

Foreword



Halfway through project implementation, SEEMIG partners have now completed their descriptions of migratory data production systems and data sources. Highlights from the Slovak country report are included in this issue of the newsletter, as well as an introduction of Slovakian partner INFOSTAT. Two local actors, the Maribor Development Agency and the Municipality of Turčianske Teplice also introduce the challenges they face when trying to access migratory data for planning their local-level development strategies. While the preparation of the Synthesis re-

port on the historical migratory trends in the SEE region is underway, you can get a preliminary insight into the Romanian trends. Looking beyond the project itself, you can learn how SEEMIG plays an important role as leader of a Thematic Pole in the SEE Capitalisation Process and as a project of the Danube Strategy. 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*

'Inclusive SEE' Seminar in Split, Croatia

Since SEEMIG received the honour of being 'Thematic Pole Leader' for the SEE Programme's Thematic Pole 11 (Employment and Demographic Change), the management team has been very active in channeling SEEMIG's topics and approach to the programme's work. This time, at the 'Inclusive SEE' Seminar in Split, Croatia, representatives of three SEEMIG partner institutions - the Hungarian Central Statistical Office, the Demographic Research Institute and the University of Trento - took part in a very intense meeting where exchange of ideas on demographic and labour market issues took place, together with the evaluation of the SEE Programme's results and the investment priorities for the next programming period. The Thematic Pole 11 comprises four SEE projects: 'MMWD - Making Migration Work for Development', 'PAIRS - Effective Programmes for the Active Integration/Inclusion of the Roma in South-East Europe', 'Silver City - Innovative urban strategies and action plans to increase the social and economic role of seniors', and SEEMIG. In Split, all four projects were represented. Furthermore, researchers from Russia also participated as observers, representing three projects: 'Demographic security of borderland regions of nowadays Russia and CIS countries', 'The impact of migration to the potential labour force and the ageing processes in Russian local communities' and 'Ethno future of Moscow'. The participants of the workshop on employment and demographic change, led by SEEMIG project manager Attila Melegh, compiled a list of strategic priorities of the Thematic Pole for the next programming

period. It was stressed that human capital needs to be enhanced through education, in order to compensate for unavoidable demographic decline as forecasted by experts. Also, the increasing development gaps between micro-regions need to be urgently assessed, and aspects of existing mismatches between skills and job opportunities need to be taken into account in every development strategy. The mismatch is to be decreased via transnational labour market services on local, national and regional level, better integration of migrants through transnational cooperation between sending and receiving communities, better recognition of the human capital of migrants and various other groups like the Roma. Pole members also stressed the need to improve statistical data systems by better combining labour market, migration and human capital statistics based on already elaborated strategies on the transnational, national and local level. Integration of vulnerable groups, such as domestic service workers of migrant background and the Roma is a challenge but also an opportunity. Local community integration and improving neighbourhood services for the elderly can go hand in hand with the creation of new socially oriented jobs. The overall strategic goal is to explore possible resources in seemingly negative social trends.

Béla Soltész
SEEMIG Management Team

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The SEE Programme started a Capitalisation process in the region in order to help synergies and links among currently running projects and to prepare the priorities of the next programming period. The discussion is organised along 14 Thematic Poles, one of them being Employment and Demographic Change. SEEMIG as Pole Leader closely cooperates with other members of the Pole: **MMWD** Making Migration Work for Development, **SILVER CITY** Innovative urban strategies and action plans to increase the social and economic role of seniors and **PAIRS** Effective Programmes for the Active Integration/Inclusion of Roma in South-East Europe.

Read more about the SEE Capitalisation Process on the following websites:
http://www.southeast-europe.net/en/achievements/capitalisation_strategy/
<http://www.seemig.eu/index.php/thematic-pole>

Historical analysis of migratory trends in Romania



HORVÁTH István is a Professor of Sociology at the Babeş-Bolyai University of Cluj and Director of the Romanian Institute for Research on National Minorities (ISPMN). Since 2000, he has been actively involved in various research projects on international migration.

After 1947, following the communist takeover, the Romanian authorities imposed a strict control on the international mobility of the citizens. The main aim was not to block all out-migration, but to control it: the authorities pursued to obtain various economic and political benefits for allowing certain categories to emigrate. Hence during the communist period (up until 1989), approximately 750-800 thousand persons emigrated, most of them of Jewish or German descent. As the crisis of the communist regime deepened, attempts to flee westward from the country increased. The number of asylum requests submitted by Romanian citizens in the OSCE countries* between 1985 and 1990 doubled compared to the first half of the decade. And to these figures it should be added the number of those Romanian citizens (mostly ethnic Hungarians) who, from 1987 on, fled to Hungary.

One of the first measures taken by the authorities after the breakdown of the communist regime was to liberalize the passport regime, removing the main administrative obstacles for those willing to leave the country. Under these circumstances, between 1990 and 1994, Romanian citizens submitted more than 400 thousand asylum applications to the industrialized Western countries. Facing this wave of Romanian asylum seekers, the Western European countries, begin-

ning from 1992, adopted more restrictive asylum policies, and a more restrictive visa regime was generally enforced towards Romanian citizens. A part of those looking to work abroad headed towards Israel, Turkey or Hungary, others considered the option of becoming irregular immigrants in various Western European countries. From the second half of the 1990s, within the framework of bilateral labour agreements, various Western European countries attempted to regulate the flow of Romanian workforce. However, compared to the number of potential emigrants, the number of persons involved in such mobility schemes was rather low. After 2002, when the EU states exempted Romanian citizens from visa requirements, the stock of Romanians rose in just one year from 250-300 thousand to more than 1 million. Another significant increase in the number of Romanian emigrants was registered after Romania's EU accession in 2007. Currently, the stock of the Romanian citizens residing abroad is roughly estimated to 3 million persons. The main countries of destination after 2000 became Italy and Spain. However, following the global economic and financial crisis the stock of Romanian emigrants significantly decreased in Spain, but increased in other countries, such as Great Britain, Germany or Austria.

Considering the last two and a half decades, Romanian emigration is characterized by complexity and dynamism. If during the 1990s emigration was gendered, involving mostly males, in time the share of female emigrants increased significantly. In terms of age, while during the 1990s and the beginning of the new millennium young adults and adults up to the age of 40-45 were most likely to migrate, after 2007 whole families relocated: the number of emigrant children and even that of the elderly persons (most likely the parents of the emigrants) significantly increased. During the 1990s and at the beginning of the new millennium the bulk of those engaging in migration was represented by skilled workers, facing unemployment because of the Romanian deindustrialization process. During the last decade the highly skilled (especially medical doctors) are emigrating in increasing

numbers, but also the very young, with practically no labour market experience started to represent a rising segment of the emigrating population.

The rapid increase in the volume of the Romanian diaspora, and its capacity to adapt to the realities of a changing labour market within the EU, started to represent a serious concern for some member states. On the one hand, some of these states became reluctant to unconditionally open their labour market for Romanian citizens. On the other hand, the medium and long term demographic and socio-economic consequences and policy implications of the prolonged absence of a significant segment of Romania's active population have not been seriously weighted yet.

István Horvát

Romanian Institute for Research on National Minorities

*OSCE – Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe

Conceptual study

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

Available on www.seemig.eu

Data requirement paper

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

Available on www.seemig.eu

National historical analysis

Eight country reports on the historical aspect of migratory processes.

Expected by the end of 2013.

SEE level historical analysis

Historical analysis of migratory processes in South-East Europe.

Expected by the end of 2013.

INFOSTAT, Slovakia



INFOSTAT - Institute of Informatics and Statistics in Bratislava is one of the 27 project partners who solves research and development tasks under the leadership of the project manager Tibor Papp (first from right) and his deputy Robert Suja (second from right) in the period of 30 months of duration of SEEMIG project. As a research organisation with nationwide scope INFOSTAT offers its expertise and potential as the

leader of thematic activities **Developing scenarios of demographic, migratory and labour market processes** and participates in other activities of the project. So far INFOSTAT has elaborated the *Analysis of existing major demographic projections*, as well as the methodological approach for the implementation of foresight exercises in all participating countries. Before the end of 2013 the foresight exercise will be implemented in Slovakia, and this will provide a model for the other countries. Currently preparation is starting on new population forecasts for Slovakia at the national, regional and local levels. This is linked to the results of historical analysis and takes place in close cooperation with Hungarian colleagues. Population projections will be a basis for methodological evaluation and ap-

plicability on national, regional and local level will be analysed. The task for researchers from the Demographic Research Centre (VDC), a special research unit of INFOSTAT founded in 2000, under the expert guidance of Boris Vaňo (first from left) will be to work out recommendations for public administration and strengthen their capacity to use project results in practice when making decisions and designing future policies. Communication activities and the dissemination of project results are coordinated by Monika Ruffini, communication manager (in the middle). Our colleagues from the finance group under the guidance of Anna Bradiakova (second from left) are great help for research work and project realisation.

The country report of Slovakia on **historical and dynamic analysis of long-term trends in migration, labour market and human capital** is also a methodological overview focusing on data availability on persons by their residence type. The analysis contains the political, legal and social-economic frame of analysed processes and the content is focused mainly on international migration. A separate part is devoted to the overview of policies and recommendations in this area. The largest part of the national report analyses the current state of international migration, labour market and human capital in Slovakia. Current migration trends including main characteristics of migrants are presented in wide, mainly social-economic context. The labour market analysis contains the basic characteristics and links labour market with migration (placement of migrants on the labour market). Human capital is analysed with regard to population growth and basic demographic structures. All demographic processes and population structure by age, sex, economic activity, ethnicity, education and nationality are taken into account.

The complete historical analysis is expected to be published on the SEEMIG website by the end of 2013.

The country report on data production systems and data sources focuses on the analysis of existing data sources of migration in Slovakia. The aim of the national report is a description of migration data sources and identification of problems that arise in collection, processing, evaluation and use of these data. Demographic data including migration data in Slovakia are obtained from statistical surveys and administrative sources. There are no special demographic surveys that would allow obtaining additional information to supplement these two basic data sources. Information on attitudes, opinions and intentions of population on reproduction and migration are especially missing, while these would be important source of information when drafting policies and creating projections. Demographic statistics in Slovakia including data on migration is based on permanent residence. The data on habitual residence have only been collected in the last few years and introducing them into practice is difficult. Population rarely reports habitual residence which is also proved by the last census, in which the habitual residence was investigated for the first time. The number of persons reporting habitual residence in the census was significantly lower than estimated. The main source of demographic data in Slovakia are statistical surveys: census

and population movement records. Some sample population surveys are also used for the purposes of demographic statistics, in case of migration mainly data from the Labour Force Survey. Beside statistical surveys, data on migration are mainly taken from administrative sources. For migration record several registers, mostly in the administration of the Ministry of Interior are used. The most important registers on migration data is the Population register and the Foreign-residents register. However, the wider use of registers for demographic statistics is not possible due to legislation, content and organisational reasons. Registers are not linked, because a unique identifier is missing. Several important demographic data are missing from the registers, and due to shortcomings in update, data are often inaccurate. Data availability on migration from statistical surveys is good. Most of the data is in databases that are freely available on the website of the Statistical Office. Specific data in detailed segmentation are provided by the office on demand. Availability of administration data is limited. Admins for administration sources provide only selected data defined by law. Data are provided on request and usually for a fee.

Monika Ruffini
INFOSTAT, Slovakia

Pilot research about out-migration: a brief update

Since the publication of the previous Newsletter, major steps have been made in the field of the SEEMIG pilot studies both in Hungary and in Serbia. In Hungary the Labour Force Survey was accompanied by the SEEMIG-battery in the first quarter of this year. Through this, valuable statistical data was gathered about a large number of emigrants from Hungary and to a smaller number of them also contact information (e-mail address or telephone number) was successfully recorded. In the second

phase of the pilot study then members of this latter group were approached with a questionnaire – either electronically or via telephone. By now this second phase has also been completed and the analysis of the data and the evaluation of the method are now taking place. From this we can already see that out-migration is a domain even more sensitive than expected. A high level of mistrust in surveying this topic has led to substantial attrition rates in the various phases of the study. Experiences are

not unlike this in Serbia where the first phase of the study was also carried out in spring 2013 and the direct surveying of the out-migrants is just about to start. The methodological paper about the first stage of the pilot studies are expected to be published by the end of 2013.

Zsuzsa Blaskó
**Demographic Research Institute
Hungary**

Follow our news about the pilot study on the project's website: www.seemig.eu

Data needs on local level - Case study Turčianske Teplice, Slovakia



Photo: Peter Prokša

Turčianske Teplice is a small spa town in Western Slovakia focusing on the sector of tourism without its own production capacity. Teplice suffers from a lack of job opportunities. Residents mostly commute to work to the few bigger cities nearby. One of the frequently used solutions is to relocate for better job opportunities within the country and beyond the borders. To get a better understanding of social processes, like other cities in Slovakia, the City of Turčianske Teplice is also producing population data. These data are processed both in the internal electronic system (database) of the municipality and are simultaneously recorded in a national register of residents (Population register). The city produces data exclusively based on the registered permanent residence and temporary residence of nationals. The municipality does not provide any data on people staying in the city without registration. Unfortunately, there are no accurate records on

the numbers of such emigrants. The reason is that these people still remain in our records as permanent residents - even though the law requires them to notify change of residence in the town. The main challenge of Teplice is the lack of a harmonised database that could support local strategy making and policy planning. From the SEEMIG project we expect new ideas to track migratory population flows and thus reducing the outflow of residents from the city and the continuous demographic decline of the population. When preparing the case study for the Slovakian country report on data production systems, Teplice mapped the following shortcomings in the available information related to the migration of residents:

1. Residents registered at permanent residence – by age, sex. We cannot generate data based on citizenship, country of birth, country of birth of parents. Population can be generated according to the nationality.
2. Emigrant stock – no data available.

3. Emigrants and immigrants to the city – inflow/outflow – we can only generate data on the emigrants and immigrants who are officially registered at permanent residence (for immigrants to the city, respectively those registered to residence after moving out of the town in the new place of residence).

4. Persons granted international protection status – data are not provided.

5. Persons who changed their place of residence within the country – the data have been extracted from the city database for the period since 2007. Data about individuals who are officially registered for permanent residence (after immigration to the city, respectively emigration) are also available.

6. If the workplace differs from the place of residence, data are not provided because there is no obligation to report the place of employment to the municipalities. Thus, the data are only available from Censuses.

Branislav Bugar
Turčianske Teplice, Slovakia

Data needs on local level - Case study of Podravje, Slovenia

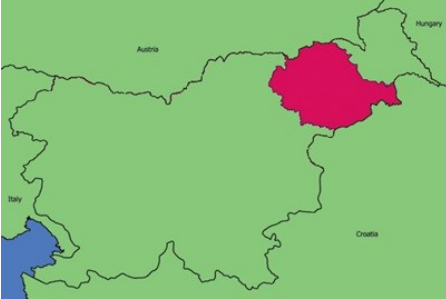


Illustration: Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia

The region of Podravje is one of 12 NUTS III regions of Slovenia, part of the Eastern Cohesion (NUTS II) region, and is the second most populated region of Slovenia, bordering Austria and Croatia, with Hungary very close by (only 50 kilometres away).



Photo: Maribor Development Agency

The Maribor Development Agency is the regional development agency, which is a public authority body located in Maribor, the cultural, economic, industrial and political centre of the region.

The SEEMIG project is all about quality data to support policy makers with strategic planning. This is also a main strategic aim for the Maribor Development Agency (MDA), the regional development agency for the Podravje region in Slovenia. The ambition of the MDA is to set up the first Slovenian regional statistical database (cross-linked to different national institutions) and to monitor current trends and start with regional foresight as well as scenario planning activities on NUTS III. This way we aim at contributing not only to the daily regional management but also to the elaboration of the regional development strategy in Slovenia.

As with most urban areas, which can be either immigrant or emigrant areas, or both, the city of Maribor would need, for the preparation of its mid- and long-term development strategies and measures, the data on the following:

- the number and profiles of people who go to work abroad, and the reasons why they have left Slovenia (including the outflow of students, who get employment outside Slovenia);
- movements out of the urban areas to the rural areas inside the country;
- the labour market needs for specific work force;
- inflow of work force to the region (with data about the country of origin and education);
- daily cross border work migration both from and into the region of Podravje.

As part of the Slovenian country report on major existing data production systems and data sources, the MDA prepared the case study of the Podravje region. The critical analysis of data production systems is expected to be valuable for national and local authorities, decision-makers and civil servants applying, using and utilising data, the research community, as well as international organisations and statistical bodies. Based on the data analyses the project partnership will also provide valuable recommendations for policy-makers who rely on data when drafting policy frameworks at different territorial levels.

In the near future the MDA is looking forward to host the stakeholder focus groups and local migration roundtable in the region of Podravje. These events will support the formulation of the action plans that highlight the areas of possible improvement of data production systems. In cooperation with ZRC-SAZU, another of three Slovenian partner organizations in the project, the MDA will be involved in the preparation of foresight scenarios. The feedback collected and scenarios prepared will help prepare for the future needs of the region in order to achieve the aim of mid- and long-term goal of transforming Podravje into a successful region with positive demographic and labour market trends.

Borut Jurisic
Maribor Development Agency,
Slovenia

Comparison of demographic data for the years 2008 and 2011 shows clear negative trends for the City of Maribor with both a decreasing trend of natural growth of population and an increasing trend in emigration. By now the city has become a place of emigration rather than immigration, which was the case three years earlier.

City Municipality of Maribor	2008	2011
Area (in km ²)	148	148
Total population	113.113	111.170
Men	54.736	54.118
Women	58.377	57.052
Natural growth	-191	-220
Total growth	491	-197

Data source: Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia

TRANSNATIONAL ACTIONS TOWARDS EVIDENCE BASED STRATEGIES

Mid-term meeting in Belgrade



in a systematic and wise way.

On the other hand, a lot of deliverables had been finalized for the meeting. The partnership gathered a lot of experience and shared knowledge on the field of long term migration, human capital and labour force processes of the participating countries, as well as in the field of migration related data production system. (See outputs on <http://www.seemig.eu/index.php/downloads-project-outputs>) The demanding work to integrate the knowledge and different work packages is on the agenda now and the meeting was a very effective step on this way. The extreme workload was combated with the Serbian colleagues' high-level hospitality and the professional organization of the event.

Ildikó Simonfalvi

SEEMIG Management Team

SEEMIG becomes Danube Project

In late 2012 SEEMIG received the title of 'Danube Project' and as such became part of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR). The second macro-regional strategy of the European Union (after the one focusing on the Baltic Sea Region), the initiative of the EUSDR came from the realisation that countries along the river Danube need to engage themselves in coordinated actions to promote the development of the region.

The Danube Strategy operates along 11 priority areas like mobility, energy, water quality, culture and tourism, biodiversity, security, etc. SEEMIG contributes to Priority 9 - People and Skills. Along with projects like CE-Ageing Platform, Re-Turn and IOM initiatives, SEEMIG aspires to improve cross-sector policy coordination to address demographic and migration challenges.

www.danube-region.eu



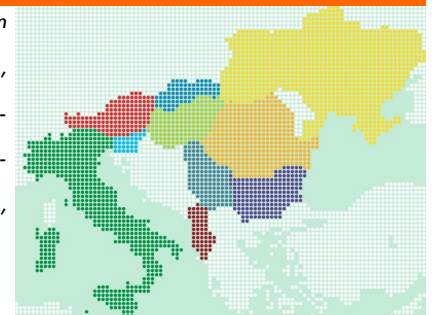
The SEEMIG Partnership gathered again for its next working meeting in Belgrade, on 19-20th September 2013. The conference was opened by Dragan Vukmirović, Director of the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia, and Zsolt Németh, Vice-President of the Hungarian Central Statistical Office also welcomed the participants.

The participants were warmed up with very exciting presentations. Gordana Bjelobrč (SORS) gave us detailed information on the internal migration of Serbia, and Olga Mitrović (Commissariat for Refugees and Migration, Serbia) presented us the migration profile of Serbia. Vladimir Nikitović's (Institute of Social Sciences, Serbia) presentation dealt with the whole Western Balkan region: who are the emigrants, why do they depart and where do they go?

After the presentations the intensive 'working-meeting' phase started. The meeting was very important for two main reasons: as the meeting was in the middle of the project lifetime, it was the right time to evaluate the project implementation and the results we achieved so far. The project's independent appraisal expert Dragana Avramov gave us very useful feedback on the 'highlights' and the 'lowlights' of the project

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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