

**UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE  
CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS**

**STATISTICAL OFFICE OF THE EUROPEAN UNION (EUROSTAT)**

**Joint UNECE/Eurostat Work Session on Migration Statistics,  
(Geneva, Switzerland, 14-16 April 2010)**

Working paper 8  
9 April 2010

Topic (4) of the provisional agenda

**MEASUREMENT OF MIGRATION BY DURATION AND BY REASON:  
DEFINITIONAL AND METHODOLOGICAL ISSUES**

**Progress report on work of the UNECE Task Force on the analysis of international migration  
estimates using different length of stay definitions**

Note by the Office for National Statistics, United Kingdom

**I. BACKGROUND**

1. Two different but interrelated aspects of international migration estimates have often been discussed by statisticians and researchers over recent years:
  - Different residency rules adopted by country and their impact on comparability of international migration estimates
  - Definition and availability of data on short-term migration flows
2. These issues were raised at the 2008 UNECE/Eurostat Work Session on Migration Statistics. Experts from Austria and the United Kingdom (UK) presented work undertaken to produce statistics on short-term migration using records from a registration system for Austria and a passenger survey for the UK. Discussion following the presentation of these papers recognised the interest in short-term migration and the impact of different length of stay definitions on international migration estimates across the UNECE area. Following the meeting, a Task Force was created to undertake a research study to consider these issues. Led by the UK, the Task Force has involved Austria, Norway, Slovenia, Switzerland and the Netherlands. Task Force members have provided requested data (where produced) and information on the sources used to produce these statistics.
3. The initial proposal of the Task Force set out two main goals and some specific sub-goals:
  - I. Assess the impact on international migration estimates derived from the use of different duration thresholds to define usual residence. Under this goal, the following sub-goals are identified:
    - a. How estimates of migration differ when different length of stay criteria are used;

- b. Whether using different definitions of migration has implications for the balance between immigration and emigration;
  - c. How well different data sources/systems can be used to measure migration using a range of definitions.
- II. Assess the availability of data on short-term migration, explore their accuracy and consider alternative definitions of short-term migration. Under this goal, the following sub-goals are identified:
- a. How many countries can produce data on short-term migration;
  - b. Assess data accuracy and relevance according to different definitions of short-term moves;
  - c. Assess the relative importance of short and long-term migration moves and how this has changed in recent years;
  - d. Evaluate the relative importance of different reasons for moving in the balance between long and short-term moves;
  - e. How well different data sources/systems can be used to measure short-term migration.

4. This paper gives an update on the work of the Task Force to the 2010 UNECE/Eurostat Work Session on Migration Statistics. The first section provides further context on the definition of migration. There follows a summary of comparative analysis undertaken to explore the central question of how different migration definitions affect relative migration flows. In addition to providing data for this project, members of the Task Force were asked to provide information on how different data sources/systems can be used to measure migration using a range of definitions. The penultimate section of the paper is a discussion of the implications of using these different sources/systems.

5. Meeting participants are invited to comment on both the conclusions of the paper and the proposed next steps for this work.

## II. DEFINING MIGRATION

6. How migration is defined directly affects the size of the estimate produced. Put simply, a broader definition of migration will cover more moves and so will result in larger estimates. Within this paper four alternative migration definitions have been considered in terms of length of stay. These are moves made for longer than (i) one month, (ii) three months, (iii) six months and (iv) twelve months.

7. Long-term international migration should be defined using the United Nations (UN) recommended definition of someone who changes his or her country of usual residence for a period of at least a year. In practice, the duration threshold used to determine who is considered a migrant can vary from country to country making international comparability more challenging. However, the effect of differing residency rules on migration estimates is not fully understood. This project will try to assess the consequences of using different durations on the estimates of inflows and outflows, their composition and net migration. The goal of the Task Force is to measure the impact of different duration thresholds on the estimates of flows and (if possible) to assess their composition by age, sex and origin.

8. The template of the questionnaire used to collect the data and metadata from the countries involved in the Task Force is provided in Annex A. A summary of the metadata collected is provided in Annex B.

### III. COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

9. A key summary of the data provided by the countries involved in the Task Force is shown in charts 1 and 2<sup>1</sup>. These charts show estimates of immigration using four different definitions, moves made for longer than (a) one month, (b) three months, (c) six months and (d) twelve months<sup>2</sup>. For each country the estimate is expressed as a percentage of the broadest definition as this includes all moves. This approach has been used to account for the large absolute differences in the size of flows between countries.

10. Chart 1 refers to the period 2001 to 2004 with chart 2 referring to the period 2005 to 2007. Data have been grouped into these two time periods for two reasons. Firstly, estimation of short-term migration flows in England & Wales highlighted a substantial increase in the number of such moves made for employment purposes in 2004, coinciding with European Union expansion in the same year. Secondly, information is only available for Slovenia from 2005.

11. General patterns can be highlighted from both charts. The greatest contrast in both charts is between the migration estimates in England & Wales and the Netherlands. In the former, the estimate of moves made for longer than twelve months is 30% that of the estimate for moves made for longer than one month. In the latter, the equivalent percentage is around 90%. Estimates for the other countries considered are between these two. In the Netherlands, the standard definition of migration used is 'someone who intends to stay in the country for at least four months'. This is an important factor in explaining some of the patterns presented in this paper, as few moves made for less than three months are registered in the Netherlands.

12. In both Switzerland and Slovenia, the percentage of all moves lasting longer than twelve months is even lower than for England & Wales, although it is a higher proportion for the other categories. In Austria, the difference between 2001-2004 and 2005-2007 is most marked with far smaller percentages of moves lasting longer than six and twelve months in the later period<sup>3</sup>.

13. The gradient of the decrease in the percentage of the estimates between moves made for longer than one month and moves made for longer than three months is steepest for England & Wales. However, for Switzerland and Slovenia, large percentage differences are shown between estimates of immigration based on moves made for more than six months and moves made for longer than twelve months. In the case of Slovenia, the moves made for longer than twelve months

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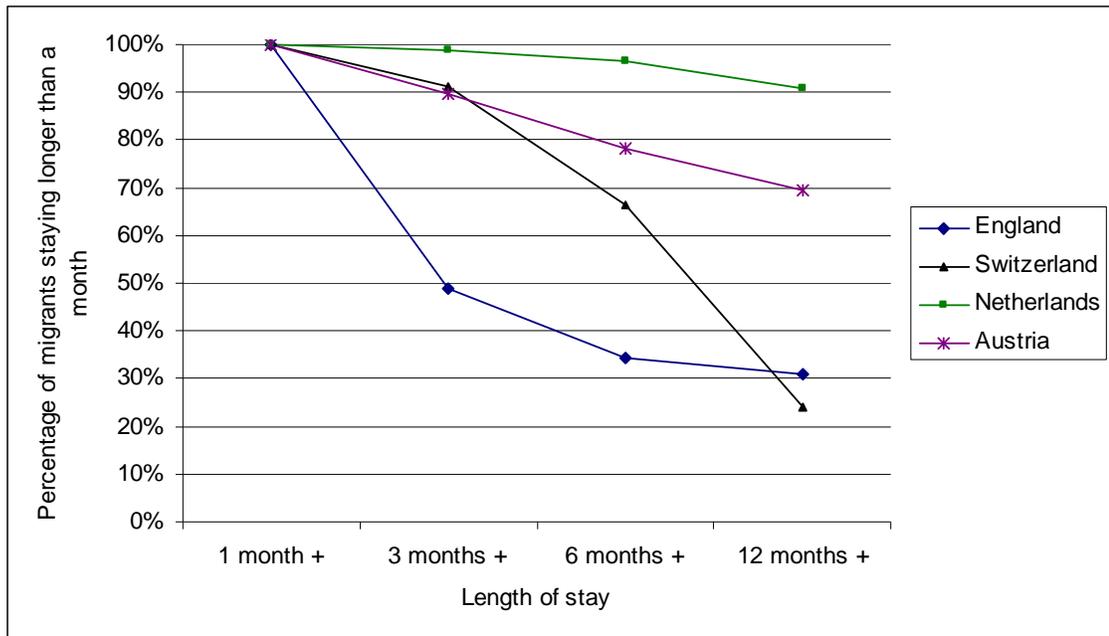
<sup>1</sup> England & Wales data have been used in the study rather than data for the UK.

<sup>2</sup> It is noted that length of stay is measured differently for the countries involved in the Task Force. For Austria, length of stay is based on retrospective collection of data for all migration. Retrospective information is also used for measuring emigration for Switzerland and migration moves of less than twelve months in the UK. Intentions data are used in the Netherlands, Slovenia and to measure moves lasting longer than twelve months in the UK. In Switzerland, immigration estimates are also based on intentions.

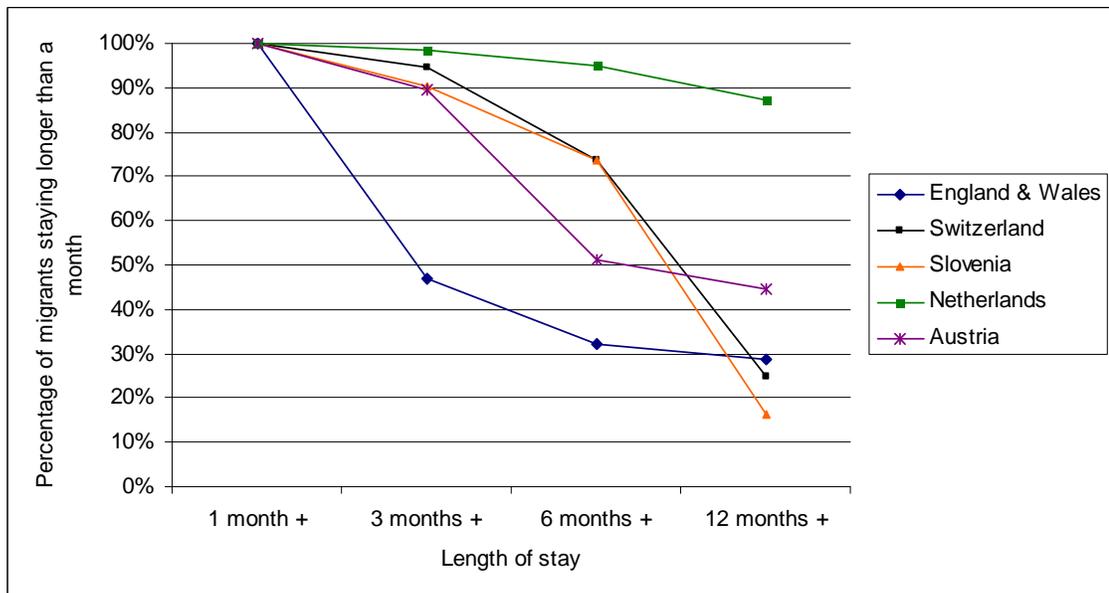
<sup>3</sup> It is noted that Austria have recently revised migration estimates for the data series back to 2002 in order to bring them in line with the results from the register-based test Census of 2006. This has resulted in slightly lower immigration figures.

are likely to be underestimated, as data are based on intentions to reside in the country and no correction is made for individuals who change their intentions after arrival and prolong their stay.

**Chart 1**  
Percentage of immigration moves lasting longer than one month  
under alternative migration definitions, 2001 to 2004



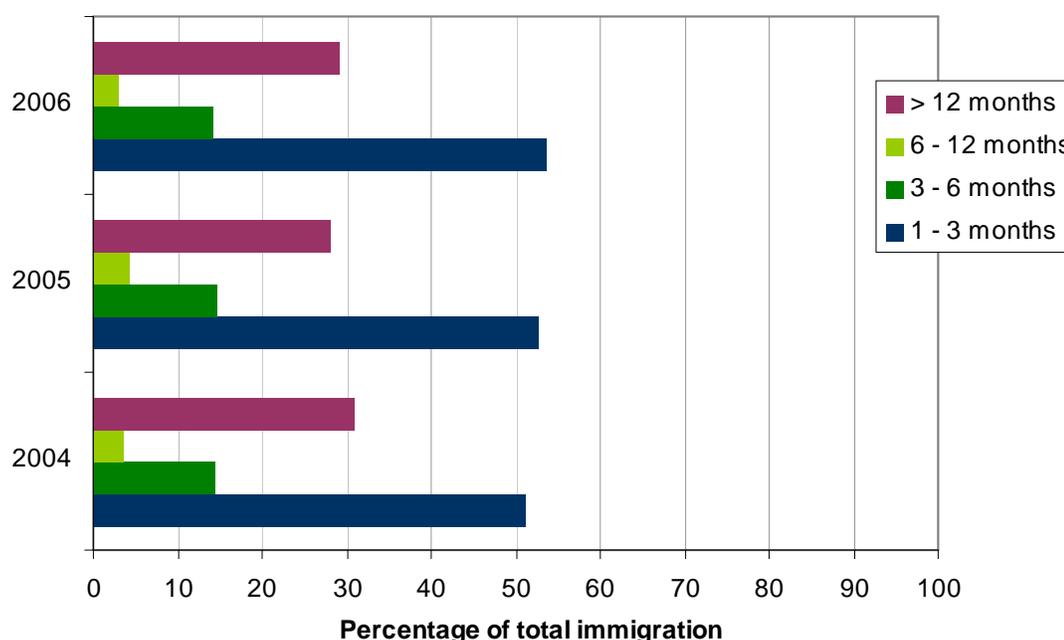
**Chart 2**  
Percentage of immigration moves lasting longer than one month  
under alternative migration definitions, 2005 to 2007



14. Separate analysis has also been undertaken into immigration estimates for each individual country across each year available in the study. Charts 3 and 4 show the share of immigration estimates for England & Wales and the Netherlands when considering moves made for (a) one to three months, (b) three to six months, (c) six to twelve months and (d) longer than twelve months<sup>4</sup>. For the purposes of this analysis, category (d) can be considered as long-term migration with categories (a), (b) and (c) as short-term migration.

15. A consistent year-on-year pattern is shown for the England & Wales estimates in chart 3. The percentage of all moves longer than one month is greatest for moves of one to three months with the smallest being moves made for between one to twelve months. It is apparent from this chart just how much larger immigration estimates would be if all moves for longer than one month were included.

**Chart 3**  
Percentage of total immigration estimates (moves made for longer than one month) in four length of stay categories for England & Wales

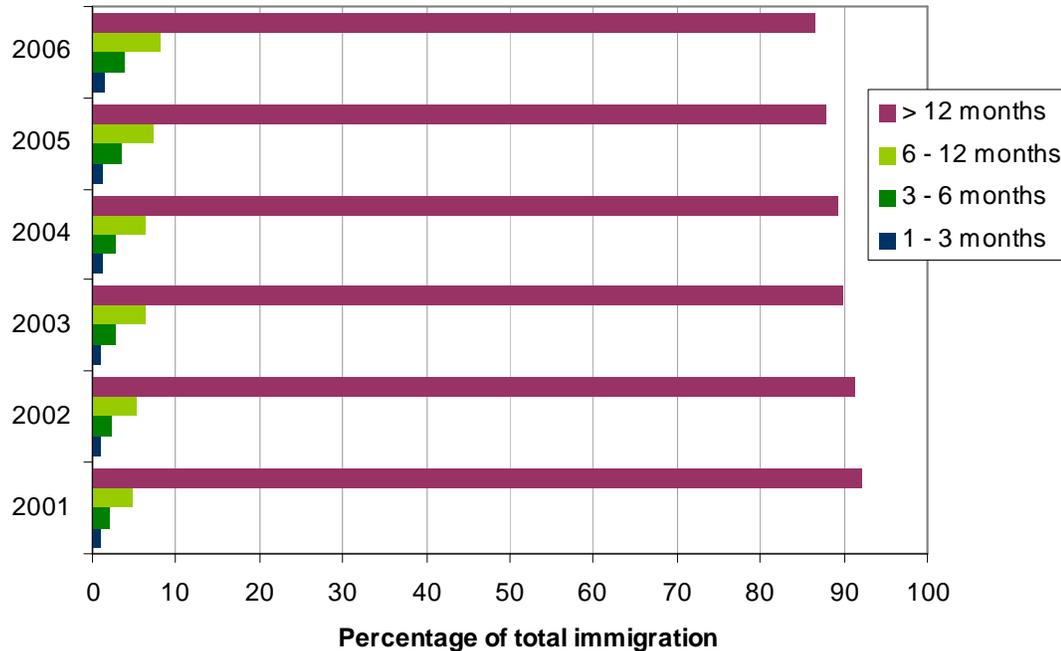


16. The equivalent figure for the Netherlands (chart 4) shows a very different pattern. Moves made for less than twelve months make up a fraction of all moves. Although the percentage of moves lasting longer than twelve months consistently decreases between 2001 and 2007, it is always over 85%. In contrast to England & Wales, this analysis demonstrates that alternative definitions have less of an impact for the Netherlands.

<sup>4</sup> It is noted that the length of stay groupings are not mutually exclusive and it is unclear whether the categories have been interpreted in the same way by each country. For example, if an individual stayed for 3 months, it is unclear whether they should be categorised as staying for 1 to 3 months or 3 to 6 months.

**Chart 4**

Percentage of total immigration estimates (moves made for longer than one month) in four length of stay categories for the Netherlands

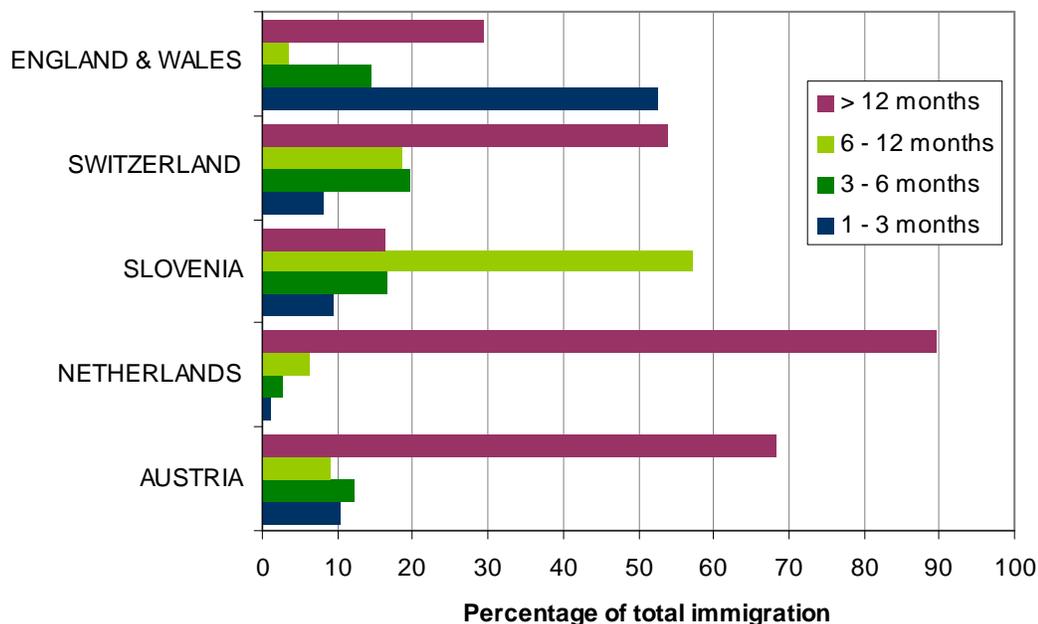


17. The scale of the difference between estimates for England & Wales and the Netherlands suggests that there may be inaccuracies in one or both of the estimates. This may reflect some of the challenges faced when using alternative migration definitions. These challenges are explored in section 4, in the context of the data systems used. Differences might also reflect whether data are based on individuals' intentions or are collected retrospectively (based on actual behavior). Intentions for some individuals will inevitably change after arrival. This issue is also discussed in section 4. Furthermore, it is noted that the migrant definition used in the Netherlands is 'someone who intends to stay in the country for at least four months'. Individuals staying for less time than this are unlikely to be registered, as reflected in chart 4.

18. The final chart presented in this analysis is chart 5 which shows the different length of stay categories for each of the countries. Immigration estimates are expressed as a proportion of all moves lasting longer than one month and cover all years available for each country between 2001 and 2007. Again, the Netherlands stands out on this diagram with the highest proportion of moves lasting more than twelve months although the equivalent proportion for Austria is also high and the distribution is similar for Switzerland. The distribution for Slovenia looks most unusual, with the highest proportion of moves made for six to twelve months, but it may be explained by the underestimation of moves made for longer than 12 months, as mentioned above (see paragraph 13).

**Chart 5**

Percentage of total immigration estimates (moves made for longer than one month) in four length of stay categories for all countries across the period 2001 to 2007



#### IV. SYSTEMS/SOURCES USED TO MEASURE DIFFERENT MIGRATION DEFINITIONS

19. It has been necessary to limit those countries involved in this study to those with the ability to measure migration using different definitions for the same time period. Although the systems and sources used by counties involved in the Task Force shared a degree of flexibility in terms of migration definition, they differ greatly in approach.

20. Two main forms of data collection system are used by the countries involved in the Task Force. In the UK, a sample survey, the International Passenger Survey (IPS), is used. A sample is drawn from all passengers entering or leaving the UK, only a fraction of whom will be migrants. In contrast, compulsory registration systems are used in Switzerland, Austria, Slovenia, and Netherlands. In principle at least, all migrants are contacted by such systems. However, it is important to note that there are exceptions to this. For instance, in the Netherlands, the migration definition is moves lasting longer than four months. This is likely to be part of the explanation for the pattern shown in chart 4.

21. This section considers how the two main forms of data collection system can be used in overcoming some of the main challenges which present themselves when using alternative migration.

#### ***IV.1 Migration estimates based on intentions or actual behavior - the trade off between accuracy and timeliness***

22. Duration of stay information can be based on either intentions (how long an individual intends to move for) or on retrospective information (how long an individual has lived in their new country of residence). Intentions information is inevitably more timely with retrospective information being more accurate as intentions are known to change.

23. There are examples of countries in the UNECE region that use intentions information and examples of countries using retrospective information. When exploring alternative migration definitions the need for timeliness may be regarded as paramount, for example if including shorter lengths of stays means leads to more variation in the series. For example if sudden changes in economic conditions have a more immediate impact on temporary migrants than on permanent migration. Alternatively, the need for accuracy may be considered more important as individuals who intend to stay for shorter periods are more likely to change their plans.

24. In the UK, the IPS measures both how long individuals intend to stay in (or away) from the UK and how long they have stayed or (been away). Passengers are sampled when they first arrive in the UK and when they depart. Estimates of permanent migration from the IPS can only be based on individuals intentions as, by definition, there is no move to another country of residence<sup>5</sup>.

25. In the case of non-permanent migration, individuals are sampled when they move to another country of residence. The recent development of estimates of migration lasting less than twelve months in the UK has been based on this retrospective information. Accuracy was regarded as paramount for these estimates, particularly given that research suggested that intentions were indeed more likely to change for these 'short-term' migrants.

26. Using retrospective information means there is an inevitably a time-lag in when estimates can be produced. Estimates of short-term migration for the year to mid-2009 were published in February 2010.

27. The time-lag using retrospective information is compounded by using a sample survey. As the sample is designed to produce estimates which are representative for a whole year, it is necessary to wait until the end of the year before estimates are produced and new patterns identified<sup>6</sup>.

28. Countries involved in the Task Force with population registers also make reference to a time lag when estimating non-permanent migration. In Austria, to produce a count of the number of people who spent less than one year in each country, it is necessary to wait twelve months after the end of the reference point when all such de-registrations have taken place.

29. Intentions-based counts of non-permanent migration can be produced by the Netherlands. As with intentions based data in the UK, the trade-off between timeliness and accuracy is recognised.

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<sup>5</sup> An adjustment is made to account for those who intended to move permanently but then left the UK after less than twelve months.

<sup>6</sup> As part of the Migration Statistics Improvement Programme, the Office for National Statistics have developed indicators of migration based on 'provisional' IPS data before it is adjusted at the end of the reporting period. As a consequence it has been possible to identify turning points in the long-term migration estimates series as much as eight months earlier than had previously been possible.

#### ***IV.2 Range of data collected***

30. The IPS uses a questionnaire to collect information from individuals moving into and out of the UK. In addition to collecting basic demographic information from those sampled, additional questions ask for example about the respondent's primary purpose for coming to the UK their country of birth and place of last residence. Research into IPS based estimates of the number of moves made for between 1 and 12 moves revealed that between 2004 and 2006 there was a substantial increase in the number of such temporary moves made for employment. It was possible to identify this feature of recent migration trends (associated with European Union expansion in 2004) using the information collected on respondent's primary purpose for coming to the UK.

31. It is noted that in the UK administrative data (National Insurance Number allocations) can also be used to identify the total number of individuals coming to the UK for employment. However no information is collected as part of this administrative process on how long each individual stayed or intended to stay.

32. Slovenia, the Netherlands and Switzerland were able to provide information on reason for visit. However, in Slovenia, only those moving for employment are identified and, in the Netherlands, reason for visit is available only for non-Dutch immigrants.

33. Registration-based systems are capable of producing a far greater depth of information as they are not based on a sample. While the IPS was able to identify the substantial increase in the number of workers coming to the UK for between one and twelve months, it was not possible to identify whether these workers were coming from the new European Union member states. In this case, these estimates (cross-classifying length of stay by reason for visit and country of last residence) were not robust enough given the relatively small sample size.

34. Where the information has been collected, very detailed cross-classifications can be produced from registration based systems. As an example, although they may not be able to identify the number of moves made for employment, they can identify moves made from any country in the world by age and sex.

#### ***IV.3 Availability of immigration and emigration estimates***

35. Regardless of how migration is defined, emigration tends to be less well estimated than immigration. In the UK, by sampling passengers on both entry and exit, the IPS provides estimates of both immigration and emigration.

36. Amongst the countries considered in this work with population registers, two further issues have arisen with emigration estimation. Firstly with the Swiss Central Migration Information System, it is noted that there is likely to be some underestimation of emigration due to non-registration on departure. This is a potentially problematic issue for any registration-based system with the extent of underestimation being difficult to estimate. In the Netherlands, administrative corrections (either removals or entries) are subsequently made. Such individuals who have

emigrated are treated as non-reported moves and are added to the 'real' registered emigration estimates.

37. A second inaccuracy is noted with the population register in Austria where retrospective de-registration removes individuals as emigrants. Without precise information on when individuals left, there is the potential for a bias on the length of stay individuals are estimated to have stayed. However, this should not be problematic if the share of short-term migration remains constant over time.

38. Both of these issues with emigration estimation in register based countries are relevant to the estimation of all moves. However, as stated previously, the temporary nature of moves lasting less than twelve months under alternative definitions may make such individuals less likely to de-register on departure and cause greater uncertainty in the estimates.

## V. CONCLUSIONS

39. The UN definition of long-term migration refers to individuals who change their country of usual residence for a period of at least one year. Within this study the impact of using alternative migration definitions to that recommended by the UN has been considered for the Task Force areas. Inevitably, using a broader definition of migration results in larger estimated flows. However as shown in charts 1 and 2 the impact of alternative definitions varies considerably for the countries under consideration.

40. Within the paper, the impact of the use of alternative definitions for the Netherlands has been contrasted to the impact for the UK. In the former the estimated number of moves made for longer than one month is most similar to the number of moves made for longer than twelve months. In the latter there is much greater difference between these two estimates, with similar differences being shown for Slovenia and Switzerland.

41. The conclusions reached in this paper are consistent for both of the time periods considered (2001-2004 & 2005-2007). As noted, the reason for choosing these periods was European Union expansion which occurred in 2004. Research in the UK showed that expansion coincided with a substantial increase in the number of short-term immigrants coming to the UK for employment. Similar patterns shown in the two periods, even for the UK, reflects the fact that employment is one of many reasons for individuals to temporarily change their residence.

42. A number of common issues have been identified when using alternative migration definitions, irrespective of how data have been collected. For example, both the Netherlands and the UK make reference to the availability of data based on individuals' intentions and based on information collected retrospectively. In both cases, there is a trade-off between the timeliness of resulting estimates (with intentions-based data) and accuracy (with data collected retrospectively).

43. A number of the issues discussed are relevant to the estimation of migration flows more generally, regardless of how it is defined. However, some of these issues may be more acute when stays of shorter duration are included. Individual's intentions may for example be more likely to change for more temporary moves.

44. While there are issues which present themselves regardless of how data is collected, the method of collection does have some implications. Questionnaires used in sample surveys collect a greater breadth of information, for example on reason for visit. However, in the absence of sampling variability, register based systems can provide more detailed estimates where information is collected.

## **VI. NEXT STEPS**

45. This paper has provided an update on the work undertaken on this project so far. As noted in the introduction, a wider set of aims were set out when this work was planned. Next steps to be carried forward by the Task Force include:

- Further analysis into the information collected by the study. This includes information on age and sex.
- Investigation into the implications of alternative migration definitions for emigration and the implications this has in turn on net migration estimation.
- Further investigation into the sources used to produce estimates including discussion of implications for countries developing/refining their methods of collection.
- Analysis into year-on-year fluctuations using different definitions rather than grouping into broad time periods.

## ANNEX A – QUESTIONNAIRE TEMPLATE

1. **Please indicate the name of the source:** Sample survey (please indicate the name), Population Census, Population register, Permits of stay, etc.

\_\_\_\_\_

2. **If different from the calendar year, what is the interval of reference?**

\_\_\_\_\_

3. **What is the population universe:** resident population (please indicate rules to be counted in the resident population), present population, 'legal population' (people who have a permit of stay), etc.?

\_\_\_\_\_

4. **Is the information collected by the source based on expected (ex-ante) or actual (ex-post) duration of stay?**

\_\_\_\_\_

5. **Are there any particular strengths/weaknesses you can identify for using this source for identifying migration moves by duration of stay?**

\_\_\_\_\_

6. **Additional information available from the source not included in the template.** Please specify whether the source also provide information on the following:

	YES	NO
Sector of Employment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Asylum Status	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Country of Last Residence	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Citizenship	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Circular Migration Moves <sup>7</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Legal status (regular/irregular)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (please specify): _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

7. **Other comments:**

\_\_\_\_\_

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<sup>7</sup> Circular migration refers here to individuals who regularly spend time periods of more than a few weeks in two (or more) different countries. An example might include individuals who spend 4 consecutive months at a holiday home but the rest of the year at a home in another country

**Table 1 – Immigration by Different Lengths of Stay and by Reason 2001-2007**

Length of Stay	Reason	Year of Entry						
		2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Longer than a month	All Study Work Family Other							
Longer than 3 months	All Study Work Family Other							
Longer than 6 months	All Study Work Family Other							
Longer than 12 months	All Study Work Family Other							

**Table 2 – Short and Long-Term Immigration by Reason 2001-2007**

Length of Stay	Reason	Year of Entry						
		2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
1 - 3 months	All Study Work Family Other							
3 - 6 months	All Study Work Family Other							
6 - 12 months	All Study Work Family Other							
Longer than 12 months	All Study Work Family Other							

**Table 3 – Emigration by Different Lengths of Stay and by Reason 2001-2007**

Length of Stay	Reason	Year of Exit						
		2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Longer than a month	All Study Work Family Other							
Longer than 3 months	All Study Work Family Other							
Longer than 6 months	All Study Work Family Other							
Longer than 12 months	All Study Work Family Other							

**Table 4 – Short and Long-Term Emigration by Reason 2001-2007**

Length of Stay	Reason	Year of Exit						
		2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
1 - 3 months	All Study Work Family Other							
3 - 6 months	All Study Work Family Other							
6 - 12 months	All Study Work Family Other							
Longer than 12 months	All Study Work Family Other							

**Table 5 - Immigration by Different Lengths of Stay and by Gender 2001-2007**

Length of Stay	Gender	Year of Entry						
		2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Longer than a month	Male							
	Female							
Longer than 3 months	Male							
	Female							
Longer than 6 months	Male							
	Female							
Longer than 12 months	Male							
	Female							

**Table 6 - Short and Long-Term Immigration by Gender 2001-2007**

Length of Stay	Gender	Year of Entry						
		2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
1 - 3 months	Male							
	Female							
3 - 6 months	Male							
	Female							
6 - 12 months	Male							
	Female							
Longer than 12 months	Male							
	Female							

**Table 7 - Emigration by Different Lengths of Stay and by Gender 2001-2007**

Length of Stay	Gender	Year of Exit						
		2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Longer than a month	Male							
	Female							
Longer than 3 months	Male							
	Female							
Longer than 6 months	Male							
	Female							
Longer than 12 months	Male							
	Female							

**Table 8 - Short and Long-Term Emigration by Gender 2001-2007**

Length of Stay	Gender	Year of Exit						
		2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
1 - 3 months	Male							
	Female							
3 - 6 months	Male							
	Female							
6 - 12 months	Male							
	Female							
Longer than 12 months	Male							
	Female							

**Table 9 - Immigration by Different Lengths of Stay and by Age 2001-2007**

Length of Stay	Age	Year of Entry						
		2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Longer than a month	0-17 18-59 60 and over							
Longer than 3 months	0-17 18-59 60 and over							
Longer than 6 months	0-17 18-59 60 and over							
Longer than 12 months	0-17 18-59 60 and over							

**Table 10 - Short and Long-Term Immigration by Age 2001-2007**

Length of Stay	Age	Year of Entry						
		2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
1 - 3 months	0-17 18-59 60 and over							
3 - 6 months	0-17 18-59 60 and over							
6 - 12 months	0-17 18-59 60 and over							
Longer than 12 months	0-17 18-59 60 and over							

**Table 11 - Emigration by Different Lengths of Stay and by Age 2001-2007**

Length of Stay	Age	Year of Exit						
		2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Longer than a month	0-17 18-59 60 and over							
Longer than 3 months	0-17 18-59 60 and over							
Longer than 6 months	0-17 18-59 60 and over							
Longer than 12 months	0-17 18-59 60 and over							

**Table 12 - Short and Long-Term Emigration by Age 2001-2007**

Length of Stay	Age	Year of Exit						
		2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
1 - 3 months	0-17 18-59 60 and over							
3 - 6 months	0-17 18-59 60 and over							
6 - 12 months	0-17 18-59 60 and over							
Longer than 12 months	0-17 18-59 60 and over							

## ANNEX B – INFORMATION ON SOURCES OF DATA

### 1. DATA SOURCES

	AUSTRIA	NETHERLANDS	SLOVENIA	SWITZERLAND	UNITED KINGDOM
<b>Source</b>	Population register	Population register	2005-2007: Database/Register of foreigners	Alien's register (Central Migration Information System)	International Passenger Survey (IPS)
<b>Reference period</b>	Calendar year	Calendar year	Calendar year	Calendar year	Mid-year (30 <sup>th</sup> June)
<b>Population</b>	Resident population	Resident population = all persons intending to stay for more than four months	2005-2007: foreign population  From 2008: whole population	Foreign population with a valid permit of stay, excluding asylum-seekers, diplomats and international civil servants  No information on length of stay/absence for Swiss citizens	Sample of all individuals who enter/leave the country
<b>Length of stay</b>	Actual	Expected	Expected (derived from validity of registered residence)	Expected for immigration (based on dates of arrival and permit expiry)  Actual for emigration (based on dates of arrival and departure)	Actual for short-term migration (1-12 months)  Expected for long-term migration (>12 months)

**2. DATA AVAILABILITY**

	<b>AUSTRIA</b>	<b>NETHERLANDS</b>	<b>SLOVENIA</b>	<b>SWITZERLAND</b>	<b>UNITED KINGDOM</b>
<b>Time period</b>	2002-2007	2001-2006	2005-2007	2003-2007	2004-2006
<b>Immigration</b>	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
<b>Emigration</b>	YES	YES	NO	YES	YES
<b>Reason for visit</b>	NO	YES (for non-Dutch immigrants only)	YES	YES	YES
<b>Gender</b>	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
<b>Age</b>	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
<b>Sector of employment</b>	NO	NO	YES	YES	YES
<b>Asylum status</b>	NO	NO	NO	YES	NO
<b>Country of last residence</b>	YES	YES	NO	NO	YES
<b>Citizenship</b>	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO
<b>Circular migration moves</b>	YES (with more than 90-day intervals)	YES (depending on registration of each entry/exit)	YES	NO	NO
<b>Country of birth</b>	YES	YES	NO	Only born in CH or born abroad	NO
<b>Parents' country of birth</b>	NO	YES	NO	NO	NO
<b>Marital status</b>	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO
<b>Position in household</b>	NO	YES	NO	NO	NO