

From Migration Flows to Migration Systems: the Case of Ukraine

Oksana Pyatkovska

International Institute of Education, Culture and Relations with Diaspora, National University Lviv Polytechnic, UKRAINE,
Lviv, S. Bandery street 32 D,
E-mail: o.pyatkovska@gmail.com

Abstract – The author of the article singles out countries-participants of migration systems with Ukraine as a source country and, by ranking them according to the selected indicators, makes the analysis of the formation and effectiveness of migration systems. As the result, an attempt to predict possible destination countries of future migration outflows from Ukraine is made.

Key words – migration flows, labor migration, migration systems, export-import of goods and services, foreign direct investments, remittances.

I. Introduction

International migration is one of the defining characteristics of contemporary globalization, and has become a dominant factor in the formation and regulation of the global labor market. As a result of intensification of international migration and transformation of its forms and flows, the interaction between source and destination countries receives new forms, which may provide them (countries) with possible additional benefits on conditions of the development of new conceptual approaches to improving migration management, especially at the national and international level.

This interest has undoubtedly been triggered by a striking increase in migration flows from Ukraine, which made it fourth largest source country in the world with 6,6 million emigrants [11]. Ukraine is also in the top list of migration source countries of the second largest migration corridors (South – South) in globe with almost 3,7 million of emigrants to the Russian Federation [12, p. 62]. In 2013 it was recognized by the United Nations as the top migrant-sending and -receiving country in the world together with the United States, the Russian Federation and India [12, p. 63]. According to new estimates of the World Bank, Ukraine is in the list of top 10 countries recipients of officially recorded remittances for 2013 in the world. With \$9.3 billion, Ukraine remains the largest remittances' recipient in the Eastern Europe and Central Asia countries [6, pp. 5, 15].

Based on this complex picture, it is clear that Ukraine will continue to become an increasingly important country in world migration patterns and networks. Due to the tremendous population decrease in Ukraine: from 52 million persons in 1991 to 46 million in 2012 [9] the analyses of dynamics of migration outflows and Ukrainian participation in world migration processes seem rather actual. That's why in this article we consider migration trends and formation of migration systems with Ukraine as a source country.

II. The Theory of Migration Systems

As Heinde Haas believes, the scholarly debate on migration and development has tended to swing back and forth like a pendulum, from developmentalist optimism in the 1950s and 1960s, to structuralist and neo-Marxist pessimism and scepticism over the 1970s and 1980s, to more nuanced views influenced by the new economics of labor migration, "livelihood" approaches and the transnational turn in migration studies as of the 1990s [4]. Since 2000, there has been a remarkable, and rather sudden, renaissance of optimistic views, in particular in the policy debate, as well as a boom in empirical work on migration and development. This has coincided with the rediscovery of remittances as a "bottom up" source of development finance and the celebration of the transnational engagement of migrants with the development of their origin societies [4]. Thus, the development of international migration systems in the theoretical discourse of migration studies makes a significant contribution to the analyses of international migration as a factor of social and economic development.

One of the new approaches is the description of international migration as a process of interactive relations between two or more countries. So far, processes of migration were described either from the perspective of the destination country or the home country and could only illustrate in a limited way the inherent dynamics of migration flows. The development of an analytic framework of reciprocal connections and context factors brought the possibility to elucidate new phenomena like re-migration or remittances in a holistic manner and showed the political structural interdependency on both ends of the migration flow.

Mabogunje (1970), the founder of migration systems theory, defined a migration system as a set of places linked by flows and counterflows of people, goods, services, and information, which tend to facilitate further exchange, including migration, between the places [2]. While Mabogunje focused on rural-urban migration within the African continent, Portes and Böröcz (1987) and Kritz et al. (1992) extended his to international migration [3]. International migration systems consist of countries – or rather places within different countries – that exchange relatively large numbers of migrants, and are also characterized by feedback mechanisms that connect the movement of people between particular countries, areas, and even cities to the concomitant flows of goods, capital (remittances), ideas, ideals, representations and information (Fawcett 1989; Gurak and Caces 1992; Levitt 1998) [3].

The fundamental assumption of migration systems theory is that migration alters the social, cultural, economic, and institutional conditions at both the sending and receiving ends – that is, the entire developmental space within which migration processes operate.

Countries may belong to more than one migration system. Changes in the context of a migration system and changes in the linkages between countries form the time dimension of a migration system. This dimension is

essential to flow and counterflow dynamics. In addition to external causes, changes in the context of a migration system and changes in the linkages between countries may also be caused by international migration itself [8]. A large proportion of migrants in the country's population may influence the social, political, demographic, and economic contexts and the linkages between countries. The network theory and institutional theory try to explain the course of international migration flows over time. According to the international systems approach, institutional and network theory are examples of how the context of an international migration system or linkages in an international migration system change because of international migration flows itself [8].

According to I. Ivakhnyuk, the stability of migration linkages in the system is determined by historical reasons (colonial relations or political alliances) and mutual economic interest in the migration of exchange, which makes the emergence and preservation of mutual migration flows between countries that form migration systems [5]. The key issue of the migration system is facilitation of further migration flows (e.g. in the form of chain migration) between countries, so that migration becomes the reason and the outcome of the migration system [5]. Thus, analyses of the effectiveness of migration systems provide us possibly to predict future migration flows. I. Ivakhnyuk stresses, that when we talk about flaws within the migration system, we mean flaws of people, finance, services and goods [5].

III. Ukraine as migration source country

For the last decade migration flows from Ukraine have consistently fallen and remained consistent from 2010 to 2012 (Fig. 1). However, these statistics taken from official registrations and deregistration at a place of permanent residence tend to underestimate real flows for two series of reasons: (1) outgoing persons are not incentives to deregister; (2) temporary flows are not recorded.

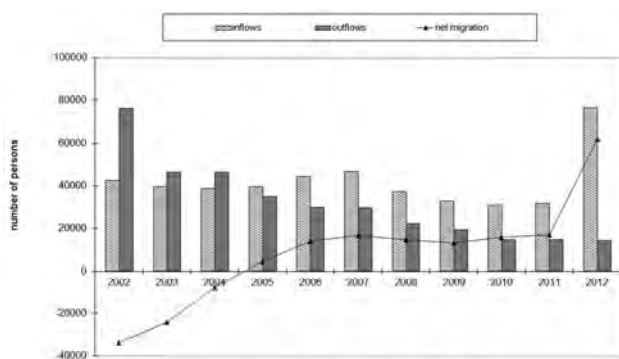


Fig. 1. Dynamics of migration flows in Ukraine, 2002 – 2012

Temporary flows are principally represented by labor migrants. According to the results of the 2008 “Modular Population Survey of Labor Migration Issues”, which was carried out by the State Statistics Service of Ukraine, around 1.5 million of Ukrainians were estimated as “currently working abroad” [13]. The latest modular sample survey of population (households) on labor

migration, conducted by the State Statistics Service of Ukraine in 2012 within the joint IOM and ILO Project “Effective Governance of Labor Migration and its Skills Dimensions”, reported 1.2 million of Ukrainian temporary labor migrants [1]. Both surveys concluded, that main receiving countries of Ukrainian labor migrants were Russian Federation – 48,1% (2008) and 43,2% (2012), Poland – 8% (2008) and 14,3% (2012), Italy – 13,4% (2008) and 13,2% (2012), Czech Republic – 11,9% (2008) and 12,9% (2012), Spain – 2,7% (2008) and 4,5% (2012), Hungary – 3,2% (2008) and 1,9% (2012), Portugal – 2,6% (2008) and 1,8% (2012) [1;13]. The 2012 survey also distinguished new main receiving countries of Ukrainian labor migrants, such as Germany – 2,4% and Belarus – 1,8% [1].

According to destination country statistics, Ukraine leads the list of countries of origin of asylum seekers (2006-2011) and annual average inflows for the period of 2001 – 2010 in Czech Republic [7, pp. 28, 63]. Analyzing dynamics of annual average migration inflows in other OECD countries of 2001-2010, we noticed, that Ukraine as a source country ranks fourth position in Denmark, Italy and Latvia, third – in Lithuania, second – in Slovak Republic and Hungary, first – in Poland [7, pp. 63-63, 273]. Ukraine also ranks fourth position of annual average migration inflows for the period of 2005 – 2010 in Greece [7, p. 63].

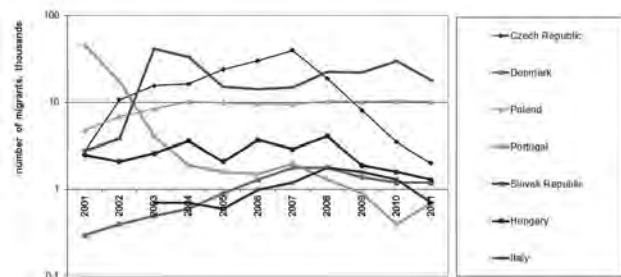


Fig. 2. Inflows of Ukrainian migrants in selected EU countries, 2001 – 2011

Considering the stock of foreign population by nationality in OECD countries, Ukraine ranks first position in Poland and Czech Republic, second – in Portugal, third – in Hungary, fifth – in Italy [7, pp. 382, 385-386, 390]. Ukrainians also have second position rank in Israel's stock of foreign-born population [7, p. 368].

According to the World Bank data, in 2010 Ukrainian emigrants reached 6,6 million people and were spread all over the world (Table 1).

TABLE 1

NUMBER OF UKRAINIAN MIGRANTS BY COUNTRY OF RESIDENCE, 2010

Receiving country	Number (persons)
1	2
Russian Federation	3 647 234
Poland	332 950
United States of America	332 155
Kazakhstan	271 951
Israel	248 699
Germany	202 501

1	2
Moldova	189 906
Italy	172 571
Belarus	141 266
Spain	88 279
Canada	69 218
Czech Republic	33 642
Latvia	33 090
United Kingdom	24 979
Greece	24 836
Estonia	18 216
Australia	16 292
Portugal	15 435
France	15 152
Romania	13 890
Lithuania	12 692
Azerbaijan	10 234
Slovakia	8 353
Georgia	7 447
Kyrgyz Republic	7 339
Denmark	6 192
Ireland	5 028
Turkmenistan	4 983
Armenia	4 873
Turkey	4 682
Hungary	4 681
Austria	4 276
Sweden	3 392
Jordan	3 259
Cyprus	2 894
Slovenia	2 364
Switzerland	2 017
Belgium	1 973
Netherlands	1 598
Japan	1 560
Finland	1 463
Brazil	1 323
Brazil	1 323
New Zealand	1 260
New Zealand	1 260
Norway	1 043
Norway	1 043
Argentina	702
Cuba	603
Ecuador	551
Mexico	322
Luxemburg	246
Chile	233
Bolivia	191
Panama	190
Colombia	182
Dominican Republic	181
Congo, Rep.	174
Paraguay	142
Venezuela	139
Uruguay	135
Peru	127

Thus, main countries that could potentially be partners in the migration systems with Ukraine are: EU countries (Germany, Italy, Poland, Czech Republic, Estonia, France, Greece, Latvia, Portugal, Spain, UK, Romania),

USA, Canada, Israel, Australia, and some CIS countries (Russia, Moldova, Kazakhstan, Belarus).

IV. Ukraine in migration systems

As it was mentioned, the main characteristics of migration systems are flows of people, finance and trade between countries. We have already distinguished top-20 countries of destination of Ukrainian migrants. By analyzing flows of finance, trade and services we can define among them the countries with the best formed migration systems with Ukraine.

Due the significant increase from 6 million US dollars in 1996 to 6,5 billion US dollars in 2012 [10], the remittances play a very important role of financial flows to Ukraine. The main remittances sending countries to Ukraine are Russian Federation, United States, Poland and Israel, Fig. 3.

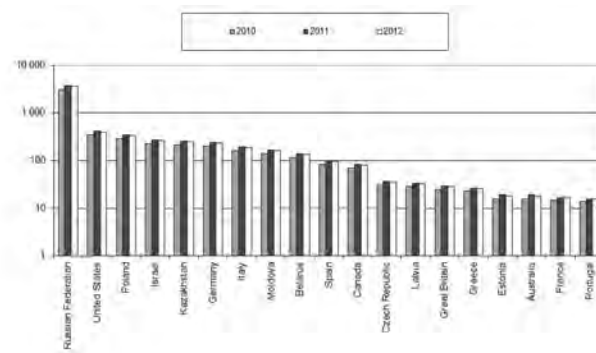


Fig. 3. Remittances inflows to Ukraine by selected sending countries, million US dollars, 2010 – 2012.

Besides, during 2010 – 2012 the share of remittances from top-20 countries in remittances inflow to Ukraine on average was 91% [9].

The main sending countries of foreign direct investments to Ukraine in 2012 were Germany (11,6%), Russian Federation (7%), Great Britain (4,7%), France (3,2%), United States (1,7%), Italy (1,9%) and Poland (1,7%) making 31,8% of all direct investments inflows to Ukraine [9].

Having analyzed the flows of remittances, foreign direct investments, goods and services from top-20 countries we ranked them in Tables 2, 3.

TABLE 2

RATING OF TOP-20 COUNTRIES BY REMITTANCES AND FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENTS TO UKRAINE, 2012

Rating position	Remittances	Foreign direct investments
1 2		3
1 R	Russian Federation	Germany
2	United States	Russian Federation
3 Poland		Great Britain
4 Israel		France
5 Kazakhstan		Italy
6 Germany		United States
7 Italy		Poland
8 Moldova		Greece
9 Belarus		Kazakhstan
10 Spain		Estonia
11 Canada		Canada

12	Czech Republic	3	Republic
13	Latvia		Latvia
14	Great Britain		Spain
15	Greece		Belarus
16	Estonia		Israel
17	Australia		Moldova
18	France		Romania
19	Portugal		Portugal
20	Romania		Australia

TABLE 3
RATING OF TOP-20 COUNTRIES BY TRADE AND SERVICES, 2012

Rating position	Export-import of goods	Export-import of services
1	Russian Federation	United States
2	Moldova	Russian Federation
3	Germany	Great Britain
4	Belarus	Germany
5	Poland	Poland
6	Italy	France
7	Kazakhstan	Kazakhstan
8	United States	Estonia
9	Spain	Israel
10	France	Belarus
11	Czech Republic	Canada
12	Great Britain	Italy
13	Romania	Moldova
14	Israel	Greece
15	Portugal	Czech Republic
16	Greece	Latvia
17	Latvia	Spain
18	Estonia	Portugal
19	Canada	Romania
20	Australia	Australia

V. Conclusion

From the rankings, presented in Tables 2, 3, we can draw a general conclusion that the migration systems of Ukraine is the most effective with such countries as the UK, Germany and France. Also, it is rather effective with the Russian Federation, Greece, Portugal, the Republic of Moldova, Italy, Canada, Czech Republic and Estonia. With the rest of the migration system operates inefficiently, in particular it is necessary to intensify direct investments, increase export and import of goods and flows of services with Poland, Kazakhstan, Israel and Australia. Spain shows low ratings of direct investment to Ukraine and exchange of services. The migration system with the United States lacks flows of goods.

Having analyzed the efficiency of migration systems and dynamics of migration flows from Ukraine we presume that the UK, Germany and France are the most likely to become main countries of destination of future migration flows from Ukraine. Other possible destination countries may be Russian Federation, Italy, Czech Republic and the United States.

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