

THE CONCEPT OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT TOWARDS THE MIGRATION PROCESSES AND LABOR MARKET IN EU COUNTRIES

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Abstract

The article discusses the issue of the sustainable development of the EU in relation to the concept of eco-humanistic globalization. The processes of globalization are closely related to the increased flows of people around the world, mainly for economic purposes. The number of migrants for work purposes is increasing. Emigration countries generate losses and immigration countries acquire new social capital (these immigrants work for low wages as compared to domestic employees by performing work in services, construction industry or care-providing institutions). Poland is an example of an emigration and immigration country, where the inflow of foreigners is replacing shortages in the local labour market.

The migration policy inscribed in the concept of sustainable development (in EU strategies) should aim at equalizing the economic and social situation (greater integration) of immigrants in the host countries. Otherwise, rich countries will generate profits and emigration countries will lose the most important capital, which is people and their resources.

Keywords: sustainable development, migrations, labour market, human capital, migrants

Introduction

Globalization may be based on egoistic or eco-humanistic axiology. The latter, called inclusive globalization (Annan 1997; Michnowski 2004), is based on the principle of common good and consistent with sustainable development. However, this is not a commonly-chosen path: modern corporations declare for egoistic globalization. Here, the priority is single-minded pursuit of maximum profit, and morality and ethics do not exist (Weizsäcker et al. 1999). Globalization refers to all levels of sustainable development. The starting point is the economic level. Globalization is based on profound changes related to global trade or, more broadly, the flow of capital. This phenomenon is referred to as turbo-capitalism (Luttwak, 1999; Hull, 2008), illustrating the rapidity and scale of changes (Pawłowski 2013, p.7). According to S. Castles and M. Miller (2012), demographic changes, including intensified processes of migrations around the world and related changes in the labour market, are the main determinants of globalization in the 21st century.

1. New concept of sustainable development in the EU

1.1 Strategic guidelines

Currently, the concept of sustainable development is the basis for the functioning of many economies, including the European Union. Since the Maastricht Treaty signing (1992) sustainable development has been recognized as the principle of the EU's economic development. The document states that the task of the community is "to promote harmonious, balanced and sustainable development of economic activities throughout the community (...) a high level of protection and improvement of the quality of the environment, the raising of the standard of living and quality of life [...]". In the following years, there were new documents indicating the need to implement the concept of sustainable development for all undertaken activities, as well as those in the socio-economic area.

In turn, A New EU Sustainable Development Strategy (2006) (Göteborg 2001) is a complement to the Lisbon Strategy for growth and jobs. The sixth objective concerns social integration, demography and migrations. One finds there guidelines regarding migration policy and its impact on sustainable development in the EU: "to continue to work on the EU policy on migration, which is accompanied by measures to strengthen the integration of immigrants and their families, taking into account the economic dimension of migration".

Sustainable development according to the "**Europe 2020**" strategy is, first of all, supporting an efficient, more resource-friendly, more environmentally friendly and more competitive economy which is, apart from smart development and inclusive development, one of its priorities¹.

1.2 The sustainable development triad: economic, ecological and social goals

"Permanent sustainable development is understood as shaping and improving the quality of life of present and future generations through proper forming of the proportions between particular types of capital: economic, human and natural" (Piontek, 2000). The concept of *sustainable development* should be identified with the constant development of specific sectoral policies, in particular, environmental, economic and social policy. For the rational development of individual sectors, it is necessary to harmonize or synchronize them. The supreme segment here is to be environmental protection and the environment, which are certain paradigms for economic and social development (Rosicki 2010, p.2).

The perception of "development" concept should not be limited only to economic dimension because the development is influenced not only by economic factors, but also by many non-economic factors, including social factors. All these factors in various stages of development, and with varying intensity, affect directly or indirectly the development processes, and in particular their dynamics and directions (Piontek, p. 344).

The given definitions of sustainable development, despite different interpretations of this term, indicate the need to combine economic, ecological and social objectives in the development. This means that the concept is a long-term process that aims to combine three dimensions, i.e. social, and economic development as well as environmental protection. All these elements of the triad, i.e. society - economy - environment, should develop fairly evenly, and therefore none of them should dominate the others (Szadziewska 2010, p. 159).

Synchronization of economic, social and environmental capital is to prevent the creation of one-line development plans. In addition, it is intended to eliminate potential conflicts related to uneven development (Rosicki 2010, p.2).

¹ Communication from Commission on Europe 2020. A strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth. European Commission, Brussels 2010, p. 5.

2. Migrations and human capital (social change)

According to D. Pearce and R.K. Turner, the sustainable development consists in maximising net benefits from economic development, while at the same time protecting and ensuring a reproduction of long-term utility and quality of natural resources. Economic development must then mean not only an increase in per capita income, but also improvement of other elements of social well-being. It must also include necessary structural changes in the economy as well as the whole society (Pearce, Turner 1991).

2.1. Migration in the EU

Migration of the population is one of the aspects related to the globalization process. In the discourse on globalization, two positions are accepted, which can be treated as opposing or complementary: mobility of capital can be either substitutive to labour mobility or complementary to it (i.e. mutually complementary) (Tapinos, Delaunay 2000). According to UN data, from 1996 to 2000, the flow of people from less developed to more developed countries amounted to approx. 12 million people (these are very approximate estimates, they do not include intra-group and refugee migration). Most often, people migrate to improve their quality of life and ensure the well-being of their family. People who migrate are between 25 and 45 years of age. Migration destination countries are: the United States, Canada, the Persian Gulf countries, the states that make up the European Economic Area, and Australia. Traditionally, immigrants usually work in services, especially in trade, social care, households, hotels or construction industry.

One of the most distinctive features of global economic relations has been the rapid increase in migration of highly qualified employees: doctors, engineers, academics, specialists and corporate board members. It is connected with obtaining a better perspective of professional development and experience, gaining more prestige and higher remuneration. As a result of active government policy, the inflow of highly qualified workers, including those from low-developed Asian countries, has increased in many countries (Koryś, Okólski 2004, p. 22). Another significant form of global migration has become the flow of youth for higher education, especially when it turned out that foreign students are an important source of income for the education sector, as well as, both during and after graduation, the wanted category of workforce in the countries of their education.

2.2. The scale of migration in the EU

In 2015, a total of 4.7 million people immigrated to one of the EU-28 member states, while at least 2.8 million immigrants left an EU member state. This data does not refer to migration flows to/from the EU as a whole, as they also include flows between individual

EU member states. The 4.7 million immigrants in 2015 consisted of approximately 2.4 million citizens of non-member countries, and 1.4 million citizens of a different EU Member State than the country they migrated to, about 860,000 migrants to an EU Member State of which they had the citizenship, and about 19,000 stateless people (EUROSTAT 2017).

In relative terms, i.e. in relation to the population of the citizens, the highest immigration rates in 2015 were recorded in Luxembourg (42 immigrants per 1 000 people), then in Malta (30 immigrants per 1 000), in Austria and Germany (19 immigrants per 1 000 people). In 2015, Germany received the largest total number of immigrants (1 543.8 thousand), followed by the United Kingdom (631.5 thousand) France (363.9 thousand), Spain (342.1 thousand) and Italy (280.1 thousand). The largest number of emigrants in 2015 was recorded in (347.2 thousand) and they were followed by Spain (343.9 thousand), United Kingdom (299, 2 thousand), France (298 thousand) and Poland (258.8 thousand).

In 2015, the total EU immigration rate was higher than that of emigration. However, in countries such as: Bulgaria, Ireland, Greece, Spain, Croatia, Cyprus, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Latvia and Lithuania, the number of emigrants exceeded the number of immigrants (Koryś, Okólski 2004, p. 22).

2.3. Social capital of migrants

The migration process is conducive to the formation of migrant social capital in the form of the so-called interpersonal networks, contributing to the reduction of economic and non-economic migration costs. Further inflow of employees from abroad, in the form of the so-called *migration chain*², is self-fueling through the accumulation of appropriate social capital. Social capital is a kind of resource specific to not only an individual, for example, an economic emigrant, but also a certain territorial community or a group of emigrants (Lin, 2001, p. 41). The functioning of immigrants in the new space of the host country is not only connected with such elements as the attitudes and relations of migrants with members of the

²In explaining migration within the social sciences, it is essential to assume that migration decisions are motivated and supported by the existence of *migration networks*. "Migration networks are sets of interpersonal ties that link migrants, former migrants, and non-migrants in origin and destination areas through the bonds of kinship, friendship, and shared community origin" (Thomas, Znaniecki 1976).

host society, but also their entering into the social structure, that is, achieving a certain social status, economic and professional position and education level.

3. Migrant labour market (economic change)

The expansion of the global economy and the increase in international competitiveness generate or intensify the dichotomy of the labour market in the most prosperous economies. This phenomenon has been described min. on the basis of the dual labour market migration theory (Piore 1975). In these economies, the "lower" labour market segments, offering relatively low wages and a low standard of social security, generate structurally high demand for the work of immigrants. It results from, among others, avoiding employment in these segments by domestic employees. An active employment factor in the lower segments is the employer who encounters the barrier of internal labour supply (Koryś, Okólski 2004, p. 29).

3.1 The concept of precarious employment

The most-referenced definition is the one created in the late 1980s by G. and J. Rodgers (1989). According to them, there are four dimensions of precarious employment, which concern: 1) the level of certainty that employment will be continued over a longer period of time; 2) individual and collective control over work - working conditions, income, working hours; 3) the level of protection provided by trade unions and legal protection; 4) economic situation - including a low level of income that does not meet all needs.

Following the definition of Rodgers - N. Duell (2004, pp. 60-78) created her own definition for the purpose of precariat research in various European countries. In her opinion, the precariat can be examined taking into account the following levels of analysis: 1) temporal dimension - the level of control over the possibility of continuing employment; 2) subjective dimension - own evaluation of employees who have experienced uncertainty; 3) economic dimension, 4) organizational dimension, 5) dimension of social protection.

3.2. Labour market and immigrants in Poland: analysis of the phenomenon

The scale of actual employment of foreigners is confirmed by the number of work permits issued. Table no. presents the number of work permits for foreigners in Poland in 2008-2016 including 3 employee groups. Based on the data from Table 1, one can see that within nine years, the number of work permits issued to foreigners has increased more than 7 times. Particularly significant changes were brought by the last two years, especially the

year 2016, when the number of permits almost doubled compared to the previous year and reached the value of 127 394.

Table 1. Work permits for foreigners in Poland 2008-2016

Year	Total number of work permits issued	According to employee groups		
		Management staff, advisors, experts	Skilled workers	Elementary occupations
2016	127394	5141	51891	30750
2015	65786	3592	28555	15039
2014	43663	3106	14917	5830
2013	39078	3026	10700	5761
2012	39144	3253	13015	5731
2011	40808	3305	13304	6491
2010	36622	3856	11106	4974
2009	29340	5700	9143	4829
2008	18022	4923	6219	2426

Source: Work permits for foreigners: <http://www.mpips.gov.pl/analizy-i-raporty/cudzoziemcy-pracujacy-w-polsce-statystyki/> 24th August 2017

Work permits are divided into 5 types (A, B, C, D and E). "A" type permits dominate in Poland. Table 2 presents a comparison of type A work permits in the years 2010-2016 according to the citizenship of foreigners, employee groups, the period of validity of a work permit and selected sections of Polish Classification of Activity.

Table 2. Structure of work permits for foreigners by type of permit in 2013

Work permits	Total number of permits issued	Share of the type of permit
A	37 411	91.7
B	927	2.2
C	1969	5.0
D	370	0.7
E	150	0.4
Total	40,827	100.0

Source: Work permits for foreigners: <http://www.mpips.gov.pl/analizy-i-raporty/cudzoziemcy-pracujacy-w-polsce-statystyki/> 24th August 2018.

Based on the data from Table 2, one can see that in the years 2010-2013 the number of work permits (type A) varies between 31 and 36 thousand. In 2014, it exceeds 40,000 for the first time. In 2015, the number of all permits exceeds 61,000. In 2016, however, one sees another doubling of this figure, which means an increase to almost 122,000. This means that within seven years the number of work permits (type A) increased almost four times.

Economic forecasts show that the demand for work (type A) will continue to grow. Does this mean an increase in the number of economic emigrants? Even in the case of the re-emigration of native employees, there will still be a shortage of employees for this type of work.

Most immigrants work in large cities, including Warsaw, Kraków and Wrocław. As for the sectors in which immigrants are employed, researchers note the concentration of citizens of some countries in selected industries. Namely, the labour market in the sphere of services in households, in the construction industry as well as in transport services and warehouse management has been dominated by Ukrainians. In the case of transport and storage services, the second most numerous foreigners are Belarussians (30% of all permits issued in this industry in 2013) The commercial activity belongs to Chinese, Ukrainians and Vietnamese, who together accounted for over 70% of employed foreigners in 2013. (30.4%, 25.2%, 17.9%, respectively). (Kałuża-Kopias 2016, p. 24).

In Poland, there is a phenomenon of complementarity (complementary employment). However, on the other hand, the sectors in which foreigners are employed indicate their employment in the so-called secondary labour market, covering physical, repetitive and low-skilled jobs. It is worth noting that in 2016, 1314127 employers' declarations of intent to employ a foreigner were issued.

Conclusions

Globalization has caused migration processes that are associated with the complementarity of capital and labour mobility. These are, therefore, migrations that can be described in terms of job mobility. The characteristics of this mobility are:

- mobility resulting from deepening economic inequalities between states and within countries. Looking from the demand side, it is a response to the demand for cheap labor in the sphere of services and simple works for the elites' purposes;

- resulting from the growing scope of activities of the transnational corporations (belonging to an organization) and involving the migration of senior management staff (Koryś, Okólski 2004, p. 29).

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