UNECE Task Force on “Data Integration for Measuring Migration”

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Data integration for measuring migration:

At the Joint UNECE-Eurostat Work sesión on migration statistics in 2014, 10 countries presented / discussed about this topic

At this meeting it was recommended to promote further methodological work

CES Bureau established a Task Force in october 2015.

Members from UNECE, Eurostat, UK, USA, Canada, New Zealand, Switzerland, Austria, Italy, Spain (chair)
The concept: Data integration for measuring migration...

A general (open) definition:

“A statistical activity on two or more datasets resulting in a single enlarged and/or higher quality dataset”
Case 3: same units, partially overlapping variables

Case 4: same variables, partially overlapping units

Case 5: partially overlapping units and variables

Other cases: calibration to external sources, mirror statistics
A questionnaire was sent to countries in September 2016. 56 replies received from countries.

Some results:

**Data on international flows based on more than one source?**
- 43%: A single Source
- 57%: More than one

**Data on foreign population or population born abroad (stocks)**
- 46%: A single Source
- 54%: More than one

**How are these sources integrated?**
- Macro-level (combining aggregated data): 11
- Micro-level (combining individual data): 10
- Both macro and micro: 8
- Not combined: 2

**How are these sources integrated?**
- Macro-level (combining aggregated data): 7
- Micro-level (combining individual data): 8
- Both macro and micro: 1
- Not combined: 12
From the replies to the questionnaire some cases were selected. Those countries were asked for a more detailed description.

The draft report contains 13 “case studies”:

Italy, New Zealand, Spain, Switzerland, UK, Canada, Israel, Netherlands, Hungary, Latvia, Austria, USA, Australia.

The reports follow the same structure. They answer these 4 questions:

1. Original/primary source for the measurement of migration statistics
2. Limitations of the original or main source. Why is integration necessary?
3. Methods used for data integration
4. Benefit of integration with statistics from other sources
Conclusions….

✓ Almost impossible to draw general conclusions. Many different circumstances

✓ A frequent case: Micro-linking of different sources covering different population groups (like EU and non-EU, ...)

✓ Another typical case: A population register as backbone, combined with sources used to improve it
  - “Life signs” used to measure emigration and stocks of foreign born population

✓ Macro-integration:
  - calibration to external sources (A passenger survey + other sources)
  - Mirror statistics. Observed flows calibrated to external figures

And recommendations….

If you are thinking of integrating data for improving migration data…
Go on! you are not alone!
Thank You!

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