



Official international migration statistics in the EU – data availability and comparability

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Focus on flow data

Data availability (theoretical) according to THESIM and JMQs



	Immigration			Emigration		
	Total	Nationals	Foreigners	Total	Nationals	Foreigners
Belgium	+	+	+	+	+	+
Czech Republic	+	+	+	+	+	+
Denmark	+	+	+	+	+	+
Germany	+	+	+	+	+	+
Estonia	na	na	na	na	na	na
Greece	na	na	na	na	na	na
Spain	+	+	+	+	+	+
France	na	na	+	na	na	na
Ireland	+	+	+	+	+	+
Italy	+	+	+	+	+	+
Cyprus	+	+	+	+	+	+
Latvia	+	+	+	+	+	+
Lithuania	+	+	+	+	+	+
Luxembourg	+	+	+	+	+	+
Hungary	+	+	+	+	+	+
Malta	+	+	+	na	±	na
Netherlands	+	+	+	+	+	+
Austria	+	+	+	+	+	+
Poland	+	+	+	+	+	+
Portugal	na	na	+	+	+	+
Slovenia	+	+	+	+	+	+
Slovak Republic	+	+	+	+	+	+
Finland	+	+	+	+	+	+
Sweden	+	+	+	+	+	+
United Kingdom	+	+	+	+	+	+



Data availability (practical)

Main problems:

- No data published (although theoretically available)
- Lack of disaggregated data
- **Data published in various sources differ**
- Data are not well documented (or not documented at all)
- **Lack of international comparability**



Comparability of data presented in various sources (for one country)

- Results of the comparison of figures on annual total immigration and emigration in the period 1999-2002 (websites of NSIs and publications from various international organisations):
 - **Only for seven EU countries the figures on total flows were consistent across the inspected sources:**
the Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, Poland, the Slovak Republic, Slovenia and Sweden
 - For all other EU countries some discrepancies have been identified, sometimes significant



Comparability of data presented in various sources (for one country)

Differences between the sources most often due to differences in:

- **coverage** (nationals and foreigners / foreigners only)
- **provisional and final figures**
- **estimation method**
 - with/without administrative corrections
- **reference period**

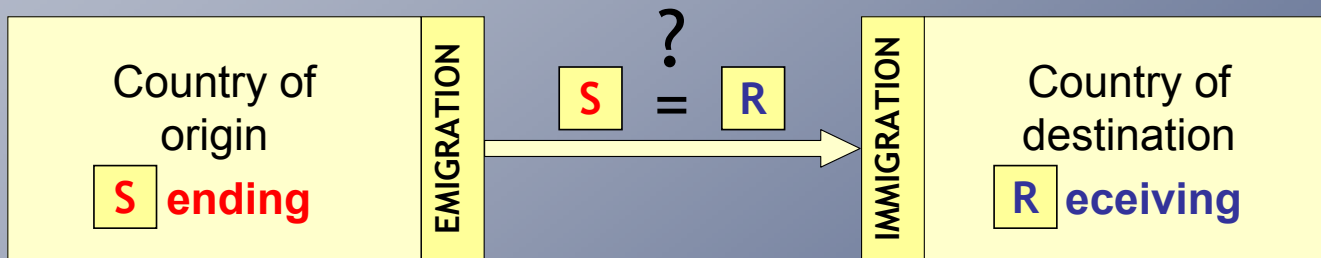


In **Lithuania**, the differences result from the post-census revisions

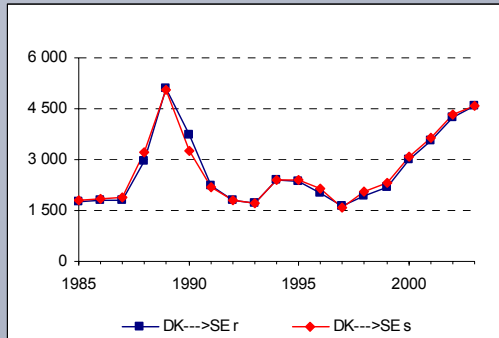
Emigration from Lithuania	1999	2000	2001	2002
Eurostat Population Yearbook 2004	:	21 816	7 253	:
Eurostat Migration Yearbook 2002	1 369	:	:	:
CoE	1 369	2 616	7 253	7 086
DG JLS	:	2 616	:	:
SOPEMI 2004	:	:	:	:
NSI (yearbook)	23 418	21 816	7 253	7 086

International comparability of flow data

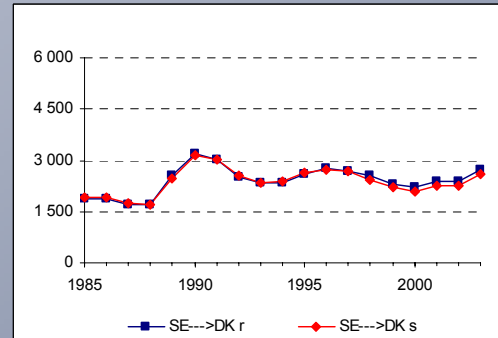
- International migration statistics are generally **NOT** comparable



Comparability of data is possible!



Denmark → **Sweden**



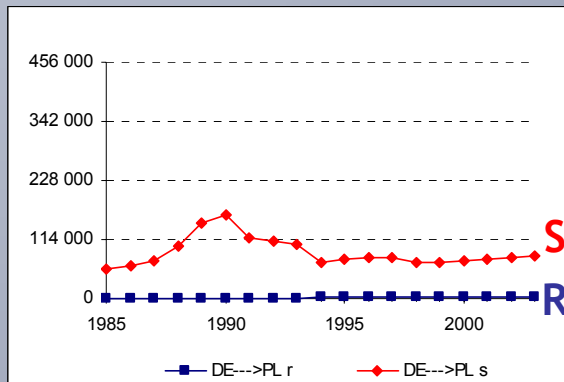
Sweden → **Denmark**

- red line – data from the sending country
- blue line – data from the receiving country

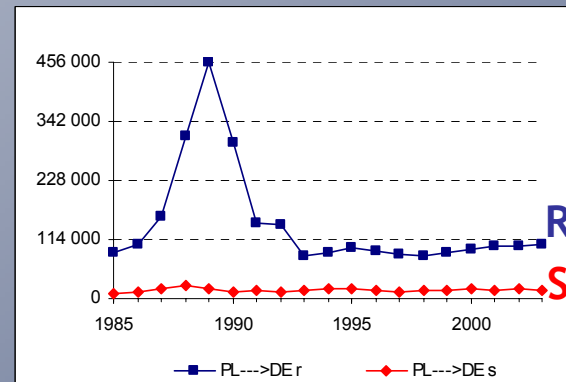
- **Inter-Nordic Migration agreement: DK, FI, SE, NO, IS**
 - inter-Nordic relocation certificate is required to be registered in the destination country
 - registration of emigration to another Nordic country follows the rules for registration of immigration in the destination country



Incomparability of flows reported by Germany and Poland



Germany → **Poland**



Poland → **Germany**



- **Data incomparability:** due to differences in the definitions, reliability and coverage

Definition = the rules applied in the migration measurement process (at all stages) to decide who is included in the statistics

- **Differences in the rules**
 - between the countries
 - nationals/foreigners
 - immigration/emigration
 - within one country over time



Definitions (cont.)

- **The main differences concern **time criteria****
 - Minimum duration of stay in the destination country required for the change of residence to be counted as international migration
- **Very few countries comply with the UN recommendations and use the one year duration of stay criterion (CY, SE, UK, partially FI)**



Definitions - Duration of stay options

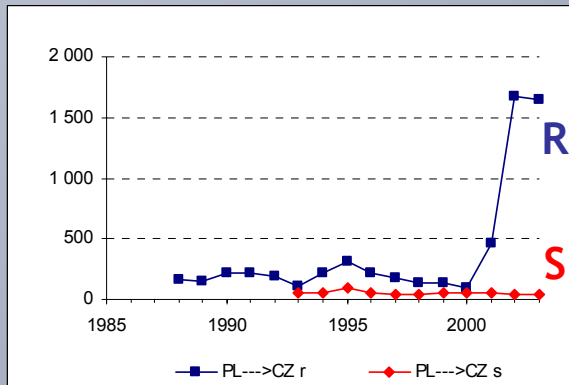
- **Duration of stay not taken into account**
- **A minimum period of stay applies that might be 3, 6 or 12 months**
 - The meaning of time limits:
 - Period of stay related with the obligation to register
 - Duration of validity of residence permits
 - Selection rules applied when producing statistics
 - NL – 4 out of 6 for immi, 8 out of 12 for emi
- **The concept of „permanent migration”**
 - Temporary changes of residence not counted, only those declared as permanent are included
- **Permit of stay expiry**

The time criterion in international migration definitions

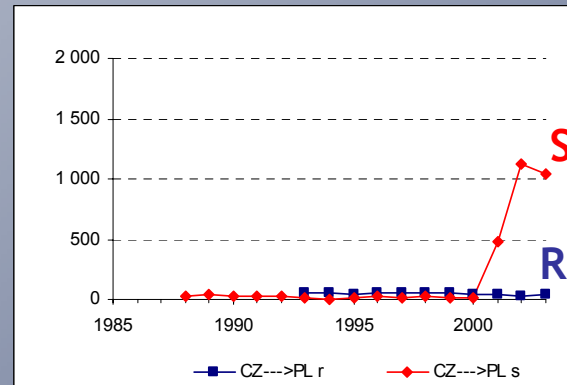


	None		3 months		6 months		Other below one year		One year		Permanent		Permit expiry	
	NAT	FOR	NAT	FOR	NAT	FOR	NAT	FOR	NAT	FOR	NAT	FOR	NAT	FOR
BE			x	x										
IMMI			x	x										
EMI			x	x ^{EU}										p
CZ										x ^{non-EU}	x			
IMMI										x ^{non-EU}	x			
EMI										x	x			p
DK	x			x ^{non-EU}	x	x ^{EU}								
IMMI	x			x ^{non-EU}	x	x ^{EU}								
EMI														
DE	x	x												
IMMI	x	x												
EMI														
EE				x								x		
IMMI				x								x		
EMI						x						x		
EL											[p]			
IMMI											[p]			
EMI														
ES	x	x												
IMMI	x	x												
EMI														
FR											p ¹			
IMMI											p ¹			
EMI														
IE	x	x												
IMMI	x	x												
EMI														
IT	x	x ^{EU}					x ^{non-EU}							
IMMI	x	x ^{EU}					x ^{non-EU}							
EMI									x	x				
CY									x	x				
IMMI									x	x				
EMI									x	x				
LV	x	x												
IMMI	x	x												
EMI														
LT					x	x								p
IMMI					x	x								p
EMI					x	x								
LU	x	x												
IMMI	x	x												
EMI														
HU			x	x ^{EU}							x ^{non-EU}			
IMMI			x	x ^{EU}							x ^{non-EU}			
EMI												x		p
MT												x	x	
IMMI												x	x	
EMI														
NL								x ²	x ²					
IMMI								x ³	x ³					
EMI														
AT			x	x						[x]	[x]			
IMMI			x	x						[x]	[x]			
EMI														
PL												x	x	
IMMI												x	x	
EMI														
PT											p			
IMMI											p			
EMI														
SI			x ⁴	x								x		
IMMI			x ⁴	x								x		
EMI													x	p
SK				p								x	x	
IMMI				p								x	x	
EMI														p
FI	x													
IMMI	x													
EMI														
SE														
IMMI														
EMI														
UK														
IMMI														
EMI														

Jump in the flows reported by the Czech Republic



PL → **CZ**



PL → **CZ**

- Czech Republic – change of definition of flows of foreigners: until 2000 – changes of permanent residence; from 2001 – changes of usual residence



Final remarks

- A good comparability of data will be difficult to achieve, if at all possible
- Modelling techniques are needed
- The disseminating bodies should pay more attention to the proper description of the data
- Data should be used with great care (inspect various sources, check definitions)
- Incomparability of statistics on international migration flows is strictly linked with that of statistics on population stocks, so both problems should be solved simultaneously.



More information:

- **THESIM book**

„*THESIM. Towards Harmonised European Statistics on International Migration*”, UCL Presses Universitaires de Louvain, Louvain-la-Neuve, 2006

Chapter 8 – „Statistics on international migration flows”

- **CEFMR Working Papers**

www.cefmr.pan.pl

Thank you