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**Bire giren yurt dışından gelen göçün büyüklüğü, 2018**  
Immigration size by province, 2018

TÜRK İstatistik Kurumu, 2019  
Turkish Statistical Institute, 2019

**Bire giren yurt dışına giden göçün büyüklüğü, 2018**  
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## Turkey's Experience on Immigration and Emigration Statistics Based on Administrative Registers: Challenges and Improvements

UNECE  
Work Session on  
Migration Statistics  
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Demographic Statistics Department  
Population and Migration Statistics Group

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## Use of administrative registers for international migration statistics

**Legal base:**

- *Article 9 of the Statistics Law of Turkey:*

*In order to be used for the production of official statistics, the institutions and organisations are obliged to submit (or open to use of the Presidency) the records and other data files they compile, process and store regarding their working areas, and all kinds of maps and data obtained by remote sensing within the specified period and free of charge.*


- *Official Statistics Programme (OSP):*

*OSP, based on the Statistics Law of Turkey, is prepared for a 5-year-period in order to determine the basic principles and standards dealing with the production and dissemination of official statistics and to produce reliable, timely, transparent and impartial data required at national and international level.*



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## Use of administrative registers for international migration statistics

**International Migration Statistics in OSP 2017-2021:**

- *Foreign population (stock)*
- *Immigration and emigration (flow)*
- *Turkish citizens living abroad*
- *Acquisition and loss of citizenship*
- *Residence permits, refugees, conditional refugees, subsidiary protection, temporary protection and illegal migration*
- *Work permits*



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## Use of administrative registers for international migration statistics

### □ Background:

- In Turkey, 14 traditional population censuses were carried out in between 1927 and 2000.
- Population registers, namely ABPRS, was established in 2007. In this way, TurkStat could produce basic population statistics annually pursuant to de-jure definition.
- The 2011 Population and Housing Census (PHC) was implemented with **combined method**. In the census, TurkStat used the administrative registers for the first time for census purposes and obtained 20% of the information from administrative registers.



## Use of administrative registers for international migration statistics

### □ Current situation:

- In addition to ABPRS, foreign registers, residence/work permits, birth/death records and records of citizens living abroad are used as auxiliary data sources.
- 11 digit unique personal identifiers used nationwide for both Turkish citizens and foreigners make administrative data integration and linkage possible.
- For the 2021 PHC, in parallel with the global tendency in the further use of administrative registers and improvements in the national administrative data infrastructure, Turkey plans to conduct a **register-based census**.



## Use of administrative registers for international migration statistics

### □ Current situation (cont'd):

- By the Foreigners and International Protection Law adopted in 2013 and International Labour Force Law adopted in 2016, Directorate General of Migration Management (DGMM) and Directorate General of International Labour Force (DGILF) was established, respectively.
- Since then, centralized databases used by these institutions have been improved significantly in terms of quality and coverage.



## International migration statistics in TR

International Migration Variables	Traditional censuses (1927-2000)	2011 PHC	ABPRS (Since 2007)
<b>Stock Population</b>			
<i>Population</i>	De-facto	De-jure	De-jure
<i>Country of Birth</i>	✓	✓	-Since 2014- ✓
<i>Country of Citizenship</i>	✓	X	-Since 2012- ✓
<i>Ever resided abroad</i>	X	✓	X ✓
<i>First Year of Residence</i>	X	X	-Since 2018- ✓
<b>Migration Flows</b>			
<i>Immigration (country of birth, country of citizenship, previous country of residence) – Five years-</i>	✓	X	X
<i>Immigration (country of birth) –One year-</i>	X	✓	-Since 2016- ✓
<i>Immigration (country of citizenship) –One year-</i>	X	X	-Since 2016- ✓
<i>Immigration (Previous country of residence) –One year-</i>	X	✓	X
<i>Emigration (country of birth and country of citizenship) –One year-</i>	X	X	-Since 2016- ✓
<i>Emigration statistics (Next country of residence) –One year-</i>	X	X	X
<i>Reason for migration</i>	✓ (2000)	✓	X -Studies are ongoing-

## International migration statistics in TR

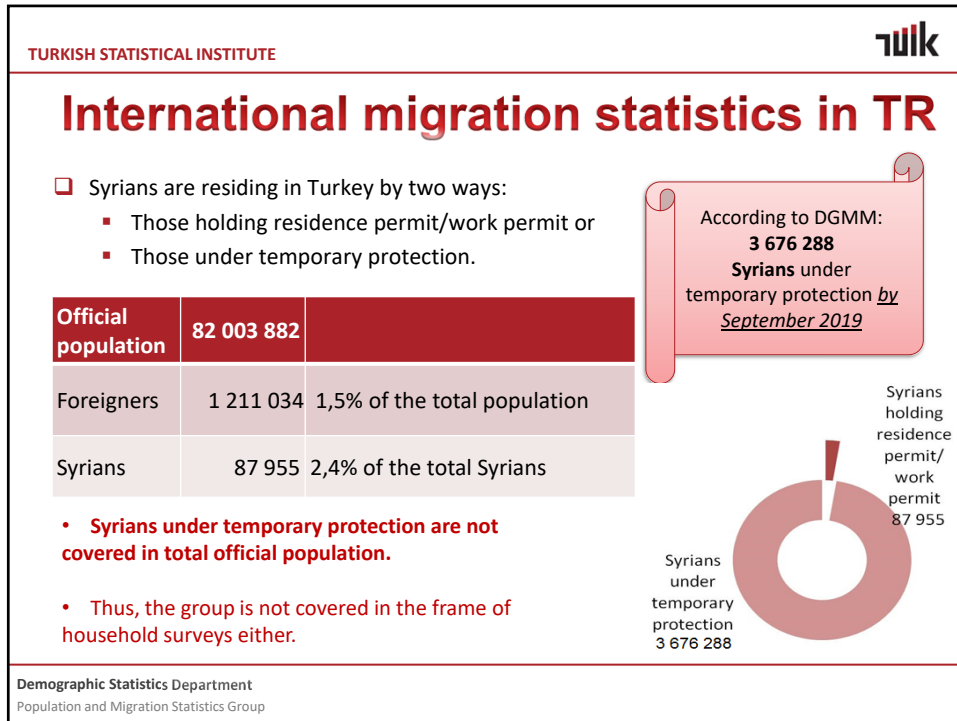
- ☐ In line with the international de-jure concept of ABPRS, foreign population covers individuals;
- Holding a valid residence/work permit at the reference day,
  - Holding an identity document equivalent to residence permit (international protection, etc.) with a valid address declaration at the reference day,
  - Who have already renounced his/her T.R. citizenship and who are residing in the country with a valid address declaration at the reference day.



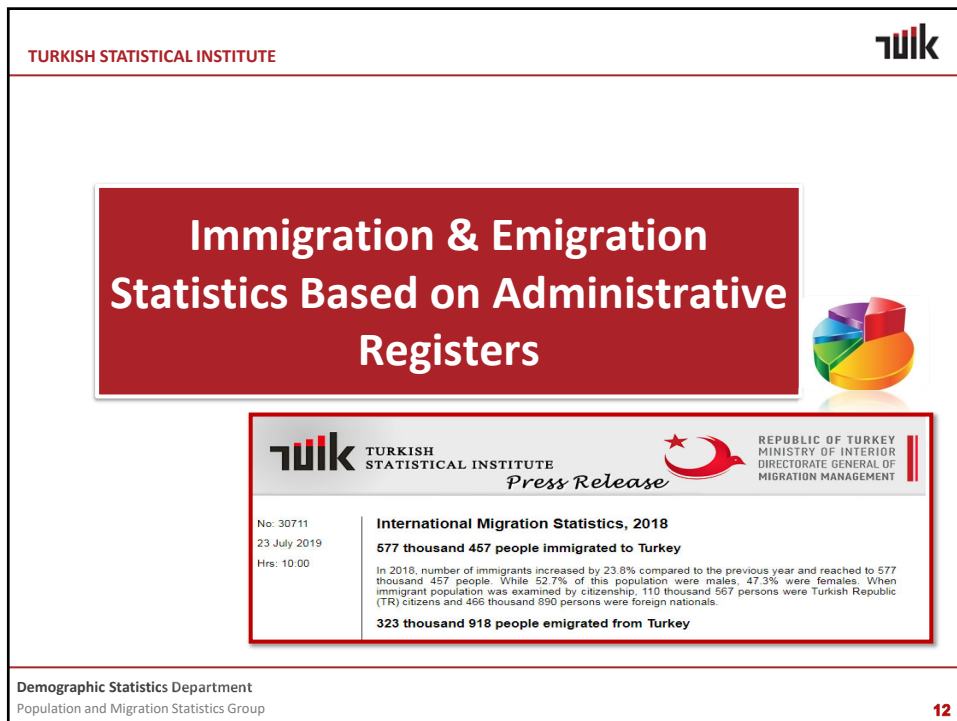
## International migration statistics in TR

- ☐ **Foreigners in the official population of Turkey:**

Population group	Explanation	Covered in total population?
Foreigners holding residence permit valid shorter than 3 months	Individuals present in Turkey for a short period of time with the aim of tourism, courses, scientific research, etc.	No
Individuals under temporary protection	With the temporary protection identification document, individuals are granted the right to stay in Turkey. However, the document is not equivalent to a residence permit or documents which substitute residence permits. Additionally, the document does not grant the right for transition to long term residence permit, its duration is not be taken into consideration when calculating the total term of residence permit durations and not entitle its holder to apply for Turkish citizenship	No
Refugees	The identity documents issued to persons granted refugee status have <u>three years validity</u> and they <u>substitute residence permits</u> .	Yes
Conditional refugees and individuals under subsidiary protection	The identity documents issued to the conditional refugees and individuals under subsidiary protection have <u>one year validity</u> and they <u>substitute residence permits</u> .	Yes



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## Immigration & Emigration Statistics

### ❑ Why accurate flow statistics have not been produced up to 2018?

- In terms of international migration flows, there is no specific survey for official statistics in Turkey and current household surveys do not have an ad hoc module on the subject.
- Census data is very limited, particularly for emigration.
- Registers have some constraints like many other countries.
  - Registration-deregistration problem for foreigners in the population registers.
  - Since the appropriate sanctions or incentives are not in force, Turkish citizens moving abroad abstain from address declaration to the foreign missions unless they need.



INDIVIDUALS PRESENT IN THE COUNTRY

INDIVIDUALS PRESENT IN THE REGISTERS

Those who are not in the administrative registers while present in the country  
-under coverage-

Those who are in the administrative registers but not present in the country  
-over coverage-

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## Immigration & Emigration Statistics

### ❑ What has changed in recent years?

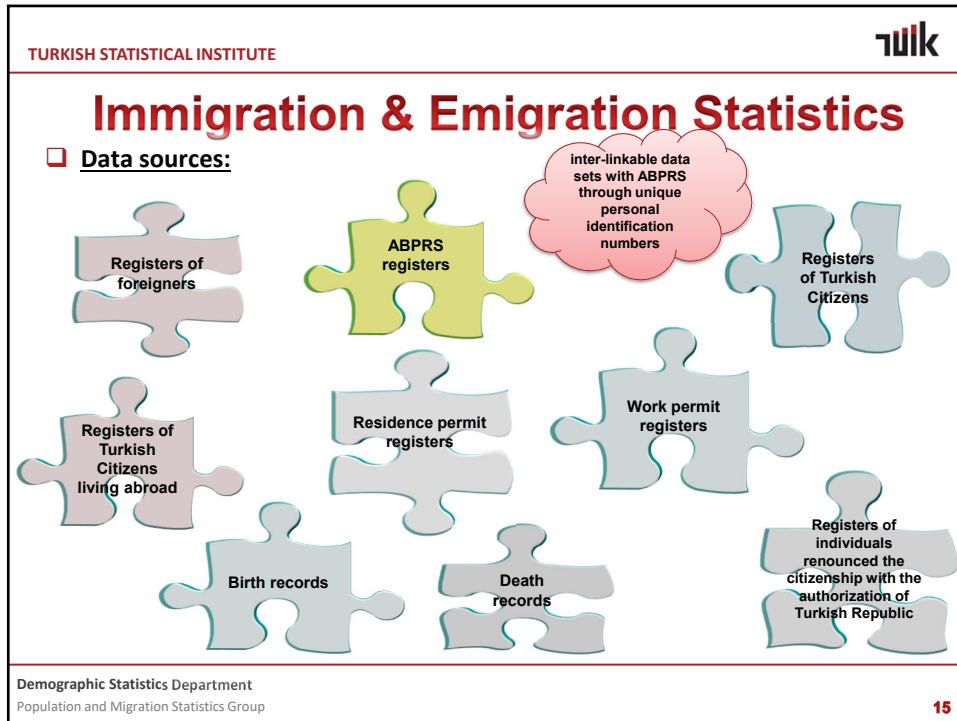
- With recent enacted laws, there have been significant legal and administrative changes. These new mechanisms have come with a lot of developments such as the increase in the quality and coverage of related data.
- In addition to the improvements in foreign registers, records of Turkish citizens living abroad have also gained up-to-dateness due to the recent legislative changes such as the obligation for citizens living abroad to register to be able to vote in the general elections in homeland.
- Given these circumstances, with the experience of 11 years on annual population statistics derived from ABPRS, analyzes on existing records were carried out in parallel with the goal of development of statistics obtained from administrative registers.
- As a result, TurkStat produced annual migration flow statistics, for the first time based on administrative registers in 2018.




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## Immigration & Emigration Statistics

☐ In the calculation process of migration flow statistics, basic equation below was used as **starting point**.

**Based on Address Based Population Registration System (ABPRS);**  
**Demographic Balance Equation:**

$$P(t + 1) = P(t) + \text{Births} - \text{Deaths} + \text{Immigration} - \text{Emigration}$$

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## Immigration & Emigration Statistics

- From the point of this view, analyzes started with the following queries:

**Group 1:** Present in Turkey in year  $t$ ; Not present in Turkey in year  $t+1$  (death or emigration?)

- *To be more precise, individuals who are not present in the reference year ABPRS while present in the previous year ABPRS and who are not died in the reference year were determined as **potential emigrants**.*

**Group 2:** Not present in Turkey in year  $t$ ; Present in Turkey in year  $t+1$  (birth or immigration?)

- *Likewise, individuals who are present in the reference year ABPRS but not in the previous year and who were not born in the reference year were determined as **potential immigrants**.*

*(Exceptionally, if a person was born abroad and moved to Turkey in the same year and thereby present in that year's ABPRS, he/she is accepted as immigrant for that year.)*

## Immigration & Emigration Statistics

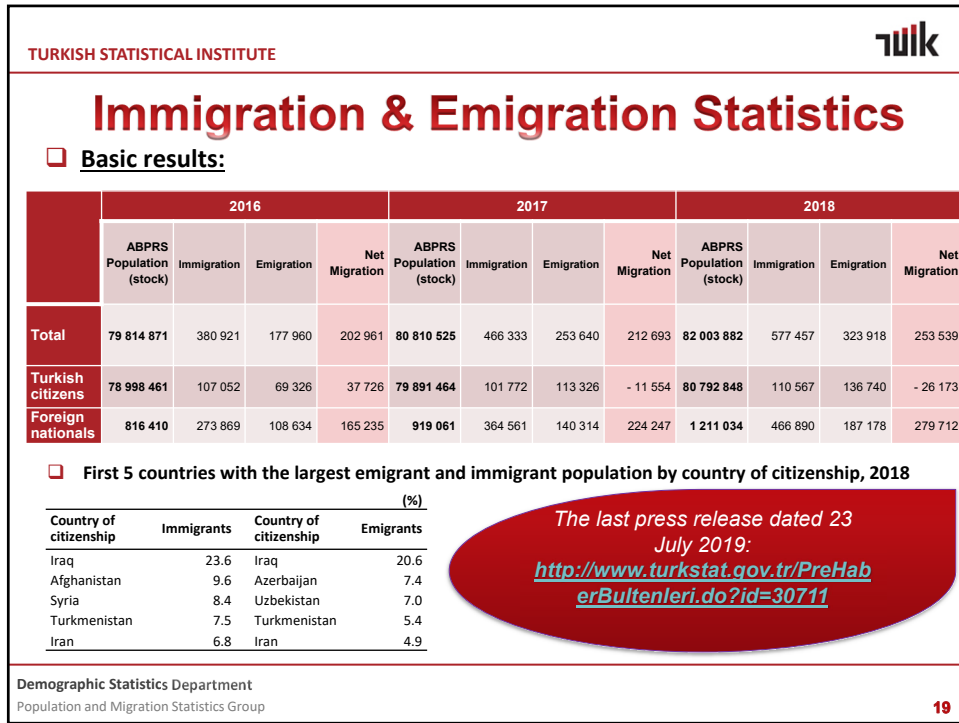
- Subsequently, cross validations were carried out to check consistency between the data sources.

- Discrepancies due to the specific conditions such as late registration of children under five, change of identification number after acquisition of citizenship (i.e. loss of the trace of the naturalized person), change of residence status for foreigners (e.g. residence permit to temporary protection), under/over-coverage of previous/present year ABPRS were solved under certain assumptions based on a data hierarchy.

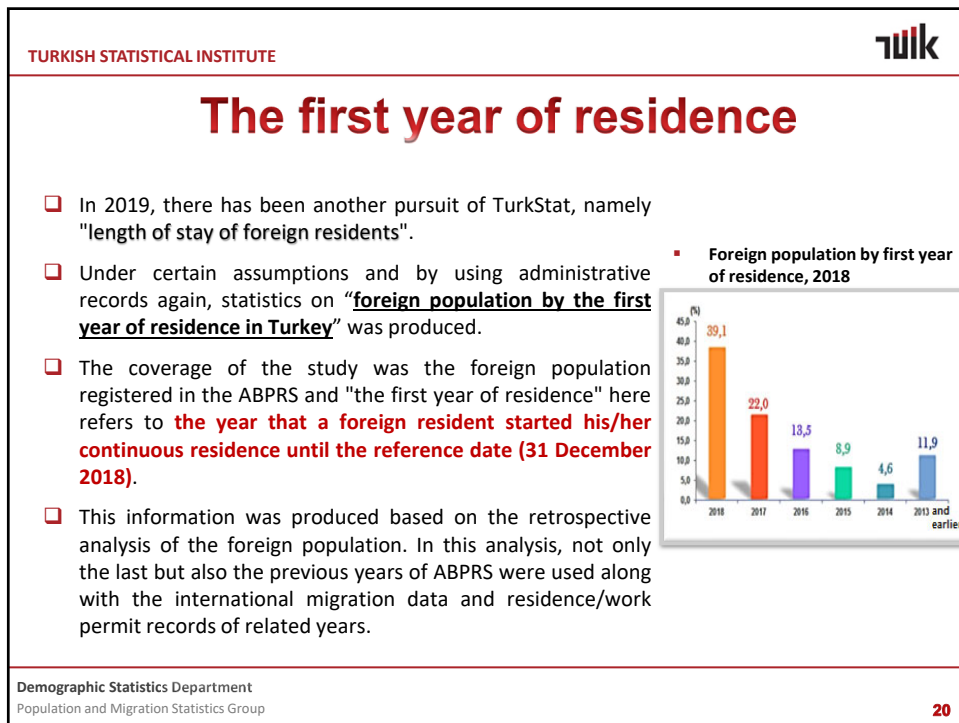
- For **Turkish nationals**, further analyses were conducted based on relations between household members.

- *For instance, residence of children under certain age was used as a determinant for mothers whose migrant statuses were unclear. Conversely, residence of mother was also used as a determinant for children whose migrant statuses were unclear.*





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## The first year of residence

### Foreign population by country of citizenship and the first year of residence in Turkey, 2018

[As of 31 December]

Country of citizenship	Total foreign population	The first year of residence <sup>(*)</sup>					
		2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013 and earlier
<b>Total</b>	<b>1 211 034</b>	<b>473 351</b>	<b>266 074</b>	<b>164 056</b>	<b>107 977</b>	<b>55 495</b>	<b>144 081</b>
<b>Iraq</b>	<b>283 934</b>	<b>113 458</b>	<b>81 756</b>	<b>45 068</b>	<b>32 750</b>	<b>6 530</b>	<b>4 372</b>
<b>Afghanistan</b>	<b>120 409</b>	<b>47 063</b>	<b>35 003</b>	<b>23 268</b>	<b>5 802</b>	<b>2 579</b>	<b>6 694</b>
<b>Syria</b>	<b>87 955</b>	<b>39 196</b>	<b>21 324</b>	<b>15 192</b>	<b>7 507</b>	<b>2 127</b>	<b>2 609</b>
<b>Germany</b>	<b>82 031</b>	<b>8 900</b>	<b>7 548</b>	<b>7 066</b>	<b>7 500</b>	<b>6 835</b>	<b>44 182</b>
<b>Iran</b>	<b>68 839</b>	<b>32 111</b>	<b>13 162</b>	<b>10 704</b>	<b>6 393</b>	<b>2 638</b>	<b>3 831</b>
<b>Turkmenistan</b>	<b>68 146</b>	<b>34 940</b>	<b>13 193</b>	<b>5 908</b>	<b>4 840</b>	<b>3 513</b>	<b>5 752</b>
<b>Azerbaijan</b>	<b>61 807</b>	<b>23 359</b>	<b>12 084</b>	<b>8 721</b>	<b>5 901</b>	<b>4 352</b>	<b>7 390</b>
<b>Uzbekistan</b>	<b>34 090</b>	<b>15 241</b>	<b>7 809</b>	<b>4 076</b>	<b>2 929</b>	<b>1 740</b>	<b>2 295</b>
<b>Russian Federation</b>	<b>33 441</b>	<b>13 844</b>	<b>4 938</b>	<b>3 444</b>	<b>3 352</b>	<b>2 771</b>	<b>5 092</b>
<b>Egypt</b>	<b>26 162</b>	<b>13 544</b>	<b>7 362</b>	<b>2 790</b>	<b>1 371</b>	<b>800</b>	<b>295</b>
<b>Other</b>	<b>344 220</b>	<b>131 695</b>	<b>61 895</b>	<b>37 819</b>	<b>29 632</b>	<b>21 610</b>	<b>61 569</b>

Source: TurkStat, Address Based Population Registration System (ABPRS), 2013-2018

(\*) It refers to the year that foreign population started to their continuous residence until 31 December 2018.

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## Conclusion



- ❑ The context regarding the creation/use of administrative data on international migration in Turkey is favourable. Firstly, there is a legal basis for harmonization and processing of administrative data by TurkStat. Secondly, personal identifiers used nationwide for both Turkish citizens and foreigners make administrative data integration and linkage possible.
- ❑ On the other hand, since the registers are kept for administrative purposes, even though remarkable progress has been achieved, there is still need for some improvements to acquire robust transformation of administrative registers to statistical data. Moreover, institutional mandates and data confidentiality concerns of administrative register holders may outweigh the Statistical Law and become the main factors that slow down the process of access or transfer of the data.
- ❑ Although registers of foreigners works in a similar way with the population registers, they only cover foreigners who have legal residence in the related country. In this respect, under-coverage (for those who are not in the administrative registers while present in the country) and over-coverage (for those who are in the administrative registers but not present in the country) problems come into prominence. Certain regulations that will ensure the individuals' declaration of their immigration and emigration are needed.
- ❑ Since the legislative change in 2015, Turkish citizens living abroad voluntarily register and update their information much more compared to pre-2015, for the sake of being able to vote in the general elections. However, further studies will continue to ensure the accuracy and completeness.

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## Conclusion



- ❑ Information on previous/next country of residence of migrants cannot be produced from the existing administrative data sources. Although information on previous country of residence seems likely to be produced with some arrangements in registers, information on next country of residence poses a strong challenge.
- ❑ In order to calculate the most accurate population size, TurkStat needs to use **border records** to identify the usual residence population. Or another option is to modify the related regulation by adding mandatory de-registration rule and measures to ensure the implementation.
- ❑ With the aim of increasing the quality of international migration statistics announced to the public annually, **vital events** (birth, marriage, divorce, death) should be complete and accurate for the foreigners residing in the country. **Socio-economic characteristics of foreign population** (such as educational attainment, economically activity status and occupation) are also to be studied by using existing data sources.
- ❑ In order to produce complete, reliable, regular, comparable and compatible international migration statistics, TurkStat, in cooperation with stakeholders, will continue to explore the availability of **new data sources** and to work on **transformation of registers into statistical sources** by developing existing data sources, fulfilling the fundamental information deficiencies and providing up-to-dateness and sustainability.

