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EMIGRATION FROM HUNGARY: AN INCREASING TENDENCY

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A moderate increase of emigration from Hungary after the country's EU accession in 2004 was followed by a more accentuated increase from 2007 onwards, when labour market conditions and economic indicators started to worsen. The effects of the economic crisis as well as the labour force demand of major destination countries contributed to the increase of

out-migration, and since 2011 – when Germany and Austria also ended labour market restrictions for EU8 citizens – the process has gained an unprecedented dynamism. The variance between Hungarian statistics and 'mirror' statistics reflects the incompleteness of national statistics and the problems of registering out-migration (Figure 1).

Figure 1. Hungarian citizens emigrating from Hungary (according to Hungarian statistics) and immigrating into EEA countries (according to 'mirror' statistics), 2003–2012
Sources: Eurostat database (updated on 4 April 2014), for 2009–2012 supplemented with data from Destatis (Germany) and Statistik Austria; Hungarian Demographic Yearbook, 2012.

Note: Eurostat data are missing for the UK since 2006 and for France for the whole period.

■ Hungarian citizens immigrating into European countries
■ Hungarian citizens emigrating from Hungary



The number of Hungarian citizens residing abroad has been continually growing since the mid-2000s despite return migration. The growth in absolute numbers was most pronounced in Germany, the main country of destination for Hungarians (the emigrant stock of 54,714 in 2004 increased to 113,980 in 2013), but it was also notable in the United Kingdom and Austria. Besides these major destinations there was also an increase in the number of Hungarians residing in new destination countries such as the Netherlands, Spain, Italy and Ireland. According to Eurostat data supplemented by the UK's Annual Population Survey data there were nearly

280,000 officially registered Hungarian citizens residing in EEA countries in 2013. This is about three times more than it was in 2001.

According to UN data the number of Hungarian-born people living abroad all over the world was 528,000 in 2013, which is 5.3% of the total population; one third of them live outside Europe. Although this proportion has increased since 2000, it is well below the levels seen in most EU8 and EU2 countries (Figure 2). The main emigration countries in the region are the Baltic States, Bulgaria and Romania and the growth of emigrant stock since 2000 was highest in the latter two.

Figure 2. Emigrant stock of EU8 and EU2 countries: the share of those residing outside their country of origin in the total population (2000, 2010 and 2013)
Source: United Nations database, POP/DB/MIG/Stock/Rev. 2013; author's calculation.

■ 2000 ■ 2010 ■ 2013

