is not the same everywhere



Notes: n=39 (agencies with at least one criterion).

19

UNECE Work Session on Migration
Statistics, Geneva, 29-31 October 2019



Measure used for the outflow of international migrants

- *Question 20 (single answer):*

How do you measure the "flow of emigrants", i.e. persons who are leaving the population of your country in a selected period?

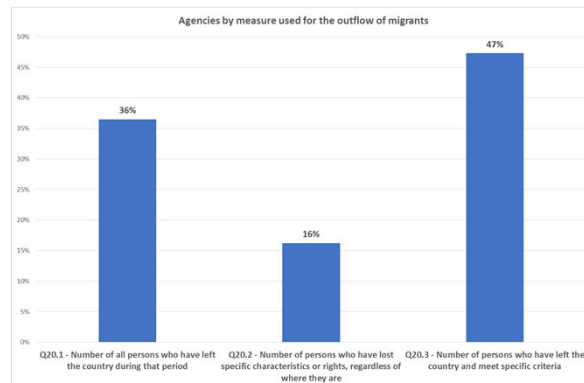
- Number of all persons who have left the country during that period
- Number of persons who have lost specific characteristics or rights during that period (e.g., loss of national citizenship, deletion from national registers, expiration of residence permits or visa, etc.), regardless of where they are
- Number of persons who have left the country and meet specific criteria
- Other (specify)

20

UNECE Work Session on Migration
Statistics, Geneva, 29-31 October 2019



>50% of agencies using 'departures' or not requiring factual exit



Notes: n=74 (agencies); others: 2; not applicable: 9. % excluding the latter 2 categories.

21

UNECE Work Session on Migration
Statistics, Geneva, 29-31 October 2019



Criteria to be classified 'emigrant'

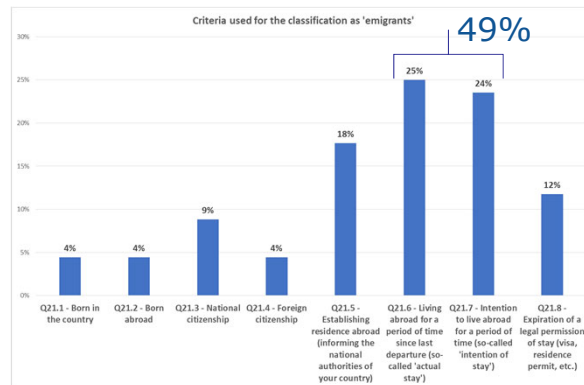
- *Question 21 (multiple answers):*
Which specific criteria do you apply to qualify a person who has left your country as an "emigrant"?
 - **Born in the country**
 - **Born abroad**
 - **National citizenship**
 - **Foreign citizenship**
 - **Establishing residence abroad (informing the national authorities of your country)**
 - **Living abroad for a period of time since last departure (so-called "actual stay")**
 - **Intention to live abroad for a period of time (so-called 'intention of stay')**
 - **Expiration of a legal permission of stay (visa, residence permit, etc.)**
 - **Other (specify)**

22

UNECE Work Session on Migration
Statistics, Geneva, 29-31 October 2019



'Duration of stay' is (again) less than half of the applied criteria



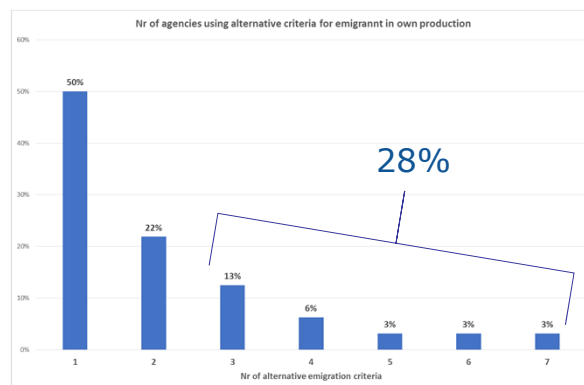
Notes: n=68 (applied criteria); no reply: 2; not applicable: 50 (agencies). % excluding the latter 2 categories.

23

UNECE Work Session on Migration
Statistics, Geneva, 29-31 October 2019



About 1/4 of the agencies apply more than two criteria for outflows



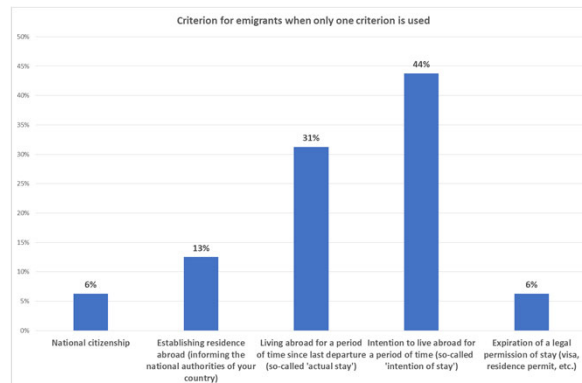
Notes: n=32 (agencies with at least one criterion for emigration).

24

UNECE Work Session on Migration
Statistics, Geneva, 29-31 October 2019



'Intention of stay' is the most used among single criteria for outflows



Notes: n=16 (agencies with single criterion for emigration).

25

UNECE Work Session on Migration
Statistics, Geneva, 29-31 October 2019



Tentative conclusions

- *The (possibly large) majority of the agencies does not use the "correct" measure – as from the 'usual residence' framework – for the migration stock and/or flows*
- *The – potentially confusing – use of different migration definitions is a widespread practice, even within the same agency*

26

UNECE Work Session on Migration
Statistics, Geneva, 29-31 October 2019



Thank you for the attention!

giampaolo.lanzieri@ec.europa.eu

UNECE Work Session on Migration
Statistics, Geneva, 29-31 October 2019

27