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Migrant-specific use of the Labour Force Survey - Immigrants

Note by the Hungarian Central Statistical Office

Abstract

One of the challenges of migration statistics is to elaborate the methodology of indicators on integration of foreigners (by Zaragoza Declaration). The sources of indicators on employment should be the harmonised Labour Force Survey (EU-LFS) recommended by Eurostat.

In 2014 an ad hoc module was attached to the Labour Force Survey in quarter 2 with the purpose to measure labour market situation of migrants and their immediate descendants.

Similarly to other East-Central European countries, Hungarian Labour Force Survey is not appropriate to measure precisely the socio-economic characteristics of foreigners, due to the fact that their presence within the population is rather low and their regional distribution within the country is significantly different from natives. Above these some specific difficulties occur interviewing migrants like lingual problems, the lack of confidence towards interviewers, different work-schedule compared to natives, contacting difficulties. These problems cumulate when third country nationals are interviewed.

To treat these difficulties HCSO expanded LSF to third countries citizens in quarter 2, 2014, and took the following measures:

- sample boosting of the sample: beyond the basic sample of LFS, selected 4000 addresses, where the probability of living third countries' citizens seemed to be high (sources of addressees were: residence permit register, population register and census 2011).
- availability of self-responded paper questionnaires in 5 foreign languages (English, Russian, Vietnamese, Chinese, Arabic)
- Web questionnaire (in languages above mentioned)
- training for the contact with migrants and a manual for interviewers

As a result of the conducted survey we have gained a more detailed picture on the labour market integration of third countries' citizens in Hungary and we had the opportunity to assess the reliability of available registers.

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I. Introduction

1.   Migration statistics in Hungary and other Member States of European Union pay particular attention to the integration of foreigners and how it can be measured. In 2010, the EU Ministers responsible for integration adopted the Declaration of Zaragoza. The document recommends internationally comparable core indicators which can measure integration of foreigners in the area of employment, education, social inclusion, and active citizenship.

2.   The source of indicators on employment of foreigners should be the harmonised Labour Force Survey (EU-LFS) as Eurostat recommends/recommended by Eurostat. This survey is carried out in a regular basis according to the same methodology in all Member States, and can supply comparable core employment indicators like activity rate, employment rate, unemployment rate.

3.   Recognising differences in target groups of Member States' integration policies, and in order to maximise the added value of the indicators, data should be presented for either foreign born or third-country nationals and both where it is possible. Third country nationals are the target group in EU cooperation in area of integration.

4.   Similarly to other East-Central European countries, Hungarian Labour Force Survey is not appropriate to measure precisely the socio-economic characteristics of foreigners, due to the fact that their presence within the population is rather low and their regional distribution within the country is significantly different from natives' one. Beyond these some specific difficulties occur interviewing migrants like lingual problems, the lack of confidence towards interviewers, different work-schedule compared to natives, contacting difficulties. These problems cumulate when third country nationals are interviewed.

5.   As a result in Hungary some methodological developments are needed in order to supply indicators on labor market condition of third-country citizens. The most important elements of developments were as follows: carrying out a survey in a separate sample for third-country citizens, in which we used LFS questionnaire specialized for migrants, and migrant-specific data collection techniques.

6.   The source of methodological developments and the data collection finally completed in 2nd quarter, 2014 supported by the European Integration Fund with the aim to help the development of statistics on integration of third-country nationals.

7.   The main steps of methodological developments were the follows:

- to elaborate of self-responded paper questionnaires in 5 foreign languages (English, Russian, Vietnamese, Chinese, Arabic)

- to develop appropriate data collection techniques for effective questioning migrants

- Special training and a manual for interviewers

- to work out special sampling and weighting schemes for foreigners

II. Methodological developments

A. Development of the questionnaire

8. The preparation for statistical data collection on third-country citizens started a year earlier, already in May 2013. The first task was to prepare a questionnaire that is easy to fill in good quality by third-country citizens.

9. It has to be highlighted that due to complexity of the Hungarian questionnaire the Labour Force Survey can filled in only with help of interviewers, thus to turn this questionnaire into a self-reporting one meant a serious methodological task. The development and the formation of the questionnaire was carried out via using the methodology of cognitive testing. Through the whole process it was an important aspect to gain data that are comparable with data of LFS.

10. The following alterations were carried out on the questionnaire of LFS:

- The questionnaire was shortened and simplified

- Questions were put into a more perspicuous structure

- The explanation of some notions were added (e.g. main job, part-time job, helping family member)

- The questionnaire was translated into foreign languages: English, Russian, Chinese, Vietnamese and Arabic.

11. Besides the most important questions of the LFS basic questionnaire, some supplementary questions were added to the newly formulated questionnaire. The LFS questionnaire in the 2nd quarter 2014 was completed by a supplementary questionnaire concerning the integration of migrants and their descendants. This was also translated into the mentioned foreign languages. These supplementary questions, dealing with the over-qualification and the obstacles of the labour-market, were asked both on the sample of the LFS and on the specific sample of the third-country citizens.

B. Preparation of the interviews

12. Although the questionnaire was prepared to be convenient for independent filling, the data collection, according to the methodology of the LFS, was carried out with the contribution of interviewers, who helped in the completion of the questionnaire. This was important, as the interviewers carrying out the data collection had already participated in LFS earlier, thus they already knew well the occurring notions and the methodology. The interviewers had to ensure the completion of the questionnaires only on those addresses where they had found out that a third country citizen was living there. In that case all the persons living at the address had to be interviewed. If the interviewers found an address where there was no person living from the target group, they were asked to get information and they had to fill in a questionnaire concerning the insufficient filling.

13. The interviewers were helped by detailed guideline in carrying out the data collection. On the addresses where the interviewees spoke Hungarian, a laptop-

based interview could be carried out. On the addresses where the interviewees did not speak Hungarian, data collection executed by using paper-based questionnaires in foreign-languages. A language card helped in choosing the language of the questionnaire. According to the experiences, the contribution of the interviewers was rather useful for the data providers, for example they help was very useful in finding out which questions have to be answered and which not in the particular cases. Besides these data collection methods, there was the possibility to fill in the questionnaire in foreign languages on the internet, which also efficiently supported the independent completion of the questionnaire.

14.   The data collection concerning the migrants was rather special from numerous aspects, thus a strong emphasis was placed on the education of the interviewers.

15.   The fact that a trial survey was carried out in some districts of Budapest September 2013 to test the applicability of the formulated questionnaire and data collection technique helped substantially in the development of the educational material. This way we had the chance to share best practices and technologies.

16.   For example:

- how to use the language card

- the neighbours can help to get in touch with non-nationals

- it can be helpful and make them trustworthy if the interviewers can speak any other language than Hungarian

- it was the best, if the interviewers stayed at the address and gave support to fill in in the questionnaire

17.   As one of the aims of the data collection was to test the applicability of the sampling frame establishing the sample of the third-country citizens, the education of the interviewers included the guidance how to fill in the questionnaire concerning the insufficient filling.

C.   Sampling and weighting the third-country citizens

18.   The migration survey had numerous purposes. Its main purpose was to estimate the size of the target population and to estimate the labour-market and migration-related characteristics of the third-country citizens living in Hungary. The second purpose of the survey was to find out if the data sources on addresses of third-country citizens are suitable to get to the third-country citizens.

19.   The base of the sample did not include all the addresses of Hungary, but threes such data sources concerning the addresses of the third-country citizens. The three data sources were the following:

- the 2011 Census: the biggest disadvantage of this data that it is not up-to date, as 2.5 years passed since the Census,

- Population Register: personal data and address register of the Central Office for Administrative and Electronic Public Services. The data on address registered as a residence or as a place of stay derives from November 2013, and the data are more up-to-date,

- Register of foreigners: the actual register of the Office of Immigration and Nationality.

20. It is important to highlight that the migrant sample based on addresses meaning that the chosen items were the addresses deriving from the above mentioned data sources. The sampling frame was a complex one, it was the union of the three chosen sampling frame of the data sources.

21. Sampling was carried out according to one stage stratified selection, the allocation between the strata is proportional, and nearly every 15th address became part of the sample. The process of sampling was encumbered that the handling of the addresses in the different registers were often inaccurate and were not unified, thus often stored in diversified ways (in some cases the addresses are not stored the same way even within a register), thus it is difficult to identify the identical addresses.

Figure 1

Sampling Frame
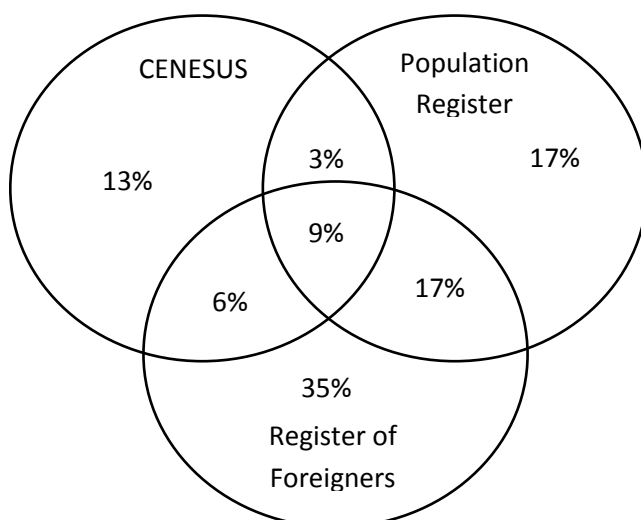
22. Figure 1 shows the distribution of the addresses of the sample according to the data sources. The number of addresses being present only in one of the data sources is high. This is partly due to the different and often imprecise handling of the addresses, and partly due to the fact that the purpose of the various registers is different and they cover various parts of the target groups.

III. The reliability of the data sources

23. After the data collection was ended, the reliability of the available data sources (the sampling frame) was assessed. On addresses where the data collection could be completed the data sources proved to be precise, as there was a third-country citizen living on the address. It is also important to know why some data collection attempts failed; whether the completion of the questionnaires failed because there was an error in the data sources.

24.   This was the reason why the interviewers not only had to fix the code of failure on the questionnaire, but also had to fill in another questionnaire concerning the reasons of the failure of completion. The questionnaire on failure was created that way that it would reveal as precisely as possible whether there is a third-country citizen living on the address.

25.   As it was impossible to find out on some addresses whether there third-country citizens live, one of the first steps of the weighing the information-lacking situation was eliminated with taking in consideration the information that were available at all the addresses (e.g. the environmental features, the consistency of the buildings, the type of the settlement, language). Thus we have the information for the whole sample whether there is someone from the target group living on the address. This is how we could examine the reliability of the data sources.

26.   During the process of numerical analysis on reliability of data sources the share of those addresses are taken into consideration where third country citizens were living, regardless of the fact if they completed the questionnaire or not (which could be due to various reasons of not willing to answer the questionnaire, or due to language barriers or unsuccessful trial to get into connection).

27.   The least errors (inhere over-coverage) was found in the data of Census, from where 45% of the addresses were really addresses of an immigrant. This was followed by the data of Population Register (with the accuracy of 42%), while not even at 1/3rd of the addresses deriving from the Register of Foreigners were found someone from the target group.

28.   This does not necessary mean that those third-country nationals registered on the given addresses do not live in Hungary. They may be living in Hungary on another address. Thus the data sources are characterised mainly as the sources of addresses.

IV.   Outcomes of the migrant survey

29.   Analysing separately the sampling frames it becomes clear that there is a high proportion of addresses in each sample where no third country citizen was living. The difficulties in reaching the target group influenced the outcomes of the survey.

Table 1

Realization of the survey

	number of cases	distribution (%)
All cases	4 014	100
Completed questionnaire	**565**	14.1
Refusal	432	10.8
Non-contacted household	659	16.4
Language problem, unable to response	29	0.7
Coverage error	2 329	58.0

Of which:		
Lack of targeted person	**1 642**	40.9
Other cases of coverage error *(vacant housing unit, no housing unit, unable to locate the address, etc.)*	687	17.1

30.   The table about the outcomes of the used address-based sample clearly shows that the most common reason for failure to complete was that no third country citizens was found in the selected address.

31.   In terms of the migrant survey, the most important is certainly the number of the cases when the questionnaire was completed. The realization of the migrant survey without overcoverage was 34%. For comparing, this rate of another household survey for nationals at Budapest was 49% (the migrant survey contained very high proportion of addresses in Budapest).

32.   An important step was the weighting of the sample, and developing a weighting scheme. It should be mentioned here that migrant population living in institutional accommodation or flats were not part of the survey. The next weighting step was to adjust the survey weights to match population control totals. Calibration is commonly used in sample surveys to address undercoverage bias, to reduce the mean square error of estimates and to create consistency with statistics from other studies.

33.   The weighting scheme was first determined by sample design and selection, but it had to be corrected as there were many addresses that occurred in all the three registers. After eliminating the duplications in addresses, the sample was weighed primarily taking into consideration the information whether third country nationals lived at the address or not. Then a weight for the completed cases was worked out to compensate the cases where data collection failed. On each separate sub-samples a weighting process was carried out, and as a final step these weights were combined.

V.   Results

A.   Size of target group

34.   From the 4 000 addresses the survey was carried out successfully in 565 cases. Based on the final weights, an estimation can be provided for the number of tenements where third-country nationals are living, which is 25 200 private tenements. Similarly to other voluntary samples of the HCSO, the survey was not carried out at institutional addresses.

35.   During the survey totally 931 third-country nationals answered the questionnaire, which means, that the number of third-country nationals living at private addresses can be estimated for 40,000 persons. For comparing, administrative registers say that there were approximately 60,000 third-country nationals resided in Hungary permanently (exceeding 1 year). The reasons for the differences can be explained as follows: in accordance with the methodology of

public surveys, the survey did not concern the third-country nationals living at institutional addresses as well.

36.   Above this, undercounting can be due to the fact that third-country nationals belong to a target group which is hard to reach, and foreigners usually behave in a more distrustful way against the interviewers. Furthermore, the discrepancies are influenced by the fact that administrative data sources do not always follow the real movements of foreigners, either their internal migration movements or their leaving the country temporarily or permanently.

B.   The fitting of results

37.   The fitting of the results of the migrant survey with statistics from administrative sources was examined as well. From administrative data sources the demographical structure of target group are well-known (these are determinant variables of labor market structures too). The results of the migrant survey do not show any significant discrepancies from the data regarding the official international migration based on administrative sources.

38.   For third-country nationals living in Hungary the following observations can be made:

- The proportion of the males is higher among third-country nationals than in the total population. In general, males are overrepresented in international migration.

- The age structure of third-country national migrants significantly differs from the age structure of the receiving society. A much younger age structure characterises the migrant population. The proportion of age the group 25-54 among third-country nationals, which age group is the most relevant for labor market, is 54% , while the proportion of the same age group is less than 42% in the total society.

- The migrant survey shows same country of origins as administrative data sources. The most important non-EU countries of origin are: China, Ukraine, Russia and Vietnam.

C.   Further demographic and migration-related characteristics

39.   Besides the above mentioned characteristics, the survey on migrants gave the opportunity to gather more precise information than the register based statistics already had on the third country nationals living in Hungary.

- Both parents of the great majority of the respondents (86%) were born outside the territory of Hungary and are not Hungarian nationals.

- The survey on migrants revealed that 41% of the males of third country nationals arrived to Hungary with the purpose to work, and 28% of them to study. Out of those who came with the purpose to work 30% arrived to fulfil a concrete job. In case of women, the purpose of migration was most often (41%) the family unification.

- The 38% of the respondents declared that they are living for less than 5 years in Hungary – the quarter of them only for 1 or 2 years. The ratio of the ones living in Hungary for more than 10 years is high (43%). More than half of main migrants are staying in Hungary for a longer period.

- The level of the Hungarian language knowledge implies the aim of the migration, but it influences the prosperity on the labour-market as well. The various nationality groups show a rather heterogeneous picture regarding the language knowledge.

VI.   The labour-market situation of third country nationals

A.   Labour-market indicators

40.   As it was already mentioned, the main purpose of the survey concerning the third-country citizens was the comparison of the labour market indicators (like the activity rate, employment rate and unemployment rate) of the third-country nationals living in Hungary and those of domestic population of Hungary. The data on the domestic population were known based on the data of the labour-force survey carried out in the 2nd quarter of 2014. The result of this are shown in the following table:

41.   The economic activity rate (the ratio of employed and the unemployed collectively) of the third- country nationalities between age 15 and 74 was 2 percentage point higher than that of the domestic population (60.8 and 58.5%). Taking into consideration the age group of 15-74, the ratio of the employment is higher regarding third-country nationals than regarding the domestic population.

Table 2

The Zaragoza indicators[1] of third-country nationals and Hungarians, 2q-2014

Age groups	Third country citizens a)			Hungarian population b)		
	activity rate	employ ment rate	unemplo yment rate	activit y rate	employ ment rate	unemplo yment rate
All together						
15–74	60.8	57.2	6.0	58.5	53.7	8.1
25–54	79.6	75.4	5.2	84.9	78.8	7.2
Male						

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[1] Activity rate: the ratio of economically active persons within the population
Employment rate: the ratio of employed persons within the population
Unemployment rate: the ration of unemployed persons within the economically active population.
When calculating the ratio of the given age groups the relevant age group of the population is taken into consideration.

15–74	69.9	65.9	5.6	65.5	60.3	8.0
25–54	88.1	83.3	-	91.1	84.8	7.0
			Female			
15–74	50.2	46.8	6.7	51.9	47.6	8.2
25–54	69.6	66.2	-	78.7	72.8	7.5

a)   *Migrant Survey*

b)   *Labour-force survey (LFS)*

42.   When it is taken into consideration that the migrant population has a different age structure, a higher rate of activity rate is detected in the age group between 25 and 54 years old, which is the most typical age for working. While the activity rate is 80% in the 25-54 age group of the migrant population, the activity rate is 85% in the same age group of the domestic Hungarian population, which means that when focused on this specific age group the third-country citizens show more unfavourable values.

43.   The overall differences between migrant and domestic population is mainly due to the different demographical structure of the two groups. If the different age structure is left out of consideration, the activity rate of the migrant population is not higher than that of the domestic population. The difference between the activity rates concerning the whole age group is on the whole due to fact that in case of the migrants, the ratio of the most active age group (25-54) is higher within the whole migrant population.

44.   When the target group is analysed by sex, the data show that women are in an unfavourable situation (their inactivity rate is high). Regardless of whether a narrow or the wide age group is focused on when doing the analysis, the economic activity and the employment rate of the third-country women is less favourable than those of the domestic Hungarian women. Besides, when analysing the labour-market indicators of the third country-citizens, the results also revealed that there are more unfavourable differences between the two sexes than in the case of the domestic population.

B.   The employment characteristics of third-country nationals

45.   Position, activity and employment on the labour-market of various migrant groups originating from different countries show a rather heterogenic picture.

46.   The presence on the labour-market is typically high of the Vietnamese and the Chinese with high employment rate (76-77%) and low unemployment rate (2-4%)[2]. In contrast, the activity rates of the Ukrainians and Russians are low compared both to the third-country migrants and the domestic population of Hungarians.

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[2] Based on the data of the 2011 Census their employment rate was over 70%.

47.   One of the determinative factors in the opportunities on the labour-market is the educational qualification of the persons in the most active age (25-54). There are considerable differences when the highest educational qualifications are taken into consideration. For example in case of persons with higher educational qualifications usually have stronger intention to migrate, as they can get employed more easily. Moreover, in some cases they receive a job abroad due to their stronger qualifications. The rate of the persons with higher education is the highest in case of the Russian citizens, though the Chinese, Ukrainian and Vietnamese citizens show better results in this respect than the domestic Hungarian population.

48.   In most of the cases the higher educational qualification of the third-country citizens also means that many of them fill in posts that require higher educational qualifications. While the majority (55%) of the employed third-country citizens is working in a position that requires higher qualifications (the main groups 1-3 in the unified job classification system), this is true only for just a bit more than 1/3rd (37%) of the Hungarian citizens

49.   The employment form of the third-country nationals is significantly differs from Hungarians. Both the ratio of self-employed is much higher and the ratio of employees is lower in case of the migrant groups. This may be due to the various cultural differences, but the data showed that third-country nationals work in higher ratio in commerce and services, where self-employment is the main employment form. At the same time, this notion may mean the more difficult entrance for the traditional labour-market, and it may be a particular form of being excluded as well.

C.   Over-qualification

50.   How migrants utilize their occupation and school qualification in the Hungarian labour market? Over-qualification among migrants can be measured by objective numbers and by subjective self-assessment of migrants. The migrants' survey provide us possibility to examine it in both ways.

51.   Over-qualification in labour market was dealt in Declaration of Zaragoza as well, aiming at establishing of a variable which is comparable between MS's. In line with recommendation of Eurostat[3] over-qualification is measured among all of the employees with university qualification who are employed in jobs where law or middle level of qualification is needed.

52.   The proportion of university-qualified employees with jobs that require low or medium qualification among migrants is higher than among nationals. Besides that in case of third-country immigrants there is a greater difference between the over-qualification rates by sex (over-qualification is more common among men

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[3] Eurostat: Indicators of Immigrants Integration (A Pilot Study), 2011.
http://ec.europa.eu/danmark/documents/alle_emner/juridiske/110720_eurostatrapport_integration_en.pdf

than women), while in the Hungarian population the indicator hardly differs between men and women.

53.   The subjective self-assessments of persons show, that migrants assess themselves more frequently over-overqualified than Hungarians and topping it all off the difference is more scathing than the objective figures. 8.4 % of Hungarians assess themselves overqualified while 14.8 % of migrants.

54.   Main obstacles preventing migrants to have better jobs are the following: 31% claimed the insufficient knowledge of the Hungarian language, 26% claimed no particular obstacle, while 24% mentioned their origin, religious or social background.

VII.   Summary

55.   The migrant survey aimed to reach the third country nationals living in Hungary based on sample coverage of addresses obtained from three different data sources: the 2011 Census, the Population Register and the Register of Foreigners. The elaboration of the final weight made it possible to represent migrants living in private housing.

56.   The migrant survey gave space on the one hand to measure more accurately the integrational indicators describing the labour-market situation, and on the other hand to monitor more precisely their integration.

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