Statistical measurement issues in intra-EU labour mobility & migration

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Walter J. Radermacher

Types of migration: policy interest

- 'Classical' demography based on a change of usual residence (actual or intended stay of 1 year or more)

- Labour mobility = widely understood geographical movement of workers
  - Includes: short and long term labour migrants, seasonal workers, posted workers, cross-border workers

- From outside the EU:
  - Asylum &
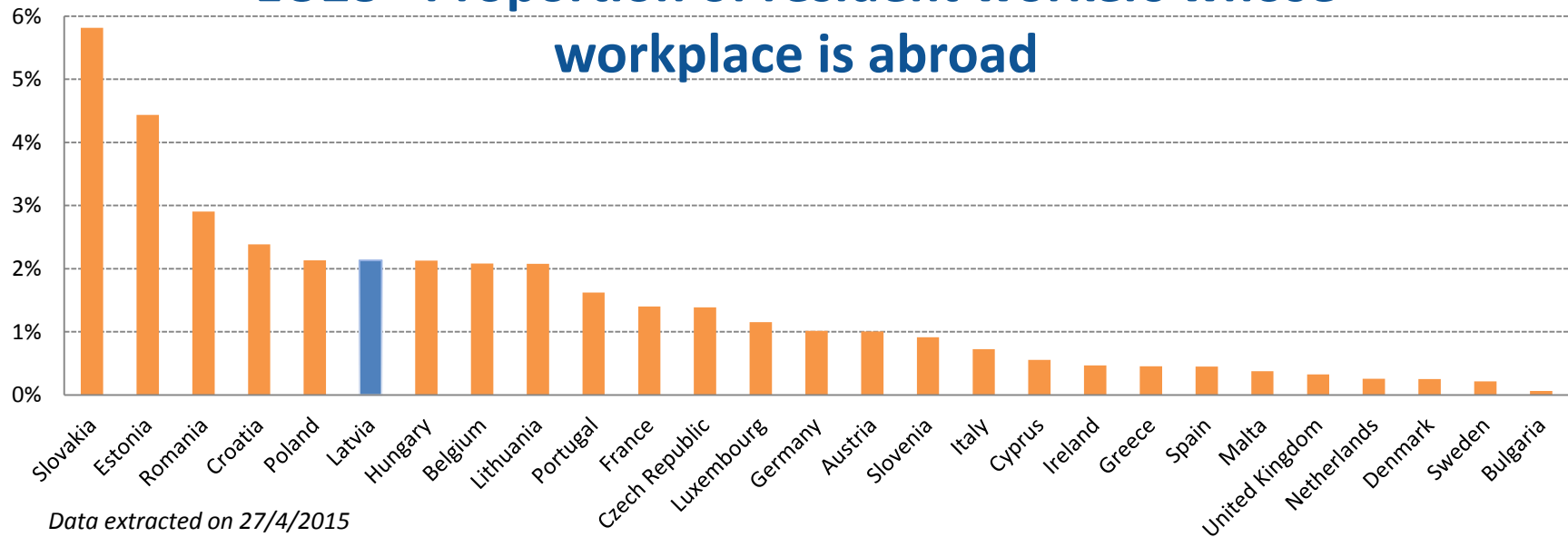 - Managed migration = all legal labour, student and family migration from outside of the EU

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Intra-EU labour mobility
-
Can we 'catch' a mobile worker?

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Eurostat

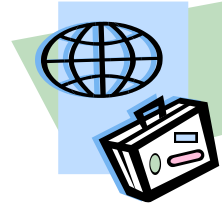# For a while, Mr Bērziņš has been crossing the border to work...

EU28 - Proportion of resident workers whose workplace is abroad


Data extracted on 27/4/2015

Source: Eurostat Census Hub, Population Censuses 2011.
Data not available for Finland.

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...but he then decided to make a labour migration ...

Latvians in employment outside Latvia

- An increasing number of Latvian citizens work in another Member State from 17,000 in 2005 to 104,000 in 2014

- Most go to the UK

Source: Eurostat (LFS).

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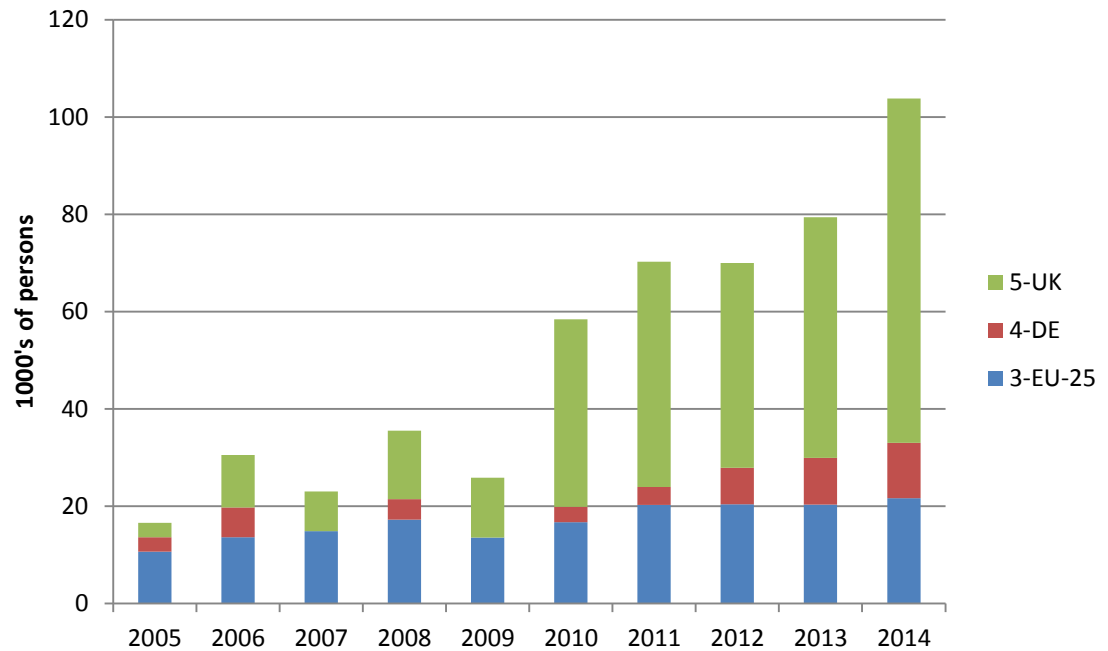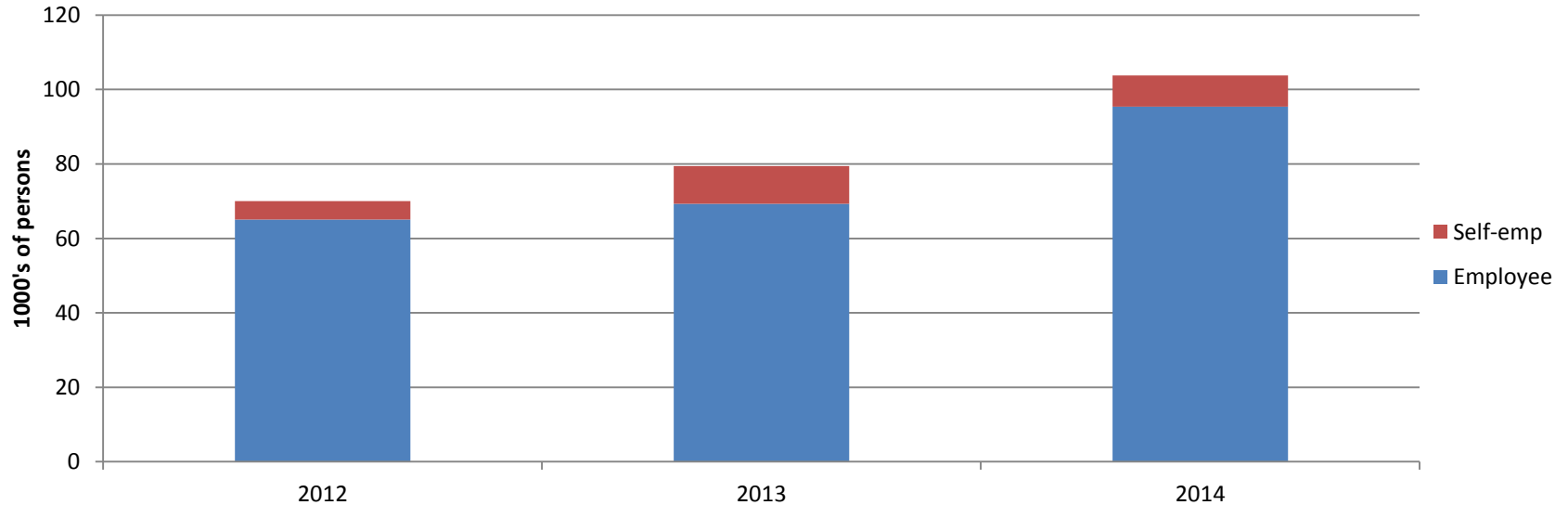
Mr Bērziņš is an employee

Most of the Latvians who emigrated did so to become employees. In 2014 the share was 92%.
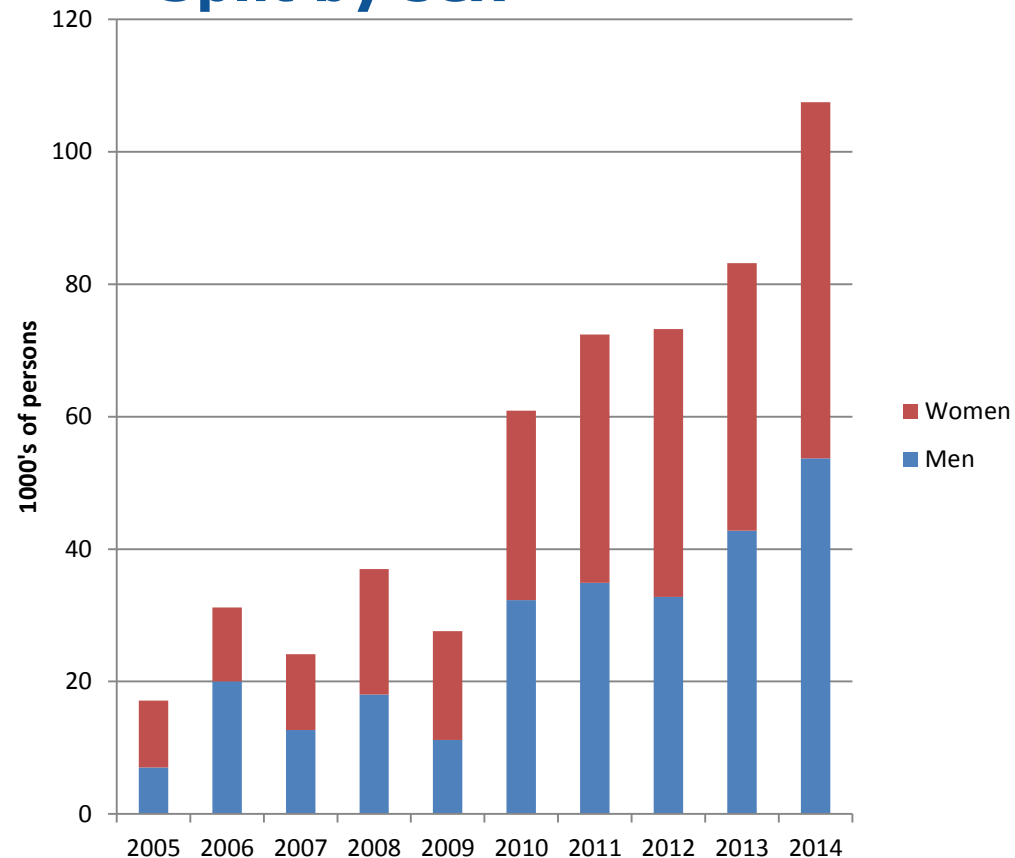
Split by professional status

Source: Eurostat (LFS).

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Mr Bērziņš is... a man...

Split by sex

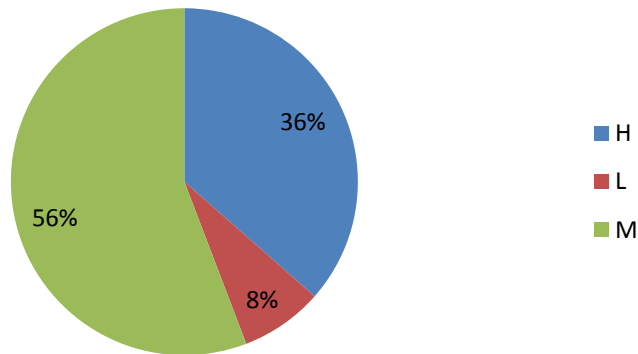Women and men equally move to another EU Member State

Source: Eurostat (LFS).

Eurostat

Mr Bērziņš has a medium level education

Educational level of Latvians employed in Latvia

Educational level of Latvians employed outside Latvia
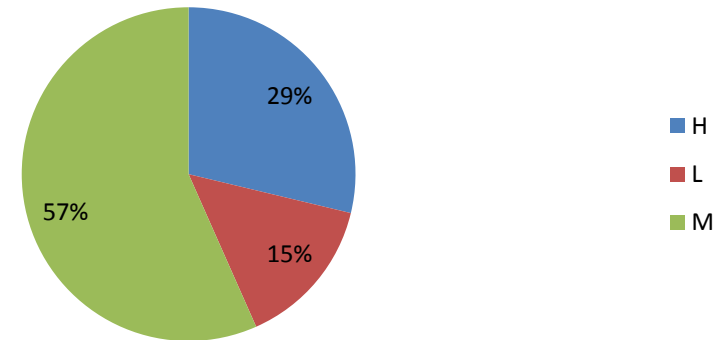
Source: Eurostat (LFS)

- Persons with a medium level of education formed the largest group to emigrate throughout the period.
- Latvians that emigrate have a relatively lower level of education compared to Latvians employed in Latvia

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Intra-EU labour mobility

- Is wider than labour migration
- Also includes:
  - Cross-border labour mobility
  - Seasonal workers
  - Posted workers
- Data sources exist at EU level for
  - labour migration
  - cross-border labour mobility

Main conclusions on intra-EU labour mobility

- The available data situation is not flawless
  - LFS sample size does not allow detailed analysis
  - Limited data on return migration
  - No established statistical definition of posted workers
  - Data collections target usual residence definition (actual or intended stay of 1 year or more) thus shortage of data on shorter term labour mobility

- For Latvia data shows
  - Significant increase number of working Latvians in other EU countries in the period 2005-2014
  - Largest group made of persons with medium level of education

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Further developments required

- More timely data on labour migration with post 2021 EU census program
  - "from a snapshot to a movie"
  - facilitating Member States access to administrative data (new and better sources)
- More detailed data on migrants, e.g. origin-destination matrix

Eurostat

Further developments required, cd ..

- Exchange of mirror migration data among countries encouraged
- Improvement of population registers
  - registration and de-registration
- Posted worker identification
  - requires targeted efforts

Specific migration issues
–
Asylum and managed migration

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Information needs in the areas of migration, integration and asylum

The users need to know:

- Where do the migrants come from
- For what reasons are they coming (e.g. work, family, education, international protection)
- What are their modes to come (e.g. visas, specific programmes, irregular arrivals) and for how long they intend to stay
- What are their skills and qualifications

➔ Largely the same needs as for resident population

What is already collected

- Migration statistics (flows and population stocks)
  - Regulation 862/2007
- Integration of migrants
  - LFS (w/ special module) & EU SILC main data sources
- Asylum
  - Regulation 862/2007
- Managed migration (permits, enforcement)
  - Regulation 862/2007; legislation in the area of legal migration (e.g. EU Blue Cards); gentlemen's agreements

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15

The number of asylum applicants in the EU up by nearly 200,000 last year

Asylum applicants in the EU, 2008-2014
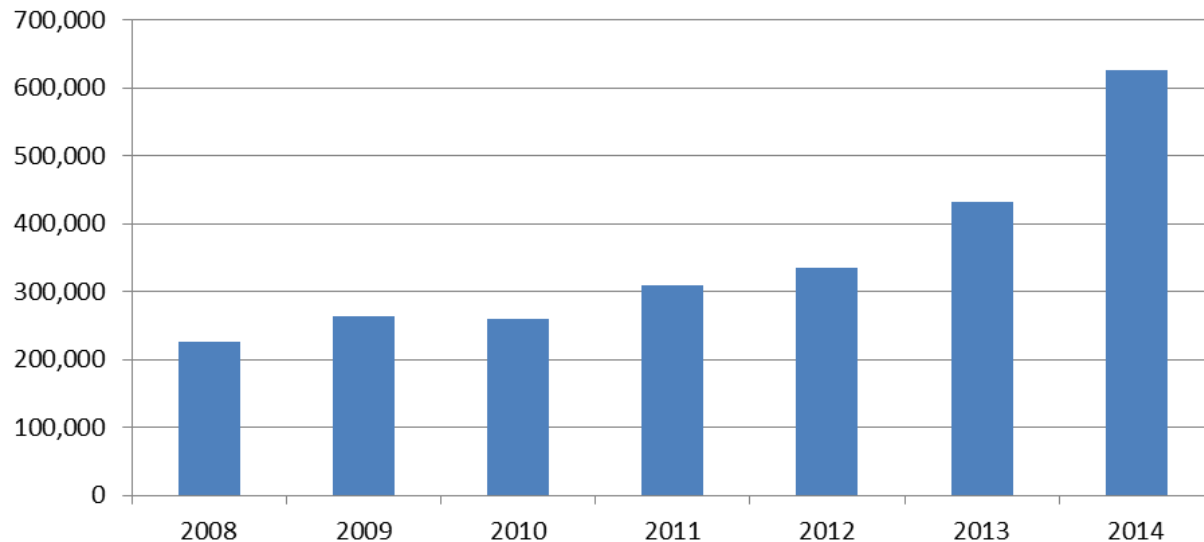
Source: Eurostat, Asylum statistics.

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16

What is expected soon

- Further harmonisation of methodology
  - Methodological improvements in Asylum & Dublin data collections from 2015
  - Refugee Conference in Turkey in October to discuss international guidance on refugee statistics
- New statistics to be available during 2015
  - Re-designed 'Dublin' data collection
  - New data on Returns of irregular migrants
  - 2014 LFS module on employment of migrant workers

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What else would be meaningful

- Improvement of administrative registers
- Development of data warehouses and automation of data production in certain areas
- Enhanced exchange of information through stronger systems
- Standardisation of concepts at international level
- Reinforced cooperation within Commission (EASO, Frontex, FRA), with international organisations (e.g. IOM, UNHCR) and between NSI's and the Interior Ministries

All this requires substantial investments and resources in the Commission and in Member States

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What remains difficult to measure

- Irregular migration
- Rare migrant populations (e.g. groups of special characteristics)
- Difficulties related to information on ethnicity
- Inherent difficulties in measuring the net figures of asylum seekers at EU level

And why?

- Methodological limitations (e.g. non-harmonised concepts)
- Availability / access to data sources
- Legal constraints, etc.

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Thank you for your attention!