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Correlation Between Migration and Security of Finland and Romania

Since international migration constitutes an important component of demographic dynamics, it is a complex occurrence that does not only mean a motion to a target place but it also draws in various aspects and features. There is a close link between international migration and human rights, human security, state security that must be well understood on regional and global level. Since international migration cannot be managed anymore one-sidedly, there is a growing need for international cooperation on the issue of global security. Nevertheless, the World Commission (2005)¹ has found that states are circumspect in cooperation on the sensitive issue of international migration since terrorist attacks are viewed as a threat to the national and civil security. Accordingly, for destination countries it is a challenge not losing control in overseeing who enters and remains on their territories.

In literature the term *security* is analyzed in several aspects and on many levels and domains: the social security system that immigrants should have access to in the host country; national, regional and international security characterized by continuous change; physical security and safety corresponding to family, health, workplace, property, resources and morality; the psychosocial dimension of security. Hautzinger (2018)² defines national security as a state of stability that is determined by internal and external circumstances. It is an undisturbed state in which a given nation can protect its interests and values against certain threats.

In Transit to Destination

Romania is predominantly considered a country of origin for migrants due to the level of its economic development. Sarcinschi (2014)³ identifies the causes of migration in Romania: variable development in the fields of education and health, economic

¹ Migration in einer interdependenten Welt: Neue Handlungsprinzipien. Bericht der Weltkommission für internationale Migration. 2005.

² Hautzinger Zoltán, “A nemzetbiztonsági érdek megjelenése a migrációban és az idegenjogban”. *Szakmaiság, szerénység, szorgalom*. Edited by I. Dobák and Z. Hautzinger. Ünnepi kötet Boda József 65. születésnapja tiszteletére. Dialóg Campus Kiadó, Budapest 2018, 265–280.

³ Alexandra Sarcinschi, *Migrația ca problemă de securitate. Studiu de caz: România*. Editura Universității Naționale de Apărare „Carol I”, București 2014.

isolation, environmental deterioration, relaxation of restrictions and control over the international mobility and persecutions of the communist era. Migration in Romania has always been considered a threat to the national security: while in the communist era emigration could mean the destabilization of the leadership by the dispersed population that campaigned for political action in the West, presently migration affects the public, commercial and demographic space of life.

Even though immigrants think that there is security, stability and a favourable climate for integration in Romania, they see it as a country of transit since they are guided by an ambition to earn more in a brief time.

During its history Finland has also been considered a country of origin since Finns have moved to Sweden, North America, Russia and Australia due to political and economic reasons. Nowadays Finnish nationals move away from Finland by reason of family or remote work but also because of holiday reasons in search of favourable weather conditions in the Canary Islands, Thailand or Spain. Thus Leinonen (2019)⁴ refers to their favoured position and easy access to multitudinous destinations worldwide.

In order to achieve national security it is required to solve the problem of illegal migration that is correlated with unlawful activities that extend from theft and fraud to drug dealing and new types of forced labour. The migration crisis and the resulting terrorist attacks that affect Western Europe have an adverse effect not only on these territories but also on the national security of more distant countries. Immigrants originating from African or Asian countries who consider Finland or the neighbouring states as destination countries, often use Russia as a transit country. Hence Михель (2016)⁵ believes that migration has an impact also on the security of the Russian border areas. Consequently in these regions it is vital to evaluate their number, violations and risks and present a system of preventive actions.

Finland is a state with a stable national unity and a way of life that is worth to be defended but following the Russian war in Ukraine the will to defend their national security has strengthened even more. During war that causes threats the willingness to safeguard the general security of the country has increased. Migration facilitates the move of organized criminal groups and people can become victims of exploitation. The Government report of 2022⁶ reveals that migration in Finland as a destination country may cause tensions among the local populations and breach

⁴ Johanna Leinonen, *Muuttoliikebibliografia. Migration Bibliography. Migrationsbibliografi*. PAINOSALAMA OY, Turku 2019.

⁵ Е. А. Михель, “Влияние международной миграции населения на безопасность приграничных регионов Северо-западного федерального округа России”. *Национальная безопасность* 5, 46, 2016, 646–651.

⁶ Redogörelse om förändringarna i den säkerhetspolitiska miljön. *Statsrådets publikationer*, Helsingfors 2022, 19.

internal security, therefore Finland has to oversee a long border that separates it from Russia.

Migration: Burden or Benefit

In view of the business-related crisis that generates public anxiety, there exist young Romanian citizens who believe that in the course of time their mother tongue would be replaced by foreign languages spoken by immigrants and their national and cultural identity could be destroyed by immigrants occupying Romania, foreigners carrying out businesses and grasping leading positions or taking over newly created jobs.

The members of organizations and government institutions researched by Alexe et al. (2011)⁷ assess that the development of the Romanian society is not influenced by immigrants since the number of migrants is minimal. On the contrary, foreigners residing in Romania may have a beneficial impact on its advancement and representatives of underdeveloped countries are usually educated people who can bring broad-mindedness and certain economic advantages.

Some of the Finnish citizens who have a negative attitude towards immigration state that it has a negative economic impact on the country to offer social support and run the reception centres for immigrants. Furthermore, migration weakens working conditions, takes work away from Finns and raises the threat that cheap labour is attracted from abroad. Negative effects of immigration are also related to security issues as a consequence of increasing organized crime, terrorism, riots and failed integration and refuge policies. Apprehensions occur also due to the fact that migration may put at risk gender balance and can erode the long-established Finnish way of life.

Though nowadays Finland is generally seen as a destination country that shows positive attitudes towards immigrant groups, Straszer (2012)⁸ sheds light on the reality of the 1970s when migrants did not obtain enough approval to cultivate their own values and mother tongue. The assets of cross-culturalism and multilingualism were not perceived as general notions in the host community and consequently immigrants were not given support to preserve their language proficiency and cultural legacy. Instead, nowadays immigration and new workforce are seen to come in response to the labour shortage and tax revenue is considered as an economic convenience for

⁷ Iris Alexe, Bogdan Ciubotariu, Eugenia Ghiță, Laura Husti-Răduț, Daniela Tarnovschi, Louis Ulrich and Bogdan Păunescu, *Studiu asupra fenomenului imigrației în România. Integrarea străinilor în societatea românească*. 2011.

⁸ Straszer Boglárka, "Hungarians in Finland and Sweden: Comparison of Some Sociocultural and Demographic Factors on Language Choice, Culture and Identity". *Finnish Yearbook of Population Research* 47, 2012, 5–30.

Finland. The mechanization of the country is also perceived as being sustained by novelty and inventiveness provided by multiculturalism. Not least, immigrants help us regard other worldviews and cultural outlooks.

Social Service Provision and Policy Recommendations

As regards the Finnish welfare services for immigrants, it cannot be disagreed that Finland has to a certain extent been unsuccessful in providing for the safety, welfare and integration of migrants fleeing from the developing countries. On account of the weak economic prospects of the last years, the measures for assuring welfare services should be reassessed, thence Laitinen et al. (2016)⁹ urge for a well-regulated asylum policy both on national and EU level.

In comparison with other countries, in Romania the public policy concern of the immigrants' integration has emerged much later. Studies looking at indicators like access to social insurance, services and protection system have mostly been carried out from the viewpoint of the Romanian population and not from the prospect of the migrants. Though, equality is described as a chance to benefit from the same standard of comfort as all the other citizens. Social services are considered integration methods, yet not accessing those health services and equal opportunities means not being integrated. Most of the immigrants in Romania have not recently benefited from medical services due to expensive services, distance, language barriers and lack of knowledge of rights. Delivering public services for immigrants may be more difficult, often immigrants do not benefit from the best working conditions and access to their basic rights is not effortless.

Integration of immigrants in the Finnish society is seen to be carried out by consolidating their knowledge of the local culture and improving the circumstances of Finnish language learning. In their case it is not enough to pay attention only to the individuals in the labour market but also to the needs of housewives and their children. Besides these, Walli (2009)¹⁰ stresses the importance of advising the immigrants and multicultural instruction regarding the Finnish employees. Finland also needs to take border management measures to secure its integrity, national security and to prevent illegal migration.

Contrary to the neighbouring states, Romania offers chargeless emergency care but access to such assistance is not promoted by information policies in several languages and providing translators seems problematic. Thereon, Coşciug et al.

⁹ Kari Laitinen, Pirjo Jukarainen and Henrik Boberg, "Maahanmuutto & turvallisuus – arvioita nykytilasta ja ennusteita tulevaisuudelle". *Valtioneuvoston selvitys- ja tutkimustoiminnan julkaisusarja 7*, 2016.

¹⁰ Mari Walli, *Maahanmuuttajien palvelutarpeet sosiaalitoimistossa. Maahanmuuttajaperheiden sosiaaliohjauksen tuloksia*. Tampereen yliopisto, 2009.

(2017)¹¹ propose such educational policies that include studying the official language of the country. In addition, government strategy implementation is required to increase the level of multilingual and multi-ethnic tolerance in the areas with a large number of migrants.

Conclusions

Recently Romania has been seen as a country that started to receive immigrants and became not only a country of origin but also a country of transit and destination. As follows, the issue of immigration will probably bring out intense public discussions in the future as well as conflicting standpoints towards migration.

Finland being a country that has a longer experience in receiving immigrants than Romania, it shows that the increase in number of migrants does not bring more integration problems along. Rather, having more immigrants it also holds better integration policies.

In Finland the immigrant housing dominated areas are at the risk of crimes committed by immigrants and in such wise the local population may start moving from certain residential areas due to security considerations. However, the security surveys presented by Lehti et al. (2014)¹² disclose the fact that young immigrants in Finland and other European countries present a high risk of being victims of crimes, robbery and aggression themselves than the youth of the native populations.

In the long run an increase in the national security and the citizens' security can only be accomplished by the Romanian authorities if they are aware of the difficulties experienced, strive for the enhancement of legislation and have an improved control of its national borders. Both in Finland and Romania we can identify challenges, threats and benefits for the national security but only in the existence of adequate immigrant integration policies would the security challenges be counterbalanced by the benefits. The aspect of insecurity is often used as an argument for the exertion of restrictive policies that can lead to circumstances that constitute further security threats, terrorism and organized crime. Along, the host populations may promote negative attitudes, representations and perceptions about migrants.

The general objective of the two countries is to implement policies that direct at assisting refugees to become self-sufficient and contribute to the social and economic growth of the host country. Immigrants who have gained a form of stability should

¹¹ Anotolie Coșciug, Ionela Răcățău, Gabriel Bădescu, Toma Burean, Georgiana Găvrus, Carmen Greab, Bogdan Radu, Călin Rus and Andreea Vornicu, *Indexul integrării imigranților în România – III R*. Centrul Român de Cercetare a Migrației. FAMI/16.01.01, 2017.

¹² Martti Lehti, Venla Salmi, Mikko Aaltonen, Petri Danielsson, Ville Hinkkanen, Hannu Niemi, Reino Sirén and Karoliina Suonpää, *Maahanmuuttajat rikosten uhreina ja tekijöinä*. Oikeuspoliittisen tutkimuslaitoksen tutkimuksia 265. Tammerprint Oy, Helsinki 2014.

profit from the same rights, education, working conditions, social, housing and medical assistance and have the same obligations as the citizens of the destination country. However, in both countries there still exist obstacles in the areas of integration program services and inter-institutional communication.

Abstract

This article examines the problem of migration as a social product and construction of objective reality in the case of Finland and Romania. We seek to analyze the question of migration from the perspective of security identifying the aspects which have an impact on the national security of the two countries. In this study the following research questions could be answered: What is the status and role of Finland and Romania as countries of destination and countries of transit? Is migration also a source of benefits besides the source of danger, risks and threat to the national and regional security? Do the Finnish welfare services conflict with the pluralism of immigrants' service needs? Are the values of immigrant workers perceived to be in conflict with the methods and goals of the Finnish and Romanian service system?

As well, we investigate the views of the countries in question regarding the difficulties caused by the issues of cooperation, intercultural interaction, organization of work and contradictory attitudes related to differentiating the support measures and services offered to citizens of the respective countries and to people with a foreign background. These unfavourable representations that the Finnish and Romanian citizens have about the invaders who threaten their communities are repeatedly a source of hostility among them.