

Minutes from the kick-off meeting of the Focus Group on Human mobility, Paris 10<sup>th</sup> of December 1999.

### ***Introductory remarks***

- by Jean Guinnet, OECD. Jean gave an overview on how the FG fits in from a thematic and organisational point of view in OECDs work.
- by Svend Remoe, OECD. Svend gave an overview over the relation between the FG on Human mobility and the two other Focus Groups and the corresponding expectations that the OECD has to the FGs. Anders Ekeland, co-ordinator of the FG gave a short summing up of previous work, challenges in phase III, and expected results in phase III.

### ***Country reports***

There were country reports from the countries present: Belgium (Peter VanderHallen), Czech republic (Jaromir Gottwald), Denmark (Ebbe Graversen), Finland (Mikael Åkerblom), France (Daniel Martinelli), Hungary (Eszebet Viszt, Norway (Anders Ekeland), Sweden (Adrian Rajic, Göran Andersson), UK (Mark Tomlinson). Alex Stimpson from Eurostat gave a short overview over the work with the CLFS.

It was agreed that all countries, including those not present at the meeting should write a small country report on data sources and specialist studies. The country reports should build on Mikael Rosengrens "Inventory" of data sources and specialist studies.

### ***Introduction on International mobility, Dominique Guellec, OECD, DSTI, statistical and analytical department.***

Domenique G. sketched the work that his department are going to do in this field. Their primary aim is to get an overview of data sources and produce comparable numbers, laying more stress on getting roughly comparable numbers than getting a very detailed knowledge of the processes involved in international mobility. Consequently he had to resort to common data sources, like Community Labour Force Survey, data collected for migration statistics.

The discussion made clear that there are common interest in getting an overview of data sources which could be a basis for comparative statistics, but that the focus group would use all sorts of data sources to map international mobility, like university registers/surveys, sources found only in some countries etc. This because even if not comparable they would be pieces of the whole picture and it was judged unrealistic to have comparative data in the coming year.

### ***Introduction by Mikael Åkerblom on the use of Community Labour Force Surveys and other data sources.***

Mikael summarised his report – the main conclusions being that CLFS could be used to construct roughly comparable data, and that the national LFS – often containing “extra” variables could be used to enrich the analysis. The same goes for various types of national data.

Alex Stimpson from Eurostat gave additional insights into the use of the CLFS, various problems/paradoxes that has to be analysed further.

The conclusion was that for the purpose of bench-marking, for analysing the relationship between growth and mobility the CLFS are the best source. It is hoped that Eurostat could make a 25-country set of tables. That the participants in the FG could check/comment/analyse their national table with the aid of other national data sources.

### ***Summing up the discussions – further work***

On both main items - on the agenda - domestic and international mobility the conclusions were summed up using a small table reproduced below. The table also has a small section on “theoretical topics” because conceptual issues because although not a major priority it is necessary not to forget methodological issues as they are closely related to the policy implications of the study of human mobility.

It must be clear that we are not talking about finished peer-review papers. It is much more important to have some results, some analysis and discussion in a less ambitious form, a note, a memo, a draft than to wait until a full-blown paper ready for peer-review is ready. Experience shows that less is more. It is important to use the Focus Group as a means to get comments, to get tips of similar work etc.

Title	Data source	Country/ Countries	First Draft	Final version
<b>Domestic mobility</b>				
10 years macro mob. rates	Register	Nordic	April	June
10 years sectoral mob. rates	Register	Nordic	April	June
10 years special studies I-S focus	Register	Nordic	April	June
Research-based spin-offs	Register	Nordic	June	Nov.
Some years macro mob. rates	Partial- Register or LFS	Belgium, Czech Rep, UK, Hungary	April	June
Some years sectoral mob. rates	Partial- Register or LFS	Belgium, Czech Rep, UK	April	June
Some years special studies I-S focus	Panel/survey	Hungary	April	June
Research-based spin-offs	Register	Norway	June	Nov.
Studies for the other FG-groups	Register		On demand	
<b>International mobility</b>				
Detailed overview over data sources		All	June	Nov.
Selected national institutions			June	Nov.
<b>Theoretical/methodological</b>				
Mobility as an optimal control problem		Norway	June	Nov.
Problems of firm demography		Sweden/Nordic	June	Nov.
Analysis of 25-country mob.rates and growth rates				

#### 6) Next meetings:

There was general agreement that it would be beneficial to have another meeting before the June workshop. That would make it possible to meet the other research milieus that have signalled their intention to participate, but who were not able to attend the kick-off meeting – and get more people into the group.

The meeting welcomed the offer from E. Viszt, GKI, Hungary to host the next meeting.

Next – meeting: 13-14<sup>th</sup> of April, Budapest, hosted by GKI

Detailed information will come in due time.

There was also agreed upon the dates for the June meeting, 15-16<sup>th</sup> of June. The question of where the meeting was going to be held was left open, but one of the

Nordic capitals was mentioned. The co-ordinator will keep the FG informed about any developments regarding where to have the June meeting.

June– meeting: 13-14 <sup>th</sup> of June, location not yet decided
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List of participants; up-to date by the 20<sup>th</sup> of December

Finland	Mikael Åkerblom	Statistics Finland
Norway	Anders Ekeland	STEP group
Sweden	Göran Andersson, Adrian Ratkic	NUTEK
Denmark	Ebbe Graversen	The Danish Institute for Studies in Research and Research Policy
Belgium	Peter Vanderhallen	
France	Remi Barre	OST
France	Daniel Martinelli	CEREQ
Greece	Yannis Kocoulakis	Sokratis
Iceland	Eirkur Hilmarsson	Statistics Iceland
Hungary	Elisabeth Viszt	GKI
Netherlands	Sami Marhoum	TNO (from mid-January)
Spain	Paloma Sanchez	Office of Science and Technology, Presidency of the Government
UK	Richard Pearsson	Institute for Employment Studies i Brighton
UK	Mark Tomlinson	CRIC
US	Mark Regets	National Science Foundation
Czech republic	Jaromir Gottwald	Technical University of Ostrava, VSB, The Faculty of Economics.
Italy	Seva Avveduto	CNR, Rome
Germany	Thomas Straubhaar	Hamburh Institute for Economic and Social Research
<b>Others:</b>		
Eurostat	Alex Stimpson	Consultant, Unit A4
Taiwan, signalled interest, do not respond to e-mail	Raykun R. Tan Graduate Institute of Industrial Management National Central University	sonia@gcn.net.tw
Poland, interested, to be confirmed	Mariusz Plich	plich@kryisia.uni.lodz.pl