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EUROPEAN FREE TRADE ASSOCIATION



INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION

# Towards Better Evidence on Migration and Development in Eastern Europe and Central Asia

## Workshop on Migration Statistics

**Organizers:** UNECE Statistical Division, EFTA Statistical Office, International Organization for Migration

**Place:** Almaty, Kazakhstan

**Dates:** 31-October-November 1 2013

**Participants:** 25-30

For 12 countries of Eastern Europe, Southern Caucasus and Central Asia (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan), migration statistics experts from national statistical offices and representatives from national migration and other relevant agencies (if funding available), as well as experts from international organizations

**Language:** English and Russian with simultaneous interpretation

### Background

The objective of the proposed workshop is to raise the importance of migration-development nexus in the EECA region and identify ways of improving measurement of the developmental impact of migration through the better use of existing data sources and the development of new sources. It also aims to develop possible migration-related indicators to be used for the post-2015 UN development agenda, which sees sustainable development at its core.

It aims to identify various ways how migration impacts development and to look at data availability and data needs for measuring such issues as emigration, brain-drain, labour migration, return and circular migration, remittances, and diaspora populations. Particular emphasis is placed on improving the collection and availability of migration statistics, with specific attention to data related to measuring the impact of migration on development. Reference to the migration profile methodology as a way of utilizing all existing data source will be made.

The upcoming 2013 High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development at the United Nations General Assembly will again highlight the critical need for better migration

data – not only on migration processes per se but also on how migration impacts development. The previous 2006 High-level Dialogue and the subsequent meetings within the Global Forum on Migration and Development concluded that international migration could play an important role in national development, provided it was supported by appropriate policies and development strategies. These events have also emphasised the importance of using appropriate statistical data in designing such policies and strategies and in measuring their effectiveness.

In addition to the High-level Dialogue, the UN will be developing the follow-up to its Millennium Development Goals, referred to as its post-2015 UN development agenda. Migration had been identified as a critical element for development, though indicators still need to be developed to measure its developmental impact. The formulation of this new development framework is a major priority of member states and the entire UN system, built upon an inclusive and open consultative process with stakeholders at the global, regional, and national level.

### **Purpose and scope of the workshop**

The purpose of the proposed workshop would be to bring together data producers and policy makers to discuss these migration and development data-related issues, from both the perspective of the upcoming High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, and the post-2015 UN development agenda. It would address measurement of issues related to migration and development, such as emigration, brain-drain, labour migration, return and circular migration, remittances, and diaspora populations. These issues are particularly salient in Eastern Europe, Southern Caucasus and Central Asia where the countries are undergoing economic transitions and are largely affected by migration. For example, circular migration has become a reality in many migrant sending countries, thereby calling for the need to ensure the temporary nature of their citizens' outmigration. It is often seen as a "win-win-win" proposition, providing gains to both host countries (fulfilling immediate labour market needs, increasing economic productivity, limiting long-term integration concerns, etc.) and origin countries (providing unemployment relief, bringing capital and skills back to their country, offsetting population loss, etc.), as well as providing benefits to the migrants themselves.

The workshop would address possible data indicators to measure development, as well as data-related issues related to developing these indicators. It would also look at how these data-related issues apply to specific groups like youth and women. It would look at current data situations and identify ways to reduce the gap between what is available and what is needed to help make effective policy decisions. Finally, it would look at how new and pre-existing data sources could be used to fill these needs, as well as encourage the exchange of data between countries to better measure things like emigration.

The workshop will be organised in 3 substantive sessions:

#### *1. Migration and development: areas of interest and measurement*

The purpose of the session is to identify relevant topics of interest related to migration and development, as well as measurement issues. This session will provide a possibility to discuss among participating countries and representatives from international organizations, the various data needs and measurement concerns for these topics. Topics to be covered include measurement of emigration, brain-drain, labour migration, return and circular migration, remittances, and diaspora populations. The importance of using appropriate

statistical data in designing such migration-related policies and strategies and in measuring their effectiveness will be emphasized.

*2. Available data sources and potential to improve these sources and develop new sources*

The objective of this session is to identify existing data sources as well as gaps in existing sources. Exploration of potential new data sources (e.g. household surveys modules or better use of administrative data) will also be addressed. This session will promote data sharing activities among countries, such as through the UNECE Clearing House on Migration Statistics.

*3. Development of indicators applicable to the post-2015 UN development agenda.*

The objective of this session is to identify possible migration-related indicators which could be used to help measure post-2015 goals set by the UN development agenda. It would not only investigate possible indicators, but also look at data availability and gaps related to the formulation of these indicators, specific to the situation of countries of Eastern Europe, Southern Caucasus and Central Asia.