Migration Crisis in Europe: Trends and Opportunities

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Abstract

This paper summarizes the latest trends of migration flows in Europe, focusing specifically on arrivals from developing countries. The objective of this paper is to identify the perspective development and saving of the European Union in the context of migration tensions. The thesis is divided into two chapters. The first chapter focuses on trends in international migration from former colonies and special groups of immigrants (such as asylum seekers and terrorists). The EU immigrant settlement and migration policies are examined in the second part of paper.

Keywords: European Union, Europe, migrants, migration crisis, immigration.

Introduction

It is 60 years since the signing of the Treaty of Rome which laid the Foundation for the European Economic Community that became an important stage in the process of European integration.

However, this process began earlier. After the II World War which brought immeasurable suffering to most countries of the Old World, many European leaders began to seek ways of creating conditions on the continent under which such catastrophes would become impossible. They became more and more convinced that that the best way to ensure peace, sustainability and prosperity in Europe is cooperation and combining efforts in the most important areas of public life and first of all in the economy.

Thus, it was decided to create the European Union that is based on the following main objectives:

1. Ensuring economic and social progress of their countries by common action to eliminate barriers that divide Europe.

2. The continuous improvement of living conditions and labor of their people.

3. Ensuring the unity of its economies, its development by reducing the gap between different regions and overcoming backwardness of the districts that are in less favorable conditions [11].

4. Ensuring sustainable development, balanced trade and fair competition.

The Treaty of Rome 1957 allowed formulating the initial system of the European communities. Their activities were oriented towards the establishment of the customs Union and overcoming internal barriers to trade between the member states of the

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integration process, a common economic policy and harmonization of living standards. In 1967, it carried out the merger of the Executive bodies of the three European communities. As a result of this merger was created the basic structure of the regional integration process, called the European community. This structure exists to our time and includes such major institutions as the European Commission, European Council, European Parliament and European court.

However, as in any community or association it does not without problems and obstacles. And the European Union is not an exception. At this stage of its development the EU was experiencing great economic difficulties, among which the migration crisis, aggravated in 2015 in connection with the uncontrolled flow of refugees and migrants from areas of armed conflict in the Middle East region, as well as a number of African and Asian States with poor socio-economic conditions. This crisis had an extremely negative impact on the political situation and prospects of development of individual member States of the European Union and in the whole European community.

The main reasons for the dramatic increase in the number of refugees in Europe in 2015 are:

1) The Escalation of civil war in Syria, the lack of prospects of resolving the conflict, the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan (the main countries of refugee outcomes), other conflicts in Africa and the Middle East prevented the return of refugees to their homeland, and ending their own livelihoods (refugees have no right to work) has forced people to leave the camp in the direction of Europe, in the hope of higher living standards in these countries.

2) The deterioration of the financing of refugee camps in Turkey, Lebanon and Jordan and as a consequence the reduction of the diet of the refugees, the introduction of fees for the use of water and electricity. The inability for refugee children to attend school.

3) Expansion of territories under the control of the Islamic state which contributed to an increase in the number of refugees and overcrowding and full camps.

4) Lack of economic prospects in the countries of refugee outcomes, the accumulation in Europe of a "critical mass" of Afro-descendants. Many migrants seek to get to countries where their relatives have already settled down.

5) The second civil war in Libya, which itself used migrants, forced many refugees from North Africa and Libya itself to change the desired country of residence to the EU country.

6) Discovery by refugees a safer route through the Mediterranean Sea - Greece - Macedonia, then the EU, instead of the old through the Mediterranean - Libya - Italy [12].

7) An Easy way to get into the EU, namely the decision of the government of Macedonia in the middle of June in 2015, to issue to the refugees of the three-day visas which allowed migrants without registration cross the country to Europe and stimulated the flow of migration. Under the Dublin agreement the registration or application for asylum needs to happen in the first member state of the EU which entered the refugee [2].

Before the beginning of the XX century there was no acute problem of immigration in the world. Everything has been changed after the First World War, when states began to compete for the right to host foreigners in their own country, seeking refuges in their territory. The history of migration from rural to urban areas, from poor countries to richer and developing is old as the history of mankind because people have always sought a better life. Over 2000 years ago the Roman legions drove thousands of slaves from occupied territories to the Roman Empire. In the 1600's, with the discovery of America, began a new era of migration as slaves from the African continent and migrants from Europe [8].

The European Union is experiencing the largest migration crisis since the Second World War.

However, the roots of today's problems lie deep in history. So historically, European countries were the main Metropolitan areas, and countries in Africa where there is the greatest flow of refugees, were colonies. After their independence, the inhabitants of the former colonies were free to move between countries, including in the former metropolises, however, due to the military conflicts in their territories between them, the conflicts began. To some extent, this influenced the migration crisis of the 21st century. Today the military conflict aggravated the situation. The conflict in Syria, violence in Afghanistan and Iraq, the abuse in Eritrea and poverty in Kosovo and other problems encourage people to look for a new place to live [6].

Some European countries began a policy of attracting immigrants, particularly labor, after the Second World War. The peak of labor migration to Germany occurred in the 1960s when they were actively receiving immigrants from Southern Europe (Italy, Spain, Greece, Portugal, Yugoslavia) and then from Turkey, Morocco and Tunisia on the basis of bilateral agreements (see Figure 1). Mass immigration of Turks to Germany, on the one hand, was due to the high unemployment rate in Turkey and, on the other hand, the growing needs of the economy of Germany in the workforce to ensure the necessary economic growth. By 1973 year the number of migrants reached 2 million people and then their entry was severely restricted.

The next wave of immigration to Germany began in 1988, when more than 1.4 million people have applied for asylum. Mostly it was immigrants from the countries of Eastern Europe, the former USSR and Turkey. In the early 2000s increased the influx of migrants from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo and other regions of the former Yugoslavia. As a result, currently, in Germany there are more than 10 million foreign citizens of whom the Turkish diaspora is the most numerous: according to the results of the 2011 census there were approximately 4 million Turks living in Germany, about 1.9 million of whom had German citizenship. In the main, migration took place through the employment and reunification of families.

Immigration to the UK and France was associated with the influx from the former colonies (see Figure 1). France became a pole of attraction for immigrants from Algeria, covered by the war of independence in 1954-1962. Language community has allowed immigrants to adapt more easily in France. By the early 2000s, France has become the country with the largest Muslim community which, according to various sources, numbered from 6 to 8 million people, including 1.5 million Algerians, 1

million Moroccans, about 350 thousand immigrants from Tunisia. Currently in France there has been an influx of immigrants from Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia, Turkey and Senegal [1].

Fig. 1. The main flows of migrants, 1900s. [7]

In the UK by the early 2000s there were about 2 million Muslims, mostly immigrants from India (the share of Muslims in total population of India is around 13 %) and the countries of the African continent. The active formation of the Muslim community in the UK began after the Second World War and be the 1960-1970-th years. Great Britain has followed the policy of restricting migration from the countries of the British Commonwealth. Thus, in particular in 1971 and 1981 respectively were adopted the "Immigration Act" and the "Citizenship Law" which restricted the rights of citizens of the former colonies of the British citizenship and have caused the greatest criticism from the EU.

The expansion of integration processes in Europe contributed to the migration flows that existed historically and created new ones. The idea of a free economic space implies the absence of barriers to movement of resources including labor and capital. The signing of the Schengen agreement facilitated the movement of labor migrants within the European space. In addition, the EU is constantly expanding geographically which removes the barriers to migration from the countries — new members of EU. Such migration relations exist in the form of cross-border flows of workers between Germany and Poland.

As can be seen from Table 1 the main countries for the outcome of migrants in 2013 were the developing countries of Asia and Africa, which is primarily due to the long cultural, political and linguistic connections between these countries - former colonies and their colonial powers (Great Britain and France). Uneven economic and demographic development of these countries, as well as a number of other reasons caused large migration flows between them.

Table 1 - Number of migrants by main exit countries, 2013 [13]

Country of admission	Main countries of exodus	Number of arrivals, thous. people	Share of total number of arrivals,%	Total number of arrivals, thous. people
Germany	Turkey	1 543 787	15,7	9 845 244
	Poland	1 146 754	11,6	

Great Britain	Pakistan	476 754	6,1	7 824 131
	India	756 471	9,7	
France	Algeria	1 406 845	18,9	7 439 086
	Morocco	911 046	12,2	

Thus, by the early 2000s on the territory of the three countries - the largest recipients of migrants in Europe - lived a fairly large number of Muslim communities that have formed over the past half-century. These communities are heterogeneous both in the countries of origin of migrants and in their degree of integration into the European Community.

Analyzing all the factors of attraction of migrants to Europe it is possible to distinguish 4 groups:

1. Historically established reasons primarily due to the immigration to Europe of the population of the former colonies.
2. Economic factors including payments and benefits that immigrants can receive in the receiving countries, as well as compensation for other needs providing a higher standard of living than in the countries of origin.
3. Socio-cultural factors consisting in the reunification of families, the formation of a sustainable image of a "better life" in European countries through social networks of migrants and etc.
4. Humanitarian factors (policy of hospitality, tolerance, rights and freedoms of refugees) [10].

In 2015 year according to Eurostat data in Europe 1, 25 million people were granted refugee status that is more than twice the level of 2014year (562, 68 thousand) [5]. And it is the official statistics which do not include illegal entry into the territory of Europe. Figure 2 clearly apparent upward trend in the flow of migrants between 2010 and 2016 years [9].
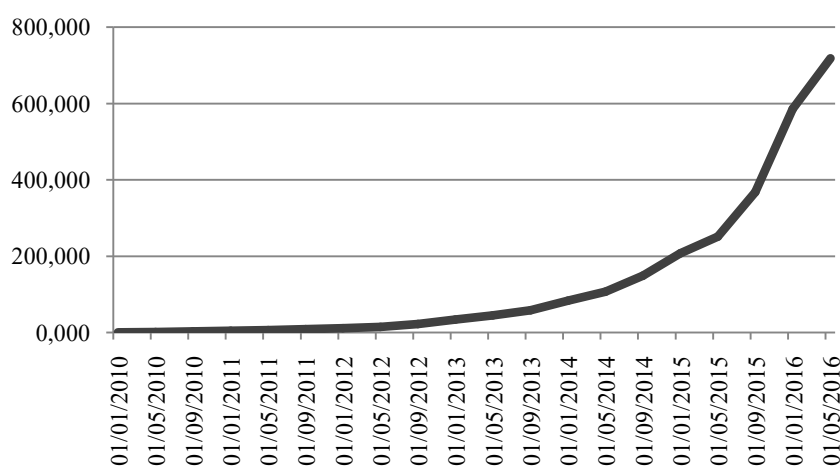

Fig. 2. The dynamic of the flow of migrants with refugee status in 2010-2016

The main flow of refugees follows from Afghanistan, Algeria, Libya, Mauritania, Senegal, Syria, Somalia, Pakistan, and Eritrea. Priority points for the final destination are Switzerland, Belgium, UK, Austria and unconditional leaders: France, Germany

and Sweden which are characterized by a high level of social benefits and the largest availability of already existing Muslim communities.

The reaction of the governments of the countries of EU is diametrically opposed. Germany, one of the few countries that opened its borders, while setting temporary border control on the southern borders. Urging the country to this kind of solidarity even Germany has temporarily suspended the expulsion of refugees to the country of their first arrival in the EU where it is necessary to register or to apply for asylum according to the Dublin agreement. The numbers of States participating in the Schengen area - Austria, Denmark, Sweden and Norway were forced to impose temporary border control due to the migration crisis [4].

Eastern European countries demonstrate a strong reluctance to accept migrants motivating such a decision by the weakness of the economy, the danger of terror or lack of experience in addressing migration issues. Slovakia expressed a desire to accept only migrants professing Christianity. Hungary made an attempt to completely close its borders and put forward a proposal to build the second 175 wall on the border with Serbia, Romania, Croatia and Slovakia; the first wall was built in 2015. Bulgaria having strengthened the border control announced to build additional fortifications on the border with Turkey, in addition to the existing "anti-immigrant wall" with a length of 30 kilometers.

In the case of receiving refugee status the migrant has the right to obtain financial and social benefits, the value of which is different in different countries of Europe. Table 2 shows comparative information about the average salary of an EU citizen and social benefits of migrants in priority countries.

Table 2 - Average salary of an EU citizen and social benefits for migrants in some European countries in 2015, euros per month [3]

Countries	Average salary of citizens	Social benefits for migrants	Compensation for housing	Work permit
Germany	2 054	120-217 € depending on the number of family members. Free meals at the reception Centre for Refugees +143€ a month in cash for "basic needs", through 3 months 216€. Up to 92 Euro per child (depending on age)	Basic income is around 400€/month plus costs for accommodation and heating	After 15 months or when the application for asylum is approved
France	2 128	202€ for one person and an additional 100€ for additional family member. Premium of 11.45€ per day or 343,50 € per month	Have to pay for food out of income assistance. Free medical insurance for the period while the application for refugee status is pending	Not allowed to work in the first 12 months
Sweden	2 690	160-225€ depending on the number of family members	Migrants living in public housing or receiving centers where food is provided receive 2.57€ per day for adults. If food is not provided then the daily compensation is 7.5€.	
Austria	2 114	50€ for those who live in public housing + 5€/ day for food	When living in private accommodation: 120€ per person or 240€ per family. 210€ /month for food; 100€ for children; 150€ / year for the purchase of clothing, 200€ / year for the purchase of school supplies	A work permit is issued after granting asylum

There is a point wise indication on the figure 3 that countries as well as likely to fail in self-protection. The problem of terrorism implies a serious financial factor.

And, of course, migrants for the sake of money and food can be involved in separate stages of terrorism acts.
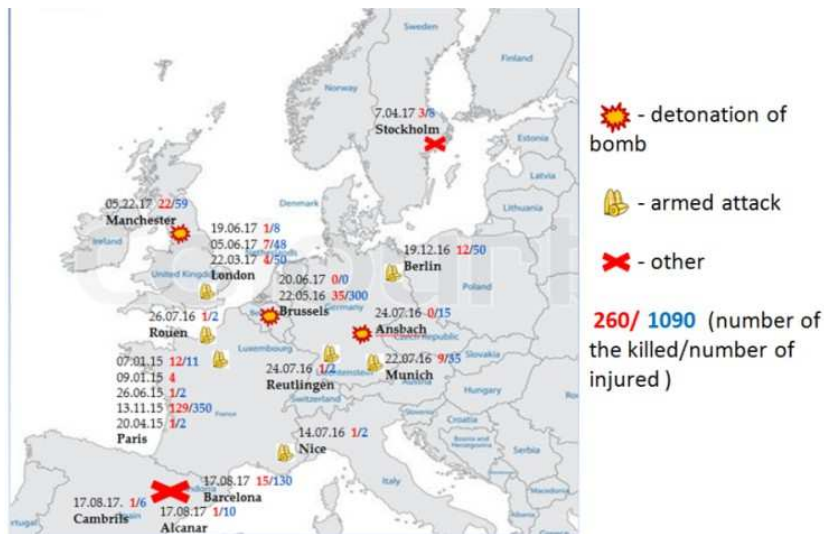
Fig. 3. The number of terrorist attacks in Europe, 2015 -2017

So, migrants, being a cheap labor force, can be used as a tool of carrying out terrorism acts. But there is another category of terrorists who are more prepared groups being well financed. And it is not a problem of a migration policy. This is a problem of a global security.

The crisis, which erupted in 2015, has challenged the traditional EU approach to migration issues.

Previously, differences in historical experiences, social realities and economic organization did not give the participating countries the need for a common immigration policy and asylum policy. Each EU country had its own experience with migrants and their own ideas about what to do with them and some of them also faced a massive exodus of their citizens in the recent past. Until recently, every European country independently was solving problems related to migration based on its own national interests. For example, when Spain faced at the beginning of 2000 years with the influx of migrants from West Africa had alone to seek a way out it took the path of bilateral talks with African countries as family migrants and transit. The Spaniards got some help from the EU budget but decisions were made in Madrid.

But in 2015, the efforts of individual countries were not enough. The scale and intensity of migration pressure almost immediately demonstrated the limitations of national approaches to solving the problem. The participating countries had three choices:

a) strictly follow the European rules risking don`t cope with the large number of requests for refugee status - practice has shown that the principle underlying the European asylum system (the first EU country in whose territory will be the migrant who is obliged to consider his application for refugee status) is not viable in conditions of a massive influx of migrants;

b) close its borders and thus shift the solution of the problem to neighboring countries;

c) allow migrants to travel unchecked and uncontrolled across their territory.

In reality in the autumn of 2015 many Central European countries unilaterally closed their borders thereby damaging the solidarity of the Schengen countries and violating the Dublin Rules governing the procedure for considering applications for international protection. As a result Greece was the loser - landing on its shores migrants could not move further. The borders were closed unilaterally, all responsibility for receiving the migration flow fell on the first EU country in which the migrants turned out but Greece was not able to cope with such a large number of refugees. Soon it became clear that individually European countries could not find a solution to the problem. The migration crisis required a collective response. In other words, it was necessary to restore solidarity within the EU.

Thus, at the end of 2015 the participating countries have embarked on concerted action. Very useful were measures enabling the EU to regain control of its external borders.

Decisions on migration crisis formulated in the final documents of the European Council have been adopted in 2016. They can be divided into three main areas.

Firstly, countries which took the main migration flow, in particular Greece, the EU has provided support including financial to facilitate the provision of humanitarian assistance to refugees and compliance with the administrative border control procedures and consideration of requests for asylum in accordance with EU rules. Settling in reception centers where newly arrived migrants get a quick checkand share to those whose requests for asylum can be considered and those for whom the future path is closed.

Secondly, in accordance with the commitment made by all EU countries to return to compliance with Schengen rules and to establish strict border controls more resources allocated to the specialized services including the European Union Agency for security of external borders (Frontex) and the European support of persons applying for asylum (EASO). At the same time, the EU hastily created a new Agency for the protection of the external land and Maritime borders.

Thirdly, the EU has signed an agreement with Turkey clearly defining rights and obligations of both parties in connection with the influx of refugees and migrants trying to make his way through Turkey to Europe. Accordance to this agreement, migrants who are illegally arriving in Greece from Turkey will be sent back to Turkey. Europe accepts migrants only under the condition that their requests for asylum are submitted and approved on Turkish territory. The Turkish authorities were obliged to cut off the channels of smuggling and illegal movement of people to Europe. The EUwas taking care of Syrian refugees to improve their lives in Turkey - they were entitled to legal employment and education of children in the Turkish schools. In exchange, the European leaders agreed to accelerate the abolition of visas for Turkish citizens entering the Schengen area and to resume the stalled negotiations on Turkey's accession to the EU. Finally, and importantly for Turkey, the EU officially renewed the strategic partnership with Ankara, promising to hold annual high-level bilateral meetings.

Since the beginning of this year it has received 4,782 refugees, during the same period last year - 91,000 migrants.

Judging by the number of migrants arriving in Greece the decisions taken by the EU significantly influenced the situation: if at the peak of the migration crisis at the end of 2015 the Greek border was crossed by 6,000 people a day, in June 2016 - less than 50. EU leaders have every reason to assert that they managed to completely block the migration route through the Western Balkans. The measures taken in accordance with the EU decisions deprived the use of the Balkan route of meaning and undermined the business of the illegal transportation of migrants: after the closure of the Balkan route and the signing of an agreement with Turkey on assistance to migrants, refugees can not legally enter the territory of the European Union [3].

Now the EU should draw up a long-term plan as soon as possible.

The foundation of a universal migration policy has already been laid. In April 2015 the European Commission proposed the "European agenda on migration" which against the backdrop of the first signs of the impending crisis participating countries were taken with excessive caution. The agenda contained a clear basis for the necessary actions - it included proposals on all major issues of the EU migration policy: border control, asylum procedures, treatment of legal and illegal migrants, and integration of the efforts of individual countries. In the future the European Commission has consistently adhered to this course, as necessary, speaking with proposals on various items of the original plan.

Thus, the basis of a balanced migration policy has already been outlined in general terms, the path for accepting the proposals of the European Commission is open. In this context it is possible to distinguish three tasks of primary importance the solution of which will help to form an approach based on the principle of flexible solidarity:

- defining clear goals and commitments for the level of political and economic migration that is acceptable to the EU;
- choice of means that will allow to fulfill not only accepted but also additional obligations;
- establishment of a well-thought-out partnership with third countries - both native to migrants and transit ones - without interaction with which it is impossible to implement an effective migration policy.

To prevent the development of existing differences the overall migration policy within the EU should be developed taking into account the interests of all member countries. The main spheres subject to additional regulation should be illegal migration, the possibility of forming a dead weight for the economy, in the form of unemployed migrants intending to live only on social benefits, the potential threat of terrorism and the growth of crime, as a consequence of migrants' unsettledness in a new place. At the same time, the size of migratory quotas should be adapted to the economic possibilities of a particular country in order to avoid the formation of a budget deficit or increase it.

The above considerations illustrate just some of the possibilities. They all emphasize that it is necessary to strengthen collective component: to solve problems related to migration, the Europeans must act in cooperation with each other, taking

into account the views of all participating countries, and taking into account their interests.

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