How to get better data on emigration? Lessons from the SEEMIG pilot emigrant survey in Hungary and Serbia

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Motivation for the study in Hungary

Data from Hungarian statistics and from ‘mirror’ statistics (EEA countries)

Sources: Eurostat Database, for 2009-2012 supplemented from Destatis (Germany) and Statistik Austria; Hungarian Demographic Yearbook 2012
Note: Eurostat data missing for the UK, 2006 and for France for the entire period
SEEMIG Pilot Study: Research Design

1st Phase: LFS-SEEMIG survey

Identify emigrants

- HH members
- Siblings
- Former HH members

Estimating emigrant stock – GWSM (Zaba 1987)

Collect statistical data

Estimating distribution of emigrants

Collect contact information

2ND PHASE: CATI + CAWI
LFS-SEEMIG Survey: Realization

HUNGARY
Jan.-July. 2013

- 26936 Households interviewed
- 1904 (7%) Emigrants identified
- 1430 (75%) Data Provided
- 546 (38%) Contact Info Provided

SERBIA
March-Nov 2013

- 7986 Households interviewed
- 1090 (14%) Emigrants Identified
- 819 (75%) Data Provided
- 298 (36%) Contact Info Provided
## Comparing SEEMIG stock data to estimates from other sources - Hungary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Data Source</th>
<th>Definition</th>
<th>Value</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SEEMIG 2013</td>
<td>Hungarian citizens and Hungarian born-population abroad, age group 15-74</td>
<td>195 000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Census 2011</td>
<td>Hungarian citizens abroad on the 1st of October 2011 (HCSO 2013)</td>
<td>213 059</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HDRI large scale survey 2013</td>
<td>Hungarian citizens abroad with permanent residency in Hungary – age group 18-49</td>
<td>335 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HDRI Omnibus 2013</td>
<td>Members and former members of Hungarian households living abroad</td>
<td>240 000</td>
</tr>
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</table>
Controlling for biases in the LFS-SEEMIG data. Hungary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>External tests</th>
<th>Budapest, county seats and also some wealthier regions underrepresented (HDRI Omnibus and Census) !!!</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Other distributions (eg. Composition by destination country; gender) and also two-dimension distributions (eg. destination country by education; destination country by gender etc.) in line with external knowledge (eg. Mirror Statistics)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Internal tests: controls for attrition</td>
<td>No significant household-level difference between emigrants identified vs. emigrants with stat. data ✔✔✔</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Emigrants’ profile in Hungary 1.

- Destination Countries
- Period of emigration
Emigrants’ profile in Hungary 2.

**Gender**

- Male: Population in HH's 50%, Emigrants 50%
- Female: Population in HH's 50%, Emigrants 50%

**Age**

- 15-19: Population in HH's 10%, Emigrants 10%
- 20-29: Population in HH's 20%, Emigrants 20%
- 30-39: Population in HH's 30%, Emigrants 30%
- 40-49: Population in HH's 10%, Emigrants 10%
- 50-59: Population in HH's 10%, Emigrants 10%
- 60-75: Population in HH's 10%, Emigrants 10%
Emigrants’ profile in Hungary 3.

Level of Education

Elementary Vocational Upper Secondary Tertiary

Population in HH's Emigrants

UK

0% 10% 20% 30% 40%

Elementary Vocational Upper Secondary Tertiary

DE

0% 10% 20% 30% 40%

Elementary Vocational Upper Secondary Tertiary

6% 15% 43% 36%

UK

8% 37% 32% 23%

DE
Emigrants’ profile in Hungary 4.

Employment Status:
- Employed: 84%
- Studying: 4%
- Housekeeper: 3%
- Not working: 3%
- No information: 3%

Remittance paid:
- Yes: 5%
- No: 25%
- N.a.: 70%
Conclusions

1. Methodological:
   - Indirect data, origin-based data collection has great potentials in emigration research – important field-work experiences!
   - Limitations of LFS might lead to non-sampling biases (lack of trust hinders data collection)
   - Hungarian (but not Serbian) SEEMIG data: underestimation and geographical biases but otherwise plausible distributions

2. On Hungarian Emigrants:
   - „common knowledge” justified (eg. graduates’ dominance; target countries…)
   - „common knowledge” contradicted (eg. males and vocational school graduates not overrepresented…)
   - new insights (eg. remittances…)

Future analyses: selection of households into „sending households“ / selection of individuals into emigration / Exploring changing emigrant-profiles…
Thank you for your attention!

Visit www.seemig.eu

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