Migration and remittances measurement in the pandemic

Results of the national statistical offices survey in UNECE countries
(with EECCA countries in focus)

27 October 2020
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Albania</td>
<td>Georgia</td>
<td>Russian Federation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Armenia</td>
<td>Hungary</td>
<td>Slovenia</td>
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<td>Azerbaijan</td>
<td>Kazakhstan</td>
<td>Spain</td>
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<td>Belarus</td>
<td>Kyrgyzstan</td>
<td>Switzerland</td>
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<td>Bulgaria</td>
<td>Lithuania</td>
<td>Ukraine</td>
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<td>Croatia</td>
<td>Luxembourg</td>
<td>United States</td>
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<td>Denmark</td>
<td>Montenegro</td>
<td>Uzbekistan</td>
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<tr>
<td>Estonia</td>
<td>North Macedonia</td>
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<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>Republic of Moldova</td>
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Key areas of research

- Data sources used
- Methods of data collection
- Demand and supply of data on the COVID-19 impact
- Difficulties faced and solutions applied
Disruptions in data collection

The data was collected mostly without significant delays - both through administrative sources and surveys, but the quality of data raises concerns.
Receiving administrative sources data: changes in procedure across UNECE

- On schedule: 72%
- Slight delay: 12%
- Significant delay: 4%
- Other: 12%
Receiving administrative sources data: changes in procedure across EECCA only

- On schedule: 60%
- Slight delay: 20%
- Significant delay: 10%
- Other: 10%
Data quality concerns: administrative sources

Collection of administrative data was constrained due to the restrictions of mobility and limited physical access to public offices.
Survey taking in pandemic

- Tourism surveys cancelled
- 17 surveys conducted by the surveyed UNECE countries, including 5 in EECCA countries
- Half of them - remotely:
  - Telephone
  - Self-administered online surveys
  - Interviewing via zoom, skype or similar programs.
Survey taking methods in UNECE: no changes (47%), remotely (41%), F2F w protection gear (12%)
Survey taking methods EECCA only

- No changes: 40%
- F2F with protection: 0%
- Remotely: 40%
- Other: 20%
Data quality concerns: surveys

Collection of survey data was associated with higher non-response rates and limited skills of respondents to work with online questionnaire.
Remote data collection methods

Adjustments in the data collection procedure - remote survey taking - appeared not always successful and require further consideration.
Specialized surveys on COVID-19 and migration

The impact of COVID-19 on migration/migrants was not yet addressed by most UNECE countries’ statistical offices.

Among EECCA countries, only Moldova reported taking steps to studying COVID-19 impact.
How COVID-19 impact was studied

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Developed new COVID-19 impact questionnaires</th>
<th>HUNGARY, MOLDOVA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Added COVID-19 related questions to the standard questionnaire</td>
<td>LUXEMBURG, MOLDOVA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Changed data collection mode</td>
<td>HUNGARY, NORTH MACEDONIA, UNITED STATES</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
How COVID-19 impact was studied

COVID-19 related questions addressed in surveys:

Changes in income level
Changes in living conditions
Changes in employment status
Methods for future studies of COVID-19 impact on migration: UNECE countries

- No such plans: 57%
- Administrative data: 20%
- Online: 10%
- Video: 3%
- Telephone: 10%
Methods for future studies of COVID-19 impact on migration: EECCA countries

- Telephone: 15%
- Video: 8%
- Online: 8%
- Adm. Sources: 15%
- No such plans: 54%
### Use of the Harmonized module on migration and remittances in EECCA countries

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RUSSIA</td>
<td>Harmonised module is partially incorporated in the LFS (starting 2021)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KAZAKHSTAN</td>
<td>The module can be used after adjustment to study COVID-19 impact</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Administrative challenges

Remote work appeared challenging for most National statistical offices in UNECE countries
Highlighted challenges (num. of responses)

- Equipment
- Software
- Respondent skills
- Connectivity
- Staff/interviewers skills
- Expertise on methodology and new data sources

EECCA only vs TOTAL
Summary of key findings

- The data was collected mostly without significant delays - both through administrative sources and surveys, but the quality of data raises concerns.

- Collection of administrative data was constrained due to the restrictions of mobility and limited physical access to public offices.

- Collection of survey data was associated with higher non-response rates and limited skills of respondents to work with online questionnaire.
Adjustments in the data collection procedure - remote survey taking - appeared not always successful and require further consideration.

For future studies on the COVID-19 impact on migration, most UNECE countries seem to opt for telephone and online surveys, but prefer to rely on administrative data sources.

Remote work appeared challenging for most National statistical offices in UNECE countries: better connectivity appeared as urgent as expertise on new data collection methodology.
Thank you for your attention!