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## REASONS AND CONSEQUENCES OF MIGRATION FOR CONTEMPORARY EUROPE

### ABSTRACT

Immigration has irreversibly changed European lifestyle and demographics over the past generations. This article reviews impact of that immigration current and future life of European citizens. It shows paths from where immigrants are arriving to Europe, as well as reasons why they are doing it. Further, we discuss, whether it is possible that European nations can significantly decrease such inflow of immigrants, and what would effect can it create for European Union population.

**KEYWORDS:** *immigrants, Europe, European Union, policy, crisis*

### INTRODUCTION

Answering the question whether Europe can survive without immigrants, it should be considered where its wealth and prosperity come from. One of the most relevant factors here were the geographical discoveries connected with the development of the colonisation and the Industrial Revolution. During the times of colonisation, the Europeans could practically obtain every good available because practically the whole world was under some of the European powers. The goods most commonly in circulation were at the

time the valuable materials such as gold, platinum or diamonds; agricultural products such as corn, cocoa, spices or bean; the slaves working for their colonial masters also constituted such goods.

At that time, the Great Britain was called “the Empire on which the sun never sets” because the British dominions occupied even a third of the colonised world. The cultural revolution enabled the Europeans to make use of the goods from the whole world, by changing them into the objects of the everyday use or by exporting them to the colonies occupied by them. The industry was dominated by Europe practically until the end of the civil war in the United States, after the end of which the Americans took the path of the development similar to the European one.

The beginning of the end of the colonialism dates back to the 60s of the XX<sup>th</sup> century. Without the colonies, the industrial domination of the European powers was decreasing, one of the most basic reasons of which were the costs of labour which were high on the continent while low in the remaining countries. The Europeans losing their colonies, were forced to pay for the goods imported therefrom. Despite this, the citizens of the Western Europe (that is, the citizens of the countries which previously were the colonial empires) got used to the high standard of life and wanted to maintain it. This style of thinking made certain kinds of works, practically independently from the income, “not worth” the white Europeans. Thus, there was a natural consensus that they are performed by the migrants. Moreover, such situation takes place not only in Europe. In the United States it is very rare for the persons of the Caucasian race to be the workers of the petrol stations or the cleaning personnel at the hotels.

The Iron Curtain separating the Eastern and the Western Europe since 1945 until 1990 made the internal European migration between the poorer countries from the East of the continent to the rich West practically impossible. As a result of the above, the countries of the Western Europe, in order to meet the requirements of their societies, supported the migration of the workers from their previous colonies. The example here can be France where only in 1946–1975 over 1,5 million inhabitants from Algeria, Tunisia and Morocco migrated (Rudolph, 2006) in hope for the better standard of life, free education for children and the social support. Similarly, although

on a bit smaller scale, the immigration took place in Great Britain where mainly people from Bangladesh, Pakistan or India, previously occupied by this Empire, were brought. Germany was in a specific situation. Due to, practically, a lack of colonial territories the leaders of this country decided to enable the migration of people from Turkey so that they could help rebuilding the country after the damages caused by the war. It led to such a situation that today around 3 million of the Turkish live and work in Germany. They are in a great majority the citizens of the Bundesrepublik, however (Sitek, 2016a, p. 55–66), they can not be called Germans. They live in the Turkish communities and do not cause big problems to the German authorities. However, for the above reasons, there take place such situations that German teachers have to face the situation where e.g. 30% of the children in certain classes are of Turkish or Arabic origin and their knowledge of German language is small or none (Deutsche Welle, 2015). It leads to such a situation in which teachers are not able to effectively conduct lessons for a long period of time, which finally influences the level of the whole class.

Moreover, many immigrants of the XX<sup>th</sup> century migrating to France, but also to the other remaining previous empires are not satisfied with their standard of life and from time to time young generations demonstrate in order to show that the country has forgotten about them and deny them the rights which they are entitled to. The children of the immigrants, who were born already in Europe, are particularly aggressive here, however, they are not treated equally with their European peers.

These immigrants change the look of Europe by adding mosques to the Catholic churches, creating ethnic restaurants (e.g. Turkish, Chinese or Vietnamese), they wear ethnic clothing. The whole of these changes happens very quickly which is not acceptable by many indigenous Europeans and many years are still needed so that these changes were fully accepted in the continental mentality.

The second relevant reason of the wealth and prosperity of the present Europe are people. Fifty years ago the inhabitants of Europe constituted 14% of the world's population. Nowadays, the countries of the European Union from the 510 million population constitute little over 7% (Eurostat, 2016a). Additionally, the population of Europe increases not only significantly more

slowly than of the rest of the world but also the European society belongs to the most quickly ageing societies (Sitek, 2016b, p. 197).

At present, practically none of the countries guarantees the simple exchange of the population. The fertility rate means the number of the children born by a woman during her lifetime. It is assumed that in order for the new generations to replace the old ones, with the very low mortality of the infants (3,7 per 1000 live births), in Europe a fertility rate among women (Total Fertility Rate – TFI) should amount to 2,1. In 2014 this rate for the European Union Member States amounted to 1,58 while none of the 28 Member States exceeded the value of 2,1 (Eurostat, 2016b). One of the countries that got closer to this limit was only France – 2,01. On the other pole, there is Portugal with its result 1,2 and Poland with its result 1,32. Although these results are better than in 2011 (EU – 1,46), however, they are far away from the desired ones. The reason of such results is the increase of the age of the women having their first child – in 2001–2004 the increase from 29 years of age to 30 years and 4 months of age. Moreover, there are fewer children in the families. In Europe as many as 46,5% children are born as the first child (where e.g. in Spain and Greece it is above 50%) and only 5,9% in 2014 are born as the fourth or a subsequent child. Whereas again, four or more children appear mainly in the immigrants' families.

At the same time, the length of life within the last 50 years increased by 10 years and only between 2002 and 2013 – increased by 3 years. It is estimated that until 2050 over 28% of the population of the European Union will reach the retirement age.

The growing tendency to having significantly smaller number of children and longer life of the adults leads to the decrease in the number of people in the working age. Moreover, the decreasing fertility rate together with the prolongation of life of the society leads to the ageing of the population (Kaniewska, Klimska, 2015, p. 131). It leads to the situation in which the countries are forced already today to the prolongation of the professional activity of their citizens. In such countries as Germany, Poland, Greece or Portugal, the percentage of the pensioners, according to the today's retirement age in these countries, will exceed 1/3 of the population – with today's level of around 20% (European Economy, 2015). Moreover, Poland, with its very

low fertility, faces risk of a very rapid change of the median age – from 39 at present to 50 in 2080 (Eurostat, 2015) or even 51,8 already in 2050 (according to the UN) – which will result in every case in a situation that we will find ourselves in the ten oldest countries of the world (United Nations, 2015).

Many European countries take actions aimed at the increase of the number of children in the families. Among them Sweden and France have the best effects. In France, thanks to the government regulations aimed at supporting families with children, the fertility rate amounts to 2,01, which gives hope for the unproblematic replacement of people (however, there, the majority of the births are actually in the immigrant families). It should be noted that according to World Bank (2015) predictions, the tendency of the decrease in the fertility rate occurs in the whole world. In 1964, the fertility rate in the world amounted to 5,06 while in 2014 it amounted to 2,45. In the light of the present events, it should be noted that the deliberations concerning the necessity of migration to Europe was enhanced already in 1992 by David Coleman who (with significantly higher results of the fertility) pointed that the migration may be unnecessary if the European women are allowed to effectively combine the need of the professional work with raising children. European women will not change their lifestyle yet and they will not switch to the domestic life, engaging fully in raising a cluster of children. Even with the relevant encouragement from the state, such as the government's so-called 500+ programme granting financial aid, beginning with the second child.

Consequently, it can be concluded that the decreasing number of children, the increasing number of the elderly people (the ageing of the society) and the involvement of people at the working age in the industry and other economically important fields, result in such a situation that if we want to maintain the existing level of life, we are forced to support ourselves with the work of the immigrants. In France they constitute a basis in the area of the seasonal works of fruit picking. The British, to a large extent, base their health system on the doctors from India or Pakistan and the English-speaking nurses (particularly those specialising in the care of the elderly people) are desired in the whole Europe, regardless of the country of their origin.

However, there appears a question, how to make it happen, while at the same time paying attention to the possible contentious points that may

appear together with the arrival of the migrants to Europe. Firstly, the influence of the migrants on the culture and the heritage of Europe should be noted. Secondly, the security against the possibility of the development of terrorism developing on religious grounds should be provided. Thirdly, the possibility of the integration of migrants with the European society should be analysed (Krajewski, 2016, p. 261 n.).

All the above conditions are not met in the face of the migrants from the Arabian Peninsula and the North Africa. Europe is not ready to accept the significant number of the followers of Islam as the significant part of the society as their religion and culture differ significantly from the European heritage. The study regarding the relation of the European society to the migration of people from Muslim countries does not overcome the reluctance but the fear. It is worth noting that its highest level is in the countries where there isn't a big number of the newcomers from these regions. It is much more easier for us to accept the migrants from other European countries who move from one country to the other in search for the better life conditions. For the Polish society the easiest group to accept today are the Ukrainians who are the economic migrants (as previously Poles migrating to Germany).

However, migration from beyond Europe, if its is well controlled, may have a great potential. The United States should be given here as an example as they conduct the restrictive migration policy which, nevertheless, gives chances to the talented migrants. Among all the start-ups which were created in XXI<sup>th</sup> century in the USA and reached the value of at least a billion dollars – 51% were established by the migrants from the first generation (Koh, 2016). Such companies as Google, Paypal Ebay or Yahoo actually have, among their founders, well-selected migrants.

Currently, every year the European Union Member States award the citizenship to the immigrants whose number does not exceed 1 mln a year, which regarding the natural change of a number of a population by -0,3% (from 5,09 mln births with 5,22 deaths) makes a number of the Union citizens increase year by year (Eurostat, 2016c). The biggest groups of migrants who are awarded citizenship, were in 2014: Moroccans – 92,7 thousand, Albanians – 41 thousand, Turkish – 37 thousand, the citizens of India – 35,3 thousand and Ecuadorians – 34,8 thousand (Eurostat, 2016d).

Nowadays the population of immigrants concentrates on 5 Member States of the European Union: Germany (20%), Italy (17,8%), France (13,8%), Spain (13,7%) and the Great Britain (12,3%).

The European Commission assumes that by 2060, a total of 55 mln migrants will have arrived to Europe, among whom the majority will be grouped in the Member States using euro currency (European Economy, 2015). With the assumed increase of fertility up to 1,68 it means that migrants will constitute 12–15% of the society, which does not seem particularly dangerous in a long-term perspective. Analyzing the matter from a religious point of view, today it is evaluated that Muslims constitute around 6% of the population of the European Union and it is estimated that by 2030 this number will have increased up to 8%. This increase seems to be quite slow so it could create direct threat to the culture and heritage of Europe (Pew Research Center, 2016). However, on the other hand, it should be remembered that the traditional Hindu and Buddhist Indonesia agreed to the free belief of Islam, the effect of which is the fact that today 87% out of 255 mln citizens of this country are the followers of this religion.

A question in what way to reform the European migration policy should be raised. Currently, all members of the European Union are the signatories of the Geneva Convention relating to the Status of Refugees of 1951. According to its provisions the signatories are obliged, among others, not to expel from their territories persons if in the countries of their origin the armed actions take place. The experience of the recent wave of migration of 2015 and 2016 shows, however, that among the newcomers only few meet the criteria necessary to qualify them as a group of refugees protected by the Convention. A majority rather looks for the possibility of a better life. In the face of the very quickly increasing population of only the African continent, one should expect the migration pressure which will escalate every year. In 1990 the African population was estimated to be around 120 mln, in 2015 this number is estimated to be 1.186 billion. But according to United Nations World Population Prospects (2015) in 2050 this number will double up to 2.477 billion, and in 2.100 up to 4.386 billion. It can be foreseen with high probability that such leap-like development of the population of this continent, with the maintenance of the expected relative stability in the

remaining parts of the globe, will result in such a situation that a number of the conflicts based on the religious grounds, welfare or also access to food and water will increasing quickly bring a wave of refugees difficult to stop, whose significant part will, therefore, try to get to Europe.

The solution of the migrant crisis seems to be, in a long-term perspective, one of the most important, if not the most important challenge that the European Union faces. If the countries that are on the "front line", that is, Greece, Italy or Croatia are not supported in a noticeable way by the rest of the Community, this will lead to the increase of the nationalistic atmosphere and, as a result, to the attempts of leaving the Community which, with the increasing feeling of helplessness, may turn out to be effective. As a result, it may lead to the break of the Community, which will result in a significant decrease both of the safety and the economic future of the countries of Europe.

The country which coped well with the immigration are the abovementioned United States. In the face of the increasing number of problems with the effective immigration policy, it is worth taking a closer look at how they managed to achieve the effect in which the level of integration is much higher there than in Europe. Three crucial elements should be noted here: language, policy of discouragement towards creating big density of various nationalities and languages and the policy of the legalisation of the residence permit (Xpat Nation, 2016). The research shows that the lack or a poor command of a language is a significantly larger obstacle in Europe to find a job. The employers from the United States present much greater understanding. This makes the job enabling the minimal level of decent functioning available practically in a whole country. Contrary to Europe, this results in the immigrants having much smaller needs to create national densities. Finally, from time to time, in the United States, the legalisation of the persons who legally stay there (obviously if they meet certain conditions) takes place. This makes many immigrants hope that at a certain point there appears a possibility of the legalisation of their stay and, as evident, it prevents many persons from taking undesired actions which may cause that they will not be able to participate in this process.

In recent months the words "immigration" and "immigrant" acquired pejorative meaning. Interestingly, it is particularly noticeable in uniform countries such as Poland, in which a number of immigrants is very small, and

a number of immigrants from the Muslim countries – practically zero. On the other hand, Europe, for its further functioning on the current level has to gain labour force – and not only the low-skilled for the basic works but also in other fields of its economy. Therefore, a basic question needs to be raised: “Can Europe survive without migrants?”, and “How to make the immigrants, who eventually will influence our welfare, willing to settle down within our boundaries?”. However, Europe is not ready yet for the resignation or a fundamental change of its identity, and in the eyes of many Europeans it could happen so if there appeared millions of Islam followers. As Europeans we should help people whose fatherland became the territory of armed actions but there will be no quick consent to their uncontrolled arrival to Europe within a very short time.

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