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Challenges in measuring migration & its impacts

Shifted patterns – Shifted demands

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

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)

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

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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