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Improvement of population and migration statistics in Armenia (WP11)

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Background

A request from the Statistical Committee of the Republic of Armenia (Armstat) to the UNECE to support

- improving Armenian population statistics, by using more efficiently data from the Population Register and other relevant national databases,

- And more specifically, improving Armenian migration statistics.

Information is based on the study of Armenian population and migration statistics system in 2021 and updated for the current.

Data sources used by Armstat

Statistical field data collections :

- Population Census 2011 (traditional), **new 2022 (combined)**

- Household Integrated Living Conditions Survey

Administrative data:

- Population Register: registrations and de-registrations of persons at the place of residence (**improved use**)

- Civil registration: registration of birth and deaths

- Border Electronic Management Information System (BMIS) (**improved use**)

- Other administrative data on specific population groups related to migration

Definitions for resident population

Census definitions (census 2011)

- the *de jure* population is the **population permanently resident** (both present and absent),

- the *de facto* population is the population of permanent and temporary residents who are present at the time of census (12 months threshold for temporary presence/absence is applied).

Administrative definition:

- **Registered place of permanent residence** - the place in which the person has the right to reside, and which he/she declares as his permanent place of residence.

Annual update of population data

- **Census** results on de jure (permanent) population

- Electronic records of **births and deaths** from the Civil status registration system

Census 2011 and vital registration data are concidered as sufficiently accurate

- **Migration flows** data from the Population Register (administrative registration and de-registration at the place of residence).

Considered to be incomplete, particularly, the under coverage is concerning international migrations of Armenian citizens.

Adjustment for net migration based on results of the Household Integrated Living Conditions Survey is thought to be more reliable than net migration from the registration.

Producing of migration flow statistics

is based on administrative data

Migration flows data are published as administrative **registrations** and **de-registrations** at the permanent place of residence of people arriving from and departing abroad; individual records from the State Register of the Population:

- Country of birth
- Country of previous or next residence
- Country of citizenship
- Residence status (refugee or other residence status)

Migration variables are used also in vital statistics:

- marriages by citizenship of couples,
- births to couples where both or one of the parents are foreigners.

Armstat publishes data produced by other institutions

Received as aggregated data :

- on entries and exits on boarder Border Electronic Management Information System

- on foreigners who have received the status of residence in the RA

- on international protection

- **New:** from 2022 on persons who have acquired the citizenship of the Republic of Armenia and on persons who have terminated the citizenship of the Republic of Armenia.

Perspectives for more profound improvement

- Statistical tools for improvement the current situation in the migration statistics are limited.

- Focus on more intensive and effective used of data from administrative sources

- Improvement in coverage and accuracy by linkage and integration of various population and migration-related datasets (administrative and statistical)

- Population Register and Border Electronic Information System are at first importance for population updating and migration flows statistics

New approach for census

Population and Housing Census (13-22. October 2022) is a combined census

- Population count from Population Register, 100 % of enumerated persons:
    - status (residence status or refugee status);
    - actual registration address;
    - citizenship;
    - birthday, month, year, and birth place.
    - sex.

- 25 % of households(dwelling addresses from the PR) interviewed for collecting detailed data requested for census.

Ensuring the accurate coverage of resident population

- Population Register data were updated based on entry and exit records from Border Electronic Information System

  A special software was used that based on **Public Service Number** (PSN) identifies if the person registered as permanent resident in the Population Register is usual resident in country or not, or is temporary absent at the time of census, considering 12 months threshold.

- Information from the Population register was used for 25% survey, and persons who were not registered but lived at the address, were added to census count.

New data on migration-related topics from census (25% sample)

- Dual citizenship
- How the citizenship was acquired (from birth, naturalized, other)
- Type of stateless (refugee, asylum seeker, undocumented)
- If ever lived abroad, previous country and year of arrival
- If have received monetary assistance from family member living or working abroad

In addition, person was asked if he/she is registered at the address where was permanently living at census moment.

Future migration statistics

Further **improvement is expected from integration of data from main administrative datasets** that include migration related data:

- Population Register
- Dataset on foreigners granted residence status
- Border management information system
- Dataset on international protection

and Populations Census.

Possibly combining at individual record level data from Population Register and Border Electronic Information System in order to produce more reliable data on immigration and emigration flows.

Ongoing activities and expectations

Consultations with all stakeholders:

- ensuring the integrity of the collection of statistical data of the RA,

- defining a common methodology for improving administrative sources that allow to describe the complete profile of the country's migration.

An intergovernmental program monitoring committee has been established where the Armstat is actively involved as a member.

Expectation is to increase significantly the availability of high-quality, timely, and reliable data disaggregated by the characteristics relevant in national and international contexts.

Good luck to Armstat and looking for seeing further progress!