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**Migration statistics and globalisation:  
challenges for the European Statistical System**

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While it is a difficult and complex task to attempt to quantify the direct and indirect impact of globalisation on international migration, there is strong suggestive evidence that globalisation has fostered migration flows--both legal and clandestine--and has raised serious social, economic and political concerns in the receiving, transit and sending countries. In this paper, while we recognise the complexity, dynamism and uncertainty of the two phenomena, we argue that there is an important momentum for the European Statistical System to grasp a unique opportunity in order to create an effective *framework of migration statistics* able to cope with globalisation uncertainty as well as with current and future policy demands regarding migration. Never before have policy developments in the Justice, Freedom & Security fields been co-ordinated so closely with the adoption of statistical legislation and strategic thinking in the social statistics area.

## 1. Introduction

While it is a difficult and complex task to attempt to quantify the direct and indirect impact of globalisation on international migration, there is strong suggestive evidence that globalisation has fostered migration flows--both legal and clandestine--and has raised serious social, economic and political concerns in the receiving, transit and sending countries. Among the most frequently cited issues in this regard relate to the *integration of immigrants, brain drain,*

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The views expressed here are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the policies of the European Commission.

*exploitation of immigrants, human trafficking, security and border controls, labour market impacts (including low wages, job stability and unemployment), replacement migration and demographic ageing, return migration, gender perspectives in migration, etc.* Globalisation of ICT --the internet revolution in particular--and the ease of geographical movements of persons have resulted in instantly available linkages between migrants and their home countries to an extent which, on the one hand may encourage additional migration and, on the other hand, has raised a number of questions on the changing nature of 'multiculturalism' and the emergence of what Nobel Prize economist Amartya Sen [1] calls 'plural monoculturalism' where different styles of traditions live side by side but do not touch.

The effectiveness of European Migration Statistics depends--largely--on their ability to respond to questions which relate to issues such as those mentioned above and to provide a comprehensive quantitative framework for comparative analytical work capable of anticipating future developments rather than 'reacting' to those developments with considerable time lags. The conceptual complexity (i.e. definitions) and uncertainty of future trends and forms of globalisation and international migration are often used as an excuse of not establishing a comprehensive analytical and statistical framework which can provide robust answers to alternative policy scenarios. In this paper, while we recognise the complexity, dynamism and uncertainty of the two phenomena, we argue that there is an important momentum for the European Statistical System to grasp a unique opportunity in order to create an effective *framework of migration statistics* able to cope with globalisation uncertainty as well as with current and future policy demands regarding migration. Never before have policy developments<sup>2</sup> in the Justice, Freedom & Security fields been co-ordinated so closely with the adoption of statistical legislation<sup>3</sup> and strategic thinking in the social statistics area<sup>4</sup>. The paper explains how the ESS can be successful in this challenge.

Given that there is a lot of controversy about both the term globalisation as well as its relationship with migration, we consider it necessary to devote a few lines on these two questions. Then we try to identify the main policy concerns regarding immigration in the EU and discuss the key statistical challenges in a forward looking perspective. We argue that EU

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<sup>2</sup> The most recent development relates to the adoption of a multi-annual EU general programme on 'Solidarity and Management of Migration Flows'

<sup>3</sup> Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on Community Statistics on Migration and International Protection

immigration and asylum policies are some way ahead of statistics. We conclude that in order to cope with the speed, extent and changing nature of globalisation and international migration, the European Statistical System should undertake initiatives related to data exchange, register development and record linking practices on a European level (and should even extend these initiatives to other major partners in the world). Wider implementation of Best practices in register-based sources from the Nordic countries and successful survey approaches in several European countries would be a good starting point.

## 2. **Some important *highlights* of the two phenomena**

Most analysts and experts dealing with globalisation would agree with Richard Higgott and Simon Reich [2] that it is 'the most over-used and under-specified explanation for a variety of events in international relations'. We all have examples of 'under-specification' or 'partial definition' of the concept of globalisation. The most common reason for this is the fact that people often restrict their understanding of globalisation to economic considerations only, such as international trade, offshoring and FDI. While the economic drivers of globalisation are very important they do not suffice to illustrate its multifaceted and profoundly revolutionary impact on every single aspect of life. The ways in which the world is connected today go beyond economics, international financial systems and beyond trade. For the purposes of this paper we have adopted a wider understanding of globalisation which covers global transformations in economics, culture and politics. It is best described by David Held *et al* [3] as "a process (or set of processes) which embodies a transformation in the spatial organisation of social relations and transactions – assessed in terms of their extensity, intensity, velocity and impact – generating transcontinental or interregional flows and networks of activity, interaction and the exercise of power." Similarly, Professor Anthony Giddens [4] underlines that globalisation is a complex set of processes characterised by the intensification of worldwide social relations which link distant localities in such a way that local happenings are shaped by events occurring many miles away and vice versa; he draws attention to the wider than purely economic attributes of globalisation: "I would like to propose to you that it's a basic mistake to treat globalisation as solely or even primarily economic. The economic marketplace is certainly one of the driving agencies of intensifying globalisation, but globalisation is not primarily economic in and of itself. Globalisation refers to a set of changes, not a single dimensional change. Many of these changes are social,

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<sup>4</sup> The recently created SDG (Strategic Development Group) in the Social Statistics field and the Directors of Social Statistics (DSS) are leading the current developments towards a more effective system of Social Statistics

cultural and political, rather than purely economic, and one of the main drivers in addition to the global marketplace is something partly separable from it, which is the communications revolution."

It is important to note that this wider definition of globalisation is also used by those who systematically try to measure and quantify globalisation. Two of the most known globalisation indices are those produced by [CSGR](#) (Centre for the Study of Globalisation and Regionalisation, University of Warwick) and [KOF](#) (Swiss Institute for Business Cycle Research). Both institutes' indices measure the economic, social and political dimensions of globalisation for a large number of countries around the world. It is also worth noting that both indices include in their list of variables the migrant population stock and tourists; in addition, the CSGR index of globalisation also includes migration flows.

Our second task is to discuss briefly the links between globalisation and migration. Are the two phenomena inter-related at all? Is there an impact of globalisation on international migration? Is globalisation fostering or restraining migration? We believe that much of the current controversy relates more to the *direction* (positive, negative) of the inter-linkages rather than the existence or not of any relationship between the two phenomena<sup>5</sup>. It is true that globalisation --in its current sweeping form-- is a relatively recent phenomenon, but it also has deep historical roots. A quick look at the world history of globalisation [5] as well as at the history of international migration [6] will persuade even the most sceptical that the two phenomena are highly inter-related. In fact, the origins and major turning points and landmarks in the history of globalisation were often characterised by substantial migration flows, which were primarily driven by economic and political interests. Historically, most of the countries which can be considered as being drivers / leaders in globalisation--the so called 'globalisers'--have largely based their (global) performance on significant flows of international and / or interregional immigrants. However, it is also true that (different types of) migration flows can be affected differently by the various components / drivers of globalisation (de-localisation, outsourcing, offshoring, etc. versus new technologies and global competition), often acting in opposite directions. Empirical evidence on the potential impact of e.g. trade and FDI on migration is scarce and somewhat contradictory. The UNCTAD/IOM study on [Foreign Direct Investment, Trade and Aid – An alternative to](#)

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<sup>5</sup> We have seen that both the CSGR and KOF recognise the existence of a relationship between migration and globalisation; this relationship is reflected quantitatively in the sub-index which measures the social components of globalisation.

[Migration](#) concludes that “FDI contributes directly to a reduction of migration by creating jobs in foreign affiliates and ...FDI can thus generate a sense of hope among potential migrants for a better economic future in countries with insufficient capital but abundant labour.” The findings of the study sound very plausible but they are largely intuitive and static, ignoring thus the dynamic (long-term) effects of globalisation on employment and hence on potential labour migrants. Other studies underline that these long-term effects can be very important if not dominant. Professor Marco Vivarelli [7] underlines that the “positive effects of ‘greenfield’ FDI have to be compared with the possible crowding-out of non-competitive and previously sheltered domestic firms (implying bankruptcies and job losses); with the possible labour-saving effects of the new technologies brought about by multinational firms;”. An empirical study by Spiezia [8] regarding the employment impact of trade on the manufacturing sector in 39 developing countries produced very varied results.

We have seen however that globalisation is not only trade and FDI, and migration can be driven by more than employment considerations; even in the latter case, the overall process of migration, i.e. decisions as to whether, where, when and how to migrate are influenced significantly by the non-economic attributes of globalisation (like information channels, migrant networks, communication, internet, ease of travel, loose borders, etc). In the absence of adequate empirical evidence, the conclusion we would like to draw at this stage about the impact of globalisation on migration is as follows: *Globalisation acts as a potentially powerful facilitator of international migration both legal and clandestine and –most importantly- has played a significant role in changing the nature of migration and the movements of persons in general.*

### **3. New types and patterns of migration**

Many Member States have reported growth in employment-related migration – in some cases through schemes designed to encourage the immigration of highly qualified workers. Much of this migration follows what may be termed a ‘traditional’ pattern of permanent or long-term change in the country of usual residence, with adoption to a varying extent of the language and lifestyle of the destination country. This traditional pattern of migration is an established social institution in countries such as Australia and the United States that have a history of receiving large numbers of immigrants, where it is expected and observed that immigrants and their families effectively become Australian or American in language and lifestyles, as

well as in terms of legal citizenship. Even with this relatively stable and well defined migration process, problems have long been recognised in defining and measuring migration.

Statistics on highly skilled migrants will become increasingly important in the near future. EU policy interest in this issue is already high<sup>6</sup>. Future trends in globalisation, the ICT revolution in particular, may impact on the mobility of highly skilled workers from less developed countries in ways that are currently far from clear. Timothy Hatton and Jeffrey Williamson [9] think that we may soon be observing a shift in flows of highly skilled workers from the current south-north migration to a south-south migration.

Some other migration processes have increasingly involved a change of immigration status. For example, increases in student migration to some countries have been followed by increases in the numbers who remain as labour migrants after completing their studies. Several countries have introduced policies to facilitate this process: in effect, adding to the numbers of qualified migrants in their labour force. Administrative data on residence and work permits can often be readily used to provide information on persons changing their immigration status – such as from student to worker. Within the EU though, this type of permit information is not available for EU citizens; the full system of residence and work permits applying only to non-EU citizens.

New types and patterns of migration are becoming more prevalent which differ from the traditional patterns of migration and which are far harder to accurately measure. Examples of these are given below, being frequently characterised by a blurring both of the boundary between visitor and migrant, and of the place of usual residence. Professor Graeme Hugo [10] has underlined the need to look '*beyond the permanent settlement paradigm*', noting that most research and analysis – particularly in countries with a history of significant immigration – has focussed on permanent migrants.

### 3.1 *Visitor to migrant*

The ease and relative cheapness of travel means that an increased number of potential migrants are able to travel initially to their destination country as visitors. A person may, on arrival, already have a firm intention to migrate; alternatively, he may initially intend to stay as a visitor, deciding only some time after arrival to remain as a migrant. From an

administrative point of view, the fact that the person may only have permission to remain as a visitor may mean that his or her presence and/or employment in the country are unauthorised. In terms of statistics, there are clearly difficulties in counting a person who remains as a semi-permanent visitor – never seeking a residence permit, possibly not recorded on population registers or tax files either because the person avoids registering or because registration rules mean that visitors are not recorded. In the UK, where migration statistics based on the International Passenger Survey depend on the interviewees' stated intention of how long they will remain in the country, particular correction procedures have been introduced to overcome this problem of 'visitor-switchers' and 'migrant-switchers'<sup>7</sup> for whom the stated intended length of stay does not correspond to their actual length of stay. In situations where the immigration rules for visitors are quite relaxed and no visas are required – such as for a Canadian citizen visiting the EU - a person may quite easily remain as a 'serial visitor' staying in the destination country for periods of 3 to 6 months and returning for visits to the country of origin. In such cases, it may be that the person breaks immigration law only when they seek employment or become a student. For EU citizens travelling to other EU Member States, where the rules on entry and stay have largely been removed, the administrative – and statistical - boundary between visitor and migrant is even less clear. For this type of migration, it may be more appropriate to view a migration as a process which may take some time and which may never be completed (where the person retains extensive links to the country of origin), rather than a discrete and absolute change in place of residence occurring at a particular time.

### 3.2 *Circular migration*

A similar process is circular migration, where the person may undertake a series of moves between an origin and a destination country. Although this pattern of international migration has long existed in the form of the regular moves by seasonal migrant agricultural workers, this has become a more widespread pattern of migration covering a range of temporary migrations often related to employment. A characteristic of this will be the regular returns between countries of origin and destination. Unlike the visitor-migration referred to above, the circular migrant may well effectively re-establish resident in their current location –

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<sup>6</sup> A proposal for a Directive on the conditions of entry and residence of highly skilled third-country workers is under preparation.

<sup>7</sup> Visitor-switchers are those that state that they are visitors but who in fact stay as migrants. Conversely, migrant-switchers state that they intend to remain as migrants, but stay only as shorter-term visitors. [http://www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme\\_population/Methodology%20for\\_Revised\\_International\\_Migration\\_Estimates.doc](http://www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme_population/Methodology%20for_Revised_International_Migration_Estimates.doc)



possibly returning to employment in the original country of origin, before later migrating once again to the destination country. Some researchers and policy-makers have suggested this form of migration offers the greatest benefits for the migrant and for the countries of origin and destination (see for example Vertovec [11]). Circular migration is proposed as a means of maximising the development benefits of migration, as well as reducing pressures for unauthorised migration. Many migrants do not wish to make the permanent break with their country of origin that a permanent migration would require, preferring to maintain cultural and family links to their place of birth. These links are, of course, facilitated by cheaper and easier transport and telecommunications. For the country of origin, circular migration avoids the permanent loss of its most talented workers – brain drain – and encourages the transfer of skills and knowledge, furthering the development effects of migration. It has also been suggested that circular migration is more acceptable to some destination countries, as labour migration can be more closely matched to fluctuations in the labour market. Due to these perceived benefits, circular and other forms of shorter-term migration have received considerable policy attention in recent years. For example, the European Commission's 2005 Policy Plan on Legal Migration<sup>8</sup> highlighted the importance of measures to facilitate circular migration. There is similar high-level interest among several Member State governments (as discussed by Angenendt [12]).

A related process would be that of *serial migration* where the individual does not return regularly to reside in a fixed country of origin but instead establishes (temporary) residence in a series of countries. Serial migrants are generally thought to include highly qualified and mobile workers who may follow specialised employment opportunities. In terms of statistics, circular migrants may present the same problems as visitor-migrants in that it can be difficult to define the place of usual residence and to say whether this has changed. For serial migration, the difficulty may be that the person does not remain in one place long enough to have formally established a usual residence – being, in fact, a serial visitor in a number of countries. Serial migrants may not, as such, have a country of origin as commonly defined in the statistics, except in terms of citizenship or country of birth.

One particular type of migration – which may fall into either the circular migration or indeed the visitor-migration categories – is that of the semi-permanent migration by the elderly from the north to the south of Europe which has grown in importance. Unlike much historical

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<sup>8</sup> Policy Plan on Legal Migration. Commission Communication (COM(2005) 669 final) [http://eur-lex.europa.eu/Result.do?T1=V5&T2=2005&T3=669&RechType=RECH\\_naturel&Submit=Search](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/Result.do?T1=V5&T2=2005&T3=669&RechType=RECH_naturel&Submit=Search)

migration, here the purpose of moving is generally to seek a more pleasant environment rather than employment. These elderly migrants may retain homes in both the origin and destination countries, or may simply become permanent visitors in the destination country. Clearly, for such persons, it can be difficult to define the place of usual residence and to record moves to and from a country of origin. This can be significant both for the statistics and for users of these statistics – as the elderly are more likely to place significant demands on local health and social services which are planned using population statistics.

#### 4. EU migration policy and the state of migration statistics

The EU migration policy builds on the conclusions of the [Tampere European Council](#) in 1999, the [Hague Programme](#) of 2004 and the [Global Approach to Migration](#) adopted in 2005. It is based on a shared responsibility among Member States, an increased co-operation with third countries and it is coordinated with other major EU policies, including in particular economic, social, development and external relations policies. In the following section (momentum for better migration statistics) we underline that EU migration and asylum policies clearly reflect the global character of migration and that they have therefore adopted an international co-operation perspective. Unfortunately, developments in migration and asylum statistics have remained ‘national’. The gap between policy requirements and statistics has increased and--to a large extent--this was due to the absence of an appropriate legal basis for migration statistics. Moreover, migration is a very complex process, difficult to define and measure. It is not our intention to explain here the difficulties and problems in the international comparability of migration statistics. Georges Lemaitre [13 and 14] and David Thorogood [15] and others have extensively analysed this issue. Thorogood concludes that “*despite its policy importance, migration remains a topic for which the available statistics are relatively weak...However, the development of a European and wider global dimension to policies relating to migration means that these statistics can no longer be dealt with simply at national level*”. Besides the basic, core, requirements for statistics on stocks of foreign citizens and foreign-born, migration flows and migrant characteristics, globalisation has directly or indirectly added a number of more complex and difficult to measure policy concerns such as:

*Migration and unemployment, multiculturalism (plural monoculturalism?) and social cohesion, migration and income distribution, brain-drain, new forms of migration, migration*

*and development (partnership agreements), highly skilled migrants, discrimination, integration, etc.*

The above issues constitute a real challenge for the ESS. We believe that the time has come for the ESS to undertake important initiatives and to overcome the barriers of the past. The first step has just been accomplished, i.e. the adoption of a dedicated legal basis for migration statistics.

## 5. Momentum for better migration statistics

There is no doubt that migration statistics have made significant progress during the last 35 years. The efforts of UNSD, UNECE, Eurostat, OECD and other international bodies to enhance the comparability of international migration statistics should be underlined in this regard. However, the improvements of the recent past have not sufficed to bridge the gap between policy needs and availability of statistics. Today, the European Statistical System has a unique opportunity to make unprecedented progress towards the development of an effective system of migration statistics. Never before have policy developments been so supportive of (and co-ordinated with) migration statistics. In the next few lines we try to explain why current EU policy developments provide the ESS with a comprehensive *enabling framework* and adequate *legitimacy* for action.

### 5.1 An ‘enabling’ political and policy framework for action

The current EU immigration and asylum political context and policy initiatives are very favourable for the ESS; they are actually enabling the ESS to undertake immediate operational actions for the improvement of migration and asylum statistics. There is a strong political will and commitment towards the adoption of a common, comprehensive *European Migration Policy* and the creation of a *Common European Asylum System*<sup>9</sup>. It is important to underline that EU immigration and asylum policies recognise in a pro-active manner the following features of migration and asylum: (i) the issues are *global* and require a European and global-partnership approach; (ii) the issues are multi-faceted and require a *comprehensive* and co-ordinated approach (socio-economic, development, external, security and other related policies). Moreover, the implementation of this policy framework is facilitated by the adoption of appropriate ‘[packages of measures](#)’, including the allocation of adequate financial resources. While the main objective of the financial packages is to assist Member States in the

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<sup>9</sup> See [MEMO/07/188](#) on A comprehensive European Migration Policy

management of the migration and asylum processes, they also have an important double impact on statistics: (a) the effectiveness of the annual pre-allocation of funds is largely conditioned on the existence of good statistics and (b) parts of the funds can be used to finance projects which aim at the improvement of migration and asylum statistics; such projects can be initiated by both the European Commission and Member States. The European Statistical System is explicitly requested to provide good quality statistics for the proper monitoring of the newly adopted funds<sup>10</sup> for the period 2007-2013, in the General programme [“Solidarity and Management of Migration Flows”](#).

To illustrate and underline the *responsibility* and *challenge* for the ESS in this context, it is worth quoting a few extracts from the Official Journal L144 of 6 June 2007 referring to the Decision No 573/2007/EC on the establishment of the European Refugee Fund: Article 3 (eligible actions in Member States), Sections 4.a and 4.b in particular include ‘actions promoting the collection, use and dissemination of country of origin information...’, as well as ‘actions enhancing the capacity to collect, analyse and disseminate statistics on asylum....’. Similarly, Article 4 (2e) referring to the eligibility of Community actions, highlights in particular projects which ‘support development and application by Member States of common statistical tools, methods and indicators.....’.

Statistics (and hence the ESS) are an important factor for the annual distribution of resources as described in Article 13, Section 5: ‘The reference figures shall be the latest statistics produced by the Commission (Eurostat), on the basis of data provided by Member States in accordance with Community law’. ....’ Before accepting these data as reference figures, the Commission (Eurostat) shall evaluate the quality, comparability and completeness...’.

These examples demonstrate that the ESS has on the one hand dedicated and adequate financial resources to improve migration and asylum statistics, and, on the other hand, the collective responsibility to ensure that the statistics used for the allocation of a large part of the total appropriations (more than 4 billion Euros) in the context of the above mentioned programme are of high quality, comparability and completeness.

## 5.2 *The ‘legitimacy’ for action*

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<sup>10</sup> European Return Fund, European Fund for the Integration of third-country nationals, European Refugee Fund, and the External Borders Fund

The ESS's legitimacy for action in this field is mainly derived by the recently adopted Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on Community statistics on migration and international protection. This legal basis, together with the expected adoption of the appropriate implementing measures, provide the ESS with strong empowerment and a clear mandate for the development of high quality and policy relevant migration and asylum statistics. The importance of the adoption of statistical legislation has been underlined by Vice-President Frattini, EU Commissioner responsible for Justice, Freedom and Security, in a [Press Release](#) on 12 June 2007: "This Regulation is an important step towards the improvement of our knowledge of migratory phenomena within the European Union". "...harmonised statistics will be used, among others, as a basis for the distribution of resources of the new Programme "Solidarity and Management of Migration Flows" among Member States". The Press Release concludes with the following: "The Regulation provides a framework which needs to be completed through the adoption of implementing measures in the form of Commission regulations. The European Statistical System will be actively involved in the preparation and implementation of such measures which are expected to be adopted in 2008".

We believe that all the necessary conditions are met for the ESS to exercise its mandate in an exemplary and efficient manner; successful accomplishment of the ultimate objective, i.e. the development of an effective framework of migration and asylum statistics will enhance the integrity and credibility of the ESS.

## **6. Towards an effective framework of migration and asylum statistics**

The effectiveness of a European framework of migration statistics depends on its ability to provide satisfactory responses to user needs in a timely manner; to achieve this, the framework should be capable of detecting and anticipating user needs some time in advance; otherwise, there is a serious risk of creating a re-active system which will never manage to catch up with increasing policy requirements. The creation of such a forward looking capacity becomes more important in a context of uncertainty with regard to future developments in globalisation and international migration. Ivan Fellegi [16], on several occasions has underlined that "the capacity to detect future requirements is a direct function of the system's analytic capability". It is only by developing a strong analytic capability that we can be in a position to understand and provide statistical evidence on the complex and multifaceted aspects of the migration *process* and its interactions with globalisation. Such an analytic

capability becomes even more crucial in view of the likely policy concerns which might emerge from the uncertainty regarding future trends in the extent and forms of globalisation. However, despite this uncertainty, there are strong signs indicating that migration issues will continue to be high on the policy agenda<sup>11</sup> for many years to come. First, the further expansion of ICT and the ease and speed of travel shall increase the action space for international migration (both legal and illegal, skilled and unskilled). Second, the future expansion or decline of globalisation is conditioned--among other factors--on the outcomes of the current and future debate about good global governance and the need to re-engineer globalisation in a way that the civil society can participate constructively and to ensure that the benefits of globalisation are distributed more evenly both across and within countries. Inevitably, migration issues are often at the centre of such debates as they touch upon numerous aspects of society: integration, ethnic minorities, multiculturalism, security, unemployment, crime, human rights, brain-drain, discrimination, highly skilled labour, etc. are just some of the current issues which will also prevail in the near future. Therefore, globalisation will reinforce the demand for the creation of a comprehensive and analytical framework of migration statistics. The words *comprehensive* and *analytical* together with the words *migration process* reflect some of the essential attributes of the statistical framework which the ESS is expected to develop. To complete the list of essential attributes of an effective framework, we shall emphasize the need for adopting a formal approach for *international co-operation* in data exchange procedures among member states and with major partner countries around the world.

The following represents merely a reflection on possible avenues of action. The aim of this list of proposals is to initiate and provoke the discussion within the ESS and in particular within the Strategic Development Group (SDG) and the Directors of Social Statistics (DSS).

*6.1 Data exchanges regarding flows of migrants should be formalised among all EEA countries; these exchanges should be extended to cover countries outside the EU (major origin and destination countries).* We are aware that this is going to be a long process, but we are convinced that it is the only cost-effective way to obtain good emigration statistics. It is encouraging that some Member States have expressed such an opinion in official meetings.

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<sup>11</sup> Here, we only refer to globalisation-linked reasons for increased policy attention to migration issues. There is another dimension however, i.e. long-term *demographic differentials* between less developed and developed countries which will result in significant migratory pressures on the EU. B. Lindsay Lowell [17] underlines that the relative size of the populations in developing nations in 2050 will run from five to eight times larger than the

The Nordic experience will be very valuable in this context. The process developed in the Nordic countries whereby individual data on new arrivals is passed to the population register of the country of origin should be extended to other countries wishing to experiment with such a system. This would effectively mark an extension to the international level of a process that is often done at national level – whereby regional registers transfer information between each other to avoid multiple registrations of the same person. Relative to the potential improvements in the quality of migration statistics – and population statistics more generally – the administrative costs of this are likely to be quite small. This extension should initially be undertaken as a pilot project to a few countries. Other countries with appropriate registers will then have more evidence of the potential benefits, as well as a clearer view of the best ways of adopting this process. Robust automated processes already exist for matching records, even where details are not recorded in a common format and where certain details may differ slightly – due to mis-recording of information. The SDG should discuss this proposal and elaborate a detailed action plan which would involve pilot projects, research activities and co-ordination issues. Eurostat, UN, OECD, IOM and other major international actors should be involved at an early stage of the process. A more radical step would be to foresee the introduction of a common *European personal identification number* for use on registers and possibly other administrative processes. However this would be a long-term development that requires wider political and social consensus in several member states.

6.2 *The framework should also include the development of appropriate survey data sources.* Sample surveys offer the possibility to collect far richer and more complex information about the social and economic situation of migrants and populations of recent migrant origin. Although the use of large-scale migration surveys has generally been rejected due to their expense, the potential benefits will need to be considered of having a detailed statistical information source on an economically and socially important population group. Such a survey may not be relevant in all Member States, but it would be appropriate to encourage cooperation between those national administrations that did wish to follow this route.

6.2.1 *The potential of including migration modules in existing or planned surveys such as LFS, SILC, EHS, ESS, etc. should be seriously investigated.* The 2008 LFS ad hoc module on

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diminishing population of the more developed nations. C. Fotakis [18], at a recent symposium organised by the German Presidency of the EU, highlighted some key policy challenges in this regard.

the labour market integration of migrants<sup>12</sup> should be assessed in that respect, and appropriate international recommendations should be adopted. Given that in most countries, migrants make up a small minority of residents, particular emphasis should be put in promoting methodologies involving network sampling and other sampling approaches designed to boost the coverage of migrants. Studying networks, particularly those linked with families and households, sheds light on the development and encouragement of additional migration.

*6.2.2 Surveys on the “factors of international migration” should be organised in major countries of origin.* Causes of migration, its eventual scale and patterns, and its economic and social effects, can only be fully understood by also gathering information in the country of origin. Such surveys have been organised in the past (see for example) <http://www.nidi.knaw.nl/web/html/pushpull/index.html>, and this may need to be repeated in the future.

*6.3 The framework should include a strong research and analytic capability.* This can only be created and maintained with the strong commitment and collaboration (partnership) of Member States, together with research institutes and the academic community. We are not suggesting any particular organisational structure, but the creation of a centre of excellence for research in migration issues could be envisaged. In parallel, Eurostat and the EU Research Framework programmes will continue to support methodological work in this field. For example, currently, Eurostat is funding two major methodology projects relating to migration statistics. These are intended primarily to assist EU Member States in meeting their obligations under the new regulation on migration statistics, but will also have a wider application. The first of these projects, which began late in 2006 and will last for three years, is concerned with *the development and application of advanced statistical modelling techniques for the estimation of missing migration data*. The second project is expected to begin in the autumn of 2007 and will last for 18 months. This will assist Member States in *maximising the use of existing and potential data sources*, including the strengthening of cooperation and data exchange between different parts of the national administration. Both of these projects will make available advice and assistance to national institutions to deal with particular problems that may be identified.

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<sup>12</sup> Commission Regulation (EC) No 102/2007 of 2 February 2007 adopting the specifications of the 2008 ad hoc module on the labour market situation of migrants and their immediate descendants, as provided for by Council Regulation (EC) No 577/98 and amending Regulation (EC) No 430/2005



## 7. Conclusions

Globalisation and migration represent two of the most dynamic world processes, highly interrelated, but each with their own specific drivers and dynamics. At the very least, globalisation is a potentially powerful facilitator of international migration. It has increased the action space and has played a significant role in changing the nature and patterns of migration. The unprecedented revolution in ICT and easy and cheap transport allow migrants far more scope than previously to remain, in effect, overseas members of the culture and society of the country of origin. While the future growth or decline of globalisation is far from clear, its impact on migration issues will remain important.

Despite significant progress in migration statistics during the last 35 years, the gap between policy needs and availability of statistics has increased. Today however, there is a unique momentum for the ESS to develop an effective system of migration statistics. Current EU policy developments and the adoption of statistical legislation provide the ESS with strong empowerment, adequate resources and legitimacy for action. All the necessary conditions are met for the ESS to be successful in this regard.

Various practical steps can be envisaged to produce the real improvements in migration statistics that are needed now and which will become increasingly important in the foreseeable future. Key though will be a willingness at both national and European levels to take advantage of the current propitious political and administrative climate for developments in these statistics, and an acceptance of the need to go beyond established ways of working. Improved practical international cooperation will be necessary, often involving a better exchange of data between national data sources. Overall, migration statistics must take on an international perspective – one that has already been adopted for much migration policy development and in other economic and social areas related to migration.

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