

AD-HOC SURVEY OF NON-OBSERVED ECONOMY

For the purposes of the second phase of the regional project of non-observed economy, the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia conducted an *ad hoc* survey. The objects of the survey were obtaining information on non-registered part of household income received from abroad, number of relatives living abroad as potential suppliers of financial support and household expenditure on travelling abroad in order to estimate net purchases abroad. Therefore, the survey contained two modules: the first module related to the household income from abroad, and the second one to the household expenditure on travelling abroad. All the questions related to the period of the previous twelve months.

The *ad hoc* survey was conducted within the regular Household Budget Survey in November 2007. The Household Budget Survey covers the whole territory of the Republic of Serbia, divided into three strata (Belgrade, Vojvodina and the central Serbia with Belgrade excluded). Each stratum is further stratified on urban and rural households. The frame for the household sample selection is the 2002 census. In order to avoid the burdens for households when keeping long-term diaries and to reduce non-responsiveness, a rotating sample is applied in the subject survey, i.e. the households are rotated after fifteen days. During these fifteen days, specially trained interviewers are expected to visit each selected household (at least) three times. On the occasion of the third visit the interviewers obtained the data relative to the *ad hoc* survey. Considering that there is no replacement of the non-responded households, rate of non-responsiveness was 0.045 (18 non-respondents out of 400 sampled households).

I Household income from abroad

Within the first module, first set of questions (from 1 to 4) should provide the information on the number of resident households having family members, relatives or close friends of Serbian origin living or working abroad for more than one year. We have been interested in where and how long they live abroad, indirectly showing their relationship with the mother country. From our point of view, they are non-residents having centre of economic interest on the territory of other country (job, dwelling or residency) but, due to connections with mother country, we have been interested in obtaining data on their number in order to estimate potential financial support provided to our residents, as well as final consumption expenditure of non-residents. According to

the latest results of the Population census in 2002, the number amounts to 450.000 people, but there are some estimates on greater figures - approximately from 1.500.000 to 4.000.000.

The second set of questions of the first module follows household income from abroad in the preceding twelve months, regardless of the way of receiving money, and whether the income is regular or irregular, constant or occasional, as well as the purposes of spending.

Of the 382 sampled households, 148 or 38.7% reported that they had relatives or friends abroad. From the total number of 880 persons, 29.7% of their relatives are located in the former Yugoslav Republics, 57.6% in the other European countries, while 12.7% live overseas. This means that every household, in average, has a little bit more than 2 persons abroad, or, taking into account households with subjected item, approximately 6 persons. 68% of persons with Serbian origin live abroad for more than 10 years, 17.8% live 5 to 10 years, and 14.2% less than 5 years.

Only 38 households or around 10% of total number of sampled households receive money relatives or/and friends from abroad, i.e. 26% of households having relatives or/and friends abroad reported that they receive money from them. In 88% cases money is brought by non-residents coming in Serbia or residents when visiting relatives/friends abroad or by the third party (friends, drivers, etc.). Of the households receiving money from abroad, 76% receive up to 1.000€ and spend it mostly (58%) for regular expenditure, i.e. food, beverage and regular monthly bills.

The frequency and number of emigrants coming to Serbia can be used as indicator of non-registered part of remittances, brought by the emigrants themselves or sent through unofficial channels. Out of 880 persons living abroad, 19.4% came once in the preceding twelve months, around 12% came several times, while 569 persons or 64.7% never came in the previous year. Regarding the registered part of income from abroad, our residents mainly receive pensions – 3% of the total number of households.

II Travelling of residents abroad

Within the second module we have obtained the data on residents travelling abroad. Data on number of travels, destinations, purposes of travelling, travelling arrangements, number of spent days, number of travellers and their travelling expenditures have been collected.

In the previous twelve months 23.6% households reported travelling abroad. Total number of travels amounted to 135, meaning that, in average, one household travelled 1.5 times annually. The total number of travellers was 260 persons, or, in average, almost 2 members of the household travelled together. Most interesting destinations were former Yugoslav Republics (43%), followed by Hungary (19.3%) and Greece (12.6%). The average duration of travel is

almost 12 days, which is logical considering the fact that the most often purpose have been vacation (32.6%) and visiting relatives (27.4%).

Most often, travel was organised in the traveller's own arrangement (about 64%). This can be connected with the previous conclusion that our residents most often travel to the ex-Yugoslav Republics and to visit relatives. 29% of travels were organised by travel agencies/tour-operators. As the means of transportation, bus or car was used in the 86% cases. In total, 63.235€ was spent on travelling, that is 703€ per household or 243€ per traveller. The greatest expenditures were registered in Montenegro (about 20%) and in Greece (16%). Non-boarding consumption was 29.745€ in total or 114€ per person, which was 47% of total travelling expenses.

This survey results justify its conducting, considering that some interesting conclusions and necessary indicators are based on it. Those conclusions and indicators might/should be used in the future work for non-exhaustiveness adjustment, for estimation of non-registered remittances in BoP, estimation of net purchases abroad for the household final consumption calculation, as well as for tourism satellite accounts.