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**International migration of population in enlarged Europe.
Methodological aspects and quality of statistics on migration**

*Report prepared by statisticians of the Social Statistics Division
of the Central Statistical Office (GUS) in Poland
- under the supervision of Janusz WITKOWSKI*

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Introduction

Contemporary international migration seems to be a massive process covering practically all social groups in the entire world. The number of migrants in the world comparing to the number of world population is not higher than in other times in history; the migrants constitute still slightly above 3% of the total world population. During a few recent decades the Europe, as a continent, has transformed from the region from which the people emigrated into a significant area of destination immigration, however, within the European continent there always have been intensive migrations between certain countries, usually related to historical events or periods of fast economic development. Recently in Europe, the migration concerning the European Union Member States has become particularly significant. The available OECD and Eurostat data show that the greatest number of immigrants from third countries coming to the Community (EU-15) in 2004 originated from: Romania, Morocco, Bulgaria, Turkey, Ukraine and Russian Federation¹ i.e. from different continents: Europe, Africa and Asia.

The globalisation process occurring in the world and social and economic integration processes of the countries will not stop the population migration processes. Therefore, it is necessary to create a possibility of at least partial steering the migration processes through application of adequate migration policy at the Community level or through national policies of individual countries. It should be added that the emigration pressure of the third world countries (and certain EU MS) - on the particular countries of the European Community may be intensified in different periods of time due to existing differences in social and economic development of these countries, tradition of migrations (migration of subsequent generations)

¹ OECD 2004; *Recent Trends in International Migration*

and also possible forced (non-voluntary) migration which result in necessity of the international protection of people suffering from disasters or oppressions.

In order to apply migration policy but also the Community labour market policy and socio-economic policy it is particularly important to have a good quality information on migration within the Community and from outside the EU Member States area. Role of statistics - due to the necessity to provide up-to-date and reliable data - is doubtless the key role. The present situation requires properly organized system for migration observation protecting i.a. detailed identification of mobility forms, directions of movements, duration of migration, reasons for migration as well as social and demographical data concerning the migrants.

Will the statistics describing migration flows and immigration stocks in individual countries provide information required by the users? In the view of the discussion carried out during various international meetings we can state that in most of the European countries the statistical offices face difficulties with regard to obtaining adequate quality of migration data. Poland is one of the countries in which the migration statistics is being and must be improved.

1. International migration role in enlarged Europe

Free movement of people with its implications i.e. free choice of residence, place of work and right to be treated equally to citizens of the host country - constitutes the most visible aspect of the fundamental principles of the European Community. However, the monitoring and management of the scale and direction of population migration and also impact on the migration flows dynamics- in order to achieve specific benefits from the point of view of the entire Community - are very difficult in practice.

International migration are influenced by various factors, events and circumstances such as: personal and family situation of individuals, level of material and cultural living conditions of people, economic situation, situation on labour market, social and political situation of the country, activity of large international and global companies which cause mobility of staff, liberalization of immigration regulations or ease in obtaining work permits. It is worth noticing that recently the characteristic features or criteria of individual migration forms tend to fade away - they merge. Boundaries between them become more fluent e.g. seasonal migration stays become a long-term migration, illegal immigration - after obtaining permission to reside - become legal. Currently, in many cases it is not easy to determine the actual motives and character of migration. The interrelation between occurrence of significant disparity in incomes of population of the two countries and migration scale between these

countries is not simple. The reasons for making a decision concerning permanent or economic migration are various and often difficult to be identified. Nevertheless there is a group of factors specified as push and pull factors which in obvious way shape the “map” of migration flows.

Population migrations have a significant impact on economic situation of both the sending and the host countries.

Emigration of young, enterprising people from countries, which accessed the EU in 2004 - in the opinion of the destination immigration countries - has a positive impact on the host countries economy. Emigrated people from new Member States due to cultural reasons are not problematic and they fill the gaps on labour markets. The economy development analysts of both the Great Britain and Ireland emphasize a beneficial impact of immigration. Additionally, the new immigrants facilitate implementation of social policy in the countries of “former fifteen” by meeting the demand of employment in the area of childcare and care of elderly people and medical services.

The main factor - which mainly determines the population mobility on the European labour market - is occurrence of significant disproportions in the social and economic development level among the EU population. The asymmetry between the “old 15” and the new Member States - in particular from Central and Eastern Europe - in the life standard and incomes of people results in more eager and often emigrations to the European Community countries - in quest for better living conditions. According to the primary estimates, in the EU-15 countries the GDP per capita (PPS) in 2006 was 2-3 times higher (in Luxemburg even 4 times) than in the new Member States in 2004. In countries such as: Poland, Estonia, Hungary, Slovakia, Lithuania and Latvia the income is at the level of 30-50% of the average income in the EU.

In case of Poland the share of GDP per capita according to PPS in 2004 was around 49%, in 2005 - around 50%, and in 2006 it has been estimated for around 52%. A great share of Polish citizens in migration flows observed in Europe after 2004 can be explained by the economic factors (differences in incomes) which in comparison with the Polish population number makes the emigration potential of our country quite significant.

Another important factor „pushing” the emigrants is a high level of unemployment resulting from *inter alia* lack of possibility to find a job in a given occupation. Poland is a quite characteristic country in respect of emigration for employment. Unemployment related to lack of adjustment between the work demand and supply remains one of the main problems of the

Polish economy. Domination of emigrants with certain qualifications “emphasized” the phenomenon of deficiencies in work supply on the Polish market with regard to these occupations which were deficient on other labour markets e.g. in the Great Britain or France. Therefore, the immigration may be seen as an element protecting the balance on the labour markets in individual EU Member States.

International immigration may also be a significant element of the demographic development of the country hosting the immigrants. The immigration plays particularly important role in the countries which are at the development level specified by the demographic terminology as simple generation replacement i.e. the level of reproduction in population guarantees only the possibility to “re-product” subsequent generations thus it does not ensure stable development of demographic processes. International immigration constitutes a significant factor of population balances in the societies that have low positive, zero or even negative natural growth rate and old age structure of population. Such situation, if maintained for a longer period of time, leads to deformation of the population demographic structure and consequently it leads to depopulation which influences the social and economic development of the country.

It is necessary to emphasize that economic situation, demographic pressure and high level of unemployment in the country of origin usually coexist with the “incentives” in the target country - emerging through offering of higher remuneration, possibility of employment, joining of families and better access to social care.

The EU will need the migrants to ensure sustainable development of its labour markets due to shaping of changing demographic and economic situation (aging societies, low natural growth, labour force deficiencies, labour market segmentation). The Union, forced to compete with other regions of the world, currently needs migrants with adequate skills. However, in the view of the European integration and globalisation, it seems significant to make proper assessment of the migration phenomenon including the social and economic threats and opportunities related to migration processes development.

Certain experts think that migrations are key factors for creation of the global economy and the relations between immigration, capital flows as well as goods and services flows - are crucial for understanding the significance of globalisation for economic development.² At the same time, the international trade and capital flows play more significant role on commercial

² Freeman, B. Richard; People Flows in Globalization in „Journal of Economic Perspectives”, t. 20, No 2, (Spring 2006)

and capital markets than migrations - on the international labour market. Let us remind that around 190 million people migrate in the world i.e. 3% of the world population, around 9% of professionally active people in highly developed countries which is low comparing to the scale of trade or capital flows. Labour market was included to the globalisation process at the lowest level. Still, there is a large diversification of remuneration in the same professions, which is observed in different countries in the world as well as in the European Union.

2. Areas of migration studies

Contemporary international migration is a complex phenomenon. First of all, there is a large diversity of migration forms: permanent migration, long-term, short-term, seasonal, forced migration (not voluntary) or illegal migration. At the same time the international migration pattern changed, the structure of migrants in respect of sex and age, as well as the nature of migration, its scale and directions. The most frequent form of migration is the seasonal migration and other forms of temporary migration connected with the undertaken professional work or job searching.

A significant factor deciding on the directions of population mobility is location of target country, liberalization of access to the labour market or lack of liberalization; immigrants work demand, existence of generation links between the immigrants etc.

According to Polish researcher of migration processes the international migration is a phenomenon, which is highly related to the processes occurring on the labour market, however, the relations are not explicit. Results of many empirical studies show that people who emigrate are not only those unemployed, professionally passive or poor but also those economically active, working and who have (often good) job and education.³ Therefore, what is the main reason for migration, what mechanisms trigger migrations, are they constantly depicted to people behaviour? Even more controversial is the issue of migration consequences. Experts have different opinions about the benefits and losses related to migrations occurring in the migrants' countries of origin and also about the consequences and profits achieved by the target countries of immigration.⁴

³ Kaczmarczyk P.; Współczesne migracje z Polski – skala, struktura, mechanizmy mobilności, w: „BEZROBOCIE”, (*Contemporary emigration from Poland – the scale, structure and mechanisms of mobility*, in: “UNEMPLOYMENT”), Polish-American Freedom Foundation, Migration Studies, Faculty of Economic Sciences of the Warsaw University, Warsaw; www.fise.org.pl

⁴ Salt J., Clarke J., Wanner F.; International Labour Migration, “*Population Studies*”, No 44, Council of Europe, 2004

Diversity of migration problem requires research of this phenomenon in many aspects, which in general come down to the following issues:

- 1) Impact of migration on demographic development of countries of immigrants' origin and target countries of emigration;
- 2) International migration in the context of social development of countries (issues of population mobility from the third countries, social integration of foreigners, social exclusion, integration barriers, impact of migration on changes on the European labour market, issue of labour supply);
- 3) Impact of international migration on economic development of the European countries (impact of migration on national income of the countries, financial transfers of the residents and non-residents incomes from the emigration countries).

Most of all, the international movements of population cause specific demographic consequences of the emigrants outflow but also they may have an impact on changes in demographic processes in the inflow countries. The scope of changes depends on the scale of migration and demographic situation of the countries in the period of migration occurrence i.e. the current phase of demographic development in the given society. Usually, the people who migrate are young, in mobile age, often they have not establish their own families yet. A significant outflow of such people, in particular the permanent emigration or long-term emigration, may cause, in longer period of time, adverse changes in structure of population and disturbances in demographic development in the emigrants' country of origin. On the contrary, in the countries of immigrants inflows the permanent or long-term migration is usually assessed as a positive factor of demographic development. In certain societies, in particular these, which are in the demographic stagnation phase, with "zero" or negative natural growth - the immigration from foreign countries is the only factor which contributes the demographic development.

Access to the labour market is a key factor for integration of third countries citizens with the society and a great majority of immigrants and people using the international protection have qualifications and characteristics, which are currently required in the European Union. Their full integration with the EU labour market could contribute to reaching full potential of competitiveness, growth and employment by the EU economy. Reaching these objectives requires comprehensive approach, which should not only include the social and economic aspects of integration, but also the issues related to cultural, linguistic or religious differences.

Social barriers faced by the migrants usually concern lack of knowledge of host country language which results in difficulties with finding a job adequate to qualifications, difficulties with enforcement of rights and a feeling of alienation (lack of social acceptance and assimilation in the environment).

A great potential and skills of migrants may be very significant for social and economic development of host countries. Some experiences of Western European countries after enlargement in 2004 shows that the countries to be most beneficial were those, which opened their labour markets from the beginning (Great Britain, Ireland). We can already notice a significant input of a new immigration from the new Member States to the national income of the target countries. Moreover, the countries, which opened their labour markets without any restrictions, obtained more necessary specialists than the countries promoting free employment only in selected occupations.

The phenomenon of the growing economic emigration is related to money transfers of the emigrants working abroad to their countries of origin. In many cases such transfers become the second, after the direct foreign investments, external source for financing development of the country of origin. Sometimes their size mostly decides on mitigation of results of economic transformation. We have to remember that all the analyses concerning remittances are based on official statistics of balance of payments, which means that they do not include a significant part of funds transferred by the emigrants in other, informal way. Considering the fact that use of bank and financial institutions services for money transfers to the country becomes more and more significant but still not dominating transfer channel, it is necessary to estimate that the scale of informal transfers may be very large. The balance of payment on the current account depends on the proportion of “formal” and “informal” transfers. In case of countries in which emigrants more often use less official ways of money transfers - deficit on the current account remains significant, in the opposite situation remittances help to obtain the balance in this respect.⁵

3. Sources of data on international migration

In the context of complexity of the migration phenomena and processes and phenomena related to migration - the statistics faces very complicated, new challenges, which are difficult to meet basing on the previous experience and with the possessed resources of tools and

⁵ *Wpływ emigracji zarobkowej na gospodarkę Polski, (An impact of economic emigration on national economy of Poland)*, Ministry of Economy, Warsaw, February 2007

methods of statistical observations. International migration statistics is one of fields of research which re-uses information originating from administrative sources. Among the existing and partially recognized sources of statistical data on international migration we can identify:

- registers and administrative systems concerning in particular population;
- census (full or sample survey);
- population sample surveys (LFS, EU-SILC) and special sample migration surveys and other target surveys (not sample) directed to selected groups of migrants or potential migrants.
- estimates based on data originating from the listed sources of information
- mirror statistics and foreign registers and databases.

Polish statisticians attempted to use information on migrations using basically all the above mentioned statistical and non-statistical data sources.

In general, each country has various data sources which usually provide data on specific group of migrants e.g. students, people applying for refugee status or looking for other forms of international protection. Combining this information in order to determine the size of migration flows is very difficult and there is always a risk of doubling certain groups of people and omitting other at the same time.

Similar difficulties can be found while attempting to specify migration stocks properly. Censuses which seem to be a good source of this type of information are usually carried out every 10 years - in the view of so dynamically changing phenomenon as migration - their results are quickly out of date.

Due to great difficulties possible to occur at the stage of integration of surveys concerning international migration into one system of surveys or actually lack of possibility of such integration - a better solution and above all the solution possible to implement - is the approach which “integrates” the statistical information on migrations which means that dissemination of data on migrations should have an adequate scope, should be comparable and should present adequate quality.

Deficiencies of registration systems, legal gaps and individual „approach” of people to the issue of registration in different administrative systems do not contribute to obtaining good quality of migration statistical data. Lack of data hinders analysis of changes and forecasting

of many phenomena influenced by migration. Insufficient harmonization of migration statistics, lack of information on the length of actual or intended time of stay may result in inclusion of certain groups of people to the population registers of the country of origin and host country. Since obtaining of data on actual migration scale is difficult, a rational solution seems to be obtaining of data from various accessible sources both national and foreign as well as introduction of estimates of migration stocks and flows (immigration and emigration) based on available and well-recognized sources of information. It is necessary to constantly search new data sources, which might be used for the purpose of statistics. In the future the mirror statistics and “common” studies carried out by the neighbouring countries become more significant and also the studies between the countries of emigrants origin and destination emigration.

The Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on Community statistics on migration and international protection aims at ensuring the legal basis for statistics which previously were developed on the basis of the numerous gentlemen agreements between the Commission and the national statistical offices or other institutions responsible for collection of data in this respect.⁶ A new legal act came into force in August 2007 and is going to be effective from January 2008 and the first data will be collected on the basis of this regulation for 2008.

The above mentioned framework Regulation does not impose an obligation to change administrative systems or legal regulations in respect of population registers and migration and asylum management on different countries of the Community but it obliges the Member States to strive after adaptation of the settled rules of data collection using the best available domestic sources. Therefore, it attempts to combine the existence of significant differences in the European administrative systems and statistical data sources with increasing necessity to render available comparable migration statistics for the European Union and the Member States. In a word, the Regulation is supposed to be a tool enabling the Commission to cooperate with the national authorities in order to define efficient means which can specify in detail which data can be collected and transmitted by the Community countries.

4. Scale and directions of population movements in the EU – the Polish example

⁶ Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on Community statistics on migration and international protection and repealing Council Regulation (EEC) No 311/76 on the compilation of statistics on foreign workers has been stated in June 2007

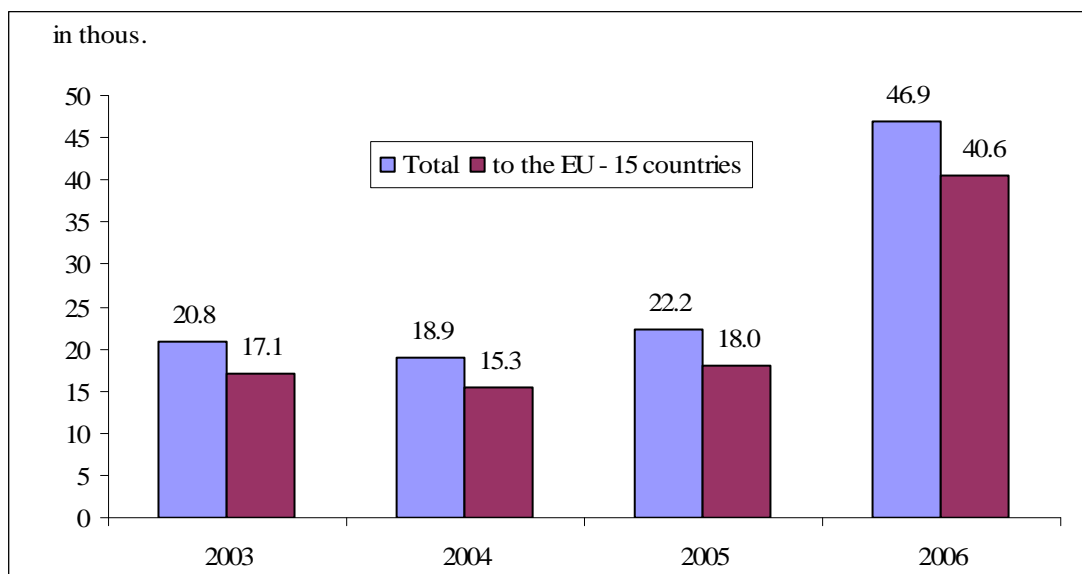
As it was already mentioned, recently i.e. after the EU enlargement in 2004 - the migration scale in Europe significantly increased. It is a direct consequence of the possibility of free movement of people and opening labour markets by some countries of the “old” European Union (EU-15). Right after EU enlargement in 2004 three countries opened their labour markets for the new Member States: Great Britain, Ireland and Sweden. In a short time this decision resulted in increase of immigration from the new countries to the countries of the Community - in particular to the Great Britain and Ireland. In May 2006, the countries which opened their labour markets as first were accompanied by: Finland, Spain, Greece and Portugal. In July 2006 also the Italian government made such decision.

Dynamically growing emigration scale in Europe arouses understandable interest of the governments in individual countries - both “sending” countries and “hosting” as well as scientific and research environments which analyse contemporary migrations changing into migration processes, their conditions and their social and economic consequences.

Poland has been emigration country for decades but after 2004 the emigration scale from Poland significantly increased. This conclusion results from the permanent migration analysis i.e. emigrations abroad for permanent stay (*see figure 1*) which are only a small part of actual movement of people.

Beside the change of movements scale we can observe a change in directions of emigration. Germany, which due to being in close neighbourhood and due to other conditions, was the main direction of Polish emigration for years remains a significant country, but in 2006 it gave way to the Great Britain. Polish people less often go to the USA and Canada, however Ireland became an important direction. The basic cause for this situation is of course opening of labour markets in the European countries and possibility of improvement of the material situation of Polish families by working in the countries which are not so distant.

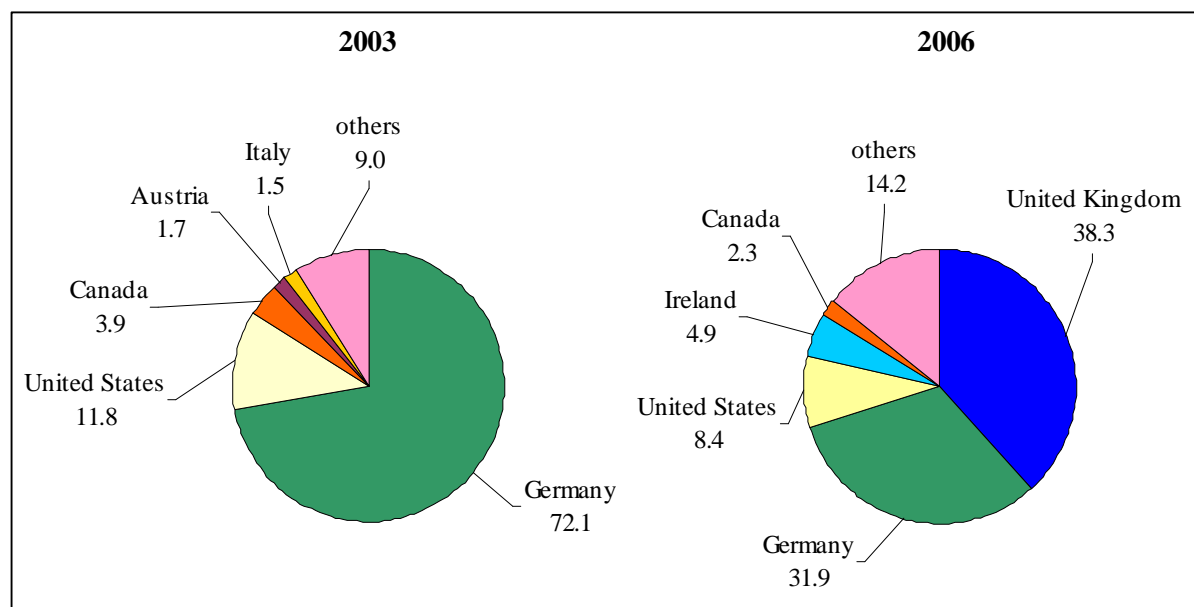
Figure 1. Emigration from Poland on permanent residence in 2003-2006



Source: Data collected from administrative system concerning personal decision on emigration abroad for permanent residence; since 2006 data comes from the population register PESEL

Changes in directions of permanent emigrations are presented on the figure 2.

Figure 2. Emigration from Poland for permanent residence in 2003 and 2006 by country of destination (in % of total number of emigrants)



Source: Data collected from administrative system concerning personal decision on emigration abroad for permanent residence; since 2006 data comes from the population register PESEL

Recently, the temporary, long- and short-term migration and seasonal migration usually related to employment have become more intensified and more important. Thanks to

constantly increasing possibility of cheap travelling, Poles decide for temporary stay and employment in other country without the necessity to make decision on permanent leaving the country of origin. Probably, in the future a part of the current temporary leaves will change into permanent stay, earlier a large group of Poles may become residents of other countries in the European Community.

Dynamics of changes of emigration into temporary stay is greater than the permanent migrations. The results of the last census carried out in Poland in 2002 indicated that at the time of the survey over 786 thousand of permanent residents of Poland were temporarily abroad for over 2 months. Surely, many of these people treated the stay as permanent since most of them have been staying abroad for many years (these people notified the authorities of change of address in Poland and were treated in the census as persons temporarily staying abroad). Poland - similarly to other countries - does not have one, good source of data on the temporary migration scale after 2002, however, there are surveys (in particular LFS) the results of which show significant growth of these type of emigrations.

On the basis of cyclic survey of temporarily absent population carried out by the CSO in Poland (GUS) with regard to leave for abroad for temporary stay of over 3 months (in 2006 the criterion was changed from 2 to 3 months) which unfortunately covers only the persons who notified the fact of leaving abroad in the citizens registration units we can state that in 2006 almost three times more people were abroad than in 2003. A similar dynamics of changes is showed also by the results of other surveys .

Also the directions of the temporary emigrations changed. According to the analysis of results of the above mentioned research the main direction of temporary emigrations is currently the Great Britain which now holds the position which was taken by Germany form many years. Also Ireland and the Netherlands are at important position in this respect.

According to the estimates of GUS at the end of 2005 almost 1.5 million of Poles were abroad (around 1 million at the end of 2004), and around 1.2 million in Europe of people who previously lived in Poland. It is estimated that in 2006 the number of Poles who stay in EU increased by another 200-250 thousand. It is very difficult to estimate the emigration flows of Poles who left the country after opening the labour market for the new EU Member States i.e. after the 1 May 2004. According to Polish statistics in 2004 around 600 thousand people found employment within the Community area.

Among the countries of destination emigration of Poles after the accession to the EU - due to the scale of the phenomena - the most Great Britain and Germany stand out though the German labour market remains closed for Poles. The GUS estimates show that at the end of 2005 around 340 thousand Poles stayed in the Great Britain and around 430 thousand Poles stayed in Germany. Subsequent places were taken by: Ireland (around 80 thousand Poles), Italy (around 70 thousand) and Spain (40 thousand). Considering the dynamics of changes in emigration scale - Ireland and the Great Britain are above average. A great majority of Polish emigrants who left between May 2004 and the end of 2005 - stays abroad with intention to find employment (80-90%).

According to the analyses of English statistics - from the data available on the web page of Home Office WRS-Workers Register Scheme, Poles constitute the largest group of employees (65%) from the "new" EU Member States employed in the Great Britain. A similar percentage of employees from Poland is registered in Ireland.

Poland is a country of great migration traditions. Our country was and still is - at least for a few years - a base of employment migration reserve. In the period of transformation a significant geographical reorientation of Polish employment abroad took place - to the West European countries. In the 90s also a change in proportions between the informal temporary economic migration and permanent emigration i.e. for permanent stay took place. After the period of domination of the permanent emigration, the model of leaves for temporary employment has returned. The model strengthened after Polish accession to the EU and it seems to be stable for several subsequent years. Therefore, what are the consequences of the outflow of such a scale of emigrants from Poland? They are both positive and negative.

A significant advantage of the Polish emigration is the economic improvement of living standards. Money transfers from abroad related to migration supply the budgets of Polish households and they are a source of financing of many investments and development of private residential building.

Migrations also allow for partial levelling of the effects of a high unemployment rate. Many people who could not find employment in Poland have found it abroad. At the same time, this leads to gaps on the domestic labour market observed in many fields in particular it can be noticed in the construction business which may lead to destabilization of the local labour markets. Outflow of medical staff may be problematic in particular in the view of fast growing old Polish society.

Beside the obvious benefits from the migration, Poland experiencing increased leaves of young people is at risk of worsening the society demographic structure. Young people, who want to find economic stabilization, put off a decision concerning establishing a family and many of them will stay abroad permanently which will have a direct impact on reduction of the number of children born in Poland. Also the element of marriages durability seems to be significant since it can be negatively affected by separation of the couple.

It is also alarming that people with university degree undertake employment abroad on the positions, which are below their qualifications with the benefit for the foreign employer and with a negative result for own professional development. A few years of work not in own profession is a loss of an opportunity to gain experience in the given field which may hinder finding a job which is compliant with the education field after returning to the country.

The consequences of emigration - which are still not clearly visible - can have long-term results. Current demographical changes will cause specific repercussions for the society and economy in the future. Intensification of emigration with the current demographical tendencies - decrease of women productivity, successive extension of life (which causes growing old society) may lead to long-term disturbances on the labour market and consequently to problems in the area of public finances.

5. Quality of international migration statistics

The issue of international migration statistics quality become a key topic both for the researchers of the migration phenomenon and population spatial mobility process and for the users of the statistical information. In the countries of significant outflow of emigrants, different numbers specifying the emigration scale and its directions are usually provided with rough approximation. On the other hand the increased inflow of immigrants to each of the countries arouses particular interest mostly due to relation of the immigration with the local labour market. Statistical data users require explanations and interpretations of the scale of phenomenon, directions of migration, the impact of migration on unemployment in a given country etc. Such questions are directed to statisticians. Rarely there is the need for methodology explanation, applied definitions or at least the source of disseminated information. Whilst the international migration statistics require particularly reliable information not only in respect of the assessment of the phenomenon scale or its intensity, but also in respect of information source.

As it was mentioned before the statistical information concerning international migrations may originate from many statistical sources (censuses, sample surveys such as: LFS, EU-SILC and other) and non-statistical (such as registers or administrative systems) but most of all the scientifically-based estimates using the above mentioned sources were recognized. Implementation of the Regulation of the European Parliament and Council on Community migration statistics legalizes all listed sources of data. Therefore, on one hand there is a possibility of using wider scope of data but on the other hand the situation requires a particular carefulness of the statistics in “production” of results concerning international migration.

Poland is a country, which uses all the above-mentioned data sources on migrants for the needs of international migration statistics. In the view of the Polish experience we can formulate certain general problems, which are typical and should be relevant for a majority of the Community countries:

- a) lack of full comparability of definition of the migrant applied in various surveys and administrative systems, the regulation on Community migration statistics allows for certain diversity of definitions depending on the source of obtained data (censuses and sample surveys on one hand and registers and administrative systems on the other);
- b) risk of doubling of data or omitting part of information concerning specific groups of migrants; the problem concerns both the results coming from empirical surveys carried out through observation of households as well as information obtained from administrative systems;
- c) lack of up-to-date data concerning required one referential period; this concerns the data originating from the administrative systems which were built for other purposes and are based on different national legal regulations and therefore the systems are supplied according to the binding regulations;
- d) as a consequence of the remarks to the point c) - lack of cohesion between the national administrative systems (including registers) may constitute in certain countries a serious burden for the quality of obtained results related to international migration;
- e) it is necessary to be aware that the sample surveys carried out by observation of households do not cover certain groups of emigrants such as persons who stay abroad with families or who constitute a single person household but they cover illegal immigrations which are usually unavailable in the administrative systems or registers;

- f) problems with identification among the statistical data originating from administrative systems the category of long-term migrations (lasting at least 12 months) and migration according to reasons such as: economic migration, migration for education, studies etc. and illegal migration;
- g) a lack of bigger interest with the mirror statistics which could be used by the countries of origin and the target countries for emigration on the condition of access of the statisticians to meta data containing a description of methodology and procedure of obtaining data in specific empirical surveys or from administrative systems (including registers).

To sum up, we can state that the study of migration is difficult or very difficult in every country irrespectively of the used sources of information i.e. statistical surveys or data from registers or other administrative systems. These results both from differences in defining the migrant (who is a migrant, resident, non-resident) and from difficulties related to monitoring of migrants flows due to binding rules of registration of people and updating the registers and administrative systems - not always compliant with the expectations of the statistics.

Precise estimates of the international migration scale, its directions and its forms (migration for employment, for education, other) are difficult due to limited resources of reliable data concerning this phenomenon, lack or inadequate quality of data sources and methodological differences occurring in individual countries concerning in particular the applied definitions and classifications.

6. Improvement of migration statistics in relation to migration policy

In the view of problems referring to the quality of international migration statistics it seems justified to discuss the Community migration policy applied in the European Union or the attempt to integrate the national policies, applied or foreseen to be applied - in individual countries of the Community. It seems that reaching a compromise related to implementation of one Community migration policy may be extremely difficult for many reasons have already been referred to in this report, such as: different level of economic development of the Community countries, diversification of population living conditions, situation on the national labour markets, different population development rate and diversified development of demographic processes and consequently different stage of sustainable social and economic development of the individual countries etc.

Therefore there still is a case of integration of the national migration policies which after the EU enlargement will be carried out by more Member States. With the growth of migration scale, both emigration and immigration, it will be necessary to launch mechanisms preventing emigration and it is extremely difficult in the view of free movement of people guaranteed in the EU treaties; and mechanisms triggering inflow of immigrants mostly from the third countries. The role of statistics in such situation could not be overestimated. The migration statistics should provide adequate data for the needs of monitoring of migrants flows.

Polish experience in this respect is rather poor, nevertheless, the scale of movements of Poles to foreign countries and foreigners to Poland after 2004 and a difficult situation on the Polish labour market resulted in certain action aiming at development of rules of the migration policy and improvement of the migration statistics quality which can be an inspiration for other countries i.e.:

- 1) Poland established a national Migration Team managed by the head of the Ministry of Interior and Administration; the Team aims at development of assumptions for implementation of the national international migration policy with particular consideration of the areas concerning: immigration of foreigners, emigration of Poles, re-emigration of Poles from abroad, prevention of illegal migration, integration of foreigners in Poland and migrations statistics, improvement of its quality and availability of data;
- 2) Establishment of working group for data collection and international migration statistics exchange at GUS (the group consists of representatives of governmental administration and central offices who have one common objective - the improvement of broadly understood operation of migration statistics);
- 3) Launching of governmental programmes which can directly influence the scale and direction of spatial mobility of Poles (National Development Plan, National Programme of Regional Development, Strategy of Eastern Poland Development and others);
- 4) Establishing of more close co-operation of statisticians with the scientific and research centres which deal with the international migration issues;
- 5) Participation of statisticians - migration experts in conferences, seminars and public debates concerning international migration and related topics;

- 6) Target development of bilateral co-operation with the EU Member States and the third countries which are the target countries of emigration for Poles or the countries of origins of the immigrants from Poland.

Conclusions - issues for discussion

In the view of the problems referred to in the report with regard to the role of international migration in the enlarged Europe and significance of the migration statistics and the necessity of constant improvement of statistics quality - in the context of sustainable development of the European Community - it seems justified to specify the topics which require deeper reflection or broader discussion on at the European level.

Some of the topics may be contained in the form of the following questions:

- 1) How the Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on Community statistics on migration and international protection will contribute to improvement of the international migration statistics?
- 2) Is it possible and justified to run the Community migration policy? To what extent the migration policies of individual Member States (national policies) protect the needs of the European Community?
- 3) Is the scope of information and the quality of information on international migrations that is currently available in the Eurostat bases sufficient for influencing the mechanisms launching the size of the migration flows?
- 4) How to assess the quality of international migration statistics i.e. immigration and emigration flows and migration stocks?; is it possible to implement directly the procedures and indicators applied to assess the quality of results of other social studies considering the complexity of the migration statistics at least in respect of diversity of the used statistical data sources?

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