

Report on Sector Review on Migration Statistics in the Republic of Armenia

Report prepared by Ms Anne Herm and
Ms Apolonija Oblak Flander
in cooperation with
the National Statistical Service of the Republic of Armenia

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List of abbreviations

BMIS	Border Management Information System
CIS	Commonwealth of Independent States
EC	European Commission
EFTA	European Free Trade Association
ENP	European Neighbourhood Policy
EP	European Parliament
ESS	European Statistical System
EU	European Union
EUROSTAT	Statistical Office of European Union
ILCS	Integrated Living Conditions Survey
IOM	International Organisation for Migration
LPR	Light Peer Review
NSS	National Security Service
NSSRA	National Statistical Service of the Republic of Armenia
SAQ	Self-Assessment Questionnaire
SCS	State Council on Statistics / National Statistical Service
SMSRA	State Migration Service under the Ministry of Territorial Administration and Emergency Situations of Armenia
SR	Sector Review
TOR	Terms of Reference
UN	United Nations
UNECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
WG	Working Group

Preface

1. The Sector Review (SR) on migration statistics in the Republic of Armenia was undertaken in the framework of the Eurostat funded project '*Assessment of the statistical systems and selected statistical areas of the enlargement and ENP countries*'. ICON-*INSTITUT* in consortium with DevStat, contracted by Eurostat (contract no. 14472.2013.002-2013.694), was responsible for the organisation of all activities and tasks related to the SR.
2. The SR process was initiated by Eurostat on the basis of a request made by the National Statistical Service of the Republic of Armenia (hereinafter NSSRA).
3. The SR was tailored to the NSSRA and aims at reviewing migration statistics produced by the NSSRA and its compliance with European and international standards on migration and international protection statistics.
4. The SR was conducted based on:
 - the self-assessment questionnaire (SAQ) designed according to the ESS Quality Assurance Framework 2012 and filled in by the NSSRA;
 - documentation provided by the NSSRA before and after the in-country mission;
 - presentations and discussions during the meetings held with the NSSRA and other national and international bodies collecting data on migration and international protection statistics in the country;
 - the analysis of the documentation available on the website of the NSSRA and other relevant national institutions.
5. The main goals of the SR on migration statistics in the NSSRA are:
 - to assess the administrative and technical capacity of the Armenian Statistical System to produce migration and international protection statistics;
 - to assess the production of migration and international protection statistics;
 - to assess the statistical production against the European *acquis* (Regulation (EC) of the European Parliament (EP) and the Council on Community statistics on migration and international protection statistics No 862/2007);
 - to review the medium and long-term planning in the field of migration and international protection statistics; and
 - to propose a list of recommendations to improve migration and international protection statistics data delivery and this domain in the statistical system in the Republic of Armenia.
6. The main beneficiary of the SR was the NSSRA. The State Migration Service (SMSRA) under the Ministry of Territorial Administration and Emergency Situations of Armenia can benefit from the discussions and recommendations given by the SR as well.
7. During the in-country mission discussions were organised according to the structure of the SAQ. The SAQ was prepared by the expert team, approved by Eurostat, sent to the NSSRA and completed prior to the mission. The SAQ for migration statistics in Armenia was designed according to the ESS Quality Assurance Framework 2012 and adapted to the diversity of migration data sources and the importance of the role of other (non-statistical) institutions in the data collection. Due to the importance of the administrative data sources in the area of migration statistics on one hand, and the fact that migration statistics is a consistent part of the population statistics on the other hand, the questionnaire was

constructed in such a way that statistics produced from different data sources were assessed separately.

8. The aim of the SAQ was to receive both evidence-based information and self-assessment of the situation in official migration statistics that would serve as the main input for the SR report. Since the Adapted Global Assessment (AGA) of the Armenian statistical system¹ was done several years ago (in 2009), and the Light Peer Review (LPR) (dated 18 July 2014) was not yet available at the time of the preparation of the SAQ, there was a need to collect information also on general topics of the statistical system of Armenia. The SAQ section on the production of migration statistics was built up according to the structure of the *Regulation (EC) of the EP and of the Council on Community statistics on migration and international protection statistics No 862/2007* (EU Regulation 862/2007)². Since the NSSRA intends to produce migration statistics in line with this regulation this structure was suitable for the purpose of this SR.
9. The overall collaboration between the experts and the NSSRA has been constructive throughout all phases of the SR. The common goal is that the SR will significantly contribute to the further development of migration statistics in the Republic of Armenia.

¹Global Assessment of the National System of Official Statistics of the Republic of Armenia, (2009) by European Commission (Eurostat), European Free Trade Association (EFTA), and United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE).

²Regulation (EC) of the EP and of the Council on Community statistics on migration and international protection statistics No. 862/2007 at <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:32007R0862&from=EN>.

Executive summary

10. The legal framework for producing statistics, where the *Law on State Statistics*³ is core and the organisation of the statistical system in the Republic of Armenia facilitate NSSRA's professional independence. It gives the NSSRA a strong and clear mandate for collecting data, including obtaining data from administrative sources. The legislation regulating mid-term and annual statistical work programmes of the NSSRA, together with the specific legislation on the population census and on data collection for administrative purposes by authorities other than NSSRA gives the NSSRA a good legislative basis for collecting and obtaining data from existing administrative sources as well as for the compilation of migration and international protection statistics.
11. The NSSRA is aware of the lack of migration statistics in the Republic of Armenia between population censuses and a considerable need for these data (on national and international level). Therefore, the NSSRA has established close co-operation with relevant international bodies in the past decade. This co-operation has resulted in several surveys providing users with basic migration statistics.
12. The NSSRA has – together with the SMSRA – decided to follow European standards for migration and international protection statistics in accordance with the EU Regulation 862/2007. This has already resulted in statistics made available to users in accordance with this Regulation. It is also important that the SMSRA, as a coordinator of migration, follows the EU Regulation 862/2007 and applies its standards in case of new or revised regulations on migration.
13. The NSSRA already works towards regular collection of migration data between population censuses through existing household surveys and administrative sources. Improvements can still be done and are to a large degree planned. However, the results are not expected to be immediate.
14. The NSSRA, although constrained by limited human and financial resources, is determined to continue the cooperation with other relevant institutions in the Republic of Armenia. The action plan set up in the frame of this SR includes the activities and expected results, and was prepared in the framework of this sector review. This includes the actions towards improvement in availability of migration and international protection statistics, and the implementation of high quality standards in different parts of the statistical processes.

³The Law On State Statistics of the Republic of Armenia, the Official Bulletin of the Republic of Armenia, No. 8 (106) of April 28, 2000; at <http://www.armstat.am/en/?nid=183>.

1 Legal and institutional basis

1.1 General overview

15. The legal framework, which is based on the *Law on State Statistics*, together with the institutional independence and organisation of the statistical system in the Republic of Armenia, enables the NSSRA to be professionally independent and gives the NSSRA a strong and clear mandate for collecting data, including data from administrative sources.

1.2 Mandate for data collection

16. The mandate of the NSSRA to collect data for the production and dissemination of migration statistics is specified in the *Law on State Statistics* of the Republic of Armenia, approved by the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia on 4 April, 2000. This law regulates the relations between state institutions and the organisation of the production of state statistics in general, including migration statistics. The *Law on the Population Census*⁴ of the RA, adopted by the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia on 12 October, 1999 regulates the organisation of the census involving data collection directly from physical bodies (individuals).
17. The regulatory legal base for producing state statistics is ensured by the *Law on Three-year State Statistical Work Programme*, the normative and legal act adopted by the State Council on Statistics (SCS) of the Republic of Armenia. SCS is namely the supreme body of governance of the NSSRA.
18. The *Law on Three-Year State Statistical Work Programme for 2013-2015*⁵ was adopted on 19 December, 2012. The programme defines data sources and data providers, including those for the production of migration statistics. Statistical production is further detailed in each annual statistical programme. For example, the *State Statistical Work Programme for 2014*⁶, Annex 1 ‘*State Statistical works by Economy Sectors, Subsectors and Spheres*’ and Annex 6 ‘*List of works (indicators) provided to the National statistical service of the Republic of Armenia by Administrative register holders and other state and local government bodies and by banking system for the state statistical works*’ presents more detailed information on data collection of population and migration statistics in 2014.
19. Other authorities collect and produce migration and international protection statistics in the Republic of Armenia for their own purposes, these data are or can be further used as a source for state statistics. The relations of the NSSRA with the institutions maintaining administrative statistics are regulated in addition to the *Law on State Statistics* by the Resolution No. 109 of the SCS (approved on 10 May, 2002) ‘*On Approval of the Procedure for the Maintenance of Administrative (information) Registers and Receiving Information from them*’⁷. The resolution defines the rules and terms for the maintenance of administrative registers, as well as for submitting the collected information to the NSSRA. In accordance with this document, in 2014 statistics on asylum seekers, which

⁴The Law on the Population Census of the Republic of Armenia, Official Bulletin of the Republic of Armenia, No. 28 (94) of November 13, 1999, at <http://www.armstat.am/en/?nid=184>.

⁵The Law On the Three-Year Program of Statistical Projects for 2013-2015 of the Republic of Armenia, the Official Bulletin of the Republic of Armenia, No. 66 (940) of December 28, 2012, at <http://armstat.am/am/?nid=444> (Armenian), at <http://www.armstat.am/en/?nid=421>.

⁶ State Statistical Work Program for 2014, at <http://www.armstat.am/am/?nid=191> (on the website available in Armenian only), 16.10.2014.

⁷Resolution No. 109 of the State Council on Statistics ‘*On Approval of the Procedure for the Creation and Maintenance of Administrative Registers*’ of May 10, 2002, the Bulletin of Departmental Regulatory Acts of the Republic of Armenia, No. 17 (103) of July 15, 2002.

are collected and disseminated by the State Migration Service (SMSRA) under the Ministry of Territorial Administration and Emergency Situations of the Republic of Armenia, were for the first time included into the Annex of the *Annual State Statistical Work Programme*. The State Statistical Work Programme for 2015 is planned to be further extended to include statistics on resident permits. At the time of this SR a draft version of the programme was subject to a consultation among the relevant bodies and users in the country. The NSSRA is working on improving the availability and the quality of migration-related statistics for national needs in line with the requirements of *EU Regulation No 862/2007*.

1.3 Legislation related to migration data

20. A number of other laws and decrees adopted and in force in the Republic of Armenia are relevant to the data collection and dissemination of migration and international protection statistics. The list of laws and decrees includes:
- the Law on State Register of Population⁸,
 - the Law on Foreigners⁹,
 - the Law on Refugees and Asylum¹⁰,
 - the Republic of Armenia Government Decree (No.884-N) on the creation of the Border Management Information System, its management rules and the list of users¹¹,
 - the Republic of Armenia Government Decree (No.1333-N) on defining the order of providing data to NSSRA from the information system of State Population Register¹²,
 - the Republic of Armenia Government Decree (No.1593-N) on approving the 2012-2016 Action plan for the implementation of the concept for the policy of state regulation of migration in the RA in 2012-2016¹³.
21. The latter document involves the NSSRA in activities that aim at monitoring and analysing migration in the Republic of Armenia, collection of reliable data through analysis and statistical procedures and development of an information system for recording migration flows.

1.4 State institutions maintaining administrative registers or information on migration issues

22. On the basis of the above mentioned legislation, the key stakeholders in the country dealing with migration issues can be identified with:
- The State Migration Service of the Republic of Armenia (SMSRA) – in charge of the administrative register of persons seeking international protection (produces and disseminates statistics).
 - The Police of the Republic of Armenia – is authorised by the Government⁸ to maintain the Central Register of the State Population Register and coordinate the work of local

⁸The Law on State Register of Population, adopted on 24 September 2002; at <http://www.parliament.am/legislation.php?sel=show&ID=1353&lang=rus#>.

⁹The Law on Foreigners, adopted on 25 December 2006; at <http://smsmta.am/upload/3-law-eng-new.pdf>.

¹⁰The Law on Refugees and Asylum, adopted on 27 November 2008; at <http://smsmta.am/upload/2-law-eng.pdf>.

¹¹The Republic of Armenia Government Decree No. 884-N, on the creation of the Border Management Information System, its management rules and the list of users, adopted 22 June 2006; at <https://www.e-gov.am/gov-decrees/item/4985/>.

¹²The RA Government Decree (No. 1333-N) on defining the order of providing data to National Statistical Service of the Republic of Armenia from the information system of State Population Register, adopted 22 September 2011; at <https://www.e-gov.am/gov-decrees/item/20249/>.

¹³The Republic of Armenia Government Decree (No. 1593-N) on approving the 2012-2016 the Action plan for implementation of the policy concept for the state regulation of migration in the Republic of Armenia in 2012-2016, adopted on 10 November 2011; at <http://smsmta.am/upload/2-gov-eng-new.pdf>.

registers, and to collect information on residence permits' procedures and permits issued.

- The National Security Service of the Republic of Armenia – in charge of the Border Management Information System, which registers information on national border crossings.
 - The State Employment Service Agency – in charge of issuing work permits, collecting information on returning migrants to the Republic of Armenia seeking support to be integrated into the Armenian society, assisting unemployed Armenians (including the ones who would be willing to work abroad), and promoting Armenia to foreign work-seekers.
 - The Police of the Republic of Armenia, the Prosecutor's General Office, and the National Security Service are the competent authorities working on various aspects of irregular migration. They hold information on prevention of illegal entry and stay in the country, on persons who have been refused to enter the Republic of Armenia, who have been found to be illegally present in the country, and on the repatriation of persons found illegally present on the territory of the Republic of Armenia.
23. The NSSRA has established a close cooperation with the above-mentioned bodies in order to effectively use their administrative data sources to produce official migration statistics and to methodologically support the development of administrative registers. Providing data from registers and datasets maintained by state institutions to NSSRA is obligatory if these data are included in the *Annual State Statistical Work Programme* as a source for official statistics.

1.5 Adequacy of resources

24. The financial and human resources of the NSSRA for producing migration statistics are not considered fully adequate in terms of quantity and qualification. There is only one staff member, a leading specialist, assigned for the production of migration statistics in the Population Census and Demography Division and one IT specialist to support, when needed, in the IT related data processing issues. The leading specialist is responsible for processing the migration database and the provision of output tables. In addition, there is a specialist responsible for collecting and processing data in Yerevan City Agency of NSSRA and statisticians in 10 Marz Agencies working fulltime but not only on migration but also on other statistics domains. The statisticians of Marz Agencies are responsible for collecting and transmitting statistical reporting forms from the Territorial Passport Services of the Police of the RA to the Population Census and Demography Division of the NSSRA for further processing.
25. The NSSRA is working on improving the availability and the quality of migration-related statistics for national needs in line with the requirements of *Regulation No 862/2007*. In order to produce the data mentioned in *Article 3* of the *Regulation* a new methodology and new statistical procedures should be implemented. Currently, the leading specialist lacks time, broader knowledge and information on good practice for developing a methodology on better use of existing administrative sources of migration statistics. The development of a methodology for producing migration statistics (*Regulation No 862/2007*) as well as the communication with all stakeholders in the field of migration is currently an additional burden for the head of department who is responsible for the general management of population statistics including vital statistics and population censuses. More concretely, considering the complexity of producing migration statistics a staff member (national expert) with skills in developing and implementing methodologies and using administrative data is needed.

1.6 Commitment to Quality

26. In order to ensure the quality of migration statistics, the NSSRA implements quality monitoring and checks following general procedures. Data received from data providers are checked for completeness and consistency. Internal procedures are implemented to ensure the publication and dissemination of proper indicators. A general revision policy is valid for all types of statistics, for revisions in published data and for changes in methodologies used for producing statistics. The methodology descriptions as well as major changes in methodology are published together with the relevant data. However, these descriptions are not sufficiently detailed. In general, the main statistical indicators, among which is the total population, are published as preliminary data and revised by the following update. Population figures and its changes including net migration are published in the reports '*Socio-Economic situation of the Republic of Armenia*', on quarterly basis.¹⁴ Once errors in migration data are discovered after the publication, the figures are corrected in the next volume of the publication on population statistics.
27. The accuracy of net migration figures used for population estimates during the period between two censuses is assessed against the results of the next population census. Such assessment is possible only once every 10 years as the censuses are carried out once in a decade. The household's integrated living conditions survey (ILCS)¹⁵ based on a representative sample and carried out during the whole year, is also used to assess the reliability of annual estimates of the net migration.
28. Figures published on immigration and emigration flows are considered not reliable. The NSSRA informs users on the incompleteness of the data sources used for data compilation but has no means for systematically analysing the quality of these statistics.
29. Quality declarations on Long Term Migration and Number of Population (quarterly and annual) are published on the NSSRA's website at <http://www.armstat.am/file/Qualitydec/eng/14.3.pdf> and <http://www.armstat.am/file/Qualitydec/eng/14.5.pdf>.

1.7 Impartiality and objectivity

30. The Law on State Statistics ensures that the NSSRA is independent from state and local self-government bodies of the Republic of Armenia in its activities, while the activities undertaken by the NSSRA are approved by the SCS.
31. The NSSRA improves the availability and quality of migration-related statistics for national needs in line with the requirements of the *Regulation No 862/2007*. This is in accordance with the '*Action plan for implementation of the policy concept for the state regulation of migration in the Republic of Armenia in 2012-2016*',¹³ that aims at developing the migration information system according to European standards. In order to improve its availability, relevance and quality migration statistics are discussed in the meetings of the Interagency Monitoring Committee responsible for the Regulatory Policy Implementation of the 2012-2016 National Migration Action Plan.
32. The NSSRA is free to make choices on data sources and methods to be used for compilation of migration statistics, including choosing any administrative data that are suitable for producing migration statistics. Where relevant statistics can be derived from administrative data sources, the NSSRA has the right to propose to include these sources in the *State Statistical Work Programme* as sources for producing national statistics. Data

¹⁴Socio-Economic Situation of RA (monthly), link to issues January-December 2013, January 2014; at http://armstat.am/file/article/sv_12_13r_520.pdf and January-February 2014 at <http://armstat.info/en/?nid=81>, 16. 10. 2014.

¹⁵Integrated Living Conditions Survey (from 2004 to 2013), Armenia; at <http://www.armstat.am/en/?nid=378>, 16. 10. 2014.

produced under this programme will be published as official statistics that are validated by the NSSRA. However, those sources that could provide such data are collected for the administrative purposes and hence, not for statistical purposes. Changes in such databases need time as the NSSRA can only act as an adviser for the redesign or development of administrative data sources.

1.8 Assessment

33. According to the *Law on State Statistics* the NSSRA has the mandate to collect, produce and disseminate migration statistics. The right to receive data from other state institutions is ensured by this Law, the *Three-year Programme of State Statistical Work* and the annual statistical programme. The latter two are agreed with relevant stakeholders ensuring that their needs are taken into account.
34. The freedom to choose sources and methods for producing official statistics is ensured by the *Three-year Programme of State Statistical Work* that is agreed with data providers and users. While the NSSRA has full freedom to choose and develop methodology when collecting data by using statistical tools (censuses and sample surveys), the concepts and definitions of administrative data are those defined by the relevant national legislation. The NSSRA can only act as an adviser for the redesign or development of administrative data sources. This fact results in a relatively long time needed to introduce administrative data into statistical data compilations.
35. The NSSRA has a general quality policy that does not specifically distinguish quality of migration statistics. Quality reports were produced several years ago and they need to be updated. Methodology descriptions of particular statistics are usually enclosed to the relevant data in publications while the website of the NSSRA gives only access to general methodological documents or links to international websites. Such presentation is difficult for the users and does not help the NSSRA to improve the consistency between different migration data. Updated quality reports will also contain methodology descriptions.
36. The UN publication ‘Recommendations on Statistics of International Migration (1998)’ is published on the NSSRA’s website and can be viewed at <http://www.armstat.am/file/doc/99475948.pdf>.

2 Main findings on current production of migration statistics

2.1 General overview

37. The availability of migration statistics in the Republic of Armenia is currently limited. Only few statistical data on stocks and flows of migrants, as well as statistics in the field of international protection and legal stays of foreigners in the country are published. The NSSRA veritably assesses the availability of statistics on migration as very low.
38. Currently, statistics on arrivals to and departures from the place of residence are produced on a regular basis in order to estimate net migration and update quarterly and annual population figures. More detailed data on migrants are available from the two last population censuses.
39. In addition, some data on migration are collected through household and labour force sample surveys. Based on the support from international bodies some important improvements were achieved in this type of data collection during recent years. Two ad hoc surveys on migration issues have been conducted – one by the UNFPA¹⁶ and the second by the IOM^{17,18}. Currently, a set of migration questions is included in the surveys that NSSRA started to conduct recently itself (within the Labour Force Survey and Integrated Living Conditions Survey).
40. In order to follow *Regulation No 862/2007* on the production of migration statistics, a strong effort from all stakeholders in the country it is still needed. Presently, longer time series are available only on asylum statistics. Since 2014 these data are published as part of official statistics.

2.2 Methodological information

2.2.1 Sound methodology

41. The NSSRA follows the UN and UNECE recommended methodology as the main guidelines for producing population and migration statistics.
42. The NSSRA produces population statistics on the basis of the following international standards:
 - Conference of European Statisticians Recommendations for the 2010 Censuses of Population and Housing, ECE/CES/STAT/NONE/2006/4, United Nations, New York and Geneva, 2006¹⁹;
 - United Nations Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses ST/ESA/STAT/SER.M/67/Rev.2, United Nations, New York, 2007²⁰;
 - Recommendations on Statistics of International Migration, Department of Economic and Social Affairs Statistics Division. Statistical Papers Series M, No.58, Rev.1, 1998²¹.

¹⁶Report on sample survey on external and internal migration in the Republic of Armenia 2008; at <http://armstat.am/en/?nid=82&id=828>, 16.10.2014.

¹⁷Integrated survey of the migration of the RA population 2007-2013, IOM, NSSRA, Russian-Armenian (Slavonic) University, 2013; at <http://www.armstat.am/en/?nid=246>, 29.11.2014.

¹⁸Report on household survey on migration in Armenia, IOM, NSSRA, EU, UNECE and Russian-Armenian (Slavonic) University, 2014; at http://publications.iom.int/bookstore/index.php?main_page=product_info&cPath=41_7&products_id=1400, 29.11.2014.

¹⁹United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (2006) Conference of European Statisticians Recommendations for the 2010 Censuses of Population and Housing, ECE/CES/STAT/NONE/2006/4, United Nations, NEW YORK AND GENEVA.

²⁰United Nations UN Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses ST/ESA/STAT/SER.M/67/Rev.2, United Nations, New York, 2007.

43. The methodology of the 2011 population census has been developed according to UN principles for population censuses and the UNECE recommendations. The population of the Republic of Armenia is *de jure* population that is identified according to the criteria of usual resident population by the results of the population census. Definition of the population is provided in the normative act '*Main Methodological and Organisational Issues on Preparation and Conduction of Population Census in RA in 2011*'²² approved by the State Council on Statistics of the RA.
44. For migration statistics the NSSRA has decided to follow the guidelines of the *Regulation (EC) of the EP and of the Council on Community statistics on migration and international protection statistics No 862/2007*. Migrants are defined in accordance with the UN recommendation for international migration statistics. Yet, the application of this definition depends on the availability of information in data sources used.
45. When sample surveys were used for migration data collection, the questionnaires were assessed and validated by migration statistics and research experts, and a pilot survey was conducted prior to the data collection. Population groups related to migration such as returned nationals, were considered in the sample frame specifically and questions were asked on retrospective data on migration. Information on migration is given by the respondent him/herself or by an adult household member.
46. Classification relevant to migration issues (coding list for countries) is in line with international and European standards. The coding is performed by responsible persons after the data collection. The list of countries used for data collection is usually limited only to a few foreign countries. For example, the pre-defined selection of countries of birth, citizenship or previous residence in survey questionnaires includes only Russia, USA and Canada (the last two together) while other countries are grouped into CIS, other European countries and other countries.
47. The NSSRA publishes the descriptions of sources and methods used for producing migration statistics in its publications available on the official website of the NSSRA. When changes are made in the methodology the relevant information is given in publications that present relevant data. The latest publications presenting methodological information are the following:
- The Demographic Handbook of Armenia, 2013²³,
 - Социально-экономическое положение Республики Армения в январе-июне 2014 года. Методологические пояснения статистических показателей, стр. 329²⁴ (Socio-economic situation in the Republic of Armenia in January-November 2014. Methodological explanations of statistical indicators, p. 329),
 - Household's Integrated Living Conditions Survey Tools – questionnaires for 2004-2012²⁵,
 - Social snapshot and poverty in Armenia²⁶,
 - Integrated survey of the Migration of the RA population 2007-2013 (database)²⁷,

²¹Recommendations on Statistics of International Migration, Department of Economic and Social Affairs Statistics Division. Statistical Papers Series M, No. 58, Rev.1, 1998.

²²Main Methodological and Organisational Issues on Preparation and Conduction of Population Census in RA in 2011, 12 March 2011, No 07-A; at <http://armstat.am/file/doc/99464428.pdf>, (in Armenian only).

²³The Demographic Handbook of Armenia, 2013; at http://www.armstat.am/file/article/demos_13_8.pdf, 16. 10. 2014.

²⁴Социально-экономическое положение Республики Армения в январе-июне 2014 года. Методологические пояснения статистических показателей, стр. 329; at http://www.armstat.am/file/article/sv_06_14r_6300.pdf, 16. 10. 2014.

²⁵Household's Integrated Living Conditions Survey Tools – questionnaires for 2004-2012; at <http://www.armstat.am/en/?nid=378>, 16. 10. 2014.

²⁶Social snapshot and poverty in Armenia, at <http://www.armstat.am/en/?nid=539&id=1503>, 16. 10. 2014

- Report on household survey on migration in Armenia, 2014²⁸.

2.2.1.1 Appropriate infrastructure

48. The organisational infrastructure and the distribution of tasks between departments of the NSSRA are appropriate for the purpose of migration statistics. Producing statistics on migration flows and population stock relevant to migration is the responsibility of the Population Census and Demography Division, which produces census and regular population statistics. The Household Surveys Division and Labour Statistics Division collect data on household members and labour force. Survey questions related to migration issues and analysis of data are the product of collaboration of the Population Census and Demography Division and the above mentioned respective departments.

2.2.1.2 Procedures for recruitment of staff and vocational training

49. The employees in the NSSRA are civil servants. For each post a passport is drawn describing the responsibilities and rights, educational attainment and needed qualification. There are special procedures for applying and recruiting staff on vacant civil servant positions. These include a public call, different written tests and oral interviews with candidates. Candidates from the reserve list of civil servants have priority in recruitment.

50. Mandatory trainings for civil servants are carried out once in 3 years, but not specifically for the production of migration statistics. Trainings on specific topics of statistics can be attended when the international organisations organise them. Participation in workshops and seminars organised by international bodies are also evaluated as part of professional training. In addition, presentations by state institutions are useful sources for improving the knowledge in the field of migration.

2.2.2 Selection of data sources and production of statistics on migration

51. Migration statistics are produced in order to provide the government, general public and international bodies with data on migration processes and to produce annual population estimates. For this purpose various sources are used and combined. For example, the annual population estimates are computed based on the results of the last population census by adding the data on natural change (increase/decrease) and adjusted for the migration balance. The natural change is based on civil registry documents (on births and deaths, registered at Territorial Civil Registration Offices, the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Armenia). Net migration is calculated as the difference between the number of registrations at the arrival and departure in the place of residence in Armenia.

2.2.2.1 Data sources and variables

52. The NSSRA collects data on migration from four types of sources that differ largely (by design, periodicity, maintenance) and cover different population groups.

²⁷Integrated survey of the Migration of the RA population 2007–2013, database; at <http://www.armstat.am/en/?nid=246>, 16. 10. 2014.

²⁸Report on household survey on migration in Armenia, 2014; at http://www.ces.uc.pt/myces/UserFiles/livros/1097_Household%20survey%20on%20migration%20English%20final.pdf, 16. 10. 2014.

Censuses

53. In accordance with census data, the size of the *de jure* population includes all *de jure* residents (present as of the recording date) on the territory of Armenia and those temporarily absent (for a period of up to one year) at the time of the census. Population data cover the geographical territory of the country.
54. In the 2011 Census programme the following questions related to migration were included: place of birth, country of citizenship(including dual citizenship), place of permanent residence (including the one abroad in case of temporary presence), place and reason of temporary absence, time of arrival to the current place of residence, previous place of residence(including the information on foreign country if abroad) and the reason for changing the residence, monetary assistance (remittances) received from family members abroad^{29,30,31,32}.

Sample surveys

55. Among the sample surveys, the *Integrated Living Conditions Survey* (ILCS)²⁶ and *Labour Force Survey*³³ (until 2014 carried out as part of the general household survey) collect data on migrants.
56. The ILCS (1st time conducted in 1996, 2nd time –in 1998/1999 by the World Bank and since 2001 conducted by the NSSRA) includes in section A the following questions for household members referring to migration issues: place of birth (in the case of foreign country, classified as Russia, USA and Canada (together), other CIS country, other European country and other country), duration of the absence of the household member during the survey month, the main reason for absence from the household). The ad hoc section (Section B) is devoted to collection of data on the recent migration of household members aged 15 years or older. Among persons included in the survey, persons who were absent at the time of interview can be perceived as a household member by other members of the household, even if this person lived abroad already for a long time. Questions aim to collect the information on emigration, returns, place of next residence of the emigrants (including regions of Armenia and foreign countries, the latter classified similarly to the place of birth), year and month of recent migration, main reason of the most recent emigration, if the person worked or not, which was the main type of economic activity and if and to whom the remittances are/were sent.
57. The Labour Force Survey collects data on persons who have worked abroad and includes a selection of their socio-economic and demographic characteristics. This survey collects also information on absent household members, including the duration of their absence, the reason for absence, and the region or country (if abroad) where they are but no further questions related to the labour force as such. In the section on unemployment, data on the intentions to emigrate for work abroad are collected.

²⁹Population Census questionnaire content 2011; at <http://armstat.am/file/doc/99486563.pdf>, 16.10.2014.

³⁰Population Census 2011; at <http://armstat.am/en/?nid=517>, 16.10.2014.

³¹Population Census 2001; at <http://docs.armstat.am/census/pdfs/61.pdf>, 16.10.2014.

³²Statistical Yearbook 2013; at <http://armstat.am/file/doc/99477293.pdf>, 16.10.2014.

³³Labour Market in the Republic of Armenia; at <http://www.armstat.am/en/?nid=81&id=1516>, 16.10.2014.

Table 1. Topics covered by statistical data collection (census and surveys)

Topic	Census		Surveys	
	Collected (Yes/No)	Used for migration statistics (Yes/No)	Collected (Yes/No)	Used for migration statistics (Yes/No)
Country of birth	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
County of citizenship	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Ever resided abroad and year of arrival in the country	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Previous usual residence abroad	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Duration of residence in the country	No	No	No	No
Date or year of arrival in the current place	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Place of usual residence five years prior to the census/survey	No	No	No	No
Reason for migration	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Country of birth of parents	No	No	No	No
Citizenship acquisition	No	No	No	No

Continuous statistical data collection

58. Ad hoc statistical data collection is performed simultaneously with administrative registration of persons arriving to and departing from their current place of permanent residence. Statistics on persons who arrived from abroad or left for abroad are produced based on statistical forms where a foreign country is recorded as the country of previous and next country of residence respectively. The content of data collected by the statistical forms is described in the *State Statistical Annual Work Programme*. According to this programme, the local Passport and Visa Departments of the Police of the Republic of Armenia transmit the registered data to the NSSRA. These data are published annually with breakdowns by foreign countries of residence and are used for updating annual and quarterly population estimates. An analytical text available on the NSSRA website '*The components of changes in de jure population numbers for intervening years (2002-2010) of 2001 and 2011 censuses*'³⁴ demonstrates that data collected by these statistical forms are not reliable due to insufficient coverage of registrations and de-registrations of the residence in the Republic of Armenia.

Administrative registers and databases

59. The administrative data from databases (registers and other databases) of state institutions that are responsible for management of various migration issues are shown in the *Table 2*. The databases that are used or considered as potential data source for migration statistics are the Border Management Information System (BMIS), the State Population Register, the register of persons seeking international protection and the database on residence permits.

60. In 2014 the statistics on asylum produced by the SMSRA were for the first time included into the Annex of the *Annual State Statistical Work Programme* and in the list of national statistics accordingly. The NSSRA in collaboration with the SMSRA has established a close cooperation with the holders of administrative databases. This ensures their effective implementation in the production of official migration statistics. The NSSRA and SMSRA have agreed to extend the *State Statistical Work Programme* for 2015 by

³⁴The components of changes in de jure population numbers for intervening years (2002-2010) of 2001 and 2011 censuses; at <http://www.armstat.am/file/doc/99465803.pdf>, 16.10.2014.

including statistics on resident permits collected by the Police of the RA (at the time of this SR the draft version of the programme was subject to consultation among the relevant bodies and users in the country).

61. The NSSRA has already access to aggregated data in the BMIS via special interface provided on a special personal computer at the Population Census and Demography Division.

Table 2. Characteristics of administrative data transmitted to the NSSRA for migration statistics

Name of the source	Authority in charge for the data source	Type of data	The source for updates	Population group covered
Population Register	Police of the Republic of Armenia	anonymised individual database	registrations and de-registrations at the place of residence	persons registered at the place of residence in Armenia
Boarder Management Information System (BMIS)	National Security Service of the Republic of Armenia	aggregated	registrations at borders	persons crossing the borders of the Republic of Armenia
Administrative database 'On persons seeking for international protection'	State Migration Service of the Republic of Armenia, Ministry of Territorial Administration	statistical reporting forms	database created based on applications	persons who applied for asylum in the Republic of Armenia
Database on residence permits	National Security Service of Republic of Armenia	statistical reporting forms	applications and decisions	foreigners applying and receiving residence permit, including minor children

2.2.2.2 *Appropriate statistical procedures*

62. Current quarterly and annual population estimates are made by the Population Census and Demography Division of the NSSRA on the basis of results of the latest census, conducted on 12-21 October, 2011. The NSSRA produces population statistics on the basis of the international standards (*see 2.2.1*).
63. Selection of population groups covered in the production of statistics is done according to the national needs and international recommendations. Regarding population coverage by the population censuses, the following foreign population groups are not included:
- non-Armenian nationals with diplomatic immunity in Armenia,
 - non-Armenian Military personnel and their families,
 - asylum seekers who do not (yet) have a permission to stay in Armenia.
64. During the inter-census period immigration and emigration data are produced from data on registered residences and de-registered residences in the Republic of Armenia. These data are extracted from electronic databases of administrative registrations of the Passport and Visa Department of the Police of the Republic of Armenia and transmitted to the NSSRA. The data extract includes records on each registered arrival and departure including a set of variables but no data that would allow identification of a person.

65. Generally, existing data sources are consistent with the definitions but there are difficulties for estimating correctly the international migration because of a big proportion of non-registered changes of the place of residence. The NSSRA is not allowed to receive individual records of persons/events with personal identifies. The anonymised records are transmitted to the NSSRA from the Population Register. These do not provide the possibility to analyse effectively the quality of the received dataset. The Population Register data are not used for official statistics due to low reliability.
66. Total population figures are produced and published quarterly and annually. These data are estimated on the basis of the latest census results adjusted by the events of births and deaths and by net migration³⁵. The latter is calculated as the difference between the number of registrations of residences and de-registered residence in the Republic of Armenia. Due to the fact that many temporary as well as permanent emigrants do not register their departure, the net migration figures from administrative sources are not reliable (as a result of the 2011 population census). Therefore since the beginning of 2013, for the calculation of population numbers, migration data are estimated based on ILCS, and the mid-census migration data are re-estimated based on 2011 population census results which are published at http://www.armstat.am/file/article/demos_14_3.pdf (page 43).
67. Data on foreign population in Armenia are at present collected at decennial censuses only. These data include all the variables required by the *Regulation, Article 3* on foreign and national population, and native-born and foreign-born population at census time in Armenia. Census data also include stock of immigrants (ever lived abroad) at the time of the census and international immigrants who arrived to Armenia during a fixed time frame before the census. Annual estimates are not produced on national and foreign population stocks neither on people ever lived abroad due to missing suitable data for annual adjustments.
68. The data for estimating migration flows are captured at the time of the administrative registration of a new address at the arrival in the new place of residence and at the departure from the previous one. The statistical forms No. 19 and 20 were in use until the end of 2012 and were filled-in for statistical purposes by the territorial passport services of the Police of the Republic of Armenia at the time of the registration and de-registration of Armenian residents to their address of residence. Afterwards, when the network of State Population Register was finalised and the system of registrations entered into force, the extract from the database of registrations is provided to NSSRA on a quarterly basis (de-registrations take place automatically in the system). *The Demographic Handbook of Armenia*, published for the year 2012³⁶ includes figures for the period 2003-2011 presented by urban and rural areas and by origin or destination in CIS or other countries.

2.2.2.3 Preparatory phase of data collection

69. Migration statistics production is defined by the *Three-year Programme of State Statistical Work*. The content and scope of production is decided by the State Council on Statistics, after being discussed in the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia and then confirmed as a law. Based on the latter for each year an annual statistical programme is developed. The same procedure is implemented for the annual revision of the annual statistical programme.

³⁵Statistical Yearbook 2013; at <http://armstat.am/file/doc/99477293.pdf>, 16.10.2014.

³⁶The Demographic Handbook of Armenia 2012; at http://www.armstat.am/file/article/demos_12_20-21.pdf, 16. 10. 2014.

70. During the preparatory phases of collecting data on migration the NSSRA closely collaborates with institutions that collect administrative data on migrants and migration related issues.

2.2.2.4 *Non-excessive burden on respondents*

71. The traditional population censuses conducted each ten years represent a large data collection directly from the respondents. Also ad hoc surveys on migration issues conducted by international organisations are a burden for the responding units selected into the sample. Yet, the burden on respondents is proportionate to the needs of the country and the expected results. The results of the survey have contributed to the overview of the situation in the country due to the lack of other reliable sources on migration. At the level of the NSSRA data collection on migration as part of the integrated household survey and as part of the labour force survey allows decreasing costs and burden on respondents as these surveys provide data that otherwise must be collected by ad hoc surveys on migration.

72. During the last two decades the process of establishing and integrating available databases has started, with the purpose to ensure their interoperability and efficiency, in compliance with the Governmental Strategy on E-Governance³⁷. At present data collections with the purpose to serve as input for various registers and databases, still represent a burden to the respondents. However it is foreseen that it will be reduced in the future by integrating these registers and databases into a common information system and by giving the NSSRA direct access to them.

2.3 Publication of migration statistics

2.3.1 Periodicity and contents of published statistics

73. There are only few data on migration that are published annually such as statistics on registered arrivals from (immigrants) and departures (emigrants) to foreign countries (grouped to CIS or other countries). However, these data do not provide information on citizenship, country of birth, age or sex of a person and are further disaggregated only by rural and urban areas. No time limit for presence or absence in the country of residence is used for the definition of immigrant or emigrant.

74. As for the variables on population stocks relevant to international migration (age and sex, country of birth, country of citizenship), disaggregated data are produced only for census years based on census results (each ten years).

Table 3. The situation in availability of statistics on the main topics of migration in the Republic of Armenia

Statistics	Availability	Published by	Periodicity
Usually resident population of Armenia at fixed time moment in Armenia (net migration as a component of change)	Yes	NSSRA	Quarterly, annually
Foreign population at fixed time moment in Armenia	Yes	NSSRA	Census years
Native-born population at fixed time moment in Armenia	Yes	NSSRA	Census years
Foreign-born population at fixed time moment in Armenia	Yes	NSSRA	Census years
Immigrant stock at fixed time moment in Armenia	Yes	NSSRA	Census years

³⁷Enhancing migration data collection, processing and sharing in the Republic of Armenia, 2010, p. 8; at http://publications.iom.int/bookstore/free/Enhancing_Migration_DataCollection_Processing_Sharing_ENG.pdf, 29. 11. 2014.

Statistics	Availability	Published by	Periodicity
Emigrant stock at fixed time moment living outside Armenia	No		
International immigrants to Armenia during a fixed period (interstate migration –emigrants, immigrants, net migration)	Yes	NSSRA	Census years, annually
International emigrants from Armenia during a fixed period (interstate migration –emigrants, immigrants, net migration)	Yes	NSSRA	annually
Naturalised population in Armenia at fixed time moment	No		
Acquisition of Armenian citizenship during a fixed period	Yes	SMSRA	
Residence permit applicants and holders in Armenia at fixed time moment	No (in preparation)		
Refugees in Armenia at fixed time moment	Yes	NSSRA & SMSRA	From 2014, semi-annually, annually
Asylum seekers in Armenia and refugees during a fixed period	Yes	NSSRA & SMSRA	From 2014, semi-annually, annually
Pending asylum applications in Armenia at fixed time moment	Yes	NSSRA & SMSRA	From 2014, semi-annually, annually
Persons found illegally present in Armenia during a fixed period	No		

75. Data on acquisition of citizenship are available in the database of the Police of the Republic of Armenia but the NSSRA has no access to these data yet and does not know what breakdowns of these data could be produced. There are plans to start producing data acquisition of citizenship regularly.
76. The total number of Armenian students studying under the framework of intergovernmental agreements of the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Armenia are available annually.
77. During recent years a remarkable amount of data on migration in Armenia was published based on collections by ad hoc surveys (IOM Household Survey on Migration in Armenia in 2014, IOM Baseline Research on Irregular Migration in the Republic of Armenia 2013, ILO and NSSRA Pilot Sample Survey on Labour Migration in Armenia in 2007, UNFPA Sample Survey on External and Internal Migration in 2002-2007).

2.3.2 Accuracy and reliability

78. The coverage of registrations and de-registrations by persons migrating abroad is assessed to be low³⁸. Migration flows statistics derived as a by-product of administrative registration does not reflect the real situation in immigration and emigration at current. Figures produced annually are fluctuating largely and became significant lower in recent years. Negative net migration calculated on the basis of these figures is much lower compared to the annual balance of arrivals and departures registered at the state border.
79. The balance of border crossings is negative, which is in line with the assumption on the overall international net emigration from Armenia. However, the balance, calculated separately on nationals and foreigners, shows that the balance for foreigners is positive and unreasonably big (for the years 2010 and 2011).

³⁸The components of changes in *de jure* population numbers for intervening years (2002-2010) of 2001 and 2011 censuses; at <http://www.armstat.am/file/doc/99465803.pdf>, 16. 10. 2014.

80. After discussions and consultations with the responsible unit of BMIS working on personal data, and based on the results of a pilot study on border data from the second half of the year 2012, the NSSRA considered that the balance of foreigners is positive because a number of persons with Armenian origin enter the country as foreigners and exit as Armenian nationals after having obtained Armenian citizenship (and passport). Based on the above mentioned pilot study, the NSSRA adjusted the number of arrivals and departures of Armenian and foreign document holders (on aggregate level) by moving persons having Armenian as the second citizenship to the side of foreigners. As the result of this adjustment, the balance of foreigners in 2013 decreased from about 10,000 to 110. Explanations and the methodology for adjustments are described and published in the '*Socio-Economic Situation of the Republic of Armenia*', January-December 2013³⁹ chapter 5.2 (in Armenian and in Russian).
81. Due to the fact that the NSSRA receives aggregated data on border crossings from border-crossing points it is currently not possible to produce better estimates. Nevertheless, border-crossing data could be used if an appropriate methodology was developed, for measuring the immigration and emigration flows, in particular for identifying the emigration flows of nationals that otherwise would be difficult to measure.
82. Both these sources – border management data and registration at the place of residence – obviously do not provide a fully objective estimation on net migration in the country. However the balance derived from the border crossing records is more plausible and might better reflect the real situation than net migration calculated on the basis of registrations and de-registrations at the place of residence. Information on long-term migration of individuals (nationals and foreigners) is for the time being impossible to derive from the border crossing data since the events are not linked to a unique person and therefore the information on the duration of stay (stays if several) is impossible to derive.
83. The coherence between data collected by censuses and annual migration figures cannot be ensured. The annual population estimates are not fully compatible with census population and cumulative net migration between censuses differs largely from annual net migration based on continuous registration of arrivals and departures by local police.

2.3.3 Revisions

84. The revisions of quarterly and annual population estimates are done when needed. The revision of the population figures between the two past censuses, as well as revised net migration data, were planned to be published in '*The Demographic Handbook of Armenia 2014*' according to the timetable of the annual statistical programme for 2014. These publications were published on 27 November 2014 at http://armstat.am/file/article/demos_14_2.pdf (page 25) and at http://armstat.am/file/article/demos_14_3.pdf (page 43).

³⁹Socio-Economic Situation of the Republic of Armenia, January-December 2013 (in Russian); at http://armstat.info/file/article/sv_12_13r_520.pdf, 16. 10. 2014.

2.3.4 Assessment

85. Population counts are implemented at decennial censuses and follow international recommendations. Decennial censuses are a valuable source not only for statistics on nationals but also on foreigners and foreign-born population in the country. These data are available on-line on the NSSRA website and in special publications. For the inter-census period only population estimates are calculated and published on a regular basis (quarterly, annually). These estimates do not provide information on foreign population (by citizenship and by country of birth) in the country.
86. The published data on migration flows by the NSSRA are limited in the context of available variables and largely underestimated. This has an impact on the quality of annual population figures for which net migration is used.
87. Under-coverage: Number of arrivals and departures at the place of residence are largely dependent on the willingness of people to register their changes of residence. Particularly emigration flows statistics are seriously underestimated because temporarily movements are usually not registered even though the temporary stay or absence may last many years. As a consequence, immigration flows of nationals are also under-estimated as there is no reason to register the return if the departure has not been registered.
88. Over-coverage: It is obvious that annual total population figures are over-estimated due to under-estimation of the negative net migration.
89. As reported by the SMSRA the system of statistical indicators on the people who need international protection was introduced in April 2013, based on the decree by the head of the State Migration Service⁴⁰, and provides statistical data in accordance with international standards, which are posted on the website on a quarterly basis starting from 2014. No under- or over-coverage is reported.

2.4 Dissemination documents and practices

90. The NSSRA publishes the results of produced statistics according to the Pre-release Calendar of Statistical Indicators that is available on the website (<http://www.amstat.am/en>) in English and in Russian.
91. The '*Pre-release Calendar of Statistical Indicators for 2014*'⁴¹ informs on the dates for the release of *de jure* population data in 2014. The indicators are usually published at mid-day of the date of the release. Yet, migration related indicators are not part of this calendar because migration statistics are included in the publications (The Demographic Handbook of Armenia), and for publications there is an additional release calendar – '*Calendar of statistical publications*'⁴² – which follows the annual statistical programme.

2.4.1 Timeliness and punctuality

92. Migration statistics as all other statistics are published according to the time schedule of the pre-release calendar. No officials or other users outside the NSSRA have access to the data prior to their public release. Quarterly population estimates are available³⁶ in the Statistical bulletin (in Armenian only) at 30-31 days after the end of the quarter. Annual population estimates and migration related statistics (on border crossings, on visas

⁴⁰See <http://www.smsmta.am/upload/1-pet-arm.pdf>, 29. 11. 2014.

⁴¹NSSRA (2014), Pre-release Calendar of Statistical Indicators for 2014; at <http://armstat.am/file/calendar/Kalendar-en.pdf#page=25>, 29. 11. 2014.

⁴²Calendar of statistical publications (According to the State Statistical Work Program for 2014); at <http://www.armstat.am/file/calendar/2014-i%20Oracuic-en.pdf>, 29. 11. 2014.

granted and occasionally on migration flows) are available in the 4th quarter after the reference year (published in The Demographic Handbook of Armenia)³³. Population estimates are also available in the Statistical Yearbook in the 4th quarter after the reference year.

2.4.2 Coherence and comparability

2.4.2.1 Comparability over time

93. There were no major breaks in methodology that affect the comparability of migration data over time reported by the NSSRA. Nevertheless, the published number of arrivals and departures used for estimating migration flows and net migration has decreased over the last years reflecting the increasing coverage problem.
94. In 2008 legislation on persons seeking international protection was amended. Until the adoption of the new *Law on Refugees and Asylum* those asylum seekers who had applied for asylum because of military operations in their country of residence were given a status of temporary protection in the Republic of Armenia, while by the new law they receive refugee status.
95. No bigger issues related to comparability over time of the data on border crossings were reported in the SAQ or raised during the meeting with the NSSRA experts.

2.4.2.2 Geographical comparability

96. No annual regional migration and international protection statistics are disseminated. Therefore it is difficult to assess the geographical comparability of migration and international protection statistics. Regional migration data based on the statistical forms No 19 and 20 received from regional passport offices were available until 2012 and were published for the last time in the publication '*Marzes of the Republic of Armenia and Yerevan city in figures, 2012*' (page 22), available at http://armstat.am/file/article/marz_12_8.pdf.
97. Population figures by administrative units of the Republic of Armenia stemming from the results of the two last censuses were published in '*The results of 2011 Population Census of the Republic of Armenia (Indicators of the Republic of Armenia)*' table 1.1, and are available at <http://armstat.am/file/doc/99486108.pdf>.

2.4.2.3 Comparability between first and final results

98. Population estimates published as quarterly data are preliminary. These are published on the 30th or 31st day after the end of quarter; some of these data could be changed after the final data processing. The preliminary annual figures are first published in the report '*Socio-economic Situation*' on the 31st January each year. The revised quarterly data for previous year and final annual data are published by the end of April in the statistical bulletin. Based on the annual data, the revised data for the first quarter is published in the statistical bulletin by the end of May. These data may differ from the preliminary data from the first quarterly report published at the end of April. In case of difference between the preliminary and final data, the revision of quarterly data is available in '*Dissemination Standards Bulletin Board Special Data Dissemination Standard*', at <http://armstat.am/en/?nid=399>. Estimates on migration flows (immigration and emigration based on registration and de-registration of residence and net migration based on the difference between the two components) as well as data on asylum and on border crossings are published quarterly and annually as final data.

2.4.2.4 Coherence between demographic and migration statistics:

99. Coherence of annual migration statistics and annual total population figures is not ensured due the different data sources used for migration flows statistics (registration) and for population estimations (census).

2.4.3 Accessibility and clarity

100. Available data on population (annual estimates and census data), migration flow estimates, data on persons who received visa and border crossing data are published in publications and are free of charge available on the website of the NSSRA. In addition, asylum related data are published on the website of the SMSRA⁴³. Statistics, published by the NSSRA are complemented with basic metadata. Statistics published by the SMSRA (such as statistics of border crossings of the Republic of Armenia, remittances from abroad, Armenian citizens in the Russian Federation, asylum granted in the Republic of Armenia, Armenian migration movements, foreigners in the Republic of Armenia) are not supported by metadata. These data are difficult to understand and could be misleading. Yet, as the SMSRA website is not the place for publishing official statistics, more precise metadata are expected when the publication of these data will be the responsibility of the NSSRA.
101. Migration statistics produced by the NSSRA are published according to the two pre-release calendars: Calendar of Statistical Indicators and Calendar of Statistical Publications which are publicly available on the NSSRA website. No release calendar is available for the releases of migration related statistics by the SMSRA.

2.4.4 Assessment

102. Due to the different data sources and methodologies used for population estimates and annual migration estimates, there is no coherence between these data.
103. Population data from 2001 and 2011 censuses are comparable over time and geographically. The data collected by the ILSC are comparable, taking into account the limitations of surveys, and some changes in the content of questions during the years.
104. All disseminated data are available to the users free of charge on the NSSRA website (together with the methodological explanations). Additional statistics on migration not covered by the official statistics are available on the website of the SMSRA.
105. The users are informed at the beginning of the year on the forthcoming releases of data and publications during the calendar year. This information is available on the website of the NSSRA.

⁴³Migration statistics. Asylum granting in the RA, SMSRA; at http://www.smsmta.am/?menu_id=3, 29. 11. 2014.

2.5 Statistical infrastructure

2.5.1 Classifications

106. Classifications used for the production of statistics are published on the website of the NSSRA *'Dissemination Standards Bulletin Board – Special Data Dissemination Standard'*⁴⁴. The list of countries and territories used by the NSSRA for collecting data on country of birth, country of citizenship and country of previous and next residence is in line with that published by the UNSD (see <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/methods/m49/m49alpha.htm>)⁴⁵.

2.5.2 Metadata

107. Metadata are documented and published. Currently no standardised metadata system is used by the NSSRA. The NSSRA website on metadata *'Dissemination Standards Bulletin Board – Special Data Dissemination Standard'* links with the international Monetary Fund website on *'Special Data Dissemination Standard'*. The last certification of the metadata on Armenian population was done on 14 January 2014.

108. Users are informed on the data sources and methodology of statistical processes, the quality of statistical outputs with respect to the national quality criteria and on international quality standards. Users are informed in advance about any revisions of the methodology before the next annual data collection and are informed by regular procedure on the release of data. In addition, users are provided with explanations and data according to their request.

109. Quality declarations describing metadata on Long Term Migration and Number of Population are published on the NSSRA's website at <http://www.armstat.am/en/?nid=498>.

2.5.3 Assessment

110. Classifications used in the production of migration statistics are in line with international and European standards. Metadata information includes definitions, methodological explanations and contents of collected data and survey questionnaires. Information is published in statistical publications together with data and follows Armenian national standards. A quality report was prepared based on statistics produced in 2011. The next one was planned for 2014. The NSSRA could improve metadata on the quality of migration statistics by producing more frequent analysis of data sources.

3 International organisations and activities related to the migration

111. The NSSRA closely co-operates with international bodies, in particular with Eurostat, IOM and UNFPA. Within the last decade this cooperation resulted in two specialised sample surveys on migration (UNFPA in 2008 and IOM in 2013). These are rich and valuable sources of data for analysing migration in Armenia. Furthermore in the last decade many comprehensive publications were produced describing the situation in the country or summarising the outcomes of the surveys.

112. The NSSRA received also financial and methodological support from UNFPA, as well as from other donors, to perform the two last population and household censuses, and to improve the sampling methodology for the household survey.

⁴⁴Dissemination Standards Bulletin Board – Special Data Dissemination Standard; at <http://www.armstat.am/en/?nid=399>, 29. 11. 2014.

⁴⁵Classifications; at <http://www.armstat.am/en/?nid=38>, 29. 11. 2014.

4 Further developments

113. During the meetings with the NSSRA experts, with the representatives of the SMSRA, the Police of the Republic of Armenia, the State Employment Service Agency, the IOM and as well as the UNFPA, plans to further develop the migration sector with a focus on migration and international protection statistics were discussed. Therefore:

- The institutions will continue and strengthen their cooperation to better meet national and international user needs for annual migration and international protection statistics.
- The residence permits database is foreseen to be established by the end of 2014 (Police of the Republic of Armenia and National Security Service of the Republic of Armenia) whilst the production and dissemination of residence permits statistics is foreseen from 2015 onwards.
- A continued detailed analysis of the *Regulation No 862/2007* coordinated by SMSRA is foreseen. This will allow the adaptation of national definitions on illegal entries and stays, and the start of collecting, producing and disseminating these statistics.
- Further improvement of the quality of the State Population Register is planned. E-forms will be introduced at Armenian consulates, and will be used in the population register to provide information on the place of residence of Armenian citizens living abroad, and the duration of their absence from the Republic of Armenia. This will provide a good source for statistics (the Police of the Republic of Armenia will coordinate these activities).
- Further development of the national legislation (like revision of existing legislation or preparation and adoption of completely new acts) related to migration and international protection issues is already underway and more is foreseen for the coming years.
- The establishment of a database of returning migrants seeking support for reintegrating into the Armenian society (this activity will be performed by the State Employment Service Agency).
- The NSSRA plans to update quality reports and enhance the presentation of metadata on its website. The NSSRA intends to work in close cooperation with relevant bodies on improving the administrative databases used for migration statistics. The NSSRA will provide advice on the preparation of metadata for statistics disseminated by other administrative bodies.
- The second EU Twinning project '*Strengthening of the National Statistical System of Armenia*' where the component on Demographic Statistics will aim at improving the vital statistics and reorganising the migration statistics. The project is foreseen to start in September 2015.

5 Conclusions and recommendations

114. The main conclusions of the SR of the migration statistics in the Republic of Armenia are:
115. The scope and detail of migration statistics collected and published by the NSSRA is rather low. The main reason is that the basic data used for migration statistics are derived from several sources, none of which is sufficiently complete. The improvements cannot be achieved only through improving statistical tools (e.g. census and household surveys), but the application of appropriate methods in statistical processing of existing data derived from administrative data sources is needed as well as a general improvement of the quality of these administrative data.
116. The NSSRA has taken *Regulation No 862/2007* as the reference for producing migration statistics in the near future and some priorities have been set accordingly. However, real improvements depend largely on the ability of the holders of the administrative data sources to provide relevant data of good quality. The production of migration and international protection statistics as defined in the Regulation is currently far from being complete as only two out of five articles are partly covered.
117. The NSSRA in close cooperation with the SMSRA has started preparatory works for a more effective use of existing administrative datasets that would help narrowing the gap between the needed and produced statistics on migration, and for investigating possible improvements of the quality of data currently collected by the state authorities on migration issues. Among the first results there are newly published official statistics on asylum and an assessment of the quality of net migration estimates that involved comparing and analysing different data sources.
118. The main recommendations of the SR for migration statistics in the Republic of Armenia are:
119. The NSSRA publishes some metadata in yearbooks and bulletins together with the relevant data. However, detailed methodological explanations (not only definitions) on population and migration-related statistics should be provided to users. Metadata is also necessary for administrative data, which is disseminated to the public by administrative bodies such as the SMSRA.
120. During 2011-2012 the NSSRA developed and disseminated on its website quality declarations that describe the regulatory background, purpose and methodology of production of statistics, dissemination principles and other important information relevant for the users. For the domain of international migration two declarations were prepared – one for annual data on long-term migrants and the other for quarterly data on long-term migrants. In some NSSRA publications the metadata also cover the quality aspects of the data. Nevertheless, the NSSRA is recommended to further develop a metadata system for migration statistics.
121. The NSSRA publishes the annual release calendar in advance. The NSSRA is recommended to include in the release calendar also releases, which are prepared on the basis of administrative data in the domain of migration and international protection statistics, at least those, which are included in the annual statistical programme.
122. Administrative bodies such as the SMSRA, which also publish migration and international protection statistics, are encouraged to publish a release calendar at the end of the year for all releases in the forthcoming year.

123. Immigration and emigration flow statistics in the Republic of Armenia can be improved by using three administrative datasets: the border management system, the residence permit database and the population register. These sources can also provide data on stocks of population relevant to international migration. By using each of these sources it is possible to provide a different insight into migration as described in several methodological papers (e.g. UN 1998). The effective use of these datasets implies important preparatory work and sufficient resources.
124. In order to produce population estimates on the basis of administrative data on registration of residents, it is necessary that the NSSRA will receive individual data on changes in the records in the State Population Register, and on population including personal identifiers. Currently the NSSRA receives data on events without unique identifiers of persons thus preventing it to check the quality of these data. Introducing personal identifiers in the processing of these data would enable the NSSRA to investigate the quality of the register and to study possibilities to use it as the main source for producing population estimates in the future. The NSSRA was advised to extend the request for variables (such as current address) from the State Population Register for the events that they are receiving on a quarterly basis.
125. The NSSRA, cooperating closely with the Police of the Republic of Armenia, is encouraged to further explore legal and technical possibilities to obtain records with a unique identifier (on persons and person's events) from the State Population Register.
126. Concerning statistics on migration flows and stocks of population relevant to migration based on the population registration system, it is recommended that the NSSRA analyses the content of the population register to compare population age and sex breakdowns – as well as other selected variables – with relevant data collected during the latest population census. For a more detailed assessment of the quality of the state population register data for producing migration statistics, it is recommended that the register data and census data be compared on the individual level of records.
127. The NSSRA, in cooperation with the SMSRA, prepares statistics on the issuing of residence permits according to the EU Regulation. To further develop these statistics it is necessary that the producers of statistics use the database organised in longitudinal format, to accumulate the lengths of consequent residence permits. This would allow introducing the recommended definition of international long-term migrants and identifying 'proxy' emigrants based on the expiry of residence permits.
128. The border management system in Armenia could be an appropriate source for identifying immigration and emigration of nationals and foreigners. Therefore, it is suggested to use the methodology that would allow counting immigrants and emigrants by using data on consequent entries and exits of individuals.
129. The production of statistics according to *Article 3 of the Regulation* requires additional human and financial resources, as a new methodology and new statistical procedures should be implemented (there is no prescribed methodology or guidelines for the compilation of statistics under the EU Regulation – only good national practice exists – due to different sources available in the countries and other national particularities). It would be beneficial to support the NSSRA over the next years through the provision of external experts. The IOM expressed its willingness to allocate an expert to the NSSRA providing support to further develop annual migration statistics based on administrative data sources.

130. The NSSRA statisticians responsible for Labour Force Statistics and for the Integrated Living Condition Survey were advised to make minor amendments to the questionnaires to obtain a better coverage of short-term and long-term migrants in order to collect additional socio-economic information on immigrants and emigrants.
131. The NSSRA is recommended to make use of information obtained from other relevant administrative data sources in order to better estimate the overall quality of annual migration and population statistics (such as information on issued work permits, border crossings, employed persons from the employment register, information from the database on re-immigrants etc.).

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Annexes

Annex 1: Agenda of the expert mission in the Republic of Armenia for the Sector Review on Migration Statistics

Annex 2: List of representatives of national institutions interviewed during the assessment of the migration statistics situation in the Republic of Armenia

Annex 3: Preliminary action plan for improving migration statistics in the Republic of Armenia

Annex 1: Agenda of the expert mission in the Republic of Armenia for the Sector Review on Migration Statistics

Day 1, Monday, 13 October 2014,		
10:00–11:00	<p>Welcome and introductory meeting with the responsible unit</p> <p>In-depth review of legislation, institutional and inter-institutional framework:</p> <p><i>Presentation of the purpose of the mission and of the agenda by the review team</i></p> <p><i>Presentation by the subject-matter unit of the NSSRA on general situation in migration statistics and on the legal and institutional framework for official statistics</i></p> <p><i>(Time frame 60 min)</i></p>	<p>Review team</p> <p>NSS responsible persons on population and migration statistics</p> <p>The responsible member of the State Council on Demography, Sociology and Public Activity Statistics</p> <p>Population Census and Demography Division</p>
11:00–11:30	<i>Coffee break</i>	
11:30–13:00	<p>In-depth review of available and potential statistical data sources and production of official migration statistics</p> <p><i>(Time frame 90 min)</i></p>	<p>Review team</p> <p>Population Census and Demography Division</p> <p>Labour Statistics Division</p> <p>Household Surveys Division</p>
13:00–14:00	<i>Lunch break</i>	
14:00–15:00	<p>Cont. of in-depth review of available and potential statistical data sources and production of official migration statistics</p> <p><i>(Time frame 60 min)</i></p>	<p>Review team</p> <p>Population Census and Demography Division</p> <p>Labour Statistics Division</p> <p>Household Surveys Division</p>
15:00–15:30	<i>Coffee break</i>	
15:30–17:00	<p>Review of data quality and of dissemination of migration statistics:</p> <p><i>Presentation by the subject-matter unit of the NSSRA</i></p> <p><i>(Time frame 90 min)</i></p>	<p>Review team</p> <p>Population Census and Demography Division</p>
17:00–18:00	<p>Analysis of results and preparation of summary of findings</p>	<p>Review team</p>

Day 2, Tuesday, 14 October 2014		
09:30–11:00	<p>In-depth review of available and potential administrative data sources of data for migration statistics</p> <p><i>Presentation by the subject-matter unit of the NSSRA and by relevant national institutions involved in migration related data collection.</i></p> <p><i>(Time frame 90 min)</i></p>	<p>Review team</p> <p>Population Census and Demography Division</p> <p>Representatives of relevant ministries or institutions*</p>
11:00–11.30	<i>Coffee break</i>	
11:30–13:00	<p>Cont. In-depth review of available and potential administrative data sources of data for migration statistics</p> <p><i>Presentation by the subject-matter unit of the NSSRA and by relevant national institutions involved in migration related data collection.</i></p> <p><i>(Time frame 90 min)</i></p>	<p>Review team</p> <p>Population Census and Demography Division</p> <p>Representatives of relevant ministries or institutions*</p>
13:00–14:00	<i>Lunch break</i>	
14:00–15:00	<p>Review of compliance with the European and international standards: <i>Presentation by the subject-matter unit of the NSSRA and institutions involved in production of data related to migration</i></p> <p><i>(Time frame 60 min)</i></p>	<p>Review team</p> <p>Population Census and Demography Division</p> <p>Representatives of relevant ministries or institutions*</p>
15:00–15:30	<i>Coffee break</i>	
15:30–17:00	<p>Review of data quality and dissemination of statistics produced from administrative data</p> <p><i>Presentation by the subject-matter unit of the NSSRA and institutions involved in production of data related to migration</i></p> <p><i>(Time frame 90 min)</i></p>	<p>Review team</p> <p>Population Census and Demography Division</p> <p>Representatives of relevant ministries or institutions*</p>
17:00–18:00	<p>Analysis of results and preparation of summary of findings</p>	<p>Review team</p>

Day 3, Wednesday, 15 October 2014		
10:00–11:00	Review of interactions between NSSRA and international organisations for development of international migration statistics. Activities of international bodies undertaken in the field of migration statistics in Armenia <i>(Time frame 60 min)</i>	Review team Population Census and Demography Division Representatives of relevant international organisations in Armenia**
11:00–11:30 <i>Coffee break</i>		
11:30–13:00	Discussions on needed developments of migration statistics in Armenia <i>(Time frame 90 min)</i>	Review team Population Census and Demography Division Representatives of relevant international organisations in Armenia**
13:00–14:00 <i>Lunch break</i>		
14:00–15:30	Discussions on recommendations for improving the data sources and production of migration statistics <i>(Time frame 90 min)</i>	Review team Population Census and Demography Division
15:30–18:00	Preparation of the summary of findings	Review team

Day 4, Thursday, 16 October 2014		
Beginning 09:00	Preparation and discussion of summary of findings	Review team Population Census and Demography Division

National institutions to be involved:

National Statistical Service (NSS):

Population Census and Demography Division

Labour Statistics Division

Household Surveys Division

***Other institutions involved in migration data collection and/or processing:**

State Migration Service at the Ministry of Territorial Administration of Armenia (SMSRA)

Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, State Employment Service, Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs

Police of the Republic of Armenia, Passport and Visa Department

****International organisations/bodies:**

United Nations Development Programme (UNFPA)

International Organisation of Migration (IOM)

Annex 2. List of representatives of national institutions interviewed during the assessment of the migration statistics situation in the Republic of Armenia

Annex 3. Preliminary action plan for improving migration statistics in the Republic of Armenia

Action	Method	Actors	Expected time
Update of the metadata sheets	Revision and updating the currently published metadata on the website of the NSSRA	NSSRA	2015
Improve the availability of methodological information	Describe in details the used data sources, contents and definitions of collected raw data, coverage and quality by each migration issue	NSSRA	2015-2016
Improve the availability of release information on migration statistics	A. Make available on the NSSRA website a general release calendar that includes dates for first publication of all annual indicators and statistics on migration issues as well as pre-planned non-regular statistics, like intercensal revisions etc. included in the annual statistical work program.	NSSRA	2015
	B. Explore the necessity to make available on the website of the SMSRA the release calendar of migration statistics produced by the SMSRA not yet included in the program of official statistics	NSSRA in cooperation with SMSRA	2015
Develop the system of procedures and methods for analysing the quality of raw data derived from administrative databases	A. Explore the legal and technical possibilities to obtain records with a unique identifier on persons and person's events from administrative databases used (or planned to be used in the future) for producing statistics with the aim to introduce new methodologies for statistical processing of data from population register, residence permits database and border database.	NSSRA in cooperation with SMSRA	2015-2016
	B. Introduce in the statistical work programme the activities for regular assessment of the quality of state population register by comparing both aggregated data and individual records with other relevant data sources.	NSSRA	2015-2017
	C. Carry out a detailed comparison of the last census results and population register based on low level aggregated data.	NSSRA	Not specified
Work out the methodology and procedures for producing immigration and emigration flows statistics, and annual statistics on population stocks by citizenship and	Investigate three administrative datasets: the border management system, the residence permit database and the population register in order to develop the most reasonable methodology for producing statistics.	the NSSRA in cooperation with SMSRA	2016-2018
	Explore the possibility and work out an appropriate methodology for identifying immigrants and emigrants using data from border management system by		2016

Action	Method	Actors	Expected time
country of birth with necessary quality and ensure the consistency between population stock and migration flows data	<p>using data on consequent entries and exits of individuals.</p> <p>Develop an appropriate methodology for identifying immigrants and emigrants using population registration (population register) data according to international definitions.</p> <p>Develop an appropriate methodology and a longitudinal database for producing statistics on issued and valid residence permits.</p>		<p>2017</p> <p>2018</p>
Improve the production of migration statistics based on sample surveys	Ensure that the production of statistics on migration issues based on sample surveys follows recommended definitions: revise the questionnaires of ILCS and LFS by introducing the time criteria for identifying emigrants and immigrants according to international recommendations by including for both stay abroad and stay in country the duration 'at least for 12 months'	NSSRA	2015-2018