

MIGRATION TRENDS IN THE EASTERN-EUROPEAN COUNTRIES AFTER THE ACCESSION

Katalin Huzdik

Szent István University, Hungary

Abstract. The European Union faces its greatest challenge of its history at the beginning of the 21st century. Because of the enlargement process of new member countries several problems were raised, one of them was the most important, which was the free movement of people. Before the Eastern-Central European countries' enlargement, many member countries feared multitudinous migration wave, which lays the Western-Europe and the Eastern-Central-European employees are taking away work of other people. It followed that the member countries of the European Union restricted their labour market that stay clear of prospective multitudinous immigration. At the same time the Eastern-Central-European countries were given the unprecedented chance to introduce reverse limitations on the workforce migrating from EU-15 members by previous enlargement's experience. The present paper is looking for the following questions: why the European Union was concerned about the free movement of people; how the number of the Eastern-Central-European citizens changed; how the number of foreign citizens in Hungary changed. The lessons were learnt from previous enlargements as well as workforce data and migration within the EU.

Key words: migration, European Union, net migration rate

INTRODUCTION

The idea of an integrated Europe and the intention of creating a common, unified market providing the free movement of people, goods, services and capital, developed gradually over time and resulted in the graduate enlargement of the European integration. Among the several problems, free movement of people has always been the greatest challenge. From the 1980s mass migration of nations has grown to world-wide dimension. However, in the respect of Europe, this migration stream took place after World War II in several transitory stages.

Corresponding author – Adres do korespondencji: Katalin Huzdik, Szent István University in Hungary, Faculty of Social Sciences and Economics, H-2103 GÖDÖLLŐ, Páter K. u. 1. Hungary, tel.: (36)-28-522-000/2008, e-mail: Huzdik.Katalin@gtk.szie.hu

The first stage – the second half of the 1940s – was characterised by the returning home of people having moved away from their residence. Countries, defeated in the war, were obliged to admit the minorities having been fled or expelled from their mother land returning mainly from the neighbouring countries.

In the second stage – the period between the 1950s and 1980s – the direction of migration, apart from a steam of refugees of the Hungarian, Czech and Polish revolution, was characteristically South to North. This direction determined the movement of Asian countries arriving to Europe as well. Officials of emergent colonies came back to their native countries like Great Britain, France, Belgium and the Netherlands and were followed by a group of colonial inhabitants who arrived to these countries with working purposes. Migration of foreign workers was also significant in this period. After the integration of all these people industrial countries of Western Europe started a recruitment in countries along the Mediterranean for satisfying their manlabour need. Germany joint the tendency of importing manlabour with delay, as she had the possibility to employ workers from the Eastern part of the country until the construction of the Eastern wall. As a result of the economic recession after the series of oil crisis in the 1970s the employment of own citizens decreased and unemployment started to grow rapidly. The change in the labour situation and the protection of the national labour markets led to the standstill of migration of manlabour in the countries of the European Community. In answer to the restricting measures the foreigner employees settled down together with their family and this way became immigrants [Cseresnyés 2005].

The third phase of migration – after the 1980s – brought the change of the direction of movement and the East-West migration flow became more powerful. Because of the crisis in the Soviet Union the successor states, together with Balkan territories, were converted into migrating regions. The liquidation of Europe's separation and the opening of boarders made possible this change. The participants of the East-West movement were mainly minorities protected by their mother countries – for instance Germany, Greece, Turkey – who could not only migrate back legally but got an adapting aid from the hosting countries as well. Though, the previous South-North migration played a significant role in the movement of South-European countries it remained in the background during this period. As an outgrowth of the changed direction we can scarcely find any case of migration in Spain or Italy till the 1980s [Cseresnyés 2005].

During the cold war the largest group of migrants consisted of persecuted people (Hungarians, Czechs, Slovaks, Poles, Eastern Germans). The wars and ethnic purges yield to mass migrations, for instance, millions of people escaped from Yugoslavia. Hopeless people longing for better living conditions formed another group of migrants and launched another flow of migration. This event proved the previous fears of the European Union, announced before the joining of the ten countries. They were afraid of a possible mass migration, resulting from the differences of incomes. Motivating their action by economic, social and labour – market reasons, they limited or closed their labour market before Eastern- and Middle-European countries.

There exists a number of approaches of migration. We call migration a process during the course of which individuals or groups change residence and society in a way that this change becomes permanent [Cseresnyés 2005]. Although migration of manlabour is a typical example of migration and has a long history, besides employment, migration

can be generated by other factors as well. We differentiate between religious, ethnic and political reasons. But if we take into consideration motivating factors we can conclude that economic and political reasons are tend to be combined.

The concept of migration is defined and differentiated by diverse typologies:

1. According to the spatial approach we distinguish intern migration, taking place within the country, above all from the countryside to the city and extern one, happening across the boards. International migration can even be divided into continental and intercontinental categories.
2. In the respect of time we can speak about restricted or periodical (like trainee teachings or seasonal labour) and permanent or continuous migration. Immigration, emigration and settling down are all connected to this latter one.
3. Examining migration from the respect of individuals we can differentiate voluntary and constrained migrations, resulting from religious or political persecutions and discrimination.
4. From the point of view of dimension there exist individual and group or collective type of migration. Involving a larger social strata, collective migration can be formed into mass migration [Cseresnyés 2005].

Overlapping of typologies is not rare, however. For example, a person is considered to be an individual migrant, nevertheless, he travels together with his family. At the same time, there is not a unified definition for a migrant or for how foreign labour force is calculated. For instance, the number of foreigner employees is determined by the number of labour permissions in France, in Belgium it is calculated on the basis of the residence permissions, while in Ireland it is defined by the personal civil service numbers [COM 2006].

In 1998 the ENSZ recommended the modification, comparison and harmonization of statistic data about the international migration [Lemaitre 2005].

Furthermore, migration can be regarded as a three-dimensional process consisting of the individual, the drawer country and the receptive country [Salt 2001]. From this follows that migration is influenced not just by the motivation of the individual but by the economic and social status of the drawer and receptive countries. As my previous studies shows there is an obvious connection between the rates of the migrants correlated to the entire population and between the economic potential of the receptive country. The ratio of the GDP per capita and the unemployment ratio, therefore, strongly influence the number of immigrants.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

Data were taken from database of the Central Statistical Office (KSH), from Eurostat and publications about migration. I have worked from SOPEMI Report, which is an OECD publication annually tracing migration trends within Europe, and from International Migration Outlook. I have examined international migration data during 1990 and 2005, making calculations from distributional ratio and net balances of migration for EU member states.

Net migration rate = (number of immigrants – number of emigrants)/1000 people

RESULTS

Socio-economic status of the ten joining countries can perfectly be characterized by the migratory tendency. After the collapse of the socialist system migration of masses started in many countries. The negative ratio of birth-rate contributed to this movement. Table 1 seems to prove this fact. This caused a serious problem in the Baltic States, where one part of the Russian population returned home. In spite of their less severe regulating system, similar processes went off in other nations as well (in Poland, Slovenia and the Czech Republic). The masses leaving the ravaged Eastern-Middle-Europe made towards Western-Europe where they hoped to reunite their family or find a stable economic and political situation. Actually, from the year of 1998 more than 550 thousand Eastern-Middle-European inhabitants immigrated to the Western part, while even a larger number did that illegally. The majority left their land at the beginning of the 1990s. Currently, migratory ratio of most of the ten joined countries, except for Lithuania, Latvia and Poland, went into negative. In Lithuania and Latvia we can see a moderate emigration, while in Poland the number is more significant.

Table 1. Net migratory ratio in the ten joining countries, 1991–2002

Tabela 1. Współczynnik migracji netto w nowych krajach członkowskich, 1991–2002

Country	Years											
	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Czech Republic	-5.5	1.1	0.5	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.2	0.9	0.9	0.6	-0.8	1.2
Estonia	-8.1	-27.1	-18.9	-14.2	-10.9	-9.5	-4.9	-4.8	-0.8	0.2	0.1	0.1
Cyprus	19.2	17.7	13.9	11.0	10.3	9.1	8.2	6.2	6.1	5.7	6.6	9.7
Latvia	-5.7	-20.5	-12.6	-9.0	-5.5	-4.1	-3.9	-2.4	-1.7	-2.3	-2.2	-0.8
Lithuania	-2.9	-6.6	-6.5	-6.6	-6.5	-6.5	-6.3	-6.2	-5.9	-5.8	-0.7	-0.6
Hungary	1.7	1.8	1.8	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.6	1.6	1.0	0.3
Malta	3.4	2.5	2.7	2.4	-0.5	1.6	1.6	1.1	23.7	3.4	5.9	4.7
Poland	-0.4	-0.3	-0.4	-0.5	-0.5	-0.3	-0.3	-0.3	-0.4	-0.5	-0.4	-0.3
Slovenia	-1.7	-2.8	-2.3	0.0	0.4	-1.7	-0.7	-2.7	5.4	1.4	2.5	1.1
Slovakia	0.0	-0.5	0.3	0.9	0.5	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.2

Source: Own calculation based on EUROSTAT.

Źródło: Obliczenia własne na podstawie danych EUROSTAT.

The significant income differences between the member states and the joining countries, furthermore, the unemployment problems in the Eastern-Middle European region all contributed to the migratory fears.

Immigration to South-European countries – mainly to Italy, Portugal and Spain as well as to Austria, Ireland and to the United Kingdom – strongly increased between the 1990s and the 2000s. At the same time decreased the number of immigrants to Belgium, Germany and to the Netherlands. Up to the 1990s the number of emigrants exceeded the number of immigrants in some countries like Slovakia and Slovenia which turned round over the last decade.

In 2005 the population of countries like the Czech Republic, Italy, Greece, Slovenia or Slovakia increased only by reason of the immigration. The opposite can be experienced

in Germany and Hungary where the decrease of population would have been even more serious without the calculation of the positive migratory ratio. In 2005 the entire net migratory ratio for 1000 citizens was +3.7 in the 25 EU member states, which brought a profit of 1.8 million people from national migration, so 85% of the total enlargement of the European population (Fig. 1).

Cyprus had the highest positive migratory balance in population size and is followed by Spain, Ireland, Austria, Italy, Malta, Switzerland, Norway and Portugal. The ranking list of the negative balance, however, is led by Lithuania, the Netherlands, Latvia, Poland, Romania and Bulgaria.

According to data, made in the first quarter of 2006, out of the ten EU countries, Polish, Lithuanian, Estonian and Slovakian employees work in the largest proportion in the 15 member states – in Ireland, Finland and in the UK. Chiefly, the age group between 18 and 35 with intermediate or academic qualifications is given occupation who is willing to accept jobs divergent from their professions.

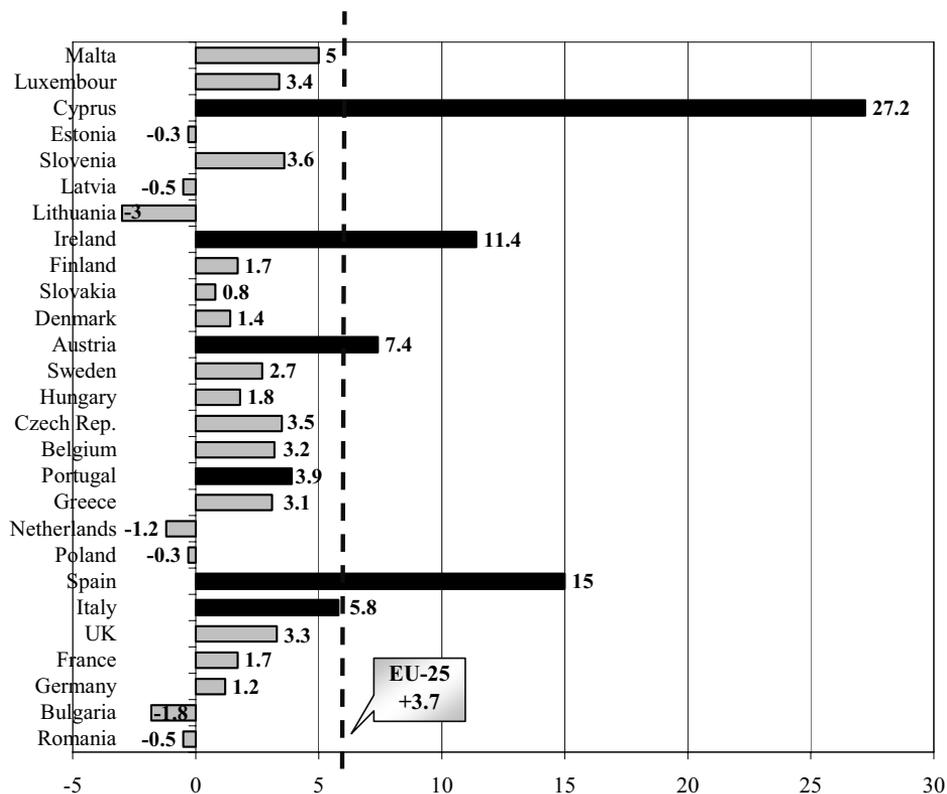


Fig. 1. Net migration per 1000 people in countries of the European Union, 2005

Rys. 1. Migracja netto na 1000 mieszkańców w krajach Unii Europejskiej, 2005

Source: Own calculation based on EUROSTAT.

Źródło: Obliczenia własne na podstawie danych EUROSTAT.

FOREIGNERS IN HUNGARY

Because of historical and geographic reasons migratory data of a given country is multi-colored and various. Command of a language is the most important factor for people arriving from the neighbouring countries. According to *Salt (2006)* vicinity is the most significant factor of these geographic conditions. KSH calls immigrants citizens with a longer period residence permission or immigrate permission who have stayed in Hungary for at least one year or have residence permission for an even longer period.

Between 1995 and 2005 there was not much change in the rate of nations, the top positions were occupied by citizens of the same country. During this time the number of foreigner employees arriving to Hungary was between 14 and 20 thousand with an increasing tendency within, though, the number of foreigners in 2005 decreased by 2 thousand, so diminished by 15% as opposed to 2004. The reason behind lied in the fact that the number of immigrants arriving out of Europe decreased more drastically than the growth of the proportion of immigrants arriving from Europe.

After 2001 the annual number of Romanian citizens made up 50% of the total number of foreigner citizens reaching Hungary. The proportion of immigrants from Ukrainian was also high, between 10 and 16%. The number of citizens of both countries shows a growing tendency to which Yugoslavia joint as well in 2004. Thus, immigrants from the three countries mentioned were capable of compensating the decrease in the 15 EU members.

Immigrants to the EU arrived mainly from Germany while the number of foreigners in England remained unbalanced. A decreasing tendency of immigration can also be experienced in Hungary in case of Croat, Polish and Russian people the proportion of which remained negligible within the inland population. The decrease in Poland can be explained by the collapse of the flourishing Hungarian mining which occupied a large number of Polish labour works in the 1990s [Illés 2004]. Due to the flow of refugees exiling from the Southern-Slovenian War the number of immigrants arriving from Yugoslavia and after 2003 from her descendant states remains quite indecisive [Illés 2004].

Among the proportion of foreigners, immigrants are arriving most intensively from Asia and especially from China. The appearance of Asian immigrants in a territory can be connected to the progressing economic potential of the country.

All things considered, we can establish that Hungary is chiefly involved in the migration within Europe and 70% of immigrants in Hungary come from the Eastern-Middle Europe.

CONCLUSIONS

With fears of the cheap labour of the ten joining countries, the 15 EU member states introduced days of grace for seven years in 2003 to restrict the free movement of labour. The free movement of people and rather the free movement of employers became a question under debate. In the first two years Ireland, the UK and Switzerland did not take advantage of these restrictions whilst the other member states limited labour work participation. Austria and Germany represent the firmest standing-point even today. With

their right of correlation Poland, Slovenia and Hungary enlarged their derogation to the 15 EU member states. Facts did not prove the fears even if the figure of a Polish mechanic became topic of campaign in 2005. The expected wave of migrant workers never arrived, consequently, countries having opened their labour market after 1 May 2004 were out of danger. Ireland and England had the best labour market accomplishment from 2004 to 2006. Having seen the first two years' experience further member states decided on opening their labour market (Greece, Spain, Portugal and Finland). Data show that labour work mobility arriving from Asian countries is far bigger than that within the European Union. Austria and Germany are strongly against opening labour market. Only 10% of the capable population is foreigner out of which merely 1.5% arrived from the EU-10 member states in case of Austria, and 0.6% in case of Germany. The percentage of foreigner employees is the highest in Ireland where 2% out of the total 8% of foreigner workers arrive from the 10 EU member states, in especial from Poland. Thus we can conclude that the Eastern-Middle-European employees are not intensively present in the prior member states of the Union and does not generate confusion within the labour market.

REFERENCES

- COM, 2006: Communication from the Commission to the Council, the European Parliament, the European Economic and Social Committee and the committee of the Regions. Report on the Functioning of the Transitional Arrangement set out in the 2003 Accession Treaty, Period 1 May 2004 – 30 April 2006. Brüssel, 8.2.2006. COM/48. p. 21.
- CSERESNYÉS F., 2005: Migráció az ezredfordulón: A népességmozgások társadalmi és politikai következményei Közép-Európában. Budapest, Dialóg Campus 2005. p. 233.
- ILLÉS S., 2004: Foreigners in Hungary: migration from the European Union. Working Papers on Population, Family and Welfare. No. 5. 2004, Hungarian Central Statistics Office, Demographic Research Institute.
- LEMAITRE G., 2005: The Comparability of International Migration Statistics. Problems and Prospects. Statistics Brief OECD July 2005. No 9, p. 8.
- SALT J., 2006: European Committee on Migration (CDMG). Current Trends in International Migration in Europe. Consultant's Report to the Council of Europe. Strausbourg, 2006. p. 37.

TENDENCJE MIGRACYJNE W PAŃSTWACH WSCHODNIOEUROPEJSKICH PO AKCESJI DO UE

Streszczenie. Na początku XXI w. Unia Europejska staje w obliczu największego wyzwania w jej całej historii. Proces rozszerzania UE powoduje powstawanie wielu problemów, spośród których jako najważniejszy należy wskazać swobodny przepływ osób. Przed rozszerzeniem UE o państwa wschodnioeuropejskie wielu obywateli UE obawiało się nieprzebranej fali migracji zarobkowej. Spowodowało to w krajach członkowskich zaostrzenie przepisów rynku pracy dla potencjalnych imigrantów. Jednocześnie, państwa wschodnio- i środkowoeuropejskie otrzymały bezprecedensową szansę wprowadzenia ograniczeń dla siły roboczej napływającej z unijnej piętnastki. W artykule poszukuje się odpowiedzi na następujące pytania: dlaczego Unia Europejska była zaniepokojona swobodnym przepły-

wem osób, jak liczba wschodnio- i środkowoeuropejskich obywateli zmieniła się oraz jak zmieniła się liczba obcokrajowców na Węgrzech. Odpowiedzi na pytania zostały sformułowane na podstawie doświadczeń z poprzednich rozszerzeń UE, jak również danych UE dotyczących siły roboczej i migracji.

Słowa kluczowe: migracja, Unia Europejska, współczynnik migracji netto

Accepted for print – Zaakceptowano do druku: 10.08.2007