

## **Action Plan to improve and enhance the migratory data production system and data sources in Slovenia**

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

The aim of the Managing Migration and its Effects in SEE (SEEMIG) project Action Plan is to improve the quality of data on migration, migrants and demographic and labour market characteristics at the national, regional and local levels, as well as their availability and accessibility. The Action Plan contains recommendations for enhancing the quality and quantity of data included in the SEEMIG Transnational Database.

The action plan is a set of steps that need to be taken in order to achieve one of the main goals of the SEEMIG project: an improvement in data collection for a successful implementation of evidence-based strategies. It is based on the national- and transnational level analyses of the most important data sources in the field of international migration - particularly those related to human capital and the national labour market, as well as those needed for cross-national evaluations of the processes of production of statistical data in South-East Europe (SEE). In brief, the SEEMIG "Action Plan to improve and enhance the migratory data production system and data sources" represents a set of measures, at the national and local levels, that will contribute to an improvement in the field of migration, labour market and demographic data.

The objective of the national Action Plan is to propose the necessary reforms to improve data systems and to help create a transnational free-to-use database in which data can be found for the SEEMIG countries on the processes of migration, demography and labour market, and which can be used by stakeholders on the local, national and regional level for strategic developmental planning. This should lead to an improvement in the evaluation of migratory and demographic processes, as well as the closely related processes in the domains of human capital and labour market. The Action Plan also aims at improving the linking of national data production systems and data use practices with the international (especially SEE regional) ones.

The action plan specifies concrete tasks that need to be carried out in order to achieve the goal of improving the data collection in the named fields. It also specifies who should be in charge of fulfilling those tasks. Further, it sets the time horizon and specifies the order in which various tasks are meant to be accomplished. In this Action Plan the specific needs of Slovenia have been considered, that is, those resulting from the current state of the art of the relevant data sources and related to the role of migration in the development of the country. The Action Plan has been operationalized through the following axes: 1) level of intervention, 2) relevant stakeholders, and 3) priority of the activities. Its time frame is up to five years. Various legal, institutional, organizational, financial and technical challenges have been addressed. The Action Plan is in line with the strategic aims of the Wiesbaden memorandum, adopted by the European Statistical System Committee (ESSC) on 28 September 2011.

The coordinator of the SEEMIG Work Package 4 Action Plans is the Institute of Social Sciences (ISS), Belgrade, together with the Work Package 4 Leader, the Demographic Research Institute (DRI), Budapest. The template for the Action Plan was prepared by the ISS. The Action Plan for Slovenia was drafted by the Institute for Economic Research (IER), Ljubljana, and the Maribor Development Agency (MDA).

## **2. POSSIBILITIES OF SETTING UP DEVELOPMENTAL DATABASES ON NATIONAL, LOCAL AND TRANSNATIONAL LEVEL**

It would be feasible to construct a national developmental database on migration, labour market and human capital. The starting point would be national data and indicators provided for the SEEMIG transnational database. However, due to high quality and accessibility of statistical data in Slovenia, such database would make proper sense only if being aimed at providing comparable transnational data and not just being limited to the national data. The Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia maintains an on-line SI-Stat Data Portal (<http://pxweb.stat.si/pxweb/dialog/statfile1.asp>) that is similar to such a database.

In the Podravje region, at the local (LAU1 and LAU2) and regional (NUTS 3) levels there is no single data source from which a full understanding of the size and characteristics of their population could be derived. It is this information that the local authorities need in order to prepare the documents for efficient services, cohesion issues and local economic development.

The goal of the Maribor Development Agency (MDA) is to set up a regional single data source (RSDS) which would allow local policy makers a quick and complete insight into the data on population (including migration), labour market and human capital.

As a regional development agency, the MDA has included the setting up of a RSDS with relevant data at the local/regional level in the Regional Development Plan 2014-2020 for the Podravje (NUTS 3 level) region, and has coordinated the activities with other Slovenian development agencies.

It would be both possible and useful to maintain the SEEMIG Transnational Database beyond the SEEMIG's lifespan. The Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia cannot take this responsibility for the Slovenian data. At the SEEMIG Master Class the Slovenian experts shared the view that the database should be maintained by a public institute. However, it would only be feasible if adequate financial resources are granted for that particular purpose.

### 3. NATIONAL LEVEL ACTIVITIES FOR MIGRATION RELATED DATA SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS

#### 3.1. Administrative data sources

There are two interlinked major problems concerning the administrative data sources in Slovenia:

1. Migration flows do not include unregistered emigration of the Slovenian citizens with permanent residence in Slovenia to abroad; and, consequently,
2. Data on the emigrant stock are not complete.

The following problem is that

3. Not all foreigners holding a residence permit register their permanent or temporary residence in Slovenia;<sup>1</sup>
4. The foreigners with permanent residence in Slovenia do not deregister when leaving Slovenia (going to the country of origin or moving to another country); and
5. The death of emigrants is not always reported and, consequently, the deceased emigrants are not removed from the register.

Also,

6. Education of migrants was not registered prior to 2011,<sup>2</sup> and
7. A daily cross-border migration of labour from Slovenia is not comprehensively registered.

- **Steps towards improving data collection procedure, increasing coverage and quality of data, updating the databases**

In order to improve national migration and population statistics, the (de)registration system should be improved in Slovenia. Slovenia should aim at:

- registering all emigration of the Slovenian citizens and foreigners with permanent residence in Slovenia,
- consistently registering the data on the country of next residence of the Slovenian citizens who emigrate, and
- collecting and analysing data on daily cross-border migration of labour.

The following steps are proposed:

- a) Introduce proper incentives for the Slovenian citizens and foreigners in Slovenia to deregister when emigrating to abroad, and for administrative units to record data on emigration***

Issued residence permits and the expiration or cancelling of residence permits are considered as immigration/emigration of foreigners by the Ministry of the Interior. These data are not considered as official statistics on migration, but just as official statistics on residence permits. An alien who holds a residence permit issued by the Republic of Slovenia or a residence registration certificate<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Therefore, data on registration of residence are used for the preparation of statistics on migration.

<sup>2</sup> At the occasion of the 2011 register-based census the database on education of migrants was set up and has been updated on annual basis (education of emigrants as of the beginning of the year and education of immigrants as of the end of the year). Information on education of immigrants is mostly taken from the employers' reports (around 80% of immigrants are employed).

<sup>3</sup> The EU citizens and citizens of the Member States of the European Economic Area do not require any entry permit for entry into the Republic of Slovenia, irrespective of the purpose of entering and residing in the Republic of Slovenia. If they wish to reside in the territory of the Republic of Slovenia for more than three months, they have to register their residing prior to the expiry of a three-month period of the allowed residing in Slovenia in order to obtain a residence registration certificate. The validity of a residence registration certificate is five years, or for the duration of the intended period of residence in the Republic of Slovenia if it is less than five years.

must register his/her permanent or temporary residence with the competent authority. However, this is not always the case.<sup>4</sup> Therefore, for statistical purposes, data on registration of residence are used for the preparation of statistics on migration, prepared by the Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia. In case of immigration, the date of registration of residence is used; and in case of emigration, deregistration of residence and expiration date of temporary residence are used.

The third countries' citizens who wish to enter Slovenia and stay in the country for reasons other than those permitted by their visa must hold a residence permit. A temporary residence permit is issued for a specific period of time and, as a rule, for a specific purpose. A permanent residence permit is issued without any limitations as to the duration and purpose of stay in the Republic of Slovenia (Residence Registration Act 2001: Article 32).

If the reasons for issuing a residence registration certificate to an EU citizen or a citizen of the Member State of the European Economic Area is any kind of work<sup>5</sup> (employment or other work, self-employment or provision of services), or study or any other form of education, it is most likely that the person's emigration from Slovenia – if he/she does not deregister his/her residence - will be detected and registered at the time of expiration of that activity (which probably is close to the time of departure from the country). Namely, an expiration of work contract is evident from the evidence kept by the Employment Service of Slovenia and the Health Insurance Institute of Slovenia.<sup>6</sup>

However, if the reason for registering residence in Slovenia is family reunification or any other informal reason, it may be that the person's migration from Slovenia will not be detected prior to an end of the validity of a residence registration certificate (which may be the period of up to five years). Since a permanent residence permit may be issued to an EU citizen who has resided in the Republic of Slovenia continuously for five years, an emigration of an EU citizen who is not subject to payment of the social security contributions cannot be detected if the person does not deregister (even not upon the person's death since he/she is not a Slovenian citizen).

According to the Residence Registration Act (2001: Article 13), the person intending to leave Slovenia for more than three months has to inform the competent authority about that (i.e., deregister). The penalty for failing to do so amounts to € 400-1,200 (Article 25), which does not seem to be fully effective. The problem of non-deregistration could be solved by the single PIN at the EU level, which, however, is not probable to be introduced.

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<sup>4</sup> Permanent residence has to be registered in eight days (Residence Registration Act 2001: Article 6) and temporary residence in three days following the settlement (Article 10). The penalty for failing to do so amounts to € 400-1,200 (Article 25). Administrative units have been instructed by the Ministry of the Interior to draw the immigrants' attention to this obligation upon issuing them a residence permit or a residence registration certificate.

<sup>5</sup> In this case the person is also registered with the Employment Service of Slovenia.

<sup>6</sup> On a daily basis, the Business Register of Slovenia informs the Health Insurance Institute of Slovenia about persons who are not employed or do not have a registered business/activity any more.

If the employer does not deregister his employee after the expiration of a work permit, the Health Insurance Institute of Slovenia invites the employer to submit a new contract (if any).

The number of foreigners is over-estimated in Slovenia for two major reasons: 1) freedom of movement in the EU, and 2) non-registered emigration of persons (mostly labour migrants) who returned to their home countries (countries of birth). The first reason applies to the Slovenian citizens, too. There is also a lag in the Slovenian citizens' deregistration. People tend to deregister with a delay, that is, only once they have permanently settled abroad. Consequently, the registered age of Slovenian citizens who emigrated to abroad is somewhat higher than their actual age at the time of their leaving Slovenia.

These are some ideas on how the data in the Central Population Register could be improved:

- Property tax could be lower for Slovenian citizens who are not residing in Slovenia.
- The utility charges and local property-related taxes/bills could be related to residency; e.g., emigrants to abroad would be charged lower amounts. This would also apply to foreigners owning property in Slovenia or persons renting property during their absence from Slovenia.
- Awareness-rising initiatives regarding deregistration.
- Detection of emigrants in cooperation with the Postal Service of Slovenia, e.g., detecting of persons to whom official mail could not be delivered.
- The Central Population Register data could be compared with the Institute of Pension and Disability Insurance of Slovenia database, where the data on the pension recipients' country of residence are kept (i.e., the country to which the pension is paid). Pensioners who emigrated from Slovenia can be detected in this way.
- Checking those residents to whom social benefits are transferred to another country. Namely, actual residence in Slovenia in the condition for entitlement to social assistance- and family benefits.
- Checking those residents who are not using health and educational services, but would be expected to do so.
- Persons could be deleted from the Central Population Register at a certain age threshold.
- Italian good practice: The municipal police in Italy hand notice to persons who frequently travel within the EU, and these persons must present themselves at the police station within two weeks in order to remain residents. In addition, deregistration is stimulated by an almost zero property tax for persons who are in the register of Italian citizens residing abroad. Foreigners with permanent residence in Italy also have to renew their housing rent contract on an annual basis (due to annual uprating of the housing value for inflation), for which they have to be physical present in Italy.

The health insurance register may be one of the data sources for detecting unregistered emigration, however with a limited scope. Namely, people (including employed persons) may opt to continue their health insurance in their country of origin rather than in their country of destination. Another constraint is double citizenship.

An analysis of persons who are still recorded in the Central Population Register, but for whom there is no evidence in other registers, will be conducted in Slovenia in 2014. Such persons account for around 1 per cent of all persons in the Central Population Register.

No incentive for the administrative units to be more efficient in recording data on emigration has been identified since administrative units perceive the keeping of evidences just as an extra workload

and problem. One of the reasons for harmonisation of the Central Population Register with actual residence is the fact that the entitlement to social transfers usually depends on the country of residence. However, these transfers are paid from the state budget rather than from the local communities' budgets. On the other hand, a continuation of receiving social benefits (family benefits in particular) in the former country of residence may be a strong incentive for non-registering one's emigration.

***b) Collect data on the daily cross-border migration of labour***

So far, the Slovenian employment register only contains data on the cross-border migration to Slovenia. Health insurance could be a source of information on work abroad (persons insured in Slovenia but working abroad), however, it is not always evident from the health insurance code whether the person is a daily migrant. The same implies for the income tax register: we cannot know if the person who earned income abroad was a cross-border migrant.

Data on daily cross-border migration of labour from Slovenia should be collected; this request applies not only to Slovenia, but to all EU Member States and their non-EU neighbouring countries. It should be in the interest of Eurostat that the reporting on cross-border migration is made uniform in terms of methodology applied, in order to have comparable data. At the EU level the reporting to a central database at the Eurostat could be established. Relevant regulation should be adopted at the EU level and then extended through bilateral agreements between the EU and individual neighbouring countries. An initiative may come from an Employment Service or Statistical Office of any of the countries involved and interested in such data.

As evident, we are in favour of registers to be set up for that purpose rather than a survey. The reason behind our choice is the fact that full coverage of the phenomenon can be achieved through the exchange of relevant information based on the employment registers of neighbouring countries. In addition to the number of daily cross-border labour migrants, at least the basic demographic data should be reported as well (the municipality of residence, education, age, profession, etc.).

• **Steps towards making better estimates**

As already noted, the Ministry of the Interior should take further steps in order to improve accuracy/reliability of the data on emigration, which would result in better estimates of an emigrant stock. Namely, it would not be realistic to expect full coverage. Some steps leading to better estimates have already been listed and described. There is one more problem: currently, emigrant stock includes also those citizens of Slovenia who had departed to abroad and deceased there. They cannot be excluded from the emigrant stock if no official information on their death was recorded in the competent register in Slovenia. This obviously is not only the problem of the Slovenian registers and statistics. Due to that, the system of consistent mutual informing about deceased citizens of another country should be established<sup>7</sup> - first at the EU level and then extended to other countries through bilateral (regional) agreements. However, this may not work in all cases: for instance, if the person has obtained (also) the citizenship of the country of residence, or if the person has double

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<sup>7</sup> According to the information provided by the responsible person from the Ministry of the Interior, Slovenia informs other countries about deaths of their citizens.

citizenship of countries that are not his/her countries of last residence, one of which was not registered in the country of last residence.

An indication of the Slovenian citizen's death abroad is a returned mail (with a note that the person has died), for instance, related to elections. Such cases are investigated in order to obtain a proof of death.

### **3.2. Labour Force Survey**

- **Steps towards increasing the availability/coverage of foreigners by mitigating the language barriers during the fieldwork**

Language barriers have not been identified as an important problem during the fieldwork in Slovenia. In 2012, with 7,000 households in each quarterly sample, there were only 21 non-responses due to non-understanding of the language.

- **Steps towards boosting the immigrant sub-sample and adjusting it to the real territorial distribution of immigrants**

The Slovenian Labour Force Survey (LFS) sample is stratified (according to region, sex and age) and consists of approximately 7,000 households (i.e., approximately 15,000 individuals) each quarter. In spite of a relatively big sample, the sample size does not allow detailed analyses of specific population groups (i.e. immigrants) at the level of statistical regions or at lower levels. Generally, the number of immigrants is under-represented in the LFS sample, mostly due to non-coverage of collective households where the majority of foreigners with temporary residence live. However, there is no plan to include collective households in the survey. Due to a low proportion of individual households in which immigrants live, a huge increase in the sample would be needed in order to achieve a sufficient number of immigrants in the LFS. It is not likely to happen.

- **Steps towards the inclusion of supplementary questions regarding emigration or labour force out-migration**

The use of research to determine intentions to emigrate seems to be a good idea. The LFS and the Public Opinion Survey are the two surveys conducted in Slovenia to which it would be reasonable to add emigration-related questions. Possible additional question could be: "Have you ever thought of looking for a job in another country?", "In which country?", "Are you currently looking for a job abroad?", "In which country?", "What is the reason?", etc. However, some concerns remain.

- There is a significant discrepancy between emigration intention and actual migratory behaviour: intentions by far exceed actual emigration.
- The willingness of the people to participate in the field surveys has been decreasing lately in Slovenia. The length of the questionnaire influences the willingness to participate heavily.
- Also, due to unfavourable financial situation in Slovenia (and also that of the Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia - SORS) and limited human resources, the changes are designed to reduce the number of questions in the LFS questionnaire rather than to increase them. It is thus not realistic to expect additional questions to be included into the LFS questionnaire in the medium term.

Normally, an initiative to include additional questions into the LFS should preferably come through or from the Labour Statistics Advisory Committee.<sup>8</sup> Supplementary questions have to be included in an annual programme adopted at the end of a year for the subsequent calendar year. The whole procedure is relatively long.

Preferably, the collecting of data on intentions to emigrate may be decided at the EU level. A few additional questions (on intentions of emigration, past experience in job search abroad, country of job search activities, etc.) would provide very rich information for research and policy making.

• **Possibilities of using SEEMIG pilot methods (formulating new, constant LFS questions concerning outmigration)**

Experience gained through the SEEMIG LFS pilot study suggests that the LFS - being a nationally representative survey with a large sample size - has the potential to serve as a basis for a reliable estimate of the number of emigrants from a certain country. Generally, it would be possible to use the SEEMIG pilot method in the Slovenian LFS survey and include questions concerning out-migration. However, one should keep in mind that the LFS is primarily intended for monitoring activity, i.e., the current situation on the labour market. Each additional question in survey should be evaluated from the viewpoints of needs, additional burden, quality and impact on the response rate. The LFS may be a useful source of data on emigrants for countries with high out-migration, which is not the case of Slovenia. We would not be able to capture a big sub-sample of emigrants from Slovenia (particularly not the unregistered ones), so costs would highly exceed benefits. Namely, due to a small sample size (that might underestimate the number of households with relatives who are emigrants) and unwillingness to reveal information about other persons, it is very likely that the survey would capture mostly those emigrants who have been abroad for a long time and have already been identified as emigrants and a very small number of those who have not deregistered. Taking all this into account, the LFS is considered inappropriate for collecting information on emigrants from Slovenia. One should also take into account that Slovenia has very good registers.

Last but not least, the response rate in the face-to-face surveys has been dropping in Slovenia, so one of main concerns is to avoid questions that might discourage cooperation and thus decrease response rate.

### **3.3. Migrant-specific surveys**

General surveys are usually not representative for subpopulations like migrants, many of whom live in collective households. This is particularly important for a country like Slovenia that has a relatively small proportion of migrants. Due to that, Slovenia should aim at collecting as many data as possible through various registers and conduct migrant-specific surveys.

Emigration is not well explored in Slovenia, so a comprehensive survey would be welcome, also for the purpose of drafting national strategies. Surveys on possible out-migration are needed, too.

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<sup>8</sup> Statistical advisory committees for individual fields of national statistics are formed at the SORS. Their work has a significant impact on the development of national statistics in Slovenia at expert level and in co-operation of institutions in common efforts to provide quality, timely and relevant statistics. Members of advisory committees are appointed by the heads of individual institutions upon SORS's proposal.

The idea of a survey where households would be asked if any of their members had emigrated to abroad in recent years has not been supported in the expert discussion in Slovenia since the results are not likely to justify the funds to be invested in such a survey (also due to a dropping response rate in the face-to-face surveys, that would be even more discouraged by sensitive questions, like the ones on emigrated households members).

The data on cross-border labour migration could also be collected through a specific survey.

- Systematic, internationally standardized, survey-based migration-related data collection can be introduced:

- by Eurostat (periodical LFS modules, for instance; see section 3.2.) and other EU organisations,
- by other international organisations (OECD, United Nations, World Bank, ILO, etc.),
- by (research) projects financed by international organisations.

- How could surveys be designed at transnational, national and local level?

There is a need for a comprehensive survey on emigration from Slovenia and emigrants, particularly on the migration of Slovenian citizens. Emigration of highly educated young people in search for jobs and good prospects for their future professional and private lives is topical not only in Slovenia but also in many other European countries. Researchers and policy makers need to know more than a couple of basic demographic data about people who are emigrating.

Sample surveys on migration and migratory behaviour of the population could also be useful for detecting the migration perspectives and reasons for a given migratory attitude, that is, for identification of:

- factors predefining the migratory behaviour of the population, and
- expectations regarding international migration.

Such surveys might be helpful for the purpose of preventing emigration of persons needed in Slovenia, the highly educated (brain drain) in particular. Possible options include:

- a survey on emigration intentions of unemployed persons,
- a survey on migration flows of the EURES<sup>9</sup> job-seekers (these are around 900 persons in Slovenia included in the data exchange so far) and
- a follow-up of the survey on the brain drain among researchers in Slovenia (conducted in 2010) in order to check if those persons who had intended to emigrate actually did so.

Until the reporting on daily cross-border migration of labour is set up at the EU level (as suggested in section 3.1.), the data may be collected through national or transnational surveys. Several innovative survey methods were mentioned at the SEEMIG Master Class, for instance, monitoring the car registration plates at the border crossings and tracking of where the person was located at the time of a mobile phone conversation (linking the telephone numbers with tax numbers of firms and

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<sup>9</sup> The European Jobs Network with its European Jobs Mobility Portal (see: <https://ec.europa.eu/eures/page/homepage?lang=en>).

individuals may be allowed for statistical purposes; however, one may have a telephone number with a foreign operator).

- **Possibilities of planning modules for already existing international surveys (for instance related to outmigration)**

An additional periodical LFS module related to outmigration would be most welcome. This should be agreed at the EU level and set up by Eurostat. In particular, it would be interesting and important to get insight into the reasons for out-migration (see section 3.2.).

Any new module to be implemented by the Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia should be first proposed, discussed at the professional and government level, and included in the Medium-term Programme of Statistical Surveys. Such programmes are adopted by the Government for 5-year periods with the goal to anticipate statistical coverage of demands for data needed for the implementation of policies in the next medium-term period. A medium-term programme is the corner-stone for the preparation of annual programmes.

- **Steps towards setting up longitudinal migration-relevant survey**

The procedure of setting up a longitudinal migration-relevant survey depends on the geographical coverage that pre-defines the financial source(s), as well as on the organisation/institution that would conduct it. At the Slovenian level, the survey would be conducted periodically by a qualified research institute. If it is to be a longitudinal survey, funds would be granted from the state budget in order to guarantee periodical repetition. The national government would order the survey.

Another option is to be part of a transnational survey - for instance, the one ordered by the European Commission and set up by Eurostat or a consortium of national research institutes. In the latter case, this could be initiated as a project in the framework of the EU *Horizon 2020 Programme*.

## 4. LOCAL LEVEL ACTIVITIES FOR MIGRATION DATA IMPROVEMENTS

### 4.1 Capacity building of local/regional stakeholders

Two sets of actions with the aim of capacity building of local/regional stakeholders are planned:

- a. Preparation of *“A resource guide for local and regional stakeholders on local migration, labour market and human capital data”*. This guide is intended to assist local authorities and their partners in developing local population- and migration estimates and trends, with particular reference to:
  - the role of international migration and its impact on local populations;
  - early warnings of trends in such migrant flows and the extent of population churn.

The guide will provide some general information about the characteristics of migrants – from where they originate, broad age ranges, etc., that may be useful contextually in anticipating service needs.

The guide will be targeted to users new to the field, as well as those who are more experienced and who seek technical details about the use of specific sources of information, for those with a strategic interest in migration issues as well as specialists working in a research and intelligence capacity.

- b. Trainings for local/regional stakeholders on how to use the above mentioned guide and about data collection and using data for future predictions and preparation of local/regional policies and strategies based on sound evidence backed by reliable data.

Both activities are independent actions, not relying on the realization of other activities. Still, it is most feasible to have it prepared in way which would allow for other activities to feed into the proposed actions found in the guide, by providing:

- a critique of the value and use of official census, survey and administrative sources which can be used to inform local population and migration estimates;
- a review of other possible sources of information and intelligence from public, voluntary and private sectors which supplement central government sources.

### 4.2 Towards a regional single data source

The statistical (NUTS 3) region of Podravje consists of 41 LAU2 (municipalities) and 7 LAU1 (administrative units).

The goal of Maribor Development Agency (MDA) is to set up a regional single data source (RSDS), which would allow local policy makers quick and complete insight into the data on population (including migration), labour market and human capital, as well as other data, important for planning, policy and strategy making on regional and local level. The RSDS shall cover the data gathered on all three levels (LAU1, LAU2, and NUTS 3), and, if possible also at the territorial levels smaller than LAU2 (meaning on the territory of a single settlement within a municipality). This shall

provide local/regional authorities with the needed data in order to prepare documents for efficient services, cohesion issues and local economic development.

As there are various institutions collecting data, such as administrative units (7 units in the region), Employment Service of Slovenia (2 territorial units, of which first has 5 and second has 2 sub-units), Health Insurance Institute of Slovenia, (single regional unit with 4 sub-units), Tax Administration of Republic of the Slovenia (with 2 regional units, first with 2 additional sub-units and second with one additional sub-unit) and similar, the focus of the RSDS will be in gathering the data collected from these various institutions in order to get a complete regional overview of data.

The RSDS will thus have the opportunity to overview the methodologies used by various institutions, used to collect data, which will put it in a position to help the institutions revise the methodologies in order for the data to be comparable.

The RSDS will also be in the function of the connecting entity between the regional institutions and national offices for collection and processing data. In cases where certain data, collected nationally, is needed, but the region does not have it, it will be the RSDS who will contact the relevant national institution in order to receive the data.

At the same time the RSDS will also be able to supply the national institutions with accurate and fresh regional data, which national institutions may require.

As the need to collect regional/local data which is either not collected and there would be a local/regional need for it, or is collected periodically in intervals which are not frequent enough, for specific local/regional needs, the RSDS will also be able to implement surveys in order to collect local/regional data. We will use experiences gained during the implementation of pilot surveys performed within the SEEMIG project.

Apart from the above mentioned data on demographics, migration, labour market and human resources the RSDS will also collect data about the regional businesses, natural protection areas, cultural heritage, and more, making it the true one stop shop for regional data.

The RSDS will regularly update the database, keeping as accurate and up to date data as possible, as well as maintain the database and as well as process the regional data.

Furthermore it will organize trainings for local/regional stakeholders for data collection and using data for future predictions and preparation of local/regional policies and strategies based on sound evidence backed by reliable data.

The RSDS will be:

- Collecting data, which is collected by other institutions in order to provide the one-stop-shop solution for local and regional authorities, allowing them to access all data at the single point;
- Facilitate the collection of specific data, upon local/regional needs, which is not yet collected or is collected periodically, with the need arising to have more accurate data at a certain point in time;
- Processing and analysing collected data;
- Preparing general and specific regional reports and other activities for data collection;

- Reporting the up to date information for the NUTS 3 region, subdivided into LAU1 and LAU2 units;
- Training local stakeholders on usage of data for preparation of evidence based policies and strategies;
- Training local administrative units on quality data collection.

In order to set up RSDS Maribor Development Agency will implement the following activities:

1. Setting up working group (MDA with external experts);
2. Activities for financing of the setup and running of RSDS;
3. Mapping of the stakeholders in Podravje region, identification of their needs (data needs, processing and analysing needs);
4. Design of the data base: the major challenge will be to make the database system compatible with national databases that will feed into the RSDS and make the system automatic as well as with relevant international databases;
5. Collection of data from different institutions at national level as well as regional and local level
  - a. Establishing the agreement of cooperation with relevant institutions that provide the data;
  - b. Collection of data from the institutions;
  - c. Preparation of local/regional surveys for the data that is not provided from the partner institutions;
6. Testing of the system;
7. Launching of RSDS;
8. Working group will continue daily work with RSDS:
  - a. working on regular up-date of data (in intervals when updated data is available) and technical maintenance of the database
  - b. data processing activities (preparation of general reports for Podravje region, preparation of specific reports, scenarios...)
  - c. organisation of trainings for the stakeholders about the usage of the RSDS and preparation and use of scenarios in regional and local planning)
  - d. upon needs additional data gathering activities via local/regional surveys based on experiences from SEEMIG pilot surveys

One of the major challenges is connected to financing the setup and successful running of the RSDS. MDA has included the setting up of a single data source with relevant data on local/regional level in the Regional Development Plan 2014-2020 for the Podravje (NUTS 3 level) region and has already coordinated the effort with other Slovenian development agencies. This will allow the region to set up and finance the operations of the RSDS in the upcoming development period.

### **4.3 Migrant gateway**

Based on the good practice of the Italian Trentino region, presented in the framework of the SEEMIG project, the Podravje region is also interested in setting up a point of the migrant gateway that would provide the necessary services for and support to migrants. At the same time it would serve as the point where relevant data about migrants is merged, with the emphasis on the actual skills and competences of migrants brought in the country by their potential employers (who tend to report a lower educational level than the actual one).

#### **4.4 Planning surveys on local level taking into account the results of already completed surveys within and outside SEEMIG**

For the needs of the local level surveys conducted as a crucial sub-activity of establishing of the regional single data source the already conducted pilot surveys done within the SEEMIG project shall be analysed and the relevant methodology and questions will be applied. Based on the presentation of the survey and the report published as part of the SEEMIG project the relevant questions and methodologies shall be discussed with the project partners, who were responsible for carrying out the activity in order to utilise their experience and find the best possible option on how to adapt the questions and methodology for the specific needs of application to the smaller territorial units in which the survey for the needs of the RSDS would be undertaken.

## 5. IMPLEMENTATION POSSIBILITIES

**Table 1. Implementation plan for the AP proposals**

Activity		2015				2016				2017				2018				2019				
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4																	
Database	SEEMIG																					
	National																					
	Local																					
	1. Regional single data source																					
	a. Working group setup																					
	b. Activities for financing of the setup and running of RSDS																					
	c. Mapping of the stakeholders, needs identification																					
	d. Design of the data base																					
	e. Data collection – agreements with institutions																					
	f. Data collection – local/regional surveys																					
	g. Testing of the system																					
	h. Launching of RSDS																					
	i. Daily work																					



## Meetings with experts and/or stakeholders from the relevant institutions

### A. Individual meetings/contacts (in chronologic order):

**Janja Povhe**, Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia, SEEMIG External Expert (10 and 13 January 2014)

**Danilo Dolenc**, M.Sc., Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia, Demography Statistics and Level of Living (Head) (7 and 9 January 2014)

**Jadranka Kos**, Ministry of the Interior; Internal Administrative Affairs, Migration and Naturalization Directorate; Information Services Department (8 January 2014)

**Alenka Colja**, Ministry of the Interior; Internal Administrative Affairs, Migration and Naturalization Directorate; Residence Registration and Public Documents Department (Head) (8 January 2014)

**Neli Komar Novak**, Ministry of Finance; Tax Administration of the Republic of Slovenia, General Tax Office (8 January 2014)

**Irena Svetin**, Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia, Demography and Social Statistics (8 and 13 January 2014)

**Erika Žnidaršič**, Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia, Demography and Social Statistics (Head) (12 February 2014)

### B. Master Class, 26 March 2014 (SEEMIG WP 6)

Dr. **Damir Josipovič**, The Institute for Ethnic Studies, Senior researcher

**Gregor Malec**, Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, Labour Migration Division

**Klavdija Gornik**, Maribor Development Agency, Regional development

**Danilo Dolenc**, M.Sc., Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia, Demography Statistics and Level of Living (Head)

**Nuška Brnot**, Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia, Demography Statistics and Level of Living

**Marjana Fras Zorec**, M.Sc., City of Maribor, Division for Aliens

**Majda Hostnik**, Employment Service of Slovenia, Info Point for Foreigners

**Sonja Bezjak**, Social Science Data Archive

## 6. PLAN FOR SUSTAINABILITY

Maintenance of the SEEMIG transnational databases beyond the SEEMIG's lifespan would be feasible if funds are provided by the European Commission or from some other source.

The setting up of the RSDS is part of the regional development plan for the period from 2014-2020, with a planned budget, which will allow its operations for the time period after the conclusion of the SEEMIG project.

## **7. REFERENCES**

Residence Registration Act (2001). Zakon o prijavi prebivališča. *Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia*, nos. 59/2006 (official consolidated text) and 111/2007.

**Table 2. Overview table of the activities related to the WP4 Transnational Database**

Activities	Level of intervention	Relevant stakeholders	Legal basis	Previous attempt for this type of intervention? If yes, why did it not happen?	Possible difficulties	Rank of suggestion
Possible construction of a national developmental database on migration, labour market and human capital	National	A public institute in cooperation with the Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia and the Ministry of the Interior	Not needed.	n.a.	Funding (a grant would be needed).  Only probable (and not necessarily as a formal national database) if related to a transnational database.	3
Possible construction of local databases on migration, labour market and human capital: Establishment of a single regional data source office (a one stop shop for all regionally relevant data)	Regional/local	Regional and local authorities	Regional development plan, arrangement with responsible ministries.	Such initiatives were already planned and some initial phases were concluded but since certain organizations did not wish to share their collected information it was not realized. Talk with several ministries responsible for respective areas were initiated and the consent was given.	Opposition to the idea by national level institutes that might perceive the RSDS as competition to their own work.  Funding.	2
Capacity building of local/regional stakeholders ("A resource guide on local migration, labour market and human capital data" and trainings)	Regional/local	Regional and local authorities	Not needed.	n.a.		1
Maintenance of SEEMIG transnational databases beyond SEEMIG's lifespan	National; transnational.	A public institute in cooperation with the Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia and the Ministry of the Interior	Not needed.	n.a.	Funding (a grant would be needed).	2

Table 3. Overview table of the WP4 Summary report suggestions

Data source type	Activities	Level of intervention	Relevant stakeholders	Legal basis	Previous attempt for this type of intervention? If yes, why did it not happen?	Possible difficulties	Rank of suggestion
<b>Administrative data sources</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Steps toward improving data collection procedure, increasing coverage and quality of data, updating the databases:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Detection of the Slovenian citizens and foreigners in Slovenia who did not deregister when emigrating to abroad:                   <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Lower property tax for non-residents.</li> <li>➤ Lower utility charges for non-residents.</li> <li>➤ Awareness-rising initiatives regarding deregistration.</li> <li>➤ Detecting persons to whom official mail could not be delivered.</li> <li>➤ Checking persons receiving Slovenian pensions in another country.</li> <li>➤ Checking those residents to whom social benefits are transferred to another country.</li> <li>➤ Checking those residents who are not using health and educational services, but would be expected to do so.</li> <li>➤ Deleting persons from the Central Population Register at a certain age threshold.</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Collection of data on daily cross-border migration of labour with preferably a central database at Eurostat</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	National; local.	The Government of the Republic of Slovenia, the Ministry of Finance, local authorities, the Postal Service of Slovenia, Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia, the Institute of Pension and Disability Insurance of Slovenia, the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities	Residence Registration Act	The penalty for failing to deregister amounting to € 400-1,200.	Lack of sufficient interest of the national and local authorities to adopt relevant regulation.  Funding.	1
		Transnational, bilateral	The Employment Service of Slovenia and other countries; Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia and of other countries; Eurostat	To be established.	For the cross-border daily labour migration from Slovenia there is a voluntary non-systematic bilateral exchange of data with the Employment Services of neighbouring countries. As for now, a good cooperation with	Lack of initiative.  Non-readiness at the EU level to adopt relevant regulation.  Non-readiness of the Eurostat to engage.  Non-readiness of some	2

					the Austrian Employment Office has been established.	Employment Services to participate.	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Steps toward making better estimates; the case of the emigrant stock:</li> <li>Activities listed under "Detection of the Slovenian citizens and foreigners in Slovenia who did not deregister when emigrating to abroad"</li> <li>Establishing of a system of mutual informing about the deceased citizens of another countries</li> </ul>	See under "Detection of the Slovenian citizens and foreigners in Slovenia who did not deregister when emigrating to abroad"	See under "Detection of the Slovenian citizens and foreigners in Slovenia who did not deregister when emigrating to abroad"	See under "Detection of the Slovenian citizens and foreigners in Slovenia who did not deregister when emigrating to abroad"	See under "Detection of the Slovenian citizens and foreigners in Slovenia who did not deregister when emigrating to abroad"	See under "Detection of the Slovenian citizens and foreigners in Slovenia who did not deregister when emigrating to abroad"	
		Transnational	Ministries of the Interior	Bilateral (regional) agreements to be concluded.	There has been such practice established bilaterally between many countries.	A possible lack of interest of some countries.	
<b>Labour Force Survey</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Steps toward the inclusion of supplementary questions regarding emigration or labour force out-migration</li> <li>Possible additional questions related to the intention to out-migrate: "Have you ever thought of looking for a job in another country?", "In which country?", "Are you currently looking for a job abroad?", "In which country?", "What is the reason?", etc.</li> </ul>		Organisations conducting the Labour Force Survey (Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia) and/or the Slovenian Public Opinion Survey (Public Opinion and Mass Communication Research Centre)	Regulation of the Labour Force Survey and/or the Slovenian Public Opinion Survey	There is a practice of adding questions to the core surveys.	The willingness of the interviewees to participate in the field surveys has been decreasing lately in Slovenia. The length of the questionnaire influences the willingness to participate heavily.  Funding.	
<b>Migrant-specific surveys</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Survey on emigration of the Slovenian citizens</li> <li>unemployed persons</li> <li>EURES job-seekers</li> </ul>	National, regional	Employment Service of the Republic of Slovenia, Institute for Economic Research, any other organisation with adequate references.	Not yet established.	The survey on the brain drain among researchers in Slovenia (conducted in 2010).	Funding.  Lack of sufficient interest.	

	- researchers (a follow-up survey)						
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Survey on intentions to out-migrate: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- unemployed persons</li> <li>- the total population in active age</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	National, regional	Employment Service of the Republic of Slovenia, any other organisation with adequate references.	Not yet established.	The survey on the brain drain among researchers in Slovenia (conducted in 2010).	Funding. Lack of sufficient interest.	
	Survey on cross-border migration	National, regional, transnational	Employment Service of the Republic of Slovenia, any other organisation with adequate references, other institutions (depending on the survey method).	Not yet established.	None (as to our knowledge).	Adequate survey method. Funding. Lack of sufficient interest.	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Possibilities of planning modules for already existing international surveys: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- (the LFS) module on the reasons for outmigration</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Transnational	Eurostat, national Statistical Offices.	Regulation of the concrete survey.	There is a practice of adding modules to international surveys.	The decision at the Eurostat level that such a module is not needed.	3





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