

Central European Forum
for Migration Research



Środkowoeuropejskie Forum
Badań Migracyjnych

***Central European international
migration – complex present,
uncertain future***

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Outline of the presentation

- Socio-economic conditions
- Current trends and geographies of migration
- Transformation of migration scene
- Relatively stable future: permanent migration
- Uncertain future: short term migration



A word of warning: data quality

With the existing reliability of data we can speak on trends but not on numbers

- Incomparable definitions
- Underregistration of legal migrants
- Significant illegal migration

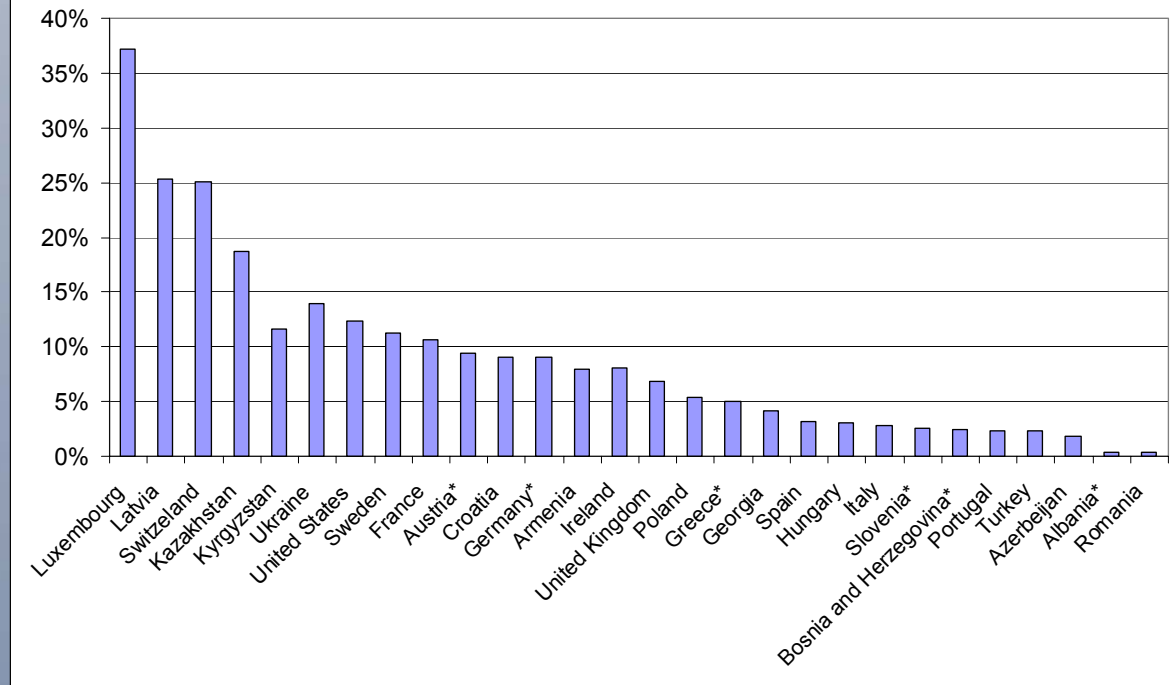


Setting the scene: socio-economic data (latest available)

	GDP per capita PPP x1000'USD	Population below poverty line (national definitions)	Unemployment
Luxembourg	55.1		3.6
United States	37.8	12.0	6.0
Austria	30.0	3.9	4.4
Canada	29.8		7.8
Germany	27.6		10.5
Slovenia	19.0		11.2
Czech Rep.	15.7		9.9
Hungary	13.9	8.6	5.9
Slovakia	13.3		15.2
Estonia	12.3		10.1
Lithuania	11.4		10.3
Poland	11.1	18.4	20.0
Croatia	10.6		19.5
Latvia	10.2		8.6
Russia	8.9	25.0	8.5
Romania	7.0	44.5	7.2
Bulgaria	7.6	13.4	14.3
Ukraine	5.4	29.0	3.7
Armenia	3.5	50.0	20.0
Kyrgyzstan	1.6	50.0	7.2
Tajikistan	1.0	60.0	40.0



Share of foreign born population in selected countries
(*share of migrants)





Geographies of flows

- Migration patterns follow historical and ethnic patterns and in Europe are dominated by Germany as the principal destination
- Migration patterns in the Post Soviet region are dominated by ethnic migration, short term labour mobility and outflow of refugees from Chechnya.
- Short term flows are also (less and less) controlled by distance
- New destinations are invented (Poles building a factory in Iceland)



Transformation of migration scene in Central Europe

- From emigration to emigration and immigration countries
- From permanent emigration to various forms of migration and mobility



From permanent emigration under communism...

- Controlled by political police and used as a means of influence
- Travel severely restricted (passport control, reporting, members of family retained in the country of origin)
- Sometime used as bargaining tool in negotiations with Western governments (ethnic migration)



...to various forms of migration and mobility

- Trade tourism and petty trade
- Irregular short term labour migration with complex strategies of survival (Okólski: Unfinished migration)
- Legal short term migration controlled by bilateral agreements or post-accession EU regulations
- Migration of highly skilled
- Settlement migration
- Smuggling of migrants and trafficking in persons



Hypothesis: various forms of short term international migration replace internal migration and commuting in the countries of origin

- Historical tradition
- Forced industrialization and its sad demise
- Unskilled/semiskilled labour surplus in the source and deficit in the destination



Uncertain future – – what do we know now?

- Plenty of forecasts of settlement (permanent) migration, many of dubious quality
- Lack of forecast of circular migration and commuting
- Limited insight into regional patterns
- Not surprisingly - lack of forecasts of illegal migration



Factors impacting international migration in future

- Economy is important: we may set hypothesis that high income attracts long term migrants, poverty pushes short term migrants
- Unknown balance between migration of jobs and migration of people (see next slide)
- Contradictory stimuli: “sucking” of demographic structures and labour markets vs. political resentment towards migrants
- Restrictive versus selectively inviting migration policies
- Culturally „closer” migrants may replace culturally „more distant” migrants
- Political push factor – unknown but may be decisive



Migration of people vs. migration of jobs and capital

- Export of simple (call centres, accounting) or well defined (programming) jobs replaces emigration
- Concentration of well paid highly skilled jobs in rich countries and less qualified jobs in poor countries resulting in a strong push factor for highly skilled specialists in poor countries
- Migration of capital and relocation of enterprises instead of migration of people



Future development – permanent emigration

- There will be no major wave of migration from CEE to EU15. Certain increase will occur but will reduce within several years.
- After the enlargement part of registered migrants were illegal migrants who had already been there (UK).
- Lifetime migration will be partially replaced with long term migration.
- There will be increasing demographic „sucking” due to ageing and labour opportunities resulting in
- Increasing competition between states to get the best migrants.



Future development - permanent immigration

- We may expect increase of permanent and long term immigration
- FSU, in particular Ukraine, will remain the main source of migrants.
- Geographic base will expand to include immigrants from Asia and Africa. Existing small scale networks will facilitate this expansion.



Future development - Short term legal emigration

- As a consequence of enlargement the control based on bilateral agreements will be replaced by labour markets forces. This will lead to the increase in this category of migration.

Please note: large flows, small stocks



Future development - Short term legal immigration

- Impossible to predict as dependent on migration policies
- Almost certainly will increase to compensate for short term emigration
- Strong pressure from entrepreneurs who complain about lack of skill labour (who works in the old EU)



Future development - Illegal circular emigration

- To large extent fuelled by poverty
- Will survive due to demand in destination
- The supply will fluctuate depending on the economic cycle
- In order to be economically viable will remain illegal
- Will not be limited by visa restrictions



Future development - Illegal circular immigration

- Evident substitution effect
- Given economic development there will be increasing demand for inexpensive unskilled labour
- Immigration will be restricted by visa regulation and Schengen



Future development – Trans-border commuting and regional dimension

- Migration will not affect all regions in the same way. Some of them: border and large cities, will be affected much more than others.



New pattern of migration in CEE

- Increasing for some time and then stable on lower level long term outflows
- Increasing (partly compensatory) long term inflows, over time exceeding outflows
- Increasing, but dependent on economic cycle, legal short term in- and emigration. Short term emigration will reduce with the economic development
- Stable illegal migration, immigration possibly dented by an opportunity to migrate legally



Conclusions

- Research into migration is tricky due to unreliable and incomparable data. It should be substantially expanded.
- In the last two decades migration in Europe underwent fundamental change, due to political, social and economic (r)evolution.
- Partly due to these changes, partly due to globalization the character of the labour migration has evolved from the dominance of long term and stable migration to dominance of short term and pendular mobility
- Migration of capital competes/replaces migration of labour
- New pattern of migration in CEE will appear very soon

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