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Improvements in use of administrative data for migration statistics in EECCA countries

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Main objective of statistical data collection

Providing **RELIABLE** data for **policy development**
both at national and international levels
and more specifically for migration-related policies

To be reliable, any statistical data should be

1. Complete
2. Accurate
3. Comparable
4. Timely and regularly produced
5. Accompanied by detailed metadata
6. Largely disseminated and interpreted
7. Accessible for further analysis and research investigations

International migration data are the weakest among all demographic data collected

- Self-reported information and existence of advantages/ disadvantages to be registered or de-registrered.
- Confusion between **migration flow** and **population stock** with migration background.
- Concept of **usual place of residence** and time criteria uneasy to apply.
- More interest on **immigration of foreign citizens** and **emigration of national citizens** than on opposite flows.
- Difficulty to count **national citizens living abroad** and **irregular foreign immigrants**

Traditional field statistical data collection versus use of administrative databases

Traditional statistical tools - census and survey

are appropriate to describe migrants and population stocks but important limitations exist.

Administrative databases, more specifically population/foreigner registration systems or border data

are more appropriate tools to capture international migration flows and cover/characterise various population stocks.

HANDBOOK
on the Use of Administrative Sources and Sample Surveys to Measure International Migration in CIS Countries

UNECE, 2016

In 2013, chief statisticians of CIS countries concluded that

'statistical offices should aim at integrating the different sources of migration data ... and that a guidance is needed on the use of administrative data...'

Recommendation from the Handbook:

227. In general, in CIS countries there is a need to improve cooperation between NSOs and the producers of administrative statistics of migration, both existing and potential ones.

Therefore, the NSOs should
(i)   consult and cooperate with representatives of various administrative
        agencies
         dealing with international migration to produce statistics
(i)   take into account needs of statistical data for policy development at
        national level
(ii)   aim to apply international recommendations on migration statistics.

A study on recent improvements

In September, UNECE did a short study with NSOs of EECCA MS

11 answers have been received that might be summarized shortly as follows:

- **In 85% answers some improvements were mentioned** concerning consultation, agreement or cooperation.
- **In 60% answers some details** on these improvements were given.
- **Electronic transfer** of any kind of data was reported by **8 countries out of 11** but only detailed by 4 of them.

Steps towards a better use of administrative data sources (1)

Identification of government agencies involved in the process of international migration and managing data that are needed for producing statistics on international migration and migrants.

Existence of a **population registration system** for nationals and/or foreigners.

	Population Register	Personal Identification Number		Population Register	Personal Identification Number
Armenia	X	X	Moldova	X	X
Azerbaijan	X	X	Russia	no	no
Belarus	X	X	Tajikistan	no	no
Georgia	X	X	Turkmenistan	no	no
Kyrgystan	no	X	Ukraine	no	X
Kazakhstan	X	X	Uzbekistan	no	no

Steps towards a better use of administrative data sources (2)

Consultations with representatives of government agencies dealing with international migration with the objective of collecting data from administrative database to produce statistics taking into account possible needs of statistical data for policy development of these agencies and comparative international data collection.

	2016-2019	2020-2022		2016-2019	2020-2022
Armenia	x	x	Moldova	x	x
Azerbaijan	x	=	Russia	(x)	(x)
Belarus			Tajikistan		
Georgia	x	=	Turkmenistan		
Kyrgystan			Ukraine	(x)	(x)
Kazakhstan	x	x	Uzbekistan	x	=

Steps towards a better use of administrative data sources (3)

Development of a common **agreement** between NSO and agencies dealing with international migration and managing administrative database at bilateral or multilateral basis.

	2016-2019	2020-2022		2016-2019	2020-2022
Armenia			Moldova		X
Azerbaijan		X	Russia		
Belarus	X	X	Tajikistan	X	X
Georgia			Turkmenistan		
Kyrgystan			Ukraine		
Kazakhstan			Uzbekistan		

Steps towards a better use of administrative data sources (4)

On the basis of such agreement, NSOs **cooperate** with the agencies to develop a common approach, to identify which administrative data are available and what are the needs of NSO to fulfil international recommendations and to develop appropriate methodologies.

	2016-2019	2020-2022		2016-2019	2020-2022
Armenia	X	X	Moldova		X
Azerbaijan	x	x	Russia	x	x
Belarus	X		Tajikistan		X
Georgia	X	X	Turkmenistan		
Kyrgystan	X	X	Ukraine	x	x
Kazakhstan	x	x	Uzbekistan		X

Steps towards a better use of administrative data sources (5)

Such agreements detail

(i) what administrative data will be **transferred electronically** to the NSO **at individual level**;

(ii) what data the agency will process itself on the basis of protocols agreed with NSO and **transferred** to NSO **at aggregate level**;

(iii) which statistical tables will be **produced by the agencies themselves**.

	2016-2019	2020-2022		2016-2019	2020-2022
Armenia		individual	Moldova		individual
Azerbaijan		individual	Russia		
Belarus	individual	individual	Tajikistan		
Georgia	individual	individual	Turkmenistan		
Kyrgystan	individual	individual	Ukraine		individual
Kazakhstan	individual	individual	Uzbekistan		

Steps towards a better use of administrative data sources (6)

NSOs publish and disseminate, on paper or on their website, statistical tables prepared with data received from agencies either as recommended by international institutions or other various types of statistical figures.

	2016-2019	2020-2022		2016-2019	2020-2022
Armenia		X	Moldova		X
Azerbaijan		X	Russia	X	X
Belarus		X	Tajikistan	X	
Georgia		X	Turkmenistan		
Kyrgystan		X	Ukraine		X
Kazakhstan	X	X	Uzbekistan		X

The on-going revision of the UN recommendations on international migration statistics (1)

The **1998 Recommendations** were seen as being **too complex**, and hard to be followed.

- The concepts "long-term migrant" or "usual resident population" were too rigid to explain population changes in a modern world and the time criteria hard to be applied.
- The 1998 recommended concepts and definitions did not meet policy needs and seldom provide relevant data for analysing the impact of international migration.
- Changes to the status of international migrants, such as from foreign citizens to citizens or from visitors to migrants or residents, were not sufficiently reflected.

The on-going revision of the UN recommendations on international migration statistics (2)

The main contribution of **new conceptual framework** in relation to the earlier recommendations is the emphasis on consistency between different data on international mobility that are combined in the same framework and more specifically

- between international migration flows and related populations stocks
- between international temporary mobility and temporary populations stocks
- and between resident population stock, present population stock and temporary population.

(UN Expert Group on Migration Statistics, TF2)

The on-going revision of the UN recommendations on international migration statistics (3)

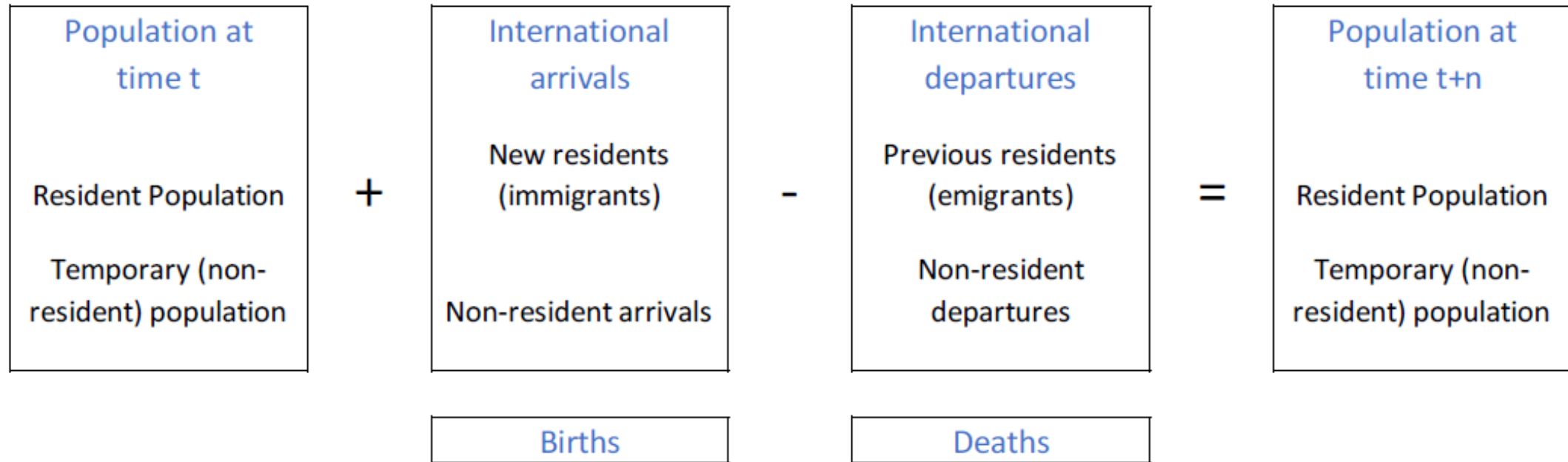| Population at time t		International arrivals		International departures		Population at time t+n
Resident Population Temporary (non-resident) population	**+**	New residents (immigrants) Non-resident arrivals	**–**	Previous residents (emigrants) Non-resident departures	**=**	Resident Population Temporary (non-resident) population
		Births		Deaths		

Figure 1. Overarching conceptual framework on international mobility

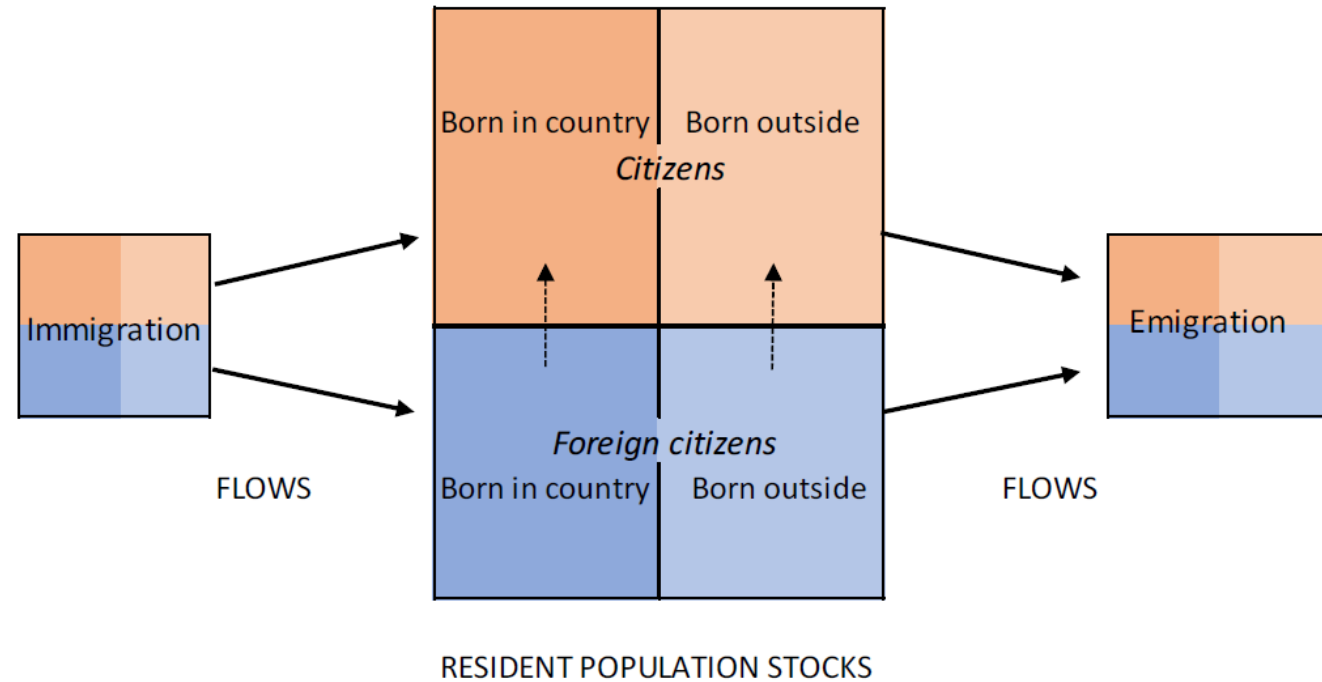# The on-going revision of the UN recommendations on international migration statistics (4)

Figure 3. Conceptual framework on international migration and the coherence between flows and stocks

The key concept of resident population

	Legal definition	Statistical definition	Difference
Azerbaijan	Permanent population	Permanent population	No difference
Armenia	Permanent population	Census recommendations	Yes
Belarus	Permanent population	Permanent population	No difference
Georgia	Usual resident	Census recommendations	No difference
Kazakhstan	Permanent population		Yes
Kyrgyzstan	Permanent population		
Moldova	Permanent population	Census recommendations	Yes
Russia			
Tajikistan	Permanent population	Permanent population	No difference
Turkmenistan			
Uzbekistan	Permanent population	Permanent population	No difference
Ukraine	Permanent population		

To improve data quality and usefulness

It is need:

1. To convince stakeholders of the urgent need of statistics.

2. To strengthen the role and action of the NSO in each country.

3. To identify policy priorities and key points to be enlightened by an efficient statistical support in close cooperation with agencies.

4. To cooperate closely with these agencies to optimize the transfer of data to NSO.

5. To ensure access to individual data from administrative databases by solving problems of privacy, national security and data ownership.

6. To consider attentively all feedback from users for further improvement.

7. To focus on 'hard to count' populations and especially on foreign(irregular) immigrants and nationals living abroad.

8. And, last but not least, considering that producing statistics on the basis of administrative databases is different from the usual field work of statisticians.

We have to face this major challenge.