Cross-border exchange of administrative registers to improve register-based population and migration statistics

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Summary

0. Migration in Spain in recent years

1. Population and Migration Statistics in Spain: the population register ("Padrón")
   1.1 How it Works
   1.2 An example: flows between UK and Spain (and stocks)

2. Exchange of (individual) data between countries?
   What kind of data could be exchanged?
   To do what with them?
0. Migration into Spain during the last years

Resident Population in Spain by place of birth 2002-2015

Foreign Population. Jan 1st 2015 (%)
By Law, all people living in Spain must be registered in the municipality where they live (without any legal or administrative restriction)

Since May 1996 municipal registers are integrated into a national database managed by INE

Why are people interested in being registered?:

Because it provides access to education, social services, health system, municipalities services. It is a proof of residence for all purposes

Why are people interested in getting deregistered (when they leave the country)?
no benefits => not many deregistrations made by citizens
So, how do we manage to deregister people / measure emigration?

There is a legal procedure for administrative deregistration of foreign population

Non European Union and non permanent residents

- The Citizens have to renew their registration every two years.
- Otherwise the registration expires.

European Union’s and permanent residents:

- The Municipality has to check their residence every FIVE years.
- Otherwise their registrations do not expire but they are not counted in population figures.

Spaniards:

- No expiration procedure for registrations.
- (They are deregistered when the declare to be living abroad)

✓ The number of deregistrations do not reflect actual emigration flows but in 80% of cases it is the result of the administrative process.

✓ Migration Statistics (and Population Figures) in Spain are not calculated simply counting registered people but after some statistical treatment to solve it.
But, using raw data or after any statistical treatment, what we are measuring is what the population register shows about migration. This information in general is:

- good for non-EU citizens
- not so bad for EU citizens (or non-EU permanent residents)
- not enough to know about Spaniards leaving the country

And the number of Spaniards registered abroad seems to be growing...
1.2 An example: flows between UK and Spain

Expats in Spain unsettled by referendum on BRExit

If Britain leaves the EU this will have a major effect on British expats living in Spain. For some sun-seeking Britons, a cloud has formed over the whitewashed villages, beach bars and golf courses of Spain - the risk that Britain will drop out of the European Union.

Over the last three decades, hundreds of thousands of Britons have used the EU's right to free movement to settle in Spain, drawn by warmer weather, cheaper property and a new life.

But the implications of a referendum on EU membership that Prime Minister David Cameron has promised by 2017 are troubling some of the 800,000 Britons who have made Spain their home (unofficial estimate, the official number registered with the INE is less than half this figure).

UK Citizens in Spain. How many?

800,000 in Newspapers?
378,000 registered?
300,000 counted?

How many actually living?

What vital statistics say…

only 2,764 deaths of Britons in 2014 (it should be more than 8,000)
And a press release by another NSI (Germany, UK…) can reach the headlines in Spanish TV

Demographers disagree on the number of people leaving the country
In some cases they multiply by three the official figures of 225,000
There is a lack of statistical mechanisms for registering emigration quickly

¿A cuántos españoles ha expulsado la crisis?
Los demógrafos discrepan sobre el número de salidas al extranjero
En algunos casos multiplican por tres la cifra oficial de 225,000
Falta un mecanismo estadístico capaz de registrarlas con rapidez
2. Exchange of data. How?

What are we proposing to exchange?

Flows? Stocks?

200 countries X 200 countries?

Let’s make it easier

We propose to conduct pilot projects

✓ ONLY FOR STATISTICAL PURPOSES (no deregistrations foreseen)!!!!

Spanish Law allows interchange for statistical purposes with other NSIs. Data Protection Agency has been consulted.
2. Exchange of data

- What kind of pilot studies?

Possible examples:

- Romanians registered in Spain as residents linked with Romanian social security registers to estimate double counting

- Britons registered in Spain aged 90 and over with British death records (there are almost 3,000 foreign centenarians registered in Spain)

- Spain Nationals in the Register of Foreign Nationals in Germany (ARZ) with Spanish *Padrón*

What would we need?

- We may exchange with countries NOT having a population register

- But we need to link Individual Data between Member States: PERSONAL data (name, address, date of birth, place of birth, IDs (Passport number))?

- We will not have the national ID number to link but it may work with these data
To do what with these data?

At least, a not so small benefit: Quality assessment. We can use this information to detect weakest points of the population register.

Better: We can improve figures. No deregistrations but registers not counted!!

It is possible for INE: population figures are calculated from (but are not exactly) the number of Registered people.

Much Better (but outside the scope now):

If agreed upon and under legal provisions, with legal guarantees to citizens and in particular conditions, we could use information from other countries to actually update the population register.
How to start?

- We are offering billateral interchange of information to any country interested just to make pilot projects that can be useful for both sides.

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1.2 An example: flows between UK and Spain

Spaniards in UK. How many?

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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. INE</td>
<td>57,770</td>
<td>60,368</td>
<td>64,317</td>
<td>69,097</td>
<td>74,389</td>
<td>81,519</td>
<td>91,316</td>
<td>102,498</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. ONS(*)</td>
<td>65,994</td>
<td>64,236</td>
<td>67,158</td>
<td>75,561</td>
<td>81,775</td>
<td>93,091</td>
<td>133,323</td>
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<tr>
<td>(1)/(2)</td>
<td>88%</td>
<td>94%</td>
<td>96%</td>
<td>91%</td>
<td>91%</td>
<td>88%</td>
<td>68%</td>
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According to another source (NINo allocations in UK) It seems that the flow of Spaniards to UK was growing in 2013 (?)