Challenges in measuring migration & its impacts
Shifted patterns – Shifted demands
Challenges in measuring migration & its impacts

Migration has in recent years gained ever more political attention

- Increasing need for reliable, timely and detailed data
- Not only covering demographic characteristics
  - age, sex, citizenship
  - country of birth of parents
- But also socio-economic indicators
  - highest level of education attained
  - profession/field of education
- And linked to integration indicators
  - labour market participation
  - income level & risk-of-poverty
  - skills in language of host country
- Limited Coverage of these indicators in existing (administrative) data
Challenges in measuring migration & its impacts

At the same time migration patterns have evolved into more complex structures → challenges for measuring

➢ Creation of a unique migration space within the EU (free movement of people)
  – allows for circular migration patterns (reduced migration costs)

➢ Progressive seclusion to Non-EU-Countries with very limited possibilities of legal entry to EU
  – migration from Non-EU-Countries primarily via asylum procedures and/or irregular migration
  – family reunification schemes
  – Substitution of Non-EU-migrants by EU-migrants (SE Europe)
Challenges in measuring migration & its impacts

Circular migration

- significant share of migration with short stays in host country (<1 year)
- current definitions of migration do not include migration for short periods (seasonal and/or circular)
- UNECE taskforce on Circular Migration → set of definitions
- Coverage in administrative registers?

Multi-national living reality of specific groups (e.g. 24h care personnel, cross-border commuting on weekly or bi-weekly basis)

- difficult to determine the centre of live (daily period of rest for >180 days of the year)
- multiple places of main residence → double counting in different countries
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Intra-EU-Migration

- legal framework does not require residence permits for EEA-citizens
- only registration certificate upon first entry into another Member State
- no information on status of residence there after
- little incentive for de-registration when moving to another country
- (and very limited enforceability of possible sanctions)

- Possible remedy: micro-data exchange among Member States → via safe server Eurostat?
  - statistical matching will not yield full consistency
Asylum Migration

- Register coverage of all steps in administrative procedure
- Competence for national statistics lies with Ministry of Interior → follows different rationale (e.g. no regional disaggregation, case instead of person-based approach)
- Missing link with registration data (technically possible)

Irregular Migration

- Use of administrative data? → limited coverage
- Reliable determination of total number?
- Difficult to assess quantitative relevance
- However: Compulsory data delivery on European level → determination of voting weights in European Parliament
Conclusions

- Need for improvement of data collections recognised on international level
  - UN Expert Group for Refugee Stats
  - Eurostat initiatives for micro data exchange
  - Budapest memorandum of DGINS conference

- Basic contradiction on national level
  - Political demand for more detailed information (integration monitoring etc.)
  - Missing political will for transparency in potentially sensitive areas (asylum, social benefits)
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Shifted Patterns-shifted demands