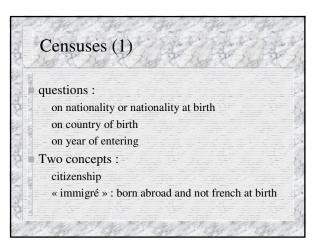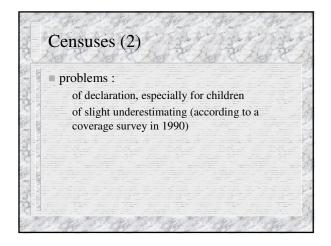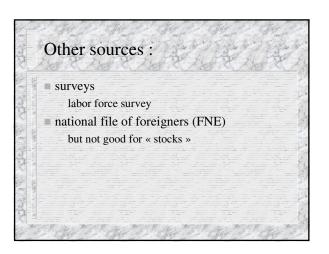# Knowledge of migrations in France

Guy Desplanques

Two important characteristics

- France is a country of immigration since many years
- France has no register of population

Resident populations (« stocks »)

- censuses
- surveys
- national file of foreigners (FNE)

Censuses (1)

- questions :
  - on nationality or nationality at birth
  - on country of birth
  - on year of entering
- Two concepts :
  - citizenship
  - « immigré » : born abroad and not french at birth

Censuses (2)

- problems :
  - of declaration, especially for children
  - of slight underestimating (according to a coverage survey in 1990)

Other sources :

- surveys
  - labor force survey
- national file of foreigners (FNE)
  - but not good for « stocks »

Entries

- administrative sources :
  - national file of foreigners (FNE) : home office
  - asylum seekers : OFPRA
  - workers, families : OMI
- statistic sources
  - census
  - surveys

Exits

- taking away procedures
- pensions for retired living abroad
- information from international organisations or foreign countries (registers, censuses)

In some words

- scarce informations
- poor information on exits
- poor information on migration from and to UE

Prospects for improvement

- national file of foreigners (FNE) : more convenient statistics
- new census : data each year on « stocks » and on entries

What use of statistics ?

- population estimates
- knowledge of socio-demographic characteristics of migrants
- measuring « integration »
- population politics

What problems ?

- Because of :
  - lack and scarcity of information
  - political sensitiveness
- Two problems for the statistician
  - critics on statistics
  - confusion between entries and net migration