

ASPECTS OF SAMPLING USAGE FOR RARE POPULATIONS FOR LABOR MIGRATION MEASURING IN UKRAINE

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Ukraine is a country with significant foreign labor migration – by some estimates it's one of the largest donors of labor force in Europe. In order to measure the scale of labor migration in Ukraine and to estimate its impacts several special state sample surveys of labor migration have been conducted over the last 10 years with the assistance of international organizations and national funds. Thus, in 2008 the first nation-wide sample survey of population on labor migration was conducted. Herewith the size of stratified multistage probability sample was about 25, 4 thousand households. In 2012 another survey was conducted within EU-funded project “Effective Governance of Labour Migration and its Skills Dimensions” and implemented by the ILO and IOM (International Organization for Migration). The last survey was conducted in 2014 – 2015 with the sample design as in the 2008 study and sample size of about 25,2 thousand households (within IOM's project “Research and Policy Dialogue Initiative on Migration and Remittances in Ukraine”, funded by the Government of Canada).

A characteristic feature of the results of these surveys is a certain underestimation of the migration scale in comparison with existing expert estimates and those based on alternative sources of information. For example, Pozniak (2012) argues the results of the nationwide sample survey of labor migrations (2008) estimating the total number of Ukrainian labor migrants at 2.1 mln (vs 1,5 mln in the official report). Also the numbers presented in Labor Migration Survey (2012) raise a few questions regarding the sampling procedure (this study suggests that only 1.2 mln people between 15 and 70 were working or searching for employment abroad between January 2010 and June 2012).

Some experts suggest that given the characteristics of the labor migrants distribution, the use of standard sampling techniques for the investigation of this phenomenon is not effective. In this paper an attempt is made to estimate the probable effect of the use of rare populations sampling methods.

On the basis of synthetic population the differences of estimates of the labor migration scale with different types of distribution of migrants in the population were analyzed. In the report it was shown that in the case of rare and unevenly distributed population the adaptive sampling design may be more effective compared to conventional sampling design. With regard to the problem stated above, the technique itself as well as its advantages and limitations are discussed as a part of the attempt to obtain more precise estimates of Ukrainian labor migrants.

References

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