

MIGRATION AND MIGRANT WORKERS IN EUROPE

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Abstract: The paper deals with migration and migrant workers in Europe. The UN Convention on the Rights of Migrants defines a migrant worker as a person who is to be engaged, is engaged or has been engaged in a remunerated activity in a State of which he or she is not a national. Migration can be hugely effective in improving the income, education and participation of individuals and families, and enhancing their children's future prospects. But its value is more than that: being able to decide where to live is a key element of human freedom. The primary objective of this paper is to indicate importance of migrant workers in Europe. This paper will provide you with an overview of the trends in migration in Europe, opportunities and challenges of migration.

Keywords: migration and migrant workers, opportunities and challenges of migration, population, trends of migration.

JEL classification: J11, J61, J62

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Introduction

Our world is very unequal. For many people around the world moving away from their home town or village can be the best — sometimes the only — option open to improve their life chances. There is no typical profile of migrants around the world. Fruit pickers, nurses, political refugees, construction workers, academics and computer programmers are all part of the nearly 1 billion people on the move both within their own countries and overseas. Migration is one of the great constants of human history — long before political borders emerged, we were travelling the planet. Some of these journeys were cyclical, such as the seasonal treks of nomadic tribes with their grazing animals. Others were more open-ended — journeys began in a flight from natural disasters or in search of a better place called home. Scientists place the beginning of our global odyssey in eastern Africa and date it to a period 50 000 or 60 000 years ago. (Prior 1981, pp. 110-129) Based on archaeological, genetic and linguistic evidence, it is believed that *homo sapiens's* first intercontinental move may have been into what we now call the Middle East, from where we moved into the Arabian Peninsula, around India and into southeast Asia and — probably — Australia. Later, we moved into southern and northern Europe and central Asia and then — *via* the Bering Strait — into North and South America.^{1 2}

1 Migration and migrant population in Europe

The majority of European countries has minority populations below 20% of the total population, but 11 countries have a larger proportion of ethnic minorities. Bosnia and Herzegovina is the only country where no absolute majority exists—Bosniaks as the largest ethnic group make up 44% of the country's total population. At the other end of the spectrum, Ireland, Luxemburg, Malta and Portugal have a virtually ethnically homogenous citizenry.³

¹*International Migration - Migration Then and Now*. [Online]. [vid. 22. června 2011]. Available: <http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/63/47/43648365.pdf>.

²*Smithsonian Institution: Migrations in History*. [Online]. [vid. 5. července 2011]. <http://smithsonianeducation.org/migrations/start.html>.

³*Ethnic Minorities in Europe: The Basic Facts*. [Online]. [vid. 23. června 2011]. Available: <http://www.stefanwolff.com/files/min-eu.pdf>

The table below shows total population and resident non-national population by group of citizenship in the year 2009.

Table 1: Total population and resident non-national population by group of citizenship, 2009

	Total population	Non-nationals					
		Total		Citizens of other EU Member States		Citizens of non-member countries	
	(1 000)	(1 000)	(%)	(1 000)	(%)	(1 000)	(%)
EU-27	499 432.2	31 779.9	6.4	11 937.2	2.4	19 842.7	4.0
Belgium	10 750.0	.	.	.	.	.	.
Bulgaria	7 606.6	23.8	0.3	3.5	0.0	20.3	0.3
Czech Republic	10 467.5	407.5	3.9	145.8	1.4	261.7	2.5
Denmark	5 511.5	320.0	5.8	108.7	2.0	211.4	3.8
Germany	82 002.4	7 185.9	8.8	2 530.7	3.1	4 655.2	5.7
Estonia	1 340.4	214.4	16.0	9.6	0.7	204.8	15.3
Ireland	4 490.0	441.1	9.9	364.8	8.2	76.2	1.7
Greece	11 260.4	929.5	8.3	161.6	1.4	767.9	6.8
Spain	45 828.2	5 651.0	12.3	2 274.2	5.0	3 376.8	7.4
France	64 366.9	3 737.5	5.8	1 302.4	2.0	2 435.2	3.8
Italy	60 045.1	3 891.3	6.5	1 131.8	1.9	2 759.5	4.6
Cyprus	796.9	128.2	16.1	78.2	9.8	50.0	6.3
Latvia	2 261.3	404.0	17.9	9.4	0.4	394.6	17.5
Lithuania	3 349.9	41.5	1.2	2.5	0.1	39.0	1.2
Luxembourg	493.5	214.8	43.5	185.4	37.6	29.5	6.0
Hungary	10 031.0	1 86.4	1.9	109.8	1.1	76.6	0.8
Malta	413.6	18.1	4.4	8.2	2.0	9.9	2.4
Netherlands	16 485.8	637.1	3.9	290.4	1.8	346.7	2.1
Austria	8 355.3	864.4	10.3	317.0	3.8	547.4	6.6
Poland	37 867.9	35.9	0.1	10.3	0.0	25.6	0.1
Portugal	10 627.3	443.1	4.2	84.7	0.8	358.4	3.4
Romania	21 498.6	31.4	0.1	6.0	0.0	25.3	0.1
Slovenia	2 032.4	70.6	3.5	4.2	0.2	66.4	3.3
Slovakia	5 412.3	52.5	1.0	32.7	0.6	19.8	0.4
Finland	5 326.3	142.3	2.7	51.9	1.0	90.4	1.7
Sweden	9 256.3	547.7	5.9	255.6	2.8	292.1	3.2
United Kingdom	61 595.1	4 184.0	6.8	1 793.2	2.9	2 390.8	3.9
Iceland	319.4	24.4	7.6	19.4	6.1	5.0	1.6
Norway	4 799.3	302.9	6.3	165.4	3.4	137.6	2.9
Switzerland	7 701.9	1 669.7	21.7	1 033.4	13.4	636.3	8.3
Croatia	4 435.1	.	.	.	.	.	.
FYR of Macedonia	2 048.6	.	.	.	.	.	.
Turkey	71 517.1	103.8	0.1	45.3	0.1	58.4	0.1

Source: Total population and resident non-national population by group of citizenship, 2009. [Online]. [vid. 23. června 2011]. Available: http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/statistics_explained/images/7/7e/Total_population_and_resident_non-national_population_by_group_of_citizenship%2C_2009.png

During 2008 about 3.8 million people immigrated into one of the EU Member States and at least 2.3 million emigrants are reported to have left one of the EU Member States. Compared with 2007, immigration to the EU Member States is estimated to have decreased by 6 % and emigration to have increased by 13 %.⁴ It should be noted that these figures do not represent the migration flows to/from the EU as a whole, since they also include international flows within the EU - between different Member States. Just over half of the total immigrants to the EU Member States, in other words 1.9 million people, were previously residing outside the EU.

⁴UNHCR: The UN Refugee Agency. [Online]. [vid. 20. listopadu 2011]. Available: <http://www.unhcr.ch/cgi-bin/texis/vtx/home>.

The country that reported the largest number of immigrants in 2008 was Spain (726 000), followed by Germany (682 000), the United Kingdom (590 000), and Italy (535 000). Two thirds of the total number of immigrants into the EU-27 were recorded immigrating into one of these four Member States.

Germany reported the highest number of emigrants in 2008 (738 000, resulting in negative net migration), followed by the United Kingdom with 427 000 and Spain with 266 000. There was also an important level of emigration concerning persons leaving Romania and Poland. Most of the EU Member States reported more immigration than emigration in 2008, but in Germany, Poland, Romania, Bulgaria and the three Baltic Member States emigrants outnumbered immigrants. In 2008 the share of nationals among immigrants differed from one Member State to another. The EU Member States reporting the highest shares in 2008 were Poland (75 %), Lithuania (68 %), and Estonia (48 %). In contrast, the Czech Republic, Spain, Hungary, Luxembourg, Italy, Slovakia, Cyprus and Slovenia reported very low shares, with nationals making up under 10 % of immigrants.

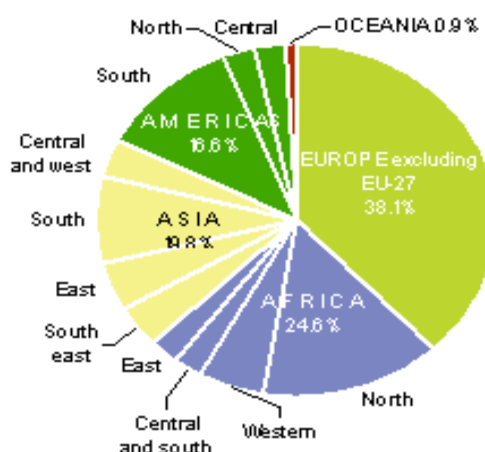
The share of non-nationals among immigrants to the EU Member States in 2008 was 84 %. More than half of them (56 %) were citizens of the non-EU countries and the rest (44 %) were citizens of the other EU Member States. Regarding the gender distribution of immigrants, there was a slight prevalence of men over women for the EU as a whole (51 % versus 49 % respectively). Only a few Member States, namely Cyprus, Italy, Spain, France, and Ireland, reported more women than men among their immigrants.

Immigrants to the EU Member States in 2008 were on average much younger than the population of their country of destination. On 1 January 2009 the median age of the EU population was 40.6 years. The median age of immigrants in 2008 ranged from 24.8 years (in Portugal) to 37.5 years (in Greece).⁵

Figure 1 shows the distribution by continent of origin of citizens from non-member countries living in the EU Member States. The largest proportion (38.1 %) were citizens of a European country outside of the EU-27, a total of 7.2 million people; among these more than half were citizens of Turkey, Albania or Ukraine. The second biggest group was from Africa (24.6 %), followed by Asia (19.8 %), the Americas (16.6 %), and Oceania (0.9 %). More than half of the citizens of African countries that were living in the EU were from North Africa, often from Morocco or Algeria. Many Asian non-nationals living in the EU came from south or east Asia, in particular from India or China. Citizens of Ecuador, Brazil and Colombia made up the largest share of non-nationals from the Americas living in the EU.

⁵*Migration and migrant population statistics*. [Online]. [vid. 24. června 2011]. Available: http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/statistics_explained/index.php/Migration_and_migrant_population_statistics

Figure 1: Citizens of non-member countries in the EU-27, 2009 (%)



Source: *Citizens of non-member countries in the EU-27, 2009 (%)* [Online]. [vid. 24. června 2011]. Available: [http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/statistics_explained/images/2/23/Citizens_of_nonmember_countries_in_the_EU-27%2C_2009_\(%25\).png](http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/statistics_explained/images/2/23/Citizens_of_nonmember_countries_in_the_EU-27%2C_2009_(%25).png).

2 Migrant Workers in Europe

Due to data limitations, the situation of the non-EU nationals is often used as a proxy to analyse the employment situation of immigrants. However, immigrants who are naturalised tend to have better labour market outcomes than legal foreign residents and looking at the non-EU nationals tends to lead towards more negative conclusions. A complementary approach is to look at the situation of the foreign-born population. The participation rates of immigrants in the labour market are generally lower than those of natives, except in the South European countries where labour migration predominates strongly. In Sweden, Denmark and the Netherlands, which traditionally receive high numbers of asylum seekers, the participation rates of foreigners are much lower than those of nationals. (Zimmerman 2005) Obviously, the situation differs across countries. While the rate of employment for immigrants is close to 20 percentage points lower than for natives in Denmark, it is similar in Ireland and higher in Spain, Greece, Italy, and Portugal. The situation has also improved considerably during the last decade, with increases in the employment rates of immigrants in all countries except Germany and Austria (where employment rates of natives have followed the same trend, although their decrease is much smaller). The increase in the employment rate of immigrants has been much stronger than for natives in Denmark, Greece, Spain and Portugal and similar in the remaining countries.⁶

Foreigners are over-represented in the construction sector in most countries and even more markedly in services, in particular hotels and restaurants. They are typically under-represented in the public sector as well as in the financial sector. There are also wide cross-country differences in the industrial distribution of foreign employment. Employment in households and other services accounts for 23-33 per cent of total foreign employment in most countries. In Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, and Austria, more than 20 per cent of foreign employment is concentrated in mining, manufacturing and energy. Around 12 per cent of foreign employment in Spain is concentrated in hotels and restaurants. In Sweden, over 10 per cent of foreigners employed work in the education sector. In Denmark, Sweden and the UK, 15 to 18 per cent of employed foreigners work in health and other community sectors. The occupational distribution of immigrants shows that they tend to have a greater proportion of

⁶ *Labour Migration Patterns in Europe: Recent Trends, Future Challenges*. [Online]. [vid. 26. června 2011]. Available: http://ec.europa.eu/economy_finance/publications/publication644_en.pdf

blue-collar workers than natives. The proportion of foreigners with blue-collar jobs is generally much higher than that in white collar jobs in most countries, with the exception of the UK, the Netherlands and Belgium. A higher concentration of immigrants in blue-collar jobs is associated with their relatively lower educational levels and the problems of skills transferability.^{7 8}

There is a number of reasons why immigrant workers are hit harder by worsening economic conditions, because they:⁹

- Are concentrated in sectors that are more sensitive to business-cycle fluctuations such as construction, wholesale, export-oriented manufacturing, and hospitality. Immigrants employed in health and education might be better off during the economic crisis, for example, because those sectors experience less immediate disruption resulting from economic contraction.
- Have less secure contractual arrangements such as temporary, seasonal, and illegal employment.
- Experience selective layoffs and discrimination in the labor market. A number of studies in the United States, Canada, and Europe indicate that applicants with *foreign or ethnic* names were less likely to be invited for job interviews than those with *native* names despite equivalent education and work experience: a trend that is likely to be exacerbated during economic downturns.

Migrant workers are motivated by a lack of opportunities at home and the belief that they can achieve a better life in a foreign country. They join the supply of migrant labour when the combination of these “push” and “pull” forces overwhelms the wrench of leaving familiar surroundings and the risks of the unknown. (Drbohlav 1996) The choice of destination is greatly constrained by the expense and debt incurred for travel costs, official permit fees and, all too often, the unofficial levies of intermediary fixers. The poorest are least able to overcome these obstacles and about 40% of all economic migrants head for the nearest country. Demand for migrant labour is determined by the extent to which a domestic workforce is unable or unwilling to meet the needs of its national economy. There may be shortages of skills or, more typically, vacancies arise in jobs rejected by the local population, often described as “3D” (dirty, dangerous and difficult). Many migrant workers are professionals who take on jobs that do not utilize their full skills and potential, presented by Kivisto and Faist (2010).

Foreign labour has such a dominant role in many Middle Eastern economies that it has become a packaged commodity. Airline schedules are synchronized with the timing of temporary contracts whilst living conditions are customized to fulfil cultural needs. However, these established channels of migration are insufficient to absorb the supply of labour. Many aspiring workers choose to take their chance as “undocumented” migrants, entering a country by overstaying a visa or by crossing an unprotected border.¹⁰

⁷ *Labour Migration Patterns in Europe: Recent Trends, Future Challenges*. [Online]. [vid. 26. června 2011]. Available: http://ec.europa.eu/economy_finance/publications/publication644_en.pdf

⁸ *Migration Information Source* [Online]. [vid. 24. června 2011]. Available: <http://www.migrationinformation.org/>

⁹ *Migration and the Global Recession*. [Online]. [vid. 29. června 2011]. Available: <http://www.migrationpolicy.org/pubs/MPI-BBCreport-Sept09.pdf>

¹⁰ *International Migration guide*. [Online]. [vid. 29. června 2011]. Available: <http://uk.oneworld.net/guides/migration>

Brussels economists claim Britain and the other EU states will “need” 56 million immigrant workers by 2050 to make up for the “demographic decline” due to falling birth rates and rising death rates across Europe.

The demographic make-up of Europe is changing as the population ages, according to the European Parliament (EP). The number of working age people is expected to decrease and could begin as soon as the next decade. The European Union recently experienced a high point in immigration with 2 million people entering the 27-member bloc each year in 2004 and 2005. This group of immigrants comprise 3.7 percent of the total foreign population of the 27-member bloc. Member nations with low birth rates may need a significant boost in immigration over the coming decades, including Germany, Spain, Italy, and Poland. "Having sufficient people of working age is vital not only for the economy but also for tax revenue," said the EP. "This money will be needed to fund the pension and health needs of the growing numbers of elderly people." However, immigration is a controversial issue in some of these countries and the European Parliament feels that integration of migrants is an important issue that needs to be addressed. Without successful integration, a negative view of migrants can arise; a Eurobarometer survey in 2007 found that only 4 out of the 10 EU citizens feel that immigrants contribute positively to their country.¹¹

3 Trends of Migration

International migration plays an increasing role in most Member States. Immigration brings both economic and social opportunities and challenges to countries receiving immigrants. At the same time, immigration is now at the forefront of European and national policy agendas. In 2006 about 3.5 million persons settled in a new country of residence in the EU-27, according to Eurostat estimates, presented by Fassmann, Haller a Lane (2009) After rather rapid growth in 2003 compared with 2002, the rise in immigration slowed in the last few years. The biggest rise in immigration was in Ireland and Spain. Compared with the small increase in total immigration, more citizens of the EU-27 Member States were migrating: the number of the EU-27 citizens migrating to Member States other than their own country of citizenship increased by 10% per year.

Spain, Germany, and the UK received more than half of all immigrants in the EU-27. While the vast majority of immigrants in the EU-27 settled in the big Member States, the scale of immigration was greater for smaller countries. There were relatively more the non-EU than the EU citizens among immigrants: of some 3 million nonnational immigrants to the EU-27, more than 1.8 million were not citizens of the EU-27 countries. Poles and Romanians were the most numerous immigrants among citizens of the EU-27 countries while Moroccans ranked first among the non-EU citizens. Half of all immigrants were younger than 29 years old. Immigrants who were not the EU citizens were younger than those who were the EU-27 citizens (including nationals). There were more men than women among immigrants and the women were younger than the men. Compared with other countries women are more frequent among immigrants in the south of the EU.¹²

In 2010, international migrants will constitute 3.1 per cent of the world population. About 1 in every 10 persons living in more developed regions will be a migrant compared to 1 of every 70 persons in developing countries. The proportion of the total population that is foreign-born

¹¹*Europe needs 56 million immigrant workers by 2050.* [Online]. [vid. 26. června 2011]. Available: <http://www.workpermit.com/news/2008-01-14/europe/eu-needs-56-million-migrants-2050.htm>.

¹²*Population and social conditions.* [Online]. [vid. 2. července 2011]. Available: http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/cache/ITY_OFFPUB/KS-SF-08-098/EN/KS-SF-08-098-EN.PDF.

is the highest in Oceania (17 per cent), Northern America (14 per cent), and Europe (10 per cent). By 2010, international migrants are expected to represent more than 10 per cent of the population in 38 countries with more than 1 million inhabitants. The countries with the highest projected proportion of international migrants among their population are Qatar (87 per cent), the United Arab Emirates (70 per cent), Kuwait (69 per cent), Jordan (46 per cent), and the Occupied Palestinian Territory (44 per cent).¹³

Of the EU's approximately 495 million people, 18.5 million are non-EU nationals—just under 3.8 percent of the total population. Recent projections suggest a natural decrease in the EU population between 2010 and 2050. Assuming zero net immigration, the EU's population would decrease by 26 million by 2030 and by 50 million by 2050. Barring immigration, by 2050, the working age population (15-64 years old) in the EU is forecast to decrease by 59 million, posing a major economic challenge. The largest immigrant populations in the EU are from Turkey, Morocco, Albania, and Algeria.¹⁴

The global economic crisis has slowed emigration in many parts of the world, although it does not appear to have stimulated substantial return migration. With economic recovery and job growth, most experts expect this slowdown to be temporary. Indeed, the scale of migration may well soon exceed prior levels, as the underlying dynamics of migration have not disappeared, and also as a result of emerging structural features in the global economy. One of such factors is the rapid growth in the labour force in less developed countries compared to that in more developed countries: the labour force in more developed countries is projected to remain at about 600 million until 2050, while the labour force in less developed countries is expected to increase from 2.4 billion in 2005 to 3 billion in 2020 and 3.6 billion in 2040.

Carefully managed migration can be a powerful force for economic growth and innovation in destination countries, and poverty reduction and development in poorer origin countries, as well as providing important human freedom and human development outcomes for migrants and their families. At the same time, the growing pressure to migrate, whether for economic enhancement or to avoid or escape the effects of environmental change, far outstrips the availability of legal opportunities to do so, and therefore will continue to test the ability of States to manage their borders and address the complexities of irregular migration. More effective systems will be required to match supply and demand in the labour market. Growing numbers of migrants, from increasingly diverse backgrounds, can increase diversity and cultural innovation but will also make the development of effective integration policies more challenging.¹⁵

4 Opportunities and Challenges of Migration

Today, migration has become a permanent international phenomenon—unprecedented in its volume and scale—and one of the most visible challenges of globalization. The EU and the U.S. face comparable opportunities and challenges from immigration in the 21st. century. Both need immigrant labor to help assure continued economic growth and prosperity. Both are coping with the impact of immigration on social services and trying to find the proper balance between the economic need for immigrants, the challenge of integrating them into

¹³*International Migration* [Online]. [vid. 2. července 2011]. Available: http://www.un.org/esa/population/publications/2009Migration_Chart/ittmig_wallchart09.pdf.

¹⁴*The EU and Immigration: Opportunities and Challenges* [Online]. [vid. 5. července 2011]. Available: <http://www.eurunion.org/News/eunewsletters/EUFocus/2008/EUFocus-Immigrat-9-08.pdf>.

¹⁵*World Migration Report 2010 - The Future of Migration: Building Capacities for Change*. [Online], [vid. 3. července 2011]. Available: http://publications.iom.int/bookstore/free/WMR_2010_ENGLISH.pdf.

society, presented by Dustmann and Glitz (2005) The EU aims to enhance economic opportunities and integration measures; ensure equivalent rights and treatment for the non-EU nationals throughout the EU; support an integrated approach to the management of its external borders by helping equip countries with comparable tools and expertise; and develop a coherent global approach to migration involving partnerships with immigrants' countries of origin. (Gedders 2003)

With the universal realization of the magnitude and impact of immigration upon states, issues on international immigration are gradually rising to the top of the global policy agenda. There has been a sharp increase in awareness by stakeholders, both countries of origin and destination- of the challenges and opportunities presented by immigration. One of the main challenges relates to finding the balance between security concerns and the economic needs of the state:¹⁶

- The first important opportunity relates to the economic contributions made by immigrants in their countries of destination. As history has shown, international migration has been one of the most dynamic forces in the development of contemporary states and societies, including many of those with a record of economic success. Similarly in countries where integration has been successful immigrants have been noted to make significant contributions to the economic, social and cultural development of the societies in which they have settled. In some instances, immigration has offered women who are unable to gain a meaningful livelihood in their countries of origin, to learn new and to exercise greater decision-making power in their daily lives.
- The second important opportunity is present in the contribution that migrant workers make to their home economies. Scholars agree that migration presents meaningful opportunities to build both origin and destination country economies. An example of such mutual benefit is seen in the impact that the income earned by immigrants in immigration countries can have upon their local economies. Contributions by immigrants to families in their countries of origin have been said to form a significant portion of the foreign exchange receipts of these labor export countries. Consequently, this income can also have a solid impact on local development. The role that immigrants play in promoting development and poverty reduction in countries of origin, as well as the contribution they make towards the prosperity of destination countries, should be recognized and reinforced.
- The migration of highly skilled students (globalization of education) has a number of positive aspects: Through skilled migration programs, migrants are given the opportunity to acquire or improve skills and experience abroad. Whether such immigrants remain in their countries of immigration or choose to return to their home countries, they remain indispensable resources for their home countries as investors, philanthropists, bearers of new knowledge or promoters of trade and cultural exchange.
- The issue of migrants with “irregular status” or irregular migration presents a major challenge (for instance: 10 million in the US, between 10 and 15 in Europe) The issue of irregular migration is inextricably linked to that of human security. Trafficking and smuggling in persons is one of the most pressing problems related to the movement of people. Available evidence indicates that its geographical scope has continued to expand and that the majority of the victims falling prey to the phenomenon are women or children.

¹⁶*Research Paper on Migration.* [Online]. [vid. 5. července 2011]. Available: http://www.unaoc.org/repository/thematic_migration.pdf.

- Another disadvantage of migration is the limitation of migrants' rights, particularly labour rights. Many migrants find themselves trapped behind walls of discrimination, xenophobia and racism as the result of rising cultural and religious tensions in some societies. In some countries, migrant women are particularly affected often finding themselves obliged to settle for jobs for which they over-qualified. This is especially true of migrants in an irregular status who are unable to access the job market on an equal footing with nationals of the immigration country or other regularized immigrants.

Conclusion

The primary objective of this paper was indicated importance of migrant workers in Europe. And what is the importance of international migration and migrant workers? International migration plays an increasing role not only in the Europe. Carefully managed migration can be a powerful force for economic growth and innovation in destination countries, and poverty reduction and development in poorer origin countries, as well as providing important human freedom and human development outcomes for migrants and their families. Immigration brings both continued economic growth and prosperity and social opportunities and challenges to countries receiving immigrants. Another importance of migrant workers is in the contribution that migrant workers make to their home economies. Specialists agree that migration presents important opportunities to build both origin and destination country economies.

Migration (human) is the movement of people from one place in the world to another for the purpose of taking up permanent or semipermanent residence, usually across a political boundary. An example of "semipermanent residence" would be the seasonal movements of migrant farm labourers. People can either choose to move ("voluntary migration") or be forced to move ("involuntary migration").¹⁷

There is no doubt that Europe is an ethnically diverse continent as a whole, and that there are few, if any countries in which there are no population groups with an ethnic identity distinct from that of the country's titular nation. What is disputed, however, is who counts as (a member of) a minority, where such minorities live, how many of them there are, and how many members they have.

The recent regulation on Community statistics on migration and international protection (asylum) is a step further in the standardisation of policies by setting common grids for national statistics offices to produce statistics on migration. As regards integration issues, the Europeanisation of policies is still at a very soft level.¹⁸ One of the main consequences of these changes is the growing importance of migration issues in academic and political debate.

¹⁷*Human Migration Guide* [Online]. [vid. 22. června 2011]. Available: <http://www.nationalgeographic.com/xpeditions/lessons/09/g68/migrationguidestudent.pdf>.

¹⁸*International Migration Europe Migration*. [Online]. [vid. 6. července 2011]. Available: www.oopen.org/download?type=document&docid=340088.

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