

Distr.
GENERAL

CES/SEM.42/5
28 February 2000

ENGLISH
Original: FRENCH

**STATISTICAL COMMISSION
and ECONOMIC COMMISSION
FOR EUROPE**

**STATISTICAL OFFICE OF THE
EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
(EUROSTAT)**

**CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN
STATISTICIANS**

**ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION
FOR WESTERN ASIA (ESCWA)**

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

Topic 1

**Sources of data on international migration in the Maghreb countries:
limitations and potential**

Invited paper submitted by the Moroccan Directorate of Statistics*

1. Several sources of data on international migration in the Maghreb countries have been identified within the framework of the MED-MIGR project, a major component of the MEDSTAT Euro-Mediterranean statistical cooperation programme. Some of the more important sources still have deficiencies that limit their use over the relatively short term. Preliminary efforts aimed at reviewing the procedures and sometimes also the methods of data collection have been deemed necessary to ensure a regular supply of reliable statistics on flows and stocks of migrants.

* Prepared by Jamal Bouchachen.

CES/SEM.42/5

page 2

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

GE.00-30577 (E)

2. Despite certain differences, in particular regarding the degree of utilization of available sources, the three Maghreb countries essentially present large similarities, which should make it possible to envisage joint programmes to enhance the systems of collection and dissemination of statistics on international migration.

Main sources identified: limitations and potential

3. The population censuses carried out regularly by the National Statistical Institutes (NSIs) are obviously not only the most important source of data but also the easiest to use in the three Maghreb countries. Some questions, in particular on place of birth, place of residence at a given time in the past and nationality, recur regularly in Maghreb census questionnaires. Their use in respect of international migration nevertheless remains very partial and the results obtained are rarely published.

4. Household surveys, including demographic surveys and surveys on occupation and employment, have sometimes included aspects of international migration, but generally speaking their small sample size is a serious handicap for any proper measurement of the migration phenomenon. It should, however, be noted that some specific - albeit rare - surveys conducted are very rich sources on international migration in Maghreb countries.

5. Records of residence permits issued by the Interior Ministries' General Directorates for National Security (DGSN) to foreign nationals established in the Maghreb countries can, if regularly updated, yield very rich and relatively reliable statistics, particularly on stocks of migrants. This information rarely leaves the statistical divisions of the Interior Ministries for the simple reason that it is almost never requested by the NSIs.

6. Employment contracts drawn up by Ministries of Employment also provide data on foreign nationals working in the Maghreb countries, such contracts usually being a prerequisite for obtaining a residence permit. Although hardly providing such complete statistics as the above, records of contracts of employment, if well maintained, can offer very detailed and highly useful information about foreign workers, including their socio-occupational status and their distribution by sector of activity. The statistics on placements abroad, which are also available in the Maghreb countries (independent agencies and Employment Ministries), offer interesting information about Maghreb nationals placed abroad (as seasonal workers or permanent employees) under agreements between States or on individual or collective contracts.

7. Cards at borders, which must be completed by all passengers crossing the borders (land, sea and air) of the Maghreb countries, enable to compilation of statistical tables on monthly arrivals and departures. Generally speaking, a distinction is made between residents and non-residents and between nationals and aliens. Unlike with the sources mentioned above, the data derived from these cards are usually published in the Maghreb countries' statistical yearbooks. With a few modifications, such as the inclusion of a question on length of stay (in the country or abroad), this source would yield valuable information on flows of migrants.

8. Consular statistics, coming from a system of "registration" in Maghreb consulates abroad, are prepared on the basis of the various services provided abroad to nationals of the

Maghreb countries. Although having some gaps that limit its use, the consular source is paradoxically greatly appreciated in the Maghreb countries and an indispensable reference for researchers and other users, as well as for officials.

For enhanced coordination within the Maghreb statistical systems

9. In-depth study of the limitations of the sources identified above reveals the administrative and material constraints experienced by the Maghreb statistical information systems and at the same time indicates that fairly little interest has been shown until recently in the collection and use of data on international migration. As such data are more difficult to capture and furthermore require coordination - which is still deficient - between the administrations concerned, as well as other resources that are not available, the Maghreb NSIs seem ultimately to have classified them among non-priority statistics. This attitude was all the more entrenched because the data actually available in the NSIs, notably from population censuses, were only very partially used and published.

10. Establishing *circuits for coordination and liaison between the NSIs and the ministries concerned, especially the Interior Ministries*, is a major challenge that the Maghreb statistical systems are now endeavouring to address. This involves maximizing the possibilities for use of the statistics derived, inter alia, from residence permits and cards made available at borders, which are the most promising administrative sources on international migration in the three Maghreb countries.

AnnexComparative table of sources of data on migration in the three Maghreb countries

Source	Tunisia	Algeria	Morocco
Residence permits	Ministry of Interior (DGSN), data not requested by NSI	Ministry of Interior (DGSN), data not requested by NSO	Ministry of Interior (DGSN), data supplied on request (problem of clandestine entrants)
Cards at borders	Directorate for Borders and Foreigners (DFE), published in Statistical Yearbook Problem of departures No information on length of stay	Published in "statistical data" and "current statistics", but not in Statistical Yearbook No distinction between R and NR for aliens No information on length of stay	Published in Statistical Yearbook Two types of cards, one giving length of stay
Placement abroad	Tunisian Employment Agency (ATE), Seasonal workers/family groups Tunisian Agency for Technical Cooperation (ATCT), first public employees, then any qualified person	National Employment Agency (ANE), framework of conventions and agreements between States (qualified persons)	Ministry of Employment Contracts for named persons and individual contracts Problem of departures (Saudi Arabia in particular)
Contracts of employment	Directorate for foreign workers in Tunisia (DGEM) (contracts of employment; residence permits) (10,000 in 2 years)	Ministry of Employment, employees in Algeria (particular case of French and Tunisians, without contracts) Statistics exclude: independent workers, foreign spouses of Algerians Problem of collection and transmission	

Source	Tunisia	Algeria	Morocco
Consular Statistics	Registration Problem of unrecorded departures, and of dual nationals Registration campaigns Jalia system (computerization) Confrontation (problem of dual nationals) Official user: Office for Tunisians Abroad (OTE) (surveys, publication should become annual)	Registration No service for irregulars In process of computerization No difference with statistics of host countries! User: Directorate for the Protection of Nationals and National Council on Emigration	Registration Manual Statistics on clandestine persons User: Hassan II Foundation
Census	- From 1994 Place of birth, nationality, residence 7 years before - 2004 + module on departures	- From 1987 not published - From 1998 Nationality, place of birth, residence in 1987 - From 2008 module on departures	- From 1994 Country of birth, nationality, place of residence (feast), previous residence, length of residence - From 2002 + module on departures
Surveys	- 1989 only one question, residence 5 years before - 1999 More detailed, plus module on departures (130,000 households)	- 1983 Place of birth - 1996 Transfers Small sample (6,000 households) N.B.: 1970 survey	- 1986-1988 National demographic survey, net migration: 39,000 - 1995 Family survey - 1999 Ad hoc survey of National Institute for Statistics and Applied Economics (INSEA)
Other	Civil Registry Good coverage	Civil Registry Good coverage	Civil Registry Poor coverage for deaths: 50%
