

**Online Meetings on Migration Statistics 27-29 October 2020**

**ABSTRACT**

<b>Title</b>	The impact of restriction of movement between municipalities during the COVID-19 epidemic in Slovenia on internal migration data
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<b>Session</b>	Impact of the pandemic on foreign population, refugees, and internal migration

At the end of March 2020 the Slovenian government adopted a decree on the restriction of movement between municipalities in order to limit the spread of Covid. All people were required to stay within their municipalities with very few exceptions (e.g. work, emergencies etc.). A person's »home« municipality could be the municipality of their permanent or temporary residence, and one was not supposed to travel between the two without good reason.

The decree resulted in an increase in registrations of temporary residence. Registering temporary residence is a simple online procedure that only takes a few minutes for Slovenian citizens and foreigners with valid permits.

At present (mid-September 2020), we only have provisional data for 1st quarter of 2020. These show that of all the migrations between municipalities in that time, 13% were recorded on 30 and 31 March, immediately after the adoption of the decree. Most of these migrations were most likely not actual migrations at that time, but more likely delayed registrations of earlier changes of residence.

The restriction of movement was partly lifted at the end of April 2020 and then completely lifted in May 2020, so we expect to see increased internal migration in 2nd quarter 2020 as well (data available on 29 October 2020).

It is difficult to assess the long-term impacts of these changes at the moment, but we do expect some reverse movements in 2022, when the validity of these newly registered temporary residences expires, and people unknowingly slip back to their permanent residence. The reverse internal migrations should however be fewer than the original 2020 migrations, as a certain percentage of 2020 temporary registration is likely to convert to permanent..