CONCEPTUALIZING MIGRATION WITH AN EMPHASIS ON MACEDONIA: TRENDS, PATTERNS AND SOLUTIONS

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Abstract: Migration as a multifaceted phenomenon that exists in all countries of the world, in recent years has increased and intensified in Macedonia. Thus research into the trends, patterns, and determinants of Macedonians migration is of a high importance. This paper conceptualizes the notion of migration with a particular emphasis on the situation of Macedonia, by investigating the causes of such movements and the associated demographic, political, economic, social and psychological impact, in order to understand the dynamics and complexities of migration in Macedonia and provide solutions to the problem. Methodologically this is a qualitative research based on the existing literature review and analysis of media reports covered in traditional and newer forms of media focusing on aspects of migration. The analysis has shown that there are many reasons and factors that stimulate and motivate migration, such as improving financial circumstances due to high unemployment rates and low wages, educational purposes, being attracted by relatives who are already abroad, social networks and couples meeting and coming together through social networks and so on. One major concern and a serious constraint on the development of Macedonia remains the 'brain drain', migration of highly qualified and skilled individuals, mainly health professionals, engineers, but also craftsman and artisans, from Macedonia to Western countries especially to Germany. Another picture that shows the high level of migration is the significant decrease in the number of pupils in primary and secondary schools. The data resulting from various surveys point to the fact that the vast majority of students and even university professors wish and intend to move abroad, furthermore with a tendency not to return to Macedonia. In this context, the government has made some efforts to prevent and deter the drainage of the specialized staff in different fields. However, those efforts have shown inadequate and the data derived from various researches provide very worrying statistics. This paper seeks to use the body of the available data and research to contribute to creative and sustainable solutions to the problem, by providing instructions for minimizing this phenomenon through implementing appropriate measures and programs, so that the current migration that is affecting Macedonia has no long-term consequences.
Keywords: Migration, 'brain drain', expectations and disappointments, solutions

1. INTRUDUCTION

Migration began with human history, with the demands, needs, conditions and subtle circumstances that over the centuries have followed the individual, the group, and the society. There has always been a tendency about changing the geographic position, and moving from the most inadequate place to the more comfortable one. The aim is always to find the most peaceful and safe places with new and more useful conditions and opportunities for life in general. Migration is a "universal phenomenon, whom scholars of social sciences interpret it as instinctive in the human nature" (Scott,F., 1986:15). It is a movement of individuals from one geographic area to another one, due to demographic, social, political or cultural changes. It appears for different reasons and may emerge in voluntary and not voluntary forms. Movements may be "for a short term or long term, for economic, political, cultural and social reasons. Movements may be legal or illegal (Lucas, R., 2005: 71). Also migration "is a factor and engine that puts in move political, economic and social development of the population," in local as well in regional level "(Anthenosy, L., 2008: 17). It connects people, families, and communities, which today are called inter-regional and inter-national communities. Through migration *"labor can be displaced in response to the market needs "*, the scale of which can move from local space to a global one. The effect of this dissemination is the creation of an offer of workers over the needs in the places with high salaries, which in turn causes fall in payments, in line with neoclassical theory. This fact generates migrating to another country, thus the cycle restarts "[Boyle, P. & Robinson, K, 1998: 61]. As a phenomenon and social process causes changes that affect both countries: country of origin and host country.

2. REASONS, CAUSES, AND FACTORS

The main interest of many studies is in the question "why people move" (Hammar, T., & Tamas, K., 1997: 13), why migration occurs and how it varies during different periods of time. Home and the birthplace are abandoned "for

new opportunities for yourself and the family" (Koser, K., 2007: 10; Ikonomi, L., 2009: 11). The global system is the main promoter of the migration of individuals from underdeveloped countries to the developed ones; therefore individuals migrate from countries which have contact with the global capitalist system. With the expansion of capitalism in many other parts of the world, with the influence and control of the market, and the appearance of new work opportunities, it is created a population which is ready to move from one country to another one. " Migration happens due to pull-demand factors who are leading the migrants towards industrialized countries, and push-offer factors that push them out of their countries, as well as the network of friends and relatives already in industrial societies that serve as anchoring communities for new arrivals "(Martin , P, 1993 : 4; Hammond, W., 1993: 66; Hugo, J., 1981: 190). Relatives and friends promote the ways and the easiest means to migrate as well as provide help to newly migrants in finding job, financial support, courage, opportunities to get to connect through social media (Hugo, J., 1981: 201; Massey, D., 1993: 362). "Often migrants and their children prefer to marry partners from their country of origin" (Haas, 2008: 24). "Migration analysis, especially the international one, comprises important aspects such as: 1. Analysis of migration in smaller groups than larger waves, including the subject of political control, 2. Planning and keeping under control migration to better welfare countries, 3. Movements of migrants in one direction or many directions, 4. Internal migration, and 5. Migrant selection according to their profession and education" (Richmond, A., 1969: 239). Analysis also point the factors influencing decision-making on migrating: 1. Election of the country to emigrate; 2. Experience of migrants who have emigrated earlier; 3. Emigrants' comments regarding the place where they have migrated earlier; 4. Influence of relatives in making decision about migrating; 5. Benefits from collecting information about the country of emigration; 6. Desire to adapt or social integration of emigrants to the society; 7. Emigrants' wishes to develop their work skills in the country where they migrated; 8. The future of the children; 9. Difficult situations and unemployment issues in the country of origin; 10. The level of wages in the country of origin and the host country; 11. Possibility of increasing the economic situation and saving; and 12. Desire for an adventure (Frijda, 1969: 56). "Some of the most important motives or factors influencing movements are: 1. Ambition for better employment opportunities; 2. Hope for a better future for the individual, family, children; 3. The courage for a new beginning; 4. Better financial situation (Beijer, G., 1969: 48).

3. EXPECTATIONS AND DISSAPOINTMENTS

While in his country, the potential immigrant creates a fictional vision of the ideal and utopian model of life for the country he is intending to migrate. During the first years of migration, he carries with himself certain behaviors, values, norms, traditions from the country of his origin. When he abandons his country, he faces "with a different socio-cultural reality" (Dervishi, Z., 2007 : 84; Jackson, J., 1969: 3). Emigrants usually feel as an overlooked minority. This perception at the same time arouses the feeling of being different in the socio-cultural context. Similar the migrant children are faced with conflicts in the family and their social life, often having their rights being abused. They may lose their respect for the country that has hosted them, the social environment, the parents and their country of origin. Thus, the first integration as a re-socialization is difficult because it involves the diminution of values, customs, traditions and culture of the country of origin and adoption of those of the host country. Unlike re-enactment, integration is not simply a process of the acceptance and adaption of any element of social status offered to emigrants "(Eisenstadt, Sh, 1954: 22). It "shows respect for diversity" (Price, Ch, 1969: 180) and implies "inclusion in a new social system and creation of common relationships with other individuals"(Lockwood, D., 1964: 254). During the integration process, immigrants adapt to the cultural values, lifestyle, moral principles, traditions, and customs of the host country" (Pozdorovkin, O., 2011: 45). "The social integration of immigrants has to do with the teaching of new culture, the way of behaving in the hosting community, individual rights, the statuses, the roles, and building personal ties with individuals of the host society (Heckmann, F., 2004: 15).

4. MIGRATION FROM MACEDONIA

 Emigration on the Balkan area has been an early phenomenon. Particularly it hit the 1990s that once marked the great historic fall of the Berlin Wall, the breakup of the former SFRY and the independence of many republics including Macedonia. The unstoppable process of migration has had huge demographic impact and consequences. If migration continues with this trend Macedonia is expected in the next 35 years to be ranked the 29th out of 43 countries with decline in the population in the world. According to the bi-annual report of the World Bank, by 2010, 447 000 citizens from Macedonia have migrated worldwide (i.e., 22% of the population). The same report states that 29% of the migrants are with higher education. According to Eurostat from 2005 since Macedonia lost the status of candidate for EU membership, 106.216 Macedonian citizens were provided with EU passports. These data put

Macedonia in the 23rd place within the group of most migrating countries. According to the National Youth Council, the percentage of young people who have been permanently or temporarily migrated from the country is 16%, a percentage that is 10% higher than the world average. If migration issues move with this dynamic, by 2030 the number of population under the age of 14 will decrease by 14.4%, and every year from the country will be moved 15 thousand people. According to these data, Macedonia by 2050 will mark a demographic decline of 6.8% and there will be no more than 1.7 46.000 residents of about 2 million population as it currently has [United Nation, World Population Prospects the 2006 revision]. Migration has also accelerated the aging process, because the majority of migrants are young.

5. REFLECTIONS FROM THE FIELD

Migration remains one of the most sensitive phenomenon in the society. Changes in the statistics between various studies as a result of its continuous change make this phenomenon even more ambiguous. "The most significant migration of Albanians in Macedonia seems to occur in the Lipkovo region, which is one of the poorest municipalities in Macedonia", - informed TV Shenja in one of its news editorials. According to this report from this area every month migrate dozens of young people. The Lipkovo area was damaged during the 2001 conflict and failed to recover. At present, many young people are waiting for a visa to go abroad. "People are interested to leave the country, "says a resident."They have closed their houses and left the elders on their own, driven by the necessity to provide bread, "says an elderly man. Every day they escape and go. Young people are those who mostly leave the country. The image of migration is reflected all over, from the young to the elders, but more pronounced is in the schools. The school principals tell about the students who have left and the causes. "The school in the village Mateq had 524 students five years ago and now it has 468 "- says its principal. All the respondents had an opinion that life in Macedonia has become unbearable and this forces them to leave in a search of work and better standard" [TV Shenja, April 14, 2018]. Meanwhile, in media coverage TV Koha states that "tens of buses full with young Albanians depart from the Tetovo's bus station towards the European countries. About 90% of them are with university qualification, craftsmen and artisans. The university professor, a renowned sociologist, Prof. Dr. Ali Pajaziti talking about this phenomenon noted: "when youth note that the social elevator does not function properly in order to elevate the students and the qualified staff toward the deserved positions, when they see that there is not a genuine meritocracy, they decide to take their backpacks and head toward western countries which offer better life and whom they imagine as a country of their dreams…where they will be valued and realized. " Foreign language schools are overcrowded with the demand to learn a foreign language in order to be capable for the labor market in the country where they intend to go. Mendim Veliu from the Foreign Language Center stressed that "over 70% of candidates who come to learn German language are doctors and nurses" . Germany as a powerful country and economically developed, has opened great number of vacancies for professional profiles, ranging from electricians, tailors and other who are also following the course of German language. The course is not followed only by the unemployed but also by employed people. "NGO sector says that the movement is huge due to the unfavorable conditions in the home country, so the youth in the absence of perspective gets their way out. The economist Visar Ademi [n interview for VOX] said that the German Embassy in Skopje allocates nearly 75 visas per day , while in other developed countries the visa issuing data are also very high so per month more than 2 thousand people move from Macedonia [TV Koha- Tetovo , April 17, 2018]. Due to the decline in birthrate and migration in many areas especially the rural ones, schools are closing down and the population of these countries are shrinking rapidly. [Newspaper Koha , March 8, 2018 p . 1 and 7] . "We are witnessing a painful process that is happening every day in our region - the movement of young people, while the worst is that none of the institutions takes measures to prevent this process. I think that this is primarily because of the state's economic and political situation at the national level, and second due to the lack of prospects for young people, where their only employment opportunity is their membership in various party structures."- said Metin Muharemi, chairman of the Center for Education and Developmend (CED)"[Newspaper Koha, April 16, 2018 , p.1-5].

6. BRAIN DRAIN

About 30 percent of Macedonians with higher education live and work abroad, while about 80 percent of students in recent years studying in technical faculties think or plan to leave Macedonia. Every second graduate intends to leave Macedonia. According to Sandra Anastaskovka by the Youth Educational Forum, only 15 percent of respondents do not want to leave the country. This shows that young people who are educated want to find a way out. The results are also evidence of the mental crisis, lack of perspective and the fact that the only criterion is a political party membership. According to research by the Institute for Social Democracy', 49.3 percent of young people do not see their future in Macedonia [radiomof.mk, March 01, 2016]. In the context of the research on October 4,

2017, the University "St. Cyril and Methodius ", Faculty of Law "Justinian Prvi" in Skopje organized a roundtable on the results of the survey conducted electronically in the period from 20 September to 2 October 2017. As regards the profession, 73.5% of the respondents were university professors and assistants, while 22.5% were researchers. To the first question: "If you can, will you leave your homeland and will you live abroad, 68.75% gave a positive response. The movement of educated people does not include only doctors, technical sciences, IT sector, but also presents a movement from social sciences [retrieved from civilmedia.mk, Oct 3, 2017]. In 2013 Eurostat reported that in Macedonia 304.000 young people were unemployed. According to the State Statistical Office, in 2012 the number of unemployed persons with higher education was 45.768, and according to the data from the Employment Agency, in 2012 there were 764 unemployed masters and 17 unemployed doctors of science.

6. **CONCLUSION**

Possible solutions for these abovementioned migration challenges are: investments in new facilities for scientific-research activities, wage increases, involvement of individuals who work abroad in the educational, scientific and business processes in the country of origin, serious reforms in the employment process and elimination of the political party or family-friendship influences in employment [Parliament of the Republic of Macedonia, 2015 : 16]. Macedonia can have a good European perspective. It has a favorable geographic position, adequate population density, has potential for advancing the quality of human resources, has more young people than the elderly, with a more dignified political commitment in implementing the country's reforms it can join the EU. With its membership it can establish cooperation with the diaspora and explore investment opportunities, can increase the quality of education, health and employment opportunities in line with the Lisbon strategy, and expand the rights to social assistance and childbirth. These conditions would create a favorable living environment in Macedonia, and thus prevent the migration from the country.

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