The quality of the international migration statistics in Romania: assessment and research implications
International migration is not adequately measured in official statistics \cite{otoiu2015,massey2011,un2015,andren2016}

The consequences are multiple:

- Limited research outputs
- Political decisions
- Migration policies
Introduction

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:
# Introduction

1. Introduction
2. Romanian migration statistics
3. Quality assessment of migration indicators
4. Research implications
5. Conclusions

## Table of Migration Indicators

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country of origin</th>
<th>UN</th>
<th>OECD</th>
<th>EOROSTAT</th>
<th>NIS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<tr>
<th>Citizenship</th>
<th>UN</th>
<th>OECD</th>
<th>EOROSTAT</th>
<th>NIS</th>
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<th>Time limit</th>
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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.
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Main indicators

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Temporary emigration</th>
<th>Temporary immigration</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Permanent emigration</td>
<td>Permanent immigration</td>
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Citizenship/Country of birth
Data sources


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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Figure 1. Trends of permanent and temporary migration, 2008-2017.
Difficulties in producing good quality migration statistics in Romania

• 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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10/20

- Circular migration/free movement short term temporary migration

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 Measuring the stocks of Romanian migrants

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)

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<tr>
<th>Anul</th>
<th>EUROSTAT</th>
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<th>OECD</th>
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<tr>
<td>2012</td>
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<td>3077387</td>
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<td>2013</td>
<td>2231646</td>
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<td>2014</td>
<td>2359838</td>
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<td>2017</td>
<td>2616371</td>
<td>3578504</td>
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The quality of statistical data (The EUROSTAT model)

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S</th>
<th>Appropriate <strong>Statistical</strong> Procedures</th>
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<td>T</td>
<td><strong>Timeliness</strong> and Punctuality</td>
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# Quality assessment of migration indicators

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<th>Temporary immigrants</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>STATISTICAL PROCEDURES</strong></td>
<td><strong>Methodology</strong></td>
<td><strong>Accessibility</strong></td>
<td><strong>Relevant</strong></td>
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</table>
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

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.
References


Roman, M- Ad hoc report on Romanian migration, forthcoming 2019, EC

Thank You!

monica.roman@csie.ase.ro