FOREIGNERS SEEKING REFUGE IN GERMANY

Quantifying the stock of foreigners seeking protection in Germany based on Residence Permit Data

The German Experience with Refugees and Asylum Seekers since 2014

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1. The problem to be tackled – stocks and flows
   How many foreigners seeking refuge are there in Germany?
   When did they come and where from?

2. Data sources and means of identification
   Why use administrative data and how to proceed?

3. Data quality and acceptability
   Will the public consider the data as good enough and ‘accept’
   the given information? What is left to do, if not?

4. Outlook
Foreigners seeking refuge
– the problem of stocks and flows–

• Like in many countries, there is data on asylum applications and decisions in Germany. These data don’t tell the whole story though.

• What additional information is needed? On persons with an asylum decision pending, with protection granted, with protection denied? Number of cases? Characteristics of the persons concerned?

• Is there a need for linking stocks and flows? Is such a linking feasible? What extra insight will we gain?
Data sources and means of identification

- Potential data sources are *administrative data* and *surveys*; specific information is needed when trying to identify foreigners seeking refuge.
- We use the *information on residence permits* in the German *Central Register of Foreigners (CRF)* for identifying foreigners seeking refuge.
- The source contains *demographic and migration-related*, but *no socio-economic information* (e.g. education, labor market participation etc.).
All aspects of data quality are particularly crucial when dealing with a sensitive topic such as refuge.

The quality of ‘Residence Permit’ data in the CRF is considered to be good though not complete. Other information (e.g. marital status) needs more work, and overall completeness is not established yet.

We don’t known yet, whether the public will accept the new information ‘as is’, or if one will doubt some or all the information contained.
Outlook

• Results will be made available shortly as tables on our website and as an electronic publication.
• All data are accessible via the link https://www.destatis.de/EN/FactsFigures/SocietyState/Population/MigrationIntegration/MigrationIntegration.html in the tab “Persons seeking protection”
• Detailed data will be made available in our dissemination data base GENESIS beginning of year 2018.
Outlook – 2

• The next step will be analyzing the user feed-back.
• Then we will explore the feasibility of enriching the existing administrative data set on foreigners seeking refuge with socioeconomic survey data from the LFS by means of stochastic matching.
• Other European countries may use this or a similar approach, as Regulation (EC) 862/2007 requires all EU-Member States to collect statistical data on a harmonized list of residence permits.
THANK YOU!

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