

## Migration Statistics User Forum (16<sup>th</sup> September)

Break out session A: John Salt (Chair)

This session comprised a broad discussion of participant's experiences of trying to identify/use data to make international comparisons.

Potential data sources identified: Eurostat, OECD, European Migration Network (EMN), UNECE, UNICEF, UNHCR, Council of Europe (especially for Roma)

Broad areas discussed:

- Are data really comparable?
  - By trying to harmonise across nations you may lose some of the complexity of data within nations
  - Different standards/data collection methods/history of collecting data within countries
    - Eurostat aware/provide solutions to countries based on experience of other countries
  - Challenges of comparing administrative data vs. survey data (e.g. level of detail and reliability)
    - level of detail – can be difficult for surveys to estimate very specific countries/groups of countries
    - reliability – population registers and whether people de-register when migrating
  
- Country specific considerations:
  - there can be differences in how a migrant is defined/counted e.g. 12 months, non-national only etc;
  - countries may change the way they collect data/make adjustments;
  - can be difficult to assess change internationally without being aware of policy changes within;
  - tend to have good European contacts (more needed internationally);
  - some data not available within countries and so cannot be harmonised across e.g. a question on ethnicity is not asked in some countries for political reasons.
  
- Emigration data:
  - recognition that this is more problematic than immigration data for most countries;
  - discussion around whether can use immigration data in other countries to assess emigration data. It seems there is little experience of doing this.