

Foreword



After finishing the conceptual paper, SEEMIG partners are busy describing their data production systems. Slovenian research institute IER and the Municipality of Pécs will give us a glimpse at challenges they face when dealing with migratory processes and migration-related data sources. The Demographic Research Institute will get special focus in this issue, as the partner being coordinator of

pilot studies in Hungary and Serbia, as well as country reports on data production systems. Finally, the Management Company is interviewed about its JTS 'best practice award'. For more information about recent news, please visit our website www.seemig.eu while your comments are welcome at info@seemig.eu.

*Demographic Research Institute Team,
Hungary*

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Push and pull revisited - The conceptual study

Reaching its sixth month of project implementation, SEEMIG was proud to present its first professional output at the turn of 2012-2013. Developed by Elisabeth Musil and Heinz Fassmann of the University of Vienna – with the input from project partners – the study focuses on 'concepts and theories of migration'. The conceptual paper serves as a starting point as well as a continuing guidance for the project in terms of conceptual framework and understanding migration, labour market and human capital patterns and processes. The paper offers a broad overview of problems related to the conceptualisation (What is migration?) and categorisation of migration (What types of migration exist?) in order to support SEEMIG to develop a differentiated view on this phenomenon. In the forefront of the study we find traditional theoretical concepts and enhancements of these concepts explaining migration on a micro and macro scale, arguing why and when emigration countries emerge into immigration countries and vice versa, and how migration is embedded into a larger political, societal and economic frame. Based on the review of theories, the paper draws overall conclusions for SEEMIG and recommends that the project should be based on a revisited version of the **push and pull model**. This model is not as specialised as other concepts, as it combines the micro and macro scale and it offers interfaces to official statistics. For the historical analysis, the conceptual paper advises to employ the 'Model of Migration Transition' as a blueprint, as the various stages of the model of migration transition can be found in the project region. It is not assumed that all countries pass through exactly the same cycle or pos-

tulated that the individual stages of the cycle exhibit identical characteristics. In contrast, it is acknowledged that countries could also follow different and differing patterns and trajectories. However, the turn from an emigration country into an immigration country driven by the demographic and economic development seems to be relevant for all countries in the SEEMIG region. The South-East European region is characterised by regional specificities which embrace the breakdown of socialism and changes of international borders in recent history as well as specific forms of migration: Forced migration has been an important element of international migration in recent decades and migration linked to the particular territorial organization of newly emerged nation-states in the region still remains important. A further important form of migration in recent years has been emigration, especially of the younger and qualified population as well as of specific professional groups. When applying the theoretical frameworks and considerations to the SEEMIG context, it is emphasised that these regional specificities have to be taken into account. Based on the conceptual paper, relevant indicators for the measurement of demographic, migratory and labour market processes have been defined in a data requirement paper which will be introduced in the next newsletter. The conceptual paper will soon be published in print form and both papers are available on the SEEMIG website.

<http://www.seemig.eu/index.php/project-outputs>

University of Vienna Team

Conceptual study

Theoretical framework for the analysis of migration, human capital and labour market processes.

Data requirement paper

Description of indicators to measure migratory, demographic and labour market processes.

National historical analysis

Eight country reports on the historical aspect of migratory processes.

SEE level historical analysis

Historical analysis of migratory processes in South-East Europe.

Introduction of the Demographic Research Institute, Hungary



(left to right)Orsolya, Zsuzsa, Boróka, Irén

The Demographic Research Institute (DRI) at the Hungarian Statistical Office (HSCO) is thematic leader of two main activities within the project (Enhancing data production system and Communication) and participates in a range of further activities. Under the umbrella of Enhancement of data production systems, thematic experts Irén Gödri (DRI) and Éva Gárdos (HSCO) have developed the framework and specifications for the critical description of data collection and data production systems of the participating countries. The country reports are currently being reviewed and will be available by the end of

May 2013. These country reports explore the data production systems of the various SEE countries and then feed into a SEE level comparative analysis. The SEE level report intends to take a critical view and sets out to formulate recommendations on how to improve data productions systems in order to have a sound basis to explore migratory processes in the region. The thematic experts are assisted by junior research fellow Boróka Zsuzsa Bodacz-Nagy and external expert Ágnes Hárs in their work. The DRI is also responsible for the methodological design of the pilot study aiming to collect information on emigrants of Hungary and Serbia. The pilot study is carried out in close cooperation with the Hungarian Central Statistical Office. Head of Research Zsuzsa Blaskó is supported by Irén Gödri and also by junior research fellow Natalie Jamalia (HSCO) in research design and implementation. Management tasks are assisted by Orsolya Sármasý, who is also coordinating communication and dissemination activities of the project. Since the DRI is also

responsible for the communication of SEEMIG as a whole – both within and outside the partnership – this is also one of the key activities. No research work and project implementation would go smoothly if it was not for the great assistance of the colleagues of the financial group: János Felföldi and Zita Hudjik.

Founded in 1967, the **Demographic Research Institute** is the only research institute in Hungary that carries out basic research on population processes (fertility, nuptiality, mortality, internal and international migration), the structural characteristics of the Hungarian population and the reasons that may explain the current developments (changes in family and household structure, ageing, education, economic activity, geographic differences, and special population groups). The DRI has long tradition of empirical survey-based research. Besides analysing the structural and economic background of individual behaviour, researchers also observe and interpret changes in values and attitudes.

Gathering data about out-migration - Pilot studies in Hungary and Serbia

	LFS in Hungary	LFS in Serbia
number of households	35 900	10 309
household included in the SEEMIG survey	Only households with at least one member aged between 15 and 74.	All LFS households.
number of interviewers	331	180
telephone or field work	field work	telephone and fieldwork
definition of migrants	'Persons born in Hungary and currently living abroad or spending most of their time (rest-time included) abroad.'	'Persons who went to live abroad / persons who were born abroad, lived in Serbia for at least a year and went to live abroad again.'
number of migrants expected to be identified	~1500	~500
number of migrants with contact details expected	~600	~200
duration of the survey	3 months	2 weeks
time of the survey	7 January - 7 April 2013	25 March - 7 April 2013

Increasing our knowledge about out-migration is a top priority in SEEMIG. For this, project partners are developing new and innovative methodology. The idea is to use a big, representative data collection to find households whose members (or relatives of members) moved abroad. In the second stage of the research we contact these persons with a more detailed survey about their (out)-migration experiences. A key aspect of the method is that these emigrants (under certain conditions) properly represent all persons emigrating from Hungary, so their characteristics reflect the characteristics of the whole migrant population. The pilot study using this innovative methodology is carried out in Hungary and Serbia. With lessons learnt, we are aiming to provide a best practice that could be implemented in other European countries. The data collection is based on the Labour Force Survey, which has the advantage that it is carried out in all European countries, this being the key to standardized data collection methods and a substantial sample size to carry out the migrant survey.

Main characteristics of the Labour Force Survey in Hungary and Serbia

Pilot study in Hungary

The fieldwork of the Hungarian LFS-SEEMIG survey with over 300 interviewers all over the country started on 7 January 2013. This has been a tight schedule which made the Hungarian SEEMIG team plus the LFS team at the HCSO extremely busy from October to January on. During this period we made a number of further specifications on the pilot methodology, designed the questionnaire and made it laptop-based, handled the issue of data protection and also designed the fieldwork and produced training materials for the interviewers. By the time this newsletter is being prepared for publication we already know that our work was more or less successful. The interviewers are now well into their second month of fieldwork and they are doing a good job, delivering a great number of valuable data about Hungarian emigrants. Naturally, they had difficulties with the unusually complex questionnaire. To collect a sufficiently large number of migrants (but still keeping the resulting sample representative), the questionnaire was designed to identify three separate

(although not mutually exclusive) groups of migrants linked to the household. First, current members of the households who live abroad at present are identified. Secondly, previous members who moved abroad from the LFS household are listed, and finally each emigrated sibling of each household-member is recorded. After identifying these persons and collecting information about their country of residence, purpose of emigration, duration of their stay abroad, the interviewers ask for some contact details to the migrants. This information is crucial for our purposes since these details will allow us to carry out the migrant survey which is the next step of our research. Naturally, asking for such personal data is a challenging task for the interviewer and it is also a phase of our project that raises **confidentiality** issues. To handle the situation and following the statement provided by the responsible national authorities, the DRI SEEMIG team produced a Data Protection Protocol that covers all the sensitive stages of the survey as well as the data-processing. For example we started the

migrant questionnaire by asking for an **informed consent** of the sampled person to ensure maximum trust between respondents and researchers in this study. From the preliminary results we can see that level of cooperation of LFS respondents is limited when it comes to providing contact details. Therefore we envisage that the second phase of the survey might be hindered by **insufficient sample size**. At the moment we are actively searching for new ways to boost the sample-size. Applying Respondent Driven Sampling is one possibility we are considering but data needs further testing before a decision can be made. Naturally, no sample-boosting method will be applied when the sample of emigrants with reliable contact details suffers from serious biases. First results from the first phase of the Hungarian survey are expected by late August this year.

Zsuzsa Blaskó
Head of Research
**Demographic Research Institute
Hungary**

Pilot study in Serbia

Following the common methodology, the pilot study will be linked to the LFS in Serbia, too. From this year on, the LFS in Serbia is going to be carried out three times using a sample of 10,309 households each time, and the SEEMIG extension will be adjusted to the first wave this year. The survey lasts for 14 days. The sample, the survey's duration, number of interviewers, the controllers, as well as the manner of implementation will be the same as for the LFS survey. Adaptation of a survey designed in a different social setting is always a challenging task and it was especially the case with the SEEMIG questionnaire. The survey is a very complex one and - since it was prepared for CAPI (Computer Assisted Personal Interviews) in its original form - it was not adjusted to a paper questionnaire. Therefore, the first challenge was adjusting the questionnaire to a paper form, while covering all the questions, leaps and respecting all categories of migrants mentioned in the questionnaire. The most difficult task was to establish links between

household members and migrants and also to keep a unique ordinal number with each person throughout all parts of the questionnaire. Another substantial difference between the Hungarian and the Serbian survey is that in Serbia many of the interviews will be run via the telephone rather than face to face. This makes the original questionnaire's size problematic. For this reason it was decided that the interviewers at the telephone centre should fill out the questionnaire in the paper form and not directly into the application itself, and only afterwards will they input that questionnaire into computer. This will take a great deal of time so we expect that we will also have to engage quality controllers in the interview-process to increase the capacities of the team. Similarly to Hungary, getting contact data is expected to be the major challenge in this survey, because people might be afraid to give contact data for persons abroad. One of the reasons is lack of trust, the fact that respondents might not want their relatives abroad to

be disturbed, and we also believe lack of information to be a key reason for non-cooperation. To improve this situation, a **media campaign** will be organised in Serbia to promote a better outreach to migrants which will hopefully result in a higher number of contact details. To achieve maximum data-quality and to help interviewers to handle potentially difficult interview-situations, extensive **training-sessions** will be organised. In the 3-day session the first day will be dedicated to the heads of Regional Offices, while interviewers and controllers will participate in the second and third day. The presentations will cover the purpose and the significance of the SEEMIG study, the link between the LFS questionnaire and the questionnaire on migration and the main definitions applied in the survey. A demonstration of the interview process will also be provided within an imaginary household that has various categories of migrants to report on.

**Statistical Office of the
Republic of Serbia**

Slovenian data production systems on migration

The main migrant groups and migration-related events for which the data is available in Slovenia are: immigration/emigration flow, acquisition of citizenship, return migration, immigrant/emigrant stock, potential immigration/emigration flow of foreigners and potential return migration of foreigners, seasonal workers, asylum seekers, irregular migration, and remittances. The Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia manages the most important and comprehensive data sources for migration statistics. It collects data from various registers, the main one being the Central Population Register that is kept by the Ministry of the Interior and combines data from ten registers. The Employment Service of Slovenia is the source of data on seasonal workers in Slovenia. However, since April 2011, certain categories of foreigners do not need a work permit for work in Slovenia and are thus no more included in the register. The Labour Force Survey (LFS) data are not reliable due to a small sample size and under-representation of foreigners (the majority of those with temporary residence live in collective households that are not covered by the LFS). The Bank of Slovenia collected data on remittances up to 2007. The EU threshold amount of individual payments

for which the purpose is registered, implemented in 2008, does not allow the identification of inflow of remittances any more. Outflow of remittances to the countries that made ex-Yugoslavia can be obtained through bilateral exchange of data. The changes in regulation (legislation, definitions, classifications and methodologies) and local self-government (new municipalities and changed borders of municipalities) have caused breaks in the time series. In the period starting with Slovenia's accession to the EU in May 2004 and ending with the implementation of the Employment and Work of Aliens Act in April 2011, the following groups were granted free access to the Slovenian labour market: citizens of the EU Member States, the European Economic Area (EEA) and the Swiss Confederation, their family members, family members of the citizens of Slovenia, aliens with a permanent residence permit in Slovenia, refugees, aliens with a long-term resident status in another EU Member State who have been residing in Slovenia for more than a year, and some other groups of aliens.



The **Institute for Economic Research** has a long tradition in the field of macro-economic and microeconomic analysis. The main research fields also include demography, welfare economics and human resources. There are three persons working on the SEEMIG project at the Institute of Economic Research: Nada Stropnik (Project Manager), Nataša Kump (Thematic Expert) and Klemen Koman (Financial Manager). The Institute's external expert is Janja Povhe (Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia). Other Slovenian project partners are the Scientific Research Centre of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts (ZRC SAZU) and the Maribor Development Agency (MDA), while the Ministry of Labour, Family and Social Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia is an associated strategic partner.

Nada Stropnik

**Institute for Economic Research
Slovenia**

SEEMIG data enhancement

Critical description of data production systems

Eight country reports on how migration-related data is collected and generated on national level.

SEE level analysis of data production systems

Comparative analysis and strategic recommendations to improve data productions systems in South-East Europe.

SEE comparative database

Virtualised database on migration, human capital and labour market processes of the region.

What do local governments need?



The Municipality of Pécs, as the local authority of the fifth largest city of Hungary and home to about 150,000 people, has displayed an acute need for demographic, migration, human capital and labour market datasets ever since the terms of integrated evidence-based urban strategy making became a stan-

dard. The local urban society underwent changes similar to the trends observed in other large cities situated in the southern and eastern part of Hungary, where economic growth has lagged far behind the achievements of the growth corridor of central and north-western Hungary. Brain drain has been the name of the game with settlements positioned lower in the Hungarian settlement hierarchy sending their high status households to larger settlements and better-positioned

areas within or out of the country. This exodus of well-educated and high status families was stepped up in the case of Pécs with suburbanisation, a process that outside of the metropolitan area of the capital is one of the most intensive in the Pécs agglomeration area in the Hungarian context. In reaction to these emigration processes, a local web-based project 'El/Away' by Zorán Patartics (www.elprojekt.hu) set out to explore the migratory motives of talents.

MANAGING MIGRATION AND ITS EFFECTS IN SOUTH-EAST EUROPE

The reverse process might be grounded in educational migration, national and international. Pécs has been a historical centre of higher education with the first Hungarian university being founded here in 1367. Currently the University of Pécs attracts about 30,000 students. With one of the largest student community in the country, Pécs is also the largest employer of the whole region. International student mobility is fairly intensive: some 1500 foreign degree-seeking students study alone at the English and German language programmes of the Medical School. This 'brain gain', however, is temporal as the local economy can hardly offer any jobs to graduates, especially not to international ones. As the city is trying to find a grip on these processes, urban strategy making has taken a participative turn in the area after the epoch marked by the large scale cultural infrastructural investment projects of the European Capital of Culture program. The city bore the title in year 2010, but Pécs2010 ideals of a cultural turn in urban development and a new culturally reinvigorated urban economy have not materialised thus far.

Pécs2030 strategy planning being underway, SEEMIG makes a great service to both evidence-based strategy making as well to various aspects of participation. SEEMIG databases and historical dynamic analysis on the one hand and foresight scenarios, trainings and roundtables on the other hand will reinforce an already existing 'urban development regime', the participation of various partnerships in urban strategy making.

Katalin Füzér
thematic expert
Municipality of Pécs

Katalin Füzér

is thematic expert of SEEMIG at the Municipality of Pécs, assistant professor of sociology at the University of Pécs. She has participated in the a number of EU research and policy advising projects such as Cities against Social Exclusion (CASE) funded under Interreg IIIC.



Further members of the Pécs Team

Ágnes Tiszai is foreign relations officer at the the Mayor's Office of Pécs, communication manager and substitute project manager of SEEMIG.

Melinda Marton is thematic expert assistant of SEEMIG at the Municipality of Pécs, assistant research fellow at the University of Pécs.

dr. Péter Rózsás is legal advisor at the Mayor's Office of Pécs and legal and financial manager of the SEEMIG project.

www.ph.pecs.hu

Judit Pongrácz is project manager of SEEMIG Pécs and social relations officer at the Mayor's Office in Pécs. She has extensive experience concerning the management of EU projects (Central Europe – Creative Cities, Urbact II – UNIC, Europe for Citizens).



Inter-project event and joint conference with MMWD



On 12-13 February 2013 an Inter-project event was organised by SEEMIG partner University of Vienna. Besides experts of the SEEMIG project, representatives of Re-Turn, CE Aging Platform, IOM Vienna, Priority Area 9 'People and Skills' took part in the discussions centred around the theme migration and demographic change in the Danube Region. With SEEMIG being labelled a Danube Project in late 2012, this was the first of a series of events, where project partners started exploring possible links and synergies with other initiatives of the region. A separate section of the meeting was dedicated to discussions with MMWD, the project often referred to as the 'sister'

of SEEMIG. Both approved under the 3rd Call for Proposal of the South-East Europe Programme, SEEMIG and MMWD are designed in a complementary way. Both projects strategically aim to develop transnational synergies for sustainable growth areas taking migration, human capital and demographic change as a starting point. MMWD focuses on policy-making and the reinforcement of the capacity of public administration to strategically manage the implications of demographic change. MMWD and SEEMIG encompass the entire SEE space and they ensure complementarity in the region. Led by the Regional Government of Emilia-Romagna in Italy, MMWD involves 21 public administrations and research institutions from Italy, Austria, Slovenia, Montenegro, Serbia, Bulgaria, Romania, Moldova. The International Organization for Migration is an observer. The two projects are continuously in search of synergies and cooperation, the results of which will be included in the upcoming newsletters.

Expected results of MMWD

- ◆ Impact scenarios developed to anticipate the local effects of current demographic trends in 2020 and identify crucial policy needs.
- ◆ Strengthened capacity of local administrations to undertake evidence-based strategic planning.
- ◆ Improved governance methods: three pilot institutional processes for cross-sector strategy making based on impact scenarios.
- ◆ Fostered transnational dialogue and cooperation, with the identification of areas for transnational cooperation between SEE countries, and the establishment of a SEE Platform for Policy Dialogue and Cooperation to promote more effective regulations of migration flows across the SEE area.



www.migration4growth.eu

Management Best Practice – Introduction of the Management Company: HBH Euroconsulting



(left to right) Borbála, Gábor and Emőke

Why did SEEMIG Management receive a 'Best Practice Award'?

Although it would have been an honour to receive a JTS best practice 'award' but it is not the case. Still, we are proud to say that the Management Handbook we developed for SEEMIG has been used as a good practice (with the approval of the Lead Partner, HCSO) by the South-East Europe Programme to support another project. As our company has provided services in the design and implementation of EU financed development programmes and projects for more than 20 years now, we have great know-how and practical knowledge in this field which served as a helping hand for a less experienced project.

How is the Management Company involved in SEEMIG?

HitesyBartuczHollai Euroconsulting supports the Lead Partner of SEEMIG in the overall project and financial management in the long run, until the closure of the project in 2014.

Who are the members of your Team?

The members of our team are Ms. Emőke Zács, Mr. Gábor Tóth and Ms. Borbála Bodzsár. Emőke is working mostly in the background, whereas Gábor and Borbála are rather in the frontline. While Borbála is supporting SEEMIG with strategic and practical advice in long-term coordination, Gábor is the key man for the financial management.

Borbála works as project manager and group coordinator at the management unit of the international division of HBH Euroconsulting. Before joining HBHE team, as civil servant she had the possibility to gain experience in the development and management of NHDP projects. Besides her Degree in Economics, she obtained a European Expert postgraduate at the Corvinus University.

Gábor graduated at Corvinus University of Budapest, Faculty of Sociology, and he is specialized in entrepreneurship analysis and European studies. He was assisting the development of urban-rehabilitation projects at the beginning. Since 2010 he has been providing management support on the finance of national and interregional cooperation projects at our company.

Emőke has been working for the company since 2009. She graduated from the College of Finance and Accountancy and she is experienced in creating budgets, financial timing and financial analysis.

UPCOMING EVENT

International Conference

**22 May 2013
Budapest**

Hungarian Central Statistical Office

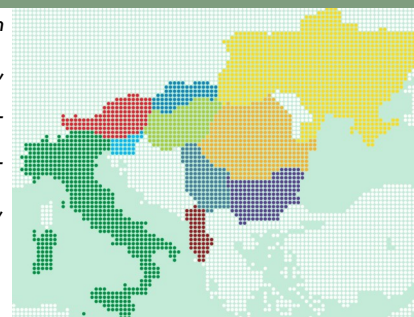
Interproject event on the challenges of demographic change, migratory and labour market processes in South Eastern Europe

For more information follow our website www.seemig.eu



SEEMIG is a strategic project aiming to better understand and address longer term migratory, human capital and demographic processes of South-East Europe, as well as their effects on labour markets, national and regional economies. SEEMIG relies on a wide network of partners. Research institutes, universities, statistical offices and local government bodies from eight countries (Austria, Bulgaria, Hungary, Italy, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia) and observers from further three countries (Albania, Georgia, Ukraine) are involved.

The project is funded under the third call of the South-East Europe Programme.



IMPRESSUM



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