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Joint ECE-EUROSTAT-ESCWA work session
on Migration Statistics*
(Geneva, 8-10 May 2000)

Topic 3

**Implementation of the recently revised recommendations
on statistics of international migration**

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INBOUND AND OUTBOUND FLOWS

A. Non nationals

How to measure foreigner immigration in Italy

1. Foreigners regularly staying in Italy own a **residence permit**; it contains information on the date of entrance in then country, the expire date and the motivation of the presence. Minors, in most cases, don't have their own permit¹. ISTAT processes annually data on the total amount of valid permits, managed by the Ministry of the Interior.
2. Those who own a valid permit of residence can join the municipal **resident population registers**. Unfortunately, it can often happen that people with expired documents remain recorded in the population registers even after the document expiry.

* The documentation for this work session will be processed as for seminars.

¹ Exceptions are made for the residence permits released in cases of adoption or custody: these bear the name of the minor.

Sources

3. There are three principal sources for the flow study:

SOURCE	POPULATION	MOTIVATION	DURATION	OUTPUT
Change of residence survey	Resident	NO	NO	Registrations/deregistrations of in-migrants and immigrants / out-migrants and emigrants, by origin and destination, citizenship, gender, age, civil status and municipality
Registered calculation and flow of the foreigner resident population	Resident	NO	NO	Registrations/deregistrations of immigrants / emigrants, by gender and municipality
Residence permits	Present	YES	YES	Inbound and outbound flows by motivation, duration, gender, age, citizenship and province

4. The first two sources refer to **resident population** recorded in the municipal population registers and do not allow to study inbound and outbound flow motivations and do not provide any element to estimate the migratory project duration. The first survey (*individual data*) allows to obtain an estimate of the total amount of entrances and exits, a few social-demographic characteristics (sex, age, civil status), as well as flow origin and destination (Italian municipality or province, foreign State). On the other hand, the second survey (*aggregated data*) only provides the total amount of transfers by sex, both in the country and out of it. Studying flows using these sources imply:

- **advantages:** consistency with stock data on resident population, both Italians and foreigner. Data refer to the whole foreigner population (minors and of age)
- **disadvantages:** lack of information on motivations and duration of their stay

5. The **residence permits**, i.e. identity documents that identify the foreigners rightfully staying in Italy, indirectly provide information about residence duration and motivations; in both cases the indications are approximate since the motivations for which the document is issued do not always correspond to the true intentions of the migrant; even duration is not certain, since every permit can be renewed. However, notwithstanding these limitations, residence permits are the only source that can provide information about the stay duration and motivation of the foreign population arriving in Italy. Studying flows using this source imply:

- **advantages:** chance to know, even with some approximation, motivations and duration of the foreigner presence in Italy
- **disadvantages:** data refer to foreigner population legally present in Italy, there isn't any link with data on resident population; minors are not computed

Inbound Flows Calculated on Residence Permits

6. Every year ISTAT, in collaboration with the Ministry of the Interior, processes the inbound flow data, estimated according to date of entry in Italy declared by the foreigner upon permit release. The entry quantification procedure is rather complicated and is based on a monthly data analysis provided by the

Ministry; with a two/three month delay on reference period, such information provides the inbound flow inclusive of those foreigners whose papers will expire during the year, and therefore will not be part of the residents by the end of the year.

7. This survey is presently managed directly by the Ministry of the Interior and is based on residence permit motivation.

8. Separating short-term from long-term flows is not an easy task. There are no direct links between permit duration and release motivation, therefore a distinction based on motivations would be unfeasible. The only way to assess permit duration is by cross-checking the entry date and the expiry date. This may turn out to be an empirical and not totally satisfactory method, since the duration of the permit does not always correspond to the foreigner's intention about the length of his/her stay. In fact, when his/her permit expires, a foreigner may obtain one or more renewals and stay for a longer time or – which is often the case – may remain in Italy as a clandestine. Therefore, the reference duration is the initial one, which is quite likely not to match the actual duration, rightful or not, of the foreigner's stay in Italy.

9. Notwithstanding the limits of this method, due to the 'administrative' nature of the source, it is, however, theoretically possible to distinguish between short and long-term flows among inbound flows per individual motivation.

Outbound Flows Calculated on Residence Permits

10. Given the present difficulties in managing the statistical archive of the residence permits, the only way to estimate outbound flows is the end-of-year balance of the exits from the country, or from the status of regularity, calculated as the difference between the variations in the initial (1/1) and final (31/12) number of valid permits and of the entries occurred during the year for which the residence permits are still effective on December 31st of that year. However, this methodology does not allow to distinguish between short and long-term outbound flows but may apply to individual stay motivations. It still is an approximate calculation, less accurate than the one used for inbound flows: there is no way to have an 'exact' reference date for those who leave the country (or the status of rightful residents), while there is a certain entry date in the case of inbound flows. In fact, the expiry date in itself does not mean that a foreigner resident has left, as long as he/she can always renew his/her residence permit.

11. In addition to the described sources, there are certain specific ones related to applications for political asylum or entrance visa; however, these are specific statistics that would hardly give a simultaneous and consistent picture of the main information sources on migration.

B. Nationals

12. Due to the nature of the available sources, that for the Italian population refer to resident population recorded in the municipal registers, no distinction between short or long-term may be had, nor there is a way to identify transfer motivations.

The AIRE (*Anagrafe degli italiani all'estero*) source may be used for the Italians living abroad, however this is not managed directly by ISTAT but by the Ministry of the Interior.

MIGRANT STOCK

13. The available sources are:

SOURCE	POPULATION	MOTIVATIONS	OUTPUT
Registered calculation and flow of the foreigner resident population	Resident	NO	Foreigner resident population, by gender, citizenship and municipality
Residence permits	Present	YES	Foreigner regularly present population by motivation, gender, citizenship, age, civil status and province

14. As for the flows, analysing municipal register of resident population the difference among the various reasons for foreign presence is not distinguishable. This source only provides the distribution by gender and citizenship of the foreign resident population per municipality of residence; the number of minor residents may also be assessed, differentiated by gender.

- **advantages:** consistency with Italian resident population data; minors are computed
- **disadvantages:** no information on immigrants' motivations; age distribution it's not available, we only know minors' proportion

15. In this case as well, the only way to have information on motivations is to use the **residence permits**. As we already said, the biggest trouble is the more or less total exclusion of minors, that by law do not have their ID paper but have to be reported in the permit of the parent they are dependent of. ISTAT has recently estimated for the first time the population legally present in the country, by integrating residence permit data with the data of the people who are registered in municipality offices, including minors.

16. The duration and motivations of the foreign adult population rightfully present in Italy can be analysed, as well as their citizenship, sex, civil status and province of residence.

- **advantages:** information on presence motivations; age distribution is known
- **disadvantages:** minors are excluded; there are no links with resident population

The following table will help to the implementation of the recently revised recommendations on statistics of international migration

FLOW OR MIGRATION DATA

For each of the following cells please give the potential data source in your country (e.g. population register, census, foreign register, survey...) and the body responsible for the data collection (Ministry of Interior, Justice, Education...).

Note if the time constraint is respected as described in box 1 on page 10 (3 months or 1 year)

Check if the whole population is concerned and specify all sub-population that are not included

Give an indication on the reliability of the data collection (e.g. good = more than 90%, medium from 50 to 90% or low below 50%)

IN F L O W S - ARRIVALS

SHORT - T E R M MIGRATION

LONG - T E R M MIGRATION

TOTAL MIGRATION

Citizens Non-citizens TOTAL Citizens Non-citizens TOTAL Citizens Non-citizens TOTAL

Categories of inflows in the country (numbers are related to box 2 , p. 14)

(9,10) Entry linked to education and training	A.1 NO	A.2 RP	A.3 NO	A.4 NO	A.5 RP	A.6 NO	A.7 NO	A.8 RP	A.9 NO
(11) Entry linked to employment	B.1 NO	B.2 RP	NO	NO	RP	NO	NO	RP	NO
(12) Entry of international civil servants	C.1 NO	C.2 NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
(13) Entry with free establishment	D.1 NO	D.2 NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
(14) Entry for settlement	E.1 NO	E.2 RP	NO	NO	RP	NO	NO	RP	NO
(15) Entry linked to family reunification or family formation	F.1 NO	F.2 RP	NO	NO	RP	NO	NO	RP	NO
(17) Entry to seek asylum		G.2 RP/AS	NO		RP/AS	NO		RP/AS	-
(16,18) Other entries (please specify)	H.1 NO	H.2 RP*	NO	NO	RP*	NO	NO	RP*	NO

Total entries

I.1 NO	I.2 RP	NO	NO	RP	NO	ISCAN	RP, ISCAN, ANAG*	ISCAN, ANAG**
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*= religion, adoption...

O U T F L O W S - DEPARTURES

SHORT - T E R M MIGRATION

LONG - T E R M MIGRATION

TOTAL MIGRATION

Citizens Non-citizens TOTAL Citizens Non-citizens TOTAL Citizens Non-citizens TOTAL

Categories of outflows in the country (numbers are related to box 2 , p. 14)

(9,10) Departure linked to education and training	J.1 NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	RP	NO
(11) Departure linked to employment	K.1 NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	RP	NO
(12) Departure of international civil servants	L.1 NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
(13) Departure with free establishment	M.1 NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
(14) Departure for settlement	N.1 NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	RP	NO
(15) Departure linked to family reunion or family formation	O.1 NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	RP	NO
(16,18) Other departures (please specify)	P.1 NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	RP*	NO
(17) Departure of a former asylum seeker		Q.2 NO	NO		NO	NO		RP	NO
Total departures	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	ISCAN	RP, ISCAN, ANAG*	ISCAN, ANAG**

MIGRANT STOCK

For each of the following categories, please specify the potential data source in order to identify the number of persons or to estimate the volume of that stock

Check if the whole population is concerned and detect all sub-population that is not concerned (e.g. dependants and employees)

Please indicate the time of the year for each migrants stocks (e.g. 30th June, 1st December, 31 December).

Give an indication on the reliability of the data collection (good = more than 90%, medium from 50 to 90% or low below 50%)
Is there a systematic link between the data collection on migrants stocks and the related flow statistics ?

Categories of migrants stock

CITIZENS LIVING ABROAD

For education and training
For employment on a permanent base (long term)
For employment on a temporary or seasonal base
International civil servants
With free establishment
For settlement
For family reunification or family formation
Admitted refugees
For seeking asylum
Diplomatic or consular status
Military personnel
Other migrant stock (please specify)
TOTAL MIGRANT STOCKS

R.1
S.1
T.1
U.1
V.1
W.1
X.1
Y.1
Z.1
AA.1
AB.1
AC.1
AD.1 AIRE

NON CITIZENS LIVING IN THE COUNTRY

R.2 RP
S.2 RP
RP
NO
NO
RP
RP
RP
RP
RP
RP
RP
RP, ANAG*

COMMENTS : For comments see the 'Assessments of the situation'

COUNTRY : ITALY

RP=Residence permits, issued by Ministry of the Interior. In most cases, minors are not computed.

Good reliability of the survey

ANAG*= Registered calculation and flow of the *foreigner* resident population. Data are managed by municipalities, and collected by ISTAT. Good reliability of the survey

ANAG**= Registered calculation and flow of the total (*Italian + foreigner*) resident population.

Data are managed by municipalities, and collected by ISTAT. Good reliability of the survey

ISCAN=Change of residence survey. Data are managed by municipalities, and collected by ISTAT. Good reliability of the survey

AIRE=Italian resident abroad population register.

Data are managed by the Ministry of the Interior.

Person to be contacted for clarification :

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