

SEEMIG goals, main outputs and forthcoming event

SEEMIG is a strategic project aiming to explore migratory trends of South East Europe, in order to contribute to evidence-based strategy building and assist decision makers and administrative actors on transnational, national and local level to handle the effects of migratory, demographic and labour market processes of the region.

The project is carried out in partnership by research institutes, universities, statistical offices and local government bodies from eight countries (Austria, Bulgaria, Hungary, Italy, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia and Slovenia) and observers from further three countries (Albania, Georgia, Ukraine) are involved. The partners from Bulgaria are the National Statistical Institute of Bulgaria (NSI) and District Administration Montana (Montana).

In order to attain the goals of regional competitiveness and territorial cohesion policy makers have to cope with the demographic challenges. Policies affecting the, internal and international migration and related demographic developments can only be successful if they are combined with policies in other areas such as education, housing, labour market, integration of migrants, and the environment. In order to facilitate the evidence-based policy making on national, regional and local level, and focusing on data availability and data enhancement, SEEMIG sets the following main and specific objectives:

The main objective of the project is 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/regional economies in order to enable public administrations to develop and implement policies and strategies by using enhanced datasets and empirical evidence. To achieve this aim, SEEMIG sets three specific objectives:

1. Compile datasets on longer term processes to serve as bases for complex, reliable, predictive analyses of major processes of migration and human capital. The aim is not only to build SEE level complementary statistical datasets and enhance data collection, but to involve local, regional administrations to supply, improve and use available data themselves.
2. Develop foresight scenarios and projections (complementing other, ongoing initiatives) to predict demographic, migratory and labour market processes, as these are crucial for designing effective and sustainable national, regional and local strategies.
3. 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.

This approach of data enhancement, as well as the structure, focus and outputs of activities is underlined by the partnership structure of the project, which, besides local and regional public

administrations, includes the most competent bodies (academic and knowledge institutes, as well as statistics offices) to fulfill this aim and to provide a reliable and useable knowledge base that can be effectively used by the policy.

SEEMIG partners have prepared the dynamic historical analysis of longer term migratory, labour market and human capital processes of eight countries.

Project partners have also done a thorough overview of their related data production systems. All eight partners prepared an analysis of the country's data sources on migration. Taking a critical perspective, experts mapped the weaknesses and fields where considerable improvement is needed, but also pointed out the strengths of their systems that could serve as an example for other countries of the region. Country reports are published on the project webpage:

All SEEMIG partners carried out the foresight exercises in order to provide future scenarios of the major processes of migration, demographic changes and labour market and their long term implications.

Major project outputs are available on the SEEMIG portal: <http://seemig.eu/index.php/downloads-project-outputs>.

Within the SEEMIG were collected data from partners as all datasets are published on the following link <http://seemig.eu/index.php/data>

For further information, please visit the project website: www.seemig.eu.

To evaluate the current situation of research activities and to discuss the next steps, partners will meet in Sofia, on the **28th and 29th of January, 2014**.

The topics to be addressed during the meeting are the following: WP4 “Enhancing data production systems of migration and human capital in the SEE area” Action Plans, WP5 “Developing scenarios of demographic, migratory and labour market processes” foresight exercise and the WP4 training. Presentations and Q&A sessions will be held on the WP3 “Conceptual framework for modelling longer term migratory, labour market and human capital processes” synthesis report, the WP4 Pilot report and the database, and the WP5 Population projections. A series of common planning workshops will be held on the different WP6 “Strategies, capacity building and transnational dialogue” activities that will be organized in the first half of 2014.

The forthcoming event will be a very important milestone in the SEEMIG project's life as it will be the last opportunity to discuss internally all project professional outputs in a plenary way.