

## **Analysis of existing migratory data production systems and major data sources in Slovenia**

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## Contents

List of acronyms and abbreviations .....	4
Executive Summary .....	5
1. INTRODUCTION .....	9
2. DATA SOURCES AND RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITIES .....	11
2.1. Administrative (register-based) data sources .....	11
2.1.1. <i>Central Population Register (Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Slovenia)</i> .....	11
2.1.2. <i>Register of Aliens - Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Slovenia</i> .....	15
2.1.3. <i>Work Permits; Employment Service of Slovenia</i> .....	18
2.1.4. <i>M forms: Reports of data regarding the pension and disability- and health insurance, parental insurance and unemployment insurance; The Health Insurance Institute of Slovenia</i> ...	21
2.1.5. <i>Asylum Register; Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Slovenia)</i> .....	24
2.1.6. <i>Data on illegal migrants; Ministry of the Interior, Police</i> .....	27
2.1.7. <i>Balance of payments; Bank of Slovenia</i> .....	28
2.2. Statistical data sources, sample surveys .....	29
2.2.1. <i>Statistical Register of Employment (Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia)</i> .....	29
2.2.2. <i>Labour Force Survey; Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia</i> .....	30
2.2.3. <i>Programme for International Student Assessment - PISA; OECD</i> .....	31
2.2.4. <i>Statistical survey on Student Enrolment in Tertiary Education; Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia</i> .....	33
2.3. Census databases .....	34
2.3.1. <i>Register-based census</i> .....	34
3. CASE STUDY ON LOCAL LEVEL ABOUT USE AND ACCESSIBILITY OF MIGRATION-RELATED DATA SOURCES.....	36
4. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS .....	39
References.....	43

## List of acronyms and abbreviations

CPR	Central Population Register
DRI	Demographic Research Institute
EC	European Community
EEA	European Economic Area
EMN	European Migration Network
ESS	Employment Service of Slovenia
EU	European Union
Frontex	European Agency for the Management of Operational Cooperation at the External Borders of the Member States of the European Union
ICMPD	International Centre for Migration Policy Development
ILO	International Labour Organisation
ISCED	International Standard Classification of Education
ISCO	International Standard Classification of Occupations
ISO	International Organization for Standardization
KLASIUS	Nomenclature system of education and training
LAU	Local Administrative Units
LFS	Labour Force Survey
MDA	Maribor Development Agency
NUTS	Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics
OECD	Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
PIN	Personal identification number
PISA	Programme for International Student Assessment
SEE	South East Europe
SEEMIG	Managing Migration and its Effects in SEE – Transnational Actions towards Evidence Based Strategies
SORS	Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia
SRE	Statistical Register of Employment
UE	“Upravna Enota” – LAU 1 level
UM	University of Maribor

## Executive Summary

This Country Report covers the period from 2001 to the beginning of 2013. The main migrant groups and migration-related events covered 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 analysis consists of a description and evaluation of data sources, data collection activities and data production processes, presentation of the institutional frame of data collection and data production, as well as the information on the availability and quality of data according to a uniform system of criteria. The breaks in time series due to changes in legislation, definitions and methodologies that have occurred since 2001 are highlighted.

The report provides analysis of various systems of migration-related data production in Slovenia: it maps administrative (register-based) databases, statistical data sources, sample surveys and conducted population censuses. It pinpoints both the positive features and inadequacies that hamper meaningful comparable analyses from a longer term comparative and developmental perspective. In Slovenia, many data sources (registers and other administrative and statistical data bases) on foreigners and migrants exist. Data on immigrants are particularly rich. Various situations of migrants are covered, such as their official stay and residing in Slovenia (obtaining international protection, residing in Slovenia, registration of residence, etc.), labour force participation, enrolment in tertiary education, etc. Information on the socio-demographic, economic, labour market and human capital characteristics is collected. Categories of migrants can be derived using the variables: country of birth, citizenship, and ever having resided abroad.

In Slovenia, all statistics envisaged in the Regulation (EC) 862/2007 on Community statistics on migration and international protection (2007) is produced. All data collections and sources are based on legal acts. International classifications are used for data recording.

The Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia is the most important and comprehensive data source for migration statistics. It collects data from various registers, the main one being the Central Population Register (CPR) that is kept by the Ministry of the Interior and combines data from ten registers. The main migrant groups and migration-related events for which the data is available are: immigration/emigration flow, immigrant/emigrant stock, acquisition of citizenship, return migration, and asylum seekers. Data on potential immigration/emigration flow of foreigners and potential return migration of foreigners are collected in the Register of Aliens that contributes data to the CPR.

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.

No relevant sociological or economic survey was identified as a relevant source of comprehensive data on migration. Those conducted in Slovenia in recent years had focused on attitudes towards- and perceptions of immigrants, integration policy, education and training of migrants, brain drain and other topics that either are not in the focus of SEEMIG or cover relatively small groups of migrants.

The data from various data sources can be linked, if so envisaged or required by the law. The institutions that register data (the Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia, the Ministry of the Interior, the Health Insurance Institute of Slovenia, the Pension and Disability Insurance Institute of Slovenia, the Employment Service of the Republic of Slovenia, the Tax Administration of the Republic of Slovenia, etc.) have mutual access to registers, so there is no need for them to collect all relevant information themselves. The CPR is integrated with other public data registers, applications and information systems. The system ensures automated procedures and custom application interfaces that provide connectivity and data transfer between databases. The personal identification number (PIN) is used in Slovenia as a key identifier for the data access and for data integration in the official records and other administrative records. This enables the organisation of data collection where, as a rule, particular information is collected only once. Where this is not the case, the data source with a more/most complete (in terms of data coverage) and up-to-date information is used in the preparation of statistics.

Most of the migration-related data are collected at NUTS 5 level, but the analytical data may not be available (particularly not by citizenship or country of birth) even at the NUTS 1 level due to the statistical protection (small number of cases) and the data source constraints prior to 2008. There is no data published at NUTS 4 level (administrative units); data at NUTS 5 level is used for statistical purposes.

Data on socio-demographic, economic, labour market and human capital characteristics on population and migrants are available free of charge at the SI-Stat Data Portal (see: <http://pxweb.stat.si/pxweb/Database/Demographics/Demographics.asp>). They are also published and analysed in periodical publications of the Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia that are available on-line and free of charge, and can also be obtained in a printed form. Other institutions that collect data do not publish (analytical) data, but these data are can be obtained upon request, free of charge, in the table form. Microdata can also be obtained, but the principle of statistical protection is strictly applied. In the case of migration related data this means that information on the country of birth or citizenship may not be provided. The data are broken only by wide regions of the world.

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. Since May 2004, the EU Member States citizens have free access to the Slovenian labour market. In 2006 and 2007 this right was extended to the citizens of the European Economic Area (EEA) and the Swiss Confederation and their family members (with a residence permit for a family member for the purpose of family reunion, and regardless of their citizenship). In 2011, the Employment and Work of Aliens Act has extended the list of aliens who do not require a work permit to 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, as long as they have a valid permit for temporary residence in Slovenia, and aliens of the Slovenian origin up to the third successive generation (with a temporary residence permit).

Since 1991, when local self- government was introduced, a large number of new municipalities were established and the borders of existing ones were changed. In the years 1998-2002 Slovenia had 192 municipalities, 193 in 2002-2006, 210 in 2006-2001, and there have been 212 municipalities since 2011 (Ministry of Justice and Public Administration). We have to keep the changing borders of municipalities in mind when dealing with time series of data at NUTS 5 level.

On the basis of the population statistics, comparisons of the characteristics of both the latest migration flows and the first generation of migrants with the characteristics of the national

population can be made. More data, and more accurate data, are available for nationals than for foreigners - this holds for both the migrant stock and the migration flows.

Accessibility of data and the relationship between the SORS and other data owners (collectors) regarding the use of data for statistical purposes is good. In the cases where data are directly used by the SORS, the SORS was involved in the design of the data collection or/and in the latest modification of the data source. In some cases, the data are used for statistical purposes by the data owner, too.

The latest most comprehensive data collection in Slovenia was prepared as of 1 January 2011, also taking the Regulation (EC) No 763/2008 of the European Parliament and the Council of 9 July 2008 on Population and Housing Censuses (2008) into account. For this purpose, numerous registers and other available data sources, as well as the statistical surveys data were used. For the first time ever, the data on immigrant generations were derived from the data on first residences of persons, their parents and grandparents. Consequently, data on the first, second and third generation of migrants are available.

In the official national immigration and population statistics, prepared by the Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia, irregular migrants and asylum seekers are excluded from the population as of 1 January 2011 in Slovenia. However, their numbers are small, and in most cases a final decision on asylum application is taken in less than a year. Furthermore, if this decision is positive, the person can register residence in Slovenia and is consequently included in the migration statistics and shown in the population of Slovenia. Moreover, unregistered emigration to abroad (of Slovenian citizens with permanent residence in Slovenia) is excluded from migration flows.

Data on the emigrant stock are not complete. Only data on the stock of emigrated citizens of the Republic of Slovenia who deregistered their permanent residence in Slovenia in order to emigrate to abroad are available; and only data for those citizens of Slovenia whose country of next residence is known can be shown in the data. Those citizens of Slovenia who departed abroad and have deceased cannot be excluded from the data if no official information on their death was recorded in the competent register in Slovenia.

The collected data on foreigners and migrants are relevant, accurate, comparable and timely. The data sources (registers and other administrative and statistical data bases) on foreigners and migrants are in constant development in terms of their content, as well as in terms of quality and methodology. According to our opinion that is based on the analysis of existing data production systems and major data sources, no extensive reform of data sources (registers and other administrative and statistical data bases) on foreigners and migrants is needed in Slovenia. There is, however, place for some improvements.

In the absence of any proper incentives for the Slovenian citizens and foreigners in Slovenia to deregister, and for administrative units to record data on emigration, these events are under-recorded. Therefore, some incentives should be introduced into the registration system in Slovenia in order to improve migration and population statistics.

There is also a need to collect and analyse data on daily cross-border migration of labour - however not only for Slovenia, but rather in the EU as a whole and in its neighbouring countries.

For a small country like Slovenia, particularly if the migration flows are up to moderate, it does not make much sense to calculate most of the migration related indicators by the migrants' citizenship or country of birth. This is particularly true for indicators that are a cross-section of more than two dimensions (like numbers of immigrants, aged 25-74 years, by educational attainment, citizenship and sex). It is also non-productive to calculate indicators like the total fertility rate by citizenship or country of birth if there are only a couple of women who have citizenship of, or were born in, a particular country. The indicators become ever more absurd as we move from NUTS 1 towards NUTS

5. Due to that we recommend that the minimum absolute number of emigrants per country of departure and immigrants per destination country is set, below which the indicators would not be calculated. Such cases would rather be summed up by regions of Europe and the world, and the relevant indicators calculated.

The analysis of data production systems was needed to get insight in the processes of migration-related data production and reveal the strengths and weakness of different data sources. It was performed in order to obtain essential information about the shortcomings of data quality, and in order to better understand the data availability, reliability and comparability. This analysis will also serve as an input knowledge for building of a SEE level complementary statistical database containing all relevant indicators defined for the measurement of migration processes and effects related to human capital, socio-economic development and the labour market.

The analysis of data production systems is expected to be valuable for national and local authorities, regional agencies, entities in charge of data production, stakeholders (decision-makers and civil servants) applying/using/utilising data, the research community, as well as international organisations and statistical bodies. The analysis also provides valuable recommendations for administrative bodies who are in charge of keeping registers and providing data for statistical purposes on the one hand, and for those who rely on data when drafting policy frameworks at different territorial levels (as well as for the research community as an important data user) on the other hand.

The data is of special interest to the region of Podravje that experienced huge changes in the past 20 years. Especially the largest city of the region, Maribor - which is in the process of transformation from an industrial centre to a post-industrial centre, without being completely able to cope with the new situation - would greatly benefit from better data on both inward and outward migration. The case study provided by the Maribor Development Agency describes what kind of migration-related databases they have, or have access to; what kind of data they would need; what purpose they need data for; whether they need data on a regular basis or occasionally; what kind of factors help or hinder their access to data; whether their indicators are harmonised with official statistical data of their country. For the Podravje region, and especially the urban area of the city of Maribor, it would be of great importance to be able to collect the following data:

- Outflow of students, who go to study abroad and get employment outside Slovenia;
- Inflow of work force to the region (with data about the origin and education);
- Daily cross border work migration from Slovenia (specifically the Podravje region) to Austria.

The last of these data are important to prepare the region for potential shifts in the Austrian labour market and the impacts it can have on the region of Podravje.

In order to prepare policy recommendations and strategies it would be important to know:

- The number and profiles of people who go to work abroad, and the reasons why they have left Slovenia,
- Movements out of the urban areas;
- The labour market needs for specific work force.



## 1. INTRODUCTION

The analysis of data production systems was needed to get insight in the processes of migration-related data production and reveal the strengths and weakness of different data sources. It was performed in order to obtain essential information about the shortcomings of data quality, and in order to better understand the data availability, reliability and comparability. This analysis will also serve as an input knowledge for building of a SEE level complementary statistical database containing all relevant indicators defined for the measurement of migration processes and effects related to human capital, socio-economic development and the labour market.

In addition, the comparison of existing data production systems is to be followed by the collection of key data aims at providing best practises and filling data gaps. This will be a platform for and will contribute to formulating recommendations for data enhancement, and strategies aiming at enhanced data production. Based on data collection analysis, action plans will be designed and trainings targeted at national, regional and local level administrations will be organised, aiming at enhancing data supply/collection. SEEMIG is also a policy and development project. Due to that the national evaluation of statistical data production systems aims at contributing to building capacities of national/regional/local authorities to collect and better utilise statistical data in their planning, and to introduce evidence based policy making and implementation.

This Country Report covers the period from 2001 to the beginning of 2013.

The report has been elaborated by the SEEMIG project partner, the Institute for Economic Research, Ljubljana, in close cooperation with Ms Janja Povhe, the External Expert employed at the Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia, where she used to cover migration statistics. The Maribor Development Agency (also a project partner) contributed to the case study on the local level. The third Slovenian project partner (Scientific Research Centre of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts) was consulted regarding unofficial national data sources (mostly resulting from scientific research). Throughout the elaboration of the study, the Work Package Leader (the DRI SEEMIG Team) provided valuable support.

Many websites were consulted: those containing information on data collectors (institutions), methods, definitions and data themselves, as well as those related to relevant research projects and publications on migration and migrants. However, publicly available information about data sources (except for surveys conducted, and data compiled, by the Statistical Office of Slovenia) was scarce. Consequently, in order to draft the country report, many persons in a number of institutions had to be contacted and asked to kindly provide detailed information on their institutions' databases, methodologies and definitions applied, geographical and technical availability of data, national and international databases and publications to which the data are sent, and the quality of data (particularly in terms of accuracy and comparability).

The report provides analysis of various systems of migration-related data production in Slovenia: it maps administrative (register-based) databases, statistical data sources, sample surveys and conducted population censuses. It pinpoints both the positive features and inadequacies that hamper meaningful comparable analyses from a longer term comparative and developmental perspective. No relevant sociological or economic survey was identified as a relevant source of comprehensive data on migration. Those conducted in Slovenia in recent years had focused on attitudes towards- and perceptions of immigrants, integration policy, education and training of migrants, brain drain and other topics that either are not in the focus of SEEMIG or cover relatively small groups of migrants.

The main migrant groups and migration-related events covered by the report 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 analysis consists of a description and evaluation of data sources, data collection activities and data production processes, presentation of the institutional frame of data collection and data production, as well as the information on the availability and quality of data according to a uniform system of criteria. The breaks in time series due to changes in legislation, definitions and methodologies that have occurred since 2001 are highlighted.

In the case of Slovenia, NUTS levels are defined in the following way:

- NUTS 0 – Slovenia
- NUTS 1 – Slovenia
- NUTS 2 – Macro Regions
- NUTS 3 – Statistical Regions
- LAU1 (former: NUTS 4) – Administrative Units, and
- LAU2 (former: NUTS 5) – Municipalities.

There is no data published at NUTS 4 level (administrative units); data at NUTS 5 level is used for statistical purposes. All data are available at NUTS 0 and NUTS 1 levels (which are the same). Of those data that are available at the regional level, few data are available at NUTS 2 level (LFS and GDP data), while most data are available at NUTS 3 level. However, the boundaries of two regions at NUTS 2 level are on the borders of some statistical regions (NUTS 3). This means that most indicators available at NUTS 3 level could be calculated also at NUTS 2 level. The Slovenian municipalities are very heterogeneous in terms of the surface area: the smallest municipality is eighty times smaller than the largest. Large parts of some municipalities are uninhabited. Besides, since local self-government was introduced in 1991, a large number of new municipalities were established, and the borders of existing ones were changed. In the years 1998-2002 Slovenia had 192 municipalities, 193 in 2002-2006, 210 in 2006-2001, and there have been 212 municipalities since 2011 (Ministry of Justice and Public Administration). We have to keep the changing borders of municipalities in mind when dealing with time series of data at NUTS 5 level.

The analysis of data production systems is expected to be valuable for national and local authorities, regional agencies, entities in charge of data production, stakeholders (decision-makers and civil servants) applying/using/utilising data, the research community, as well as international organisations and statistical bodies. The data is of special interest to the region of Podravje that experienced huge changes in the past 20 years. Especially the largest city of the region, Maribor - which is in the process of transformation from an industrial centre to a post-industrial centre, without being completely able to cope with the new situation - would greatly benefit from better data on both inward and outward migration. The case study provided by the Maribor Development Agency describes what kind of migration-related databases they have, or have access to; what kind of data they would need; what purpose they need data for; whether they need data on a regular basis or occasionally; what kind of factors help or hinder their access to data; whether their indicators are harmonised with official statistical data of their country.

The analysis also provides valuable recommendations for administrative bodies who are in charge of keeping registers and providing data for statistical purposes on the one hand, and for those who rely on data when drafting policy frameworks at different territorial levels (as well as for the research community as an important data user) on the other hand.

## 2. DATA SOURCES AND RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITIES

### 2.1. Administrative (register-based) data sources

#### 2.1.1. Central Population Register (*Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Slovenia*)

The data collector is the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Slovenia.

In the Central Population Register (CPR) the data on population are centrally collected, processed, stored and used for monitoring the stock and flow of the population for the needs of state agencies and other users and for the purpose of statistical, socio-economic and other surveys, if so required by the law.

According to the Central Population Register Act (2006: Article 3) the CPR is a central database on:

- Citizens who have a permanent or temporary residence in the Republic of Slovenia and foreigners who have a permit for permanent or temporary residence in the Republic of Slovenia;
- Citizens who are permanently or temporarily, for more than three months, absent from the Republic of Slovenia;
- Foreigners who do not have a permit for permanent or temporary residing in Slovenia, but have - on humanitarian grounds or otherwise, if so provided by the law - certain rights or obligations regarding pension and disability insurance, taxes, etc.

The Slovenian CPR gathers data from various data sources:

- Register of Civil Status (data on births, marriages, divorces and deaths);
- Hospital Information Systems (electronic registration of birth);
- Register of Population (registration and deregistration of residence; the right to vote; household);
- Register of Aliens (residence permit for foreigners);
- Collection of data on employment of foreign nationals (establishment of a personal identification number);
- Register of Citizenship (acquisition and loss of citizenship);
- Register of recorded foreigners (with rights or duties in the Republic of Slovenia);
- Asylum Register (applicant for international protection);
- Register of Territorial Units (municipality, settlement, street, house number, apartment number, zip code, polls);
- Tax Register (tax numbers) (Ministry of the Interior 2013a).

In the Republic of Slovenia, a personal identification number (PIN) is issued to a person (citizen of the Republic of Slovenia and a foreigner) by the maintainer of the Central Population Register (CPR), i.e., the Ministry of the Interior. The PIN was introduced in Slovenia in 1976. The composition of PIN is defined by the Regulation on Issuing of Personal Identification Number (1999). The PIN is used for reliable identification of a person, as a key identifier for the data access and for data integration. It is entered in the official records and other administrative records, if so required by the law. Issuing of the PIN is required: 1) by the operator of the administrative record in which the person is firstly registered/recorded (i.e. by the administrative record in which the data on individual are recorded at his/her immigration to Slovenia or at birth in a hospital in Slovenia), 2) for an individual who is neither a resident nor born in Slovenia, by the administrative record in which the person is first registered (for instance, the Health Insurance Institute of Slovenia, if the person is going be insured against health risks; the Employment Service of Slovenia for foreigners who are employed or work in Slovenia; the Tax Administration of the Republic of Slovenia for a foreigner who is obliged only to pay taxes in Slovenia (State Portal of the Republic of Slovenia, 2009).

According to the Central Population Register Act (2006: Article 11), which is the legal act ordering the data collection, the CPR contains personal data, such as:

- PIN,
- place of birth,
- first name and family name,
- citizenship,
- residence and type of residence,
- marital status,
- right to vote,
- mother's PIN,
- father's PIN,
- spouse's PIN,
- children's PINs,
- identifiers for linking these data with the administrative data collections operated by the public sector,
- dates of and data on events,
- changes or corrections.

No legislation changes that would influence the content of the collected data or availability of the CPR data had come into force in the observed period (from 2001 on).

The Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia (SORS) acquires individual data from the CPR. Up to 2008 the SORS obtained only data on citizens of the Republic of Slovenia from the CPR. From 2008 on, the CPR has been integrated with the Register of Aliens and all other registers and administrative records stated as the CPR data sources (see above). Until 2006, data on foreigners were collected in the scope of the Database of Aliens, from which the SORS acquired data on foreigners: 1) before 2003 the aggregated data, and b) individual data since 2003. Up to the end of 2002, aggregated tables with data on foreigners in Slovenia were delivered to the SORS by administrative units and municipalities of residence, and namely by 5-year age groups, by selected age groups and by sex. Separate tables were prepared and sent with data on foreigners with permanent residence, those with temporary residence, and persons under temporary protection in Slovenia. The data were as of 31 March, 30 June, 30 September and 31 December.

For the purpose of demographic statistics, quarterly data on the stock of population and events have been transferred to the SORS almost 3 months after the reference data/period.

A solution was generated to integrate the CPR with other public data registers, applications and information systems. The system is based on the Oracle platform, which ensures support for e-government services and connectivity to various public data repositories. It ensures automated procedures and custom application interfaces that provide connectivity and data transfer between databases on various technological platforms.

Variables transferred from the CPR to the Statistical Office as of 1 January, 1 April, 1 July and 1 October are as follows (valid for the data sent to the SORS from 2008 on):

- PIN;
- date of death;
- marital status;
- number of active citizenships;
- citizenship;
- exact address of birth;

- country of birth;
- date of registration of permanent residence;
- exact permanent address;
- country of permanent residence;
- exact temporary address;
- starting date of the validity of temporary residence;
- expiration date of temporary residence;
- PIN of a mother;
- PIN of a father;
- PIN of a spouse;
- legal basis for a residence permit;
- starting date of the temporary residence permit;
- expiration date of temporary residence permit;
- municipality of death;
- identifier of the asylum/refugee status, etc.

Variables related to migration events (i.e., registration of permanent residence in Slovenia, deregistration of permanent residence in Slovenia, change of permanent residence in Slovenia, registration of temporary residence in Slovenia, deregistration of temporary residence in Slovenia, renewal of temporary residence in Slovenia, registration of departure from Slovenia, and registration of returning from abroad) that are transferred from the CPR to the Statistical Office and also used for the preparation of migration statistics, are as follows:

- PIN of the person;
- event;
- date of event;
- exact permanent address;
- country of permanent address;
- exact temporary address;
- country of temporary address;
- county of citizenship;
- legal basis for residence permit;
- date of birth;
- expiration date of temporary residence.

The variable:

- reason or purpose of stay in Slovenia

is recorded in the scope of other events related to migration that are transferred from the CPR to the Statistical Office and also used for the preparation of migration statistics.

The data on immigrant/emigrant stock, migration events, acquisition of citizenship and return migration are included in the CPR. Furthermore, it includes data on all citizens of Slovenia who are temporarily (for more than three months) absent from Slovenia. Data on asylum seekers could be derived from it, too.

Migration is a statistical term, applied by the SORS in the process of preparation of statistics on migration. Events on registration/deregistration/change of permanent residence in Slovenia, registration/deregistration/renewal of temporary residence, registration of departure from Slovenia, registration of returning from abroad, and relevant statistical methods are used for the preparation of migration statistics.

According to the Aliens Act (Zakon o tujcih 2011), a foreigner is a person who is not a citizen of the Republic of Slovenia. There is no definition of a migrant in the Aliens Act.

For the nationals, no residence permit is needed for registration of residence in Slovenia. If a Slovenian national registers a temporary residence, the validity of a temporary residence is automatically one year, unless the person states at the administrative unit responsible for registration of temporary residence that he/she intends to reside at the temporary address for less than a year. The same applies to foreigners with a permanent residence permit, while a foreigner with a temporary residence permit in Slovenia can register temporary residence until the expiration of his/her temporary residence permit, which is usually less than a year and a maximum of one year.

In accordance with the Residence Registration Act (2006: Article 2), a person should: a) deregister permanent residence when he/she emigrates from the Republic of Slovenia permanently, or b) report temporary absence from the territory of the Republic of Slovenia lasting more than three months and deregister temporary residence. In accordance with Articles 6, 12 and 13 of the Residence Registration Act (2006), a person should register his/her leaving the country before departure. However, since foreigners with only registered temporary residence in Slovenia do not always deregister their residence, expiration of temporary residence is taken into account, too, when preparing migration statistics.

In the migration statistics in Slovenia, only registered migration is taken into account. The only exception from this rule is the expiration of temporary residence. In the Slovenian statistics on emigration, the following rules have been applied, starting with the preparation of the 2008 data:

A person is considered an emigrant:

a) On the day of deregistration of residence:

- If the person deregisters his/her permanent residence in Slovenia with intention to live abroad, or
- If the person deregisters his/her temporary residence in Slovenia that was his/her only residence in Slovenia.

b) Eight days after expiration of temporary residence:

- In the case of the person with only temporary residence in Slovenia, the validity of which had expired and hasn't been renewed.

c) One year after the person registered temporary absence abroad and is still staying abroad at the time of observation.

No data on temporary and permanent emigrants are prepared and published in the scope of annual national statistics on migration. However, this type of disaggregation of migrants is possible.

According to the Central Population Register Act (2006: Article 20), a person can be deregistered from the Register upon registration of emigration to abroad or death. The data is held in the CPR for 100 years after the death or registration of emigration to abroad. After 100 years the data are transferred for storage to the Archives of the Republic of Slovenia.

Classification of countries and citizenship is based on the ISO-3166 code list.

Only the data on the citizens of Slovenia are available from the CPR up to 2008. From 2008 on, also the data on foreigners are available from it, i.e., the data on the whole population of Slovenia.

The data are not used for preparation of official statistics by the data owner. Official statistics are prepared and published by the SORS on its website (SI-Stat Data Portal). The data are published monthly in the publication Some Important Statistics on Slovenia, quarterly in the First Release –

Population, and annually in the publications Statistical Yearbook, Slovenia in Figures, and Slovene Regions in Figures.

The Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia played a leading role in the development of the Central Population Register (in 1970). The register was run by the Statistical Office up to 1998.

The statisticians' requests/suggestions have been taken into account in the latest modification.

Accessibility of data and the relationship between the Statistical Office and the data owner regarding the usage of the data for statistical purposes is good.

For the purpose of obtaining personal data from the records of the CPR, the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Slovenia provided the SORS with its agreement, signed by the Minister. The agreement is based on the Decree on Keeping and Maintaining of the Central Population Register and on the Procedures of Data Flow from the Central Population Register.

The CPR data and the demographic statistics derived from it are relevant, accurate, comparable and timely. However, there is a place for improvements. For instance, the data on emigration of the Slovenian citizens and foreigners in Slovenia are under-recorded since there are no proper incentives for the Slovenian citizens and foreigners in Slovenia to deregister, and for administrative units to better record emigration. Therefore, some incentives should be introduced in order to improve migration and population statistics.

The Slovenian statistics disposes of data on previous residence of foreign migrants. However, these data are not collected (i.e., obtained directly from migrants). For the statistical purpose, the data on previous residence are estimated from the person's document that may not necessarily reflect the actual previous country of residence (for instance, the person may have resided in another country without changing personal documents, or may present a formally still valid but not the latest document). The collecting of data on previous residence of foreign migrants in the Register would thus probably improve the quality of the national statistics on migrants. Data on the next residence are filled into the official form by the person intending to emigrate and may not be true either.

### ***2.1.2. Register of Aliens - Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Slovenia***

The Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Slovenia administers the central record on residence permits and cancellation of residence to foreigners (Register of Aliens) – see the Aliens Act (Zakon o tujcih 2011: Article 110, paragraphs 3 and 6). Until 2006, the data were collected in the scope of the Database of Aliens, which then started to operate as a register. Since 2008 the Register of Aliens has been integrated with the Central Population Register.

The Register of Aliens is a record on residence permits issued to foreigners, established in accordance with the Aliens Act (Zakon o tujcih 2011). It records all events in the processes of issuing of residence permits or a residence registration certificates.

In accordance with Articles 31-35 of the Aliens Act (2011), an alien who wishes to enter Slovenia and stay in the country for reasons other than those permitted by his visa must hold a residence permit.

A residence permit is either temporary or permanent. A temporary residence permit is issued for a specific purpose, specified in the Aliens Act (employment or other work; family reunification; study, education, advanced professional training and practical training, participation and attendance in international volunteer exchange programmes and in other programmes that are not part of the formal education system; other valid purposes and reasons on the basis of the Aliens Act, international Acts or international principles and customs, or for the interests of the Republic of

Slovenia, etc.) and for a specific period of time. A temporary residence permit not tied to a specific purpose may be issued to certain aliens as an autonomous permit for temporary residence in the cases specified in the Aliens Act (Zakon o tujcih 2011).

A permanent residence permit is issued without any limitations as to the duration and purpose of stay in the Republic Slovenia.

The first residence permit is a temporary residence permit. The first temporary residence permit is valid for a period of one year, unless otherwise specified in the Aliens Act. It may be extended under the same conditions it was issued, or an alien may lodge an application for a subsequent residence permit for a different purpose.

A permanent residence permit may be issued to an alien who has resided in the Republic of Slovenia continuously for five years on the basis of a temporary residence permit or an application for the renewal or acquisition of a subsequent temporary residence permit, with some exceptions from this rule specified in the Aliens Act (Zakon o tujcih 2011: Article 52).

The EU citizens and citizens of the Member States of the European Economic Area do not require any entry permit (i.e. a visa or residence permit) for entry into the Republic of Slovenia, irrespective of the purpose of entering and residing in the Republic of Slovenia. If they wish to reside in the territory of the Republic of Slovenia for more than three months, they have to register their residing prior to the expiry of a three-month period of the allowed residing in Slovenia in order to obtain a residence registration certificate.

The reasons for issuing a residence registration certificate to an EU citizen or a citizen of the Member State of the European Economic Area are as follows:

- employment or other work,
- self-employment,
- provision of services,
- study or other forms of education,
- family reunification and other reasons (Zakon o tujcih, 2011: Articles 117- 119).

The validity of a residence registration certificate is five years, or for the duration of the intended period of residence in the Republic of Slovenia if it is less than five years. The residence registration certificate may be later renewed at the request of the citizen.

A permanent residence permit may be issued to an EU citizen who has resided in the Republic of Slovenia continuously for five years on the basis of his/her residence registration certificate, a receipt stating that an application was submitted for the issuance or renewal of the residence registration certificate or his valid identity card or a valid passport (Zakon o tujcih 2011: Articles 125-126).

The following data on foreigners are collected and being kept in the Register of Aliens:

- personal data (PIN, date of birth, sex, citizenship, number of nationalities, marital status, occupation, residence) and
- information on the foreigner's passport, identity card and other documents.

In the Register of Aliens, the following procedures are recorded:

- application:

(personal data, data on residence, information on the document, type of permit, reason and purpose of the foreigner's residence in the Republic of Slovenia, legal basis, source of funds, administrative information related to application, etc.);

- decision (issue, termination of the proceeding, refusal, rejection):



(personal data, information on the case, legal basis, type of decision, reason and purpose of the foreigner's residence in the Republic of Slovenia, date of issue of residence permit, expiration date of residence permit, date of validity of residence permit, administrative information related to application, etc.);

- remedies (appeal, action, etc.); and

- all manners of termination of the residence permit (Pšeničnik 2009).

No legislation changes that would influence the content of the data collection or availability of the data from the Register of Aliens came into force in the observed period (from 2001 on).

The SORS obtained quarterly data on migrants as of 31 December, 31 March, 30 June and 30 September from the Register of Aliens up to 2008. From 2008 the Central Population Register has been integrated with the Register of Aliens. Therefore, all specific variables on foreigners needed for the preparation of the statistics on population and migration are obtained by the SORS via the CPR.

Data on potential immigration/emigration flow of foreigners and potential return migration of foreigners are collected in the Register of Aliens. Namely, on the basis of a residence permit the person can register a residence in Slovenia. According to statistical methodology, registration of residence in Slovenia is a precondition for being counted as a migrant.

An alien who holds a residence permit issued by the Republic of Slovenia or a residence registration certificate must register his/her permanent or temporary residence with the competent authority in accordance with the Act Governing the Registration of Residence (Zakon o tujcih, 2011: Articles 109 and 140). However, this is not always the case. Therefore, for statistical purposes, data on registration of residence are used for the preparation of statistics on migration. In case of immigration, the date of registration of residence is used; and in case of emigration, deregistration of residence and expiration date of temporary residence are used.

The Register of Aliens is a computerized record on residence permits of foreigners (third country nationals) and EEA citizens, their family members and family members of Slovenian citizens; the record of certificates of registration of residence of the nationals of the Member States of the EEA; and the record of measures of cancelling of residence imposed to foreigners in accordance with the Aliens Act (Zakon o tujcih 2011).

Issued residence permits and the expiration or cancelling of residence permits are considered as immigration/emigration of foreigners by the Ministry of the Interior. These data are not considered as official statistics on migration, but rather as official statistics on residence permits. Foreign citizenship (or statelessness) is the key criterion to be registered in the Register.

Ethnic nationals are not included in the Register.

According to the Aliens Act (Zakon o tujcih 2011: Article 115), the data from the record of temporary residence permits are kept for five years from the permit expiry; or, in case a permit has been refused, five years from a final decision on permit application. After this period it is archived. Biometric data on the facial image and fingerprints are kept in the record of temporary residence permits for thirty days from a final decision on the application. After this period it is erased from the records.

The data are stored in the record of permanent residence permits for 50 years from the termination of a permanent residence permit, or, in case a permit has been refused, for 50 years from a final decision on the permit application. After this period, it is archived, with the exception of biometric data on the facial image and fingerprints that are kept for thirty days from a final decision on the application and are subsequently erased from the record.

The data on aliens who are permitted to stay, and of personal cards evidencing permission to stay, are kept in the record for five years from the issuing of a decision, and archived thereafter.

Socio-demographic data on foreigners are collected in the Register of Aliens, too. Classification of countries and citizenship is based on the ISO-3166 code list.

The reference period for the preparation of statistics on residence permits is an observed year. The data are available for the whole period relevant for the SEEMIG project (i.e. from 2001 on).

The Register of Aliens data are used for statistical purposes by the data owner. Statistics is prepared and published at the Ministry of the Interior website and in its annual publication (see, for instance, Ministry of the Interior 2012). It is also sent to Eurostat.

The Statistical Office was involved in neither the design of the data collection nor the latest modification of the Register.

The Register of Aliens data are relevant, accurate, comparable and timely.

According to our opinion, no reform of the data collection is needed.

### **2.1.3. Work Permits; Employment Service of Slovenia**

The Employment Service of Slovenia is the data collector.

The main scope of data collection is the evidence of work permits issued to foreigners and valid work permits, by kind of permit. According to Article 63 of the currently valid Employment and Work of Aliens Act (Zakon o zaposlovanju in delu tujcev 2011), the purposes of keeping the Register of Aliens employed or working in the Republic of Slovenia on the basis of work permits or registration of work are: decision making on issuing or annulment of work permits, conformity in the process of issuing the EU Blue Card, monitoring of the labour market situation for the purpose of scientific research and statistical purposes. In the Annual Programme of Statistical Surveys in 2013 (Letni program statističnih raziskovanj za 2013) the purpose is defined as monitoring of the situation in the field of employment.

The Aliens Act (Zakon o tujcih 1999) and the Employment and Work of Aliens Act (Zakon o zaposlovanju in delu tujcev 2000) were the legal background, while now it is the Aliens Act (Zakon o tujcih 2011) and the Employment and Work of Aliens Act (Zakon o zaposlovanju in delu tujcev 2011).

The Employment Service of Slovenia registers and the way in which data are processed and sent were/are regulated in more detail by the Rules on types, procedures and record keeping methods in respect of Aliens who are employed and work in the territory of the Republic of Slovenia (Pravilnik o vrstah, postopkih in načinih vodenja evidenc tujcev, ki se zaposlijo in delajo na ozemlju Republike Slovenije 2003), Instructions for the processing and communication of information on the Aliens who get employment and work in the territory of the Republic of Slovenia (Navodilo za obdelavo in posredovanje podatkov o tujcih, ki se zaposlijo in delajo na ozemlju Republike Slovenije 2008) and Rules on processing and communication of information on the Aliens who get employment and work in the territory of the Republic of Slovenia (Pravilnik o obdelavi in posredovanju podatkov o tujcih, ki se zaposlijo ali delajo na ozemlju Republike Slovenije 2011).

According to Article 9 of the Employment and Work of Aliens Act (Zakon o zaposlovanju in delu tujcev 2000) and Article 14 of the Employment and Work of Aliens Act (Zakon o zaposlovanju in delu tujcev 2011), the Employment Service of Slovenia is in charge of proceedings related to issuing, cessation of validity, and dispossessing of work permits. According to Article 29 of the 2000 act and Article 48 of the 2011 act, the registration and deregistration of work is carried out at the Employment Service of

Slovenia. Article 35 of the 2000 Employment and Work of Aliens Act (Zakon o zaposlovanju in delu tujcev 2000) defined the information about foreign workers contained in the Employment Service's register: name, surname and surname at birth; sex; date of birth; personal identity number, tax identification number; place and country of birth; citizenship; last permanent or temporary residence abroad or in the Republic of Slovenia, current last permanent or temporary residence in the Republic of Slovenia; passport type and number, date and place of issue and time of validity; type of residence permit, date of issue and time of validity; level and area of attained education; occupation (according to the Standard Classification of Occupations (Uredba o standardni klasifikaciji poklicev 2010); special skills and competences; and work experience.

Article 63 of the currently valid Employment and Work of Aliens Act (Zakon o zaposlovanju in delu tujcev 2011) lists the information about foreign workers contained in the Employment Service's register that, compared to the one in the 2000 act, does not include the surname different from the one at birth and the tax identification number.

Article 3 of the 2000 Employment and Work of Aliens Act (Zakon o zaposlovanju in delu tujcev 2000) excluded the EU Member States citizens from that act starting with Slovenia's membership in the EU (since May 2004). Since July 2006, the persons with free access to the Slovenian labour market included citizens of the EU and EEA and their family members (Pravilnik o načinu ugotavljanja pravice do prostega dostopa na trg dela državljanov EU in EGP ter njihovih družinskih članov, 2006). In December 2007, according to the new Article 35.c of the Act on Revisions of the Employment and Work of Aliens Act (Zakon o spremembah in dopolnitvah Zakona o zaposlovanju in delu tujcev 2007) the citizens of the EU Member States, EEA and the Swiss Confederation, and their family members (with a residence permit for a family member for the purpose of family reunion, and regardless of their citizenship), have become equal to the citizens of Slovenia as regards their rights and obligations arising from employment. This means that they no more required a work permit for work in Slovenia and were thus no more included in the work permit register of the Employment Service of Slovenia. On 23 April 2011 the new Employment and Work of Aliens Act (Zakon o zaposlovanju in delu tujcev 2011) became effective. It has extended the list of aliens who do not require a work permit for work in Slovenia to 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, as long as they have a valid permit for temporary residence in Slovenia, and aliens of the Slovenian origin up to the third successive generation (with a temporary residence permit for an alien of the Slovenian origin) (Article 9).

The Statistical Office has been receiving data from the Employment Service of Slovenia for a very long period of time. The data are transferred at the beginning of a quarter for a previous quarter.

In the Employment and Work of Aliens Act (from both 2000 and 2011) the alien is defined as the person without citizenship of the Republic of Slovenia. Registered are those persons that acquired a work permit for work in Slovenia, i.e.:

- immigration flow of aliens to whom work permits were issued, and
- immigrant stock of aliens with valid work permits.

There are no special rules for registration of ethnic nationals.

Deregistration is upon cessation of the work permit validity.

Monthly data are available from 2005. Older data are stored in paper form; those published are not analytical enough.

The data for 2005 and further years are available at NUTS 4 level.

The data are used for statistical purposes by the data owner. The data from 2005 on are contained in the Employment Service of Slovenia's register and can be obtained free of charge in a relatively short period of time. Selected data are published in the Monthly Information and the Annual Reports (available at: [http://www.ess.gov.si/trg\\_dela/publicistika](http://www.ess.gov.si/trg_dela/publicistika); for instance: <http://www.ess.gov.si/files/4409/MI1112.pdf>).

Data on foreign daily migrants (by sex and citizenship) to Slovenia from the neighbouring countries is available from the SI-Stat Data portal (SORS), starting with 2009 data.<sup>1</sup>

The Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia usually includes information on foreign workers in its Special Releases at the occasion of the International Labour Day. See, for instance, Svetin and Lah (2011).

The Employment Service of Slovenia's database is accessible to internal users only. From the website [http://www.ess.gov.si/trg\\_dela/trg\\_dela\\_v\\_stevilkah/zaposlovanje\\_tujcev](http://www.ess.gov.si/trg_dela/trg_dela_v_stevilkah/zaposlovanje_tujcev) some (monthly and annual) data for recent years can be obtained:

- issued work permits to aliens, by citizenship, sex, age, education or economic activity;
- valid work permits, by citizenship, sex, age, education or economic activity; and
- citizens of the EU Member States who entered into employment, by EU Member State.

The Employment Service of Slovenia is also an authorised producer of national statistics (SORS 2012d: 8) and as such it is included in the medium-term and annual programmes of statistical surveys. See, for instance, SORS (2012c) and the Annual Programme of Statistical Surveys in 2013 (Letni program statističnih raziskovanj za 2013).<sup>2</sup> The Employment Service of Slovenia is conducting two kinds of quarterly statistical research based on their administrative data (i.e. compiling statistics from data on work permits) with the purpose of monitoring the situation in the area of employment:

1. research of the issued and valid work permits to aliens from third countries, and
2. research of aliens from third countries who are employed on the basis of work permits.

The number of issued and valid work permits is provided to the SORS by three categories of (work) permits (employment permit,<sup>3</sup> work permit<sup>4</sup> and personal work permit<sup>5</sup>), employer's economic activity, attained educational level and the country of departure. Personal data include: personal

<sup>1</sup> Available at: [http://pxweb.stat.si/pxweb/Dialog/varval.asp?ma=0723435S&ti=&path=../Database/Dem\\_soc/07\\_trg\\_dela/05\\_akt\\_preb\\_po\\_regis\\_virih/10\\_07234\\_delovne\\_migracije/&lang=2](http://pxweb.stat.si/pxweb/Dialog/varval.asp?ma=0723435S&ti=&path=../Database/Dem_soc/07_trg_dela/05_akt_preb_po_regis_virih/10_07234_delovne_migracije/&lang=2) (accessed 29 February 2013).

<sup>2</sup> See 3.2.02.01.14 and 3.2.02.01.15 in Annex 1 at [http://www.uradni-list.si/files/RS\\_-2012-089-03503-OB~P001-0000.PDF#!/pdf](http://www.uradni-list.si/files/RS_-2012-089-03503-OB~P001-0000.PDF#!/pdf) (accessed 27 February 2013). According to the Annual Programme of Statistical Surveys in 2013 (Letni program statističnih raziskovanj za 2013), the Employment Service of Slovenia is in charge of the statistical research preparation, data collection and processing, and publication of results.

<sup>3</sup> The employment permit is usually obtained by the employer, provided there are no appropriate national candidates registered with the Employment Service. It is usually issued for the period of one year and allows you to work exclusively for the employer for which the permit was issued (ESS. Work Permits).

<sup>4</sup> After twenty months of employment and being registered for social security, you obtain the right to hold a personal work permit with a validity of three years. This allows you to change employers if necessary and, in the event of becoming unemployed, to be entered into the register of unemployed persons at the Employment Service of Slovenia and to exercise your rights arising from unemployment insurance (ESS. Work Permits).

<sup>5</sup> A work permit can be issued for special categories, such as seasonal work in agriculture, work of foreign representatives, training and advanced training of aliens, etc. (ESS. Work Permits).

identity number, sex, age, citizenship, country of origin, attained education, duration of employment, and the employer's economic activity and headquarters.

The number of employed foreign citizens is provided by attained educational level, economic activity and country of departure. Personal data include: personal identity number, sex, age, citizenship, country of origin, attained education, starting date of employment, and the employer's economic activity and headquarters (Letni program statističnih raziskovanj za 2013).

The data are relevant and accurate. They are comparable by countries. However, the ESS database (containing data from 2005 on) does not include migrant workers who do acquire a work permit for work, employment or self-employment in Slovenia (specified earlier in this Section). This has had an important consequence for statistical monitoring of the aliens' employment in Slovenia, since time series have been broken (Malačič 2011).<sup>6</sup> However, the data on EU citizens employed in Slovenia can be obtained from the Health Insurance Institute of Slovenia's M-1 (and M-3) form (Report of data regarding the pension and disability- and health insurance, parental insurance and unemployment insurance).

The data were also influenced by the introduction of the new Standard Classification of Occupations, effective from 2011 (Uredba o standardni klasifikaciji poklicev 2010).

Data are reported to the Statistical Office of the Republic Slovenia on a quarterly basis. The period between the observation period and first publishing is 20 days.

#### ***2.1.4. M forms: Reports of data regarding the pension and disability- and health insurance, parental insurance and unemployment insurance; The Health Insurance Institute of Slovenia***

There are three relevant M forms:

- M-1 form: Report of data for inclusion into the pension and disability- and health insurance, parental insurance and unemployment insurance;
- M-2 form: Removal from the pension and disability- and health insurance, parental insurance and unemployment insurance;
- M-3 form: Change of data regarding the pension and disability- and health insurance, parental insurance and unemployment insurance; and
- M-DČ form: Report of data for inclusion of family members into health insurance.

The Health Insurance Institute of Slovenia is the data collector.

Data are provided for the insured persons by the legal or natural persons liable for payment of social security contributions.

The main scope of data collection is obtaining data on persons included in mandatory (and supplementary/voluntary) social insurance.

Legal basis:

- Health Care and Health Insurance Act (1992); Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, no. 9/1992, with revisions. In 2009, persons with a recognised status of a refugee or a subsidiary

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<sup>6</sup> The impact is evident from the data on valid work permits: 74,394 in March 2011 and only 34,642 in May 2011 (Malačič 2011).

protection were included into mandatory health insurance (Act on Revisions of the Health Care and Health Insurance Act 2008: Article 6).

- Rules on the forms for reporting data for the register of insured persons and beneficiaries of rights from pension and disability- and health insurance; Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, no. 76/1998, with revisions.
- Rules on the forms and documents/instruments used in the implementation of the compulsory health insurance (1999); Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, no. 101/1999.
- Rules on the forms and documents/instruments used in the implementation of the compulsory health insurance (2004); Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, no. 129/2004, with revisions.
- Aliens Act (Zakon o tujcih, 1999 and 2011)

The bases for social insurance of aliens are EU citizenship or work permit (for third countries' citizens). Under certain conditions, dependent family members of insured persons are covered by mandatory health insurance, too.

Almost all persons having their residence in the territory of Slovenia are registered in this database. Foreigners may be insured in their countries of origin or with commercial insurance companies rather than with the Health Insurance Institute of Slovenia.

Employees are registered by their employers. Other statuses that are bases for health insurance of persons with permanent residence in Slovenia are: 1) self-employment, 2) status of the social assistance or unemployment benefit beneficiary, and 3) status of old-age- or disability pensioner. Family members of insured persons are covered by health insurance also if they have temporary (and not permanent) residence in Slovenia.

Registered aliens include:

- persons employed by employers with headquarters in Slovenia and other active persons,
- persons to whom the Republic of Slovenia granted a status of a refugee or a subsidiary protection according to the regulation of international protection and
- persons in education or training in Slovenia,
- family members of insured persons: family members of EU citizens, family members of citizens of the ex-Yugoslav countries; family members of other countries' nationals according to bilateral agreements,
- retired nationals of the countries of Ex-Yugoslavia and their family members.

Registered are also employees of employers with headquarters in Slovenia who are sent abroad for the purpose of work or vocational education/training, if not mandatory insured in the destination countries.

There are no special rules for registration of ethnic nationals.

It is not possible to deregister from health insurance at one's own wish because health insurance is mandatory. There has to be a proof that the work contract has expired or is not valid any more for some other reason. It is the employer who deregisters his employees.

The expiration of work contract is evident from the evidence kept by the Health Insurance Institute of Slovenia (based on the M-1, M-2 and M-3 forms). If the employer does not deregister his employee after the expiration of work contract, the Institute invites the employer to submit a new contract (if any).

On a daily basis, the Business Register of Slovenia informs the Health Insurance Institute of Slovenia about persons who are not employed or do not have a registered business/activity any more.

Deregistration of persons with temporary residence is based on the note sent from the Central Population Register (CPR). The note states that the temporary residence permit has expired. The CPR also notifies the Health Insurance Institute of Slovenia about the fact that the person does not have temporary residence in Slovenia any more, and such person is deregistered automatically.

The M-1 form includes the following relevant data about migrants:

- personal identification number, from which the year of birth is evident,
- citizenship,
- foreign state of permanent residence,
- starting date of social insurance and expiry date of conditions for social insurance,
- insurance basis code,
- hours worked per week,
- work permit number (since 2004, 2006 and 2011, work permit is no more needed for certain categories of foreigners; see Section 2.1.3),
- education attained (ESS. Employment Service of the Republic of Slovenia nomenclature);
- kind of education (KLASIUS-SRV nomenclature; available at: <http://www.stat.si.klasius>),
- area of education (KLASIUS-P nomenclature;<sup>7</sup> available at: <http://www.stat.si.klasius>),
- current occupation (SKP-08 nomenclature: Standard Classification of Occupations effective from 2011; available at: <http://www.stat.si/skp/>) (Uredba o standardni klasifikaciji poklicev 2010)),
- kind of work contract,
- kind of shift work (if any),
- (for employees of employers with headquarters in Slovenia) the country they were sent to for the purpose of work or vocational education/training

Other necessary information (like place of residence) is collected through the personal identification number from other relevant registers (first of all, from the Central Population Register). In this way also the information about family members is collected, their relation to the primary insurance holder, expiration date of the attestation on enrolment into schooling, etc.).

The data can be reported on any specific date and they show the situation on that date.

On the day of inclusion of the person into social insurance, the Health Insurance Institute of Slovenia sends data to the Pension and Disability Insurance Institute of Slovenia (excluding data on persons to whom the Republic of Slovenia granted a status of a refugee or a subsidiary protection according to the regulation of international protection), Employment Service of the Republic of Slovenia and the Tax Administration of the Republic of Slovenia. These registers are linked and can exchange data, so there is no need for these institutions to include all information they need for their specific purposes into their own forms.

The data are sent to the Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia on a monthly basis.

Data on health insurance have been transferred to the Statistical Office since they have been collected (for decades).

Categories of migrants or migration-related events included in the register are:

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<sup>7</sup> KLASIUS-SRV and KLASIUS-P make the national standard Nomenclature system of education and training (KLASIUS), adopted in 2006 (Uredba o uvedbi... 2006).

- immigration flow (including flow of aliens; a rough estimate),
- immigrant stock (aliens; a rough estimate),
- acquisition of citizenship (based on reported change of citizenship).

Data on the insured persons have been available since many years ago, but only since 2009 have they been sorted according to the insurance basis code.

Data are available for NUTS 0-5 levels.

The data are used for statistical purposes by the data owner (the Health Insurance Institute of Slovenia).

Only the number of insured persons by insurance basis, starting from 2009, is available at the Institute's database. There are no migration-related data.

The Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia was involved in the design of the data collection (SORS 2012e: 8).

There is a formal cooperation agreement between and the Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia and the Health Insurance Institute of Slovenia on using the data for statistical purposes. The Statistical Office does not publish any information about health insurance of foreigners.

The data are not sent for any international database.

The data are relevant, accurate and timely.

Considering the fact that employers account for a great majority of those liable for payment of social security contributions, it is important to note that the geographical criterion for sorting the insured persons is their residence rather than the place of the employer's headquarters.

A drawback of data provided in the table forms for internal use, and available upon request, is that the number of insurances is registered rather than the number of insured persons. If the person has more than one formal job, he/she is registered more than once. These data should be cleaned using the personal identification number.

Both the employment and any change have to be reported within eight days since the event/change has occurred. Due to that, a certain extent of inaccuracy (false or double evidence) is unavoidable.

So far, no request was expressed for a change in the data collection. It seems that these data serve their primary purpose well. However, these data are not the most adequate for migration statistics. There are two reasons for that: 1) the coverage of immigrants (though substantial) is not necessarily full, and 2) limited information about immigrants is collected. The second reason can be eliminated through collection of data from other registers to which the Health Insurance Institute of Slovenia has access.

This data source is essential for the health insurance statistics, but it can also provide proxy data on foreigners in Slovenia. However, there is no need for that, because much better (more complete) data for the migration statistics are available: those collected by the Ministry of the Interior and included in the Central Population Register. Namely, a foreigner cannot register into social insurance without having temporary or permanent residence in Slovenia.

#### **2.1.5. Asylum Register; Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Slovenia)**

The data collector is the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Slovenia.

In the Asylum Register, all activities related to the procedure of obtaining international protection and integration of refugees are recorded. It consists of the Register of International Protection Seekers



and of a system for recording integration measures for refugees. The condition to be registered in the Asylum Register is the application for international protection in Slovenia.

A (new) International Protection Act was adopted in 2007 and amended several times: in 2009, 2010 and 2011, lastly in 2012 (Zakon o mednarodni zaščiti 2007). According to Article 118 of that Act, the following records are maintained in the Asylum Register:

- filed applications;
- unaccompanied minor applicants;
- applicants accommodated in an asylum home or its branches;
- applications and decisions of the commission;
- applicants who are displaced;
- persons who have been granted a refugee status;
- persons who have been granted a refugee status on the basis of a quota;
- persons who have been granted subsidiary protection;
- persons whose applications have been rejected in an accelerated procedure;
- persons whose applications have been rejected in a regular procedure;
- persons whose applications have been dismissed on the basis of Article 60 of the International Protection Act (concept of safe third country);
- persons whose applications have been dismissed on the basis of Article 62 of the International Protection Act (concept of safe European third country) ;
- persons whose applications have been dismissed on the basis of Article 67 of the International Protection Act (concept of first country of asylum);
- persons whose applications have been rejected for other reasons;
- decisions issued on the basis of Article 59 of the Act (the Dublin procedure);
- persons whose procedures have been discontinued;
- repeated applications;
- applications for the introduction of a new procedure;
- rejected applications for the introduction of a new procedure;
- applications for the renewal of subsidiary protection;
- rejected applications for the renewal of subsidiary protection;
- withdrawn applications for the renewal of subsidiary protection;
- dismissed application for the renewal of subsidiary protection;
- renewed subsidiary protection;
- cessation of refugee status;
- withdrawal of refugee status;
- withdrawal of subsidiary protection;
- applications for family reunification;
- rejected applications for family reunification;
- authorisation of family reunification;
- issued identity cards of applicant;
- issued refugee identity cards;
- issued refugee passports;
- issued identity card of subsidiary protection.

According to International protection Act (Zakon o mednarodni zaščiti 2007: Article 120), the following data on persons granted international protection are collected and processed:

- personal name;
- personal name, citizenship, date and place of birth of legal representative;

- personal name, citizenship, date and place of birth of guardian;
- date and place of birth;
- maiden surname;
- sex;
- marital status, extramarital union, or other form of partnership union regulated by the law;
- citizenship;
- nationality, upon the written consent of a refugee or a person granted subsidiary protection;
- religion, upon the written consent of a refugee or a person granted subsidiary protection;
- permanent residence in the Republic of Slovenia;
- temporary residence in the Republic of Slovenia;
- education and profession, upon the written consent of a refugee or a person granted subsidiary protection;
- the number, date of issue and type of personal document;
- the number and date of issue of a passport for a refugee or a person granted subsidiary protection;
- personal names and addresses of the family members' permanent and temporary residence in the Republic of Slovenia;
- data on medical condition, upon the written consent of a refugee or a person granted subsidiary protection;
- data on schooling, education, and education acquired in the Republic of Slovenia;
- data on employment, income and other remuneration, and property,
- data on the implementation of integration measures.

The Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia does not use the Asylum Register data in the production of migration/population statistics. Asylum statistics is prepared by the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Slovenia.

The international protection seekers are included in the register, while the stock of international protection seekers as well as inflow and outflow of international protection seekers can be derived from the Register.

The International Protection Act (Zakon o mednarodni zaščiti 2007: Article 3) provides these definitions: 1) applicant for international protection is a third country national or a stateless person who has made a complete application in the Republic of Slovenia for international protection; 2) a refugee is a third country national or a stateless person who is enjoying the protection; 3) a person enjoying international protection is the person granted a refugee status or subsidiary protection.

The Republic of Slovenia provides international protection and asylum for a refugee upon recognised international protection status. The purpose of international protection is to provide protection to those individuals to whom protection is not provided by their countries of citizenship or permanent residence (countries of origin). Those countries cannot or are not willing to implement laws or do not adhere to the international conventions they signed.

Any foreigner or person without citizenship who thinks that he or she is systematically persecuted in their home country due to his or her political belief or due to his or her religion, race, nationality or ethnic origin may ask for international protection and asylum.

Anyone who thinks that his or her life or freedom would be endangered or he or she could be exposed to torture or inhuman treatment or punishment upon returning to his or her home country may also ask for international protection. The competent body, the International Protection Division of the Ministry of the Interior, decides on the application. The conditions for the granting of international protection are laid down by the International Protection Act.

Refugee status is recognised to a person that provides justifiable and authentic proof that he or she is endangered in his or her home country due to race, religion, nationality, political belief or affiliation to a special social group.

Subsidiary protection is granted to a person that does not meet conditions for the recognition of refugee status but provides justifiable and authentic reasons that serious damage would be caused to him or her upon return to the home country (death penalty or execution, torture or inhuman or degrading treatment). Subsidiary protection is also granted for serious and individual threats against life or freedom of the applicant due to indiscriminate violence in situations of international or internal armed conflict in the country of origin« (Ministry of the Interior 2013b). In the preparation of the asylum statistics no definitions of immigration or emigration are used.

No ethnic nationals are included in the Asylum Register.

In the Asylum Register a procedure related to obtaining international protection and integration of refugees may be concluded with the final decision on the application; with rejection or withdrawn of application; with rejected application for the renewal of subsidiary protection; withdrawal, dismissal or renewal of application for subsidiary protection; cessation or withdrawal of refugee status; withdrawal of subsidiary protection etc. Personal data that were collected in accordance with Articles 118 and 120 of International Protection Act (Zakon o mednarodni zaščiti 2007) are deposited with the competent authority as a permanent documentary material.

In the Asylum Register, the socio-demographic data and human capital characteristics are collected on persons seeking international protection. Classification of citizenship is based on the ISO-3166 code list. Reference time for the statistical data is a month or a year. Data in the register are updated regularly on the basis of procedures and decisions concerning person's application for international protection and asylum, its rejection, renewal, cessation or withdrawal, etc. Statistics (totals and disaggregation by some variables) are available since 2001.

Data are used for statistical purposes by the data owner. Monthly data are published in the Eurostat statistical database. Annual data are published in the Ministry of the Interior's publication "Annual Report of the Internal Administrative Affairs, Migration and Naturalization Directorate", while monthly data are published at the Ministry's website and are available on request.

The SORS was involved in neither the design of the data collection nor its latest modification. Before 2007, the data were collected in the scope of Asylum seekers database.

The data from the Asylum Register are accessible, relevant, accurate, comparable and timely.

According to our opinion, no reform of the register data collection is needed.

#### **2.1.6. Data on illegal migrants; Ministry of the Interior, Police**

The Slovenian Police are responsible for the border control and the implementation of regulation on aliens. The Police update annual statistics on illegal migration on the territory of the Republic of Slovenia on a monthly basis. In this report, the statistics on refused entries at the border, persons who crossed the border illegally and persons who were illegally residing in the country are available (Reichel 2009). All statistics are differentiated by citizenship. Statistics are available for the whole period between 2001 and 2012.

Legal background for the illegal migration evidence is set by the Police Act (Zakon o policiji 1998) that regulates the data collection procedure. The Slovenian Police collect the following information on illegal migrants: name and family name, date and place of birth, place of residence and citizenship.

The data are transferred to the European Agency for the Management of Operational Cooperation at the External Borders of the Member States of the European Union (Frontex), Eurostat, International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD), European Migration Network (EMN) and some other institutions and bodies that co-operate with the Slovenian Police. The SORS does not use these data.

It should be noted that this evidence contains only data on detected illegal migrants and that undiscovered illegal migrants are not included. There is no estimate of the total number of illegal migrants in Slovenia.

### **2.1.7. Balance of payments; Bank of Slovenia**

The Bank of Slovenia registers/includes workers' remittances in the Balance of Payments of the Republic of Slovenia as a separate item under current transfers.<sup>8</sup>

The legal background for the collection of data on payment transactions was the Bank of Slovenia Act, adopted in 2002 and revised in 2006 and 2011. As regards the bilateral exchange of data with foreign central banks, the availability of data depends only on the banks' willingness to co-operate.

Up to the end of 2007 the data sources were cross-border payment transactions, both inflows and outflows. The quality of data was not satisfactory because only transactions within the banking system were included. Also, the data coding (description of the purpose of payment) was questionable. With the implementation of threshold amount of payment (€50,000)<sup>9</sup> this data source became useless for registering lower amounts (that are most common for workers' remittances), and the Bank of Slovenia was compelled to change the data source.

Starting with 2008 the Bank of Slovenia does not collect data on inflow of workers' remittances. Data on outflows has been collected through bilateral exchange of data with the countries than made ex-Yugoslavia. These countries still keep the statistics of cross-border payment transactions though banks and – not being the EU Member States - are not obliged to respect the threshold amount of payment. It has been estimated that most of remittances are transferred to these countries.

There has been no co-operation between the Bank of Slovenia and the Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia in collecting data on workers' remittances.

Up to the end of 2007, reports (by countries) were produced on a monthly basis. Now the Bank of Slovenia depends on bilateral data sent by the neighbouring countries. These data are received once a year, e.g. in April for the previous year.

The data are used for statistical purposes by the data owner. They are of such a low importance that they are not published anywhere. The data on the workers' remittances are not sent to the Statistical Office of Slovenia. They are, however, sent to the Eurostat in the framework of a standard structure of data prescribed for the balance of payment.

Conclusion: The EU regulation prevents the collection of data on remittances.

<sup>8</sup> See: <http://www.bsi.si/banka-slovenije.asp?Mapald=292> (accessed 17 January 2013).

<sup>9</sup> Regulation (EC) No 924/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 September 2009 on cross-border payments in the Community.

## 2.2. Statistical data sources, sample surveys

### 2.2.1. Statistical Register of Employment (*Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia*)

The data collector is the Health Insurance Institute of Slovenia. The main scope of the Statistical Register of Employment (SRE) is the data on labour force (their number, structure, changes) and the changes in the field of labour force. The data are important for assessing the situation and changes on the labour market.

Legal background for the data collection is the National Statistics Act (Zakon o državni statistiki 1995). No legislation changes that would influence the content of the data collection came into force since 2001. Activities concerning renovation of the SRE started in 2004. The production of the Register in the new local environment (Oracle) started in August 2009 as a result of renovation.

The SRE was set up on the basis of the Census of Employees in 1986. It is updated with data obtained from monthly M questionnaires, i.e. Registration of Data for Pension and Disability Insurance, Health Insurance, Parental Insurance (M-1, M-2 and M-3).

The SRE is a data source for variables on activity and occupation of all persons (including foreigners) who work in Slovenia.

Persons in employment included in the SRE are persons who are at least 15 years old, who work on the territory of Slovenia and have compulsory social insurance. They can be: a) persons in paid employment with employment contracts (for fixed or unspecified period of time, full-time or part-time), or b) self-employed persons who have compulsory social insurance. Persons in paid employment included in SRE are persons employed by legal entities (enterprises, companies, institutions, other organisations) or foreign affiliates, elected or appointed holders of public functions, military volunteers and owners of enterprises who run their enterprises personally and are not insured elsewhere. Persons in paid employment are also persons working for self-employed persons, own account workers performing their activity as the only or principal occupation, and persons using supplementary work of other people. Self-employed persons are natural persons performing economic or gainful activity (individual private entrepreneurs), own account workers performing their activity as the only or principal occupation (e.g. lawyers, cultural workers, independent researchers, priests, foster parents, etc.), top athletes and top chess players, and farmers. Persons working under copyright contracts are included from 2013. Persons working under contracts for work/service, unpaid family members, self-employed persons who do not pay social insurance and citizens working in Slovenian enterprises, on construction sites, etc., abroad are not covered.

Variables included in the SRE are:

- statistical identifier;
- citizenship;
- marital status;
- date of the event
- type of event (registration, reorganization, change, verification);
- identification number of unit;
- identification number of enterprise;
- activity status of employee (employed / self-employed);
- type of employment;
- education;
- occupation;
- activity of unit;

- activity of enterprise;
- territory variables of the workplace – (local unit);
- territory variables of the workplace – (enterprise);
- territory variables of residence (permanent, temporary);
- number of being employed in the country (employed for the first time, not employed for the first time), etc.

No statistics on migration is derived from the SRE. The SRE was set up to collect data of all persons in employment with one form and for publish the monthly register data on unemployment rate. Foreigners are a small population group which is included in SRE. Some tables are prepared on them, for example number of foreigners by activity and citizenship. For the purpose of the labour force statistics, a person with foreign citizenship is considered a foreigner.

If a foreigner whose work permit has expired is still insured, the Health Insurance Institute of Slovenia instructs his/her employer to check him/her out. If the employer fails to do so, after a certain time the Health Insurance Institute does that on its own.

The socio-demographic, economic, labour market and human capital characteristics of all foreigners who work in Slovenia are included in the register. Classification of countries and citizenship is based on the ISO-3166 code list, activity on the NACE classification and occupation on the ISCO-08.

The reference date for statistics is the last day of the month. The SRE data are available for the whole period relevant for the SEEMIG project (from 2001 onward).

Statistics is published at the official website of the Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia (in the SI-Stat database) and its publications (Statistical Yearbook, Rapid Reports, and Slovenia in Figures).

The SRE was established and is run by the Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia. The data have been collected for four different institutions, including the SORS, with one form. The involved institutions set common methodological principles for the data collection.

Accessibility of data and the relationship between the Statistical Office and the data owner in the perspectives of using the data for statistical purposes is good. The Statistical Office of Slovenia and the Health Insurance Institute have a formal agreement on cooperation.

Data are relevant, accurate, comparable in time (but not internationally) and timely.

According to our opinion, no reform of this register data collection is needed.

### **2.2.2. Labour Force Survey; Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia**

The Labour Force Survey (LFS) is the most comprehensive official household survey in Slovenia. It is aimed at collecting data on the situation and changes in the Slovenian labour market. It provides data on the size, structure and characteristics of the Slovenian labour force and inactive population. The Slovenian LFS is carried out in compliance with the International Labour Organisation (ILO) guidelines for the labour force statistics and with the Eurostat requirements that refer to the harmonised EU survey. This enables the comparability of the LFS data between the countries and the comparability of the individual country data with previous LFSs (SORS 2012a).

The Labour Force Survey was an annual survey from 1993 to 1996 and was carried out in May. From April 1997 it is a continuous survey. Data are published quarterly. The observation units are all individuals living in selected households in Slovenia. The sample is stratified (according to region, sex and age) and consists of approximately 7,000 households (i.e., approximately 15,000 individuals) each quarter. In spite of a relatively big sample, the sample size does not allow detailed analyses of

specific population groups at the level of statistical regions or at lower levels. For example, the activity rates by the country of birth and statistical region (NUTS 3 level) are not reliable, as there are many cells with only one, two or three observations. Similarly, in principle, activity rates by municipality could be calculated, but the results would not be statistically significant and thus cannot be obtained from the SORS.

The definition of the target population follows the criterion for the definition of resident population, i.e., all persons with usual place of residence on the territory of Slovenia. The source for the number of population is the Central Population Register. The survey covers only the population living in private households. Non-coverage of collective households is the main reason for immigrants' under-representation in the LFS sample.<sup>10</sup>

It is relevant for migration research that the survey includes information on the citizenship of respondents, their country of birth and, in the case of immigrants, the year of immigration and the sending country. Besides, the socio-demographic data, labour market data (such as working in the last four weeks prior to the interview, reasons for not working, and job-seeking activities) and economic data (receiving of wage, without amount) are collected. Based on this survey, the activity status of respondents is determined and the measures of activity calculated.

The SORS and some other institutions use the LFS data in their reporting on the labour market situation. Migration-related issues are generally not included in the LFS questionnaire. However, in 2008 there was an *ad hoc* modul dedicated to the labour market situation of migrants and their immediate descendants. The LFS data are internationally comparable and therefore frequently used by international organisations. In Slovenia, the LFS data are available at the SORS website. They are published there less than half a year after the end of the individual survey period.

The questionnaire is in Slovenian but, if necessary, most of the interviewers are able to conduct interviews in Serbian or Croatian language, too. However, the LFS excludes persons with no or poor Slovenian-, Serbian- or Croatian language skills. This is one of the reasons for immigrants' under-representation in the sample, however a very minor one since most immigrants in Slovenia originate from other successor states of ex-Yugoslavia and therefore should be able to understand the Slovenian language (Reichel 2009).

### **2.2.3. Programme for International Student Assessment - PISA; OECD**

PISA is an international study on reading and mathematical and scientific literacy. It is carried out under the leadership of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). It is conducted every three years. The first cycle of PISA was carried out in 2000. The most recent assessment was in 2012. The research focused on the field of literacy and on the extent the students had mastered to use the knowledge and skills they had acquired in school in different situations and in problems solving. PISA also examined how students could use their reading skills to understand and interpret a variety of texts from everyday life and how to face different challenges and problems that require mathematical knowledge with the help of mathematical knowledge and skills, and how could their scientific knowledge and skills help them understand, interpret and solve different situations and problems in the field of science. In each of the cycles the majority of the data gathering was dedicated to one of the three domains of literacy, while data for the other two were captured for the purpose of exploring trends in student achievement (OECD).

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<sup>10</sup> The 2007 Labour Force Survey (LFS) *ad hoc* module that focused on foreigners in the labour market included foreigners with permanent and temporary residence in Slovenia. The main finding was that the majority of foreigners with temporary residence live in collective households that are not normally covered by the LFS (SORS 2008b: 27).

Slovenia joined the project for implementation of the Programme for International Student Assessment PISA at the beginning of 2004, when preparation for the PISA's 2006 cycle started. Slovenia participated in the 2006 cycle for the first time.

The basic conditions for inclusion of a pupil/student in the study were the precise age of a pupil/student and an adequate level of education program: i.e. 15 years of age and 3 months up to 16 years of age and 2 months at the time the survey take place and attending at least 7th grade of elementary school. In order to conduct the survey the pupils/students were sampled on the basis of their age. In each country, 150 schools or at least 5250 students should have been included into the survey.

15-year-old pupils and students, irrespective of the type of school they attended, were included in the preparation of the research sample in Slovenia. In the country, more than 90% of 15-year-olds attended the first year of secondary school, some of them were in the 2nd year of secondary school, some were still in elementary school, while some were in institutions for adult education and institutions for the education of children with special needs. In the preparation of the PISA sample the entire population of all 15-year-olds was included in Slovenia. Only those who did not attend educational institutions were excluded from the sample. Sample survey covered about 40% of the total population of 15-year-olds in Slovenia.

In Slovenia, all upper secondary schools and a sample of basic schools were included in the PISA survey. Moreover, students in the upper secondary schools were sampled separately by the educational programmes. In the PISA 2009 data collection, there were 333 schools/educational programmes and 7810 students included in the sample in Slovenia.

In the preparation of the sampling, the first step was to gather the data on the number of the 15-year-olds in Slovenia. In this phase, the Educational Research Institute worked closely with the Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia and the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport of the Republic of Slovenia. On the basis of the number of 15-year-olds in Slovenia, a sample of schools that were going to participate in the survey was prepared.

Out of the programs of general/classical gymnasiums, a sample of 30 students was selected, while from all other programs 25 students from each school were selected. Had there been less pupils or students who met the criteria of the target population, all 15-year-olds at the school were selected (PISA 2008).

There is no regulation of the data collection.

PISA is an international study.

The data was collected from pupils/students on the field. Immigrant stock of foreign and national pupil/student can be derived from the PISA results.

Socio-demographic characteristic of pupils/students as well as the labour market and human capital characteristics of their parents are collected. Classification of countries and citizenship are based on the ISO-3166 code list.

Country of birth is used as a criterion for defining an immigrant.

The sample is big enough for aggregate comparisons of performance of immigrant students with the performance of 'domestic' students (it consists of more than 10 % of immigrant pupils). However, at the level of specific indicators (i.e. educational programmes), the sample is too small for a more detailed analysis (i.e., by subgroups).

In Slovenia, the PISA survey is conducted under the leadership of the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport, contractor of the research is the Educational Research Institute. After the data in



the main study are gathered, an analysis of the collected data and preparation of the national report are done. The national report provides a basis for further in-depth research (secondary data analysis).

No data from PISA survey are transferred to the Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia. These data are not used by Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia for statistical purposes. Namely, the coverage of the field of education and training is complete in regular annual statistical research performed at the SORS, and the same is true for migration statistics, while the PISA survey is a sample survey. Furthermore, the aim of the statistics on education is to cover quantitative aspects of education (inclusion of population in education and training, etc.), while the PISA survey covers qualitative aspects of education. However, when publishing the education statistics, SORS, where relevant, refers also to PISA data.

The PISA data are relevant, accurate, comparable and timely.

#### ***2.2.4. Statistical survey on Student Enrolment in Tertiary Education; Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia***

Statistical survey Student Enrolment in Tertiary Education is a regular annual statistical survey in Slovenia. Its purpose is to collect individual data on enrolment of students in higher vocational and higher undergraduate and postgraduate studies taking place at public and private vocational colleges and public and private higher education institutions. There are two sources for these data: the ŠOL-ŠTUD questionnaire (filled in by students in vocational colleges and single higher education institutions) and the Matriculation Document (filled in by higher education students) (SORS 2010). The data are transferred to the Statistical Office by the data collectors once a year.

The data are collected on full-time and part-time students at the enrolment in the first year of studies and all other years of studies; when they become candidates for graduation; as well as if they repeat a year. The survey covers the fields of post-secondary (tertiary) education and undergraduate and postgraduate (higher vocational, professional higher, academic higher, master's, specialist and doctoral) studies. Coverage is full, which means that the survey covers all students in all vocational colleges and higher education institutions in the country; the survey is a census of all students who are enrolled in vocational colleges or higher education institutions in the observed academic year.

The data are collected and published as of 15 October. They are available at on the SI-Stat data portal for the period from 1997 to 2011. The SI-Stat data portal is operated by the Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia.

The legal bases for the Statistical survey on Student Enrolment in Tertiary Education are the National Statistics Act (Zakon o državni statistiki 1995) and Annual Programmes of Statistical Surveys in Slovenia.

It is a national survey (SORS 2010). Annual statistics is publicly available.

Transmission of the data to the Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia is mandatory for the public and private vocational colleges and public and private higher education institutions.

Starting with the enrolment in the 2012/2013 school year, the data will be collected via electronic registration and analytical system for higher education in the Republic of Slovenia (eVŠ) at the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport.

The data on foreign citizens who study in the country can be derived from the survey. All students who do not have Slovenian citizenship (after matching with the Central Population Register data) are

considered foreign students. Students for whom citizenship is not found even after matching with the Central Population Register are shown under the category "Not classified".

Socio-demographic, labour market and human capital characteristics are collected on students/migrants. Classification of countries and citizenship is based on the ISO-3166 code list.

The data are used for statistical purposes only by the Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia. Statistics is published annually in the First Release and on the SI-Stat data portal. Selected data are also published in the Statistical Yearbook, Slovenia in Figures, Slovene Regions in Figures and other multi-thematic publications released by the Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia (SORS 2010).

Data are relevant, accurate, comparable and timely.

## **2.3. Census databases**

### **2.3.1. Register-based census**

The data on the population of Slovenia as of 1 January 2011 were produced also according to the Regulation (EC) No 763/2008 of the European Parliament and the Council of 9 July 2008 on Population and Housing Censuses (2008).

For the purpose of the preparation of the data the following registers and other available data sources and data of statistical surveys were used (SORS, Register-based Census 2011):

- Central Population Register – Ministry of the Interior;
- Household Register – Ministry of the Interior;
- Real Estate Register – Surveying and Mapping Authority of the Republic of Slovenia;
- Register of Spatial Units – Surveying and Mapping Authority of the Republic of Slovenia;
- Business Register – Agency for Public Legal Records and Related Services;
- Statistical Register of Employment;
- Regular statistical surveys on births, migration, student enrolment in tertiary education, tertiary education and on recipients of scholarships (students);
- Population Census 2002;

and databases on:

- Unemployed persons – Employment Service of Slovenia;
- Graduates – National Examination Centre;
- National examinations – National Examination Centre;
- Recipients of pensions – Pension and Disability Insurance Institute;
- Insured persons – Health Insurance Institute of Slovenia;
- Recipients of social transfers – Ministry of Labour, Family and Social Affairs;
- Income tax – Tax Administration of the Republic of Slovenia;

and data on:

- immigrant stock (of foreigners and nationals), and
- return migration can be processed from the survey on population as of 1 January 2011 in Slovenia.

According to the current statistical definition, the population of Slovenia consists of all persons usually resident in Slovenia, i.e. persons, regardless of their citizenship, who intend to live in Slovenia for at least one year. This includes:

- persons who have registered permanent residence in Slovenia, excluding those who have

been abroad for one year or more and gave notice of their departure in the administrative unit of their permanent residence;

- persons who have registered temporary residence in Slovenia with the total duration of at least one year;
- persons who have registered both permanent and temporary residence in Slovenia, excluding those who have been abroad for one year or more and gave notice of their departure in the administrative unit of their permanent residence (SORS 2011).

Irregular migrants and asylum seekers are excluded from the population as of 1 January 2011 in Slovenia.

Moreover, unregistered emigration to abroad (of the Slovenian citizens with permanent residence in Slovenia and foreigners with permanent residence in Slovenia) are excluded from migration flows.

Variables country of birth, ever resided abroad and citizenship can be used to define different categories of migrants.

Registration of residence with an intention to live in Slovenia for at least one year is the key criterion for a person to be included in the population of Slovenia as of 1 January 2011.

The main migration-related questions included in the survey were country of birth, country of citizenship, ever resided abroad, year of first arrival to the country, year of latest arrival and country of previous residence.

According to the Regulation (EC) No. 763/2008, data on the country of birth, country of citizenship, ever having resided abroad, year of arrival to the country and the country of previous residence are collected in the scope of population censuses in order to define different types of migrants.

The socio-demographic, economic, labour market and human capital characteristics of migrants were collected in the scope of the Statistical Survey on Population as of 1 January 2011. All obligatory topics envisaged in the Regulation (EC) No 763/2008 were prepared for migrants. Classification of countries and citizenship is based on the ISO-3166 code list, the NACE classification was used for activity, the ISCED classification for education and the ISCO-08 classification for occupation. For the first time ever, the data on immigrant generations were derived from the data on first residences of a person, his/hers parents and grandparents. Data on first, second and third generation on migrants are available.

Data on population as of 1 January 2011 are completely derived from the registers, administrative databases and other relevant data sources (see above).

Data on the socio-demographic, economic, labour market and human capital characteristics on population and migrants are published at the SI-Stat Data Portal (see: <http://pxweb.stat.si/pxweb/Database/Demographics/Demographics.asp>).

Data are easily accessible to the data users. Data are relevant, accurate, comparable and timely.

We do not propose any reform of census data collection in Slovenia.

### 3. CASE STUDY ON LOCAL LEVEL ABOUT USE AND ACCESSIBILITY OF MIGRATION-RELATED DATA SOURCES

The Maribor Development Agency (MDA) is the regional development agency of the statistical (NUTS 3) region of Podravje (SI012), which is the region where the case study will take place in Slovenia.

As the regional development agency MDA is preparing strategic document in all fields of regional development, which also cover demographics, labour market, education, etc.

Through the institution of the regional council MDA has direct influence on regional policy (preparation and implementation).

Due to the size of Slovenia, most data is gathered on national level only, although it is collected at the lower levels “Upravna Enota” (UE) – LAU 1 level.

Regional data that is gathered in the region of Podravje and is relevant for the region basically comes from the University of Maribor (UM) and consist of the statistics for foreign students who study at the UM.

At the moment this data represents the potential inflow of high skilled experts, who study in Maribor – if they decide to stay in the city where they study. Of course, with the current situation it is also very important to reduce the outflow of youth with university education, yet there are at the moment very unfavourable trends at the labour market to keep youth in the region.

There is no data available of the number of youth from the region that left to study in other regions or abroad.

Since the University of Maribor is the only University in the region and one of the four Slovenian universities, youth from a broader area gravitates to study in Maribor, while there is no clear division from which regions they come, or from which region they would study at which of the universities. The university does collect data on permanent residency, as part of the application form for the study programmes. There are, however, no real analyses done on how many students from which region study at which public university. Data for private universities is even more difficult to obtain. Also, there is no clear data on youth going to study abroad; there is only a possibility to get data for those students, who receive scholarship from the ministry in order to study abroad.

Apart from the UM data, there is no data, which would be collected only on the regional level. Most data, which would be relevant for the migrations, comes from the UE, but they only give the input and cannot process the data. These inputs are collected and processed at the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Slovenia.

The data is fed into a programme, and is processes by the ministry of internal affairs (data such as the number of temporary permits for foreign residents – where the country of origin is also given).

One of the main problems with this is that the UE is only an administrative authority and does not have direct impact on the lower LAU 2 level – municipalities; thus UE is not a policy maker and does not influence the strategy or policy making decisions within any of the Slovenian strategic regions.

Municipalities, on the other hand, are policy making bodies, which usually follow top down directives from the national strategies, but they do not collect any of the data themselves, because it is not them, who deal with residential permits.

The data gathered at UE is passed forward to the ministry and some of it can be found in their annual publications, however, that data is not always broken down and usually presents national statistics.

There are also some other publications on the national level, that cover the statistics within a region, the most important being the annual publications of the Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia (<http://www.stat.si/>), where there are several analyses already broken down to the NUTS 3 level, yet they are not really usable on LAU 2 level of the municipalities, which represent basically represent the only policy making body within the region.

The Ministry of the Interior does gather and process data collected from UE and does publish various data (mostly on annual level), but not all the data collected is published. The UE also insures us, that according to the input, more data could be generated than published. The aliens-related data are published by the Ministry of the Interior at [http://www.mnz.gov.si/si/mnz\\_za\\_vas/tujci\\_v\\_sloveniji/statistika/](http://www.mnz.gov.si/si/mnz_za_vas/tujci_v_sloveniji/statistika/). Unfortunately again, the data is not broken down according to regions, although it would be possible to generate that data from the inputs given from the UE (or at least data for individual UEs could be collected and then processed in order to gain regional data – there are no cases where LAU 1 units cross borders with NUTS 3 units). At the moment, there is nobody responsible to provide data according to the regions, yet the ministry with the access to data from UE could easily join the data from UEs of a specific region to gain the regional data. Example: there are published data on the number of immigrants in a half year period according to the country of origin. This data was collected through the permits handed to immigrants at the UE, therefore it is our assumption it would be possible to sort the data according to the UE from which it was collected and joined to give the data for a specific region. We, however, do not have the understandings of the internal working of the program for collecting data, to ensure it really is possible to do it in such a way.

There is also data available at the Employment Service of Slovenia, where their annual reports cover the education level and the country of origin of foreign residents on the Slovenian labour market. Unfortunately, when the data is broken down for the NUTS 3 regions, only the joint number of foreign residents being employed in Slovenia is given – or better said; only the data of people with the working permit in Slovenia is given. This means there is a possibility of illegal workers working in Slovenia without a permit. Also it is not certain that all the people with a working permit are actually employed. The data according to the level of education and country of origin is available only for the national statistics.

As concerns illegal migration, there is some data available at the gathering centre for aliens (Aliens Centre), unfortunately the data, again, is not gathered in accordance with the regions, only nationwide. However, this data is not of such importance within our region, for it is not considered a region with high levels of illegal migration, nor are there many reasons, why illegal migration would be on the rise. Except for a smaller area of the Slovenia-Croatian border, which is an outside border of the EU, the region also has a border with Austria, which is a Schengen border, meaning it is possible to pass freely. The area is not considered to have great employment capabilities, for illegal workforce to be an issue, nor is the non-EU border with Croatia of such configuration to encourage massive attempts of illegal crossing in order to reach further EU destinations.

Apart from the illegal migration, the police also gather data about people crossing the national border on a daily basis, yet that data is not really useful for the migration statistics since it includes all international traffic, tourist traffic, etc., so it is not possible to identify who of the people crossing the border could even be potential migrants.

Apart from immigration data, it would also be useful to get emigration data. There is no data collected about people leaving Slovenia. Some data could be gathered from the Slovenian Tax Administration, since they do have data on paying taxes in accordance with the place of residence. Unfortunately that data is not publicly published and it is not certain if that data is completely relevant.

A whole different kind of data, which is also not gathered, but would be of great importance to the region, is the data on daily migration – commuters.

There are several kinds of daily migration taking place:

- a) people with residency outside Slovenia (usually Croatia) commute daily to work in the Podravje region,
- b) people from Podravje region commute to work across the national border (usually Austria),
- c) people from Croatia are crossing the region of Podravje in order to go to work to Austria (also daily commuters, since it is only 50km from one border to the other),
- d) people from Slovenia, but outside of Podravje region come to work in the region of Podravje (usually rural areas from outside Podravje, coming to work in the urban areas of Podravje: mostly cities of Maribor, Ptuj, Lenart and Slovenska Bistrica),
- e) people from Podravje region commuting daily outside the region to work (usually towards central Slovenia) and
- f) people from rural parts of Podravje region going to work in the urban areas of Podravje region (usually from villages – which are often independent LAU 2 level units: municipalities – to larger areas of city municipalities, or cities – also LAU 2 level units).

And although urban centres still present the best opportunities for employment within the region, there is also a trend of people moving away from urban centres in order to live in rural areas, yet keep commuting to urban centres for work. The data about people leaving urban centres in order to live in the surrounding rural areas (the distances are fairly short) is also not collected. This data, however, does directly have an impact on employment policies of municipalities (small rural and independent municipalities, which would not be able to offer employment with added value, may have very low unemployment and a very high number of highly educated people – who all commute to the city – while the city could have large unemployment, due to the fact it is producing employment with high added value occupied by people outside the city municipality, having much of educated work force unemployed).

For the Podravje region, and especially the urban area of the city of Maribor, it would be of great importance to be able to collect the following data:

- Outflow of students, who go to study abroad and get employment outside Slovenia;
- Inflow of work force to the region (with data about the origin and education);
- Daily cross border work migration from Slovenia (specifically the Podravje region) to Austria.

The last of these data are important to prepare the region for potential shifts in the Austrian labour market and the impacts it can have on the region of Podravje.

In order to prepare policy recommendations and strategies it would be important to know:

- The number and profile of people who go to work abroad and the reasons why they have left Slovenia,
- Movements out of the urban areas;
- The labour market needs for specific work force.

## 4. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This analysis has enlightened the details of data collection and data production systems in Slovenia. Institutions directly concerned with data production, compilation and delivery, as well as their databases and publications are presented. The analysis intends to serve as a basis for supporting data harmonisation efforts in the SEEMIG countries. The data is of special interest to the region of Podravje and its capital city of Maribor.

In Slovenia, all statistics envisaged in the Regulation (EC) 862/2007 on Community statistics on migration and international protection (2007) is produced. The data collections are well established and well organised in Slovenia. Many data sources (registers and other administrative and statistical data bases) on foreigners and migrants exist. Data on immigrants are particularly rich. Various situations of migrants are covered, such as their official stay and residing in Slovenia (obtaining international protection, residing in Slovenia, registration of residence, etc.), labour force participation, enrolment in tertiary education, etc. Information on the socio-demographic, economic, labour market and human capital characteristics is collected. Categories of migrants can be derived using the variables: country of birth, citizenship, and ever having resided abroad. All data sources (registers and other administrative and statistical data bases) on foreigners and migrants are in constant development in terms of their content, as well as in terms of quality and methodology.

The Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia is the most important and comprehensive data source 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 main migrant groups and migration-related events for which the data is available are: immigration/emigration flow, immigrant/emigrant stock, acquisition of citizenship, return migration, and asylum seekers. Data on potential immigration/emigration flow of foreigners and potential return migration of foreigners are collected in the Register of Aliens that contributes data to the CPR.

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 is 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.

Most of the migration-related data are collected at NUTS 5 level, but the analytical data may not be available (particularly not by citizenship or country of birth) even at the NUTS 1 level due to the statistical protection (small number of cases) and the data source constraints prior to 2008.

All data are available at NUTS 0 and NUTS 1 levels (which are the same). Of those data that are available at the regional level, few data are available at NUTS 2 level (LFS and GDP data), while most data are available at NUTS 3 level. There is no data published at NUTS 4 level (administrative units); data at NUTS 5 level is used for statistical purposes.

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. Since May 2004, the EU Member States citizens have free access to the Slovenian labour market. In 2006 and 2007 this right was extended to the citizens of the European Economic Area (EEA) and the Swiss Confederation and their family members (with a residence permit for a family member for the purpose of family reunion, and regardless of their citizenship). In 2011, the Employment and Work of Aliens Act has extended the list of aliens who do not require a work permit to 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, as long as they have a valid permit for temporary residence in Slovenia, and aliens of the Slovenian origin up to the third successive generation (with a temporary residence permit).

Since 1991, when local self-government was introduced, a large number of new municipalities were established, and the borders of existing ones were changed. In the years 1998-2002 Slovenia had 192 municipalities, 193 in 2002-2006, 210 in 2006-2001, and there have been 212 municipalities since 2011 (Ministry of Justice and Public Administration). We have to keep the changing borders of municipalities in mind when dealing with time series of data at NUTS 5 level.

Data on socio-demographic, economic, labour market and human capital characteristics on population and migrants are available free of charge at the SI-Stat Data Portal (see: <http://pxweb.stat.si/pxweb/Database/Demographics/Demographics.asp>). They are also published and analysed in periodical publications of the Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia that are available on-line and free of charge, and can also be obtained in a printed form. Other institutions that collect data do not publish (analytical) data, but these data can be obtained upon request, free of charge, in the table form. Microdata can also be obtained, but the principle of statistical protection is strictly applied. In the case of migration related data this means that information on the country of birth or citizenship may not be provided. The data are broken only by wide regions of the world.

All data collections and sources are based on legal acts. The data from various data sources can be linked, if so envisaged or required by the law.<sup>11</sup> The institutions that register data (the Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia, the Ministry of the Interior, the Health Insurance Institute of Slovenia, the Pension and Disability Insurance Institute of Slovenia, the Employment Service of the Republic of Slovenia, the Tax Administration of the Republic of Slovenia, etc.) have mutual access to registers, so there is no need for them to collect all relevant information themselves. The CPR is integrated with other public data registers, applications and information systems. The system ensures automated procedures and custom application interfaces that provide connectivity and data transfer between databases. The PIN is used in Slovenia as a key identifier for the data access and for data integration in the official records and other administrative records. This enables the organisation of data collection where, as a rule, particular information is collected only once. Where this is not the case, the data source with a more/most complete (in terms of data coverage) and up-to-date information is used in the preparation of statistics.

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<sup>11</sup> For this purpose, the personal data are anonymised, that is, altered to such a form that they can no longer be linked to the individual or where such a link can only be made with disproportionate efforts, expense or use of time (Personal Data Protection Act 2004: Article 6; see also Articles 17, 21 and 24). The Slovenian legislation is aligned with the Directive 95/46/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 October 1995 on the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data (1995).



On the basis of the population statistics, comparisons of the characteristics of both the latest migration flows and the first generation of migrants with the characteristics of the national population can be made. More data, and more accurate data, are available for nationals than for foreigners - this holds for both the migrant stock and the migration flows.

Accessibility of data and the relationship between the SORS and other data owners (collectors) regarding the use of data for statistical purposes is good. In the cases where data are directly used by the SORS the SORS was involved in the design of the data collection or/and in the latest modification of the data source. In some cases, the data are used for statistical purposes by the data owner, too.

The collected data on foreigners and migrants are relevant, accurate, comparable and timely. International classifications are used for data recording.

The latest most comprehensive data collection in Slovenia was prepared as of 1 January 2011. Namely, data on population as of 1 January 2011 in Slovenia were produced also according to the Regulation (EC) No 763/2008 of the European Parliament and the Council of 9 July 2008 on Population and Housing Censuses (2008). For this purpose, numerous registers and other available data sources, as well as the statistical surveys data were used. For the first time ever, the data on immigrant generations were derived from the data on first residences of persons, their parents and grandparents. Consequently, data on the first, second and third generation of migrants are available.

In the official national immigration and population statistics, prepared by the Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia, irregular migrants and asylum seekers are excluded from the population as of 1 January 2011 in Slovenia. However, their numbers are small, and in most cases a final decision on asylum application is taken in less than a year. Furthermore, if this decision is positive, the person can register residence in Slovenia and is consequently included in the migration statistics and shown in the population of Slovenia. Moreover, unregistered emigration to abroad (of Slovenian citizens with permanent residence in Slovenia) is excluded from migration flows.

Data on the emigrant stock are not complete. Only data on the stock of emigrated citizens of the Republic of Slovenia who deregistered their permanent residence in Slovenia in order to emigrate to abroad are available; and only data for those citizens of Slovenia whose country of next residence is known can be shown in the data. Those citizens of Slovenia who departed abroad and have deceased cannot be excluded from the data if no official information on their death was recorded in the competent register in Slovenia.

This analysis is expected to be valuable for national and local authorities, regional agencies, entities in charge of data production, stakeholders (decision-makers and civil servants) applying/using/utilising data, the research community, as well as international organisations and statistical bodies. The data is of special interest to the region of Podravje that experienced huge changes in the past 20 years. Especially the largest city of the region, Maribor - which is in the process of transformation from an industrial centre to a post-industrial centre, without being completely able to cope with the new situation - would greatly benefit from better data on both inward and outward migration.

According to our opinion that is based on the analysis of existing data production systems and major data sources, no extensive reform of data sources (registers and other administrative and statistical data bases) on foreigners and migrants is needed in Slovenia. There is, however, place for some improvements.

In the absence of any proper incentives for the Slovenian citizens and foreigners in Slovenia to deregister, and for administrative units to better record emigration, these events are under-recorded. Therefore, some incentives should be introduced in order to improve migration and population statistics. Furthermore, the collecting of data on previous residence of foreign migrants

directly from migrants (rather than from their documents) would improve the quality of the national statistics.

There is also a need to collect and analyse data on daily cross-border migration of labour - however not only for Slovenia, but rather in the EU as a whole and in its neighbouring countries.

According to the case study provided by the Maribor Development Agency, it would be of great importance for the Podravje region, and especially for the city of Maribor, to be able to collect the following data:

- Outflow of students, who go to study abroad and get employment outside Slovenia;
- Inflow of work force to the region (with data about the origin and education);
- Daily cross border work migration from Slovenia (specifically the Podravje region) to Austria.

The last of these data are important to prepare the region for potential shifts in the Austrian labour market and the impacts it can have on the region of Podravje.

In order to prepare policy recommendations and strategies it would be important to know:

- The number and profile of people who go to work abroad and the reasons why they have left Slovenia,
- Movements out of the urban areas;

For a small country like Slovenia, particularly if the migration flows are up to moderate, it does not make much sense to calculate most of the migration related indicators by the migrants' citizenship or country of birth. This is particularly true for indicators that are a cross-section of more than two dimensions (like numbers of immigrants, aged 25-74 years, by educational attainment, citizenship and sex). It is also non-productive to calculate indicators like the total fertility rate by citizenship or country of birth if there are only a couple of women who have citizenship of, or were born in, a particular country. The indicators become ever more absurd as we move from NUTS 1 towards NUTS 5. Due to that we recommend that the minimum absolute number of emigrants per country of departure and immigrants per destination country is set, below which the indicators would not be calculated. Such cases would rather be summed up by regions of Europe and the world, and the relevant indicators calculated.

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