

GLOBAL INTEGRATION THROUGH MIGRATION. THE GERMAN CASE

Alexandra Porumbescu

Assist. Prof. PhD, University of Craiova

Abstract: After the second half of the XXth century, human international migration became one of the main agents of social transformation and development in all the regions of the world. However, its importance seems to be growing in the XXIst century, along with the growth of the total amount of population. Globalization can be best explained as a set of processes, global by purpose, that cross the territorial borders of states, and, therefore, profoundly affect the nature and tasks of national governance in the world political economy, including international migration. Our approach on the relationship between migration and globalization rests on the premise that in the structure, dynamic and forms of the international financial and commercial flows have occurred more changes than in the structure, dynamic and forms of the international migration flows, despite the increasing scale and variety of migration in different parts of the world. Although migration is not subject to such profound changes in regard to its forms and dynamic, the globalization of international relations, regardless their nature, brings along significant changes in the social, economic and political context in which international migration takes place. Consequently, a series of new challenges and issues appear in those areas connected or depending on international migration, no matter if they are being handled on a national, regional or international level. In order to better illustrate these hypothesis, we chose to present the situation of Germany in the context of international migration, as it is one of the countries that receives great amounts of migrant population.

Keywords: migration flows, challenges, global, politics, government.

1. Globalization and migration- interconnections and mutual determinations

International population migration can be explained as the result of integrating local communities and national economies in global relations. At the same time, it is a cause for new social transformations both in the departure and in the destination countries. In the traditional societies, most of the people spent their entire lives in the communities in which they were born. Nowadays, migration becomes more and more frequent, as people move seeking safety and a higher living standard: from villages to large cities, from one region to another in their own country, or between countries and continents. Even those who don't migrate are being affected, as they are relatives, friends or children of the emigrants, or by experiencing certain changes in their communities, as some of their neighbors move away or new ones move in.

Migration is often considered to be a result of economic and social development. But migration can also contribute to the development and improvement of social and economic conditions, or, help perpetuate inequalities. These things depend on the character of migration and on the actions of the governments and other involved decision factors. The beginning of the new millennium brought along the globalization and internationalization of population movement, due to the changes in a certain state of equilibrium that existed in the world up to that point. The deterioration of the economic situation of under-developed countries generated a real exodus from these areas. On the other hand, the new regulations in the field of International Law made population, capital and services movements significantly easier. The growth of nativity in the poor regions of the planet and its decrease in the more economic developed areas, determine a new type of social pressure that reflects upon the situation of international migration.

However, space mobility is not a new characteristic of the individuals. The element of innovation is represented by the current situation, whose influences led to the appearance of new types of mobility. In the age of globalization and use of extended means of communication, human migratory movements are no longer definitive, but, instead, we are witnessing the emergence of new dominant types of human mobility, much more flexible: temporary, circulatory, or seasonally migration¹.

The term "globalization" appeared at the end of the 1960s and it was first used by a Canadian specialist in the field of the theory of mass communication media, professor Marshall McLuhan,

¹ Romelia Călin, Radu Gabriel Umbreș, *Efectele migrației*, Iași, Editura Lumen, 2006, p. 21.

from the University of Toronto, as well as by the American specialist in “communist issues”, Zbigniew Brzezinski, from the Columbia University. McLuhan started from the lessons of the war in Vietnam, and launched the expression “global state”. The term “globalization” first appeared in a dictionary in the year 1961. In the specialized literature, there are numerous definitions for this contemporary phenomenon².

Some authors argue that “(...) the globalization of world economy can be defined as the very *dynamic process of growth of the interdependencies among national states, as a consequence of the expansion of the transnational connections in areas of the economic, social, political and cultural life, and implying the fact that the issues tend to become rather global than national, demanding, in return, a rather global than national solution*”³.

Globalization is an abstract concept, because it does not regard a “defined object”, it is not being highlighted by obvious dimensions, easy to identify with the usual measuring units. We can even argue that there is no indicator or statistic value obtained by calculations that can quantify the size of this phenomenon. Due to this fact, the phenomenon is not easy to define, either.

We must also highlight the fact that the term “globalization” has Anglo-Saxon origins, being the synonym of a French term, “*mondialisation*”. Since the beginning of the 1990s, this notion started to be used in order to describe a complex social, economic and cultural process, whose main characteristics are: eliminating the barriers in the free circulation of the international flows of products, services, capital, money and information, global spreading of democratic institutions and practices, as well as spreading of economic, financial and technologic models⁴.

Globalization also emphasizes the expansion of mobility spaces, thus expanding the areas for workforce recruitment and diversifying the quality of migration flows. The partial closure of the northern frontiers is a very serious obstacle in the way of foreign population movement. Therefore, not being able to circulate as freely as they used to, they settled in the immigration countries. Their settlement lead to the formation of minorities who wish to mantain their connections with their countries of origins, their own culture, with relatives and friends from

² Dana Pop, *Globalizare și teorii ale dezvoltării*, suport de curs, 2006, p. 6.

³ Ioan Bari, *Probleme globale contemporane*, București, Editura Economică, 2003, p. 37.

⁴ Ion Veronica, *Implicațiile religioase ale procesului de globalizare*, în *Revista de Științe Politice*, Nr.24/2009, p. 104.

other countries, even more since in the countries where they live they are often victims of racism and exclusion. Another effect of the international migration is represented by acculturation, term suggested as early as 1880 by John Wesley Powell to describe *”the transformation of the lifestyles and thinking of immigrants in their process of interaction with the insertion society. In 1936 Redfield and his collaborators considered acculturation as a cultural phenomenon, defining it as a change in culture, resulting from the contact between two distinct and independent cultural groups. In 1967, Graves proved that acculturation involves the emersion of new relational ways in everyday life from both the receiving society members as well as the one of the new immigrants. The notion of “psychological acculturation” advanced by Graves refers to these new behaviors and accommodation strategies”*⁵.

Immigrants tend to create very active networks – cultural ones or only of solidarity- but also economic, financial, and even political. The new transnational connections that appear create policentered spaces, rely on multiple obligations of national fidelity, and are often more dynamic and more efficient even than the states and the major international institutions, despite the fact that they usually display more modest ambitions.

Remote working and enterprise dislocations are more often preferred to the arrival of immigrants, who will, later on, bring along their families. Also, the workers authorized to immigrate are most of the times part of strictly surveiled temporary contracts.

When attempting to report international people movement to the current evolution and situation of the globalization process, the following premises are to be taken into account:

- one of the main features of the evolution of human societies is the space movement of groups of people
- the second half of the XXth century brought along a quantitative increase in the emigration process, especially from the poor areas to the ones with economic stability and a higher life standard.
- after 1989, along with the rise of the “iron curtain”, migration flows from the former soviet countries to the wealthier western European countries became more

⁵ Cristina Ilie, *The acculturation of immigrants. Case study: types of acculturation of the Romanian immigrants in Madrid*, International Journal of Business and Social Research, Vol 3, No. 2 (2013), p. 84.

intense, this process being encouraged by their integration in the European Union, thus their citizens benefiting from the freedom of movement.

- international migration represents both an element that contributes to creating interactions between various states in the world, as well as a potential instability factor, especially if we are discussing massive migration flows.

The end of the XXth century and the beginning of the XXIst century brought new complex processes in the international relations scene, such as globalization or European integration, capable, by their nature, to represent a threaten to the national identity of the states around the globe, especially for those whose economic or politic force allow massive imports of culture, technology, habits, or ideologies, in all the aspects of social life. These are exactly the reasons why this topic is worth studying, due to its high value for a modern state, aware of the fact that the moral values and the cultural and spiritual wealth of a people can represent a product whose value is at least equal to the value of any other product what can be sold⁶.

International migration has a strong impact on the individuals` social identity, even if they are citizens of the destination countries or just immigrants. According to Tajfel`s definition, social identity is “*part of the self concept of the individual that derives from his status as member of a social group, along with the values and emotional meanings attached to this status*”⁷.

As an element of the globalization process, migration exceeds the simple movement of populations between regions or between states. Along with the real migration, there occurs the global circulation of merchandises, as well as that of capitals, of human labor force and of cultural and political values. Migration, in its particular action, supposes the invasion of poor people exerted upon the developed world, where they seek economic prosperity⁸.

Migration also questions the matter of national identities from the security perspective. A consistent immigrants flow is often regarded as a real threat regarding the culture of the destination country, but also a challenge regarding the basic values and cultural and linguistic

⁶ Alexandru Albu, Ion Roșu-Hamzescu, *Migrația internațională a forței de muncă*, Editura Științifică și Enciclopedică, București, 1987, pag. 22.

⁷ Social Identity Theory: cognitive and motivational basis of intergroup differentiation. Universiteit Twente. Consultat în 14 noiembrie 2015.

⁸ Alexandra Porumbescu, *The concept of migration: linguistic and sociological coordinates*, Studii și cercetări de onomastică și lexicologie (SCOL), Nr. 1-2 / 2013, p. 192.

customs. After more than 50 years of promoting common European values, several communitarian states begin to act in the purpose of preserving specific elements that contribute to defining their national identity. Migration acts as an answer to discrepancies: in the political or security systems, in the demographic situation, but first of all in the economic conditions. International migration originates in the structural realities of the international economic system, in the way that it is explained by the terms of the centre-periphery and unequal development paradigm. For this reason, migration flows are directed opposite from the capital flows, in other words, the workforce goes where it finds capital in order to develop, while the capital travels to the areas where there is abundance of workforce, and therefore it is cheaper, in order to obtain a better profit⁹.

The relationship between migration and development is a bidirectional one: migration, if properly handled, can be an instrument for development, and development, in turn, can influence the dynamics and structure of migration. For this reason, and taking into account that in the future, migration will represent mostly the movement of people from developing countries to the developed ones, a correct understanding of the relationship between migration and development is essential, not only for handling migration, but also in order to ensure a global long term development.

When properly handled, migration can bring important benefits to all those involved, that can exceed the costs associated to the process. The destination countries are the main winners of migration. One can argue about the size of this winning, but the most important aspect is that migration does not have negative effects on the economies of these countries: the general levels of employment and wages are slightly increased by migration and – and this is admitted even by some of these countries- immigrants pay more in terms of taxes than what they receive as social service from the host countries¹⁰.

The intensification of people, ideas, products mobility, as well as the spread of the usage of information and communication technologies on all levels of life represents two of the phenomenon that caused deep social transformations in the past two decades. They generate a

⁹ Stoica Ionel, *Implicații geopolitice și de securitate ale migrației internaționale în contextul globalizării. Studiu de caz: România*, teză de doctorat, p. 8.

¹⁰ *Ibidem*, p. 9.

great change of the social structures and the way in which individuals position themselves and regard their position in a global society. Transnational migrants' practices on the one hand and migration and integration politics of the western hand on the other hand, need to be studied in the context of this new social reality. The social sciences are facing the limits of certain paradigms that consider society to be culturally, politically and geographically limited by the borders of the nation state. In return, the information society and the globalization processes are revealing for the transformations of the remote social links, the international organization of the world and identity processes exceeding the national frame of analysis.

2. The case of Germany

Due to the well developed and highly industrialized economy, as well as consequently to the population ageing phenomenon, Germany can be considered one of the states that have a long tradition in the field of workforce recruitment outside its borders. The Federal Republic signed the first bilateral agreement on workforce recruitment (Anwerbeabkommen) in 1955, with Italy. The need for signing this agreement was represented by the fact that the Federal Republic was having a rapid economic development, and, at the same time, was facing a major workforce crisis. Similar agreements with Spain (1960), Greece (1960), Turkey (1961) and Yugoslavia (1968) followed.

From the end of the 1980s, temporary employment of the foreign workers, including contract employees or seasonally workers, restarted to have an important part. In 2005, 320.383 work permits were issued, and the average number of contract workers in 2003 was 43.804; the decrease of this figure up to 21.916 in 2005 is especially due to the integration of the Central and Eastern European states in the European Union. Starting from that point, the people in these states have had the possibility to offer their services in certain economic fields, regardless the bilateral work agreements concluded¹¹, based on the freedom of circulation.

The German society is considered to be a modern, opened one. Most of the citizens enjoy a high level of education and a high life standard. Despite this, as in most of the industrialized countries, the German society is facing the challenges brought along by the demographic trends,

¹¹ Date disponibilă la <http://www.bamf.de/EN/Infothek/Statistiken/statistiken-node.html>, consultat pe 30.11.2015.

especially population aging. Not even after 20 years from its reunification all the consequences of the division of Germany have been overcome. The globalization process led to the transformation in a modern society marked by immigration, with a growing ethnic and cultural diversity, and it emphasizes the need for common efforts in order to integrate the migrants in the social nucleus.

Nowadays we can talk about three different trends defining the demographic evolution of Germany: the decrease of the number of births, the increase in the life expectancy and population ageing¹². The one thing that contributed to keeping the shares of the total amount of inhabitants was the growth of immigration.

Regarding the labor market, Germany, along with Poland and Spain are among the big states that created work places in the European Union. Germany holds about 16, 5% from the Union`s workforce, thus overcoming the size of its population from the total European population. Therefore, we can acknowledge the statistical effect of the German efforts and strategies for a full workforce occupation. Compared to an employment rate of 65% for the entire Union, the most populated member state, Germany (approximately 82 million inhabitants) registered in the year 2006 a superior employment rate, of 67,5%, thus contributing to the increase of the European average¹³.

During the XIXth century, Germany was mainly an emigration country. This changed at the beginning of the XXth century, when a bigger number of Polish workers came to work in the mining sector. The next wave of foreign workers had the size of millions, represented mainly by men fit for work from all the territories occupied by the Nazi Germany, who were forced to work in the German heavy industry plants during the Second World War. From the middle of the 1950s, Germany became one of the most important destination countries for immigrants. In this regard, the situation was similar to the one in other industrialized countries, such as the United States of America, France, or the United Kingdom. The history of immigration in Germany after the Second World War is characterized by the nature of its parallel flows: the one of the German ethnics returning from abroad, and the one of the foreigners with no German ancestors. Along

¹² Veysel Oezcan, *Germany: Immigration in Transition*, Social Science Centre Berlin, iulie 2004, disponibil la www.migrationinformation.org.

¹³ Folea, Sorina, *Fenomenul infracțional în Europa*, Editura Beladi, Craiova, 2009, p. 265.

time, the laws of immigration made the distinction more or less important, especially regarding the privileges granted to the German ethnics¹⁴.

In the research on migration, Germany is often considered as the classic case of the state with an ethnicity based policy, which means that it encourages the migration of the population considered to be affiliated by ascendancy, initially located in other countries. Those individuals never actually lived in Germany, except for a few remote cases. Despite this, they do actually share a connection with Germany, the connection of assumed German origins, virtually shared, built and rebuilt along centuries, even idealized by some of the involved individuals¹⁵.

In Germany, the matter of migration and short term employment of the citizens from other countries has a long and complex history. The debates regarding migration issues have exceeded the usual amounts, reaching extremely vast areas, and drawing the interest of a higher number of people. Until 1980, this policy was strongly interconnected with the development of the labor market; by the end of the 1980s the discussions about the negative impact of the migrants on the social security system were escalating.

Shortly after the fall of the Iron Curtain, Germany entered once more the international labor market. This time, the most important states where immigrants originated were the countries from Central and Eastern Europe, among which we can mention Yugoslavia (1988), Hungary (1989), and Poland (1990). These countries were chosen partially due to pragmatic reasons, partially due to long term economic and geopolitical reasons. On the one hand, the German government aimed to attract a share of the migration potential in the region and to channel it in the economic fields where workforce was needed, as well as to promote some medium and long term foreign policy objectives in the region. On the other hand, the remittances and workers' experience returning home would help the young economies in their countries. Various categories of workers, such as interns, contract-based employees, or those who were doing seasonally works received the right to temporary settle and work permits for periods from three months for seasonally workers, to maximum two years for contract employees.

¹⁴ Tereza Bulai, *Fenomenul migrației și criza familială*, Editura Lumen, Iași, 2006, p. 45.

¹⁵ R. G. Anghel, I. Horvath (coord.), *Sociologia migrației. Teorii și studii de caz românești*, Editura Polirom, Iași, 2004, p. 88.

Starting with the 1990s, the analysts emphasized the need for Germany that the immigrants would sustain economic development and the dynamic of workforce, considering the rapid ageing of the population in the country. Despite this, a process of reconsidering the policy regarding immigration that began in 2001, with the report of a governmental commission in the matter of immigration and integration policy, only overcame the legislative blocks in 2004. The law entered in force on the 1st of January 2005, setting the scene for the way in which Germany will treat the issue of workforce migration, the new comers and resident migrants in the following years.

However, social integration of the immigrants and their families, as well as the continuous fight against discrimination, still are currently two of the main topics in the German public agenda. The notions of „integration” and „discrimination” are increasingly used in democratic societies, given that the principles of equal treatment and non - discrimination are the essence of these societies. In the European Union these principles are legally established in articles 20 and 21 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, in articles 18 and 19 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union and in article 14 in the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms and the adoption of Directives 2000/43/EC, 2000/78/EC and 2004/113/EC.

Article 2 of the Racial Equality Directive (2000/43/EC) gives us precisely the definitions of the 4 types of discrimination: direct discrimination, indirect discrimination, harassment and instigation to discrimination.

According to the European law, there is the presumption of discrimination on grounds of “nationality” or “national origin”¹⁶.

The most susceptible groups to discrimination on the principle of citizenship are the immigrants¹⁷. Nowadays in Germany live over 15 million people who are immigrants or whose parents were immigrants. According to the Federal Statistics Office, this number includes both those who migrated in Germany, as well as those born here from at least one immigrant parent.

¹⁶ Cristina Ilie Goga, *Discrimination based on grounds of nationality. Case study: Discrimination perceived by Romanian immigrants in the Spanish society*, Revista de Științe Politice. Revue des Sciences Politiques , no. 37-38 (2013), p. 175.

¹⁷ Ibidem, p. 176.

About seven million of them are foreign citizens, while approximately eight million received the German citizenship-by naturalization or because they belong to the four million people with German origins. After them, the 2,5 million Turks are the most important group, while other 1,5 million come from the former Republic of Yugoslavia.

Due to its state structure, divided in Lands, as well as due to the accentuated decentralization, the levels of economic development are also very different. Therefore, in some areas, where decentralization is also more accentuated, the number of immigrants is bigger, unlike the Lands in which the amount of foreign population is smaller. As an example, in the areas of Hamburg or Berlin the larger shares of immigrants are registered, over 13%. Another factor that determines important variations in the number of foreign population is the geographic location. Therefore, depending on the neighboring countries and the language traditions, culture, customs, occupations, the number of foreign population in each Land is different.

3. Conclusions

In the past years migration has become a priority topic on the internal or external public European agenda. About 3% of the population of the world, 192 million people live outside the borders of their countries. The discourse regarding migration has various perspectives. There is a continuously growing acknowledgment of the fact that migration is an essential component of the social and economic life of each state, and that, if properly handled, migration can benefit both the individuals, the societies, and the stakeholders. A global understanding of the migration phenomena needs to be developed, in order to be able to manage it properly. It should include policies and programs regarding migration, rules for economic or forced migration¹⁸.

Economic globalization, the increase of international business, the growing demand for high skilled professionals mobility bring along new phenomenon. the challenge for all the developed countries is how to efficiently handle and rule these migratory movements on a large scale, in order for each individual to be able to enjoy equal chances, respect of his rights and freedoms, and not last, everything that the modern global integrated societies have to offer.

¹⁸Site-ul oficial al Organizatiei Internationale pentru Migratie, <http://www.iom.int/jahia/Jahia/about-migration/lang/en>, consultat pe 25.04.2014.

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

1. Anghel, Remus Gabriel, Horvath, Istvan (coord.), *Sociologia migrației. Teorii și studii de caz românești*, Iași, Editura Polirom, 2004.
2. Bari, Ioan, *Probleme globale contemporane*, București, Editura Economică, 2003.
3. Bulai, Tereza, *Fenomenul migrației și criza familială*, Iași, Editura Lumen, 2006.
4. Carpentier, Jean, Lebrun, Francois (coord.), *Istoria Europei*, Bucuresti, Editura Humanitas, 1997.
5. Călin, Romelia, Umbreș, Radu Gabriel, *Efectele migrației*, Iași, Editura Lumen, 2006.
6. Folea, Sorina, *Fenomenul infracțional în Europa*, Craiova, Editura Beladi, 2009.
7. Goga Ilie, Cristina, *Discrimination based on grounds of nationality. Case study: Discrimination perceived by Romanian immigrants in the Spanish society*, Revista de Științe Politice. Revue des Sciences Politiques , no. 37-38 (2013), pp. 175-183.
8. Held, David, Mc Grew, Anthony, Goldblatt, David, Perraton, Jonathan, *Transformări globale. Politică, economie și cultură*, Iași, Editura Polirom, 2004.
9. Huntington, Samuel P., *Ciocnirea civilizatiilor si refacerea ordinii mondiale*, Bucuresti, Editura Antet, 1998.
10. Ilie, Cristina, *The acculturation of immigrants. Case study: types of acculturation of the Romanian immigrants in Madrid*, International Journal of Business and Social Research, Vol 3, No. 2 (2013), pp. 84-88.
11. Ion Veronica, *Implicațiile religioase ale procesului de globalizare*, în Revista de Științe Politice, Nr.24/2009, pp. 104-110.

12. Massey, Douglas S., *Patterns and Processes of International Migration in the 21st Century*, lucrare prezentată la Conference on African Migration in Comparative Perspective, Johannesburg, South Africa, iunie, 2003.
13. Oezcan, Veysel, *Germany: Immigration in Transition*, Social Science Centre Berlin, iulie 2004, disponibil la www.migrationinformation.org .
14. Porumbescu, Alexandra, *The concept of migration: linguistic and sociological coordinates*, Studii și cercetări de onomastică și lexicologie (SCOL), Nr. 1-2 / 2013, pp. 188-195.