



# Migration data practical guide; Finding, understanding and using international migration datasets

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## **Introduction**

What is the number of international migrants residing in the country and where do they come from? These are among the main questions researchers and policy makers have when approaching the theme. Numbers, in fact, help to understand the phenomenon, but they can also be misleading. Therefore, it is paramount to keep clear in mind what they represent and how they have been developed. Moreover, this aspect is relevant when the analysis requires comparing figures coming from different sources.

This manual deals with the definition of international migrant and the main differences in terms of numbers resulting from adopting different criteria or relying on the various sources (e.g. from the countries of origins or destination, administrative or survey based). Eventually, some useful websites hosting migration database will be presented, demonstrating how to collect and tailor information step by step.



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## 1 How many international migrants are there?

### 1.1 Definition of Migrant

First of all, it is important to understand who is counted in the category of “migrant”. This depends on the definition adopted, which can vary from institution to institution, and on the criteria used to decide who to include. Despite the fact that many definitions of migrant exist, the most important is the one given by the United Nations:

#### *“Migrant*

*While there is no formal legal definition of an international migrant, most experts agree that an international migrant is someone who changes his or her country of usual residence, irrespective of the reason for migration or legal status. Generally, a distinction is made between short-term or temporary migration, covering movements with a duration between three and 12 months, and long-term or permanent migration, referring to a change of country of residence for a duration of one year or more.*

*- United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs”*

To understand this definition, it is important to bear in mind that there are two types of statistics used to describe migration in certain geographic area: stock data and flow data. The former refers to the number of individuals in the measured sample in a precise moment (for instance, the number of migrants in Italy counted on 1st January 2000). On the contrary, flow data represent the rate at which the stock changes over some period (i.e. the rate of migration toward Italy during a year, which considers the inflow of immigrants and the outflows of emigrants).

Using this definition implies the creation of data on migration flows: what counts is border crossing and the country of residence, which is univocal. However, it can be quite problematic to have reliable registers on that, that is why not all institutions apply this method for their statistics.

### 1.2 Criteria: country of birth vs. country of citizenship

Other geopolitical-legal criteria that significantly influence the statistics reflecting magnitude of the phenomenon are the country of birth and the country of citizenship. In the former case, migrant population includes the foreign born, which is again a univocal characteristic; in the latter, instead, only foreign citizens are counted, despite their place of birth.

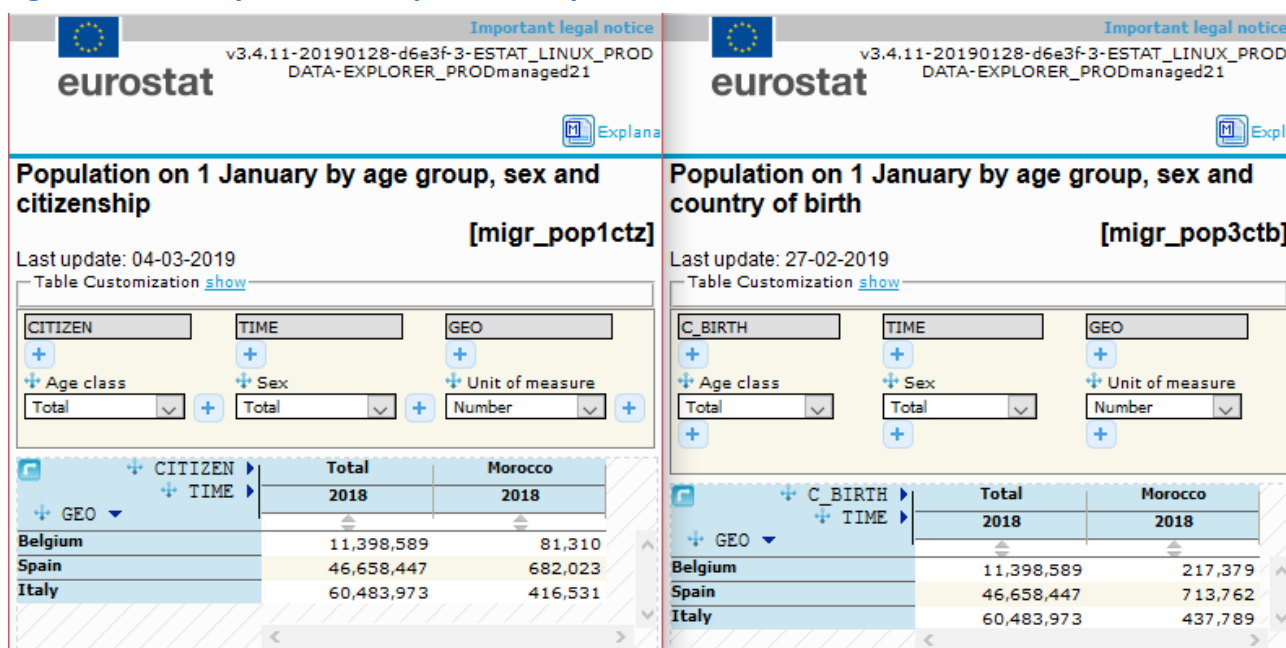
The country of birth has the advantage to be unambiguous and therefore it can be advisable to use it as a criterion, however it would not allow to count return migrants, because they would not result in the statistics, and it might create problems if the State borders changes for any reason. On the other hand, the country of citizenship may not be univocal for people with double citizenship and in any case it might include individuals who did not migrate.



Being aware of the possible drawbacks of using one criterion or the other, it is important to compare data that consider the same definition of migrants. This is because the numbers will always be different if the country of birth or the country of citizens is considered.

Just to give an example, this is a couple of tables customized on Eurostat website which depict the situation of Moroccan immigrants, divided by citizenship and country of birth, in some European countries (Spain, Belgium and Italy.)

**Figure 1.1 Country of citizenship vs. country of birth**



As it is possible to see, there are differences between the two figures: in the case of Belgium it is very evident, with 81,310 Moroccan citizens and 217,379 Moroccan born people. In Italy due to more strict naturalization procedures the difference is less striking: 416, 531 and 437,789 based on country of citizenship and birth respectively.

### 1.3 Sources of these data

In addition, the sources of the data can influence the data we find. For instance, if we want to know the number of Moroccan citizens in the Netherland we could rely on Dutch statistics on immigrants or on Moroccan data on emigrants.



Figure 1.2 Population of Moroccan Origin in the Netherlands on 1st of January 2013

By Citizenship		
A	Population with Moroccan citizenship	51,008
By Place of Birth		
B	1st generation	168,117
C	2nd generation: both parents born in Morocco	167,872
D	2nd generation: one parent born in Morocco	32,849
B+C+D	Total population of Moroccan Origin	368,838
Numbers of Moroccan citizens according to:		
Dutch authorities = A		51,008
Moroccan authorities = B + C + part of D		335,989 ; 368,838
Source of the data: Statistics Netherlands		

Source: P. Fargues (2018), *Advancing Knowledge on International Migration: Data and Research Need*, IUSSP

If we ask “How many Moroccans reside in the Netherlands?”, Dutch and Moroccan representatives will probably respond with different numbers. For the Dutch representative, there are 51,008 Moroccan citizens in the Netherlands. For the Moroccan representative, it is seven times that figure, with a number of Moroccan (actual or potential) citizens ranging from 335,989 (all first-generation migrants plus all second-generation migrants with both parents born in Morocco), to 368,838 (the previous group plus second-generation migrants with only one parent born in Morocco). The exact number claimed by the Moroccan representative will depend on how many of the 32,849 second-generation migrants with one parent born in Morocco have a Moroccan-born father, since according to Moroccan Law, citizenship is transmitted by the father. Who is correct and who is not? Both the Dutch and Moroccan representatives are right from their respective points of view and wrong from the other’s point of view.” (P. Fargues (2018), *Advancing Knowledge on International Migration: Data and Research Need*, IUSSP).

Statistics on immigrant population is easier to obtain as it comes through administrative or survey based information on residing population. Information on of emigrants are more difficult to obtain as an emigrant is usually not obliged to deregister or declare to the authorities the move. As it is almost impossible to count those emigrating, emigration related figures are usually obtained from immigration statistics of destination countries: statistics on emigration are reconstructed as aggregate of immigration data from all destinations. However, having realistic figures would only be possible unless all statistics respected the same criteria; since data collection is not harmonized all over the world, data on emigration can only be estimated.



## 1.4 Where to find data

After having highlighted the main criticalities in choosing the right data, it is necessary to spend some time to look for the right sources. There are, in fact, plenty of website which can provide statistics, in the next sections some of them will be presented in detail to provide a practical guide in finding data. In particular, starting from an European perspective toward a global one:

- Eurostat
- Atlas of migration 2018
- KCMD Knowledge Portal
- UNPD Global Migration Database
- World Bank Bilateral Migration Matrix
- MIPEX

## 2 Eurostat

Link: <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/main/home>

Eurostat, the statistic office of the European Union, is one of the main sources of data to answer to the question: “how many migrants are there?”. It is particularly useful to provide for an overview of the situation in the European countries, also because it allows to make comparisons with the data collected by the member states and are harmonized in order to be of the same type.

First of all, from the home page, it is possible to find information on migration in the list of the “most popular tables” (red circle and arrow) or directly in the database (yellow circle, it can be reachable by clicking on both the links).

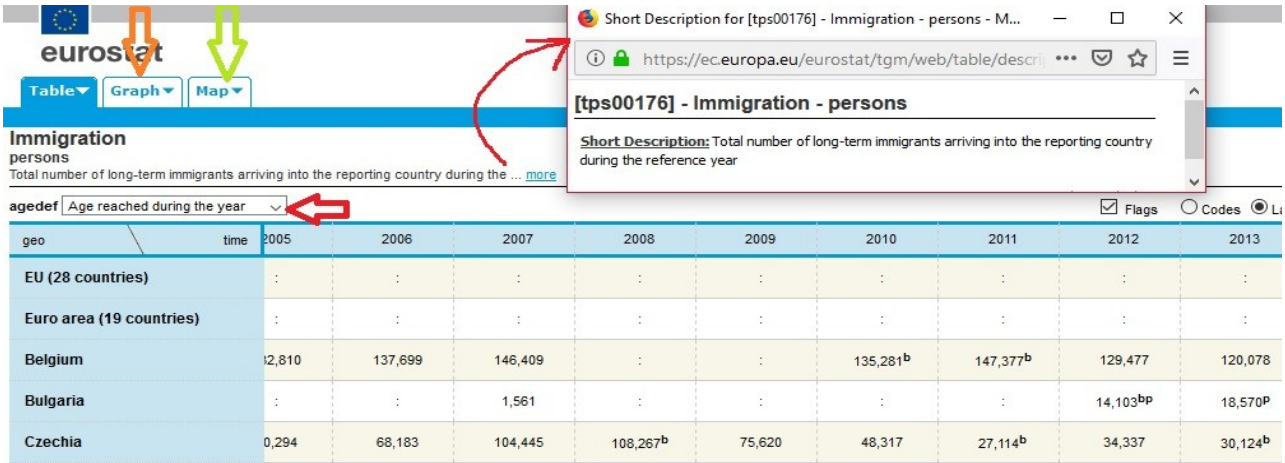
Figure 2.3 Eurostat website home page

The screenshot shows the Eurostat website home page. At the top, there is a navigation bar with 'Data' highlighted by a yellow circle and arrow. Below the navigation bar, there is a 'NEWS RELEASES' section with a headline 'Euro area international trade in goods surplus €19.0 bn' dated 15/01/2019. To the right, there is a 'DATA' section with three options: 'Most popular tables', 'Complete database' (highlighted by a yellow circle and arrow), and 'Visualisations & Tools'. Under 'Most popular tables', 'Immigration' is highlighted by a red circle and arrow.

In the former case, Eurostat provides an overview on the topic: data are arranged in a table, in a graph or in a map (orange and green arrow), as users prefer, and some kind of customization is possible but limited (red arrow).

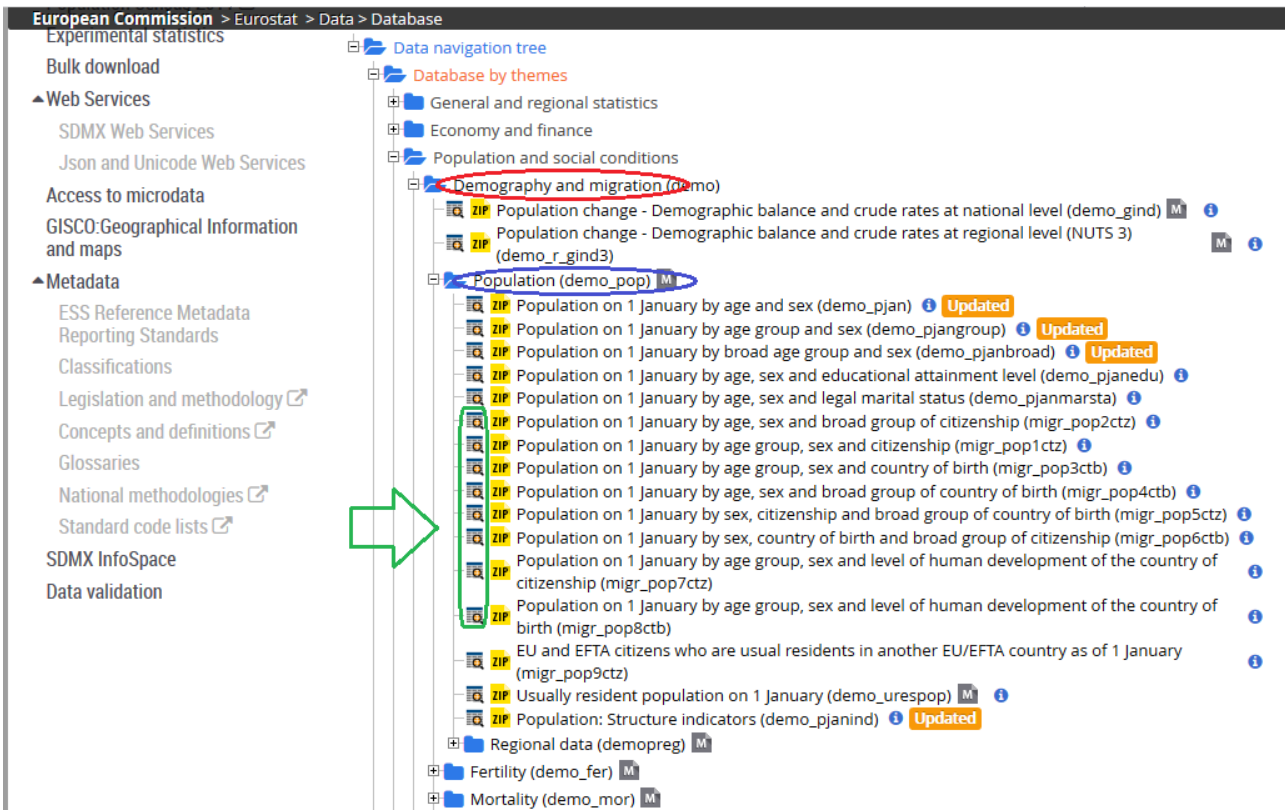


Figure 2.4 Accessing migration related statistics (data, figures, maps)



For more detailed information and data, it is advisable to look out in the database. Clicking on the “Data” button in the blue menu showed in the first screenshot, the data navigation tree appears. It is possible to choose then which theme to browse and to download customized tables in Excel format. The information provided in this area can answer to many questions, for instance the number of migrants in each European country.

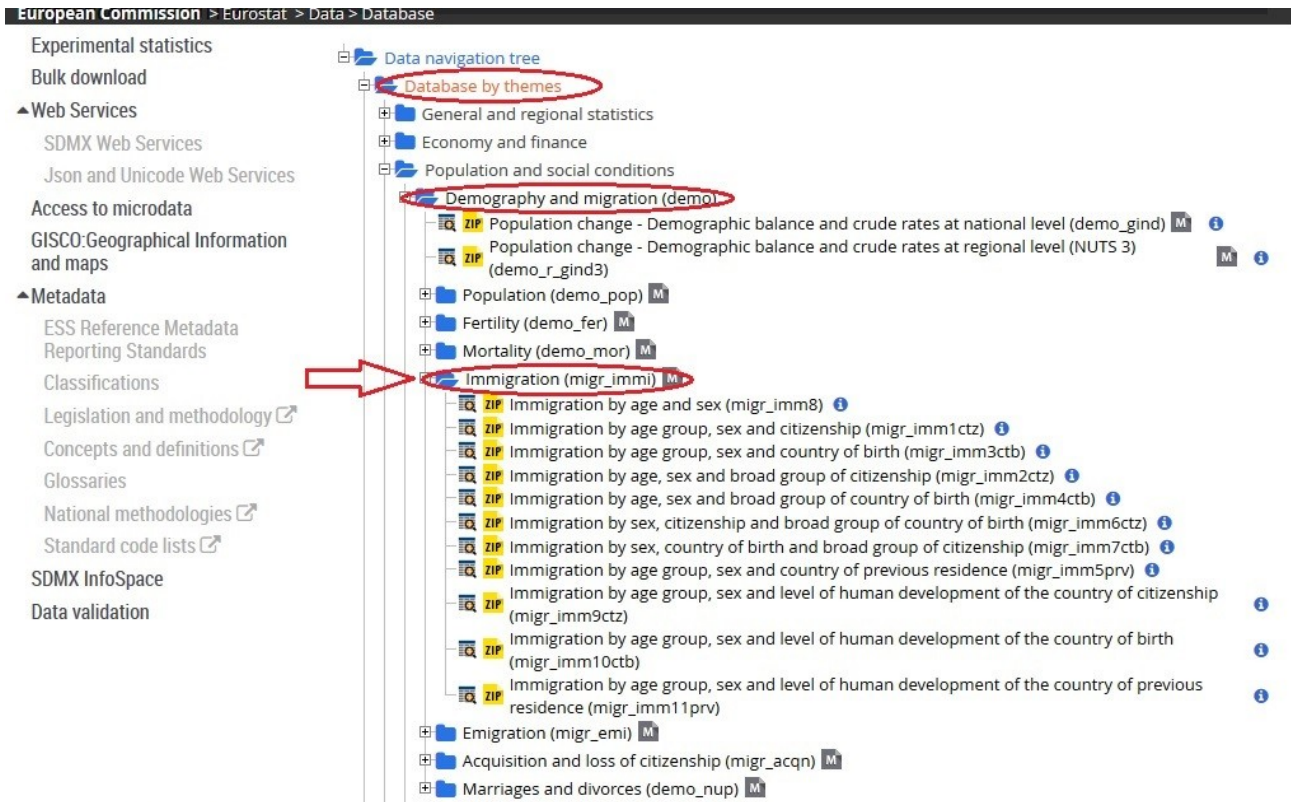
Figure 2.5 Data navigation tree of Eurostat database



Under “Demography and migration” there are in particular two useful categories to have information about the number of migrants: “Population”, which provides stock data, and “Immigration”, which provides flow data instead.

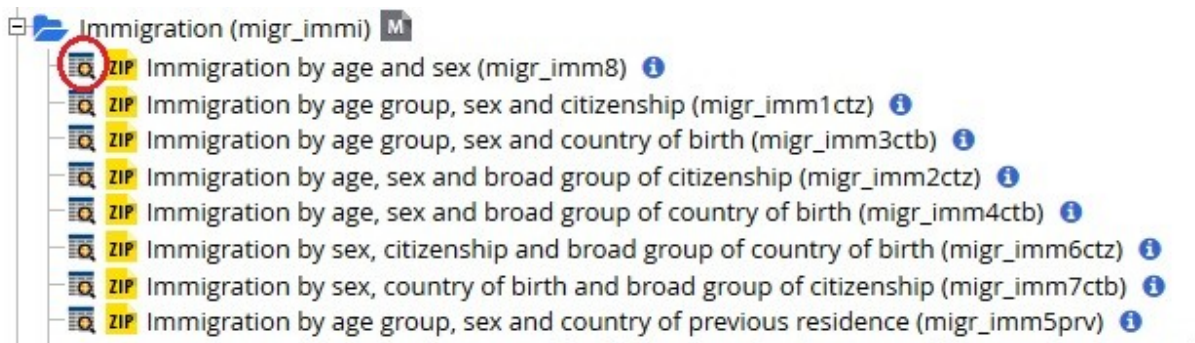


**Figure 2.6 Immigration related datasets in the data navigation tree of Eurostat database**



As it is possible to see, there are a lot of options: for instance, under this category immigrants are divided by sex, by age, by both of the characteristics, by country of origin, by country of birth and so on. Furthermore, it is possible to select the data and create a customized table to download (click on the table symbol, marked by the red circle).

**Figure 2.7 Immigration datasets**



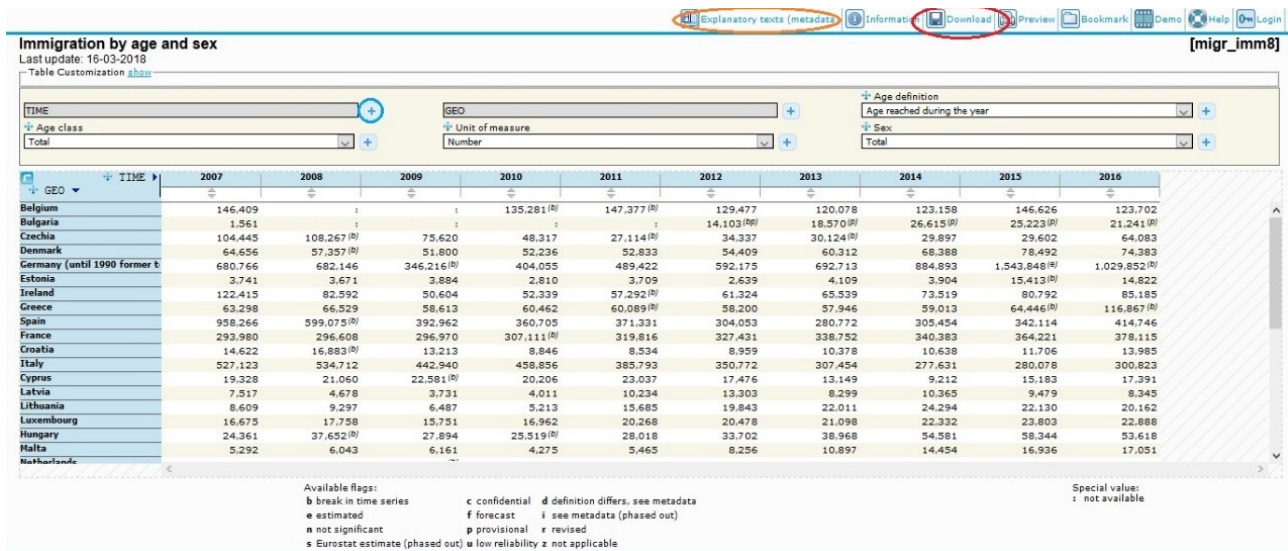
To give an example, let us take “Immigration by age and sex” as an example. First of all, it is possible to check the metadata (orange circle on the top of the page), in addition clicking on the “plus” symbol users have the chance to change the setting of the table. The “Bookmark” button allows to save the customization and continue to work on the table later.





It is always recommended to read the related metadata available through Explanatory note icon on the upper right of the page prior to working with any dataset.

Figure 2.8 Understanding how to tailor the dataset





**Figure 2.9 Step 1: Selecting time (2010-2016)**

**Immigration by age and sex**  
Last update: 16-03-2018  
Interactive extraction size limit: 750000  
Current extraction size: 14  
Dimension selection: 7/27

AGE | AGEDEF | GEO | SEX | **TIME** | UNIT

View  
Sorting  Sort Ascending  Sort Descending  Sort Protocol Order  
Show  Codes  Labels  Both

Filtering  
Filtering type:  Text  Code range  Pattern  
Search in:  Codes  Labels  Both

<input type="checkbox"/> Select all	Code	Label
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2016	No label
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2015	No label
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2014	No label
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2013	No label
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2012	No label
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2011	No label
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2010	No label
<input type="checkbox"/>	2009	No label

For example, let us imagine to create a table of the immigrants in Italy from 2010 to 2016 divided by sex, but regardless the age class. In this case, it is necessary to click on the “plus” button and select Italy in “GEO”; then the time period in “TIME” and finally the division by sex in the appropriate menu.

**Figure 2.10 Step 2: selecting sex (M and F)**

**Immigration by age and sex**  
Last update: 16-03-2018  
Interactive extraction size limit: 750000  
Current extraction size: 14  
Dimension selection: 2/3

AGE | AGEDEF | GEO | **SEX** | TIME | UNIT

View  
Sorting  Sort Ascending  Sort Descending  Sort Protocol Order  
Show  Codes  Labels  Both

Filtering  
Filtering type:  Text  Code range  Pattern  
Search in:  Codes  Labels  Both

<input type="checkbox"/> Select all	Code	Label
<input type="checkbox"/>	T	Total
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	M	Males
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	F	Females

**Figure 2.11 Step 3: Selecting destination (Italy)**

**Immigration by age and sex**  
Last update: 16-03-2018  
Interactive extraction size limit: 750000  
Current extraction size: 14  
Dimension selection: 1/32

AGE | AGEDEF | **GEO** | SEX | TIME | UNIT

View  
Sorting  Sort Ascending  Sort Descending  Sort Protocol Order  
Show  Codes  Labels  Both

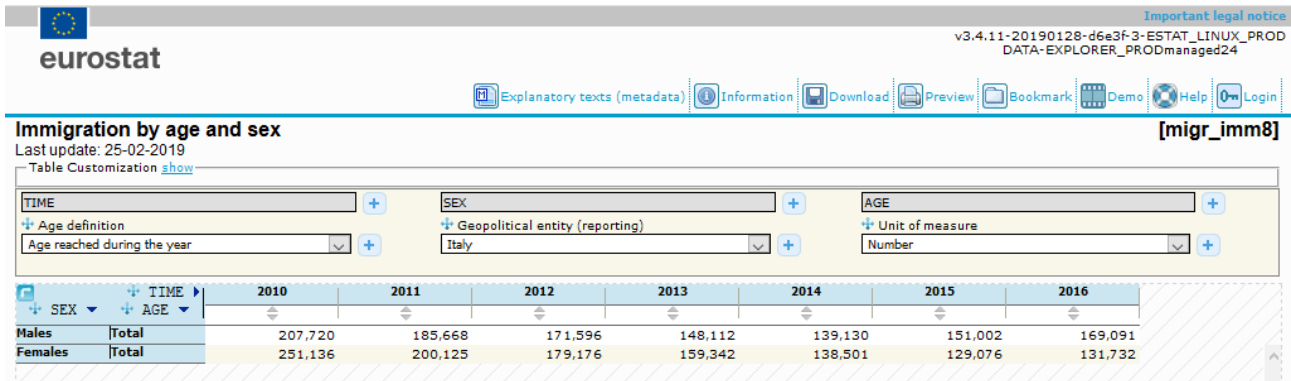
Filtering  
Filtering type:  Text  Code range  Pattern  Nuts level  
Search in:  Codes  Labels  Both

<input type="checkbox"/> Select all	Code	Label
<input type="checkbox"/>	ES	Spain
<input type="checkbox"/>	FR	France
<input type="checkbox"/>	HR	Croatia
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	IT	Italy
<input type="checkbox"/>	CY	Cyprus
<input type="checkbox"/>	LV	Latvia

This is how the ready table would look like after having chosen the options:



Figure 2.12 Step 4: Final table



In the end, the customized table can be downloaded in various formats, including Excel.

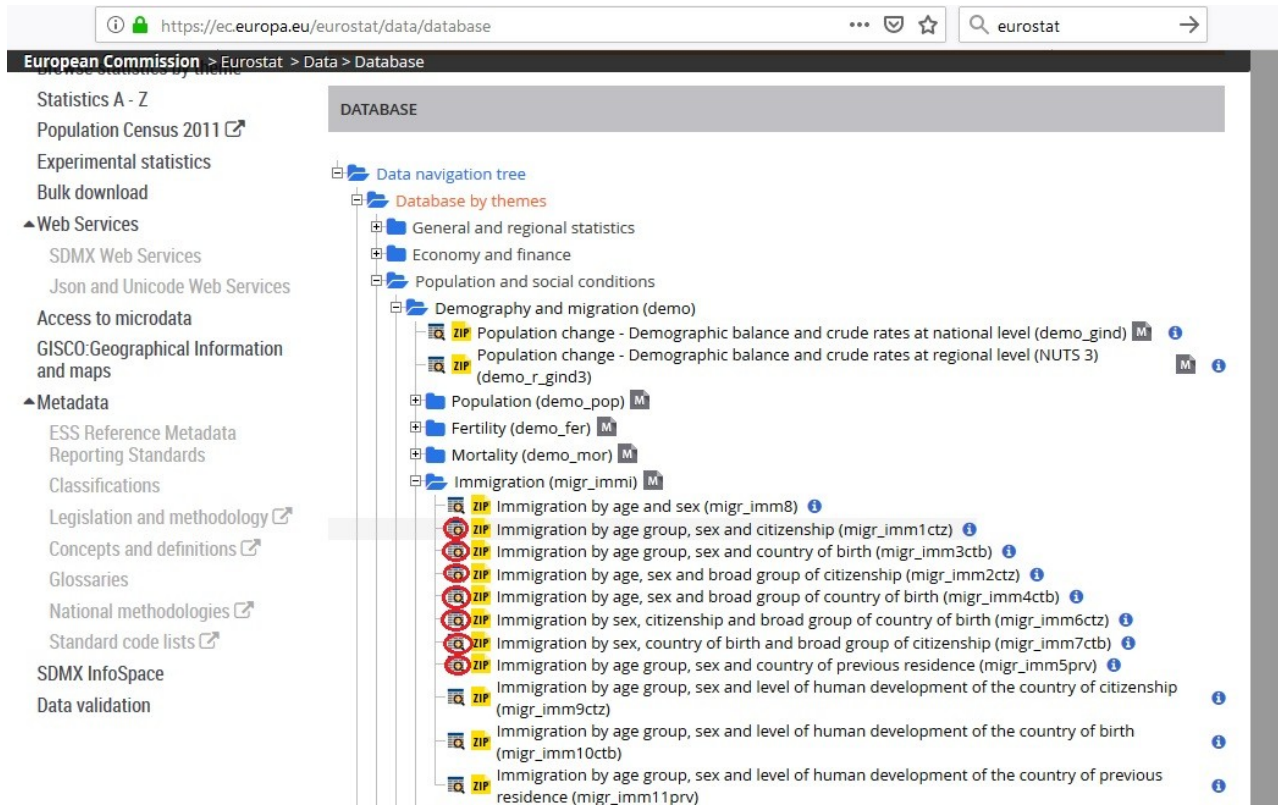
Alternatively, one can use the Bookmark function (icon on the upper right) which allows to create a bookmark to the just tailored table and return to it later.

Eurostat can help to answer also the question: **“where do migrants come from?”**.

Link:

[http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statisticsexplained/index.phpMigration\\_and\\_migrant\\_population\\_statistics](http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statisticsexplained/index.phpMigration_and_migrant_population_statistics)

Figure 2.13 Immigration by origin (country of birth and citizenship)





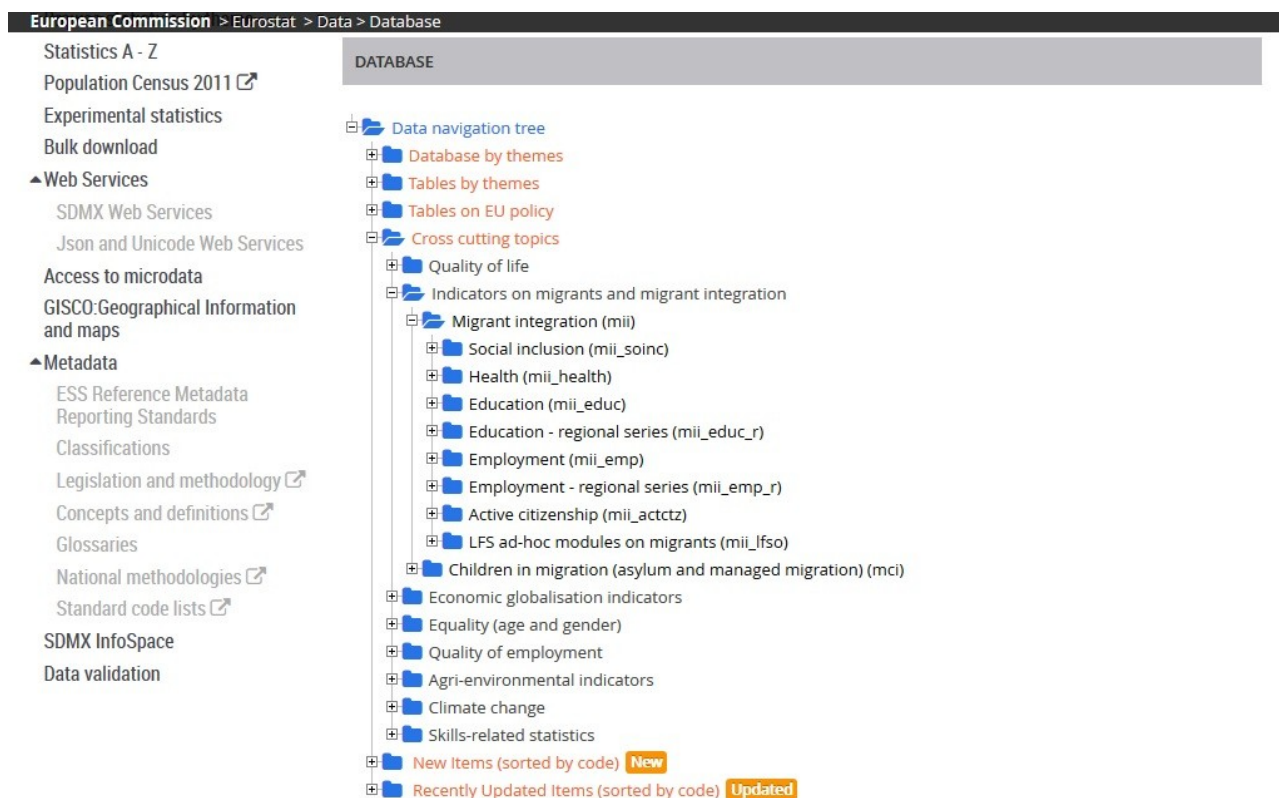
In the data navigation tree, options concerning immigrants’ countries of origin can be found under:

- Demography and migration > Immigration

Choosing one dataset or others allows to have immigrants sorted by country of citizenship, by country of origin and by group of countries (again, country of origin, broad group of citizenship or country of previous residence).

Moreover, data concerning migrants’ characteristics and their degree of integration are available as well. In this case, it is necessary to explore the Navigation Tree a bit further than before to find out data concerning migrants’ characteristics, such as the degree of education, their level of employment or other indicators of their integration.

**Figure 2.14 Indicators on migrants and migrant integration**



Under the label “indicators on migrants and migrant integration” there are plenty of categories which can provide information on migrants’ characteristics; in particular, the database provides data on:

- Social inclusion
- Health
- Education
- Employment
- Active citizenship

The best way to find out all data concerning migration is certainly exploring the Navigation Tree or using the research form on top of the page.



## Summary

While working with datasets provided by Eurostat following you should do the following:

- Step 1: Select the correct dataset
- Step 2: Select parameters (Update!)
- Step 3: Customise the layout of the selection
- Step 4: Download choosing the format of the exported data file
- Step 5: Open and check if you obtained what you aimed for.

If you still have some questions create Eurostat user account and contact Eurostat with clearly defines questions. But first read the metadata.

While using the statistics or obtained figures in your research do not forget to cite the source.



### 3 Atlas of migration 2018

Link: <https://ec.europa.eu/jrc/en/publication/atlas-migration-2018>

The Atlas of migration is a pdf handbook (the Online Dashboard version is currently being developed) prepared by the European Commission's Knowledge Centre on Migration and Demography. It is divided in three main sections:

- The first one provides data on a series of thematic areas across all 28 EU Member States;
- The second section presents an overview of 44 selected non-EU countries with migration connections with Europe.
- The third one focuses on forced displacement in Africa, in particular on the ongoing trends that could affect European neighbours.

The Atlas is intended to be used as a reference book for a variety of uses by migration policy makers, other relevant stakeholders, businesses, researchers and also the general public. It will be produced annually, both in paper and electronic forms. The Atlas includes data and indicators on demography, migrant stocks and flows, legal migration, asylum, irregular migration and naturalization. For non-EU countries this is complemented by sections on development and humanitarian aid, remittances and socioeconomic characteristics, while for EU Member States by a section on migrant integration.

*(Atlas on Migration 2018 - Abstract)*

This is an example of a country analyzed in the first section:



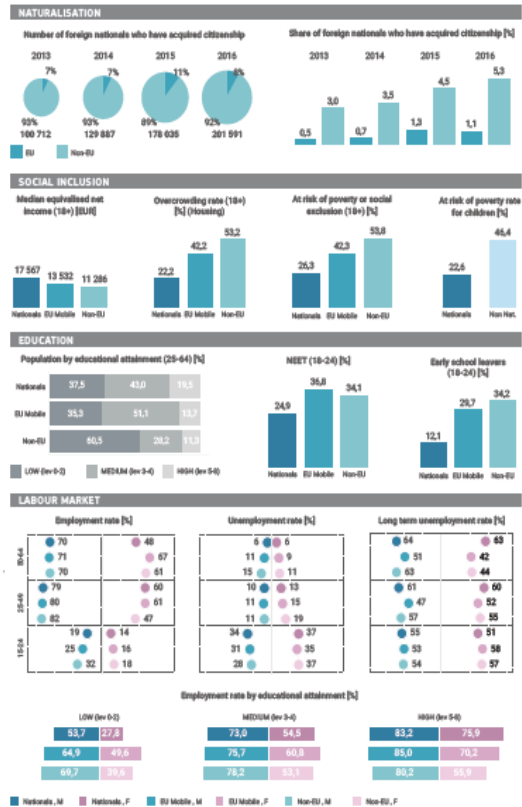
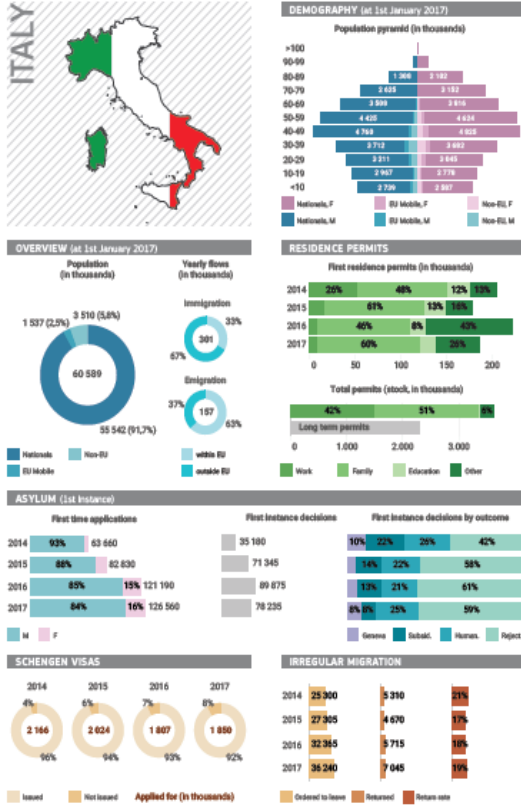
Figure 3.15 Section 1: EU Member State fiche (example Italy)

42

ATLAS OF MIGRATION 2018

MIGRATION IN THE EUROPEAN UNION

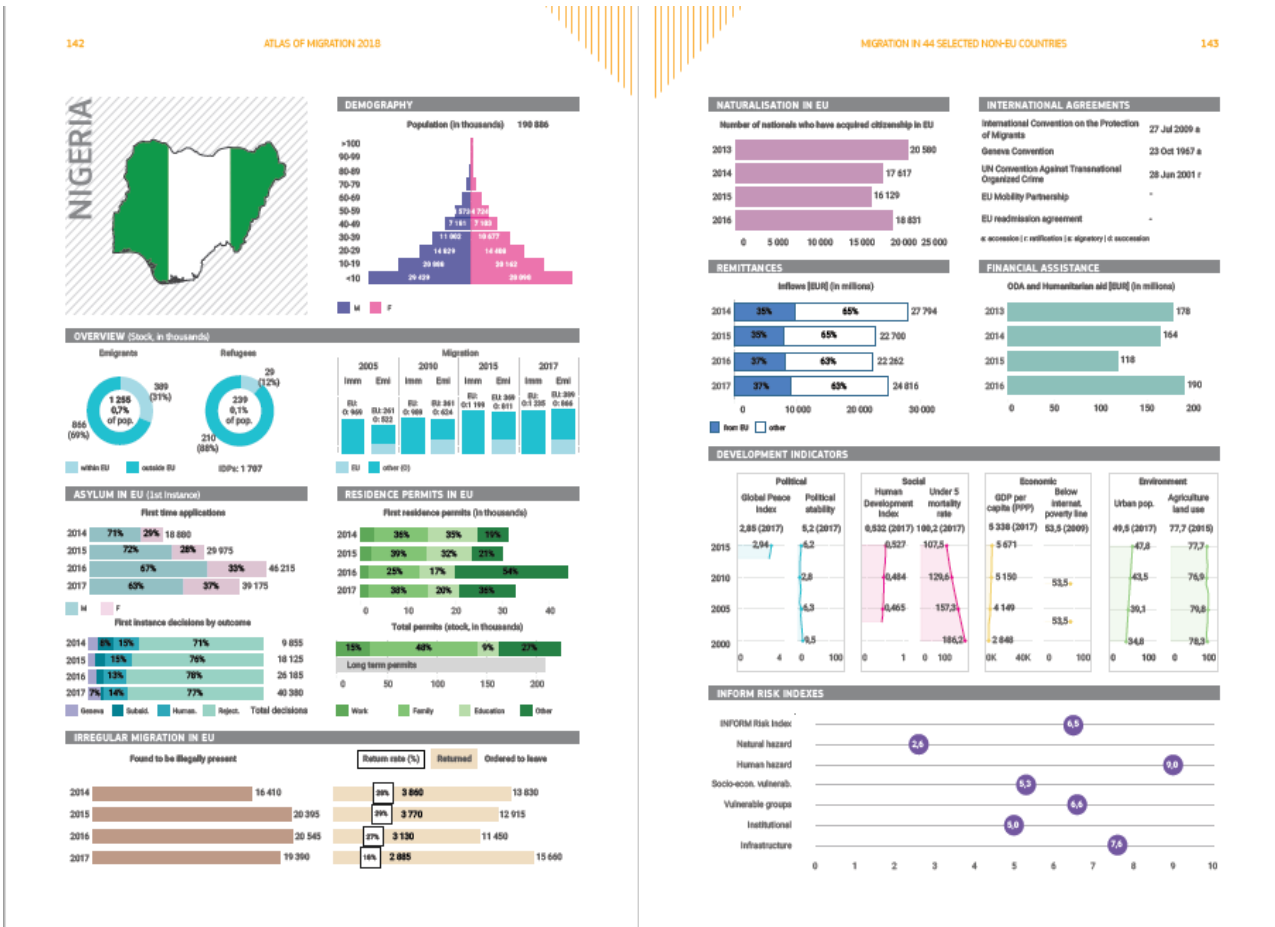
43





And this is one of the countries for the second section:

Figure 3.16 Section 2: Non EU Member State fiche (Example Nigeria)



The last section is instead focused on forced displacement in Africa, which means particularly refugees and IDPs. This source could be very useful to deepen these last themes, for which data are more difficult to be found but still paramount in understanding the role European Union could play in tackling this phenomenon.





## 4 KCMD (Knowledge Centre on Migration and Demography) Knowledge Portal

Link: <https://bluehub.jrc.ec.europa.eu/catalogues/data/>

The Knowledge Portal of the European Commission's Knowledge Centre on Migration and Demography (KCMD) provides information and data relevant to EU policies on migration and connected issues, such as residence permits, migration governance and so on. It consists of two catalogues and a data hub:

- “The Data Catalogue of the Knowledge Centre on Migration and Demography (KCMD) is a metadata catalogue to enable any user to discover data sources relevant to migration, demography and related fields. Each data source is listed with its summary description, the link to its web site and other metadata. The catalogue includes official EU and international statistics, as well as selected data sets at EU Member State level. You can find data sets by clicking on the domain categories below, or search for text inside the box.”<sup>1</sup> This catalogue collects data from external sources, like Eurostat, and gather them by themes but all datasets and publications are stand-alone and cannot be compared within the web site.

Figure 4.17 KCMD Knowledge Portal

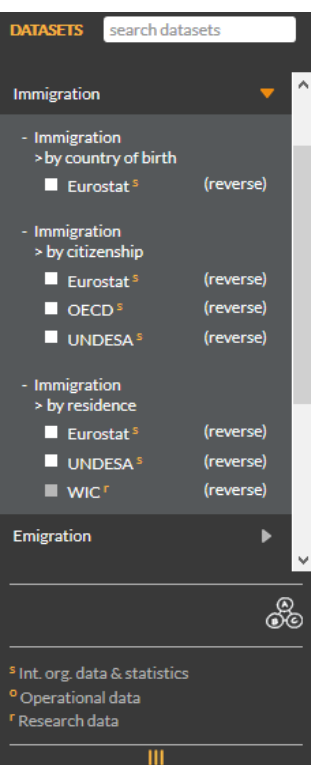


<sup>1</sup> <https://bluehub.jrc.ec.europa.eu/catalogues/data/>



- “The Information Catalogue of the Knowledge Centre on Migration and Demography (KCMD) is a catalogue to enable any user to discover web portals and platforms, stakeholder organisations, networks and forums as well as projects and Commission activities relevant to EU policies on migration and related fields. It draws on a wide range of existing information sources. You can browse through this information by clicking on the domain categories below, or search for text inside the box.” It provides sources concerning the various themes and repeats some of the publications and datasets present in the Data Catalogue.
- The Dynamic Data Hub is an interactive tool which hosts information from various sources and allows users to select options and depict the data on a map. The data hub is the peculiarity of this web source, in particular if users want to have tailored data represented by maps. Being dynamic, it allows people to select the information they need, changing time scale, comparing different countries and different sources, however it is only possible to share the links of the maps created but it is not available to download.

This is the home page of the site from which it is possible to get access to the catalogues and the data hub. Since the latter is the most difficult to browse, the next section will be aimed at providing a more detailed guide to it.

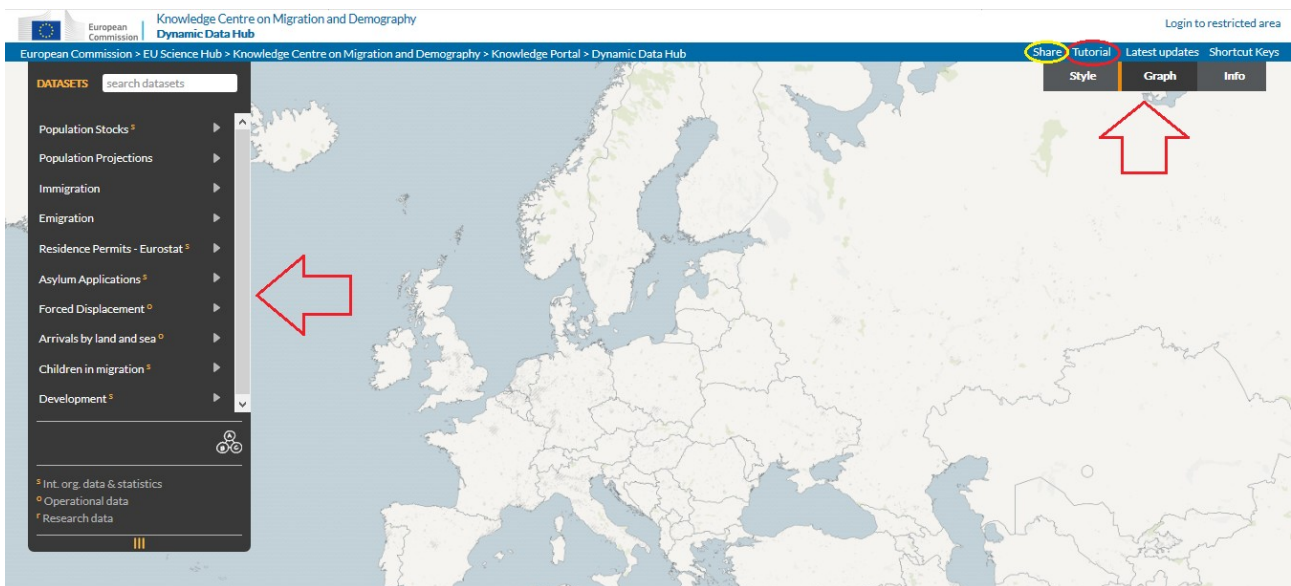
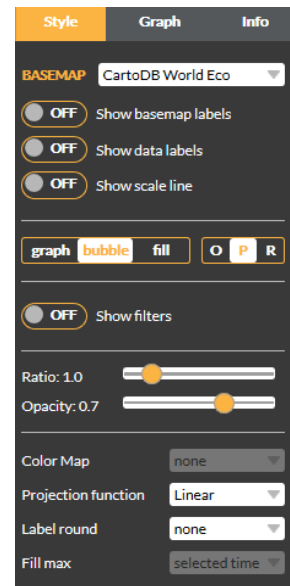


## Dynamic Data Hub

Link: <https://bluehub.jrc.ec.europa.eu/migration/app/index.html>



Figure 4.18 KCMD Dynamic Data Hub



As it is possible to see on the image, on the left side the menu allows to choose the kind of information needed: in particular, the map can be used to show data on population stocks, on population projections, in immigration or emigration, on residence permits based on Eurostat database, on asylum applications, on force displacement and so on.

For instance, to look for data on immigration it is necessary to select the theme on the pulldown menu. Then, it is possible to choose which kind of definition of immigrant to take into account (by country of birth, by citizenship or by residence) and in some cases the source of these data. The number of immigrants will be depicted on the map, according to the options selected in the menu on the top of the page.



At the end, it is possible to share the dynamic link of the map created but it is not available for download.

For further information, the site provides a brief but useful tutorial on Youtube which shows all the possible graphical options and where to find metadata.

## 5 Migrant Integration Policy Index- MIPEX

Link: <http://www.mipex.eu/>

“The Migrant Integration Policy Index (MIPEX) is a unique tool which measures policies to integrate migrants in all EU Member States, Australia, Canada, Iceland, Japan, South Korea, New Zealand, Norway, Switzerland, Turkey and the USA.”

In particular, the index is based on 167 policy indicators created to depict a multi-dimensional picture of migrant’s possibility to take part in the societies of the countries of destination. It is especially very useful to make comparisons between different countries. In addition, the effectiveness of the integration policies is taken in consideration as well: this information can help policy makers to improve governmental effort in migrant’s integration.

This homepage of the web site:

Figure 5.19 MIPEX homepage

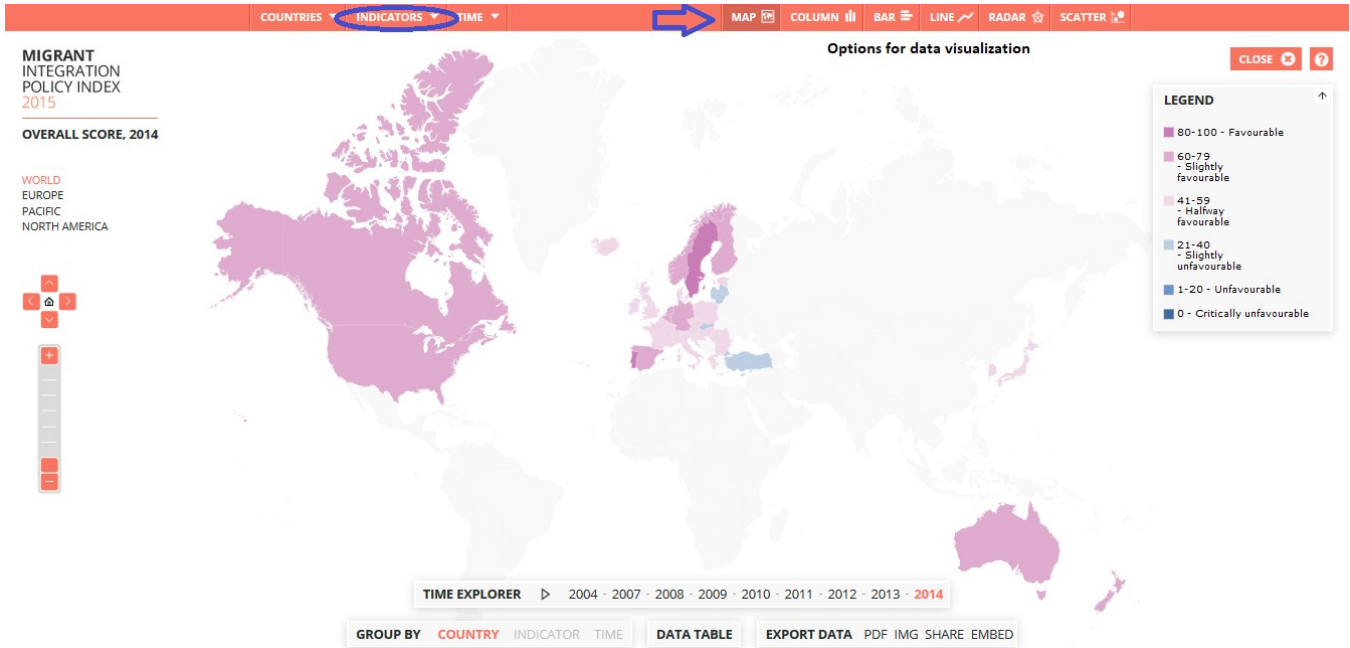




The main options are showed in the homepage: it is, in fact, possible to have a look at general findings on migrants' integration which consist of a comparative study or to customize data and then export them.

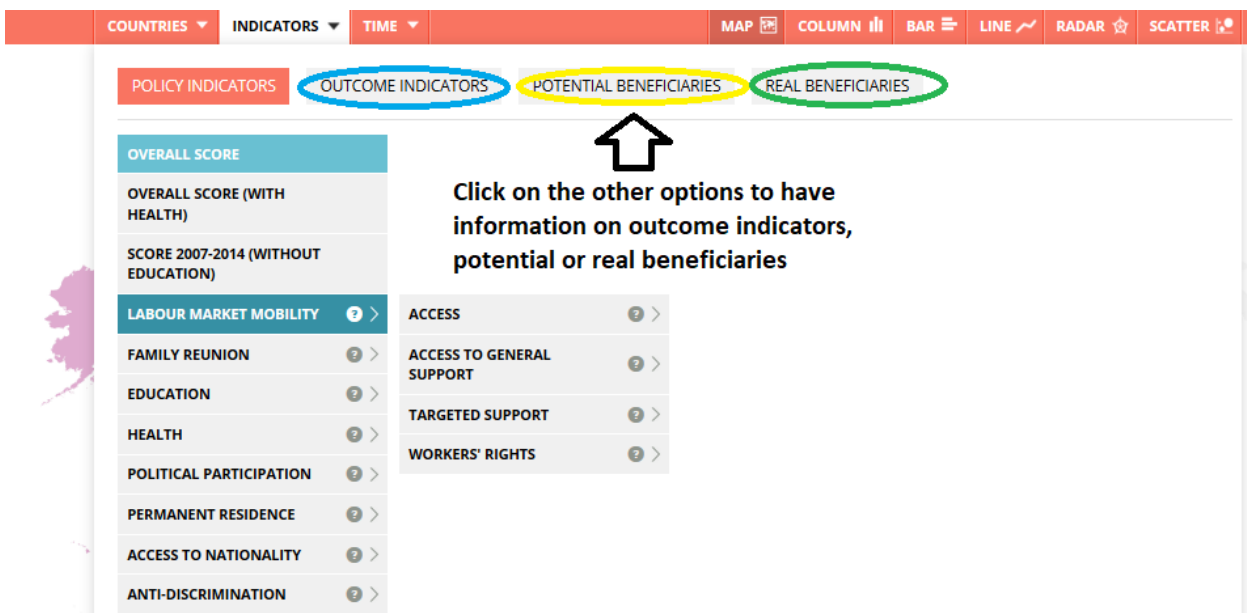
On top of the page, in the menu, it is also possible to select a country and look at the specific findings concerning its peculiarities. "Play with the data" leads to this interactive page:

**Figure 5.20 MIPEX Interactive board**



In particular, it is possible to choose whether to focus on European countries or other monitored areas of the world, such as Australia or the USA. Data are organized by country or by indicator: in fact, MIPEX analysis is based on 167 policy indicators, all available to be explored in detail.

**Figure 5.21 MIPEX Policy indicators**





Finally, data can be depicted in different formats, as it is possible to see in the option menu on top of the page, then they are available for download in pdf or as an image.

To sum up, this tool proves to be very useful when studying migrant integration both in a comparative analysis or in a country report, since data can be explored by country or by indicator. In any case, it could be very useful to have a look at the Youtube guide by clicking on the “play” button in the homepage.

**Figure 5.22 MIPEX Video guide**



## 6 World Bank Bilateral Migration Matrix

Link: <https://datacatalog.worldbank.org/dataset/global-bilateral-migration-database>

The World Bank Bilateral Migration Matrix is a very useful tool in studying where migrants come from. It is presented as “Global matrices of bilateral migrant stocks spanning the period 1960-2000, disaggregated by gender and based primarily on the foreign-born concept are presented. Over one thousand census and population register records are combined to construct decennial matrices corresponding to the last five completed census rounds.”<sup>2</sup>

The following screenshot represents the homepage of the Global Bilateral Migration Database. To reach the database, click on the link “Go to Resource”

<sup>2</sup> World Bank Bilateral Migration Matrix, <https://datacatalog.worldbank.org/dataset/global-bilateral-migration-database>.



Figure 6.23 Global Bilateral Migration Database

THE WORLD BANK | Data Catalog

Search...

Home Data Getting Started FAQs

## Global Bilateral Migration Database

**DATA ACCESS AND LICENSING**

This dataset is classified as **Public** under the Access to Information Classification Policy. Users inside and outside the Bank can access this dataset.

This dataset is licensed under **CC-BY 4.0**

**RELATED LINKS**

- Where on Earth is Everybody? The Evolution of Global Bilateral Migration, 1960-2000

Overview **Data & Resources** Visualization Additional Information Citations

**Global Bilateral Migration Database**  
Global Bilateral Migration Database  
Resource Type: **Query Tool**  
[Go to Resource](#)

Global matrices of bilateral migrant stocks spanning the period 1960-2000, disaggregated by gender and based primarily on the foreign-born concept are presented. Over one thousand census and population register records are combined to construct decennial matrices corresponding to the last five completed census rounds. For the first time, a comprehensive picture of bilateral global migration over the last half of the twentieth century emerges. The data reveal that the global migrant stock increased from 92 to 165 million between 1960 and 2000. South-North migration is the fastest growing component of international migration in both absolute and relative terms. The United States remains the most important migrant destination in the world, home to one fifth of the world's migrants and the top destination for migrants from no less than sixty sending countries. Migration to Western Europe remains largely from elsewhere in Europe. The oil-rich Persian Gulf countries emerge as important destinations for migrants from the Middle East, North Africa and South and South-East Asia. Finally, although the global migrant stock is still predominantly male, the proportion of women increased noticeably between 1960 and 2000. Less...

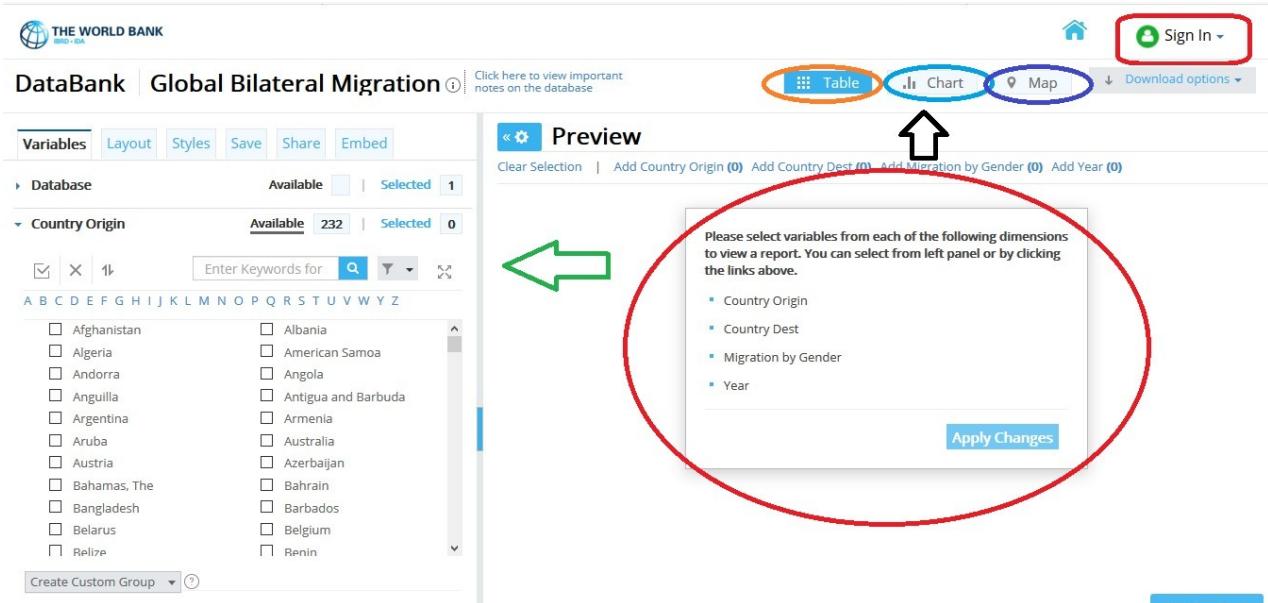
Before starting a new query, the database itself explains which variables can be selected in the menu on the left:

- country of origin,
- country of destination,
- gender,
- year.

In addition, it is possible to choose whether to have data displayed in a table, on a chart or on a map.



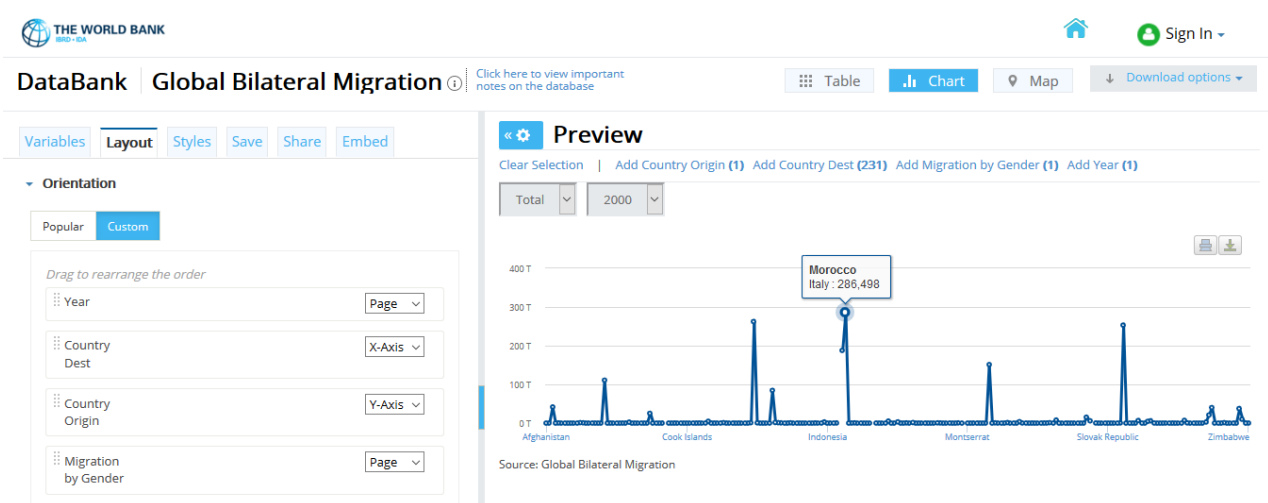
**Figure 6.24 Selection data presentation options (Table, Chart or Map)**



A very useful characteristic of this source is the possibility to create an account, log in and save the table to continue the searching activity at another time. Once the data have been selected, they are available for being downloaded in various formats, just checking the download option on the top of the page.

This is an example of query. The selected variables are: Morocco as country of origin, all the other countries as destinations, both genders and year 2000 as time reference. In addition, data are displayed on a chart instead of a table: layout can be customizable changing the options in the menu on the left.

**Figure 6.25 Data visualization through a chart (Origin - Morocco)**







7 UNPD Global Migration Database

Link: <http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/data/estimates2/estimates15.shtml>

Figure 7.26 UNPD International Migration Homepage

UN Population Division provides information on international migration. As the web site states, the number of migrants is based on official statistics on the foreign-born or the foreign population, data are available for all countries and areas of the world for some specific years.

Differently from other sources, this one does not allow to select which specific data to look for; in fact, it provides readymade tables, maps and graphs, as well as infographics and digital cards. Clicking on the links, they are available for download.



## 8 OECD: Migration Statistics and DIOC

Link : <http://stats.oecd.org/Index.aspx?lang=en&SubSessionId=3774ae46-b849-4cfd-a7bc-891d2b485009&themetreeid=-200>

OECD provides an useful database concerning a huge variety of themes, included migration and population statistics. This source is particularly interesting because it is possible to make queries to the database and combine information on immigrant characteristics which are usually quite difficult to find in other sources: for instance, data on immigrants field of study, duration of staying, level of education or labour force status.

The screenshot shows the OECD.Stat interface for the 'Immigrants by citizenship and age' dataset. The table displays data for various countries of residence, categorized by region of birth. The 'My Queries' button is highlighted with a green circle, and the 'How data were collected' section is highlighted with a red box.

Country of residence	Africa	Asia	Europe	North America	Oceania	South and Central America and Caribbean	Other and unknown places of birth	All countries of birth
Australia	166 094	1 043 140	2 098 131	70 356	10 658 379	74 278	746 396	14 856 774
Austria	22 397	59 036	6 578 090	7 625	1 770	9 731	795	6 679 444
Belgium	232 434	62 280	8 160 885	14 141	1 259	19 992	538	8 491 529
Canada	277 500	1 886 860	2 306 685	18 791 935	50 010	587 470	325	23 900 785
Czech Republic	1 787	20 690	8 369 031	1 983	296	1 446	176 482	8 571 715
Denmark	26 026	96 503	4 193 964	9 652	1 855	7 529	23 089	4 358 618
Finland	8 075	15 130	4 211 190	3 550	615	1 555	4 460	4 244 575
France	2 745 341	432 843	44 750 979	48 500	5 566	85 148	...	48 068 377
Greece	50 957	83 830	9 080 035	31 021	20 032	6 210	1 113	9 273 198

After having selected the data, it is possible to choose whether to have them displayed on a bar chart, on a line chart or on a scatter plot; then they are available to be downloaded in various formats.



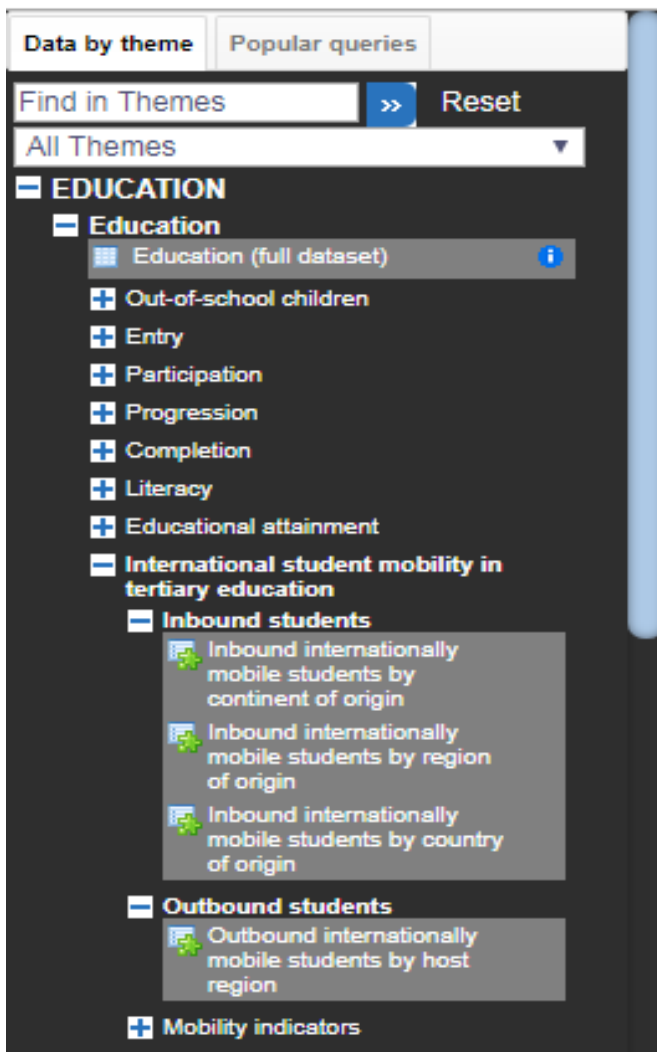
9 UNESCO: International Students mobility in tertiary education

Link: <http://data.uis.unesco.org/>

User Manual: [http://data.uis.unesco.org/ModalHelp/OECD/WBOS%20User%20Guide%20\(EN\).PDF](http://data.uis.unesco.org/ModalHelp/OECD/WBOS%20User%20Guide%20(EN).PDF)

UNESCO is an important source of information for the flows of internationally mobile tertiary students

Figure 9.27 UNESCO statistics webpage



Go directly to UIS.Stat =>

Education =>

International student mobility in  
tertiary education =>

Inbound students

Outbound students

Mobility indicators

Attention! For inbound students  
country of origin is an INDICATOR



Figure 9.28 Inbound internationally mobile students by country of origin (in Italy)

Education : Inbound internationally mobile students by country of origin

Customise Export Draw chart

Excel  
Text file (CSV)  
PC-axis  
SDMX (XML)  
Related files

Time	Country	from Canada, both sexes (number)	North America: Students from the United States, both sexes (number)	Caribbean and Central America: Students from Mexico, both sexes (number)
2009	Italy	135	423	322
2010		76	285	217
2011		130	448	386
2012		149	448	394
2013		115	552	354
2014		..	..	..
2015		..	..	..

Figure 9.29 Outbound internationally mobile students by host country (from Italy)

Education : Outbound internationally mobile students by host region

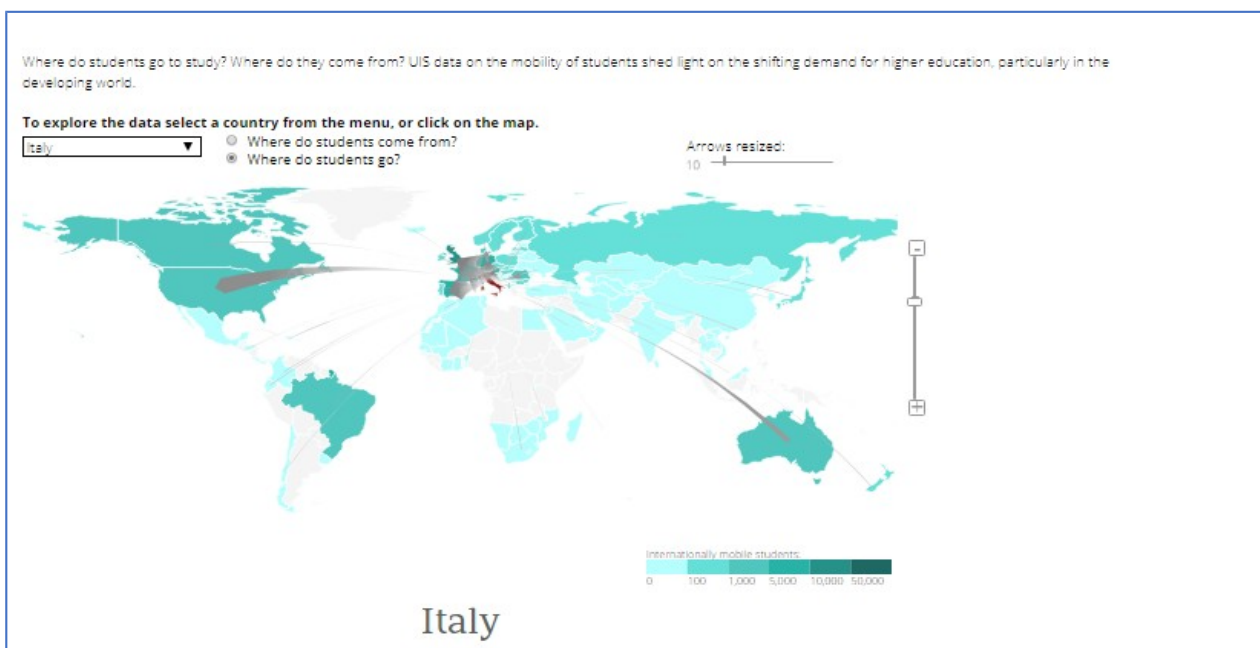
Customise Export Draw chart

Indicator: Outbound internationally mobile tertiary students studying in North America and Western Europe, both sexes (number)

Time	Country	Indicator
2009	Italy	34 070
2010		37 844
2011		40 887
2012		44 332
2013		44 336
2014		..
2015		..

The data portal allows also for visualization through maps depicting flows of tertiary students from and to a country.

Figure 9.30 Italian tertiary student abroad





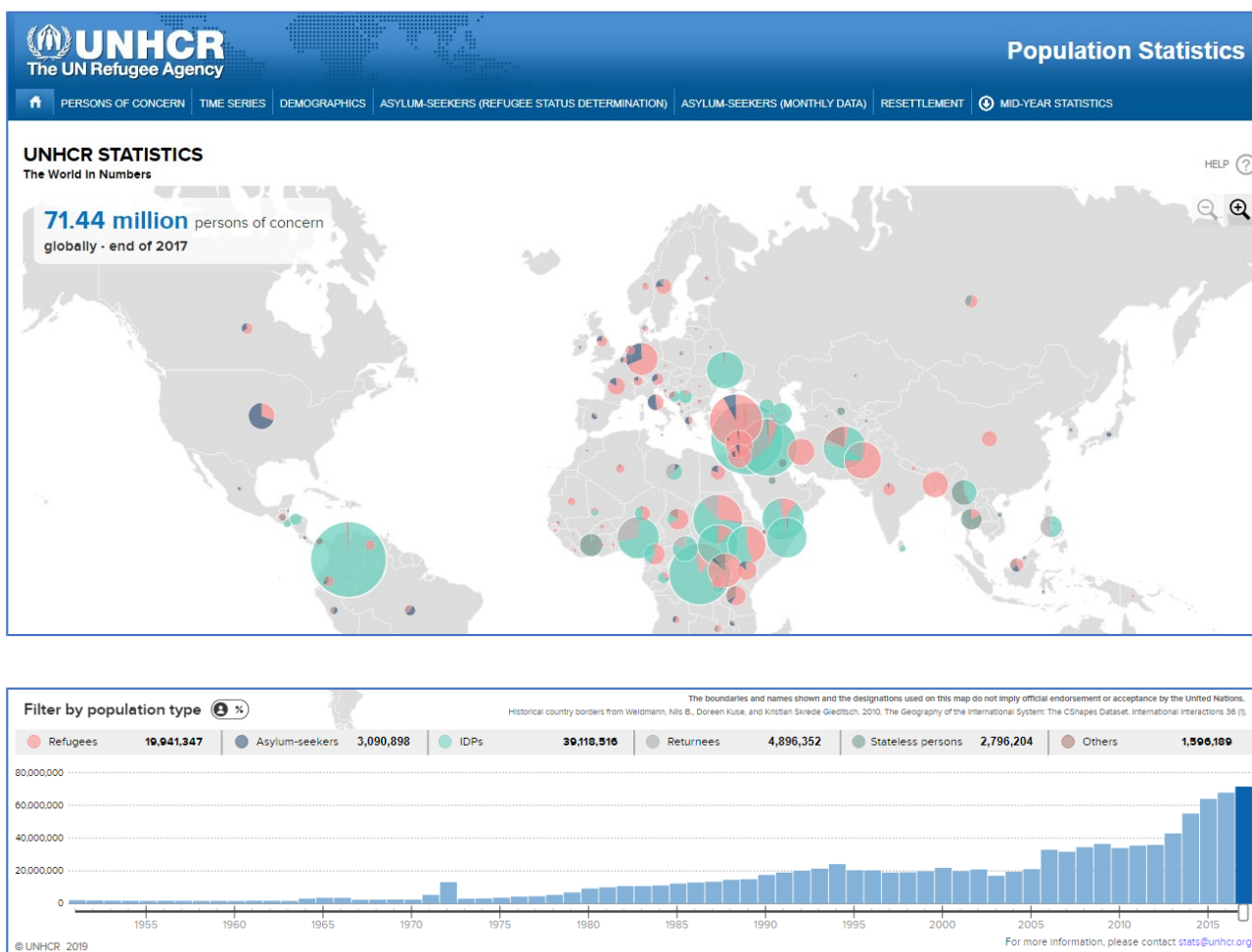
## 10 UNHCR – The UN Refugee Agency

Link: <http://popstats.unhcr.org/en/overview>

The database currently contains data about UNHCR's populations of concern from the year 1951 up to 2017 and you can use it to investigate different aspects of these populations: their general composition by location of residence or origin, their status (refugees, asylum seekers, internally displaced persons, etc.), their evolution over time.

In each of the screens you start by selecting the sub-set of data you are interested in, choosing one or more countries or territories of residence and/or origin. You can focus on specific types of population by checking the boxes for only those you are concerned with, and you can summarize the data by checking the boxes for only those data items by which you wish the data to be broken down.

Figure 10.31 UNHCR Population Statistics Database



The homepage also provide an important set of definitions related to forced migration.

**Refugees** include individuals recognised under the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees; its 1967 Protocol; the 1969 OAU Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa; those recognised in accordance with the UNHCR Statute; individuals granted



complementary forms of protection; or those enjoying temporary protection. Since 2007, the refugee population also includes people in a refugee-like situation.

**Asylum-seekers** are individuals who have sought international protection and whose claims for refugee status have not yet been determined, irrespective of when they may have been lodged.

**Internally displaced persons (IDPs)** are people or groups of individuals who have been forced to leave their homes or places of habitual residence, in particular as a result of, or in order to avoid the effects of armed conflict, situations of generalised violence, violations of human rights, or natural or man-made disasters, and who have not crossed an international border. For the purposes of UNHCR's statistics, this population only includes conflict-generated IDPs to whom the Office extends protection and/or assistance. Since 2007, the IDP population also includes people in an IDP-like situation. For global IDP estimates, see [www.internal-displacement.org](http://www.internal-displacement.org).

**Returned refugees** are former refugees who have returned to their country of origin spontaneously or in an organised fashion but are yet to be fully integrated. Such return would normally only take place in conditions of safety and dignity.

**Returned IDPs** refer to those IDPs who were beneficiaries of UNHCR's protection and assistance activities and who returned to their areas of origin or habitual residence during the year.

**Stateless persons** are defined under international law as persons who are not considered as nationals by any State under the operation of its law. In other words, they do not possess the nationality of any State. UNHCR statistics refer to persons who fall under the agency's statelessness mandate because they are stateless according to this international definition, but data from some countries may also include persons with undetermined nationality.

**Others of concern** refers to individuals who do not necessarily fall directly into any of the groups above, but to whom UNHCR extends its protection and/or assistance services, based on humanitarian or other special grounds.



## 11 Conclusions

Studying migration relying on quantitative data can be difficult because of the huge number of sources online among which it is hard to find the right ones. It is very important to bear in mind that data are not all the same, the way they have been collected matters and some kinds of data are more suitable to some analysis than others: for this reason, it is paramount to understand which data to look for and then to choose wisely the source.

To sum up the contents of this guide, it could be useful to group online database according to the questions they help to answer to. In particular:

- How many migrants are there?
  - Eurostat
  - KCMD Knowledge Portal
  - UNPD Global Migration Database
  - OECD: Migration Statistics and DIOC
- Where do they come from?
  - Eurostat
  - World Bank Bilateral Migration Matrix
  - Migration Statistics and DIOC
- What are their characteristics?
  - Eurostat
  - OECD: Migration Statistics and DIOC
- International mobility of tertiary students
  - UNESCO
- Humanitarian migrants(refugees and asylum seekers)
  - UNHCR
  - Eurostat
- Which policies do destination countries implement?
  - MIPEX



12 Recommended readings

**Education, gender and international migration: Insights from a panel dataset 1980-2010 – Methodology Report – IAB**

[http://doku.iab.de/daten/brain-drain/iabbd\\_8010\\_v1\\_methodology.pdf](http://doku.iab.de/daten/brain-drain/iabbd_8010_v1_methodology.pdf)

**A Gendered Assessment of Highly Skilled Emigration.** Population and Development Review, 35, 297–321. Docquier, F., Lowell, B. L. and Marfouk, A. (2009)

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1728-4457.2009.00277.x/abstract>

**The Causes and Effects of International Migrations: Evidence from OECD Countries 1980-2005,** NBER Working Paper No. 14833. Ortega Francesc and Giovanni Peri (2009)

<http://www.nber.org/papers/w14833>

**Global Bilateral Migration Database,** World Bank Group and Ç. Özden, C. Parsons, M. Schiff and T. L. Walmsley (2011) 'Where on Earth is Everybody? The Evolution of Global Bilateral Migration, 1960-2000', World Bank Economic Review 25(1):12-56

<http://wber.oxfordjournals.org/content/25/1/12.abstract>

**The Evolution of Global Bilateral Migration 1960-2000.** In The Second Conference on International Migration and Development, Sep 10-11. The World Bank, Washington DC Özden Ç, Parsons C, Schiff MW, Walmsley T. (2009)

<http://citeseerx.ist.psu.edu/viewdoc/download?doi=10.1.1.504.6004&rep=rep1&type=pdf>

**International Migration Data and the Study of Super-Diversity,** MMG Working Paper 10-05. Alan Gamlen (2010)

[http://pubman.mpdl.mpg.de/pubman/item/escidoc:1126637/component/escidoc:2058197/WP\\_10-05\\_Gamlen\\_Postwar-Migration-Data.pdf](http://pubman.mpdl.mpg.de/pubman/item/escidoc:1126637/component/escidoc:2058197/WP_10-05_Gamlen_Postwar-Migration-Data.pdf)





## 13 Weblibliography

### Atlas of migration 2018

<https://ec.europa.eu/jrc/en/publication/atlas-migration-2018>

### Eurostat

<https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/main/home>

### KCMD Knowledge Portal - Dynamic Data Hub

<https://bluehub.jrc.ec.europa.eu/migration/app/index.html>

### KCMD Knowledge Portal

<https://bluehub.jrc.ec.europa.eu/catalogues/data/>

### MIPEX

<http://www.mipex.eu/>

### OECD: Migration Statistics and DIOC <http://stats.oecd.org/Index.aspx?>

<http://stats.oecd.org/Index.aspx?lang=en&SubSessionId=3774ae46-b849-4cf4-a7bc-891d2b485009&themetreeid=-200>

### UNESCO

<http://data.uis.unesco.org/>

### UNHCR

<http://popstats.unhcr.org/en/overview>

### UNPD Global Migration Database

<http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/data/estimates2/estimates15.shtml>

### World Bank Bilateral Migration Matrix

<https://datacatalog.worldbank.org/dataset/global-bilateral-migration-database>