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IMPROVING STATISTICS ON REFUGEES AND ASYLUM SEEKERS: THE CASE OF ITALY

Keywords and (false) dichotomies

- Cooperation
- Nsos ↔ Ministries
- Administrative data ↔ Statistical data
- Quality ↔ Timeliness
- **Integration**
- Coordination



International support (Regulations, guidelines, declaration)

Cooperation for improving statistics: the Italian context

- The cooperation between Istat and the Italian Ministry of Interior started in 2007 with the Regulation (EC) No 862/2007 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 July 2007 on Community statistics on migration and international protection
- The Regulation considerably boosted collaboration between Istat and the Ministry of interior, leading to the production of information based on integrated data from different sources.
- The stimulus of Zaragoza declaration on Integration and of Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (**AMIF**) of European Commission.
- Cooperation  coordination and armonization in data production
- Since 2007 Istat and the Ministry of Interior participate jointly to commissions, task forces and working groups about several migration aspects

Administrative data and statistical data

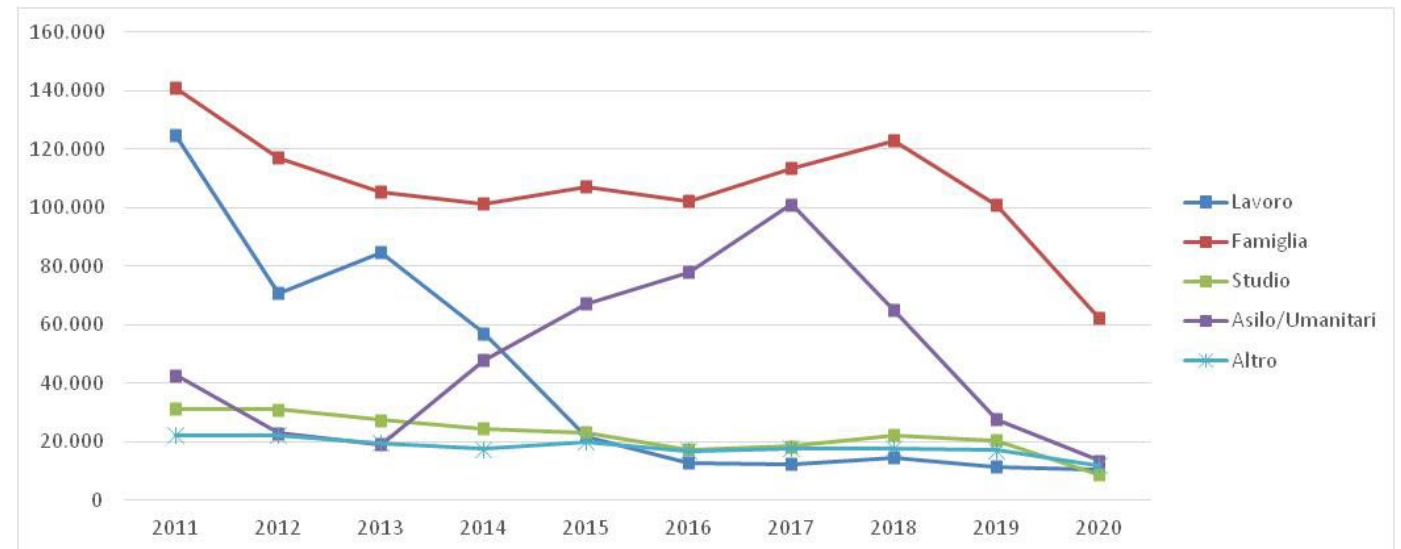
The cooperation between Istat and the Ministry of Interior was oriented to:

- Promote the awareness of the use of administrative data as statistical data
- Collect better quality information (structuring and changing the collection system considering also the statistical use of the data)
- Full exploitation of the administrative data through the integration of microdata from various sources
- Study integration using a longitudinal approach
- Carry out coordinated sample survey about special issues (integration)

Learnig the lesson: Statistics about refugees and asylum seekers

- The “refugees crises” catalyzed the attention on the presence of asylum seekers and refugees in Italy
- The mass media attention was focused on the emergence and on the numbers of new arrivals
- Statistics about migrations not enough
- Need of information about the stay and the integration process

New residence permits issued for reasons of the stay, 2011-2020, Italy, absolute value



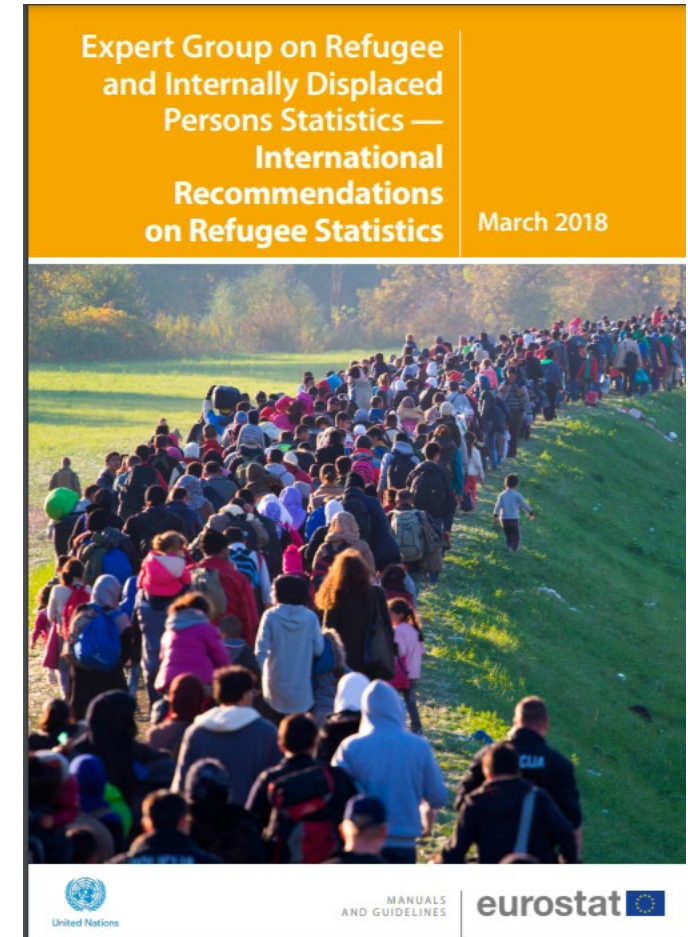
The International Recommendations on Refugee Statistics

Beyond the definition and the quantification of the presence: Measuring integration (par 5, p.81) and Indicators of integration and the satisfaction of immediate and ongoing needs

The International Recommendations helped Istat in fixing the priorities and in enhancing the cooperation with administrative bodies on the issues of the integration of refugees and asylum seekers

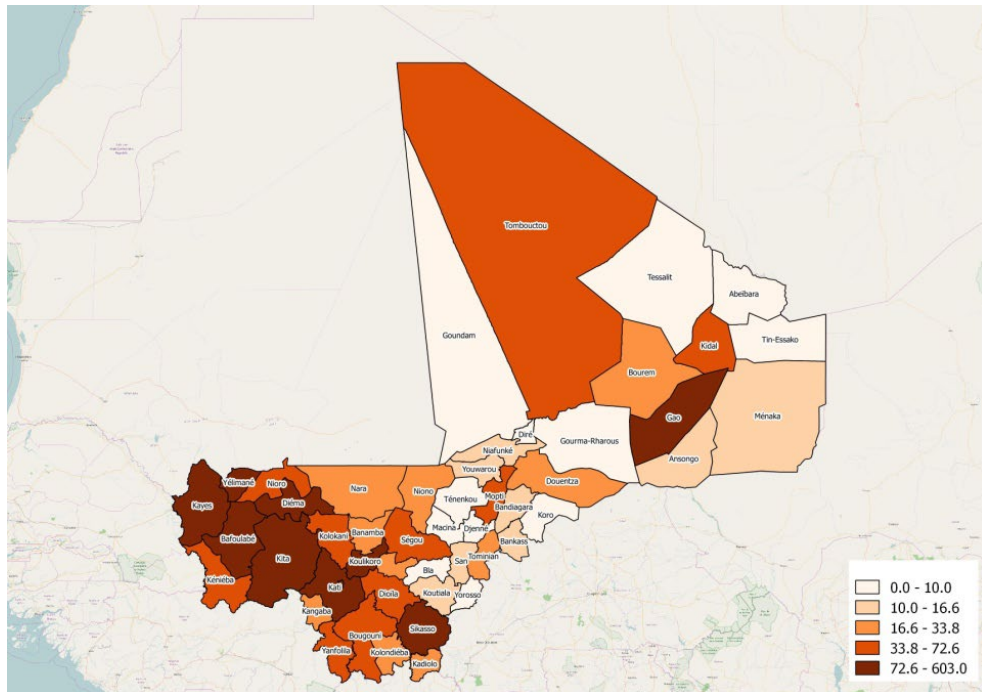
Exploiting administrative data for studying the integration of refugees:

- Integrate data coming from the same source
- Integrate data coming from different sources
- Integrate administrative data and surveys data
- Longitudinal approach

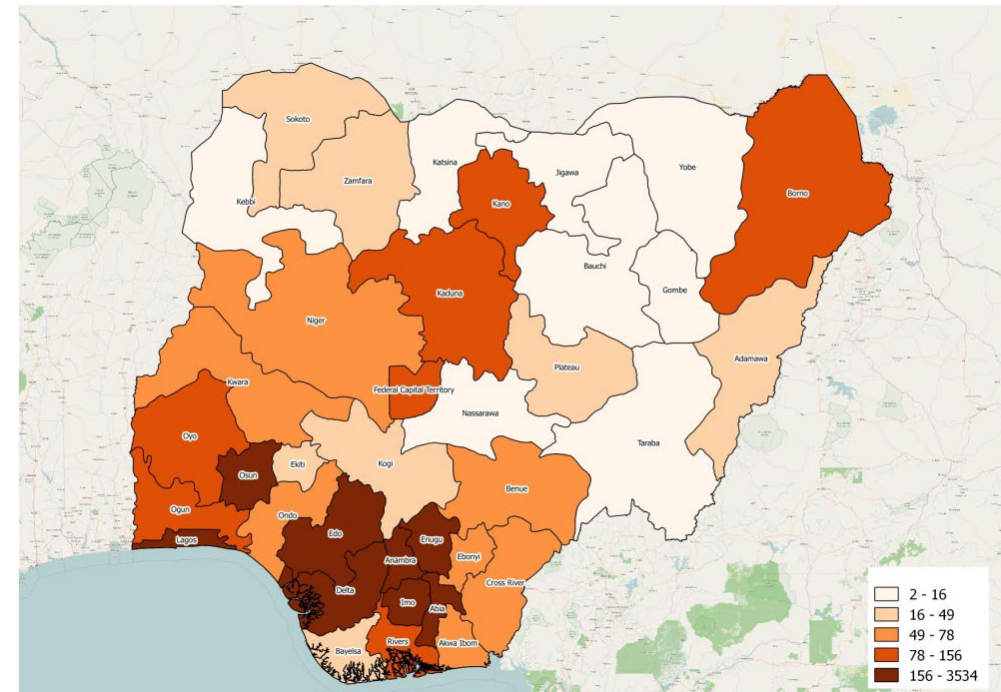


Improving the collection and exploiting the available data

Immigrants from Mali registered in Italy in the period between 2012 and 2015 by region/province of birth

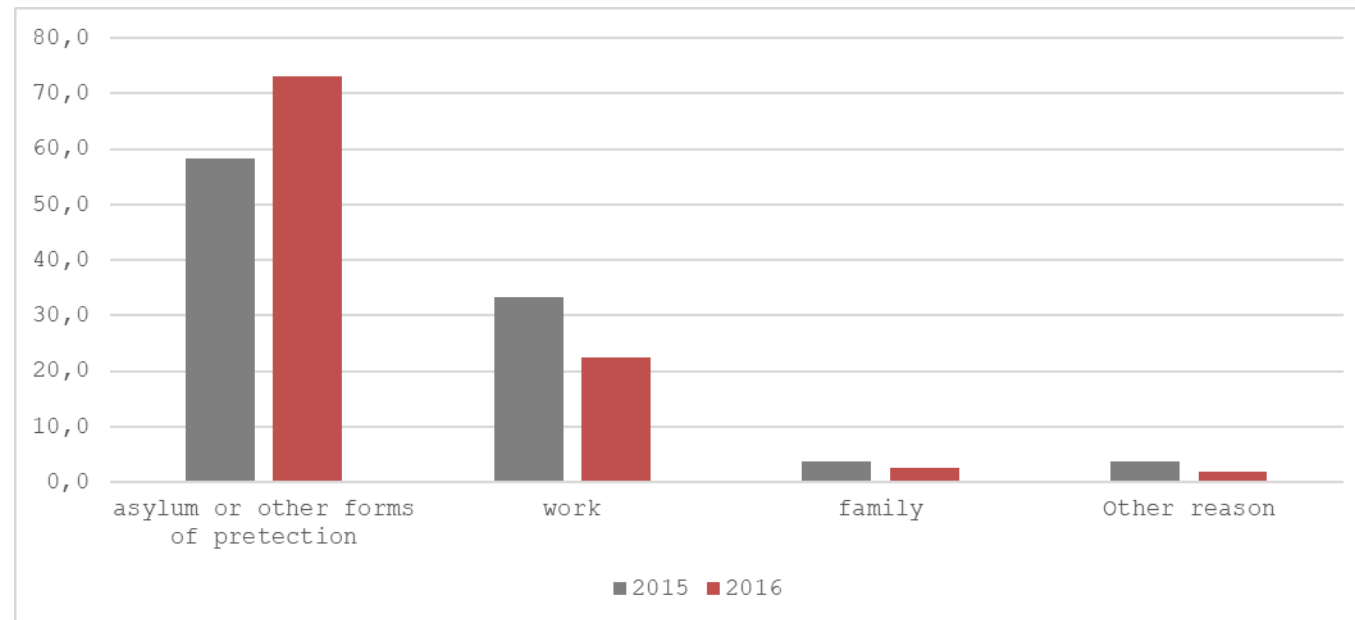


Immigrants from Nigeria registered in Italy in the period between 2012 and 2015 by region/province of birth



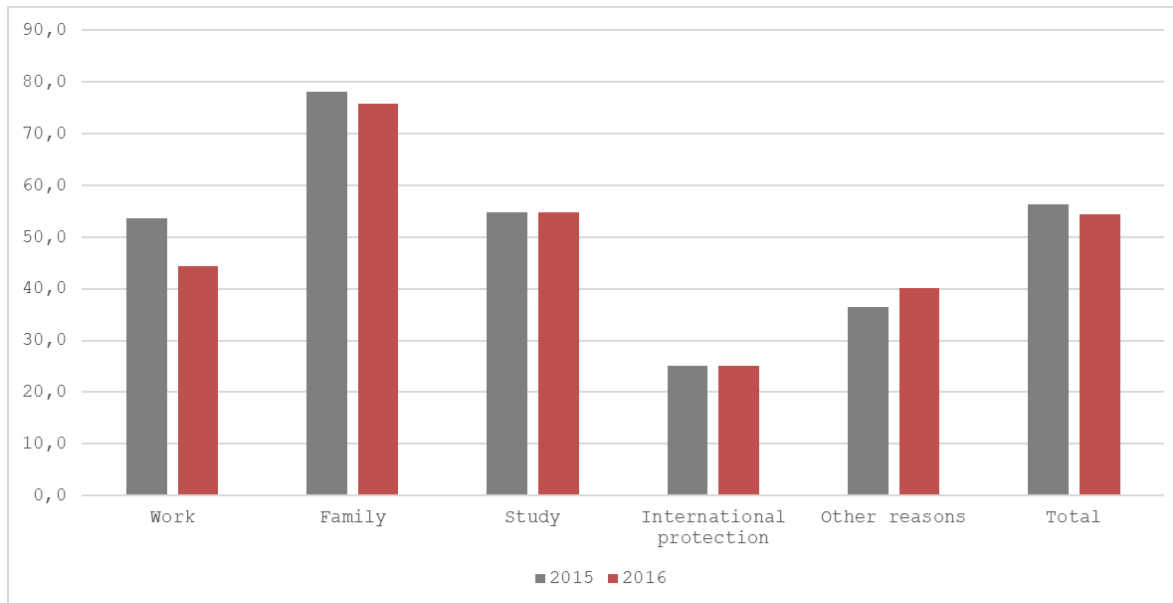
Integrating data of the same source

Non EU citizens entered in Italy in 2015 and 2016 seeking international protection holding a residence permit in 2021 for reason of the permit (2021), percentages

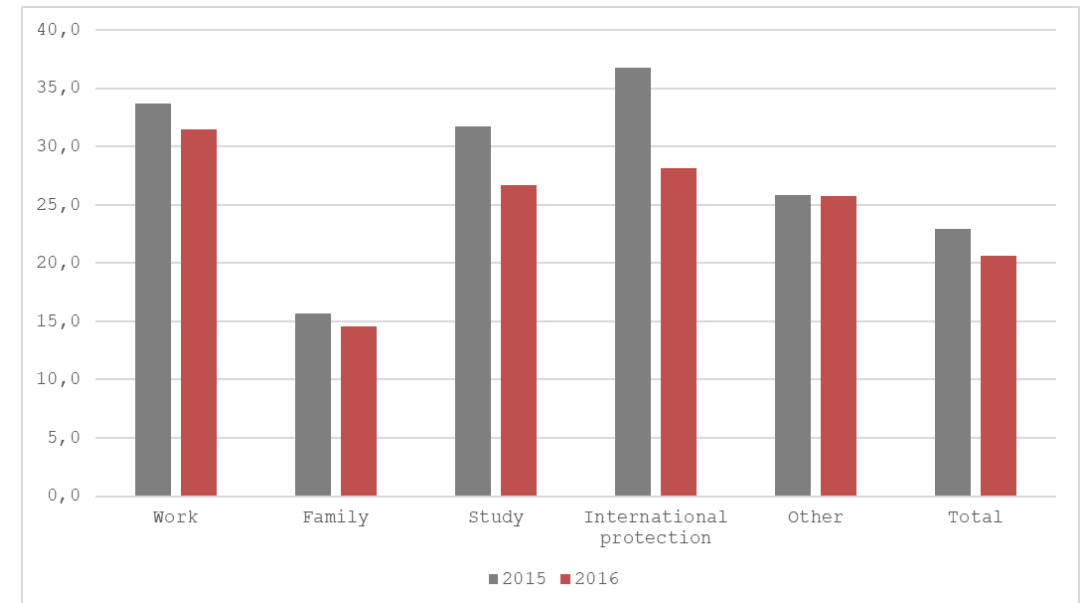


Integrating the data of different sources

Migrants arrived in 2012 and in 2016, still present and enrolled in the Population Register at the beginning of 2021, for the reason of the first residence permit, Italy, percentages



Migrants arrived in 2012 that live in a different province at the beginning of 2021, for the reason of the first residence permits, percentage Italy



Next steps: Integration of Refugees

Definition of integration?

Shared guidelines could help

“The integration of refugees presents some differences when compared with the integration of general migrants, such as labour migrants (many of whom enter their new country with a job offer). Refugees have particular challenges compared to general migrants”

“Broadly speaking, integration can be understood as the gradual inclusion of refugees, asylum seekers, and other refugee related groups in their host country. This entails the progressive enjoyment of rights, increasing access to national services and social and cultural networks, and an absence of discrimination. Ideally, this process results in full integration, which occurs when refugees and other persons of concern enjoy the same rights and access to national services and systems as nationals and non-refugee permanent residents”

**International Recommendations on Refugee Statistics
(IRRS)**

Dimensions of integration

Dimensions: “Legal, Economic, Social and cultural, civil and political” and more specifically: Legal indicators, Civil-political indicators, **Demographic and migration indicators**, **Education indicators**, Economic indicators, Social inclusion indicators and Health indicators

**International Recommendations on Refugee Statistics
(IRRS)**

Project with UNHCR in Italy: integration of data of different sources

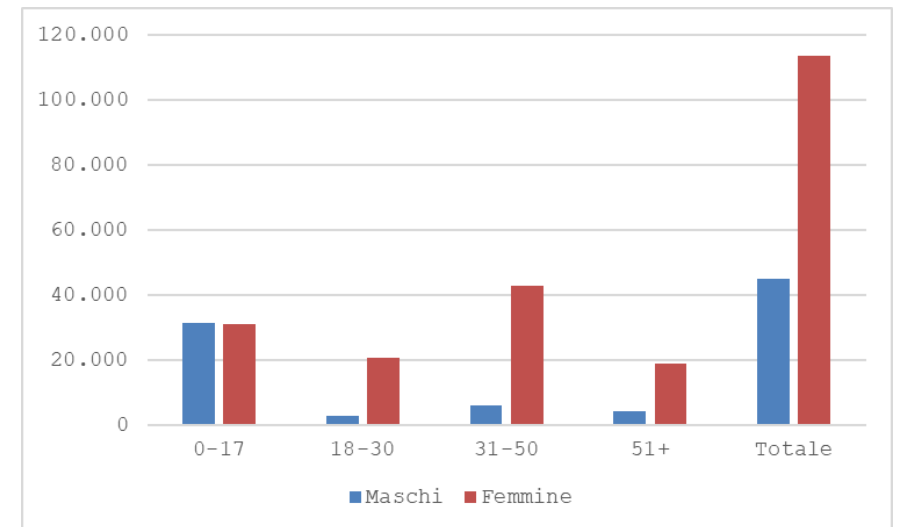
The Ukraine crisis: a new challenge

New important flows of asylum seekers towards Italy (Temporary protection)

Very peculiar characteristics: women and children

Inclusion of Ukraine Children in school: project with World Bank

Temporary protection applications in Italy (registered between March-September 2022)



Next steps

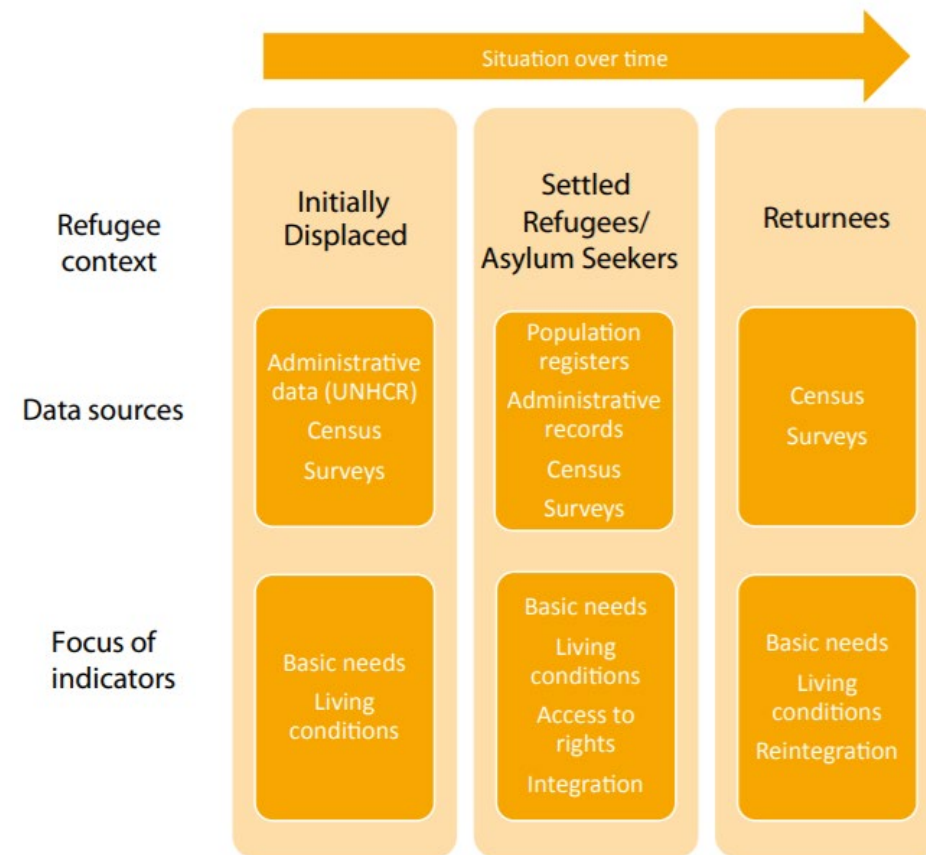
Developed statistical system not always consider refugees and asylum seekers as a target population

Cooperation for armonization of data coming from different administrative sources

Cooperation for carrying out a jointly (Istat and Ministry of Interior) report about intergration with a focus about asylum seekers

Indicators on settled refugees and asylum seekiers suggested in international Recommendations Refugee statistics: marital status and years of residence (available), citizenship, mixed marriages, participation in education (under construction)

We need the support of an international network to underline that asylum seekers and refugees deserve specific statistics and indicators with a longitudinal approach



Source: *International Recommendations on Refugee statistics*