

Received: 2017-10-03

Accepted: 2017-11-04

Online published: 2017-12-04

DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.15414/meraa.2017.03.01.32-40>*Original Paper*

Mapping of migration in Slovakia

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ABSTRACT

People have been migrating for work and better life and social environment for years. Nowadays migration is taking on newer dimensions. We are especially speaking of economic migrants as well as about people from so called third countries, in which living conditions have worsened due to impact of climate changes and worse social conditions caused by higher unemployment as well as unstable political affairs and wars. In the paper we define migration, state its causes, negatives and positives. In the main part of the paper we examine how the number of migrants in Slovakia has changed lately and from which countries they come from. We found out that ratio of foreigners living in Slovakia has been changing. A couple of years ago people from European countries prevailed in Slovakia in comparison with people from so called third countries, now the ratio is becoming equal.

KEYWORDS: migration, number of foreigners, valid stay

JEL CLASSIFICATION: A10, J10, J11, J15

INTRODUCTION

“Globalization creates a situation of freedom, better condition for free activities in a globalizing world economy, enabling for entrepreneurial subjects to reach economic growth and furthermore also the growth of life quality. At the same time, it brings the whole scale of phenomena reasonably complicating a positive development of humankind on the planet.” [6]. One of these is migration considered as one of the main global issues of the twenty-first century. Nowadays, vast mobility of people is bigger than at any other period of the modern history. International Organization for Migration (abbr. IOM) finds it important to manage and use development potential of migration in favor of individual migrants as well as in favor of society. If international migration is well managed it can contribute to prosperity and growth of countries of origin as well as target countries and it might be contribution to the migrants, too.

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Characteristic feature of the modern world is mobility. Integrated world markets, creation of multinational companies, quick development of communication technologies contribute to more intensive movement of students, tourists, highly qualified as well as lower qualified labour force and so forth. By changing demographic and social structure of industrialized world, the need for accepting workers and professionals from other countries emerges. Economies which want to remain competitive cannot ignore the need for changes. Therefore supporting migration for work might be the solution.

Unguided migration can result in higher social and financial costs not only on individuals but on the whole society as well. Complex and transparent attitude towards managing migration can be helpful in combat against illegal migration, minimize negative impacts of migration and prevail integrity of migration as natural social process. Replacing illegal migration by organized so called legal migration must be priority of all the governments.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

Under the term migration we understand any movement of people regardless of reason, length or character. Lidák [2] describes migration as changes in population status of the country depending on spatial motion within which they change permanent address. In case of a movement of a person or a group of people, we speak about internal migration, if the movement is across the international borders, we speak about international migration. It might be a movement of economic migrants, refugees, resettled person or any other movement from various reasons like family reunion, studies, etc. According to the definition of UNO an international migrant is a person who changes the country of a permanent stay. Svitačová and coll. (2014) in [5] states that migrant flow expresses number of people who in some period of time cross the borders of a country with the aim to settle in another country.

Considering the time perspective we speak of long-term migration if the period of migration lasts for at least 12 months. If this period takes from 3 to 12 months we speak of short-term migration. An exception might be recreation, holiday, visits at friends' and relatives, business, health care or religious pilgrimages.

The crucial expressions of the topic are defined as follows.

A migrant is a person who leaves a region or a country with the aim to settle in another region or a country.

A refugee is, according to the Geneva Agreement from 1951, a person who has legitimate concerns about persecutions from national, racial and religious reasons or because of citizenship in specific social group, or maintains specific political opinions. The person might be without citizenship who encounters out of the state of their permanent stay due to impacts of these events and who cannot stay there or does not want to go back due to given concerns. The Slovak law order does not define the expression refugee.

A foreigner is, according to the Slovak legislation, every person who is not a citizen of the Slovak Republic.

A national of the third country (from Slovakia's point of view) is every person who is not a citizen of the Slovak Republic nor citizen of the European Union nor Switzerland. It might be a person without citizenship as well.

An asylant is a foreigner to whom an asylum was given. According to Svitačová and coll. [5] an applicant for asylum is „a person who asks for asylum according to the Geneva Agreement

and legislation of the given country. In case of accepting the asylum the person becomes asylant.“

What leads people to migrate? The main reason of migration might be so called PUSH factors and PULL factors. Among the *PUSH factors* there are especially negative economic and social environments, lack of work, environmental purposes, political instability, growing density of population, racial, ethnical, religious repressions, civil riots, armed conflict, wars etc. Among the *PULL factors* there are better living conditions, especially regarding social system, health care, education, safety, human rights, as well as higher salary and higher standard of living, work and business opportunities and moreover contacts abroad, so called migration networks.

Migration brings positives and negatives [1].

The positives of migration are:

- multiculturalism,
- equalization of demographic conditions,
- diversification of market,
- coverage of lacking professions,
- creation of new working positions,
- decreasing unemployment in the country of origin,
- transfer of know-how
- cheaper goods and services,
- GDP growth of the host country and so forth.

The negatives of migration are:

- brain-drain of qualified employees from the country of origin,
- higher unemployment,
- decreasing of salary,
- less stable labour force,
- higher social tense,
- xenophobic attitude of the public,
- potential safety threats - terrorism, racism, trafficking in human beings, peddling, crime growth etc.

„The issues“ of migration are tackled by the International Organization for Migration (IOM). It is the international intergovernmental organization which was created in 1951 in Geneva. Its original mission was to help number of relocated people and refugees who, after a war, found themselves out of their homes in various European countries. During the last few decades after the Second World War, the number of migrants grew significantly and migration became one of the most significant social issues which influence society. In relation to this, spectrum of IOM activity gradually grew as well. Nowadays this organization deals with various areas of migration management throughout the world. In 1996 the agreement between the Slovak government and IOM was signed, based on which the IOM Office in Bratislava was founded.

Nowadays we assume that there are approximately 232 million of international migrants in the world which means that each 31st person in the world is presently a migrant living beyond borders of their home country. We also assume that the number of internal migrants, that is migrants within the country of their citizenship, is 763 million. If we sum up this number with the number of international migrants it represents almost one billion of people. That is, each

seventh person in the world is a migrant. As for the attraction, migrants have especially interest in Europe. There are approximately 72 million of international migrants which is almost one third of all the migrants. Out of this sum, more than two thirds of migrants in the EU live in five countries that is Germany, Spain, Great Britain, Italy and France.

In the article we work with data gained from the database of Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic (SO SR) [7], [8] and from the Yearbooks of Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic [3], [4]. We use table processor Microsoft Excel 2013 and then analysis of the data thus obtained processed into spreadsheets and graphs.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In Slovakia various stereotypes and myths about migration are widely spread. The most common examples are as follows.

- Foreigner is the same as refugee.
- Foreigners are economical load for the state budget.
- Foreigners take job opportunities of Slovaks.
- Foreigners spread dangerous diseases.
- Crime of foreigners is growing.
- Slovakia is as a poor country still uninteresting for foreigners and will remain transit country not a target country.
- In Slovakia there is a huge number of foreigners.

Of course there are exceptional cases to which these myths do not apply but that does not make us generalize the issue. Now we would like to deal with the myth of the last dash. In Slovakia the number of foreigners is relatively small, on December 31st, 2016 the number was 93 247 people. It is one of the lowest proportions of the foreigners compared to the overall number of inhabitants (5 435 343) which is only 1.72 % among the member countries of the European Union. Lower number is in Hungary (1.42 %), in Bulgaria (0.76 %), Croatia (0.75 %), Lithuania (0.74 %), Romania (0.37 %) and the least foreigners are in Poland (0.27 %). In the Czech Republic it is 4.12 % and in Austria up to 12.31 %.

As mentioned above in Slovakia on December 31, 2016 there were 93 247 foreigners of which 41 232 were citizens of the third countries and 52 015 were citizens of the EU. According to the size of civic communities it looks like it is shown in the Table 1. As the table shows, there are most people from Ukraine, the Czech Republic and Hungary. In the next Table 2 we can see data about number of citizens of the Slovak Republic, number of foreigners and the share of foreigners to the overall number of citizens from 2004 to 2016. Even though the increase in number of citizens in Slovakia represents almost 1 %, within the foreigners this number is a lot higher, exactly 4.22 times higher. In 2004 the share of foreigners to all the citizens of Slovakia represented only 0.41 %, in 2016 1.72 % already. Even from the Figure 1 we see that this trend has rising tendency and it is assumed that it might grow further.

Table 1 First 10 biggest civic communities in Slovakia in 2016

Ranking	Country of origin	Number of foreigners
1.	Ukraine	13 024
2.	the Czech Republic	10 317
3.	Hungary	7 813
4.	Serbia	7 232
5.	Romania	6 907
6.	Poland	5 562
7.	Germany	4 380
8.	Russia	4 035
9.	Italy	2 757
10.	Vietnam	2 580

Source: A yearbook of Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic [4], own elaboration

Table 2 Number of foreigners living in Slovakia up to December 31, of the given year

	2004	2007	2009	2011	2014	2016
Overall number of citizens of Slovakia	5 384 822	5 400 998	5 424 925	5 404 322	5 421 349	5 435 343
Overall number of foreigners	22 108	41 214	58 322	66 191	76 715	93 247
Share of all foreigners on the overall number of citizens in Slovakia	0.41 %	0.76 %	1.08 %	1.23 %	1.41 %	1.72 %

Source: Data form [3], [4], [7], [8], own elaboration

A stay of foreigner on the area of the Slovak Republic can be:

- temporary,
- permanent,
- tolerated.

Temporary stays enables a citizen of the third country stay, travel and repeatedly enter the area of the Slovak Republic in a specific time period given by the police department. The purpose might be business, employment, study, research and development, reunion of the family and so on.

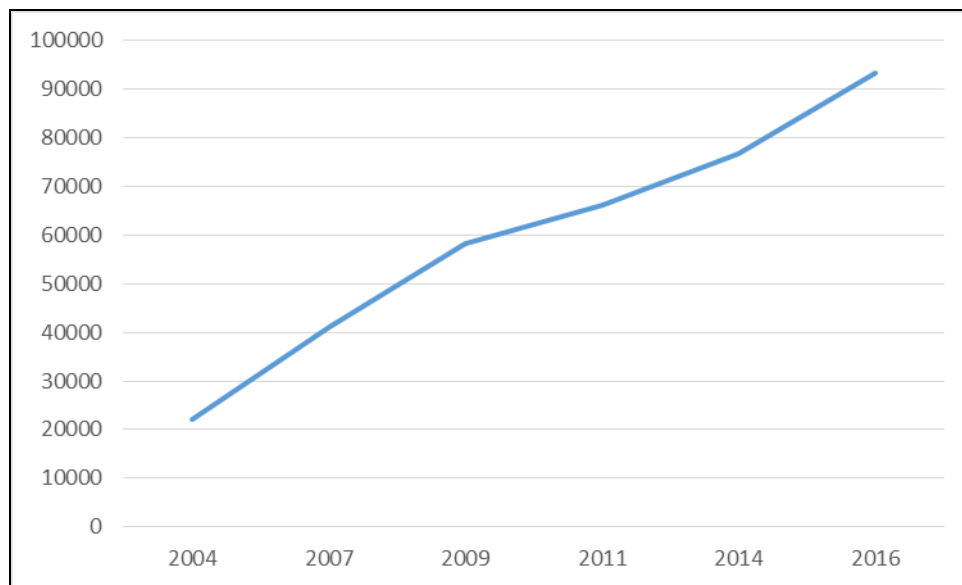


Figure 1 Overall number of foreigners from 2004 to 2016
Source: Data from [3], [4], own elaboration

Permission for a permanent stay enables the citizen of the third country stay, travel and repeatedly enters the area of the Slovak Republic in a specific time period given by the police department unless the law provides otherwise.

The police department grants a stay to a citizen of the third country if there is no reason to deny a request in such way that it does not fulfil the conditions for granting the tolerated stay, if there is an obstacle of their administrative expulsion, if they were given permanent shelter or if their travel is not possible and their restraint is not effective or any other reasons.

In the following part we will do a research on the number of foreigners living in Slovakia for the past 4 years, i. e. from 2014 to 2016. Table 3 shows number of citizens from the third countries, citizens of the EU countries and all the foreigners together living in Slovakia for the past 4 years. As the Figure 2 shows in all the categories in given years there is a significant growth in the number of foreigners.

Table 3 Number of accepted stays up to December 31, of the given year

	2013	2014	2015	2016
Citizens of the third countries	26 157	29 171	35 261	41 232
EU citizens	45 492	47 544	49 526	52 015
Sum	71 649	76 715	84 787	93 247

Source: Data from [3], [4], own elaboration

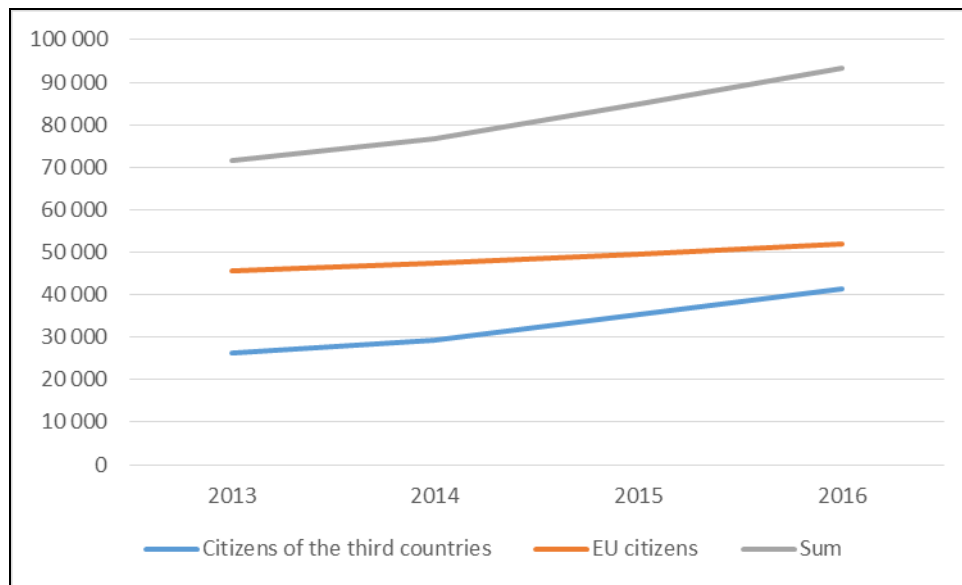


Figure 2 Number of accepted stays for foreigners up to December 31, from 2014 to 2016
Source: Data from [3], [4], own elaboration

The next Table 4 shows number of accepted stays for citizens of the third countries up to December 31, from 2014 to 2016. We selected the countries of which the number exceeds at least 1000 people. In 2016 even inhabitants of Iran were included with the number of citizens 1056.

Table 4 Numer of accepted citizens of the third countries up to December 31, of the given year

Citizenship	Number of stays			
	2013	2014	2015	2016
Ukraine	6898	8033	10706	13024
Serbia	4021	4648	5528	7232
Russia	2633	2976	3532	4035
Vietnam	2089	2180	2307	2580
China	1926	2024	2134	2346
Korea	1528	1557	1590	1638

Source: Data from [3], [4], own elaboration

As we can see from the Table 4 and from the Figure 3, the biggest growth of accepted stays of foreigners – citizens of the third countries, the most of them are from Ukraine and Serbia.

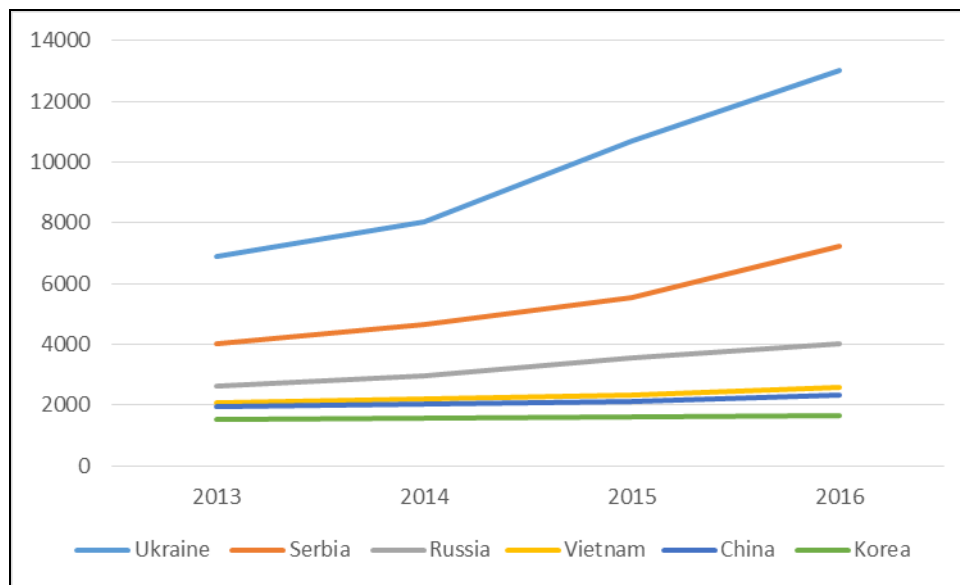


Figure 3 Number of accepted stays for citizens of the third countries up to December 31, from 2013 to 2016
Source: Data from [3], [4], own elaboration

CONCLUSIONS

As it turns out from the previously mentioned parts of the article, migration belongs to one of the main issues of modern globalized world. This does not apply to the most developed countries of the European Union like Germany, France and Great Britain but Slovakia is concerned about this issue as well. As we have shown, the number of immigrants in Slovakia for the past years is still growing whereas the numbers of citizens of the EU with the citizens of the third countries is almost equal. In 2014 it was 63.5 % compared to 36.5%, in 2016 it was 55.8 % compared to 44.2 %. Thanks to the legislation of Slovakia and attitude of the government, the numbers of immigrants are relatively low compared to other countries.

Not to forget that environment has a long-term influence on migration flows. People have long left areas with inappropriate or worse natural conditions. We are expecting that migration caused by the changes in environment will grow. Influence of climate changes and worse environment will, for migrants, mean a survival.

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