

INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION IN THE EUROPEAN CONTEXT

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Abstract

The phenomenon of the international migration is an expression of intense globalization processes. Research has largely focused on objective determinants, as for example income of the international migration. Quality of life is equally important. It is undisputed, that democracy promotes quality of life and not every person perceives democracy the same way. Migrants' quality of life is more a need of democracy which also needs multicultural environments. The aim of this paper is to answer the following question: What is the relationship between the subjective quality of life of the native, immigrants and democracy in the country? The answer we are looking for uses relevant support tools of quantitative methods - correlation and nonlinear regression analysis..

Keywords: Democracy Index, Life satisfaction level, Pearson correlation coefficient, nonlinear regression

Introduction

Intense globalization processes, which remove administrative barriers, are expanding access to labor markets and increasing the transnationalism. In 2012, 34.3 million foreign citizens lived in the EU (i.e. 6.8% of the population) – 13.6 million EU citizens lived in another EU country (i.e. 2.7% of the EU 27 population), and 20.7 million were non EU citizens (4.1%). The largest numbers of foreign citizens were recorded in Germany (9%), Spain (12%), Italy, the United Kingdom (8%) and France (6%). In Germany and France, these are mostly migrant workers. “Immigration into the EU and the integration of those who have immigrated represent two multifaceted and highly complex policy areas,” notes Novotny (ed.) (2012).

In some EU Member States the immigration is seen also as a tool to address the adverse demographic trends. From another point of view - some authors argue that the migration would increase the quality of life of the families, reduce poverty and give support for democracy. “The present increase in migration flows will not diminish in the near future. As consequence of globalisation, the development of relations between nation states and people with different cultural backgrounds seems to give a new connotation to the phenomenon of migration,” claims Portera (2008). „Education, in an intercultural sense which is currently the most appropriate answer to globalisation and interdependence “underlines Portera (2008). „Quality of life is one of the fastest growing areas of research and policy. The concept has an intuitive appeal as a welfare measure of individuals, communities and nations. It is increasingly promoted as an aid for political decisions and public funding, “wrote Rapley (2003). By Phillips (2012) "Quality of life is one of the most important issues the world faces today and is a central to the development of social policy“. The debate about the opening-up of labour markets in the enlarged European Union is crucial for the ongoing process of European integration, Watt (2013). Cai et al. (2014) use subjective welfare to explain international migration.

From the normative point of view, multiculturalism means promoting and celebrating cultural diversity. So far, there is no uniform doctrine of multiculturalism, but cross-cutting ideology. Charles Taylor, the leader of the theory of multiculturalism, argues that multiculturalism is more than the tolerance of differences, it is a form of recognition of this diversity as value that deserves respect. „Multiculturalism is part of human-rights, involving ethnic and racial diversity,“ (Kymlicka, 2012). I Berdun et al. (2010) analyze the relationship of migration and multiculturalism. Jeronimo (20013) looks at multiculturalism skeptically: „Even though most European countries refrain from openly endorsing multiculturalism as a model to cope with cultural diversity, and prefer other designations, such as interculturalism (Portugal) or pillar system (Netherlands), the practice of multiculturalist policies has been widespread in Europe in the past decades and very few countries purport to adopt an assimilationist policy nowadays“. Berry and Sam (2013) analyse various psychological aspects of living in a number of multicultural societies in Europe.

„The intercultural dialogue is understood as a process that comprises an open and respectful exchange of views between individuals and groups with different ethnic, cultural, religious and linguistic backgrounds and heritage, on the basis of mutual understanding and respect. No dialogue can take place in the absence of respect for the equal dignity of all human beings, human rights, the rule of law and democratic principles, “is declared in White paper of Council of Europe (2008). According to Eriksen, Stjernfelt

(2012) „ ‘soft’ meaning of multiculturalism is, quite compatible with the idea of democracy and liberal-democratic political culture“. Dependence between multiculturalism and democracy in Europe is examined by the authors in the book Kastoryano (Ed.) (2009).

In the introduction we have outlined the following path: from migration through multiculturalism to democracy. Our question is as follows: What is the relationship between the subjective quality of life of the native and migrants and democracy in the country?

Problem identification

The problem of rapid aging of the population can be considered as the one of the most serious problems that countries of the European Union must now and for the next decade face. The aging of population is a reflection of significant social and economic changes, observed in the latest decades. UN forecasts of demographic trends suppose a doubling of the elderly dependency ratio by 2050 in developed countries and tripling in developing countries. In the future, this would mean that in the countries of Western and Southern Europe, one of two persons would be over the age of 60 years (Hvozdkova, 2008). The process of demographic aging is strongly reflected in the economic development of the countries of the European Union. On the other hand we need to say that the changed demographic profile company creates new conditions for development in various spheres (Hvozdkova, 2008):

- economic: the aging workforce, loss of working-age population, changes in consumer and investment behavior, changes in the savings rate, new relationships in international capital markets, risk of unsustainability of public systems, in particular pension systems and health care,
- social sphere: new demands in the field of social protection and long-term care, active aging and quality of life, a new approach to migration,
- political: the impact of the growing political power of seniors to the formation of policy and systemic reforms in the conditions of aging society that places higher demands on a wide range of public resources,
- area of international relationships: the ability to respond to new development conditions of the country - region.

As indicated above, the aging of the population is an whole-European problem. By 2025, more than 20% of Europeans will be over the age of 65 years, and the number of people over the age of 80 years will sharply increase. In the given problem is intensively involved the expert groups on the international level as well as European institutions which are naturally

interested in their opinion on whether it can be solved by labor migration. According to the World Bank's, 3% of people live in another country than they were born (see e.g. World Bank, 2011). Various estimates speak of about 230 million international migrants. World Bank, moreover, knows so-called long-term and short-term migration. Long-term migration includes stays longer than one year and the short-term between three months and one year, except for visits to family and friends, trips for the purpose of medical treatment, vacations, religious pilgrimage and business (World Bank, 2011). Moreover, the use of different terms of the characteristics of the course of migration, e.g. chain reaction (chain migration), circular migration and so on.

Migration study has been dominated by economic theories for long time. The most important among them, neoclassical economic theory (neoclassical economics theory), which originally analyzed only labor migration and its impact on economic development. Movement of people explains the basic principles of market demand, supply and equilibrium to which population movements are directed. In case that there is inequality in income in two locations, migrants move from place with lower incomes to place with higher incomes to restore steady state. (Todaro, 1976). For these classical economic approaches to migration responded a new so-called economic theory of labor migration (new economics of labor migration, abbreviated NELM). NELM significantly expanded the traditional view of migration and is now one of the most important and most used migration theories. Firstly, it is considered as the basic analytical unit of household and family, not the individual. NELM ceases to consider the individual as a rational actor, who considers only the share of profits and losses, and therefore not only the valuation and the unemployment rate between two points decide about the migration (Stark & Bloom, 1985). Risk diversification is also important, especially so-called relative deprivation which means the failure rate in relation to the surrounding area. Economic theories of migration belong to the group, explaining the uprising of migration. Massey et al.(1993) include into this category also the Piore theory of dual labor market (dual labor market theory) and Wallerstein's theory of world systems (world systems theory).

From a macroeconomic point of view, for the emergence of international migration, the labor market is primary mechanism, while the other factors do not play a significant role here. Douglas S.Massey (1993) with other authors summarize the basic attributes of macroeconomic theories as follows:

1. "International migration occurs due to wage differences between countries.
2. Cross-border movement is eliminated after the equalizing of wage gap.

3. Skilled workers can report complete opposite migration models due to different yields, in comparison to unqualified labor.
4. The primary reason of international migration of labor needs to be sought at labor market.
5. Migration waves can be affected by regulation of labor markets in countries of origin as well as in the target countries".

According Stefancík (2010), economic concepts that explain international migration include the theory of dual labor market, based on the hypothesis of existence of primary and secondary labor market. The primary market consists of jobs with higher wages, better working conditions and opportunities for career growth. Also implies that in every economy exists also determined type of occupation with weaker remuneration. The labor market is characterized by high turnover because of their smooth compensation. On the other hand is increased demand for labor from countries with weaker economic performance respectively lower average wage in the same work sector.

In the target country as though operate two separate labor markets. We can say that financially advantageous is opening of the parallel market for economic migrants whose remuneration is lower than at domestic workers. As an example we can state Germany, which several-years solves the problem of high unemployment. Although belongs to one of the countries with the highest number of working foreigners in Europe. Today, in Germany live three million Turks (some estimates say up to 4 million), of which 2.5 million have German nationality. They found themselves in Germany when members of their older generation in Sixties got jobs in the automotive and coal industry. By the cultural side, most Turks today, even young, respect their Turkish identity and their cultural heritage.

The aging of population has become a phenomenon strongly intervening the economic decision, most clearly in developed countries and the statistics of the total increase is improved by immigration (e.g. Germany, Sweden, Austria) and at the same time is increasing the level of dependence.

According to the Economist (2013), Germany's population will decline to 65-70 million by 2060th. It would be as much as 17 million fewer residents, or a decline of 15% to 21% within the period of 50 years. Within that population, the balance will shift significantly. At the moment, those people in the age over 65 are around 20% of the total number of population. In 2030, the group of people in the age over 65 and older will present 29% of the total population. In 2060, every third person (34%) will be at the age of 65 years.

The size of the working-age population in Germany began to decline about one year ago. The working-age population (age of 20 to 64 years) in Germany is currently 49.8 million. Starting in 2015, this group is expected to

decline in noticeable size. This process will further accelerate in 2020 when the baby-boom generation begins to retire. In 2030, the working-age population will have probably about 6.3 million less people than in 2010. This is assumed with annual net migration of 200,000 people starting in the 2020th. If fewer people immigrate to Germany, the working-age population will decline even more.

The aging of population also brings with it a number of other effects on the economy. For example, it undermines European pension system, which will result in increase of pressure on the productive part of the population that has to ensure the economic activity and economic growth. According to life-cycle theory, an increase of the working age population leads to higher savings and investment, while the increase in post-productive population to a higher propensity to consumption. Priority area within the public policies of EU member states becomes the ensuring of sustainable and adequate retirement pensions which in other hand needs reforms that can improve the ability of public finances in the provision of pensions. On the other hand it assumes that public spending on pensions in EU 27 will increase to 2060 by 2.5 percentage points. This corresponds to an increase in public pension expenditure by an average of 23% and in some Member States even more (EPC-SPC report about pensions from 2010).

The challenges related to changes in demographic structures do not weaken only one national economy, but also act as megatrends in the global environment and affect also the global industrial structure. Problems related and unfolding from these changes will have impact on the budget management of the aging countries.

Material and Methods

We measured the level of democracy by Democracy index (DI). The Democracy index is an index compiled by the Economist Intelligence Unit, which measures the state of democracy in 167 countries. The Democracy index is a weighted average based on the answers of 60 questions grouped in five different categories: electoral process and pluralism, civil liberties, functioning of government, political participation and political culture. Resultant Democracy index can have values from 0 to 10. According to attained values of the Democracy Index the countries are divided into: full democracies (8-10), flawed democracies (6-7.9), hybrid regimes (4-5.9), authoritarian regimes (below 4).

The Multiculturalism policy index is a research project, which monitors the evolution of multiculturalism policies in 21 western democracies. Country scores range from 0 to 8.

We measured the subjective quality of life by Life satisfaction level. It is a mean value of Life satisfaction level (LSL) according to calculations

by Baltatescu (2007). Baltatescu (2007) used data from the European Social Survey that focuses on changes in attitudes, values and behavioural patterns in the context of changing Europe. Baltatescu (2007) focused on the quality of life of migrants, which is measured on the level of the individual. Subjective quality of life is defined as the way people evaluate the significant domains of their life as a whole (Andrews, Robinson, 1991).

Following table (Table 1) shows values of Life satisfaction level (2007) and Democracy index (2010). Last available data of Multiculturalism policy index are from the year 2010.

Table 1 Life satisfaction level in 14 European countries, by status, Democracy Index and Multiculturalism Policy Index

Country	Life satisfaction level			Democracy Index	Multiculturalism Policy Index
	Native	Immigrants from other countries	Immigrants from Eastern Europe		
Austria	7.6	7.1	7.0	8.38	1.5
Belgium	7.5	7.1	7.8	8.79	5.5
Denmark	8.5	8.1	7.0	8.49	0.0
Finland	8.0	7.7	7.5	8.05	6.0
France	6.4	6.3	6.6	8.16	2.0
Germany	6.9	7.0	6.4	8.02	2.5
Greece	6.4	6.3	5.9	9.50	2.5
Ireland	7.6	7.3	6.5	7.92	3.0
Netherlands	7.7	7.2	7.1	7.77	2.0
Norway	7.7	7.3	7.6	9.19	3.5
Portugal	5.8	5.7	5.4	8.16	3.5
Spain	7.1	7.0	7.0	9.80	3.5
Sweden	7.9	7.5	7.2	9.52	7.0
United Kingdom	7.1	6.9	7.2	8.99	5.5

Source: Baltatescu (2007), The Economist Intelligence Unit's Democracy index

We calculate the dependency rate by the Pearson coefficient of correlation. The correlation coefficient takes the values from the interval $<-1, 1>$. The Pearson correlation coefficient is +1 in the case of a perfect positive linear relationship, -1 in the case of a perfect negative linear relationship, and any value between -1 and 1 in all other cases indicate the degree of linear dependence between the variables. Nonlinear regression analysis is used to answer questions, how Life satisfaction level depends on the level of democracy.

Results and discussion

Following pictures (Figure 1) show dependence between difference of Life satisfaction levels by status (native – other countries, native – Eastern Europe and, native – other countries) and Democracy index.

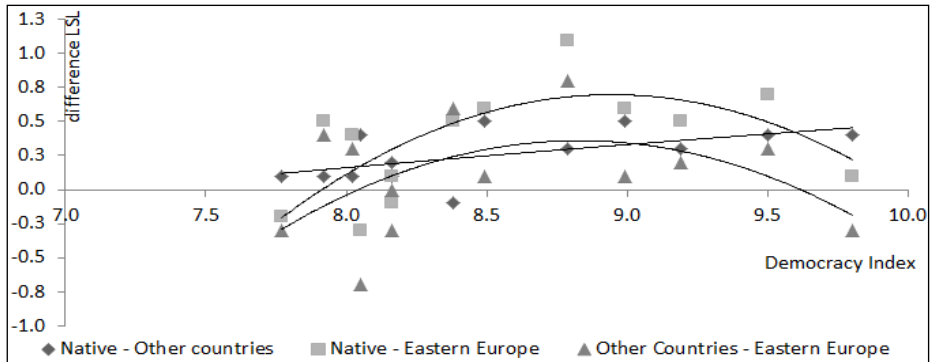


Figure 1 Dependence between difference of Life satisfaction levels by status and Democracy index

Source: Own calculations and drawings

The difference of the values for the variable Life satisfaction level between natives and immigrants from other countries rises with increasing values of the Democracy index. This decreasing is quadratic $(-0.0732 (\text{diff LSL})^2 + 1.4465 (\text{diff LSL}) - 6.733)$, but small. The vertex of the parabola is 9.88. With increasing value of the Democracy index, the values LSL for natives and immigrants from other countries are more different. The logarithm of the difference of the values for the variable Life satisfaction level between immigrants from Eastern Europe and immigrants from other countries is increasing up to the value of the Democracy index equal to 8.8. The vertex of the parabola dependence of the logarithm of the difference of the values for the variable Life satisfaction level between native and immigrants from Eastern Europe is 8.95. Immigrants from Eastern Europe evaluated the Life satisfaction levels better than native in France and Belgium. In following table we show calculated correlation coefficients between Democracy index and Life satisfaction levels in 14 European countries, by status, and Multiculturalism policy index (Table 2).

Table 2 Calculated values of Pearson correlation coefficient and P values

	Life satisfaction level			Democracy Index
	Native	Immigrants from other countries	Immigrants from Eastern Europe	
Immigrant from other countries	0.97882 P < 0.0000	1		
Immigrant from Eastern Europe	0.75227 P < 0.0000	0.717119 P < 0.0000	1	
Democracy Index	-0.02085 P = 0.9180	-0.00809 P = 0.9684	0.179289 P = 0.3709	1
Multiculturalism Policy Index	0.05129 P = 0.7994	0.050735 P = 0.8016	0.372333 P = 0.0558	0.3395 P = 0.0832

Source: Own calculations

Pearson correlation coefficient between Democracy index and Multiculturalism policy index is 0.3395. Relationship between democracy and multiculturalism is examined by many authors. It is a difficult problem. Multiculturalism and democracy are not always together hand in hand. Democracy Index in Denmark is 8.49, but Multiculturalism policy index is 0.00. Value of the Pearson correlation coefficient corresponds with various opinions and attitudes of authors. Pearson correlation coefficient 0.3723 between Life satisfaction levels immigrants from Eastern Europe and Multiculturalism policy index is significant. Immigrants from Eastern Europe sensitively perceived lack of multiculturalism. Pearson correlation coefficient between Life satisfaction level and Democracy index is not significant. Life satisfaction levels in 14 European countries, by status – native, immigrants from other countries, immigrant from Eastern Europe are statistically significant. That means that for evaluation of dependency between Life satisfaction levels and Democracy index would be wise to choose more sophisticated statistical methods – nonlinear regression analysis. Life satisfaction levels (y) in 14 European countries depends on logarithm of the Democracy index (x). In following table (Table 3) we show results for regression analysis dependence of the Life satisfaction levels in 14 European countries and Democracy index by status.

Table 3 Regression analysis between Life satisfaction levels and logarithm of the Democracy Index – Summary of Output

Status	Variable	Coefficient	Std. Error	t Statistics	P value	F Statistics	P value	R-squared
Native	Intercept	-9.202	3.490	-2.637	0.0217	22.389	0.0005	0.651
	Ln(DI)	7.669	1.621	4.732	0.0005			
Immigrants from other countries	Intercept	-6.392	3.059	-2.090	0.0586	19.298	0.0009	0.617
	Ln(DI)	6.240	1.421	4.393	0.0009			
Immigrants from Eastern Europe	Intercept	-2.096	4.658	-0.450	0.6608	3.711	0.0781	0.236

Source: Own calculations

Following pictures (Figure 2) show dependence between Life satisfaction levels by status and Democracy index.

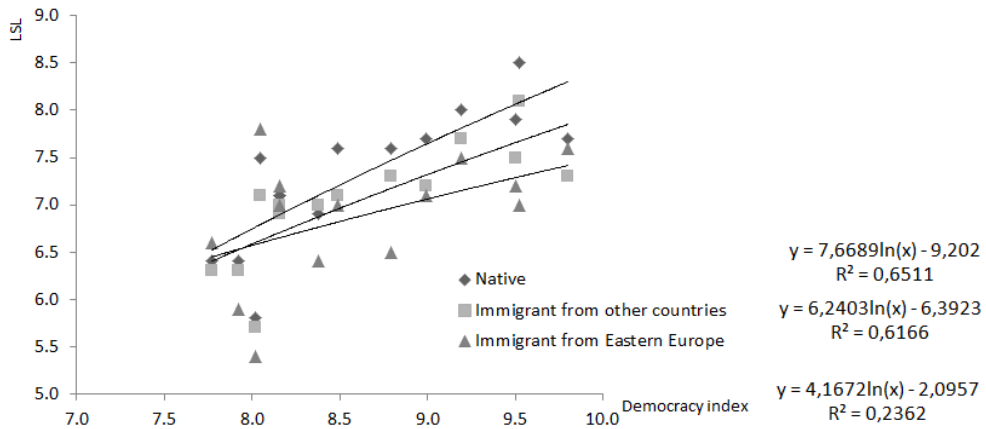


Figure 2 Dependence between Life satisfaction levels by status and Democracy index
Source: Own calculations and drawings

From Figure 2, and the regression coefficients, we see that Life satisfaction levels of native inhabitants statistically significantly increases with the increase the logarithm of the Democracy index. This is also the truth for immigrants from other countries. This increase is little bit smaller. Small and nonsignificant (at significance level 0.05) dependence is between Life satisfaction levels and democracy in the case of immigrants from Eastern Europe. These results correspond with the findings of Baltatescu (2007). Took the view that „the Eastern European immigrants have sensible lower subjective levels than the natives, but also than the other categories of non-natives“. However, his results were not supported by statistical analysis.

Conclusion

Migration has the potential to help to solve the problem of a declining work force in Europe. Immigrants are the solution. On the other hand, they present also a problem. Immigrants from other countries are more integrated - Pearson correlation coefficient between Life satisfaction levels of native and immigrants from other countries is very high: 0.9788. Pearson correlation coefficient between Life satisfaction levels of natives and immigrants from Eastern Europe is high – but lower: 0.7523.

Immigrants from Eastern Europe sensitively perceive lack of multiculturalism. The difference of the values for the variable Life satisfaction level between natives and immigrants from other countries rises with increasing values of the Democracy index. The logarithm of the difference of the values for the variable Life satisfaction level between immigrants from Eastern Europe and native is increasing up to the value of the Democracy index, which equals to 8.95. The logarithm of the difference

of values for the variable Life satisfaction level between immigrants from Eastern Europe and immigrants from other countries is increasing up to the value of the Democracy index, which equals to 8.8.

Some question for sociologist still remains. What is the source of the differences? Are the differences temporary? Multiculturalism is characterized as celebration of cultural, ethnic, racial and religious diversity. Diversity is a fundamental aspect of all societies. Are the differences in Life satisfaction levels of immigrants from Eastern Europe only an expression of diversity? Differences generate conflicts without mutual understanding. Conflicts generate violations of human rights. Violations of human rights trampled democracy. There is no multiculturalism without democracy.

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