

► Revision of the 20th ICLS Guidelines concerning statistics of international labour migration

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Outline

1. Reference ICLS statistical standards
2. Objectives, reference concepts and priority groups for ILMS
3. Priority data collection items
4. Data sources, priority indicators, frequency
5. Permit statistics

1. Reference statistical standards for international labour migration and mobility

20th ICLS revised Guidelines are the reference standards for ILMS

UN Principles and Recommendations
for Population Censuses, rev 4
(rev3 2015, forthcoming 2025)

EGRISS International
Recommendations on Statelessness
Statistics (2023)

United Nations Recommendations for
statistics on international migration and
temporary mobility
(1998, revision forthcoming 2025)

EGRISS International
Recommendations on Refugee
Statistics (2018)

*Labour migration is at the intersection
between population, migration, labour
and economics...*

**20th ICLS Guidelines
concerning statistics of
international labour migration
(2018, revision forthcoming 2025)**

*The 20th ICLS Guidelines build on
concepts and recommendations from
all these fields in statistics...*

System of National Accounts
(2008, forthcoming 2025)

International Trade in Services statistics
(2010)

19th ICLS Resolution concerning statistics on
work, employment and labour underutilization
(2013, amended 2023)

20th ICLS Resolution concerning statistics on work
relationships (2018)

21st ICLS Resolution concerning statistics on the
informal economy (2018)

20th ICLS Guidelines on ILMS

Contents

Why

- Objectives and scope of national ILMS programmes
- Reference concepts, definitions, classifications
- Types of statistics (stocks & flows)

What

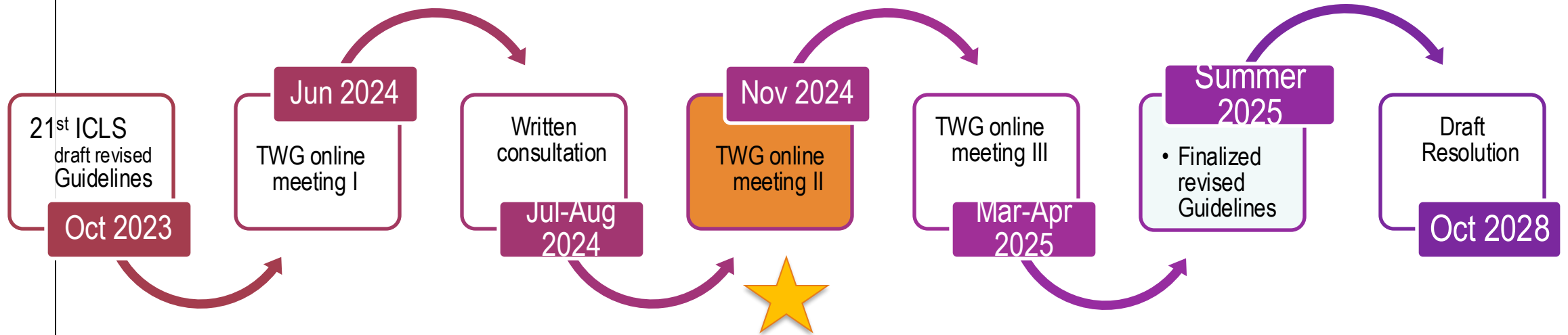
- Priority groups of international workers
- Data collection items, indicators, tabulations

How

- Frequency of data collection and reporting
- Complementary use of different data sources
- International reporting
- Measurement issues, future work

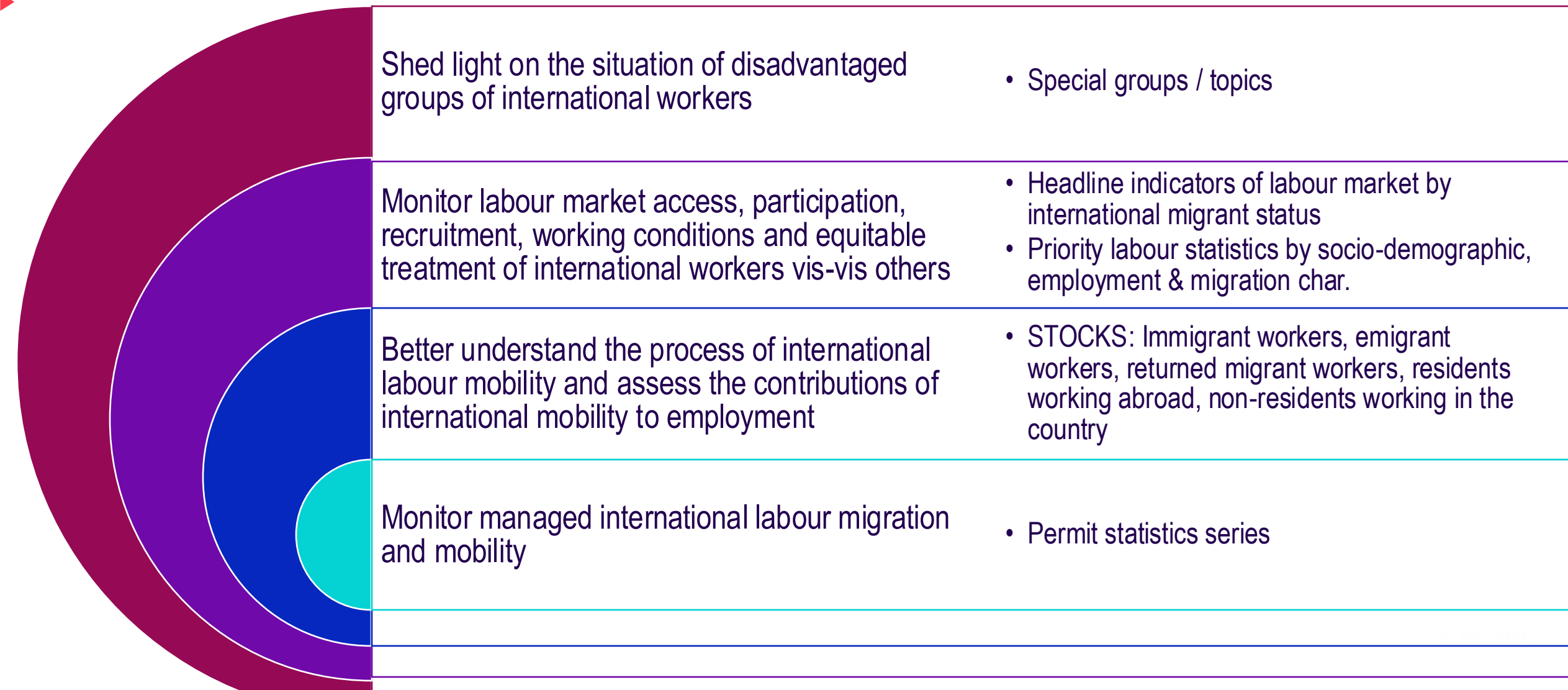
ICLS Guidelines on ILMS are currently under revision

Mandate to finalize the revision of the Guidelines in consultation with the TWG_ILMS with a view to publish revised Guidelines by mid-2025

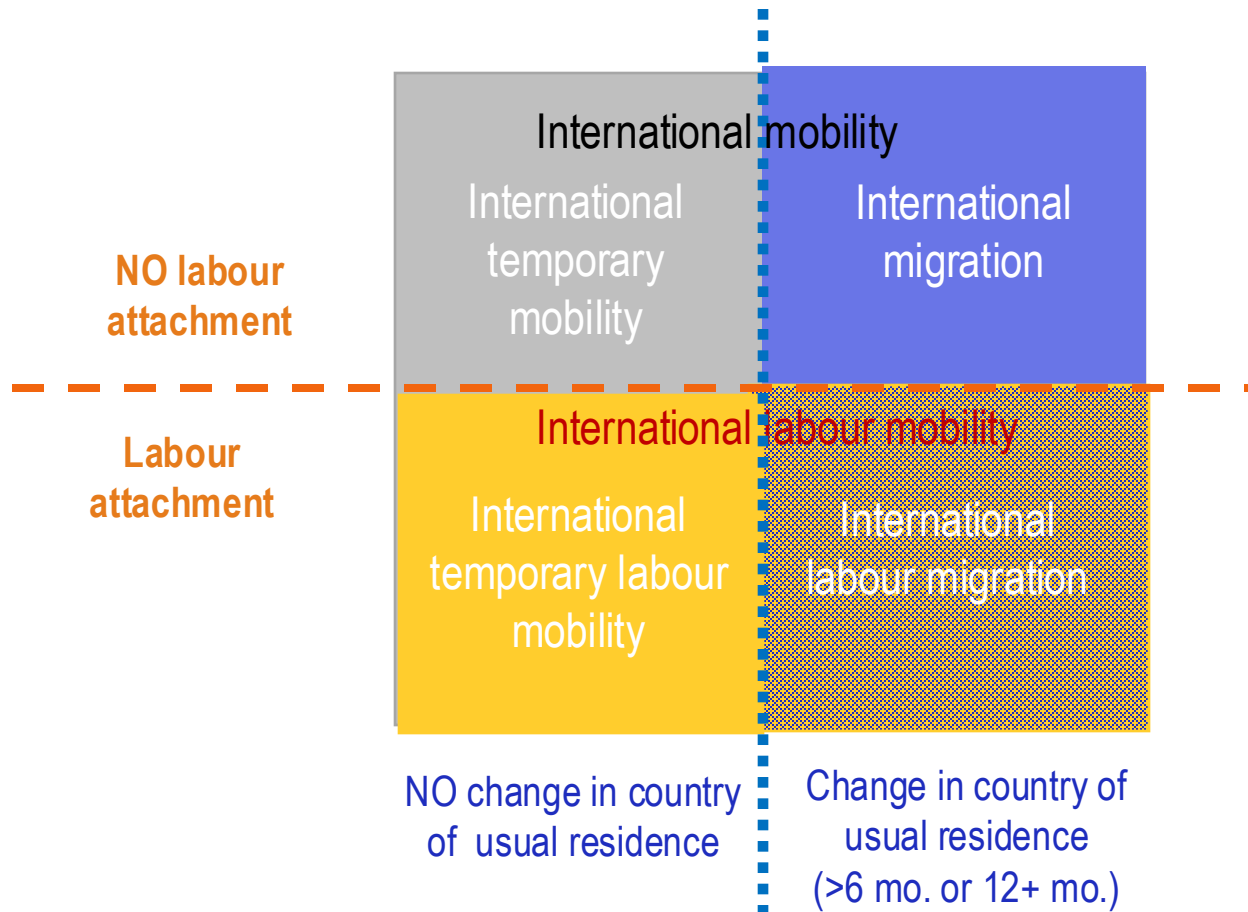


2. Objectives, reference concepts, priority groups

Objectives of ILMS



ILMS conceptual framework



Identification criteria

- Place of birth
 - native / foreign born
- Citizenship status
 - citizen /non-citizen
- Enables consistency with new UN conceptual framework for international migration and mobility statistics (2021)
- Maintains coherence with relevant reference populations for statistical purposes
 - Resident population
 - Temporary non-resident population

Basic concept: Labour attachment

Labour attachment

Refers to being engaged, or intending to engage, in the production of goods or provision of services in exchange for remuneration (i.e. employment) in the country of destination or in a 3rd country.

- As part of:
 - **Resident labour force**
 - (Foreign born / foreign national) residents who are counted **as employed or unemployed**
 - **Non-resident labour force**
 - Non-residents, present, employed or unemployed in destination country
- International workers may have a work relationship as
 - **Self-employed or employees**
 - **With an economic unit resident**
 - in the country of origin,
 - in the country of destination, or
 - in a third country.

Conceptual framework ensures inclusive, rights-based scope of ILMS

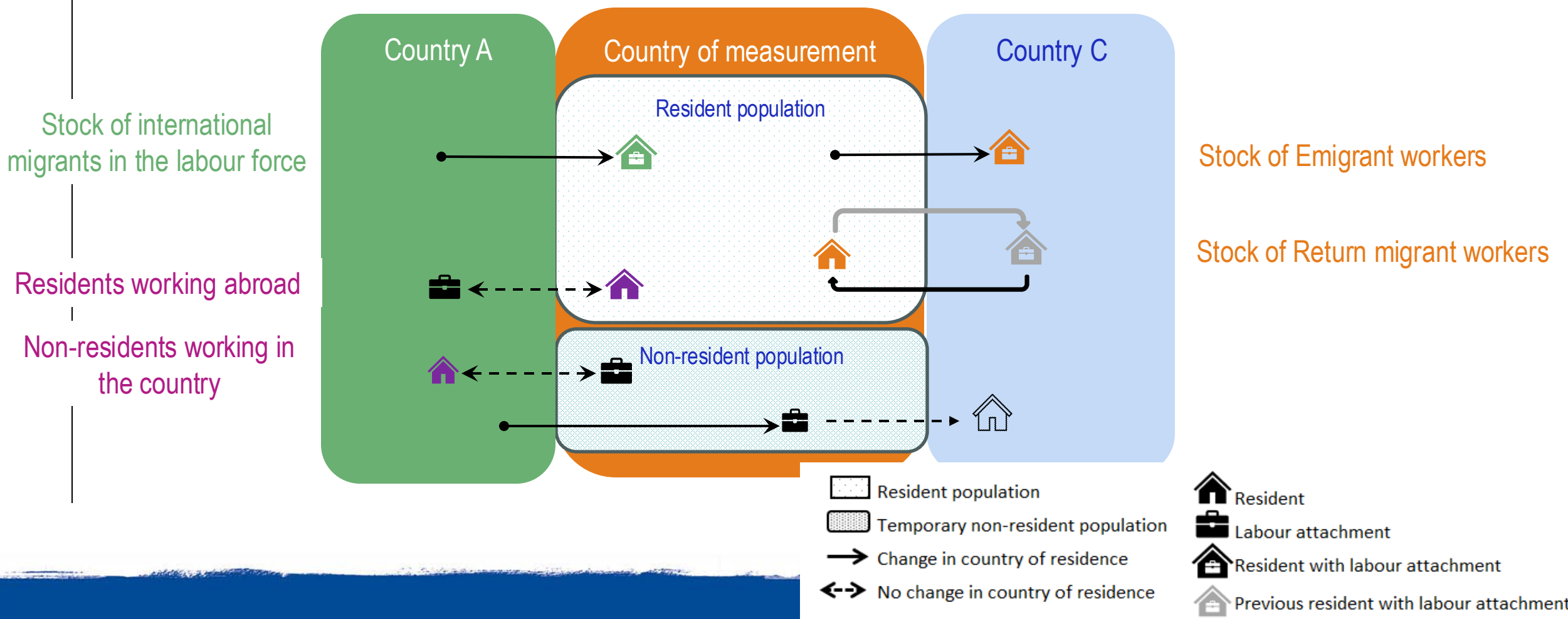
All movements that cross international borders & involve a **labour attachment** in destination or 3rd country

- Any Work situation
 - Any status in employment (employee, self-employed, contributing family helper)
 - Any branch of economic activity (agriculture, industry, services)
 - Any occupation (high skilled, low skilled)
 - Regardless of nature of work (formal or informal) or working conditions
 - Employing economic unit may be in any country (origin, destination, or 3rd country)
 - *Unpaid forms of work (as per national relevance & policy priority)*
- Any Travel/stay situation
 - Any duration of stay
 - Any residence status (resident, non-resident)
 - Any mode of crossing, type of permit
 - Any reason for move (work, education, displacement, family)
 - Any type of movement (circular, daily, transit, temporary, permanent)

To serve policy, ILMS to be produced separately for specific priority groups of international workers

Priority groups and Stock measures

- Each defined separately from a country of measurement perspective
- Enables different prioritization, frequency of measurement by countries as per relevance and policy need



National programmes for ILMS

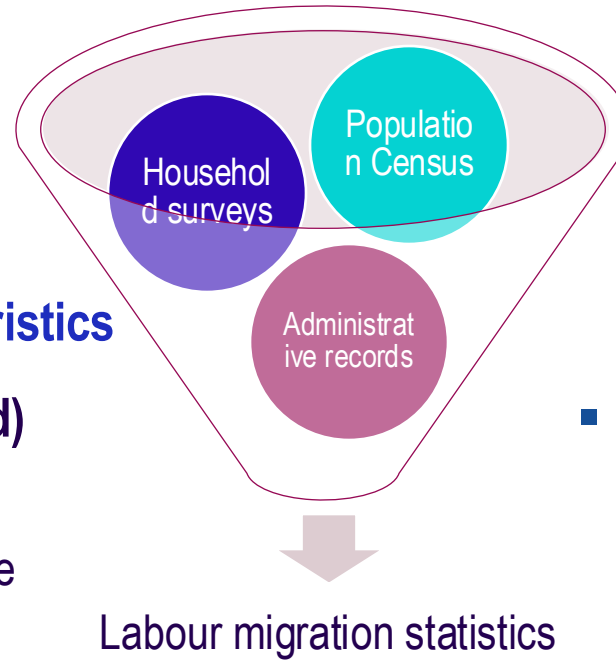
Design and planning

- ✓ In consultation with users
- ✓ In harmony with other economic, demographic & social statistics
- ✓ Based sustainable data production strategy
- ✓ Considering complementary use of different sources
- ✓ Periodicity may be different for different statistics, but should consider need for regular monitoring of trends, characteristics, and work situation

Data sources

Stock of international workers & characteristics

- **Population census (field or register-based)**
 - Benchmark stock estimates
 - By socio-demographic, by living quarters type
 - Detailed geographic distribution
 - Auxiliary variables for sampling frames
- **Surveys (Migration / LFS)**
 - Key labour force indicators by migrant status
 - Descriptive employment and working conditions
- **Administrative records**
 - Border records to update stock estimates
 - Work permit records (valid) : by residency and labour rights
 - Social security, tax records: for earnings, social security contributions and coverage



Inflow / outflow statistics

- **Administrative records**
 - Border records:
 - Annual inflows by reason
 - Work permit records:
 - Inflows / Outflows (new permits)
 - Status changes (renewals)
 - By essential job characteristics
 - By essential employer characteristics
 - By associated residency and labour rights

National ILMS programmes require combined use of multiple data sources

3. Priority data collection items

Minimum data items for identification purposes

For international migrants in the labour force

- Place of birth (native / foreign born)
- Citizenship status
- **Labour force status**
- Country of usual residence
- **Country of labour attachment**
- Reason for move
- Date of (most recent) arrival

For emigrant / returned migrant workers

- Place of birth
- Citizenship status
- Ever residence abroad
- Country of usual residence
- **Employment experience abroad**
- **Country of labour attachment**
- Date of (most recent) departure / return

Priority socio-demographic data items

Essential for cross-cutting disaggregation

- Sex
- Age (separate youth categories)
- Educational attainment level

Additional

- Type of living quarters
- Disability status
- Destination country language proficiency
- Field of study
- Country of highest educational qualification
- Formal recognition of educational qualification
- Marital status
- Presence of family

► Data items on labour market characteristics

Minimum

- Branch of economic activity
- Occupation
- Status in employment
- Location of economic unit of employment
- Location of place of work
- Labour underutilization

Additional

- Hours usually worked, contractual hours of work
- Type of employment agreement
- Duration of work agreement
- Duration of employment in the economic unit
- Formal/informal nature of the job
- Formal / informal economic unit
- Employment related income

Special topics

- Occupational injuries
- Recruitment costs
- Social security entitlements
- Remittances sent

Data items on migration process characteristics

As feasible, to support assessments of the migration process with reference to most recent or current migration or move:

- Type of visa / residence / work permit
- Type of restrictions in right to employment
- Type of restrictions in the rights to residence

4. Priority indicators and frequency of reporting

International migrants in the labour force: Frequency of reporting

- As per national relevance to support monitoring of trends and working conditions

For countries with a sizeable share
(in country or in specific industries)

Annual

- Stocks of international migrants in the labour force

Annual or quarterly

- Priority labour force, labour underutilization, informality indicators by international migrant status

Every 3 years

- Working conditions, decent work by migrant status
- Sectoral employment statistics by migrant status, covering workers in collective living quarters (e.g. agriculture, construction, tourism, etc)

For countries with low % or without established annual data production systems

Every 5-10 years

- Benchmark stocks
- Priority labour force statistics disaggregated by migrant status

+ Progressive development

- of data production system to improve frequency and timeliness

Emigrant, return migrant workers: Frequency of reporting

- As per national relevance to support monitoring of trends and working conditions

**For countries with sizeable share of emigrant workers
and/or return migrant workers**

Every 5 years

- Stock of emigrant workers
by core socio-demographic, migration and job abroad charac.
- Stock of returned migrant workers
by core socio-demographic, migration and job abroad charac.

Temporary labour mobility: Frequency of reporting

- As per national relevance to support monitoring of trends and working conditions

For countries with sizeable share of temporary labour mobility

Annual

- Stock of residents working abroad
by type, core socio-demographic, migration and job abroad characteristics
- Stock of non-residents working in the country
by type, core socio-demographic, migration and job abroad characteristics

3. Permit statistics for ILMS:

New under discussion by
the ILO TWG_ILMS

► Permit statistics

- Policy relevant to shed light and monitor managed international labour mobility
- Complementary set of recommended statistics to be specified in draft Guidelines
- To cover authorization to work (plus granted rights to employment) among international migrant population(s) and persons in temporary labour mobility
- Can cover arrivals/departures as well as status changes within destination country
- As building blocks in ILMS programmes
- Where integrated data source systems exist, permit statistics can be used to produce international migrant employment statistics by permit type

► Scope for Permit statistics

- Administrative data source:
 - Work permits, authorizations to work
 - Work permit exceptions
 - Residence permits that grant (partial/full) rights to employment
- Statistical units
 - Permits
 - Persons (permit holders)
- Measures (annual)
 - 1st issued permits
 - Permit renewals
 - Valid permits at end year (stocks)

Example: Work permit statistics, Türkiye (2022)

Issued to foreign nationals for employment in Türkiye

Sex	Work permits issued by		Total valid
	First-time application	Renewal or extension application	
Female	38,230	19,599	57,829
Male	136,161	18,692	154,853
Total	174,391	38,291	212,682

Source: Ministry of Labour and Social Security (MoLSS)

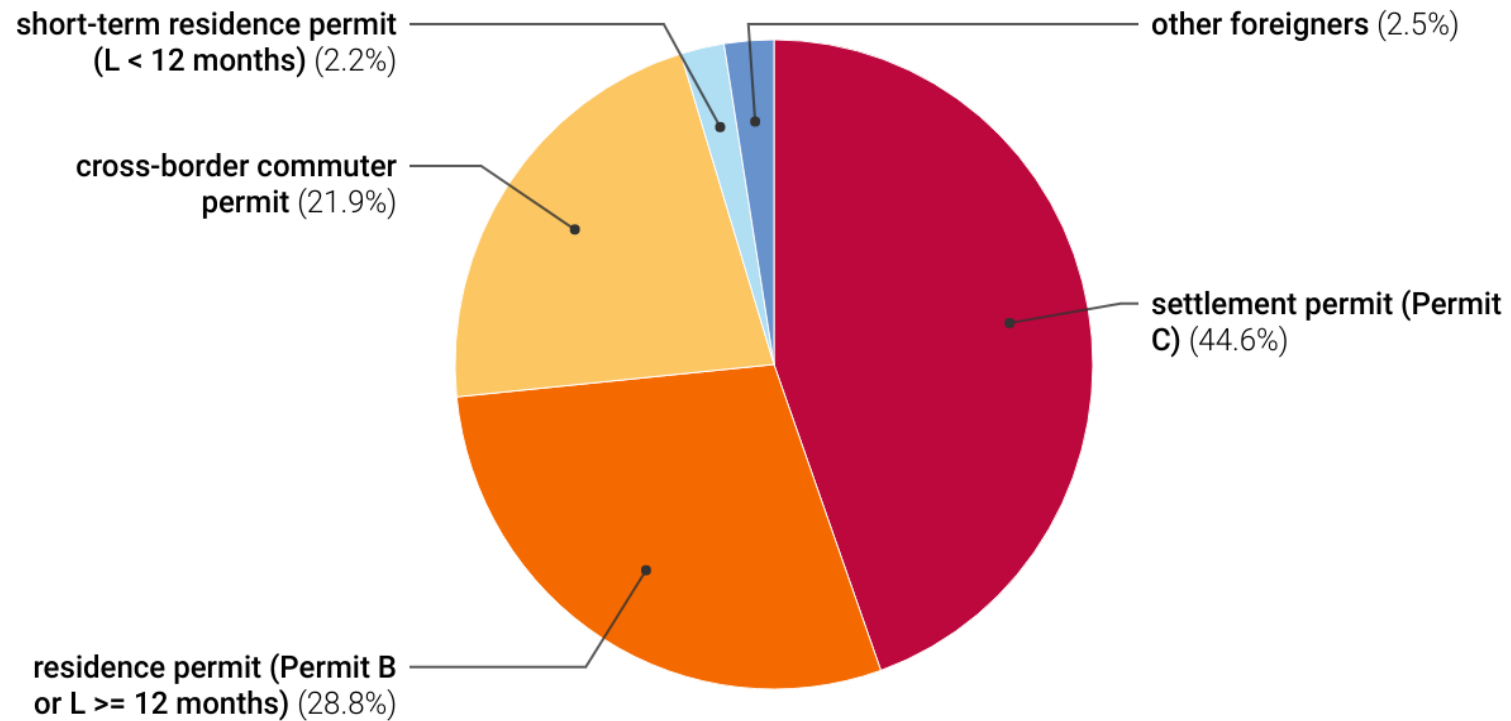
Classifications of permit statistics relevant for ILM

- Suggested main classification variables
 - **By type of permit**
 - Seasonal, cross-border worker, self-employment, ...
 - Researcher, non-professional worker, job seeker
 - Permanent residence with right to employment
 - **By duration of validity**
 - Below threshold for usual residence (e.g. < 12 months)
 - Above threshold for usual residence (e.g. ≥ 12 months)
 - Non-permanent (restrictions to stay apply)
 - Permanent (no restriction to stay apply)
 - **By place of issuance**
 - Outside country of measurement
 - Within country of measurement (status change / renewal within country)
 - **By type of rights to employment and residence**
 - Yes / Partial / No
- Socio-demographic variables
 - Sex
 - Age
 - Country of birth / citizenship
 - Country of residence*
 - Education level attained*
 - Labour related variables
 - Occupation*
 - Industry*

Illustration: Switzerland, 2023

Employed persons of foreign nationality by residence permit

1st quarter 2023, domestic concept



Source: FSO – Employment Statistics (ES)

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Possible framework to classify permit statistics for ILMS

	With duration of validity below threshold for residence (e.g., less than 12 months)	With duration of validity above threshold for usual residence (e.g., 12+ months)	
		With no right to permanent residence	With right to permanent residence
Explicit authorization to work	<i>Permits (or exemptions) to work for less than residence threshold (e.g. seasonal worker, cross-border worker, holiday worker, etc.)</i>	<i>Work visa for duration above residence threshold, without right to permanent residence (e.g. non-professional foreign-worker visa)</i>	<i>Work visa for duration above residence threshold, with right to permanent residence (e.g. distinguished talent visa)</i>
With right to employment (may include restrictions)	<i>Non-work permit for stays less than residence threshold with right to employment (e.g. trainee visa, etc.)</i>	<i>Non-work residence visa, without right to permanent residence, with right to employment (e.g. student, researcher visa)</i>	<i>Permanent residence permit with right to employment (e.g. family reunification visa)</i>
No right to employment	<i>Non-work permit for stays less than residence threshold without the right to employment (e.g. tourist visa, etc.)</i>	<i>Non-work residence visa, without right to permanent residence, with no right to employment (e.g. dependent family member)</i>	<i>Permanent residence permit without right to employment (e.g. retiree visa, golden visa)</i>

Resources

- **Labour migration at the 21st ICLS**
 - [Report I: General report](#) (sections 2.2, 3.14, 4.3, and 5.2);
 - [Room document 16: Review of country practices](#)
 - [Room document 17: Proposal for revised Guidelines](#)
- **ILOSTAT Statistics on international labour migration**
<https://ilostat.ilo.org/topics/labour-migration/>
- **E-course on measuring migrant recruitment costs**
 - <https://www.itcilo.org/courses/measuring-migrant-recruitment-costs-sdg-indicator-1071>



Case studies in ILMS: Documentation of country experience

**Aim to shed light on national
practices, promote sharing across
countries and identify good practice**



<https://ilostat.ilo.org/topics/labour-migration/>

ILO Global estimates on international migrant workers (forthcoming)

- Launch release: 16 December 2024
- 4th edition
- New modelled based estimation methodology
- First time global and regional estimates of employment and unemployment by international migrant status and sex



<https://ilostat.ilo.org/topics/labour-migration/>