

South East Europe and Hungary – migratory trends

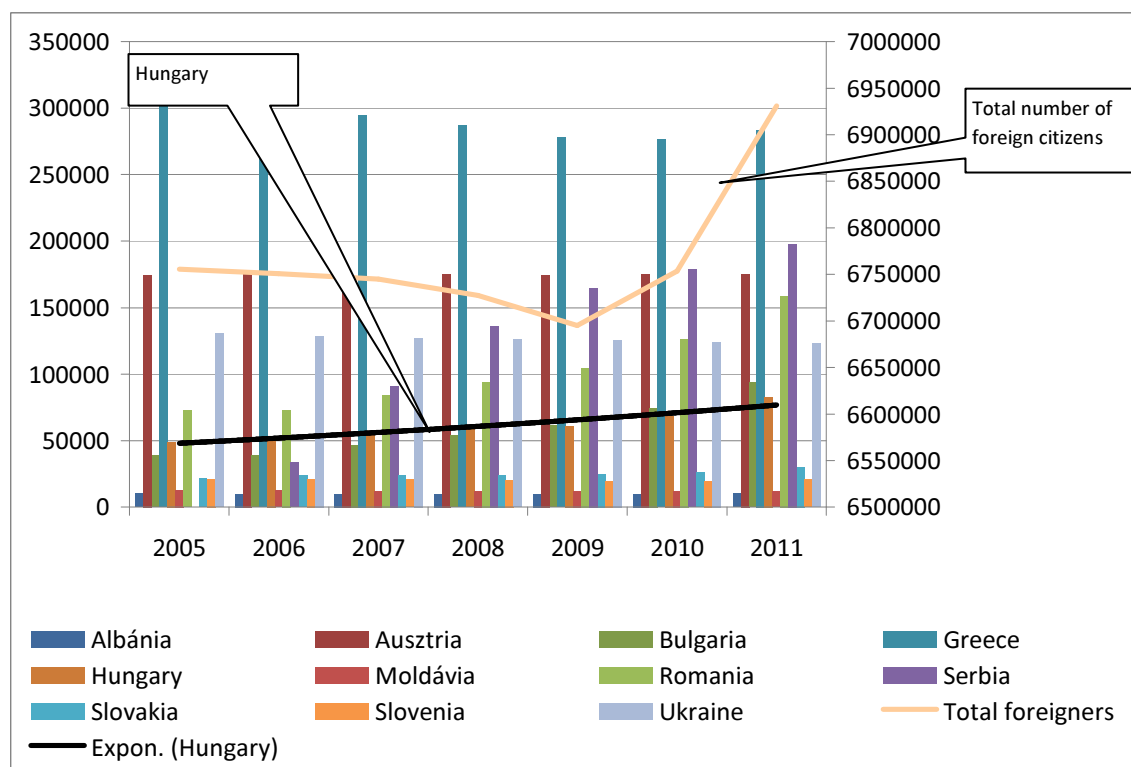
Press material for the press conference on 22 May 2013

South East Europe and emigration based on SEEMIG analysis carried out so far

The South East European region is the main sending region for European, North-American and Russian migratory systems. According to World Bank figures, more than 17 million South East European citizens were living abroad in 2010, more than half of them in Europe (except Russia and Turkey). The main target countries are Germany, Italy and Spain. More than 4 million migrants live in Russia, half a million in Turkey while 1.3 million in the USA. Italy, Romania and the Ukraine are the top3 sending countries, while Albania, Moldova and Romania have the most emigrants in proportion to the total population.

Germany has become an important target country in the region. We can say that there is great competition among migrant groups (including Hungarians) for German immigrant places, but each country follows a different dynamic pattern. The number of migrants from Austria, Croatia, Moldova, Albania and the Ukraine is not rising, while the number of migrants from Hungary and Slovakia is gradually increasing and the number of migrants from Serbia and Romania has shown a dramatic increase over the last few years.

Number of foreign citizens in Germany, 2005 – 2011

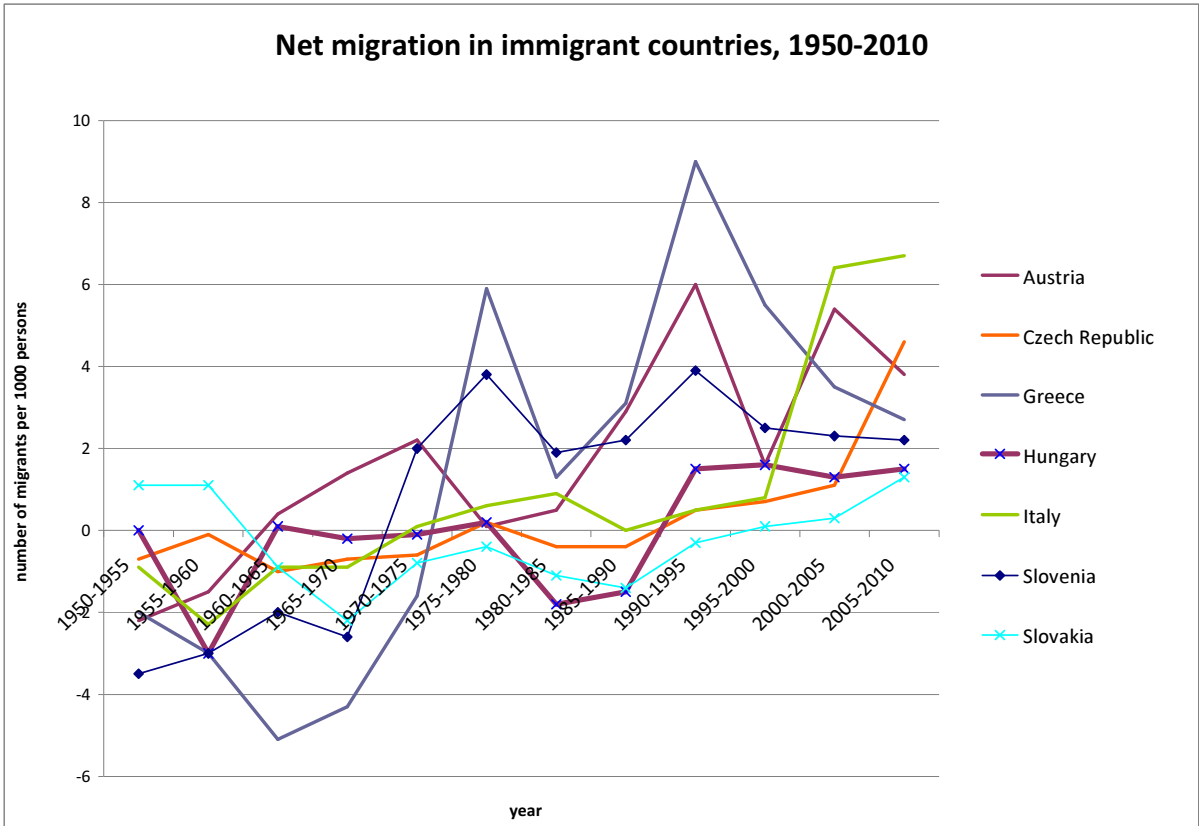


Source: German Statistical Office, 2013

The region is economically more and more dependent on remittances of migrants: in case of Albania and Moldova, 10% of the GDP is provided by money sent home by migrants, and this indicates a high level of dependence on a global scale. South East Europe has changed from a demographic point of view, too. The region is characterised by low fertility rate which results in increasingly ageing societies.

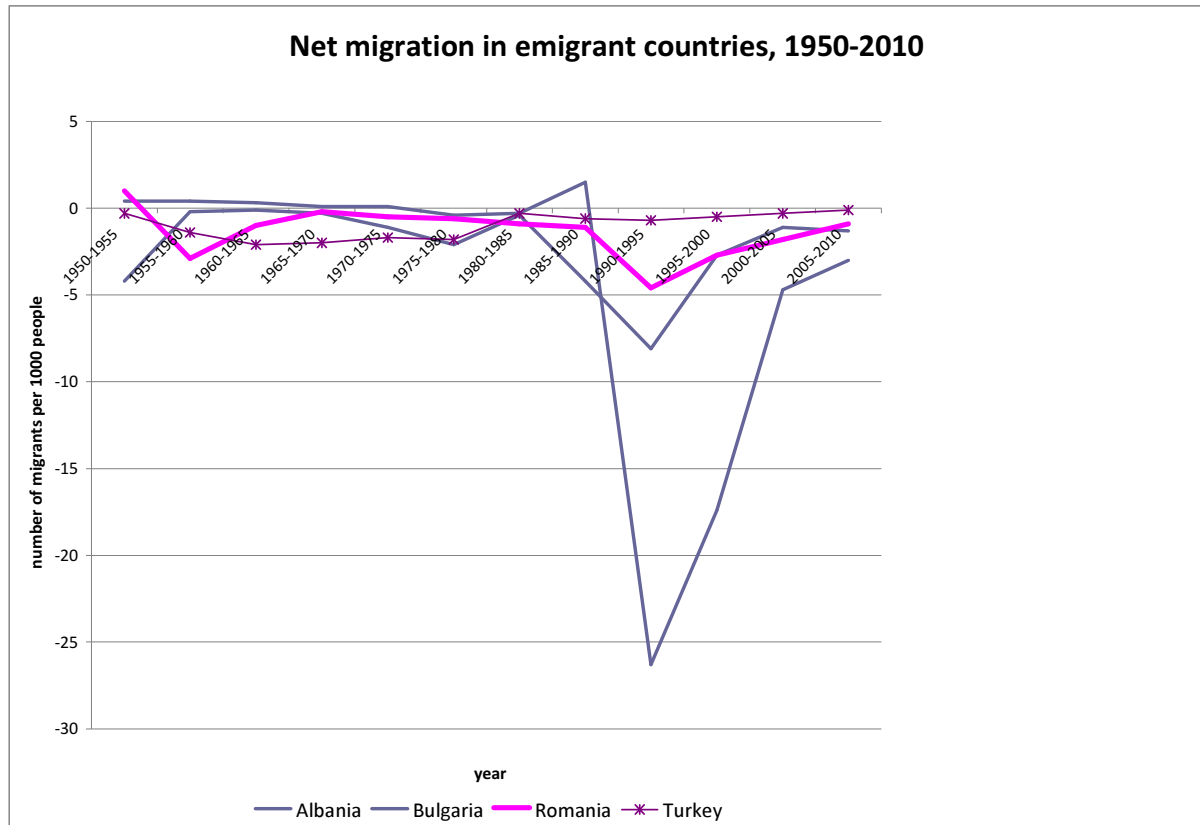
Countries of the region show three different long-term migratory profiles:

1. Italy, Austria, Slovenia, Slovakia, Greece and Hungary were mostly emigrant countries in the '50s and '60s and only after this did they start accepting immigrants in greater numbers and became immigrants countries based on their net migration. This does not mean, however, that these countries do not have a high number of emigrants: based on figures of the German Statistical Office, more than half a million Italian and 300 000 Greek citizens lived in Germany in 2011.) At the same time, these countries received a great number of immigrants from Romania, Albania or North-Africa, to mention a few. This type is characterised by a relatively good level of income on a global scale and – compared to other countries in the region – these countries could keep their industries (drop was smaller among post-socialist countries, too) and they have strong services sectors. Hungary is a country with relatively low level of intensity within this group, and it might – due to the increased level of emigration – become an emigrant country in the future.



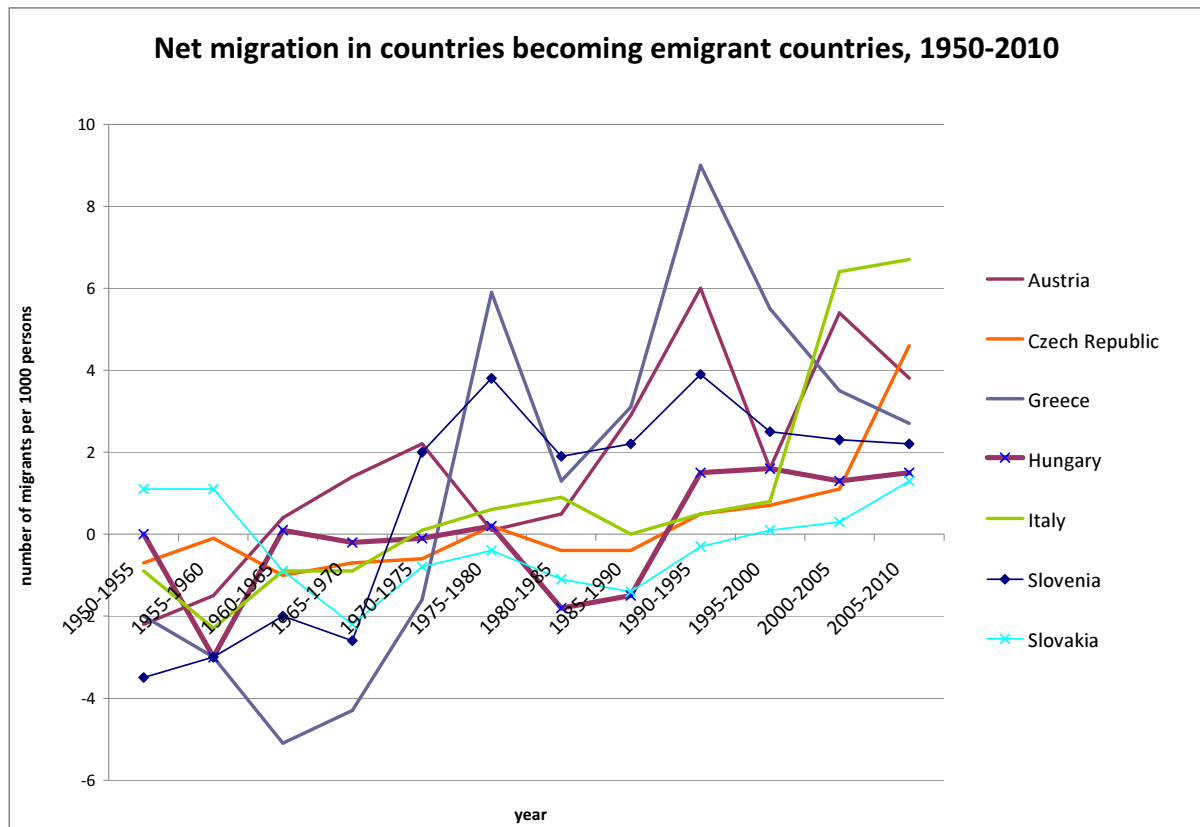
Source: World Population Prospects, 2010 revision

2. Bulgaria, Romania, Albania and Turkey remained emigrant countries all throughout the last 60 year and the trend became even stronger in the '90s. The income level of these countries is below the world average. Post-socialist countries have lost most of their industry and agriculture has temporarily become more important, which all strengthen the push factors of migration. Albania and Bulgaria have lost more than 1 million citizens, while Romania has lost 3 million. Turkey is gradually leaving this group as it is changing both with respect to income level and migratory profile and is becoming the target country of the Balkan region.



Source: World Population Prospects, 2010 revision

3. Some post-socialist countries have shown different historical dynamics and has become emigrant countries from their previously immigrant country status. The loss of Ukraine has reached 6.5 million people, the loss of Moldova and Georgia is more than 1 million. Smaller South-East European countries of the former Soviet Union – due to the joint attractive force of Russia and the EU, as well as the collapse of their local industries and economies – have also become dependent in migratory and other terms. Azerbaijan and Armenia can be the two exceptions.



Source: World Population Prospects, 2010 revision

While countries of the EU have shown various efforts to harmonise their statistical data production systems, many countries of the South East European region can provide little comparative data on migratory processes. Because countries of the region have varying dynamic historical profiles, data would be vital for the detailed analysis of these processes.

SEEMIG is a strategic project – with the participation of statistical offices, research institutes and local governments – aiming to explore migratory trends of South East, in order to contribute to evidence-based strategy building to handle the effects of migratory, demographic and labour market processes of the region.

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Hungary: changing composition of immigrants, increasing emigration

(Iréen Gödri)

Over the past few years, two major changes can be observed in the migration trends of Hungary.

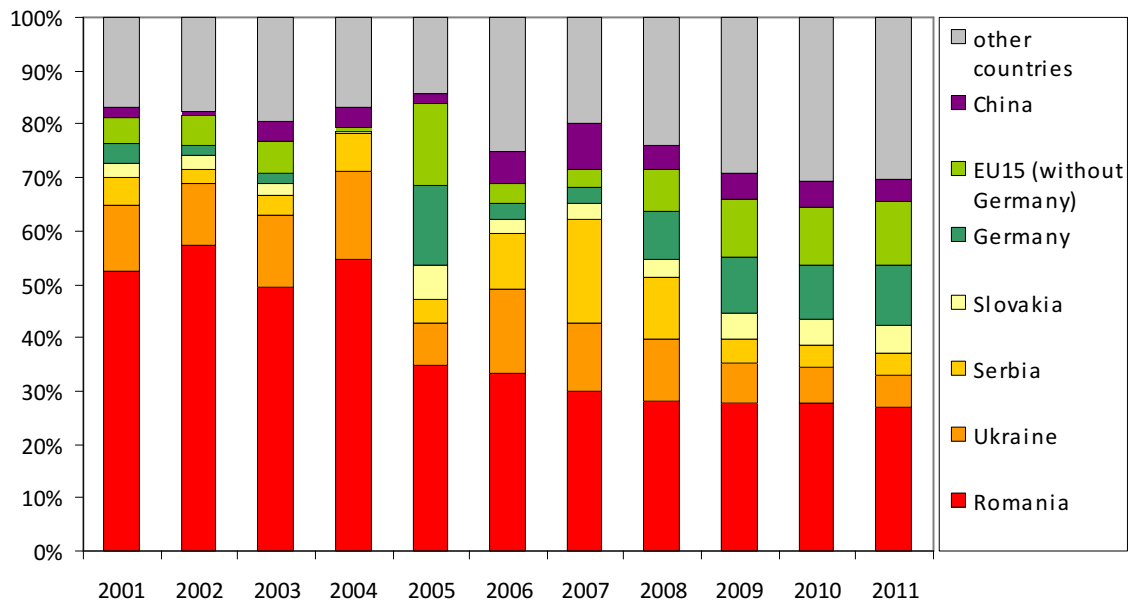
1. Change in the composition of immigrants

Following a slight increase after Hungary's EU accession, the number of immigrants in Hungary is between 22 000 and 25 000 persons per year (excluding the exceptionally high number of 35 000 persons in year 2008). However, the distribution of immigrants by citizenship has been changing since 2005: the proportion of immigrants arriving from neighbouring countries – mostly Hungarian ethnic nationals – has been constantly decreasing. At the turn of the millennium the total proportion of immigrants arriving from four neighbouring countries (mostly Romania, but also the Ukraine and Serbia, and a lower proportion from Slovakia) was more than 70%, while the largest sending country, Romania provided 50-57% of all immigrants. In 2011, however, due to their decreasing proportion only 40% of immigrants came from the four neighbouring countries, and only 26% of them from Romania (see Figure 1). This proportion is expected to decrease even more, because as a result of the new citizenship act coming into force in 2011, a number of new Hungarian citizens live in the neighbouring countries, who would not count immigrants if they moved to Hungary.

Even so, the proportion (and number) of immigrants from the EU15 has increased: while it was below 10% at the turn of the millennium, and dropped back after the peak in 2005 (30%), it has constantly been above 20% since 2009. Since 2005, nearly half of immigrants arriving from the EU15 has been German citizens, their proportion among immigrants have reached 10% over the past years.

Although immigrants come to Hungary from all over the world and from more than a hundred different countries, the majority of them arrive from some major sending countries. Between 2001 and 2007, 80-90% of all immigrants came from TOP10 sending countries. Their proportion has constantly decreased since 2008, only reaching 66% in 2011. This is a sign of diversification of immigrants with regard to country of citizenship. Overall, Hungarian immigration can still be considered modest compared to the European average, both with regard to the number of immigrants (22 514 persons in 2011) and with regard to their proportion for 1000 inhabitants (2.2).

Figure 1. Distribution of immigrants by country of citizenship, 2001-2011



Data source: Demographic yearbook, 2011.

2. Increasing emigration

Another change can be observed in emigration processes. Hungary's EU accession in 2004 was followed by only a slight increase in emigration. Major change was brought by the end of the 2000s, when the number of emigrants started to increase as a result of the economic crisis. With the opening of EU labour markets, this process has speeded up over the last couple of years (Figure 2).

Although the number of emigrants in the Hungarian statistics lags behind data in mirror statistics, it reflects the increase in trends.

Besides increasing emigration, the process of returning can also be observed, although the exact number of returnees is unknown. In the case of Germany, the most important target country, the proportion of returnees (compared to the number of emigrants in the same year) has substantially decreased since 2010 (Figure 3).

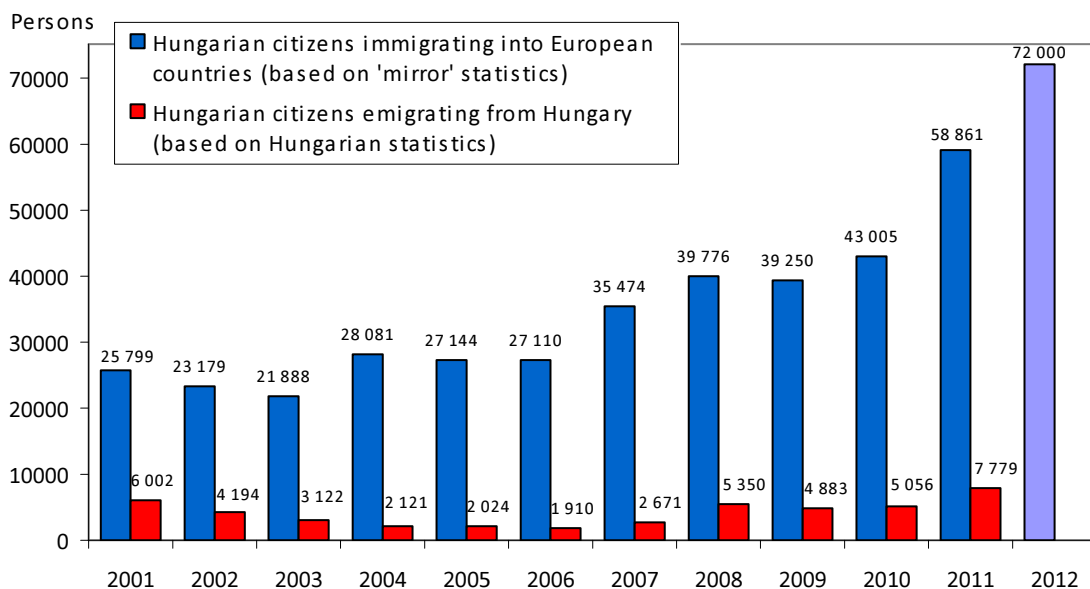
Based on the so called mirror statistics, that is the number of Hungarian citizens registered as immigrants in the host countries this, emigration – that has been increasing since the late 2000s – has speeded up over the last few years. According to European mirror statistics, 147 327 Hungarian citizens live abroad. This Eurostat database, however, does not include data about some major target countries. If we summarise provided by the Eurostat and data provided by the most important target countries (Germany, Austria and the United Kingdom) we can say that an estimated 230 000 – officially registered – Hungarian citizens were residing in European countries in 2012: one third of them in Germany, one fifth of them in the United Kingdom and 13% of them in Austria (Figure 4). This is two and a half times higher than their number in 2001. It is important to note that these data do not include emigrants who are not officially registered in the host country or emigrants who have received citizenship of the host country. Moreover, these data refers to European countries – or

more precisely countries of the European Economic Area – and do not include data about countries outside Europe (the USA, Canada, Russia) or about Israel.

The change in the number of Hungarians living in various European countries between 2001 and 2012 is well reflected in the fact that besides traditional host countries, increase can be observed in a number of new host countries (the United Kingdom, Spain, Italy, the Netherlands), too. (Figure 5)

According to the 2011 census, 143 000 Hungarian citizens stayed abroad for a period of more than a year on 1 October 2011 (another 70 059 person stayed abroad for less than a year). This can be considered the ‘minimum number of Hungarians living abroad’ (Hungarian Central Statistical Office, 2013), because the census is not able to define the number of people already being away (abroad). Since measuring emigration is a challenge for all sending countries, one of the objectives of SEEMIG is to find new, innovative ways to fill this methodological gap.

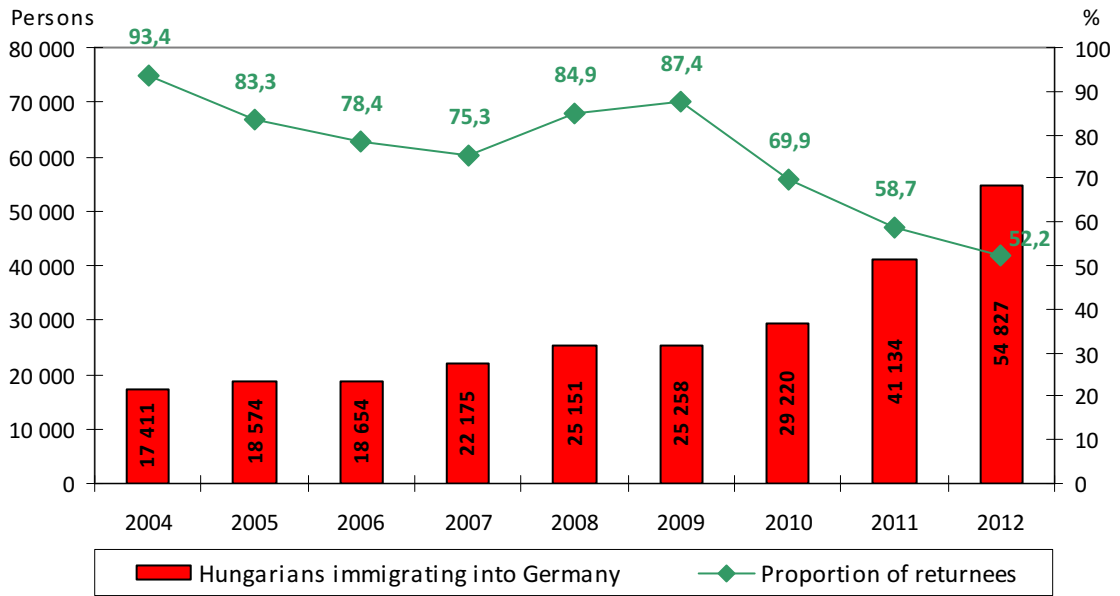
Figure 2. The number of Hungarian citizens emigrating from Hungary and immigrating into European countries, 2001–2012



Data source: Eurostat database (2013), for 2009–2011 supplemented with data from German and Austrian Statistical Offices; Demographic yearbook, 2011; (author’s data collection).

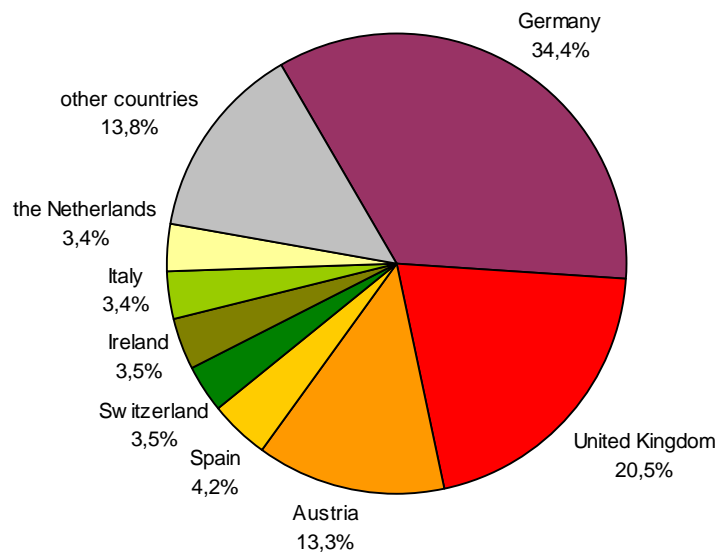
Note: Data for the United Kingdom from 2006 and data for the Netherlands from 2010 are not included in cumulative data. Estimated data for 2012 is based on preliminary data for Germany (Destatis) and 2011 data for other countries.

Figure 3. Number of Hungarians immigrating into Germany and the proportion of returnees, 2004-2012



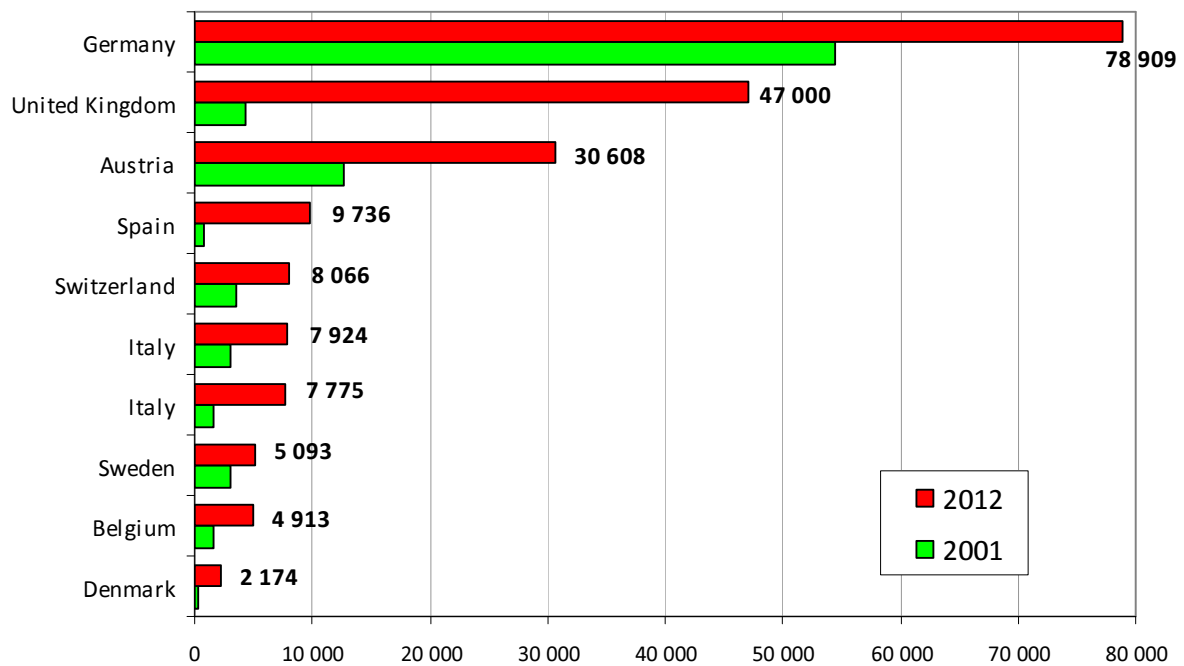
Data source: DESTATIS (2013).

Figure 4. Distribution of Hungarian citizens residing in European countries (230 000 persons), in 2012



Data source: Eurostat database (2013), for Austria data from Statistik Austria; for the United Kingdom data from Annual Population Survey (estimation).

Figure 5. Number of Hungarian citizens residing in main European countries of destination in 2001 and 2012



Data source: Eurostat database (2013); for Austria (2012) data from Statistik Austria; for the United Kingdom (2012) data from Annual Population Survey, estimation.

Further details will be included in the SEEMIG country report on Hungary, expected to be published in June 2003.

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How can we learn more about emigrants? SEEMIG pilot study about out-migration

Gathering information about emigrants is especially challenging because they form a rare and spacially scattered group of people and there is a lack of unified register / database about them. That is the reason why it is difficult to have a representative sample of emigrants, that is, a sub-group whose main characteristics are similar to the total Hungarian population living abroad.

A number of methods are offered by sociological literature (from web-based survey to the so-called snowball method, etc.) – all of them have advantages as well as disadvantages.

Within the pilot research of SEEMIG, we make an attempt to reach migrants indirectly, through the sample of a large, representative survey, the Labour Force Survey. In the first wave of the 2013 LFS in Hungary, interviewers asked (in households with at least one person aged between 15 and 74) if there is a household member who moved abroad from the household, or if any of the household members has a sibling living abroad. Some further questions were asked about these migrants identified and also, contact details were asked for them. According to the above, the target population of SEEMIG migrant survey includes migrants aged between 15-74 who have a sibling (aged between 15 and 74) living in Hungary and migrants with at least one former household member (aged between 15 and 74) living in Hungary.

This primary data collection was conducted between January and April 2013. Data are currently being processed, exact numbers will be released in July this year. So far, we can summarise to what extent data collection was successful and what results can be achieved.

Based on primary data collection we have a smaller and a larger migrant sample. The large SEEMIG sample includes persons living abroad who are related to the LFS households in one of the ways described above and LFS respondents provided information about them. This sample includes approximately 1500-1600 persons about whom we have some information indirectly (from their acquaintances living in Hungary). By analysing this sample, we will be able to tell:

- the number of people within the target population living abroad,
- the distribution of this group according to: gender, age, citizenship, last place of residence in Hungary, target country, date of emigration, planned date of return, frequency of visits to Hungary, financial support provided to the Hungarian household.

The smaller SEEMIG sample (on which the second stage of the research will be based) includes all those persons living abroad who are members of the large SEEMIG sample and also

a.) we have contact details to (provided by the LFS respondents)

or

b.) received the SEEMIG respondent card from their LFS household members and register on our website.

A key element to the success of the second stage of the research is that this second group is as large as possible, that is, household members hand the SEEMIG respondent card to their acquaintances living abroad and that these migrants complete the web-based survey.

The second stage of the research will be conducted directly with the persons living abroad collecting firsthand information about their reasons to move abroad, their experiences abroad and their intention to return to Hungary. The web and telephone-based survey is scheduled to commence in late May. At the same time, we are constantly waiting to receive registrations from migrants with SEEMIG respondent card.

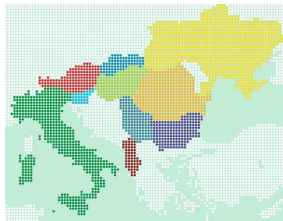
In view of data received so far, the possibility of insufficient number of respondents might arise. Therefore, we are considering the further boosting of the sample. For this, we intend to choose a method that keeps the representativity of the original sample. According to statistical literature, the so-called Respondent Driven Sampling provides possibility for this. Within this method, we ask respondents to help us get in contact with further migrants so that we can ask those people to complete our web-based questionnaire. In case we receive positive responses in the original sample, we can proceed with a second wave of the survey and have even more detailed information about the people who left Hungary, why they left and what kind of plans they had in mind.

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SEEMIG: Managing Migration and its Effects in SEE – Transnational Actions Towards Evidence Based Strategies

SEEMIG is a strategic project led by the Hungarian Central Statistical Office, with the objective to better understand and address the longer term migratory, human capital and demographic processes of the SEE area, as well as their effects on labour markets and national and regional economies in order to enable public administrations to develop and implement policies and strategies by using enhanced datasets and empirical evidence.

Project duration: June 2012 – November 2014



SEEMIG relies on a wide network of partners. Research institutes, universities, statistical offices and local government bodies from eight countries (Austria, Bulgaria, Hungary, Italy, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia) and observers from further three countries (Albania, Georgia, Ukraine) are involved.

In order to achieve the main objective, SEEMIG partners will

- compile datasets on longer term processes to serve as bases for complex, reliable, predictive analyses of major processes of migration and human capital. This aim also targets to involve local, regional administrations to supply, improve and use available data themselves;
- develop foresight scenarios and projections to predict demographic, migratory and labour market processes, as these are crucial for designing effective and sustainable national, regional and local strategies;
- build capacities of local and regional authorities to better collect and utilise statistical data in their planning and sectoral policies, and foster a balanced two-way cooperation of these authorities and think tanks/research institutes and statistical offices to facilitate effective, evidence based policy making and implementation.

The thematic project activities will be carried out in four work packages:

Conceptual framework for modelling longer term migratory, labour market and human capital processes

This work package serves as a starting point and as a continuous guidance for SEEMIG partners in terms of conceptual framework and understanding migration, labour market and human capital patterns. First, a review of the theoretical models of migratory, labour market and human capital processes will be provided which will feed into the analysis of these processes on a long term timeline. Based on these, the shortcomings of existing data can be detected, contributing to data enhancement in the long run.

Work Package Leader

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Enhancing data production systems of migration and human capital in the SEE area

In this work package the comparison of existing data production systems is carried out, followed by the collection of key- data, aiming at filling data gaps in the SEE regions and creating a complementary dataset for this area. In parallel two pilot studies in two countries are implemented to present a methodological best practice for future surveys and to complete the existing databases. Based on the results of the data collection and the pilots, action plans and trainings enhancing data supply and collection are carried out.

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Developing scenarios of demographic, migratory and labour market processes

This work package provides an overview of mainstream population projection followed by foresight exercise for all partner countries to produce future scenarios of major migration, demographic and labour market processes. In Hungary and Slovakia population projections are elaborated. These will serve as a basis for the evaluation of methods and their applicability in national, regional and local level. The WP will draw up recommendations to enhance the capacity of public administrators of utilising results in their work of policy design and decision making.

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Strategies, capacity building and transnational dialogue

Building on the outcomes of the other work packages, this work package provides tools for evidence-based strategy building by organizing workshops as well as stakeholder focus groups to national, regional and local policy makers in the various countries. These will be followed by the revision of the strategy by migration roundtables held in each region and the final transnational SEE Migration Roundtable where also representatives of the MMWD project of Emilia- Romagna (IT) will be present. The input collected will feed into the policy recommendations streamlining national level sectoral policies as well as the EU and regional programming of the upcoming period.

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MORE ABOUT SEEMIG: www.seemig.eu

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PARTNERSHIP

Lead Partner

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Partners

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- District administration of Montana, Bulgaria
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- Municipality of Pécs, Hungary <http://varoslako.pecs.hu>
- Harghita County Council, Romania www.hargitamegye.ro
- Municipality of Sfântu Gheorghe, Romania www.sfantugheorgheinfo.ro
- The Romanian Institute for Research on National Minorities, Romania www.ispmn.gov.ro
- Institute of Social Sciences, Serbia www.idn.org.rs
- Municipality of Kanjiža, Serbia www.kanjiza.rs
- Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia, Serbia www.stat.gov.rs
- Town council of Turčianske Teplice, Slovakia www.turciansketeplce.sk
- Institute for Economic Research, Slovenia www.ier.si
- Maribor Development Agency, Slovenia www.mra.si
- Scientific Research Centre of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts, Slovenia <http://odmev.zrc-sazu.si/zrc/>

Associated partners

- INSTAT Albania, Albania
- Hungarian Ministry of Interior, Hungary
- Autonomous Province of Trento, Italy
- Republic of Slovenia, Ministry of labour, family and social affairs, Slovenia

Observers

- Federal Ministry of Interior, Austria
- Tbilisi State University, Georgia
- European Migration Network - Hungarian National Contact Point, Hungary
- Visegrad Statistical Societies, Hungary
- Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction Unit - Office of the Deputy Prime Minister for European Integration, Serbia
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