Guidelines for Inter-Country Migration Data Exchange

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Benefits of Data Exchange

- Provides information missing from regular national data collection systems (e.g. estimate number of citizens living abroad)

- Provides information about the characteristics and conditions of citizens living abroad
UNECE related activities

• Task Force on Measuring Emigration (2005-8)
• Migration Clearing House database (12 CIS countries, 2009-2012)
UNECE Data Exchange Exercise

- Task Force on Measuring Emigration
  - Templates Used To Exchange Data among participating countries

- Major Findings
  - Data on flows more complete for destination countries than origin countries.
  - Potential for sharing data to improve migration statistics was evident.
Example of inter-country comparison of data on migrants

Data on flows from Italy to Switzerland

![Graph showing data on flows from Italy to Switzerland from 1995 to 2003. The x-axis represents the years 1995 to 2003, and the y-axis represents the number of persons. The graph includes two sets of data: immigration data (provided by Switzerland) and emigration data (provided by Italy).]
Conclusions from data exchange exercise

• Immigration data from receiving countries can be used to improve estimates of emigration in sending countries

• Data on immigration is not always easily accessible by interested users (makes data exchange necessary)

• Need to develop guidelines for the exchange of data

• Consideration of creating a central clearing house for collecting and storing migration data to facilitate the accessibility of statistics;
Guidelines for Exchanging Data to Improve Emigration Statistics

General objectives

- Provide guidance to countries considering using immigration data of receiving countries for emigration estimates
- Draw attention of countries producing immigration data to the fact that countries of emigration are an important user of their data.
- Role for International Organizations in data collection
Content of Guidelines

- Emigration data
- Critical issues when using immigration data as a possible source of emigration data
- Improving availability, quality, and accessibility of data
Guidelines-based best practices

- Countries seeking emigration data
- Countries producing immigration data
- Guideline Applications
  - CIS countries (regional perspective)
    - Lead to creation of Migration Clearing House Database

Migration Clearing House Database

- **Background**
  - Bishkek Workshop (2010)

- **General Principles**
  - Platform for sharing and dissemination of basic data on international migration

- **General Conditions**
  - Not duplicate other work
  - Provide value
Migration Clearing House Database

- Technical IT aspects
  - Low requirements
- Organization aspects
  - Focal points
  - Collected bi-annually
Migration Clearing House Database

- Accomplishments 2011-2012
  - Created IT infrastructure and focal point network
  - First round of data collection
  - Limited Public release
    http://w3.unece.org/pxweb/

- Provide metadata for Tables in English and Russian
- Data review (complete evaluation of current data quality)
- Establish Regular Process for updating Data
- Data dissemination strategy
Possible Additions

- National Data Sharing OSCE/IOM
  - Tables of administrative data