

YOUTH MIGRATION IN THE CONTEXT OF OVERALL EUROPEAN MIGRATION

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Abstract: The article focuses on the phenomenon of youth migration as a crucial characteristic of modern society. The aim of this article is an analysis of youth spatial mobility – especially of academic youth – in the context of migration processes in Europe. The result of the analysis is the conclusion that migration is attractive for the young generation, and it constitutes a way to construct a trajectory for life and a professional path which has both positive and negative aspects. In the context of personality development, emigration of young people is an opportunity to shape life according to their own vision, imagining their life and the life of their family in a country providing better conditions. On the other hand, youth emigration is, to a certain extent, a factor which slows down and inhabits the socio-demographic and economic development of the sending country. The article characterises the essence and scale of world-wide and European migration, presents statistical data regarding characteristics of Poland as an emigration country, illustrates the relation between the situation on the job market and the exodus of youth, as well as analyses the educational migration of young people.

Keywords: migration, emigration, immigration, exodus, educational migration, migration scale, youth.

1. Introduction

The processes of world globalisation and, above all, European integration have led to numerous changes in the functioning of modern society. These changes have especially affected European countries, conditioning their existence in conditions of social instability and disorganisation. Such a situation has resulted in a majority of European countries having been under the influence of “the new migration wave”. It should be noted that this migration wave affects people of different ages, but it is the youth that are the most mobile.

The objective of this article is to analyse the spatial mobility of youth – including academic youth – in the context of migration processes in Europe. For this purpose, data concerning emigration and immigration of youth was presented, placing a particular emphasis on

educational migration of young people. The data used in this analysis is derived from the United Nations, Eurostat and the Central Statistical Office. In addition, secondary analysis of data was employed which concerned various aspects of young people's migration. Finally, scientific literature, online materials and materials from domestic and foreign press were analysed in order to present the current scale of migration, including youth mobility.

2. The essence and scale of migration

Migration is a complex multidimensional and multi-factorial phenomenon, which makes it one of great interest to researchers of various disciplines and branches of science (demography, sociology, psychology, economics, political science, culturology, etc.). Hence, in scientific literature, one can find numerous definitions of migration which, however, have one common element: perceiving migration as spatial mobility. "Any differences result from alternative ways of perceiving issues related to changing one's place of residence, community or geographical location" (Pasternak-Malicka, 2013, p. 177).

In this fashion, Anna Runge and Jerzy Runge describe the migration of people as a change of place of residence or temporary residence (Runge, Runge, 2008, p. 200). Marek Okólski defined migration as a mechanical movement or journey of people which is related to a permanent change of the place of residence, and, in other words, it is tantamount to a territorial displacement (Okólski, 2004, p. 82). For the sake of this article, migration shall be described as a movement of the place of residence; thus, it is synonymous with territorial displacement.

This article shall use the definition of migration as a movement of people which results in the change of the place of residence for a temporary period or permanently. The emphasis shall be placed upon the migration of youth, as well as the immigration of young people to Poland.

Among others, internal and external migration can be distinguished. The former consists in the displacement of people from one administrative unit to another within the boundaries of one country, and the latter, in displacement of people from one country to another (so-called international migration). Currently, each of the above types of migration is occurring to a large extent.

It has been noticed that in the modern world, migration processes are becoming characteristic features in the existence of countries - they constitute an essential element of the globalisation process, owing to which they reach such a prominent level. As it is reported by the United Nations, in 2015, the number of migrants on the world-wide scale amounted to 243 million (over 3% of the overall population) and was higher in relation to 2010 by 22 million. For the sake of comparison, in 1990, the number of emigrants equalled 152 million, which constituted 2.9% of the population. Between 1950 and 2015, the main regions which accepted migrants (immigration areas) were Europe, North America and Oceania, while Africa, Asia,

Latin America and the Caribbean were the regions sending migrants (emigration areas). From 2000 to 2015, the average net migration to Europe, North America and Oceania constituted 2.8 million people on an annual basis. In addition, when considering the scale of world-wide migration focusing on high-income countries (countries with a high level of economic development), it was concluded that the attractiveness of those countries became even more pronounced. In the period between 2000 and 2015, on average, 4.1 million migrants per year came to immigration areas from countries with lower and average economic development. In the future, a population growth is prognosticated in high-income countries (82% population growth) owing to immigration (World Population Prospects The 2015 Revision, 2015, p. 6). Globally, the average age of a migrant is 39. In 2013, as much as 33.1% of the global migrant population was made up of persons between 15–34 years of age. This ratio was even higher for developing countries (37.9%, United Nations, 2013). In certain regions of the world belonging to immigration areas, for example, Latin America and the Caribbean, the population of migrants is becoming younger (World Population Prospects The 2015 Revision, 2015, p. 6).

As indicated in “World Youth Report”, the number of students who study abroad rose from 2 million in 2000 to 3.6 million in 2010, which constitutes an increase of 78%. China, India and the Republic of Korea were the primary sources of international student migration. At the same time, the United States of America was the most popular destination for foreign students – constituting 19% of the overall number of these students. The other most popular destinations were the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (11%), Australia (8%), France (7%), Germany (6%) and Japan (4%) (World Youth Report, 2013, p. 23).

When analysing the migration situation in Europe, the term “migration crisis” is becoming increasingly prevalent. This crisis manifests itself in at least two directions and two forms: emigration and immigration. EU statistics concerning international migration show that in 2015, altogether 4.7 million people immigrated to one of the member states of EU-28, and at least 2.8 million emigrants left a member state of the EU. The highest number of immigrants in 2015 was accepted by: Germany (1 543,8 thousand), The United Kingdom (631,5 thousand), France (363,9 thousand), Spain (342,1 thousand) and Italy (280,1 thousand). The highest number of emigrants in 2015 was recorded in Germany (347,2 thousand), Spain (343,9 thousand), United Kingdom (299,2 thousand), France (298 thousand) and Poland (258,8 thousand). In general, in 17 member states of the EU, the level of immigration was higher than that of emigration, and in countries like Bulgaria, Ireland, Greece, Spain, Croatia, Cyprus, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Latvia and Lithuania, the number of emigrants surpassed that of immigrants (Statystyka..., 2015).

Migration processes – both on the world-wide and European scale – affect all spheres of human activity, shape the directions of society’s development, create multicultural societies, as well as lead to rejuvenation or ageing of the population. As Sławomir Kurek indicates, “Migrations will become an additional factor stimulating or hampering the progress of

a population's ageing – and shall differentiate it according to a given region” (Kurek, 2006, pp. 394-398).

It should be pointed out that in European countries, one of the main factors enhancing a population's mobility (especially that of young people) was the accession of 13 new countries of Central and Eastern Europe to the European Union in 2004 and 2007. These changes presented the citizens of these countries with new possibilities related to open borders, with free movement of the population and “foreign work markets suddenly open to all those migrants”.

3. Poland as an emigration country

Poland is considered and known for being a traditional emigration country. Traditionally, the primary destination countries for Polish emigration in recent years have been Great Britain and Germany, although “the emigration geography” of Polish citizens has expanded. According to the Central Statistical Office, in 2016, the highest number of Polish emigrants stayed in Great Britain (788 thousand), Germany (687 thousand), the Netherlands (116 thousand), Ireland (112 thousand) and Norway (85 thousand). Other emigration destinations also included: Austria, Belgium, Denmark and Sweden. Generally, at the end of 2016, the number of Polish citizens temporarily remaining outside the borders of Poland amounted to approximately 2515 thousand, i.e. 118 thousand (4.7%) more than in 2015. In Europe, there were around 2214 thousand Polish people, and in the member states of the EU, approximately 2096 thousand (Informacja..., 2017). Migration is a multidimensional phenomenon, which means that there are multiple reasons for its increase: opening borders between European countries (as was mentioned above), globalisation, technical and technological developments which enable long-distance travel in a short time-span, as well as an attempt to form professional qualification standards – especially in Europe (which makes it possible for people in specific European countries to find work), a low material and economic level and a high unemployment rate. Countries of high economic development which have a different standard of living attract migrants – especially youth. “Man as a rational being guided by economic benefits makes decisions concerning relocating to a place where his material needs will be satisfied” (Rokitowska, 2017, p. 123).

4. Exodus of youth in the context of the job market

Youth is a group particularly willing to be mobile, including spatial mobility (leaving one's country). The problem of youth migration has been growing in scale in recent years and concerns numerous European countries in which youth migration is a crucial problem. In fact, this exodus of youth is reaching a new level. Young people are one of the biggest groups of migrants. According to Eurostat data, in 2016, 751 082 young people aged 15-29 (from France – 108 355, Germany – 104 028, Spain – 81 607, Poland – 62 965) emigrated from 26 European countries (Population. Demography, Migration and Projections, 2016). In general, 2.8 million people emigrated from countries of the EU (Statistics on migration and migrant population, 2015), and youth aged 15-29 constitutes 26.8% of the overall population of emigrants. Among young migrants, there are qualified persons, as well as those who are willing to take up manual work for a significantly higher remuneration than the one in their native country. It is not uncommon that those manual professions are ones they would never consider doing in the sending country (Zientara, 2012, pp. 89-95). At the same time, some young people, especially those entering the job market, constitute a precariat¹. Being uncertain about one's future, as well as the situation on the job market, results in the fact that for numerous young people, leaving their place of origin (or permanent residence) remains the only chance to find respectable work, escape poverty, settle down or run away from reality.

It should be noted that the unemployment rate registered in Poland on 31 December of 2016 equalled 8.2%. 41.1% (549,3 thousand) of all unemployed were young people aged 15-34. It is worth noting that those unemployed aged 15-34 who took up work for the first time constituted 33% - 181 thousand (Rocznik..., 2017, p. 185) – of the overall youth population at this age. Higher education alumni constituted 3.9% - 52 thousand (Rocznik..., 2017, pp. 170-173) of the overall population of the unemployed and 14.3% of the overall number of alumni in the academic year of 2015/2016 - the number of higher education alumni in the academic year of 2015/2016 constituted 364 619 people (Szkoły..., 2017, p. 26). This signifies that every seventh graduate of a university is potentially unemployed.

The unemployment rate of recent alumni was higher than the general population of people under 30 (21% versus 18%), which indicates the existence of barriers regarding the issue of the youth entering the job market in Poland. In addition, as many as 34% of unemployed alumni remain jobless for a period exceeding a year (Bezrobocie..., 2016). At the same time, there is no significant difference between the unemployment rate of alumni in Poland and the rate of the long-term unemployed among recent alumni in EU countries (32%).

¹ Precariat – a term introduced by Guy Standing signifying a social group characterised by a state of lack of certainty, permanence, stability, as well as the inability to predict the future. Cf. Standing, 2014.

The situation on the job market results in the fact that the number of job offers is low, and the professional competition is so high that more and more young people after graduating from their universities are unable to find employment. Every second graduate of a university has a problem with finding a job. It should be emphasised that the data of empirical research confirms that higher education ceased to protect young people against unemployment. According to the data presented in the poll of “Higher education – for whom, for what purpose and with what results” carried out by CBOS, 78% of those polled believe that the education at Polish universities is conducted on a mass scale and virtually everyone can be a student; at the same time, 64% of respondents claim that persons with a higher technical education diploma are more successful on the job market than persons with a diploma in humanities. Only below 2% of those polled are convinced that it is easier to find employment for alumni of humanities. 23% of respondents believe that alumni of both of these types of studies have similar chances on the job market (Dyplom..., 2013).

Domestic research indicates that the part of youth which is willing to go abroad is the one which has had no working experience yet or remains unemployed. This group of young people believes that leaving their country is the only way to escape unemployment and arrange their life in a satisfying fashion. After Poland entered the European Union, and because of the existing integration into the European educational expanse, some higher education alumni hope that they shall find a possibility abroad of quicker professional development and obtain higher remuneration. Apart from higher education alumni, this is what students take active advantage of during their summer holidays.

According to the “First steps on the job market” research conducted by the consultancy firm Deloitte and Warsaw’s AGH University of Science and Technology (n = 3618 students from Poland, the Czech Republic, Lithuania, Latvia and Slovakia), in 2011: the majority of the respondents does not consider it a problem to change their place of residence in relation to work. The willingness to move to another city is declared by 69%, and to another country – by 59% of those polled. At the same time, 60% of Polish students believed that their higher education institutions do not prepare them in a satisfactory fashion for their future job and they negatively evaluate the preparation offered by their universities in the context of the process of looking for a job. Polish students are also the ones who appear to be the most demanding. At the beginning of their career, they expect a salary in the amount of 3 000 PLN, which is 1000 more than students from Lithuania or Latvia (Studia..., 2011). This is mostly due to the fact that remuneration for higher education alumni remains low.

In 2017, according to the data gathered by Work Service, slightly over 51% of people worked in a post compatible or partly compatible with their education, and 49% worked in professions completely incompatible with their education (Barometr..., 2018). It is emphasised that “in Poland, recent alumni are employed on temporary contracts twice as often as their peers from EU states (52% versus 26%). 63% of recent alumni accept temporary contracts because of the shortage of permanent working positions. Employment based on temporary contracts is

a rare phenomenon in other countries of Central and Eastern Europe – Poland is an exception” (Bezrobocie..., 2016). As a result, such a situation forces those alumni to take advantage of unemployment benefits, international mobility for work purposes or retrain for other professions.

It should be noted that among various migration forms, one that should be especially distinguished is temporary economic migration. Most frequently, such migration is caused by financial reasons – the shortage of jobs and means for living in Poland, the possibility to earn one’s living (as well as to raise the standard of living and satisfy material needs) abroad. S. Kozak notes that there is a category of people for whom “migration might be a life style”. Accepting and getting used to such a model by migrants and their families leads to a constant postponement of the final return, and those migrants fall into a sort of “addiction” to migrating (Kozak, 2010). As can be seen in the “Economic migrations of Polish people” report prepared by the Work Service employment agency in September of 2017, economic emigration was considered by 14% of Polish men and women. It is believed that the typical Polish economic emigrant right now is a person of above 20, coming from a village or a small town, who leaves the country permanently. Experts claim that “the Polish emigration potential is starting to diminish: we tend to leave less often and, if we do, it is for longer periods, and we are not willing to return” (Rozwadowska, 2017).

As previously indicated, the main migration destinations for young people are, above all, Great Britain, Germany and, recently, also Norway. The key attraction factors are high remuneration (in comparison with Poland), insurance and social security. It is noted that Norway not only needs people to perform simple jobs, but also employees with very high qualifications: doctors, engineers and other high class experts (Emigracja..., 2015).

5. Educational migration of youth on the European scale

The accession of Poland to the European Union has opened up new opportunities for youth: enabling them not only to earn money abroad, but also to study at foreign universities.

It is worth noting that in November of 2011, the Council of Europe adopted two complementary resolutions for the “Europe 2020” strategy, as well as ET 2020, concerning a strategic framework for European cooperation for education and training and educational mobility. Within the scope of the first, it was added that 20% of higher education alumni should spend a portion of time of higher education or training (including professional practice) abroad which would equal a minimum of 15 points of the European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS). The courses provided need to last at least three months. The second resolution, added in May of 2012, concerned the potential to be employed: by 2020, in the European Union (consisting of 28 countries, UE-28), the percentage of employed alumni aged 20-34 who

completed their education and training not later than three years before the reference year should amount to at least 82% (Dane..., 2017).

For the above reasons, academic mobility is one of the factors influencing the development of the European expanse of higher education. In addition, this mobility, especially of students, affects the development of their personality, professional experiences and competences and results in their mobility as employees, improves their communication skills in foreign languages, as well as shapes their personal world. In the field of the higher education, Erasmus+, above all, provides students with a possibility to develop skills and increase their potential of employment. Students are able to study abroad as long as 12 months (in each cycle of higher education). According to the estimates of the European Commission, over two million students should participate in the Erasmus+ programme, including an estimated 25 thousand students of joint MA study programmes (Dane..., 2017).

As demonstrated by the data of the European Commission report called “Mobility Scoreboard: Higher Education Background”, the main country of destination chosen by alumni who studied abroad (for students coming from European countries) is Great Britain (40%). This country of destination was chosen by slightly more than four times the number of alumni compared to the Netherlands (9%), which was the second most popular destination. Other popular countries of destination are Germany (7%), Switzerland and Austria. An interesting fact is that the popularity of the Netherlands, Austria and Switzerland can be mostly contributed to alumni of German philology, which amounted, respectively, to 53%, 58% and 38% of the overall number of alumni studying abroad (Mobility Scoreboard..., 2016, p. 67).

If it comes to exchanges within the framework of Erasmus, the most popular countries chosen by students participating in exchanges differ from the most popular destinations chosen by the alumni of foreign studies. Students who leave for exchanges within the framework of the Erasmus programme tend to choose Spain (14%), Germany (13%), France (13%), Italy (10%) and Great Britain (6%) as their countries of destination. The report shows that the average rate of educational mobility of students within the framework of Erasmus for UE-28 in the academic year 2013/2014 amounted to 1.3% of the overall population participating in mobility, including, on average, 3.9% of the students of the first cycle of studies and 2.6% of the students of the second cycle of studies. The highest percentage of students participating in the Erasmus programme was in Luxembourg and Liechtenstein (6.4% and 3.6%, respectively), as well as in Latvia and Lithuania, where this percentage surpasses 2%. In general, 17 countries were above the average for UE-28, and 15 countries are below the average for UE-28, with the lowest percentage recorded in Macedonia and Turkey. Out of 28 member states, Bulgaria, Greece, Croatia, Poland, Sweden and Great Britain are countries in which the percentage was below 1% (Mobility Scoreboard: Higher Education Background Report, 2016, p. 66).

In 2013, 5 003 students from Polish higher education institutions of the first and second cycle left abroad within the framework of the Erasmus programme. Those who left most often chose the countries of Northern and Western Europe (Great Britain – 41%, Germany – 18%,

Denmark and the Netherlands – 7% each, France – 6%), and every fifth (21%) student left for a different country. The report also emphasised that alumni of foreign studies took into account the regional factor – frequently considering the genetic relationship of languages. In addition, those students who left most frequently chose countries bordering with their countries of origin. Students coming from Austria (15%), France (10%) and Poland (10%) chose a neighbouring country – Germany. At the same time, the three above-mentioned countries belong to the group of five for which Germany was the most popular destination country for foreign studies. Similarly, four out of the five most popular countries of destination chosen by alumni of foreign studies coming from Germany are as follows: the Netherlands (26%), Austria (18%), Switzerland (12%) and France (4%). These factors can be seen as decisive in relation to choosing most destination countries. Certain extremes have also been noted in this context. “For example, 91% of foreign studies alumni from Slovakia completed their studies in the Czech Republic, and in the academic year of 2012/13, 95% of students from Ireland who completed their studies abroad, studied in Great Britain, and in the same year, 84% of foreign students completing their studies in Greece came from Cyprus. Only a few exceptions to this rule can be observed, as in the case of Bulgaria and Latvia, from where students left to study in more distant locations” (Mobility Scoreboard..., 2016, pp. 67-68). However, this tendency conditioned by the similarity of languages and cultures regarding the choice of a country of destination in the case of alumni who complete the full study programme abroad does not have crucial significance nor an influence over the choice of a country of destination for those students who participate in Erasmus exchanges (Mobility Scoreboard...).

Developing the academic mobility of students within the framework of Erasmus is a positive phenomenon and project. Frequently, apart from the willingness to learn and grow, the reasons behind young people leaving their country are also as follows: gathering new experiences and skills, satisfying professional aspirations, evaluating potential job offers and future financial possibilities.

6. Educational migrations to Poland

Poland is currently becoming a country which is one of the most attractive destinations for foreign students. In a ranking prepared by the Study.eu portal (Country Ranking, 2018)², Poland

² It was noted that this ranking includes information regarding over 7.5 thousand study programmes conducted throughout Europe. This compilation consists of three pillars of varying significance: education (45% of the overall evaluation) – quality of education; costs (30%) – costs of accommodation and studying; life and career (25%) – quality of life and possibility to find employment in this country after completing studies. In this compilation, as many as 30 European countries were included, such as Norway, Russia, Ukraine and Turkey. Each of these countries could receive a maximum of 100 points. Cf. *Country Ranking 2018*, <http://www.study.eu>.

has been included – ranking 10th. Germany help first place (80.7 points), which attracts foreign students by offering a high level of education at universities of world class, as well as studies in free higher public schools. Great Britain placed second (75.8 points) – it was first in the categories of “education” and “life and career”, but, at the same time, the last in the categories of high costs of living and disproportionately high fees for studying. France placed 3rd in this ranking (68.6 points). The following spots were taken by: the Netherlands (67.9 points), Russia (62.6 points), Switzerland (62.2 points), Sweden (61.3 points), Belgium (60.4 points), Italy (60.2 points) and, as mentioned before, Poland at the 10th spot (60.1 points).

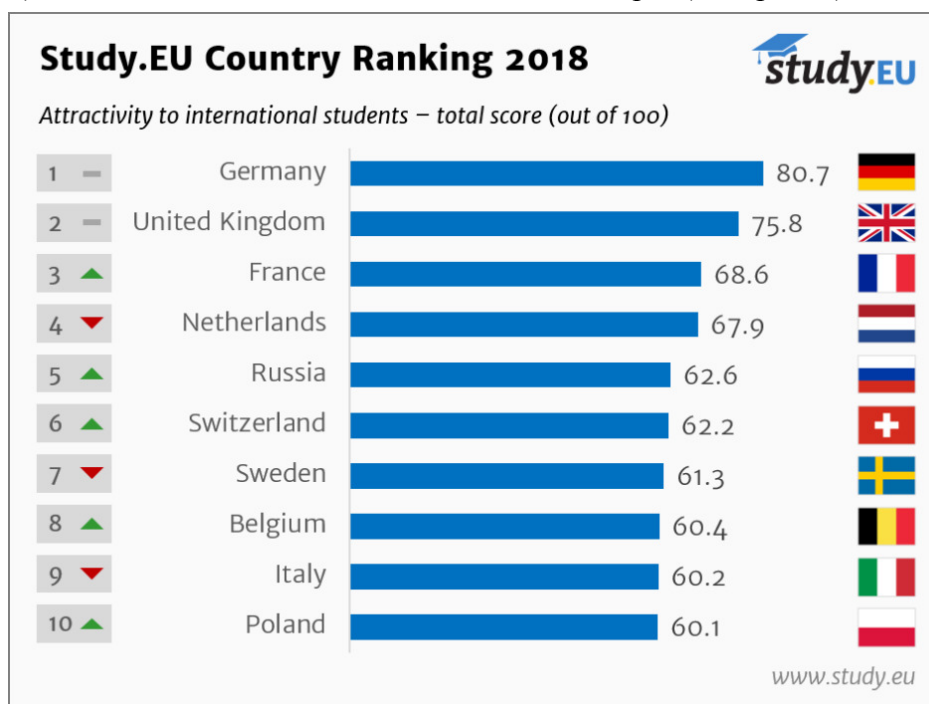


Figure 1. Ranking of European countries which are most attractive for foreign students. Source: *Country Ranking 2018*, Study.eu, <https://www.study.eu/article/the-study-eu-country-ranking-2018-for-international-students>, 22.06.2018.

According to the data of the Foundation for the Development of the Education System, in 2015, within the framework of the Erasmus programme, 14 609 foreign students came to Poland – including 3 803 from Turkey, 3 311 from Spain, 1 265 from France, 1 260 from Italy, 1 087 from Germany and 1 065 from Portugal. The fields of study which are popular among foreign students in Poland are economics, information technology and technical as well as medical studies, which are most popular among students from Sweden and Norway (Wyjazdy..., 2015). It is believed that Poland received such a high position due to the “cost” category, as well as “education”, owing to the fact that there is a high number of study programmes conducted in English.

In the academic year 2016/2017 (as of 30 November 2016), 65 793 foreign students studied at Polish higher education institutions, which constituted 4.9% of the overall number of students. Foreign students represented 171 countries from all continents of the world, but the representation rate varies. The highest number of foreign students came from Europe – 81.6%

(44 countries and 53 719 students), Asia – 13.9% (48 countries – 9177 students), Africa – 2.2% (45 countries – 1440 students), North and Central America – 1.9% (16 countries – 1255 students), South America – 0.2% (13 countries – 164 students), Australia and Oceania – 0.1% (5 countries – 34 students), and, finally, there were 4 stateless students (Szkoly..., 2017, pp. 136-140). It should be noted that the number of foreign students at Polish universities in 2016 was three times higher than in 2010 (1.2% of the overall number of students).

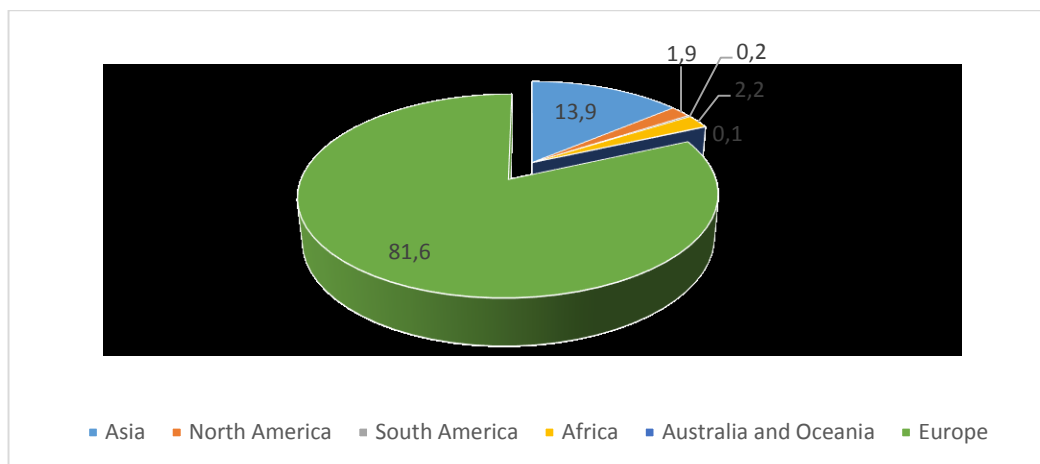


Figure 2. Foreign students at Polish higher education institutions according to continents, %. Source: own elaboration on the basis of *Higher education institutions and their finances in 2016*, Central Statistical Office, Department of Research of Social Affairs and Living Conditions, Warsaw 2017, pp. 136-140.

Over the last four years, Poland has been virtually flooded by a wave of immigration, particularly from Ukraine. At the end of 2017, the number of immigrants from this country amounted to approximately 1.2 million; although, as Jacek Kotłowski, deputy director of Economic Analysis Department in the National Bank of Poland, prognosticates: “In the years to come, the size of the migration from Ukraine will diminish – it shall amount to around 200-300 thousand people a year” (Na koniec 2017 liczba imigrantów z Ukrainy wyniesie ok. 1,2 mln osób, 2017). On the other hand, Sergij Nikolajchuk, director of Monetary Policy and Economic Analyses Department of the National Bank of Ukraine, argues that the number of Ukrainians leaving for work purposes for Poland shall increase considerably during the next 2-3 years because of the low remuneration in Ukraine. At the same time, he noted that after 5-10 years, Ukrainians will stop leaving for Poland, as the economic situation will change for the better, and the quality of life shall also visibly increase (Нацбанк..., 2018).

Ukrainian experts claim that the economic crisis in Ukraine has a negative influence on the employment rate in Ukraine. The Ministry of Social Policy informed at the end of 2015 that the unemployment rate reached the highest level in the history of the independent Ukraine. According to official data, at the end of 2015, 16.5 million people were employed in Ukraine, and there were 1.638 million unemployed people. The unemployment rate, according to the methodology of the International Labour Organisation, amounted to 9%, while this rate among young people below 25 rose to 23%. At the same time, at the end of 2015, half a million full-

time employees were notified of mass layoffs, which is almost twice as much as at the end of 2014 (Нацбанк..., 2018).

One reason for this migration of Ukrainian citizens to Poland is the fact that there is a large wave of those willing to reside and work in Poland on a scale unprecedented in the past. The largest part of Ukrainian immigrants is made up of young people: from 2014, 65% of the immigrants were persons aged 18-35 and the average age equalled 33 years (Chmielewska, Dobroczek, Puzynkiewicz, 2016). Frequently, these persons are well educated, constituting a foundation of high-quality human capital. This situation is especially caused by a new act on foreigners coming into force, which greatly facilitated employers in their efforts to obtain foreign workers.

In the context of the general phenomenon of Ukrainian migration, a separate, but important, group of immigrants from Ukraine is youth who come to study in Poland. The number of Ukrainian students at Polish universities is rapidly rising. In the academic year 2016/2017, there were 35 584 registered students from Ukraine at universities (Szkoły..., 2017, pp. 136-140), which constituted 54.1% of the overall number of foreign students, while in 2015, according to data from Central Statistical Office, there were 30.6 thousand students from Ukraine registered at Polish universities. When compared to 2014, their number increased by 30.8%, and in relation to 2013, this number doubled.

According to research results conducted by the National Bank of Poland in 2015, half of them, apart from studying, are active on the job market, and a large portion of them express the willingness to take up work (33.6%). When inquired about their plans for the future, they declare that they would like to work in Poland in the future (36.6%) or, at least, be partially connected with Poland in the professional sense (32.5%). The remaining part plan to migrate to another country (22.0%), while only an insignificant percentage (2.4%) wish to return to Ukraine (Chmielewska, Dobroczek, Puzynkiewicz, 2016).

7. Reasons why young people migrate

There are more and more factors affecting the decision to migrate and change one's place of residence. It is obvious that everyone has their individual attitude towards the necessity to leave the place of living or the decision to relocate to another administrative unit within their native country or abroad.

Fear of what tomorrow may bring, being insecure about one's future, as well as the need for a better life, all lead to the migration of youth. Speaking of reasons behind the migration of young people, we shall make a differentiation of youth into: the youth which studying and leaves within the framework of international programmes of academic mobility, the youth

which studies and participates in full study programmes abroad, as well as “non-studying” youth which migrates for work-related reasons.

For the youth which study, the motive for leaving within the framework of international programmes of academic mobility is a desire to get to know another country, its language and culture, as well as to evaluate possibilities and future professional opportunities. For the youth which participates in full study programmes abroad, the main reason for leaving their country is a desire to obtain higher education for lower costs, obtain a diploma or even two (in the system of “a double diploma” or “two diplomas”) diplomas of a higher education institution, as well as develop one’s personality and acquire professional experiences and qualifications. For the youth which migrates for work-related reasons, the prevalent reasons are those of an economic nature (poverty, unemployment, low remuneration). In the case of students and youth from Ukraine, their emigration is caused mostly by the domestic situation on the job market. Ukrainian experts state that the “Ukrainian job market is so faulty that it is better not to orient one’s future based on it. Nobody in Ukraine can really predict which professions will be in demand in five years. It is equally difficult to predict which specialties will be in demand this very year. It seems that, in our country, nobody really needs anyone. (...) The only success can be achieved by those who decide to leave. And there shall be no other trend” (Безработица..., 2016). The above signifies that the migration of Ukrainian youth shall continue to rise in scale.

Despite the fact that the main factors behind migration remain economic in nature, e.g. for 83.3% Ukrainian migrants (Chmielewska, Dobroczek, Puzynkiewicz, 2016), recent years have shown that non-economic factors are also gaining significance. Among them are political, social, legal and cultural factors, as well as military conflicts in the sending countries. In addition, the non-economic factors comprise legal regulations, the political system, the personal and family situation of an emigrant, life plans, religious and ethnic discrimination, the breaking of human rights, as well as migration as a life model obtained from a family member or a friend. It might be argued that a popular reason to migrate, from the perspective of a young person, is their reaction regarding the comfort of life; in other words, reaction regarding socio-economic and political differences between the vision of one’s life in the receiving (desired) country and the real situation in the sending (unwanted) country.

8. Conclusion

Migration – including that of youth – is a social phenomenon of a mass nature. It does not remain “without influence on both geo-political participants of this process, i.e. the sending and receiving countries. Mass migrations of population affect all aspects of the given country’s functioning. One of those aspects – probably affected in the most powerful manner –

is the economic life of such a country. Migrations of populations always have a strong economic aspect” (Bińkowski, 2017, p. 13).

The arrival and employment of immigrants leads to economic growth of the receiving country. The sending country receives economic benefits in the form of transfers of salaries of people working abroad, e.g. in 2015, Ukrainians working in Poland sent home over 5 billion PLN (Chmielewska, Dobroczek, Puzynkiewicz, 2016), as well as benefits in the form of human capital, which manifest themselves in professional experiences, as well as in the knowledge of future re-emigrants. The most important negative aspects of youth migration are “brain drain”, a decrease of the potential amount of human capital, the obstacle for regional growth, depopulation of small and medium-sized towns and villages and the ageing of society (Rokitowska, 2017, p. 123-125). It is worth noting that the economic aspect affects social and political processes both in emigration and immigration countries. Because of this, the flow of migrants, especially of young people, becomes a significant factor in the development of modern societies.

Migration of youth has both positive and negative dimensions. In the context of personality development, emigration of young people is an opportunity to arrange their life according to their own vision, imagining their life and the life of their family “overseas”, in a richer country where the living conditions are better. On the other hand, however, emigration of youth is, to an extent, a factor which slows down and inhabits the socio-demographic and economic development of the sending country. Moreover, international migration of youth constitutes, to a certain degree, a negative factor connected with, among other things, a disruption in the functioning of the family, which also quite frequently affects the deterioration of family relations, leading to family breakdowns and an increase of the so-called “euro-orphanhood”. In addition, migration results in the rise of problems and cultural conflicts caused by mutual non-acceptance of respective cultures – on the part of both immigrants and native citizens of the European destination countries. Despite this fact, “migration, as one of the life and career-related options, is attractive, especially for the young generation. The opportunity to get to know the world and acquire experience abroad is a factor encouraging young people to attempt the risk of leaving for a foreign country” (Szyszka, 2016, p. 150). Migration is a phenomenon and growing social process caused by globalisation, and it constitutes a crucial characteristic of the development of a modern society, owing to the significant spatial mobility of youth as a social group.

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