

## Foreword



In this issue we are glad to present highlights from two of our major synthesis reports: one about the longer term historical analysis of the region, the other providing an overview of data production systems. Focus is now gradually shifting from the analytical phase to practical steps. Training sessions on local level for more effective data usage (case study Harghita County Council) and foresight exercises drafting possible scenarios of the future (case study Bulgaria) were two examples of this.

We are also proud to provide a brief description of the transnational database here, encouraging our readers to make use of this scientific tool. As recommendations evolve from historical and data system analyses, strategic planning leading up to policy making gains special attention: the Trento team is introduced as a key player in coordinating the strategic pillar of SEEMIG's forthcoming activities. For more information about recent news, please visit our website [www.seemig.eu](http://www.seemig.eu) while your comments are welcome at [info@seemig.eu](mailto:info@seemig.eu).

**Hungarian Demographic Research Institute**

## Dynamic Historical Analysis of Longer Term Migratory, Labour Market and Human Capital Processes in the SEEMIG Region

The University of Vienna has carried out a historical dynamic analysis of the migratory processes in the SEEMIG region in form of a synthesis report that brings together main findings from eight South-Eastern European countries: Austria, Bulgaria, Italy, Hungary, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia and Slovakia. It offers a broad overview of the demographic development and structure in the SEE region and the countries involved. In order to explain and to understand the demographic developments of the region it was necessary to embed them into the broader socio-economic and political developments. It became clear that countries in the region have different historical backgrounds, which cannot be reduced to a pure duality of Western type countries on the one side and former socialist countries on the other side. Socialism had different notions and impacts in different countries, and also influenced market economies such as Austria or Italy to a certain extent.

**A region both marked by converging and diverging trends**

The main aim of this synthesis report is to present and to analyse the development of the population, fertility, mortality, net migration as well as age structures in the region. One of the main findings in this regard is that distinct influences of political systems can be observed and should not be neglected; however, while the relevance of the political context in the shaping of socio-demographic

and economic developments was generally stressed by the country reports, for some variables, political influence only led to a delay of general trends (e.g. the momentum of birth decline). Such general trends of convergence and divergence could be traced in the region as far back as the 1950s. As such, with some delay in time, a convergence tendency of the total fertility rate and a disappearing variance of the rate emphasize the generality of a trend of low fertility throughout the region. As regards mortality, while an increasing life expectancy can be observed throughout the region, a growing divergence in the increase of life expectancy between countries became apparent. Similar divergences are prevalent in the context of economic development: while the SEEMIG region as a whole was and is a growing economic region in the long run and has improved its relative position against the world average, major differences between the countries within the region are prevalent. Some countries produce three times more GDP than the world average, like Austria, while others only produce half, such as Romania. These differences might also have influenced the fact that net migration also showed diverging trends; since the 1960s, the SEEMIG countries have been progressively characterised by a diversification of net migration rates. While some countries became immigration countries, others became or remained emigration countries.

## Contents

DYNAMIC HISTORICAL ANALYSIS	2
MIGRATORY DATA PRODUCTION SYSTEMS	3
HARGHITA COUNTY COUNCIL	4
FORESIGHT EXERCISE IN BULGARIA	4
A NEW COMPREHENSIVE DATASOURCE	5
THE TRENTO TEAM AND STRATEGY BUILDING	6

## UPCOMING EVENT

The **SEE Migration Roundtable** on 'Enhancing Datasets & Databases for Managing Migration Effects in South-East Europe' is held in Trento on **7 May 2014**.

The conference promotes transnational dialogue among partner countries and other relevant experts and key players in the field of migration and migration statistics in Europe.

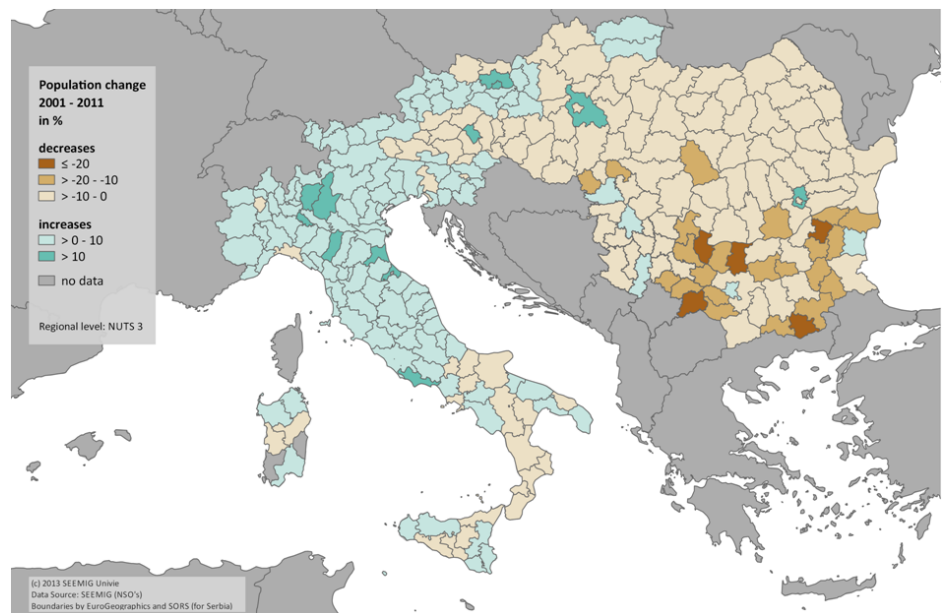
## Surveying emigration

research report on the **first-stage** of the **pilot study** in Hungary and Serbia has been published and is available on the [www.seemig.eu](http://www.seemig.eu) website. The report provides information about the potentials and the limitations of an innovative method of researching emigrants from a particular country in a systematic and statistically reliable manner.

### *Heterogeneity and diversity at a smaller scale*

The analysis further showed a demographically highly diverse region. Capitals, large cities, regions and countries closely linked to the European central axis, also known as the Blue Banana – which starts in London and Rotterdam and ends somewhere in Bavaria, Baden-Württemberg and Lombardy – are growing, whereas peripheral regions situated mostly in the East and the South-East are shrinking and economically suffering. An examination of the regional level reveals that nearly 60 per cent of the SEEMIG NUTS3 regions are showing declining tendencies. Such regions can be found throughout all SEEMIG countries, but are concentrated in the Eastern and South-Eastern parts of the SEEMIG area. Nonetheless, most regions may expect increasing population ageing plus stagnating or even decreasing population development in the long run, thus, migration will contribute as mitigating or even reinforcing effect. Current economic and demographic growth poles are likely to remain demographic winners and currently shrinking regions will most probably face further depopulation. In both cases the recognition of demography is crucial, whether in preparing for further demographic pressure or addressing demographic thinning. In brief, regional disparities will most likely further intensify.

When zooming into smaller territorial scales by examining development paths of the local case studies as involved in the SEEMIG project, significant heterogeneity becomes apparent. National or global developments impinge as broader exogenous factors, but also a municipality's or city's relative positioning within a country take effect. Hence, a region's geographical location or centrality, its accessibility and connectivity and its intra-national economic and administrative integration also determine whether a municipality or city is shrink-



ing or growing. Finally, specific endogenous local settings may be of decisive importance, i.e. labour market structures and their change over time, educational establishments, specific migratory flows and urban-rural or cross-border mobility relations. However, even if most considered local cases face population decline, neither are effective strategies to counteract emigration or to manage population decline in place, nor are existing strategic papers underpinned by statistical data. Thus, realistic perceptions of demographic realities are largely lacking.

### *Facing future challenges – an approach towards capturing policy areas*

The synthesis report offers some general starting points to develop concrete policy measures. They include pro-active long-term management of population ageing in the context of a region that is facing an increased ageing of its population, as well as the development of local adaption strategies and preparedness for population decline in the concerned areas. At the same time, although demographic and societal proc-

esses are deep-rooted and cannot be reversed easily, it seems important to implement place-based approaches that offer sustainable employment possibilities as well as innovative family policies that allow for the combination of work and family. The reality of migration in both of its forms – immigration and emigration – must be politically accepted and its full potential must be understood and made the most of. Furthermore, policies actively addressing cultural and social diversity and recognizing different life styles and realities are more required than shelving arrangements.

Finally, international cooperation and thinking outside the national context are relevant for generating win-win-win situations for all actors concerned: countries of destination, countries of origin and migrants themselves. These ideas are far from general recipes to solve demographic challenges in the SEEMIG region, but they do address crosscutting challenges and identify relevant policy areas – the main focus of the upcoming final work package of SEEMIG.

*Kathrin Gruber & Elisabeth Musil*  
**University of Vienna, Austria**

**Full reports are available at [seemig.eu/downloads](http://seemig.eu/downloads)**

**Conceptual study**  
Theoretical framework for the analysis.

**Data requirement paper**  
Description of indicators to measure migratory processes.

**National analysis**  
Eight country reports on the historical aspect of migratory processes.

**SEE level analysis**  
Historical analysis of migratory processes in South-East Europe.

## Analysis of existing migratory data production systems and major data sources

The synthesis report prepared within SEEMIG analyses the major data sources on international migration and gives a cross-national evaluation of migratory data production systems in the eight South-East European countries of the project. By formulating recommendations the synthesis report aims to be a platform for – and contribute to – data enhancement in the field.

A brief summary of the main recommendations regarding **administrative data sources** are as follows:

1. Regular co-operation between data handling institutes and *harmonization of the foreigners' registers and the population register* can contribute to having more precise information on the foreign citizens.

2. Completion of relevant data sources with *additional migration-related variables*, such as country of birth, country of birth of parents, would allow for a more complex picture and more multi-faceted analyses of migratory patterns and processes. The collection of data on previous and next residence of migrants in registers would contribute to learning more about the paths of foreign migrants.

3. Administrative data can be effectively utilized for statistical purposes through data integration in many cases. To this, however, a common identification system for the different data files is needed. Therefore we recommend the use of a *unified system of PINs*. Moreover, the idea of an *EU-level personal identifier* can also come up with respect to migration issues.

4. Reliably tracing emigrant flows and stocks will remain a challenge, because these data are still likely to be underestimated in data sources. In order to *improve emigration statistics* on national-level, incentives should be introduced into the (de)registration systems both for persons involved in migration and administrative staff taking part in the data collection process.

5. It is difficult to count absent persons, especially when the whole household has left the country. Therefore *international efforts* should be made to *harmonise the foreigners' registers* in order to enable them to be used for mirror statistics, improving statistical data on emigration for countries of origin.

As the growing diversity and complexity of migration movements make it increasingly difficult for administrative data sources to cover the entire migrant population, **sample surveys** are especially important tools for migration-related data collection. *Systematic, standardised international surveys on migration* could offer a solution for migration-related data shortage. Due to the absence of these, however, it would be advisable to *design surveys at the national level, which are linked to regular international surveys* (and thus ensure comparability), but conducted on a separate representative sample of immigrants. The problem of underrepresentation and the small sample size of immigrants – which are the main limits of surveys representative of the whole population – could be mitigated this way. The usability of existent large international surveys (EU-LFS, EU-SILC) should be also improved by *increasing the coverage of foreigners*. This could be achieved by mitigating language barriers during fieldwork, boosting the immigrant sub-sample or adjusting this to the real territorial distribution of immigrants. At the same time, in countries with considerable immigrant populations the possible *introduction of longitudinal surveys* should also be considered, as they would provide essential information about the integration process of immigrants. In countries with large-scale emigration the *inclusion of supplementary questions regarding emigration or labour force out-migration* in already existing international surveys is proposed. Additional questions on previous (work) experience abroad in case of returnees should also be included. *Harmonisation of the definition of 'household member'* in international surveys is recommended for improving the comparability of surveys' data. Furthermore, the *harmonisation and wider selection of non-response codes*, in order to identify when the whole household had gone abroad, is also recommended. As regards surveys on emigration or labour out-migration, the opportunities for sending countries are nevertheless limited (while a innovative methodology was developed within SEEMIG pilot to reach out-migrants). However, the *cooperation between research groups of the country of origin*

*and those of the destination country* could increase the success of such surveys. In the 2011 censuses, conducted complying with EU standards in all SEEMIG countries, data identifying migrants (country of citizenship and country of birth) were included in all countries. But further *harmonisation of questions referring to migration history and the harmonisation of population covered by censuses* is recommended (e.g. 3 months vs. 12 months resident criterion, those living abroad included vs. excluded, asylum seekers included vs. excluded). These would make comparison across countries more accurate. Countries considerably affected by some form of migration might consider including more questions on this topic. Regarding immigrant population, *inclusion of the following topics is recommended: legal status of third-country nationals; date of acquiring citizenship and the type of naturalization: in case of individuals who acquired the citizenship of the given country later than their date of birth; recording all citizenships, and harmonization of the registration mode of multiple citizenship: in countries where the dual citizenship is allowed by law; country of birth or (former) citizenship of parents: in order to identify second-generation migrants. In countries with large emigrant stock, the inclusion of some supplementary questions regarding emigration and labour out-migration, as well as return migration* is recommended. Separate questionnaire/module about emigrants (with the date of emigration, destination country and the reason for migration) should also be considered.

The conclusion of the synthesis report is that the enhancement of migration-related data sources should be initiated in all major fields (administrative, survey, census), because only a harmonised, complex structure of all these data sources can provide an accurate and comprehensive picture on the phenomenon of international migration.

Based on the analytical work carried out on both national and SEE level, steps towards implementation has also begun. SEEMIG countries formulated their 'Action plans', and during strategy building SEEMIG will build upon these outcomes.

Irén Gödri and Éva Gárdos  
HDRI - HCSO, Hungary

## Harghita County Council: data usage for policy making

Harghita county is situated in Romania, in the inner part of Eastern Transylvania, with a population of 310,867 people (2011). The role of the County Council is to coordinate the county's development processes from economic, rural development, tourism, sports, youth, social and cultural point of view. Harghita County Council has an important role and a great responsibility in reconciling the European Union and national development resources with expertise, and in creating the conditions for a sustainable development for the County.

Harghita County Council, as a partner in SEEMIG, organised a workshop in February 2014. Key local stakeholders, representatives of county institutions – such as the Statistical Office of Harghita County, Labor Agency of Harghita County, Sapientia University, Child Protection Agency of Harghita County, Chamber of Commerce of Harghita County, School Inspectorate of Harghita County, WAC – Center for Regional and Anthropological Research and several local governments were invited. The purpose of the workshop was to introduce the most important objectives and results of the project on local and regional level, and on the other hand to assist the local stake-

holders and governments in the access and use of the existing databases and analyses. On this basis participants could elaborate and establish strategies for the migration flows on regional level. The invitees highlighted some important issues regarding the phenomenon of migration and facts about data usage. There is a growing tendency regarding applications for beginner language courses at Soros Education Center due to an increase of the number of people migrating to England and Germany. The Child Protection Agency presented its own data on migration: they register children whose parents work abroad. The problem with this kind of data is that they are not exhaustive, there are many settlements where nobody is registered as working abroad, but the local authorities know many families where the parents are working in other countries. In this case the Child Protection Agency asked for help to complete the existing databases. Another issue is the situation of children who turned 18 and left the child protection system. In many cases these people are working abroad, but there is no database regarding the number and the range of host counties. A few participants mentioned a new trend which af-

fects the growing number of migrants in the county. As of January 2011 Hungary introduced a simplified naturalisation procedure regarding the Hungarian citizenship. As a result, a fair number of people applied for and obtained the Hungarian citizenship, which allowed an easier placement on the European labour market.

As a next step, Harghita County Council will organise roundtable discussions for national stakeholders, representatives of research institutes and statistical offices so that they can formulate their views, impressions, reflections and proposals on the national action plan regarding the future developments in the field of data collection, data linkage and production of more accurate and reliable statistics, not only on international migration but also on national, regional and local level.

*Erika Dobos*

**Harghita County Council, Romania**



Harghita County Council

## Foresight exercise in Bulgaria

It is a hard task for every project to convert the general aims into concrete and practical steps. Foresight exercise is one of the tools for SEEMIG to reach its overall object "to empower public administrations in policy planning and strategy building". An innovative method widely used in strategy planning and strategy building, foresight itself reminds us of focus group interviews, but we do not work with data or numbers, but with the involvement of the experts who are preparing for the future. The result can be far from the actuality but down to earth: the elaborated future scenarios must be coherent, credible and plausible and it comes from the participants' mental maps of the possible future pathways.

The foresight method was first used by SHELL in the 70s during the oil crisis with a great success. Now the method is widely used, several EU funded project used it in various fields (ForSEE, ForTranSis, FORERA, CORDIS projects.) Detailed description of the different methods can be found at:

[http://forlearn.jrc.ec.europa.eu/guide/4\\_methodology/methods.htm](http://forlearn.jrc.ec.europa.eu/guide/4_methodology/methods.htm)

In the framework of SEEMIG we organized foresight-exercises in all participating countries in order to map the future scenarios of migration processes by exploring the main drivers. The involved stakeholders came from three different areas: experts, decision-makers and representatives of the civil society.

The Bulgarian foresight exercise was conducted in December 2013. It consisted of three individual workshops with experts, public officials, and migrants, and a plenary workshop with all participants. During the individual workshops participants identified the main drivers for emigration and immigration, while in the last joint workshop they prioritized drivers in terms of influence and clustered them in four main themes. The four clusters were then used to develop two opposing scenarios for the future – a positive and a negative one. The two mixed groups had to assess how the changes in the drivers will affect migration, the labour market and the demographic processes in the country. Due to the low immigration stock in Bulgaria, the topic of immigration was largely discussed through the lens of return migration, rather than from the point of view of immigrants and asylum seekers.

MANAGING MIGRATION AND ITS EFFECTS IN SOUTH-EAST EUROPE

The four clusters identified were: economic development, education, political and welfare situation, and cultural factors. The most important factors in the sphere of economic development were the needs and the structure of the labour market, the level of unemployment, and regional development. Education was a main theme in all individual groups, both at the level of secondary and tertiary education, in terms of balance between theoretical and practical knowledge, and in terms of relation to the labour market. Political factors and the type of welfare system were discussed particularly in the context of the destination countries as enabling or constraining integration. Finally, cultural specifics of different ethnic and religious groups, as

well as social and community cohesion were regarded as important factors for emigration.

During the individual workshops participants highlighted important international factors such as the needs of the destination countries' labour markets or the international political situation in the Middle East. However, during the development of scenarios the main factors discussed were solely related to the situation within Bulgaria. To give an example: good economic development providing more and better paid jobs in Bulgaria will serve as a driver both for attracting immigrants, and for limiting Bulgarian emigration. In this sense, projections of the participants were strongly tied to a view of an independently func-

tioning nation-state which creates its own conditions for pulling immigrants or creating conditions for a brain-drain. Another underlying assumption in both the negative and the positive scenario was that emigration and mobility are inherently negative trends caused by despair and used as a survival strategy, rather than an opportunity for experience and exchange.

*Neda Deneva*

**National Statistical Institute, Bulgaria**

The foresight reports of SEEMIG countries are expected to be published on the [www.seemig.eu](http://www.seemig.eu) website early summer 2014.

## A new comprehensive data source on the region

[www.seemig.eu/data](http://www.seemig.eu/data)

The transnational database elaborated in the framework of the SEEMIG project is a new data-source for professionals examining the region. It contains a comprehensive scope of data and variables which are not necessarily available or not easily accessible in other international datasets. The purpose of the establishment was twofold: on one hand, it was important to provide proper background information for the previously published analyses and country reports of the project in order to present detailed and profound introduction on migration processes in the SEE region. On the other hand, we wanted to collect and disseminate new information that are considered to be relevant from the regional point of view, nevertheless are hard to access in a single place. The data were provided by the statistical offices of SEEMIG countries – often with the very effective coordination of research institutes and universities in countries where no statistical office was included in the partnership – thus the standardized use of definitions and the comparability with e.g. Eurostat data are ensured to the highest possible extent. The content design of the dataset was based on the theoretical background previously elaborated in the project. After the thorough discussion with partner institutions, relevant indicators that are internationally comparable and also available in acceptable quality were selected. The major and widest scope of data refer to population and vital statistics, disaggregated by age, sex and

region (including NUTS level 3) and comparing foreign and national population both by citizenship and country of birth. Besides stock data on the usually resident population, information on annual in- and out-migration flows are also provided. Finally the picture is completed by detailed data on asylum-seekers and persons granted international protection. Besides demographic processes, migration has a great influence on labour-market patterns, thus information on economic activity are also published on the basis of the European Labour Force Survey. Certain important indicators on the economy e.g. economic growth, were also included. After partner institutions sent the collected datasets, professionals at the Demographic Research Institute compiled them, and carried out the consistency checks as well as the clarification of metadata before data became publicly available. The primary future target is the maintenance and regular update of the database beyond the lifespan of SEEMIG (currently data are available for the 2001-2011 period). On one hand, the revision of the content is crucial for this purpose: information which prove to be less relevant for visitors or demand extremely large resources might be excluded, while the

possibility to include some new indicators should be considered e.g. migration matrices for the region. Another important aspect of development could be to provide more detailed regional data not available in such breakdowns in other public databases. In the framework of this the expansion of the local level achievements of SEEMIG (local databanks) is one option e.g. the provision of statistics on certain settlements of the region, similarly to the Eurostat Urban Audit database. On the other hand, the implementation of new dissemination techniques is another area of possible enhancement e.g. the introduction of new dynamic tables so that users can select the useful variables in the table. Finally, the circle of the partnership could further be widened: in order to get easier access to data, statistical institutions of SEE countries should be included in line with the inclusion of new partner countries.

*László Kajdi*

**Hungarian Central Statistical Office**



### 1.1.1 Immigrants flow by country of destination on NUTSO level

Country	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Austria <sup>a</sup>	89 928	108 125	111 869	122 547	114 465	95 241
Bulgaria						
Hungary	22 537	20 616	22 222	24 348	27 878	25 241
Italy <sup>b</sup>						
Romania <sup>b</sup>						
Serbia	c	c	c	c	c	c
Slovakia <sup>c</sup>	2 023	2 312	2 603	4 460	5 276	4 811
Slovenia	7 803	9 134	9 279	10 171	15 041	13 241

## The Trento Team - coordinator of strategy building in SEEMIG



Dr. Mauro Albani, Dr. Serena Piovesan,  
Prof. Bruno Dallago, Prof. Gert Guri

The Research Unit on Local Development and Global Governance (LoG) at the University of Trento coordinates initiatives related to studies, research and education on the development of territories in the perspective of the governance of national and international processes. LoG recognizes that the great

transformations of social, economic, cultural, legal, environmental and technological processes ongoing at global level did not diminish the influence of institutional actors at the local/national level. These have rather restructured the traditional role of the territory in a new dynamic dimension. LoG studies the complex interrelation between the global and the local frameworks in all its aspects by identifying formal and informal forms of interaction employed by institutional and non-institutional actors. The cross-cutting focus of this research topic calls for an interdisciplinary approach. By employing a comparative European and international approach LoG focuses on:

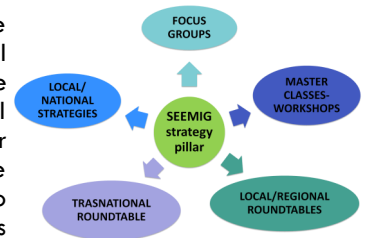
- Implementing research projects also at international level;
- Consolidating a network of scholars and experts at local, national and international level;
- Fostering initiatives that facilitate the interdisciplinary scientific debate among scholars;
- Specialized educational initiatives at graduate and post-graduate level.

The Research Unit on Local Development and Global Governance is the leading partner for 'Strategies, capacity building and transnational dialogue'. Our team, composed by Prof. Bruno Dallago, Gert Guri, Serena Piovesan, Alessandra Bravi and our administrative officer Chiara Zendri will coordinate and support the activities organized by the local and national partners under the strategic pillar of SEEMIG.



Alessandra Bravi

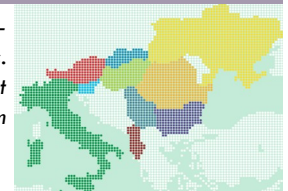
Activities centered around 'Strategies, capacity building and transnational dialogue' of SEEMIG harmonize and build upon the outcomes of previous steps of the project. In doing so, these activities aim to enhance capacity building and transnational dialogue among the key stakeholders and policy makers working in the field of migration in South-East Europe. This is achieved by organizing a series of events that directly involve migration practitioners, experts, policy makers and relevant stakeholders both at national and local level in each of the SEEMIG countries. At the national level each partner will organize a **focus group** on the impact of migration on the labour market - with one country-specific aspect of interaction between migration and employment at the core of the discussion. At the local level partners will organize **migration roundtables** with stakeholders, migration experts and practitioners in the field to discuss and draft local/regional **migration strategies**. The purpose of these strategies is to analyze how migration or out-migration can affect local development. National, regional and local levels coexist and overlap in the project and therefore the so-called **master classes** (expert meetings building on workshop techniques) are organized at the local level both with national and local stakeholders. This brings national stakeholders and policy makers' attention to the migration realities of local partners and at the same time involves the local/regional stakeholders into the broader national debate. During these workshops the action plans, to address the evidenced pitfalls in data collection/interpretation will be discussed, finalized and endorsed by the participants. The action plans are country-specific guidelines on how to improve data collection to successfully implement evidence-based migration strategies. The outcome of the master classes' discussions will feed into the **national migration strategies**.



Alessandra Bravi  
**SEEMIG Strategy Manager**

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



Hungarian Demographic Research Institute  
H-1024 Budapest, Buday László utca 1-3.  
Tel.: +36 1 345 6593  
Email: info@seemig.eu

For further information please visit our website  
[www.seemig.eu](http://www.seemig.eu)

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