

## INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION FROM ASIA AND AFRICA – ISSUES AND CHALLENGES FOR EUROPE

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This study pays attention to the phenomenon of international migration of the population from Asia and Africa to Europe, or more precisely to the European Union and attempts to point out that this is a category that brings a large number of problems to the political systems of European countries. In the case of population movement we can speak not only about the negatives, as the topic is presented in the current socio-political discourse, but we can also talk about the positives and benefits for receiving and sending countries. Positives and negatives are fundamentally influencing the policy of liberal-democratic nation states and this phenomenon is the cause of radicalisation and diversification of the policy in the European area.

**Key words:** international migration, migration from Asia and Africa, globalisation, state sovereignty, liberal state, undocumented migration, discrimination

### Introduction

Today, in the context of recent events in Europe, no one doubts that the international migration of population, problems of immigration, identity and integration are the most important problems of the internal development of the states of Europe, the European Union and world politics as a whole. Migration has become a source of conflicts, but at the same time it is a source of development. It is the phenomenon that will influence the development of individual nations and the entire human race in the near future. It is absolutely clear that migration processes and routes are significantly related to globalisation and are its immanent part. Globalisation creates favourable conditions for its successful realisation. Diminishing distances, different ways of transport, transportation, new breakthroughs in information technology,

internet, advances in telecommunications, are all achievements of the modern world that enables quick and secure communication, connection and movement from one part of the planet to another. The globalisation processes are closely related to the dominant characteristic of our current society, a gap steadily widening between rich and poor, the rich world centre and the poor periphery. Social differentiation of the world accelerates and we can talk about serious social threats for global development. Countries and states of Western Europe are well known for the respect of human rights and freedoms, the existence of democratic systems associated with some material standards and certainties – the image of a rich and developed world is a huge magnet that attracts immigrants from countries all over the world.

In recent years and especially in 2015, the migration flows have been significantly affected by the instability in international relations, the worldwide constellation and the ongoing armed conflicts in the Middle East and African territory. It is a territorially large and politically important region in the world. Armed conflicts take place not only in Syria but also in Ukraine, Yemen, Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Libya, Mali, Nigeria, Cameroon, Sudan, South Sudan, Somalia, the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of Congo. Europe is confronted primarily with a huge refugee crisis from these war-torn regions.

The proximity of the turbulent regions of North Africa and the Middle East significantly affects the security and stability of all European Union member states. It is important to point out that the inability of the European Union to develop a unified approach to conflict in Syria, Iraq and North Africa indirectly led to the creation of migration flows in the Mediterranean region that had developed in a huge regional refugee wave. At the same time, poorly managed logistics and the estimation of their capacities for providing and receiving migrants and refugees in the countries of the European Union have caused a number of problems. Gradually, the hopes of immigrants and refugees crushed with the political and social reality, and it is necessary to mobilise all internal and external forces of the European Union. The capacity and willingness to accept migrants and refugees are two distinct categories, the reluctance and fear of the majority of the population shows that the majority prefers security over freedom. Presently, the European Union is well aware of this fact. Political practice, especially during the economic recession and rising unemployment, is not seeking a non-party perception and theoretical explanation of the issues, but a purpose-built and party's justification of their policies, especially in the period of elections. This fact then creates, with respect to the concept and the topic of actual interest, considerable difficulties.

Unfortunately, the issue of international migration and refugee was seized by the media, populists, extremist political parties that do not work only with the

facts, but use subliminal and instinctive feelings of the population. Public opinion is poorly and superficially informed about the problems of migration and immigration, and it is difficult to judge which statements are based on serious evaluation of the facts and which are only the intuitive concerns. Therefore, the information deficit of society plays an important role and it is relatively easy to manipulate an uninformed public by the use of simplified and populist statements and the abuse of symbols and emotions. Another phenomenon is the fact that the attitude towards immigrants is becoming a basal part of the mission statements of all European government cabinets.<sup>1</sup>

Working with migration statistics was and still is very problematic. International Organisation for Migration (IOM) together with UNHCR published some figures for 2015 at the beginning of the year 2016. As completely accurate statistics are not available, these can be perceived as the most accurate an educated estimation we have at our disposal at the present moment. They indicate that in 2015, almost exactly one million refugees came to Europe. The decrease, when comparing to estimations, softened the rhetoric of the discourse in the media and UNHCR, in its last press release, it speaks of “the highest number of refugees since the war in former Yugoslavia”, and not the “highest number of refugees since World War II.” This is justified, as in the first half of the nineties more than 2 million people had to leave their homes because of the war in the Balkans.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> ŠTEFANČÍK, R. Problém migrácie vo svetovej politike. [The Problem of Migration in World Politics] In *Medzinárodné vzťahy 2007 – Energetická politika EÚ a boj proti klimatickým zmenám*, p. 740.

<sup>2</sup> Statistics show that the Arab world has 350 million inhabitants of which two-thirds are young people under 25 years. From Syria, which had 22 million inhabitants, more than 4 million people have emigrated in recent years. Of these, nearly 2 million are in Turkey and the other hundreds of thousands are in Jordan and Lebanon's refugee camps. These people live in extreme poverty and are dependent on food aid. Practically all refugees arrived to Europe by sea. Just a little over 30 thousand passed by land through Turkey to Bulgaria or Greece. 4,000 people drowned in the sea. This is 6 times more than the number of asylums granted by Slovakia together since its formation. 87 percent were refugees from Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan. It should also be noted that most of the refugees claim from objective reasons that they come from Syria even if the country of origin is different.

CENKER, M. Koľko utečencov do Európy prišlo, kto ich lákal a kam ist' nechcú. [How many refugees arrived to Europe, who lured them and where they do not want to go]. [online] Available at <http://iir.cz/article/ko-ko-utečencov-do-euro-py-prislo-kto-ich-lakal-a-kam-ist-nehcu> OECD Society at a Glance: *OECD Social indicators*. OECD Publishing 2014.

In accordance with these facts, the statements about the new migration of people, or the march of world poverty to Europe has its rational core. It should be noted that a common feature of migration behaviour is to find better living and economic conditions, an effort to prove oneself, to overcome and avoid the restrictions existing in the home country. We emphasise that international migration for political reasons has mostly long-term and permanent character. It is usually a one-way movement, because similarly to the economic or social factors of international migration, there is no guarantee of return of the migration population after the consolidation of the political situation in the country of origin.

In the present study, we will pay particular attention to the phenomenon of international migration of the population from Asia and Africa in the conditions of Europe, or more precisely to the European Union and we will attempt to point out that it is a category that brings a large number of problems to the political systems of European countries. In the case of population movement we can speak not only about the negatives, as the topic is presented in the current socio-political discourse, but we can also talk about the positives and benefits for receiving and sending countries. Positives and negatives are fundamentally influencing the policy of liberal-democratic nation states and this phenomenon is the cause of radicalisation and diversification of the policy in the European area.

### **Theoretical definitions and approaches**

International migration and the associated refugee crisis in Europe is, as already indicated, a complex, multi-level, multi-dimensional phenomenon. Investigating this phenomenon requires an interdisciplinary approach in order to capture all aspects from the perspective of various scientific disciplines. For these reasons, it is very difficult to find one theory that would cover the complexity of different aspects of international migration. At the beginning of the 21st century, there has been a large number of theories capturing and explaining the causes of international migration in today's globalised world, but none of them is consistent or complete, and most of them are characterised by a multicultural approach.<sup>3</sup> Theoretical research on issues of international migration is still not at the stage of establishing a separate and independent discipline of social sciences. A universal theory of international migration has not yet been found,

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<sup>3</sup> STOJANOV, R., NOVOSÁK, J., DROBÍK, T., SIWEK, T. Migrace jako globální fenomén. [Migration as a Global Phenomenon] In *Mezinárodní politika*, 2006, No. 10, Vol. XXX., p. 15.

identified or designed, which would be able to cover all the relevant aspects. The theories differ from each other in their content, scope, scientism and analytical value, its authors and the time of their creation.

There are currently several competing approaches which seek to explain the most important events in international migration. These vary in identifying the causes of migratory flows and in the objectives of their research. It is important to understand that each approach considers certain specific problems to be the most important, therefore, they are not easily comparable, but at the same time we have to point out that the theories are not necessarily contradictory.

We emphasise that each one of the migrations is a very specific process, yet it is possible to find certain common features between them. When explaining this objective phenomenon, the contemporary migration and refugee crisis, we can apply classical and the most frequently used methodologies which basis were laid by E. Ravenstein, i.e. neo-classical theory, which is associated with the beginning of modern migration. Approaches of this theory are now widely known and frequently used as a push and pull theory (push – repelling, pull – attracting), or the hypothesis. The theory was developed by the English economist Thomas Brinley, who studied overseas emigration and transatlantic migration in the period of industrialisation.

The theory assumes that migration is caused by socio-economic imbalances among the areas where there are certain primary factors either repelling the population from an area, or others that attract them to a new destination.<sup>4</sup> Factors that motivate people to emigrate – push factors include the following: low standard of living, economic conditions, demographic growth, inadequate environmental conditions, political instability, ethnic tensions, violent conflicts, political discrimination. The pull factors, that influence the choice of the country of destination, include: demand for labour, higher wage levels, better living conditions, accessibility of the country, hence the proximity of the intended destination, political freedoms, respect for human rights, more secure situation in the host country. The final decision of an individual to emigrate or to stay can be explained as the result of comparison between the influencing factors at home and in the destination country, either way, the pull factors are considered to be decisive.

We will not elaborate in detail on the various theoretical approaches, but we assume that the current situation is best described and the current status can be

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<sup>4</sup> DRBOHLAV, D. Migrační motivace, regionální a sídelní preference obyvatelstva – teoretická východiska v československé a zahraniční literatuře. [Migration motivations, regional and residential preferences of the population – theoretical background of Czechoslovak and foreign literature] In *Sociologický časopis*, 1990, No. 5, Vol. 26, p. 364.

theoretically interpreted by certain socio-economic theories, which are based on a combination of economic and social factors.

At this level, the theory of networks is important, which emphasises the importance of interpersonal ties in the migration process. Migrant networks are a set of interpersonal ties that connect migrants, established migrants and non-migrants in the country of origin and in the destination country through family ties, friendship and ethnicity.<sup>5</sup> Migrants in the destination country create groups with strong social bonds. The idea is to build a broad network of contacts to serve potential migrants, to create a suitable starting position for the migration of relatives and thus boost the final decision to migrate. In the host country, the long-term migrants create favourable initial conditions and help them to integrate into the socio-economic life. This is especially in the provision of accommodation, handling of various permits and contact with the authorities of the recipient country, but also the search for and the possibility of finding a job.<sup>6</sup> These ties are a kind of social capital that provide information resources, social, financial and other support and assistance. The main characteristic of social capital is its convertibility into other forms of capital, especially into financial capital. Immigrant groups often create their own economic and social infrastructure. The network increases the chances of international migration, as it reduces the costs and risks of movement and increases net revenues from migration. Thus, each additional migrant is increasing and expanding the network while reducing the risk of movement of other family members. Every act of migration creates social capital among people with whom the migrant is in a relationship and increases the chances of success of their migration. The subject of migration is not only the labour force, but also family members and refugees who are not taken into account in economic theories of migration. What is very important, especially in the current situation, is that governments are unable to control these migration flows because they do not have the

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<sup>5</sup> CASTLES, S., MILLER, M. J. The Age of Migration – International Population Movements in the Modern World, pp. 22–24.

<sup>6</sup> As an illustration we can mention the Muslim religious community of migrants in Europe who developed a whole range of institutions, focusing on religious education and the preservation of Muslim identity during the second half of the 20th century. By mediation of the education in mosques, in schools, or through their own mass media they build-up and preserve the contacts between the Islamic emigration and home communities. The reasons for migration in such cases are not only wage differences between individual countries, but already existing broad social base among immigrants with contacts to the home country.

ŠTEFANČÍK, R. Problém migrácie vo svetovej politike. [The Problem of Migration in World Politics] In *Medzinárodné vzťahy 2007 – Energetická politika EÚ a boj proti klimatickým zmenám*, p. 744.

possibility to control the informal networks whereas the development of these networks have been made easier by the family reunification policies.

Furthermore, in this context it is worth mentioning the institutional theory, which emphasises the influence of institutional actors on migration processes.<sup>7</sup> If migration process starts on international level, private institutions and voluntary organisations will start to appear and multiply to meet the growing demand created by the inequality between a large number of people who are trying to emigrate and the limited number of immigration visas. This imbalance creates lucrative economic conditions for entrepreneurs. On the one hand, there are humanitarian organisations that seek to improve the status and defend the interests of legal employees and prevent the exploitation of illegal migrants. They provide shelter, counselling, social services and others. On the other hand, there are for-profit organisations and entrepreneurs who provide their services for a fee, illegal smugglers, falsification of documents, provision of usurious loans, accommodation, arranged marriages with citizens of the host country and so on. All these institutions and organisations support the development of migration, after a certain time these institutions are well known among migrants and constitute social capital that facilitates migration decision making. Like in the case of the theory of networks, institutionalised migration flow is still independent of the circumstances that triggered it. It includes the mafia structures, can be and is a source of unfair activities and crime. The effort of governments to restrict migratory flows supports the growth of the black market, which of course provokes a negative response from humanitarian organisations.

One of the modern theories, the theory of cumulative causes indicates that over time international migration tends to promote itself so that other migratory movements occur more likely and with a possible predictability. Causality is cumulative in the sense that each act of migration is changing the social context within which migration decisions happen so that additional migratory movement becomes more likely.<sup>8</sup> The theory works with the so-called domino effect in which there is a feedback between particular elements. Positive or negative change of one factor has a positive or negative impact on other factors.

In addition to the above, there are many other models and theories that attempt to answer the question about the causes of international migration flows. Research on current migration processes, migration and refugee crisis, will certainly bring a number of other different approaches and hypotheses to

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<sup>7</sup> MASSEY, D. S. et al. Causes of Migration. In GUIBERNAU, M., REX, J. (ed.). *The Ethnicity Reader. Nationalism, Multiculturalism and Migration*, pp. 263–264.

<sup>8</sup> MASSEY, D. S., ARANGO, J., PELLEGRINO, A. *Worlds in Motion – Understanding International Migration at the End of the Millenium*, p. 178.

explain this complex phenomenon of today, by using different methods and tools of many scientific disciplines and different levels of analysis. But it is also necessary to say, on the basis of the above, that it is almost impossible, and in the short term unrealistic to expect the creation of a general, universal theory of international migration, which would be able to cover all possible forms and variations of international migration. The complexity of this phenomenon contains in its essence diversity, existence of a great number of factors, and their combination creates an endless number of different alternatives. Therefore, given the complexity of the issue and the necessity of an interdisciplinary approach, we can consider whether it is necessary to have the general theory of international migration. S. Castles says that the aim of theoretical research in the field of international migration should be an identification of a conceptual framework that would provide theoretical and methodological orientation for the research of various migration processes, rather than aspirations to create all-embracing and all-comprising universal theory of international migration.<sup>9</sup>

### **The pros and cons of migration to Europe**

International migration and the refugee wave become a civilisational challenge of the 21st century. In the 90s, P. Huntington signalled a potential global migration crisis.<sup>10</sup> In the context of international migration in general and a refugee crisis in the territory of Europe, we can seriously assume that the most common is the migration of poor and uneducated, disadvantaged and poorly qualified people which brings almost insoluble problems to European Union countries. Among scientists, politicians and economists there are raising concerns about the possibility of a new migration of population and thus arising huge political, social and economic changes on the map of the modern world. These changes, by their dynamics, have been forming for a long time a very complex set of problems that, in terms of their urgency, are currently becoming the priorities for various actors in the global political system. In effect, we can talk about the threat to the stability and security of the political system around the world and about a very serious problem especially for Europe, more precisely for the European Union.

J. Eichler explains the term threat as an expression, gesture, action or act which reflects the ability or even the intention to cause damage to someone. The

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<sup>9</sup> CASTLES, S. Understanding Global Migration: A Social Transforming Perspective. Conference on Theories of Migration and Social Change. [online] Available at <http://www.imi.ox.ac.uk/pdfs/stephen-castles-understandin-global-migration>.

<sup>10</sup> HUNTINGTON, S. *Sřet civilizací. Boj kultur a proměna světového řádu* [Clash of Civilizations. Fight of Cultures and the Transformation of the World Order], p. 234.



threat is a sign or a prodrome of such an action which provokes concerns of the person in danger. Each threat may result in minor, major or even irreparable damage, thus causing fear of the person. The threat should be seen as a phenomenon of an objective nature, which operates independently of the interests of the person endangered who by his actions and his behaviour may reduce or even eliminate the threat. At the same time he can also further strengthen or even accidentally provoke the threat.<sup>11</sup> International migration in its complexity should be perceived in the same logic, together with the refugee crisis.

Positive and negative impacts of international migration and refugee crisis can be measured by its intensity. In the case of low intensity, the autochthonous population can be economically and culturally enriched and coexistence does not show greater excesses. On the contrary, in the case of a strong wave of migration or of refugee waves, there is segregation of immigrants and refugees and consequently a social cohesion. It is well known that segregation and ghettoisation of immigrants, followed by hostility manifested in various forms and intensities, is part of everyday life in all major cities of Western Europe. At the same time, these hostile sentiments are arising in other post-communist countries that became EU member states in 2004.

In general, public opinion, citizens and political elites on the European continent have anti-immigrant political sentiments. This general reluctance in developed countries is based on the whole complex of concerns related for example, to the problems of unemployment, staffing as well as salary scales. The question of safety is widely discussed, assuming that immigrants are the source of higher crime rates and criminality. There are also concerns about the loss of national identity, as the increase of migrants can very quickly change the ethnic structure of European countries with a low birth rate of indigenous population. Another problem is the costs associated with social security of migrants. The problems associated with relatively strong decrease in prices of real estate, i.e. prices of houses and land in areas where migrants are concentrated usually decreases rapidly and it is also the cause of the concentration of different ethnic minorities into some troubled parts of western European cities with all the negatives stemming therefrom.

To sum it up, all citizens of European countries are concerned with being invaded not by armies and tanks, but by immigrants speaking foreign languages, worshipping other religions, belonging to different cultures, taking their jobs and occupying their country, using their social security system and undermining

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<sup>11</sup> EICHLER, J. Mezinárodní bezpečnost na počátku 21. století. [International security at the beginning of the 21st century], p. 21.

their values and way of life.<sup>12</sup> Migration and the problems of multi-ethnic societies are therefore a phenomenon that significantly affects the political situation in European countries.

Currently, a great number of studies are being done, dealing with the impact of migration on the economy and economic development of recipient countries. In general, international migration and thus the movement of labour force increases the economic efficiency around the world, but on the other hand it brings certain costs which could be considerable in the case of unskilled immigrants and the economy in the recipient country is in a state of stagnation. Therefore, movement of labour force remains the protected domain of a nation state.

The results show that immigration has no significant impact on employment and wage levels. The primary cause is that immigrants are working in areas with low social status, low wages, occupying positions not attractive for the domestic population. Also, the domains which are deficient, highly qualified jobs, where the costs of education are high and the time for obtaining qualification is long. In the case of highly qualified migrants (brain-gain), there are no more costs for their education and the impact is clearly positive. They work in industries that are knowledge-based, including software development, telecommunications, mobile technology or health care. European countries are not able to follow the changes in these areas and the shortage of a qualified labour force ultimately limits their growth. These migrants actually compensate for lower geographical and functional mobility of the domestic workforce. Domestic workers refuse to perform low paid work and this work is now performed by foreign migrants. Therefore, a negative situation arises in which the domestic economy could be dependent on foreign labour in the short or long term.

Immigrants, it is not only the labour supply, but also the increasing demand for goods related to the needs of migrants, such as food, accommodation, services, which is affecting the production and expansion of the domestic market. We should also take into account factors difficult to quantify, such as innovation and entrepreneurship of immigrants and the associated benefits for the economic development of recipient countries.

Ambivalent attitudes of the general public of European countries towards migrants also arises from the fact, that the benefits and negative aspects of migration are very diverse within countries.

It is primarily high society, employers and wealthy people who benefit from this phenomenon. Cheap labour force works in many sectors of services –

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<sup>12</sup> HUNTINGTON, S., *Sřet civilizací. Boj kultur a proměna světového řádu* [Clash of Civilizations. Fight of Cultures and the Transformation of the World Order], p. 235.

cleaning, gardening, child care, hotel industry, restaurant services and others. On the contrary, those who lose in this situation and whose status is becoming more difficult are the unskilled members of the domestic low social class. Statistics indicate that on average, the competition from migrants caused a decline in wages in this category by about 3 percent in Europe. At the same time, depending on the region, immigrants are the cause of the increase in revenue even in this category, with the increased demand on the local market, the demand for food and accommodation capacities, which can create additional job opportunities. It is important to see that the costs of providing social services and benefits in areas with large numbers of immigrants bring burdens for local budgets and it causes many problems. On the contrary, taxes paid by immigrants contribute to the state budget of the country. Although immigrants send one part of their earnings to their country of origin, most of the money earned remains on the market of the recipient country.<sup>13</sup> B. Divinský points out that if an important part of foreign migrants is not economically active – refugees, unemployed migrants, family members and other groups – fiscal impact on the domestic economy may be significant.<sup>14</sup>

Immigration is controversially, one of the main causes of the increasing generational imbalance in developed European countries. Since people mainly in the productive and reproductive age are migrating, the proportion of young people increases and the population is growing. In general, the population of Europe is aging, the number of people and the natural birth rate of the European population is declining, burden on the pension system is growing. The fact is that in the countries of Western and Northern Europe, the growth of the population in recent decades is driven by international migration. As a result of the negative development of the demographic situation, the aging population, a certain number of migrants is natural and inevitable in the long term. Population ageing can gradually lead to a situation where some countries will not be able to meet the requirements of its economic sectors without the arrival of a new immigrant labour force. It is reported that the elimination of this negative phenomenon would require a regular influx of a large number of immigrants. Reported data from the turn of the century estimates quite accurately the current state of this situation.<sup>15</sup>

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<sup>13</sup> SULMICKA, M. Trendy we współczesnych migracjach międzynarodowych. [Contemporary trends in international migration], pp. 94–95.

<sup>14</sup> DIVINSKÝ, B. Zahraničná migrácia v Slovenskej republike – stav, trendy, spoločenské súvislosti [Foreign Migration in the Slovak Republic – Status, Trends, Social Context], p. 25.

<sup>15</sup> The authors state that in the 90s the number of the working population in the European Union decreased by about 700,000 people. Experts estimate that the situation of the natural population increase throughout Europe in the near future will get worse.

Germany, for example, to maintain a balance between the number of employed persons and the number of pensioners, they would need to take 500,000 immigrants a year by 2050, in France it is 110,000 and for the European Union as a whole 1.6 million.<sup>16</sup> The research of R. Štefančík and J. Lenč indicates that Germany would need an intake of 400,000 immigrants a year to stop the decline and subsequent stabilisation of the number of working population.<sup>17</sup> In this context, we can mention, for example, the Czech Republic, where the phenomenon of the falling birth rate is the most burning issue from all the newly admitted countries and where, for a limited period of time, a positive net migration may be a compensation for the expected negative development of the population and prevent the population decline under the limit of 10 million.<sup>18</sup> Generally thinking, there is an opinion throughout Europe according to which a correctly adjusted and oriented framework for immigration policy can help solve or at least mitigate the problems associated with an aging population.

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In the European Union, the number of employed persons will decline in the next ten years and in 2025, the number will be reduced by 2 million compared to 1995, when the EU countries employed 225 million people. The number of pensioners will increase constantly. In 2001, the population of the European Union increased by 1.46 million, of which more than 70 percent consisted of immigrants. This means that today there are twice more immigrants than the natural population growth. In this context it should be noted that in the EU, there may be such a demand for skilled workers from abroad, that none of the resources of the new States (which joined the EU in 2004) will be able to satisfy them. All of them, except Cyprus, declare even lower natural population growth than the decreasing average in Western Europe. Migration potential from new states should reach 3.9 million job seekers within the next 15 years. Each year, at least 220,000 and up to 335,000 people from the new countries of the European Union should move out to the West. This process is manageable for a labour market consisting of hundreds of millions. Between 1990 and 2015, statistics reported that to provide 1 percent of employment growth potential in Western Europe it would be needed to have an inflow of 12 million foreign workers. This would cause a huge movement of migrants – a double of the immigration to Western Europe between 1960 and 1989 (estimate in this period was 6.9 million).

LIPKOVÁ, Ľ., PORUBSKÝ, J. Migračná politika Európskej únie a kandidátske štáty na členstvo v EÚ. [Migration Policy of the European Union and the candidate countries for EU membership], pp. 168–171.

<sup>16</sup> DRUCKER, P. The next society. In *The Economist*, 3. November 2001.

<sup>17</sup> ŠTEFANČÍK, R., LENČ, J. Mladí migranti v slovenskej spoločnosti. Medzinárodná migrácia, moslimovia, štát a verejná mienka. [Young migrants in Slovak society. International migration, Muslims, state and public opinion], p. 27.

<sup>18</sup> Ibid.

On the other hand, this development could significantly change the racial, ethnic and religious structure of the population in the recipient countries. It has a huge impact on the culture, institutions and the entire political system of the country. Whole structures of the new institution must be built to work with migrants. Cultural influences are not negligible, when on one hand, cultural and social diversity is being enriched by a positive mutual influencing of different cultures from the perspective of multiculturalism in Western societies. On the other hand, large numbers of problems and conflicts appear, associated with the acceptance of different cultures and migrants by the domestic population, exclusion and marginalisation of immigrants, a high degree of discrimination and others. According to several authors and as proven by political reality, a so-called parallel society is growing in the recipient countries, consisting of ethnically and religiously homogeneous groups of population that are spatially, culturally and socially separated from the majority of the population. Different customs and norms can be implemented within these communities that do not always correspond with the traditions or even with the law of the country concerned. Scientific research shows that widespread negative stereotypes about parallel societies of immigrants sometimes do not correspond with reality and that immigrants have a higher degree of willingness to integrate than expected.<sup>19</sup>

When considering political problems, immigration and refugee crises currently have a very strong impact on the recipient society. There are social conflicts, increased crime, xenophobia, new manifestations of racism, segregation, manifestations of nationalism and violence against groups of immigrants and refugees. In political practice, this trend is mainly manifested by an increase of activities of right-wing extremist parties who are against foreigners and refugees and at the same time, who are against the existing democratic political order, calling for its removal. Resistance against migrants and refugees may be and as it turns out, it is an appropriate tool to gain broad public support. The results of the elections in almost all European Union countries show how sensitive the issue of migration is, with a growing popularity of political figures and political parties who are against immigration. This is the case of Austria, France, Denmark, Sweden, Switzerland and the Netherlands, Hungary and Slovakia, with growing support for anti-immigration parties in recent years. However, the opposite is also true – there are organisations of immigrants in the territory of Europe that violate the political order of democratic countries. Despite the illegal activities and terrorist attacks that took place in the territory of Europe, not all the migrants and refugees can be associated with terrorism. In Germany, research shows that two out of three

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<sup>19</sup> Ibid., p. 30.

residents are against the raising number of immigrants in the country. Problems of migration could lead to political instability with all the associated consequences. Therefore, from the side of European countries it is necessary and legitimate to formulate an active immigration policy.

In the case of the countries exporting a labour force, i.e. emigration countries, emigration of its population reduces the pressure on the domestic labour market, especially if the unemployment rate is too high. From the economic point of view, the countries are gaining thanks to cash transfers, i.e. inflow of revenue from the earnings that emigrants send to the country of origin, known as remittances. Migrants usually occupy a low social status in the country of destination, but the social status of their families in their home country is increasing. Remittances are the basis for capital creation for later date in case of return to the country of origin and at the same time, they contribute to economic growth. In many cases, remittances represent a significant part of the revenue in the periphery countries and significantly contribute to the economic development of the country of origin. Remittances make up a large part of income of foreign currency to cover imports, i.e. to cover trade deficits. At the same time, they contribute to the widening of trade deficits or at least to their stabilisation, thanks to a gradually increasing demand of families that receive remittances.<sup>20</sup> According to estimations, in Latin America for example, the remittances of emigrants represented more than 15 billion USD a year, the estimation worldwide in 2003 is more than 115 billion USD.<sup>21</sup> Remittances sent by emigrants in 2000 to Jordan, El Salvador, Albania, Haiti, Lebanon, Morocco, Jamaica, Eritrea, Lesotho, Nicaragua, Yemen, Bosnia and Herzegovina represented more than 10 percent of the GDP of their home countries.<sup>22</sup>

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<sup>20</sup> Remittances can support the process of economic development, stimulating economic activity, technical progress in emigration countries, but it is dependent on the level of economic development and the quality of the government's economic policy, which should guide remittances in the form of investments in the most productive way. An example of such a development may be the countries around the Mediterranean in the fifties and sixties, where the high level of emigration was accompanied by a high rate of economic growth.

<sup>21</sup> There are countries in the world where the value of remittances from emigrants exceeds the export revenues of the country as a whole. For example, in the Dominican Republic cash transfers from emigrants in 2000 represented 175 percent of the value of exports, in El Salvador 131 percent.

Emigration from Latin America. *The Economist*. 23. February 2002.

<sup>22</sup> DIVINSKÝ, B. Zahraničná migrácia v Slovenskej republike – stav, trendy, spoločenské súvislosti [Foreign migration in the Slovak Republic – Status, Trends, Social Context], p. 26.

Another issue for the countries exporting a labour force are immense losses associated with the costs of education of emigrants, i. e. drain of highly qualified labour force (brain drain). Migration of qualified professionals from poor countries means that the countries of the world centre not only take over the most valuable part of the human potential of these countries, but de facto, there is a spillover of the capital from poor to rich countries. These, without sharing the costs related to education, are benefiting from the advantages and profits stemming therefrom. For example, countries of sub-Saharan Africa have lost approximately 60,000 middle and higher managers since 1990 as a result of emigration. According to estimations, about 30,000 Africans with doctor title emigrated to the countries of the world centre, despite the fact that in Africa, there is one scientist out of 100,000 inhabitants.<sup>23</sup> The fact is that emigration countries spend large amounts of money on education, but they gain, if any, a profit in the form of remittances from emigrants. The rest of the domestic labour force lacks dynamic, responsive, innovative and young workforce which emigrate. A successful return of economically active emigrants would bring a significant increase of domestic productivity, technological improvements and innovations for the economy of their home countries.

As a result of the emigration, poor countries lose their qualified, productive and most of the times, the youngest and most valuable part of their population. The countries are losing their human capital. As a result of the high number of the countries of origin and higher natural birth rate, there are no major problems. The fact that mostly young men are emigrating is very interesting, which may result in a surplus of women in certain areas. One of the social consequences is an absent mutual communication between partners and an increased number of dysfunctional marriages. Huge losses in emotional and interpersonal sphere can hardly be compensated. Problems in the education of children arise as well. Negative phenomenon such as drugs, alcohol, child prostitution and others appear.

In the political area of the emigration countries, high and sudden re-emigration can result in political instability and bring problems of huge dimensions.

## **Conclusion**

It is very difficult, if not impossible, to specify the pros and cons, political, social and economic consequences of international migration from Asia and Africa in today's globalised world. In general, the legal international migration

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<sup>23</sup> Human Development Report 1999. *UNPD*, p. 32.

is beneficial for the countries of origin and destination, although unevenly distributed across the social spectrum. This was ultimately declared for the first time publicly by the British Prime Minister D. Cameron at the beginning of June 2016 on the forthcoming United Kingdom European Union membership referendum.

On the contrary, illegal or involuntary migration is associated with attributes which often have a negative impact not only on migrants themselves, but more or less on the destination, transit and origin countries. A question arises before a competent authority how to solve the problem, what to offer to the illiterate and disadvantaged immigrant and refugee communities in European countries. It is necessary to solve the problem of immigrant isolation. The frustration caused by feelings of rejection, or by non-acceptance, as well as a feeling of discrimination based on cultural and religious differences, worse job opportunities and poorer standard of living – these are generally the most common causes of discontent, race riots and of the hostile attitudes of the majority of society against immigration and immigrants in European countries. Immigrants located on the edge of social, economic and even political interest, elements of the fundamentalist mentality among themselves and in their surroundings can lead to their belonging to extremist and fundamentalist movements and to the key determinations of identity in the search for the identity and dignity of its members.

It should be emphasised that there is still a widening gap in the development of civilization between the centre and the periphery, between rich and poor, there are regional conflicts, the influence of the mass media on the population of the countries of Asia and Africa is growing and global trends associated with an increase in international migration continue to strengthen. How will Europe handle the phenomenon in question depends not only on migrants themselves, but also on the practical policies of the individual countries of the European Union since the culturally pluralistic society does not require homogenisation of culture, but does not exclude assimilation – at least to the extent that the integrity of the society is not violated.

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