



# The quality of the international migration statistics in Romania: assessment and research implications

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International migration is not adequately measured in official statistics (Otoiu (2015); Massey (2011), UN (2015), Andren and Roman (2016))

The consequences are multiple:

- Limited research outputs
- Political decisions
- Migration policies

# Introduction

1. Introduction
2. Romanian migration statistics
3. Quality assessment of migration indicators
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Migration statistics revolve around **migration flows and stocks** of migrants within a country.

There are often major discrepancies between the two, which cannot be satisfactorily explained by statistical adjustments or other related procedures.

Example:

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|                   | UN | OECD | EOROSTAT | NIS |
|-------------------|----|------|----------|-----|
| Country of origin | X  | X    | X        | X   |
| Citizenship       | X  | X    | X        | X   |
| Time limit        | -  | -    | X        | X   |
| Residence         | -  | -    | X        | X   |

# Migration statistics in Romania

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International migration is classified according to the type of residence on the territory of another state (permanent or usual residence), the period of residence and citizenship:

Permanent migration:

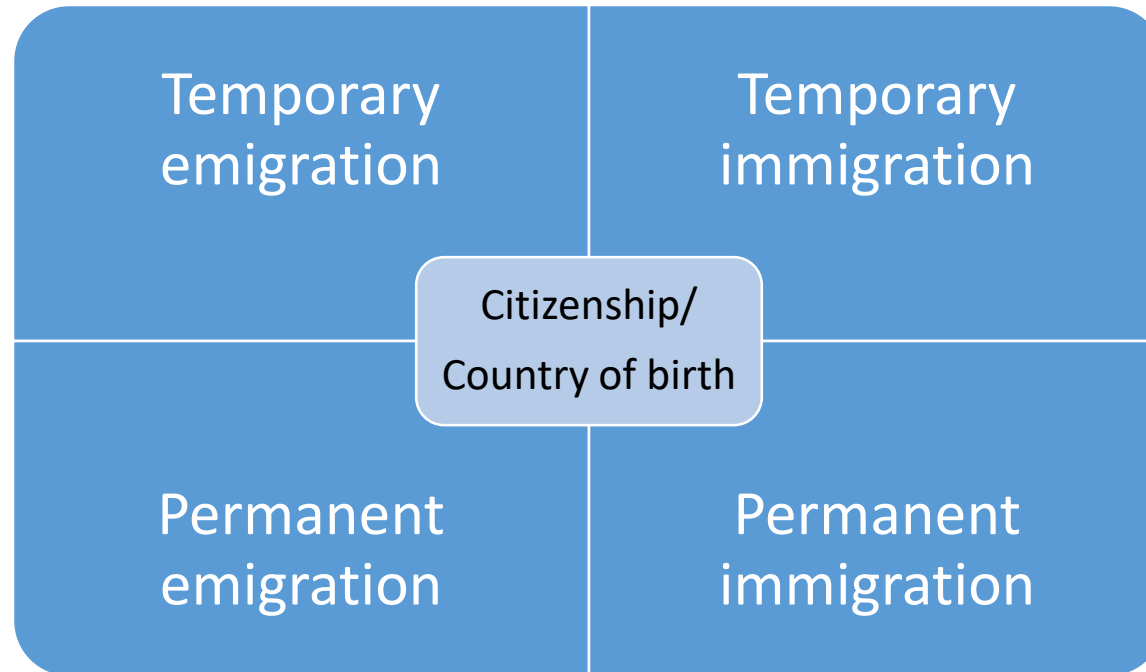
International migration by change of permanent residence refers to persons who changed their permanent residence from and to Romania.

Long-term temporary international migration refers to persons who changed their usual residence from and to Romania for 12 months period at least.

Short-term temporary international migration refers to persons who changed their usual residence from and to Romania for up to 12 months. Note: it is not computed by Romanian statistics

# Main indicators

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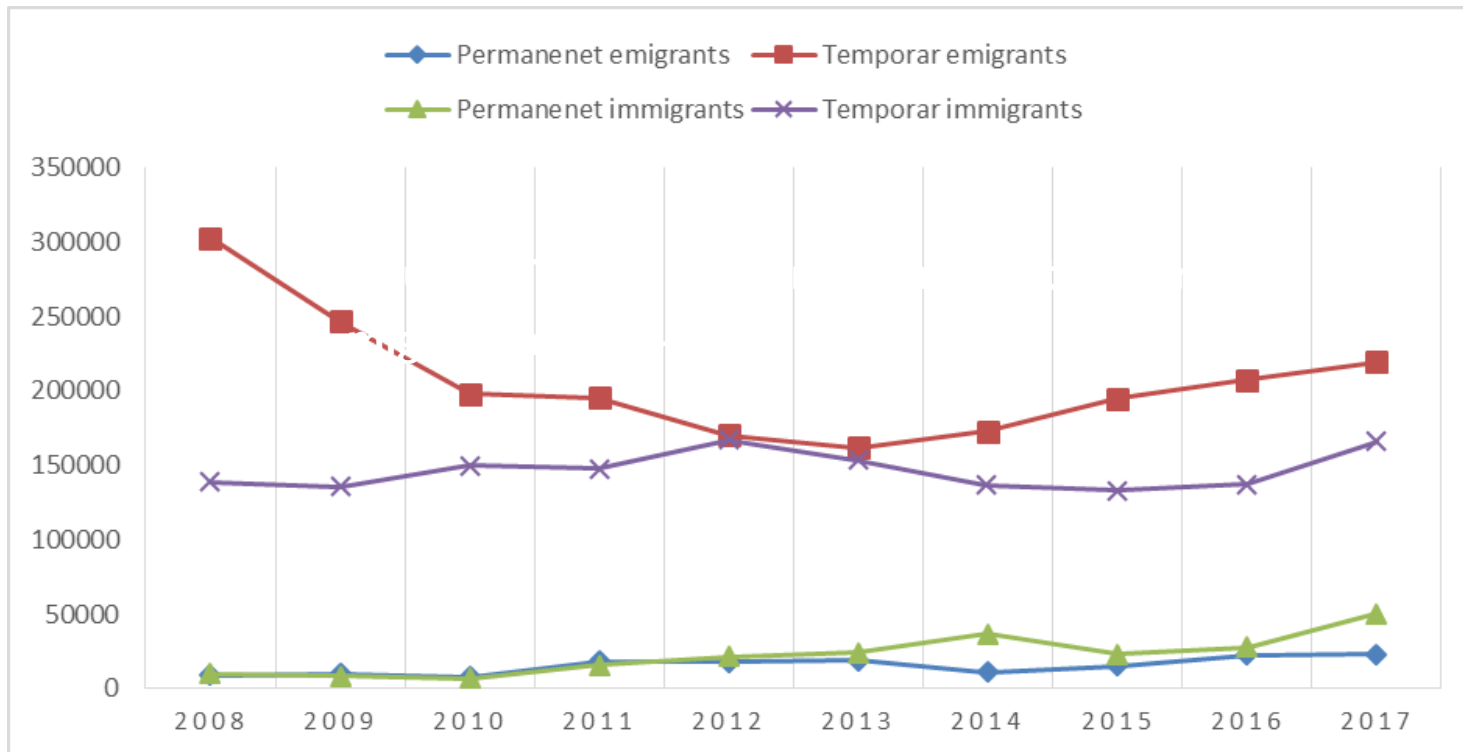
Decennial censuses (1992, 2002, 2011)

For temporary migration:

- the data provided by national statistical offices of Italy and Spain
- the "mirror statistics" on international migration (the immigrants from Romania declared by the other Member State representing emigrants to the Romanian statistical authorities and, the opposite, the emigrants to Romania declared by other countries representing immigrants for national statistics), and
- data from administrative sources.

# Migration trends in Romania, 2008-2017

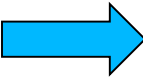

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# Difficulties in producing good quality migration statistics in Romania

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- Data collection issues  Lack of reliable data
  - Although it is stipulated in the national legislation that the obligation of Romanian citizens living abroad to register at embassies / consulates, they do not declare their residence in the respective country, so there is no information regarding the usual residence of Romanian citizens abroad. Nor is there any advantage to declaring a habitual residence, but there are no sanctions in case of non-declaration.
- Various criteria across countries  Less comparable indicators
  - Countries using different time limits: 3 months (Beer et al., 2010) or 6 months; immigration counts are based on the intended period of stay (Fassmann, 2009)

# Difficulties in producing good quality migration statistics in Romania

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- Circular migration/free movement short term temporary migration



Measuring

For Romania, as for most of the EU Member States, it is difficult to estimate the stock of emigrants, one of the difficulties being generated by the free movement of persons from one state to another within the EU.

- Diaspora migrants



Measuring the stocks of Romanian

Diaspora is a broader (non-statistical) concept, however used in both research papers and public policy documents.

The National Strategy for Romanians Abroad 2017 - 2020 provides information on Romanians living abroad defined as: "Romanians living in diaspora communities and those living in historical / traditional communities in the countries in the vicinity of Romania" According to the Strategy, the number of Romanians living abroad was almost 10 million people in 2016, including the recent permanent and temporary migration.

## Stock of Romanian emigrants. Various sources. (selection criteria: country of birth)

| Anul | EUROSTAT | ONU (1 iulie) | OECD    |
|------|----------|---------------|---------|
| 2012 | 2133675  | -             | 3077387 |
| 2013 | 2231646  | -             | 3090155 |
| 2014 | 2359838  | -             | 3096359 |
| 2015 | 2425375  | 3412055       | 3114115 |
| 2016 | 2503880  | -             | 3279793 |
| 2017 | 2616371  | 3578504       | 3464960 |

# The quality of statistical data (The EUROSTAT model)

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Quality Assurance Framework (QAF): 9 Principles

P7 – Sound Methodology

P8 – Appropriate Statistical Procedures

P9 – Non-excessive Burden on Respondents

P10 – Cost effectiveness

P11 – Relevance

P12 – Accuracy and Reliability

P13 – Timeliness and Punctuality

P14 – Coherence and Comparability

P15 – Accessibility and Clarity

# The quality of migration statistical indicators

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|          |   |
|----------|---|
| <b>S</b> | Appropriate <b>Statistical</b> Procedures |
| <b>M</b> | Sound <b>Methodology</b>                  |
| <b>A</b> | <b>Accessibility</b> and Clarity          |
| <b>R</b> | <b>Relevance</b>                          |
| <b>T</b> | <b>Timeliness</b> and Punctuality         |

# Quality assessment of migration indicators

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|                      | STATISTICAL PROCEDURES | Methodology | Accessability | Relevant | Timeliness bound |
|----------------------|------------------------|-------------|---------------|----------|------------------|
| Temporary immigrants | X                      | -           | X             | X        | 0                |
| Temporary emigrants  | X                      | -           | X             | x        | 0                |
| Permanent immigrants | X                      | X           | X             | X        | 0                |
| Permanent emigrants  | X                      | X           | X             | x        | 0                |

# Research implications

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Migration indicators are of good quality.

Short time series

Limited geographical coverage (NUTS 3)

Limited access to official microdata on migration

Romanian LSF (AMIGO) is difficult to access

No access to census data

## Use of alternative data sources:

Surveys resulted from various national and int'l research projects on migration issues:

- Romanian Emigrants Survey (RES, 2011)
- MOVE (2017)
- YMobility (2016)



## Innovative approaches:

Internet data: social media data

Facebook (Botezat, 2016 )

Twitter (Florea and Roman, 2018)

Private data (Otoiu, 2015 )

# Conclusions

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Migration statistics in Romania are covered by a limited number of four flows indicators

The indicators are SMART, providing a good statistical quality

The research implications are related to finding and using alternative data sources, mainly at micro level.

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## Introduction

International migration statistics

Romanian migration statistics

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**Thank You!**

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