



Migration and Asylum Statistics

Policy needs and the Commission's Action Plan on Statistics

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The challenge

- To produce, process, and disseminate statistical data on asylum and migration, ensuring harmonised definitions, comprehensiveness, quality and timeliness
- Increasing demand from all users for good quality comparable EU statistics on migration and asylum
- Many different data sources and definitions are in place at national level, often closely related to national policy and administrative practice
- The data must meet the policy needs of national governments and of the European Union

Previous action

A decade of work on improving the comparability of national data:

- Projects to check, correct and update the Eurostat database on international migration
- Workshops
- Publications
- Co-operation with national and international actors





Policy Background

- Treaty of Amsterdam
 - introduction of Community policy competence in migration and asylum
- May 2001 Council conclusions on statistics
 - a comprehensive and coherent framework for future action on improving statistics
 - the need for improved exchange and analysis of statistics in the field of asylum and migration




Commission Action Plan

- Commission Action Plan for the collection and analysis of Community Statistics in the field of migration
Communication adopted 14th April 2003
- European Parliament Civil Liberties Committee
Report: Tuesday 9th September 2003

Commission Action Plan

- New practices, common statistical methods and new forms of co-operation
- Activities to enhance information exchange and to promote decision-making
- Changes to data collections and databases
- Improved dissemination methods
- Action related to the legal and political framework



EU statistical legislation

- Many statistical domains are backed by legislation defining the data to be collected and supplied to Eurostat
 - content, coverage, definitions, quality measures, timing, methodology
- No comprehensive legislative basis for migration and asylum statistics



Form of legislation

- Often in the form of a Framework Regulation
 - Commission proposal adopted by the European Parliament and Council
- Implementing Regulations
 - Commission action defining and modifying details
- Directly applicable in all EU Member States



Potential benefits for all parties

- Clarifies what is required from national authorities
- Greater certainty of data supply for EU statistics
- Improved comparability, timeliness, quality
- May simplify obtaining necessary funding for the work



Principles

- The legislation will reflect:
 - the UN Recommendations for Migration Statistics
 - existing definitions applied in the data collections
 - EU policy and legislation on migration and asylum



Scope

- The legislation will relate to all current and planned Eurostat migration and asylum statistics
 - annual migration, monthly data on asylum and enforcement measures against illegal migration, statistics on residence permits issued to non-EEA citizens, 'Dublin II' statistics on determination of responsibility for assessing asylum applications



Technical Discussions

- Extensive preparatory discussions are underway stages - written and a programme of meetings
 - National Statistical Institutes, Ministries of Justice and Interior, Immigration and Police Authorities
 - EU Institutions
 - International organisations



Initial timetable

- First draft to be completed during October 2003
- Technical discussion meetings September-December 2003
- Aim: Commission proposal by end-2003/early 2004
- But ...only the first key stage in a long legislative process