

**High-level Seminar
on Population Censuses and Migration Statistics in CIS Countries**

Migration Statistics in Spain

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The measurement of international migration is not something new for statistical offices but the way to measure it changes over time. In the case of Spain, the main source during the last decades has been the movements recorded in the population register. During the period 2004-2012 a new system was used to calculate migration flows in a more precise way, introducing some statistical treatment in the process of counting those flows that were improved several times. As a result of it, since 2013 a new operation "*Migration Statistics*" (*MS*) has been formally put in force in the Official Plan of Statistics in Spain. Its objective is to provide a measurement on the international migratory flows both at national and regional level as well as on the internal migrations. The results are very detailed: they are broken down by month, sex, year of birth, age, country of nationality and country of birth of the migrant, and country of origin and destination of the migration.

The origin of these statistics is still today the movements recorded in the Municipal Register database but data are treated to better reflect the statistical concept of international migration. Moreover, the methodology is open to include some others sources and improvements that are currently under study (mirror statistics, usage of "*big data*").

The measurement of flows is not the only source of concern for the statistical system. In a country like Spain, where the foreign population has increased from 1% of population in 1995 to 13% in 2010 it is also very relevant to get information about other aspects related to migration like reasons for coming or social integration. A National Immigrant Survey was developed in 2007 to cover many social aspects for foreign population.
