

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

Development of international migration statistics in Russia on the basis of census and administrative data

Svetlana Nikitina, Director of Department for population and healthcare statistics, ROSSTAT

Migration, arrival and departure records, compared to the registration of births and deaths, are regarded as the most challenging issues in the demographic statistics. It is no coincidence that discrepancy between the census data and current population estimates is usually attributed to misreporting of migration, while appropriate adjustments are made to the data during the inter-census period. Russian statistics faces this problem after each census.

The increasing demand for information on migration processes and their variety resulted in modernization and intensive use of various sources in receiving countries. One of the challenges faced by the Russian statistics is the task to establish a system for monitoring of migration, which will contain different types of data complementing each other, rather than disorient society by contradictory information. With the rapid development of information technologies in administrative registers of the population we need to reevaluate the place of censuses, surveys and administrative sources of information in the modern system of collection of data on migration processes.

In Russia population census is a traditional and main source of data on migration, both external and internal. In particular, only the census provides information on the number of migrants that were born outside Russia, or non-citizens, their main social and demographic, economic, ethnic and cultural characteristics.

Sample surveys that were not widely used before should take their place in the system of data sources. Currently, the set of migration questions is included in the Survey on employment; in 2014 Rosstat plans to conduct a targeted survey aimed at studying of labor migration.

The role of administrative data sources on migration in Russia in recent years has significantly increased, and this trend will continue. The Data warehouse on registration of foreign citizens was introduced in Russia. This will help the Federal Migration Service to produce statistical reports reflecting the migration of foreigners, residence permits issuance, labor migration, and citizenship. Currently the similar data warehouse for Russian population movement is under the development. Rosstat continues an ongoing dialogue with the Federal Migration Service, assessing the possibility of using information resources of the Migration Service to improve the technology and quality of the current observation of migration flows. Rosstat explores the

potential of other administrative sources to obtain the information on impact of migration on demographic processes in Russia and its regions.
