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Statistics of international migration in the CIS countries *

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I. Main features in the sphere of statistics of international migration in the CIS countries

Comparability of international migration statistics is a permanent issue for researchers. Sometimes we need to take into account not only technology and methodology of data collection, but also political and economic considerations that influence data collection schemes and procedures. Here one could find a close connection between policies and migration measurement. International migration is a relatively new topic for the CIS countries, because until the end of the 1980s it was strictly limited in the USSR. In the last 15 years, however, new independent states overcame deep geopolitical transformations which directly and dramatically influenced both internal and international migration processes.

Former compatriots now appear to be foreigners. Freedom of movement and developing market economies stimulated new forms of migration and it became apparent that old systems of data collection can not work effectively any more. It was necessary to work out new approaches to foreigners' and nationals' status regulation, especially in the field of registration. There was a keen need for new mechanisms and institutes of migration regulation, as well as for an adequate legal base. In the 1990s, new institutions were established in all the CIS countries to manage and monitor new forms and trends of migration processes. They include national migration services, special departments within the ministries of labour and ministries of foreign and/or internal affairs. A series of legislation and other normative acts were issued to substantiate migration management and population registration.

Before the dissolution of the USSR, international migration in the country was not an issue. The main official data sources¹ – population censuses and annual statistics of migration flows (internal rather than international) based on registration of migrants in local police agencies were partially available. Administrative statistics (police registration, border control, visa statistics) was not available and was never published. Until now in many countries of the region the situation remains the same – the main change has to do with better access to data produced by national statistic institutes.

Since the beginning of 1990s new systems of data collection were established in almost all of the countries of the region to register phenomena that did not exist (or was inconsiderable) before the dissolution of the USSR. The first changes in data collection were caused by the necessity to register in a special way absolutely new and unfamiliar flows of forced and labour migrants. Later, in order to fill the gap in information pertaining to mobile population at the borders, several countries began to use migration or border cards as an additional source of data. In some countries these data are processed in a proper way and give adequate information. In migrant sending countries the role of household surveys as a source of information increased; for instance, in Tajikistan, household surveys are now the main source of statistics on migrant flows.

Nowadays all the countries of the CIS have several systems of mobile population registration and control: border control data, data on refugees and asylum seekers, labour force statistics, statistics of foreign students and others, and administrative data on flows based on personal registration. Traditional statistics are collected as well: census information about the foreign and foreign-born population, and statistics of flows based on information from administrative sources.

The previous system of migration data collection (in national statistics institutes) in some countries was modified simultaneously with changes in the administrative system of population registration (so called "propiska"). The basic principles of registration and migration data collection were not abolished, but

¹ Produced by the national statistics institute.

some new features appeared. More liberal terms of registration, more freedom to move (and more liberal legislation in general) – all these factors influenced the traditional system of registration. Since the mid-1990s, in many countries the ministry of internal affairs began to apply two types of registration: in a place of stay and in a place of residence. Statistics of migration deals only with migrants identified through the second type of registration.

This peculiarity was the main reason for unprecedented underestimation of long term migrants in the Russian Federation, as there was no time limit of "stay" and in fact thousands of migrants have lived in their place of destination for years, but were not included in the statistics of migration (for the details see paragraph on the Russian Federation below). Up to this moment many countries of the region still register migrants in a manner very similar to that of the Soviet system. National statistical institutes receive from police agencies paper statistical forms with information about migrants, both foreigners and nationals (Russia, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan², Tajikistan, Turkmenistan³, Armenia and Azerbaijan).

The major part of the former USSR, including the CIS countries, tried to find new forms of population and migration registration, often with considerable support of international organizations or countries with highly developed registration systems. Moldova was the first state among the CIS countries to substitute the old system with a new one. Since 1998 it has been operating a population register which became the main source of data on international migration flows.

The countries of Caucasus (namely Georgia and Armenia) plan to or have recently run population registers, and it is expected that very soon information on migration will be collected from within this system of registration. Creation of population registers is also planned in some countries that currently still use old registration system –Ukraine, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and the Russian Federation (it is planned that by 2010 Russia will have a population register). This work is done within the framework of national "E-Government" projects.

However, up to now, Russian Federation, Belarus, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan and Tajikistan still maintain an internal passport system with a slightly changed registration and migration data collection procedures. In Kazakhstan and Azerbaijan internal passports have been replaced by identification cards; however, data collection in case of migration to a new place of residence was not modified considerably.

In many CIS countries, questionnaires for the most recent censuses of population were expanded in order to observe new trends and phenomena in the area of migration. The census programmes (2000 round) in many countries of the former USSR included questions about temporary stay abroad (for nationals) or in the country (for foreigners), about refugee status, etc. The population census is considered to be the main source of data for migrant stock estimation. Citizenship is the preferred criterion, as the majority of foreign-born population moved before the dissolution of the USSR, so these people were citizens of the same country and could not be counted as international migrants (see Annex 1).

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² Р. С. Махмудова, У. Э.Олимов. Особенности статистического изучения миграции населения в Республике Узбекистан. Рабочий документ № 19. Совместный семинар ЕЭК ООН/ Евростата по статистике миграции (Женева, 21-23 марта 2005 года)

³ Production of current migration statistics? in Turkmenistan. Submitted by the National Institute of Statistics and Forecasting of Turkmenistan. Working Paper No.2/Add.9 Conference of European statisticians Joint ECE-EUROSTAT Work Session on Migration Statistics organized in cooperation with the UN Statistics Division. (Geneva, 21-23 May 2001)

Some data that was hardly available before became accessible and national statistical agencies started to publish annual reports. Technological development and computerization opened new possibilities for data collection, input, processing and exchange.

II. National statistical institutes and data on migration flows 4

As has been mentioned above, traditionally in the CIS countries the national statistics institutes are considered to be the main producers of official statistics on international migration. Data on migration is published in demographic yearbooks and as a rule it is available for users. National statistics institutes of the CIS countries without a population register receive individual data on paper carriers from police authorities. Special statistical forms are filled in for a person if he or she is registered in a place of (permanent) residence.

Ukraine. Paper carriers of primary information that are used in Ukraine differ from those used in the other CIS countries. As a rule, to register a migrant, a police officer has to fill in special forms to be left with police for administrative purposes, and a special statistical form is to be sent to statistical bodies. In Ukraine it was decided to employ the same form that is used by police for residents' registration (or deregistration) for statistical purposes as well. On the one hand, this practice improved the coverage, as it appeared that police officers prefer to copy the same form rather than to fill in a special statistical coupon with a longer list of questions. On the other hand, it reduced the number of variables available to statisticians, as police registration form contains only general information about a migrant.

As a rule a foreigner must have a residence permit to be registered as a resident. The only exception is Kazakhstan, where legislation allows a foreigner who intends to stay in the place of destination for six months or more to be registered in that place of residence without a residence permit. Definitions of place of residence in the CIS countries do not differ much but sometimes they appear inadequate. Except for Ukraine, Kazakhstan and Moldova, the place of residence status does not imply any concrete duration criterion. The necessity of a more precise definition is not discussed, although it is quite clear that this issue is very important⁵.

Statistical forms collected by the local registration authorities (as a rule, within a Ministry of Interior; in Kazakhstan, Ministry of Justice) are to be sent to regional statistics bureaus for processing. Most of the national statistical institutes in CIS countries do not produce information on the composition of foreign migrants by citizenship. The Russian Federation began to process this data only in 2002. In most of the CIS countries except the Russian Federation, the coverage of immigration flows seems to be satisfactory.

Emigration in the CIS countries is counted much worse than immigration. A primary form is filled in only if a potential migrant applies for deregistration. Researchers have noticed that if there are no exit restrictions (like requirement of an exit visa), people often do not declare their emigration. This happens both with foreigners and nationals. That is why statistics in the countries of destination generally observe more migrants from a given country of origin than there are emigrants counted by national statistics in the country of origin. As a rule, deregistration is not obligatory for migrants who leave the country for residence abroad (both nationals and foreigners). Theoretically it is obligatory only if a migrant needs to sell his or her flat or house. In this case, deregistration of the previous owner is demanded by the new owner. If a migrant does not need to sell the house or flat (in order to return sometimes, or to lend it, or

⁴ Acknowledgements for consultations on this paragraph should be done to Nina Cesnokova (Moldova), Liubov Stelmakh and Olga Ostapchuk (Ukraine), Erbolat Mussabek (Kazakhstan).

⁵ The registration of Population with Usual Residence: Evidence from the THESIM Project. UNECE/Eurostat Seminar on Migration Statistics Organized in cooperation with UNFPA (Geneva, 21-23 March 2005)

because migrant's relatives still live in this dwelling space), voluntary deregistration is problematic. There are thousands of migrants who have gone abroad a long time ago but remain registered in local police departments. According to information from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, only a few countries require proof of deregistration of a migrant from the Russian Federation who wants to reside in their country. Underestimation of departures from the Russian Federation, for instance, is about 20% of the registered outflow⁶.

Table 1. Definition of place of residence for migrants registration (CIS selected countries)

Russian	For Nationals: Place of residence – a place where a person permanently or usually resides,
Federation	being an owner or under the condition of tenancy contract, etc. – (house, flat, hostel,
	sheltered housing, etc.)
Ukraine	For both nationals and foreigners: Place of residence is an administrative territorial unit
	where a person lives for 6 months and more within a year. (Foreigners have to get a
	residence permit (permanent or temporary)).
	Another definition – Place of residence is a place where a person permanently or
	predominantly lives as an owner or under the terms of tenancy contract, etc. (house, flat,
	hostel, sheltered housing, etc.)
Kazakhstan	For nationals: "Place of residence" is not defined (in available sources), but as a rule
	implies a stay of six months or more.
	For foreigners: Registration in a place of residence implies a stay of more than six
	months.
Moldova	Place of permanent residence is a place where a person lives permanently. As a rule, six
	months criteria is applied. (Temporary residents are registered in MOI.)
Byelorussia	For both nationals and foreigners with residence permits: Place of residence is a place
	where a person permanently or predominantly lives, as an owner or under the terms of
	tenancy contract, etc. (house, flat, hostel, sheltered housing, etc.)
Kyrgyzstan	Place of permanent residence is a place where a person lives permanently.

Republic of Moldova. Although the Republic of Moldova has established an advanced system of population registration, implying possibilities for good population statistics collection, until recently the situation was far from satisfactory. In Moldova, the Ministry of Information and Development is responsible for registering both internal and international migrants (either nationals or foreigners). The population register includes some special modules – "Foreigner", "Consul" and "Citizen". Personal data collected at the borders is incorporated into the register. Foreigners are to be included into the population register if they intend to stay in Moldova for six months or longer. The same criterion is applied to nationals. The national statistics institute receives aggregated data (tables) on migration on paper carriers. Data on internal migration are received quarterly; that on international migration, once every six months. According to a contract between the National Statistical Bureau of Moldova and the Ministry for Information and Development this data could be used only for administrative purposes. The

⁶ Denissenko M., Kharaeva O, Chidinovskikh O. Immigration policies in the Russian Federation and some countries of the West. Moscow, 2003. In Russian.

⁷ Source: Legislation of the former USSR countries in the sphere of registration. OSCE conference on reform of registration system. Issyk-Kul, July 2005. CD

⁸ Sitnik Sregey. Establishment and use of National Population Register in Republic of Moldova. (Формирование и использование Государственного регистра населения в Республике Молдова). PPT presentation, OSCE seminar on reform of registration system in the Post-Soviet countries. Issyk-Kul, Kyrgyzstan, July 2005.

Statistical Bureau publishes data only on emigration by country of supposed destination⁹. A joint decision by the National Statistical Bureau and registration authorities in 2005 implies the development in communication between Population Register and Statistics Bureau: paper carriers with aggregated information should be substituted by electronic format individual data. This work will be done with technical and financial assistance of the Central Bureau for Statistics of Norway. Rules of personal registration in a place of residence should have been revised, however we have no information as to whether this has been done or not.

Russian Federation. The quality of statistics of migration flows in the Russian Federation rapidly deteriorated since the middle of 1990s – both in coverage and composition of flows. Until the mid-1990s. a person was defined as a migrant if he or she was registered in a place of residence. For international migrants it was necessary to cross the border of the state. Some more conditions existed for internal migrants; for instance, residential mobility within one city or a move from one village to another within the borders of the same administrative district does not count as internal migration¹⁰. New rules of registration (1995) defined two types of registration: (a) in the place of residence; and (b) in the place of stay. The latter initially implied temporary stay of not longer than 180 days. However, very soon (one year later), the Constitutional Court abolished all time limitations for temporary registration. What was the result from the viewpoint of statistics? According to the same Rules of registration, the primary statistical form must be filled in only for migrants who are registered in a place of residence. If a migrant is registered in the place of stay, regardless of the duration of his stay a primary statistical form must not be filled in. As a result, all long-term migrants who did not have a residence permit quite legally staved in the Russian Federation for years, but were not included in the statistics. Thus, almost all labour and educational migrants are not "counted" because the majority of them are registered in the place of stay. The composition of flows by reason for move that is published in Rosstat Yearbooks is therefore very far from the real situation

In 2002 the new federal law on status of foreigners in the Russian Federation defined the basic principles of establishment of the Foreign Population Data Bank (i.e. Register of Foreigners). Unfortunately nothing was written about the necessity to collect primary information for the needs of Rosstat. This means that since 2002 there is no legal act prescribing either to fill in the primary statistical form for foreigners registered in Russia, or to send any other statistical data on migration flows from the Federal Migration Service to Rosstat¹¹. Theoretically since that moment, no statistical forms for foreigners who arrive in or leave Russia need to be filled in and forwarded to Rosstat. In practice, in some regions people responsible for registration continued to collect primary data for Rosstat due to the tradition or other considerations; in the other regions, they stopped collecting data for Rosstat as soon as they understood that they need not do any additional work any more. Thus, according to Rosstat data in 2002 and 2003, there were absolutely no (zero) foreigners among those who arrived in Moscow (total inflow from abroad was 10,6 and 7,6 thousand, respectively). In 2004 there were only 704 foreigners of about 6.5 thousand international in-migrants¹². Moscow is one of the most attractive regions for foreign migrants and such

⁹ Census-2004 data, that are well presented on the web-site of NSI to a certain extent can compensate lack of information about migration flows in Moldova.

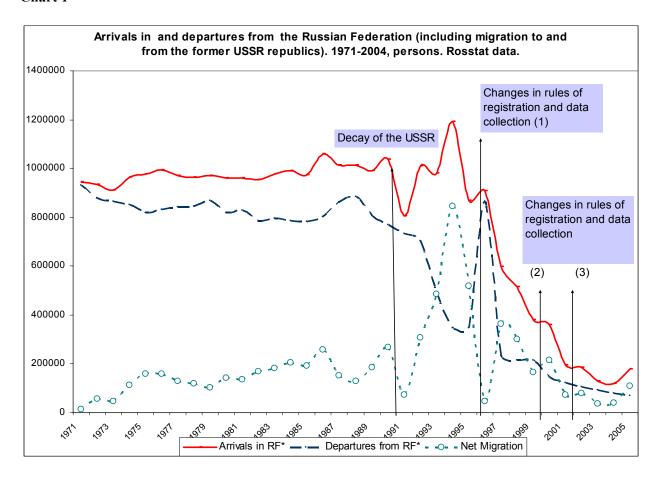
¹⁰ Till 1996 a person should have been registered in the new place of residence (and deregistered in the previous) if he or she intended to stay in the place of destination for more that 45 days, for foreigners this time limit made 3 months. In both cases these migrants were included into statistical observation.

¹¹ Therefore, theoretically Rosstat should receive data on foreigner migrants only if they are refugees or foreign workers; as it was mentioned above, this information is obtained from special systems of data collection in Federal migration service.

¹² Source: Population and migration in the RF in 2003, 2004/ Statistical Yearbook, Rosstat, Moscow, 2004, 2005.

low figures arouse suspicion. In the same years, several thousands of foreigners got residence permits in Moscow. A similar situation was observed in many other regions of the Russian Federation. Official data show that about 15 % of in-migrants are foreigners, and all the rest are the Russian nationals (see Annex 2). There is one more suspicion: nobody can be sure that these nationals do not include people who were granted Russian citizenship and, according to the rules, came to the police to be registered as Russian citizens.

Chart 1



Source: Rosstat.

Therefore the decline in migration inflow that is observed in chart 1 is caused by changes in rules of migration data collection and not only by some objective factors. Total number of immigrants since the mid-1990s should be at least two times higher than official statistics shows.

III. Administrative systems of migration registration and potential data sources

Annex 3 presents potential sources of statistics of international migration by category of migrant, and the government authority responsible for each. Some of those data is available, but the major part is not. There is a lack of data on residence permits, citizenship acquisition and visa statistics.

Labour migration data.

As a rule, labour migration data show only the "visible part of an iceberg". Migrant receiving countries underestimate irregular foreign workers, while sending countries can not accurately estimate how many

nationals have left to work abroad. Most emigrants find a job themselves, which means that official data of recruiting agencies in the countries of origin do not include them in their statistics. In the Russian Federation only about 50 thousand workers are employed abroad annually, the majority of them being sailors recruited by foreign shipping companies. Comparability of data is problematic as there are statistics based on work permits and statistics of workers that were employed during the year. Besides, as a rule, countries make no distinction between the issuance of the first and subsequent work permits, as there is no procedure of permit extension.

Border statistics.

Border statistics data became partially available quite recently and not everywhere. The main problem with this data is as follows: policy makers are not used to interpret them in a proper way and very often the residual between entries and exits is considered to be "illegal net migration". Such point of view is traditional to some of the Russian policy makers and their Ukrainian colleagues as well¹³. The basic problem of administrative systems of migrant registration and data collection is an obvious reluctance of the responsible authorities to publish the data or to produce adequate statistics.

Statistics on refugees and asylum seekers.

Under the condition of very limited access to the major part of data, information on refugees seems to be the most reliable, well collected and available.

Migration card system.

Big volumes of unregistered migrants forced several countries of the region to establish systems of migration card collection. Ukraine, Russia, Moldova and Tajikistan use this data source; however, due to the lack of equipment and skilled personnel only part of the primary forms could be processed (in the Russian Federation, until recently approximately half of the cards). There is an increase of interest in migration cards statistics, caused by the necessity to fill the gap in normal data under the condition of inefficiency of regular systems of migrant registration.

Tajikistan. Migration cards in Tajikistan are used not only for foreigners who enter the country, but also for nationals who leave for abroad. A foreigner receives the card at the time of entry and returns it back to an officer of the border service at the time of exit. Data is collected and processed in the Migration service of Tajikistan. As official statistics collected by the national statistics service seems to be not reliable, since January 1, 2004 a new system of data collection was established to monitor the emigration of nationals. The cards for nationals are filled in at the time of exit by the border service officers, data input and processing is done by the State Migration Service (Ministry of Labour and Social Protection). Aggregated data should be communicated to the National Statistics Committee.

Regularization campaigns.

Regularization campaigns could also be an additional source of data on international migrants; however, only Kazakhstan has recently conducted such a campaign, which involved about 90 thousand illegal migrants (while the total number is estimated as 350-400 thousand). The data should be processed soon.

Statistical capacity building.

There is one factor that could influence the process of capacity building in migration statistics collection. National migration authorities in the CIS countries seem to be rather unstable administrative bodies. There are frequent structural and staff changes occurring in these bodies. For example, since 1992, the Federal Migration Service of the Russian Federation has changed its structure and administrative status nine times.

¹³ See: http://www.scnm.gov.ua/control/uk/publish/article?art_id=46308&cat_id=46235

In Moldova, the migration authority was established in the early 1990s, when an active population of the country began to migrate abroad to find a job. In 2003 different responsibilities were combined within one Governmental body – the National Bureau for Migration (NBM). NBM was responsible for almost all areas of immigration and emigration control in the country. In the middle of 2006, another reform abolished the Bureau and distributed its functions among different authorities. Now the Ministry of Interior has responsibility for most of these functions (residence permits, refugees and asylum seekers, repatriates, visas issued inside the country except diplomatic). Functions of foreign labour force regulation are transmitted to the Ministry of Economics (Labour Dept.). The NBM had its own database on foreigners of various categories in the country. It is not known how this database will be shared by the new bodies responsible for different functions. If statistics are produced by the newly established authorities, they are not available. According to Moldavian expert opinion, this period of uncertainty may last for several years.

IV. Concluding remarks

CIS Countries, with the exception of Moldova and Georgia, have much in common in the area of migrant registration and data collection, both within national statistics institutes and administrative bodies. Such similarity could be found regarding main problems with statistics of international migration. Lack of coordination among authorities responsible for data collection prevents the effective and timely production of diverse statistics of international migration. Frequent changes in legislation in the area of registration, as well as non-stop reforms within national migration authorities, interferes with capacity building in statistics of international migration. National statistics institutes sometimes find themselves in subordinate situation and do not get enough information from administrative bodies. limitations and low skill levels of personnel hinder intensive computerization of data collection and timely processing of information from administrative systems. Access to administrative data and publication of these statistics are very important questions in the CIS countries. Although more data is published now than during the Soviet period, there is still an obvious deficit of information necessary for adequate analysis and decision making. As a rule, migration authorities do not publish even general data; for example, it is almost impossible to find official information on issued residence permits. Visa statistics and data on apprehensions at the borders are not available at all. The data exists but is not available for impartial and independent analysis. Analytical capabilities of national administrative authorities are sometimes not very strong. Incorrect interpretation of data (if even the data was collected in a proper way) leads to false priorities in migration policies, increases the risks of inefficient costs of such policies and misinforms public opinion.

In any case, users must recognize that different systems of collecting migration statistics have been created, and various data on international migration have been collected in the CIS countries since the early 1990s. Therefore we could argue with a distinguished researcher who, in 2000, wrote that "...a number of countries (including major countries, such as China and the former USSR) have no statistics whatsoever", and that "they are mostly low-immigration communist countries...." By that year, all the former USSR countries had their own migration data collection systems, had more or less effectively organized border control, national migration authorities to regulate new types of migration, new types of data and new or revised schemes of data collection. Of course, data collection and regulating authorities might not have been very effective, but they worked within their abilities and tried to find a solution for the problems under the conditions of financial, managerial and skilled staff limitations. Now the process seems to be in progress; taking into account obvious drawbacks, it is expected that countries of the post-Soviet era will inevitably continue modifying their national systems of migration data collection and processing. It is quite clear that this process will not be short and easy.

¹⁴ Tapinos George. Can one really talk of the globalization of migration flows? In Globalization, migration and development. OECD, 2000.

Statisticians of developed countries are looking for methods to harmonize national systems of data collection in order to make statistics of international migration more comparable. In the case of the CIS countries the situation seems to be a little bit more complicated because of the reasons mentioned above. However, in spite of those problems and a certain "centrifugal" trend in national and international policies in the CIS countries, there are still strong economic considerations to manage the migration process and labour market development. This is one more argument to revise national systems for the collection of statistics on international migration, to discuss common problems and to look for solutions that would be advantageous for everybody.

Annex 1. Place of birth and citizenship of population in selected CIS countries

		Population (persons)	Born in the country	Born out of the country	Nationals	Foreigners and stateless	No answer about citizenship
	Abs.	3213001	2927306	285695	3185455	27546	
Armenia	%	100,0%	91,1%	8,9%	99,1%	0,9%	
	Abs.	48240902	43084662	5156240	47950004	169122	
Ukraine	%	100,0%	89,3%	10,7%	99,4%	0,4%	
	Abs.	10045237	8886422	1158815	9934539	107756	2942
Byelorussia	%	100%	88,5%	11,5%	98,9%	1,1%	0,03%
	Abs.	14953126	12839761	2113173	14867921	85205	
Kazakhstan	%	100,0%	85,9%	14,1%	99,4%	0,6%	
Russian	Abs.	145166731	131608720	13558011	142442404	1025413	1269023
Federation	%	100%	90.6%	9.3%	98,1%	1,0%	0,9%
Moldova		3383332	3201818	181514 ¹⁵	3371082	11860	390
		100%	94.6%	5.4%	99.6%	0.4%	

Source - National Censuses (Round 2000) data

 $^{\rm 15}$ Including 580 persons that $\,$ did not specify $\,$ place of birth.

Annex 2. Composition of international migration flows in Russia by citizenship of migrants (Rosstat data)

		Persons				%			
		2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Arrivals	Foreigners	18287	20377	12834	14584	9,9	15,8	10,8	8,2%
	Nationals	166325	108767	106323	162646	90,1	84,2	89,2	91,8%
	Total	184612	129144	119157	177230	100	100	100	100,0%
	Foreigners	5953	4047	3225	2978	5,6	4,3	4	4,3%
Departures	Nationals	100732	89971	76570	66820	94,4	95,7	96	95,7%
	Total	106685	94018	79795	69798	100	100	100	100,0%
Net	Foreigners	12334	16330	9609	11606	15,8	46,5	24,4	10,8%
migration	Nationals	65593	18796	29753	95826	84,2	53,5	75,6	89,2%
	Total	77927	35126	39362	107432	100	100	100	100,0%

Annex 3. Potential and actual data sources on different categories of migrants and responsible authorities in selected CIS countries

Concerns	Russia	Moldova ¹⁶		Ukraine ¹⁷	Kazakhstan ¹⁸	
		Till 2006	Since 2006			
Nationals employed abroad (aid in job search, licenses for recruiting agencies)	Federal migration service (Ministry of Interior)	National Migration Bureau	Ministry of Economics (Labour Department)	Ministry of labour and social policy- dept. of employment	Committee for Migration (Ministry of Labour).	
Work permits issuance Labour migrants control in the country	Federal migration service (Ministry of Interior)	National Migration Bureau	Ministry of Economics (Labour Department)	Republic Centre for employment (Ministry of labour and social policy)	Committee for Migration (Ministry of Labour).	
Residence permits	Federal migration service (Ministry of Interior)	National Migration Bureau	Ministry of Interior	State Department for affairs of citizenship, immigration and physical persons registration (Ministry of Interior)	Migration police department (Ministry of Interior): residence permits, visa (application done in the country)	
Refugees and asylum seekers	Federal migration service (Ministry of Interior)	National Migration Bureau	Ministry of Interior	State Committee of Ukraine for Nationalities and Migration (SCNM))	Committee for Migration (Ministry of Labour).	
Repatriates (and Diaspora) affairs	Federal migration service (Ministry of Interior) Program of compatriots voluntary resettlement	National Migration Bureau	Ministry of Interior	State Committee of Ukraine for Nationalities and Migration (SCNM))	Committee for Migration (Ministry of Labour). (Program of Oralmans resettlement)	
Visas issued inside the country (except diplomatic)	Federal migration service (Ministry of Interior)	National Migration Bureau	Ministry of Interior	State Department for affairs of citizenship, immigration and physical persons registration (Ministry of Interior)	Migration police department (Ministry of Interior)	
Visas issued outside the country	Ministry of foreign affairs	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Ministry of Foreign affairs	
Registration of nationals in Consulates abroad	Ministry of foreign affairs	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Ministry of Foreign affairs	
Registration of migrants (foreigners and nationals) in a place of residence or place of stay	Federal migration service (Ministry of Interior)	Ministry of Information Development (National Register Department)	Ministry of Information Development (National Register Department)	State Department for affairs of citizenship, immigration and physical persons registration (Ministry of Interior)	Nationals: Ministry of Justice (Agency of the RK for Informatization and Communication) Foreigners –Ministry of Interior.	
Border control	Federal Border Service	Border Service	Border Service	Border Service	Border Service	
Migration cards system	Federal migration service (Ministry of Interior)	Border Service	Border Service	Border service (collection) Ministry of Interior (processing)	Border service	

¹⁶ Information verified by Valeriu Mosneaga (Moldova).
¹⁷ Information verified by Olena Malinovskaya (Ukraine)
¹⁸ Information verified by E.Musabek (Kazakhstan)