



EMN Ad-Hoc Query on Statistical tools, organisational needs and best practices regarding statistics

Requested by FI on 25th February 2016

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Responses from Austria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Latvia, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Sweden, United Kingdom (17 in total)

Disclaimer:

The following responses have been provided primarily for the purpose of information exchange among EMN NCPs in the framework of the EMN. The contributing EMN NCPs have provided, to the best of their knowledge, information that is up-to-date, objective and reliable.

Note, however, that the information provided does not necessarily represent the official policy of an EMN NCPs' Member State.

Background information:

In the beginning of February 2016, the Finnish Immigration Service (FIS) has started a one-year-project called Migstat, which aims to improve the quality of asylum & reception statistics used by the FIS and its national and international stakeholders. The emphasis of the project is to improve the quality of statistical tools in the fields of applications for international protection as well as for the purpose of reception centres. One important aspect of the project is to apply statistical tools in a more visual manner (eg. by using dashboards). Therefore, it would be important to benchmark practices from other member states in order to have a realistic implementation plan.

The project has begun with surveying national practices and needs for statistical analysis, and now focuses – among other things – on the international level with an EMN-query regarding the statistical practices of other states within the network. The project receives 75% of its funding from the EU's Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF).

One essential part of the project is to conduct a survey on statistical practices and tools used in other European asylum, immigration and reception authorities.

Questions

1. **Which statistics tool/program are you currently using as your main statistics software?**
2. **Are you currently using any visual tools (such as dashboards) whilst producing or reporting statistics?**
3. **What do you see as your organization's main information need(s) when it comes to statistics?**
– **What kind of statistical data would you need that you currently do not have?**
4. **Are you experiencing any overlapping whilst reporting statistics to different EU Institutions (eg. Eurostat, EASO)**
5. **Have you found any best practices when it comes to producing and using statistics in the fields of asylum & reception issues?**

Compilation of replies

1. **Which statistics tool/program are you currently using as your main statistics software?**

There is a **wide range of different tools** used by EMN MS's, based on different platforms/solutions, some of which are used by several MS's, whereas others are not.

The tools mentioned **most often** were:

Business objects & Live Office (AT, FR, LV, SE, UK)

Excel (CY, CZ, FR, NL, SE, UK)

Access (CZ, FR, NL)

MS's also mentioned they had **built their own software for internal use**, possibly designed for a particular institution and/or for a particular use (eg. HR, PL, PT)

Other tools included, but were not limited to:

ALIS (EE)

IBM Cognos (FI, DE, NL)

MIR (HU)

QlikView (SE, NO)

QlikSense (NO)

SAS (UK)

SPSS (SE, UK)

DUFRAPP, based on Oracle technology PL/SQL (NO)

2. Are you currently using any visual tools (such as dashboards) whilst producing or reporting statistics?

Yes (AT, FR, DE, NL, SE, UK, NO).

No (HR, CY, CZ, EE, FI, LV, LU, PL (rarely used), PT).

NB. In the “no”-category, various MS's reported on **producing visual aids/graphics** such as charts and/or diagrams eg. via Excel.

3. What do you see as your organization's main information need(s) when it comes to statistics?

– What kind of statistical data would you need that you currently do not have?

A variety of statistical needs were mentioned including, but not limited to, the following:

Statistics from other national authorities who work within the same process (AT, CY, CZ)

Visual statistical data (eg. dashboards, virtual cubes) that is easy-to-use with any variables (FI, HR)

Data on integration (HR)

Statistical data from international institutions (AT)

Prioritized themes or current trends (EE)

Making additional queries on any variables (EE, HR)

More valid data on return migration (DE)

Up-to-date asylum statistics of other countries, including non-EU+ countries (HU)

Pending asylum cases in all instances & Dublin requests & transfers (LV)

Discrepancies may currently exist between different organizations producing statistics, current statistics do not allow long-term planning (LU)

More adaptability, flexibility & real-time information, more detail, current focus also on comparability of data between different organizations (NL)

Qualifications of 3rd country nationals, work permit data, national access issues within national stakeholders (PL)

Development from descriptive analysis to interpretation and forecast (PT).

Need for a data warehouse (or a similar solution) that enables the extraction of data as flexibly as the complex work situation requires. Lack of greater flexibility regarding the merging of statistical data from different sources under different time periods (retrospective data) (SE).

Potential areas for future improvement may include publication of additional geographical data for those asylum seekers supported whilst their claim is being decided, or who are part of resettlement schemes. Other possible improvements potentially include more joined up data systems allowing individuals to be more easily tracked through the immigration control system (UK).

We are fortunately supplied with data that covers most statistical needs, both for standard reporting and ad-hoc reporting. A high granular database ensures this. However, we have not been able to "catch" reliable data well enough on Dublin returns to Norway (NO).

4. Are you experiencing any overlapping whilst reporting statistics to different EU Institutions (eg. Eurostat, EASO)?

Yes (AT, HR, CY, CZ, EE, FI, FR, HU, LV, LU, NL, PL, PT, SE, NO).

However, different statistical criteria, sub-categories, definitions, time frames and reporting periods were mentioned as the explanation for this. It was also noted that coordinated checks are being done by those two institutions of their data, and that there are detailed differences in the need/purpose of the reported data.

Also statistical reporting to national statistics agencies, FRONTEX and UNHCR were mentioned.

5. Have you found any best practices when it comes to producing and using statistics in the fields of asylum & reception issues?

Several best practices were mentioned, including the following:

Creating an executive information system, designed to enable an overview of main trends and patterns in the asylum, immigration and integration area at a glance; based on the concept of a management dashboard/cockpit (AT).

Sharing data and information between Member States (EU) and data and information from states affected by migration, to create a complex analysis of the situation, is a long-term process that should continue and to be endorsed as an example of best practice (CZ)

An overview of international protection statistics is distributed monthly comprising of applications submitted, decisions made, status of procedure, gender and age differentiation. (EE)

A weekly statistics report (=numerical update) distributed among asylum stakeholders (eg. The FIS, Reception Centers, The Border Guards, The immigration police) is an effective way of co-operating and creating operational awareness. Also, a separate summary of various top figures (e.g. applicants, decisions, extraditions etc.) is distributed daily among different operational stakeholders. (FI)

Producing a daily statistics report (alfa/numerical update) distributed among asylum stakeholders (Reception Centres, Asylum Department and Border Authorities) is an effective way of co-operating and creating operational awareness. Also, a separate summary of various top figures (e.g. applicants, decisions, etc.) are distributed daily/weekly/monthly among different operational stakeholders. (HR)

An update of arrivals and applications for international protection is distributed daily among stakeholders (LU)

Maybe one that is always least expected: the biggest success we had with our reports since the high influx of asylum seekers in The Netherlands in autumn 2015 we had with our weekly Asylum Dashboard. It consists of about twenty pages. Each page has just one graph or infographic that answers a question on the top of the page. The page has as little text as possible. (NL)

Automatized periodical reports. Some external institutions have access to the data base are able to produce predefined reports on their own. (PL)

Studies practices at other state agencies in Sweden for the purpose of collecting good practices regarding the handling statistical data, the use of Tools, and organizational issues. (SE)

To unlock high granular data and distribute it broadly is a driver for broad involvement in data quality and a mind opener for what kind of business improvements that can be done based on data. Business Intelligence: The current project (qlik) implementing data visualization tool (BI) has already indicated an up-coming best practice using dashboards not only for getting insight on what has been done, but also insight in what we have in front of us, and how we should deal with it and how to collaborate efficiently. We recommend that you have a look at Gartners and BIScorecard's deep knowledge on best practices in modern Business Intelligence, perhaps part of that can be useful. (NO)