



SESSION III

International Migration Statistics: concepts, definitions and sources

**Workshop on strengthening the collection and use of
international migration data for development**

African Institute for Economic Development and Planning Conference Room
Dakar, Senegal, 8–11 September 2015

Some concepts related to international migration

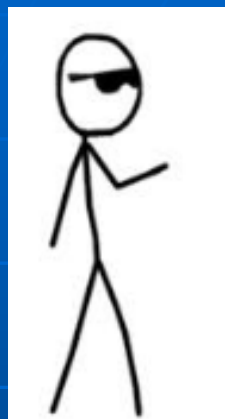
■ An **immigrant** of a country:

- entering the country by **crossing the border**
- not a **usual resident** of the country when entering
- staying in the country for at least one year.

■ An **emigrant** of a country:

- leaving the country by crossing the border
- being a usual resident of the country
- staying in another country or abroad for at least one year.

Identifying immigrants at the border



Who is an international migrant?

■ Mr. Samuel KELODJOUE

- Born in Mali, age 27
- Came to Côte d'Ivoire for the first time to work, on 7 August 2014

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Who is an international migrant?

■ Mr. Hamissou KANO

- Lived in Cameroon, with a Cameroon citizenship
- Went to France in July 2012
- Came back to live in Cameroon since July 2014

Who is an international migrant?

- Ms. Assa Gakou eps DOUMBIA
 - Lived in Niger
 - Arrived at the Burkina Faso airport on 1 March 2015, filling out an embarkation form with the following information:
 - Visa to work for 5 months
 - Filed an extension of stay on 1 August 2015 for another 10 months

Identifying migrants for what?

- Population estimates & projections

Population in 2013

+ births in 2013

- deaths in 2013

+ net immigrants in 2013

= Population in 2014

Identifying migrants for what?

- How many foreigners are coming to the country each year?
 - Who are they?
 - They are coming for what? (Study? Work?)
 - Is the labour market ready for the immigrants?
- How many emigrated citizens are moving back to the country each year? (Diaspora)
- How many citizens are emigrating each year?

Categories of inflows and outflows

	Usual residence of the country concerned	Citizenship status when crossing border	Categorization of flows
Inflows of	Non-residents	Citizens	Immigrating citizens (Group A)
		Foreigners	Immigrating foreigners (Group B)
	Residents	Citizens	Residents returning from visits abroad
		Foreigners	Residents returning from visits abroad
Outflows of	Non-residents	Citizens	Visitors departing after short-stay
		Foreigners	Visitors departing after short-stay
	Residents	Citizens	Emigrating citizens (Group C)
		Foreigners	Emigrating foreigners (Group D)

Population stocks related to international migration

- Stock of foreign-born
- Stock of foreigners
- Stock of returned migrants (citizens)
- Stock of emigrants

Major sources of international migration statistics

- Population and housing censuses
- Sample surveys
 - Household sample surveys
 - Border surveys
- Administrative sources
 - Registers: population register; register of foreigners
 - Issuance of residence permits; work permit
 - Border: embarkation and disembarkation cards

Population and housing censuses (1)

“The total process of collecting, compiling, evaluating, analysing and publishing or otherwise disseminating demographic, economic and social data pertaining, at a specified time, to all persons in a country or in a well-delimited part of the country.”

A major source of international migration statistics

Population and housing censuses (2)

- Collects basic demographic and social variables (age, sex, fertility, mortality, internal and international migration, marital status, migration, ethnoculture, education and employment)
- Comprehensive snapshot of a country on demographic/social status, for small area/population groups estimates
- Every 10 years, infrequent and costly

Population and housing censuses (3)

- Questions related to international and/or internal migration
 - Country of birth
 - Country of citizenship (citizenship acquisition)
 - Period/year of arrival in the country
 - Emigration of household members
 - Ever-lived abroad (return migrants)
 - Reason for migration
- Migration flows:
 - Inter-censal flow calculation
 - Use of the “duration” variable

Population and housing censuses (4)

■ Advantages:

- Universal → capturing the small proportion of migrants
- Only a small # of questions → more comparable data across countries
- Large number of Social-economic characteristics → characterising migrants (compared to adm sources)
- Small areas estimates

Population and housing censuses (4)

■ Limitations:

- Infrequent
- Not into causes/consequences
- Unreliable data on emigration (entire house migrated; rely on proxy respondent)

Sample surveys

- Household sample surveys
 - Specialised survey on international migration
 - Integrating migration questions in a multi-purpose survey (LFS, DHS, living standard measurement survey etc)
- Border/passenger surveys

Household sample surveys

■ Advantages:

- Wealth of information, causes and consequences (e.g., employment conditions of labour migrants)
- Able to add more questions to identify migrant groups that are of interest/flexible

■ Limitations:

- Sample size!
- Expensive (specialised survey)

Border/passenger surveys

- Sampling among passengers arriving/departing at different location and time
- Asking questions to find “migrants” (duration, country of residence, purpose)
- Interviewers following a passenger and asking questions
- Apply to Island countries (UK, for example)
- Very expensive

Administrative sources (1)

- Registers (population register, register of foreigners, register of asylum seekers)
 - Register/deregister rules might not be
- Border collection (arriving/departing)
 - Purpose/duration important
 - Processing records require a lot of work
- Issuance of residence permits/work permits
- Register at consulates abroad



Administrative sources (2)

- Counting of people or records? What about people crossing border multiple times in a year?
- Coverage issue – rules for registration/de-registration not strictly followed
- Set up for administrative rather than statistical purposes; legal provision for data exchange
- But all information is valuable – piece information together

Integrating multiple sources



Harmonisation of concepts and definitions!!!

Data revolution



"Your recent Amazon purchases, Tweet score and location history makes you 23.5% welcome here."

The use of mobile phone data for tourism statistics

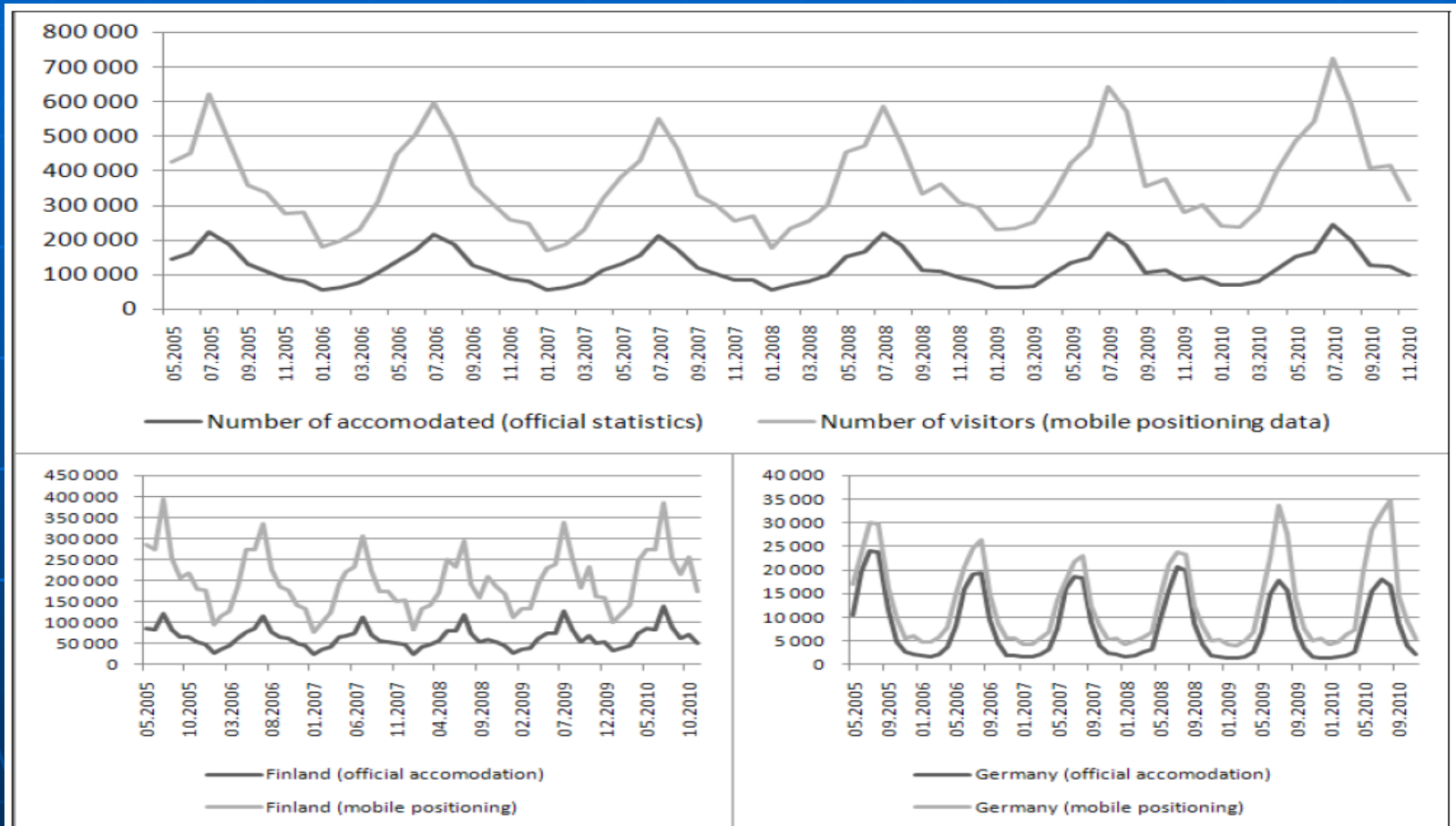


Figure 3. Comparison of official and passive mobile positioning based inbound tourism statistics for all tourists, Finns and Germans.

Source: Mobile Telephones and Mobile Positioning data as source for statistics: Estonian Experiences, Ahas et. Al. (2011)

A few points from a summary of the pre-workshop assignments (1)

- Almost all collecting basic information on international migration through population censuses (e.g., country of birth, citizenship and Emigration!)
- Specialised migration surveys are being carried out
- Migration module is incorporated in many national multi-purpose surveys
- Administrative procedure is in place in almost all countries

A few points from a summary of the pre-workshop assignments (2)

■ Challenges:

- Linkage between collection of information and statistics is missing
- Many publish the volume of arrivals/departures, not directly relevant for international migration
- Census/survey data: not a priority for compilation, takes a long time before data are made available; or data on migration are not analysed