



Discussion on the presentations of the session “Impact of the pandemic on foreign population, refugees, internal migration”

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Thank you to our presenters! 😊

- Maciej Beresewicz (Poland)
 - Foreign population in Poland
- Feng Hou (Canada)
 - Labour market outcomes of immigrants in Canada
- Nicky Rogers (UK)
 - New longitudinal database in the UK
- Barica Razpotnik (Slovenia)
 - Restrictions of movement and internal migration in Slovenia

Suggested official statistics high level flow chart

- (1) Issues and users/policy needs -> (2) production of official statistics -> (3) results shed light on issues and answer users needs -> new issues/needs ->
- COVID-19 impacted this process.
- Four good and complementary examples of how national agencies are adapting to meet emerging needs in official statistics by producing and releasing improved data and new analyses.

(1) Emerging needs from users resulting from COVID-19

- Two emerging needs resulting from COVID-19
 - Need for new content
 - Very timely statistics
- In some cases, good data are already available
 - Canada: Labour Force Survey
 - Slovenia: registration of residence
 - In other cases, data needs to be modified or produced
 - Poland: combining data from 9 registers to examine the number of foreigners
 - UK: linking many sources together without common identifiers

(2) How official statistics are produced to address some of these emerging needs

- Statistics = Concepts + data + methods + context + partners + values
- Concepts
 - Slovenia: Direct measure of permanent vs temporary residence that suggests a marked increase in temporary residence registrations
 - UK: Integration of sources with potentially different concepts
- Data and methods
 - Poland and UK: Benefits of having integrated identifiers for linkages and challenges of not having common identifiers
 - Slovenia: Understand the context of data collection
- Partners
 - Poland and UK: Engaging national partners to produce new data

(3) How official statistics are analyzed and released to address some of these emerging needs

- Releases = data tables/dashboards + analytical reports + methodological reports
- Disaggregated results
 - Poland and Canada: Relevance of looking at subgroups of immigrants with different outcomes
- Partnerships
 - Canada: partnership with the immigration department to write the paper
- Report uncertainty
 - Presenters used words such as “provisional”, “pilot” and “experimental” to acknowledge the trade-off made between accuracy and timeliness.
 - Strengths and flaws of surveys are better known than those of admin data in many countries

Specific comments/questions

- Maciej Beresewicz (Poland)
 - Talked about experimental data in a cautious way. Use one key strength of admin data (timeliness)
 - We see some spikes in the daily changes in the number of foreigners leaving Poland at different times for various countries (Moldavia: mid-April, Russia: first half of March). Are they related to lockdowns in these countries?
 - How did you assess the quality of the registers you used?

Specific comments/questions

- Feng Hou (Canada)
 - Relevant use of existing data and collaboration with a strategic partner
 - Survey data: were you able to disaggregate the Labour Force Survey data by other characteristics (e.g. admission category, province of residence, etc.)?
 - Impact of COVID-19 on the Labour Force Survey?
 - People who lost and found a job: similar job (wages, skill level, etc.)?

Specific comments/questions

- Nicky Rogers (UK)
 - Interesting use of a longitudinal perspective to study integration outcomes of vulnerable populations!
 - Canada has a similar database, the Longitudinal Immigration Database
 - Is there any plan to use the pilot to examine the impact of COVID-19 on vulnerable persons soon?
 - What sort of studies do you intend to make to assess the magnitude and impacts of linkage biases?
 - What will you do about any potential inconsistencies when integrating all these sources?
 - Decrease in the number of applications and decisions? Is the “rate of admission” similar in 2020 than in previous year?

Specific comments/questions

- Barica Razpotnik (Slovenia)
 - Having a direct measure of temporary internal migration opens all kinds of analytical possibilities, notably the impact of transitory populations on local communities. Good point on reverse migration
 - Does the 2020 profile of the COVID temporary residence registrations match that of previous years?
 - Can your data show the magnitude of the return migration of Slovenian nationals? If so, are these returns permanent or temporary?

In the future?

- Will new users needs remain after the pandemic or were they temporary?
- If so, how do we address them as national agencies in “normal” times? Are Data still considered good enough for official statistics? If so, we might have to accept the new trade-offs (e.g. between accuracy and timeliness, data and confidentiality/privacy)
- Resources put on these projects? Cancellation of other projects?
- Additional studies to inform users on data quality?