

BUDAPEST MEMORANDUM

103rd DGINS Conference, Budapest, 20th and 21st September 2017

**As adopted by the European Statistical System Committee (ESSC) meeting on the
22nd September 2017**

Statistical session: "Population Movements and Integration Issues - Migration Statistics"

Whereas

- a. migration is a relevant, complex, continually evolving and potentially sensitive topic with implications for a wide range of policy areas;
- b. there is a high level of policy and public interest in migration and migration-related issues;
- c. various migration flows, which pose different conceptual and measurement challenges, impact on the size, spatial distribution, and demographic structure of the population of Europe and of European countries, as well as on social, economic and environmental developments;
- d. the ESS must respond to the need for harmonised, reliable, relevant and timely statistical data and information on migration and migrant populations;
- e. the needs for statistics relate not just to the origin, destination and demographic characteristics of migrants, but also to their education, health, employment and social integration;
- f. the success of policies aimed at reducing and removing both the internal border controls within the EU/EFTA and the barriers to citizens living, studying and working in different EU/EFTA countries have both changed the scale and patterns of intra-EU/EFTA population movements and have, at the same time, partially reduced the opportunities for data collection;
- g. there remain significant gaps and weaknesses in the available data despite considerable improvements at European and national levels over the past decade;
- h. in the production of statistics on population and migration, many countries are increasing their use of administrative data sources; and there is potential for the use of new data sources in the future, including, where appropriate, Big Data;

- i. the effects of migration take place not only at national level but also at local level, and greater geographical detail is required in migration statistics to allow appropriate analyses;
- j. the wider availability and use of new technologies for data collection allows additional information to be collected such as the efficient geo-referencing of data;
- k. there is potential for greater cooperation between countries in the exchange of data (including the exchange of microdata) and good practice, although there are large national differences across Europe in terms of the methods and data sources used for migration statistics.

The DGINS agree on the following action points:

1. To reinforce ESS efforts to respond flexibly to changing needs for statistics on migration and migrant populations and the differing situations with regard to migration statistics in European countries, and to actively promote the added value of high quality migration statistics.
2. To continue efforts to 'mainstream' migration-related topics in a wider range of social and economic statistics, building on developments resulting from the 2009 DGINS. These efforts should also target the provision of data, including statistics on longitudinal aspects, which further support the analysis of the integration of migrants and their descendants in their destination countries.
3. To support and promote efforts to develop and implement common population and migration-related definitions, in order to further harmonise and standardise migration statistics across the ESS. This should take into account the need to establish concepts and definitions that are statistically sound, relevant and applicable in the face of new emerging types of migration and the growing use of administrative data sources.
4. To support the identification, assessment and adoption of new methods and data sources, particularly the increased use for statistical purposes of administrative data sources of appropriate quality ensured through ongoing quality assessment – either single registers, linked data from several administrative sources or combined with survey sources, and the opportunities offered by new data sources (e.g. Big Data). These efforts include, where appropriate, implementation of the outputs of the ESS Vision 2020 ADMIN project. Administrative registers for migration statistics should be subject to regular and sustainable quality assurance measures; the statistical use of data and the improvement of data quality should be part of the register purposes.
5. To promote access to administrative data sources for statistical purposes, to support high quality national registers, which would in particular support the development of migration statistics as requested by users and stakeholders.

6. To recommend and promote closer cooperation between National Statistical Institutes for the expansion of data exchanges between countries, building on existing examples – both for aggregate data and, where justified, feasible and legally permitted, microdata – to improve the measurement of the size and characteristics of migration. This may take place on a bilateral or wider basis.
7. As part of the post-2021 census strategy, to develop and promote an incrementally expanding annual compilation of census-type data as a source of information on the demographic, social and economic characteristics of migrants and of the wider population, taking into account the availability of appropriate data sources and ensuring synergies and consistency with existing migration and demographic statistics.
8. To develop a basic set of census-related geo-referenced data covering a limited range of demographic and socio-economic characteristics, as a source of geographically detailed regional data on migrants.
9. In implementing these actions, the ESS will benefit from closer cooperation with authorities and agencies responsible for the administration and management of migration at regional, national and European level. Similarly, cooperation with researchers and international organisations active in this field is of high importance.
10. To monitor the implementation of these action points, and other related activities, based, in particular, on regular short reports to the ESSC, to be produced by Eurostat.