3rd International Conference

Migration, Mobility and Social Welfare in the context of Euro-Atlantic integration

– 10–11 May –Skopje, Republic of North Macedonia –

Book of Abstracts

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FIRST PANEL

Migration Flows and Social- Economic Effects

Discussant:

    Mr.Ivana Popchev-Secretary general of " East West Bridge-Skopje"

    Prof.Dr.Robert Pichler- Austrian Academy of Arts, AUS

1) The labor market needs in the region-opportunities and shortcomings

2) Brain drain, impact on integration processes

3) Migration policies-Eu practices and their applicability in the region

Presentation of the Results from the Survey Conducted in three Universities in the Republic of North Macedonia

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Abstract

In the framework of the conference on migration, mobility and social welfare in the context of Euro integration, a scientific research was conducted in three Albanian Universities in the Republic of North Macedonia. The survey was conducted face-to-face where the target were students, mainly Albanian students. The survey results will affect the quality of the conference by providing information from students' perspectives and public opinion about their future and immigration perspectives, and also through direct research considering their social situation, religious beliefs, gender, and parents' profession, all in order to achieve the required results. The survey data will be used for study purposes in universities, but also in other areas. The results of this survey will give us a clear overview about this topic. In this study, we focus on the public opinion of the students and will have a sample of 300 surveys divided according to gender, social status, family incomes, etc. who will have to respond to the migration of youth from the country, the link of migration with the integration processes, etc. A quantification of public opinion polls will be made for respective target groups. Standard research literature is used for completing this research.

Keywords: Migration, youth, economic aspect, integration

Does *Relative* Intergenerational Educational Mobility Track *Absolute* Intergenerational Educational Mobility?

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Abstract

In order to understand the intergenerational link between parents' and descendants' education, researchers use both absolute and relative mobility measures. Absolute intergenerational educational mobility measures whether or not descendants surpass their parents' educational attainment, whereas relative intergenerational educational mobility measures the years of schooling correlation between educational attainment of descendants and parents. These two different mobility definitions co-move in some, but not all cases. In this study, I investigate where, when and for whom *relative* intergenerational educational mobility tracks *absolute* intergenerational educational mobility. In doing so, I use gendercountry-cohort specific absolute and relative intergenerational educational mobility estimates from the recent Global Database on Intergenerational Mobility which covers birth-cohorts born between 1940 and 1980 for over 130 countries, and contains information on all parentdescendant-specific intergenerational mobility combinations. My findings first reveal that when the gender of descendants is not controlled for, relative and absolute intergenerational mobility estimates do not correlate significantly in most parts of the world. I further show that this result stems from the poor correlation for boys, but not girls: relative intergenerational educational mobility correlates significantly with absolute intergenerational educational mobility for female but not male descendants. I also show that the two mobility measures correlate more strongly for recent cohorts than older ones.

Keywords: Mobility, Education, Intergenerational

The Digital Labour Market, an Opportunity for the Youth in the Region

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Abstract

In the time of technology advancements, we must think of a way to connect talent with jobs through a digital platform. This network will help the unemployed youth to create work through access to the internet. Online platforms can guide talented people to find a job, no matter the geographical and sectoral borders. For thousands of unemployed people in the Western Balkans, it opens a new possibility to get a job through the online process of application and selection. The needs of digital labour market are huge, especially in the field of information technology, business analyses, project management and engineering. Through this research and this paper, we will try to identify the qualifications required for the youth in North Macedonia and the region, so they can find a well-payed job, or start a new career. After they gain the knowledge and experience necessary for online working, they can apply for part-time or fulltime jobs in different online freelancing platforms like Freelancer, Indeed or Hubstaff Talent.

The main reason is to create better matches between the applicant and the online platforms. This gives a possibility to the youth in finding the right communication strategy between a potential position and a jobseeker. By finding the exact needs of digital labour market, we can help students and others gain valuable information which guides them to trainings and courses, so when they apply for a real online job, they have greater chances for acceptance.

Keywords: Digital market, online, platform, job, application

"Economic Impact of Brain Drain in Developing Countries, the Case of North Macedonia"

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Abstract

The main aim of this paper is to analyze the phenomenon of "Brain drain" and its economic impact on developing countries, with emphasis to the case of Republic of North Macedonia. Brain drain is defined as the migration of highly skilled individuals who are educated and trained in one country and migrate and find work in another. The paper gives a general overview of the phenomenon in developing countries, with a focus on the countries of South East Europe, particularly Republic of North Macedonia. Based on the data provided by several researches, Republic of North Macedonia, starting from 1990, experienced a high increase of emigration of people with tertiary level of education. Therefore, the causes and the economic impact of brain drain on developing countries, including North Macedonia, are discussed in the second part of this paper. Statistical data and results are elaborated for better understanding of this issue, so the affected countries will be able to create effective strategies to tackle with the phenomenon of the brain drain.

Keywords: Brain drain, people, countries, migration, education, economy, developing, North Macedonia

"Republic of North Macedonia in aspiration of European integration in practical and theoretical way"

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Abstract

The Republic of North Macedonia, as a country aspiring for membership in the European family must meet the political and economic criteria and has to adapt the political institutions in the country with those of the European Union and their needs and requirements. The aim of this paper is to perceive the key features and trends in the politics of enlargement and to make a comparison between the policy of expansion applied in the process of accession of Central and Eastern Europe and the policy of expansion in the process of stabilization and association, with special emphasis on the Republic of North Macedonia. Of course, in order to do this, one has to develop a theoretical and practical approach to the concept of policy integration, its development and its major elements and modalities.

The problem that this research tackles is very current for several reasons. Namely, the dominant approach, on the basis of which all European Integration theories have been established and developed, can be a realistic foundation for developing modern theories of international relations.

Keywords: integration, reforms, European Union, R of NM, approach.

Media Coverage of Migrants in North Macedonia

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Abstract

Our society lives in a dynamic period that has brought with it some changes. Among other changes, a significant change is the globalization process which has contributed to the increase of migration on a global scale. The media, as a constituent part of the society and with its main function, informing the society, influences the migration process through its information policies. This paper aims to show what kind of behavior the media had in Macedonia with immigrants, and how the reporting in the function of the migration process was. The question posed here and which we will attempt to answer through selected photos is: "Have viewers seen real (neutral) photos of immigrants, or the photos published by the media have been distorted, while distorting the reality?" This paper also seeks to analyze what impact media images may have on our minds, including images of immigrants published in our media.

Keywords: Immigration, media, reporting, influence, society.

Second Panel

EU Migration Policies and Security Challenges

Discussant:

Prof.Dr.Elizabeta Ollogu- Mother Teresa University in Skopje, RNM

Prof.Dr.Orhan Torul-Bogazici University, TR

1) Do the region needs migrants?!

2) Migration-Security Challenges?!

3) Is the Region closer to integration or ghettoization if the migration

   process continues

Irregular migration to Turkey (As a gateway to Europe)

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Abstract

As global migration traffic flows from east to west and from south to north, Turkey serves as a major bridge and crossroads on the way to Europe. Turkey has been a target of global migration for the last 250 years due to its being the center of an empire, which had gradually lost most of its territory. Yet, since 1980 Turkey has again become a popular destination for irregular migration, this time for its geographic location. The Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, the Iranian Revolution, the Iran-Iraq War, the American invasion of Iraq and the Syrian civil war are among the main triggers of forced mass migration during this period. For millions of asylum seekers who aim to cross the Mediterranean to reach Europe, the safest and the most economical route is through Turkey and Greece. In 2015 when the migrant crisis occurred, 85 percent of the 1 million refugees who came to Europe by crossing the Mediterranean used this route. The EU countries, to which refugees have poured into, have aimed to keep refugees out of the European borders by signing a readmission agreement with Turkey. As a result, since March 2016 when the agreement entered into force, the route to Europe via Mediterranean has shifted to the Central and the Western Mediterranean. By 2019, with nearly 5 million irregular migrants, 3,6 million of which are Syrians, Turkey hosts the largest number of refuges in the world. Thus, Turkey has crucial importance for Europe's safety and migration control, and it will be in the interests of the EU to do more to share the costs of irregular migration to Turkey.

Keywords: Migration, refugees, EU, Turkey, Greece

The Challenge of Radicalization among Migrants and Refugees

Ivana Popchev,
Secretary general of "East West Bridge-Skopje"

Abstract

Among numerous issues which arose from Europe's 2015-2016 migrant and refugee crisis, none captured the attention of the public more than the threat of violent extremism and terrorism perceived to arise from the unprecedented number of migrants and refugees attempting to reach the countries of the EU. This created a division among politicians, experts and the general public.

In its 2018 World Migration report, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) highlighted the links between migration and violent extremism, pointing out the need of a more integrated approach to tackling all migration related issues, including the prevention of radicalization among migrants and refugees. This paper addresses the challenge of radicalization among migrants and refugees from three perspectives. Initially, the paper focuses on defining the links that have been identified between migration and radicalization, with specific attention to violent extremism as one of the drivers of migration. Secondly, it addresses existing protocols for addressing the risk of radicalization among migrants and refugees, to determine best practices as well as challenges in this regard. Finally, it provides recommendations for improving policies and strategies for addressing this issue, which is a crucial part of the global efforts to prevent violent extremism and terrorism.

Keywords: Migration, refugees, radicalization, preventing violent extremism, terrorism

Security, Refugees, Migrants and Protection of Women and Children (Boys and Girls)

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Abstract

Throughout history, people have been persecuted and forcibly displaced from their homes. In exile, they have sought shelter in and relied on the protection of other countries. The 21 century is no exception, images of people forced to leave their homes due to armed conflicts, political instability are on the top agenda of world international politics. This papers deals with clarifying the terms of refugees and migrants, and international legislation for protection of refugees and what the consequences are for not using them properly, and more specifically it tackles the issue of refugees from the Middle East heading towards the EU, securitization of refugees and migrants, challenges of becoming refugee or migrant, protection of women and children refugees, the impact of refugees and migrants on host countries and future trends of refugees and migrants phenomena. Three case studies of refugees are presented in this paper using the Balkan Route, where the author in one of the papers shares personal insights while working for UNHCR in Serbia during the highest peak of refugee flow through the Balkan Route in 2015-2016 . The paper ends with conclusion remarks.

Keywords: Security, refugees, migrants, protection, EU, Middle East, law enforcement, xenophobia, securitization, impact

Illegal Migration at the Doorstep of the European Union and Western Balkans in the Middle of it—A Challenge for EU as well as an Opportunity to Bring Western Balkans Closer to Full EU Membership

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Abstract

The refugee crisis, that involved Western Balkans countries as a transit route to Western Europe that started in 2014 and is still ongoing, has brought this delicate part of Europe back to the political agenda of the governments of EU as an issue that is no longer a matter of this particular region but of Europe as a whole. Both Schengen Agreement that has abolished internal EU borders regarding freedom of movement, and Dublin Regulation that determines which EU member state is responsible for the examination of an application for asylum, have been recently brought into question by France and other EU member states because of the flow of migrants. The political interest represented by the migration issue underlined once more the fundamental strategic importance of this geographic area for the EU's stability and security, especially in the light of the still missing common asylum and migration policy declared in the Treaty of Lisbon. The need to face the emergency represented by over 800,000 irregular crossings of migrants on the Western Balkan route in 2015/2016 was a clear sign that the EU institutions and member states had to review their legal and political approach in the area by adopting new legal measures and strategies to preserve the European perspective and the integration process of the countries of Western Balkans and tackle in an appropriate way the refugees' crisis and respecting EU's basic principles and not sacrificing them for the sake of political stability. It was clear that the matter could not be left to countries of Western Balkans alone. The paper further underscores that migrant crisis offers an opportunity and could be used as a catalyst for EU enlargement.

Keywords: Migration, EU, Western Balkans, enlargement process

Comparative Analysis of Association Agreements as a Legal and Political Instrument of Europan Integration

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Abstract

In this paper, a comparative analysis is carried out to highlight the impact of Association Agreements in the European integration process which does not only constitute a legal instrument of binding character both in international and European law, on which the relations between EU and aspiring countries are based, but they are also widely used as an important foreign policy instrument by both the Union and the member states themselves. In this context, the Association Agreements with the countries that aspire to join the EU and their impact on the process of achievement of EU membership or EU integration are analyzed. The paper highlights the importance of Association Agreements in the Union's relations with associated countries as a legal instrument that contains one of the most important political instruments, that of the perspective of membership. In this paper, the perspective of membership is assessed as a political instrument that has a great impact on the establishment and management of political, diplomatic, economic and legal relations between the EU and the Balkan countries.

Keywords: European Integration, Association Agreements, EU Accession Perspective

Third Panel

Socio-Cultural Aspects Of Migration In The Region

Discussant:

Prof.Dr. Enver Abdullahi, Mother Teresa University in Skopje, RNM

Mr.Blerant Ramadani, Mother Teresa University in Skopje, RNM

1) Emigration of the population from the region; Ethnic, Social and religious structure.

2) We" and "Others" at the time of global migration

3) Cultural disparities and their impact on politics and security

Psychosocial Aspects of Migration: A Study of Migration in Kumanovo and Gostivar

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Abstract

Migration from North Macedonia to Western European countries has become a common thing. This kind of migration, with this intensification, has not been evidenced from the time the country declared its independence from the former Yugoslavia. Even though migration has been increasing, public and political institutions remain silent, and they have not been undertaking any preventive strategy.The phenomenon that is indicative and that we want to emphasize in this paper is the fact that besides unemployed people, i.e. people that indeed are in difficult social situation, there are couples who are already employed that quit their jobs to migrate to Germany. The comparison between what they can earn there and here shows insignificant difference. The review of existing literature on migration studies refers to this phenomenon as a migration in pursuit of a better quality of life and it is closely related to psychosocial aspects of migration. While the number of the migrants increases, this trend should capture academic attention. Through in-depth interviews, media reports and review of literature, this study aims to deepen the understanding of Kumanovo and Gostivar migrant experiences from a psychosocial perspective. Findings show that "lifestyle" does play an important role in motivating Macedonian migrants to relocate to Germany whereas there are also many reported cases of people who came back to their home country due to disappointment.

Keywords: Migration, North Macedonia, Western European countries, psychosocial aspects, lifestyle, disappointment

"We" and "Others" in the Field of Refugees-Support-Work An Ethnographical Post-Colonial Approach

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Abstract

Which othering processes are taking place in the field of refugees-support-work after the summer of 2015? (How) do these othering processes change/develop in a power-structured field with different actors and corpuses of knowledge, like state institutions, welcome initiatives and antiracism groups? In my PhD research project titled *New boom of refugeessupport-work. Between Welcome Culture and Refugees Welcome. An ethnographic and genealogical investigation* I investigate the shifts in the power/knowledge constellations around the concepts of Welcome Culture and Refugees Welcome in Germany with a critical view on racism. In this conference, I would like to focus on a few examples of my fieldwork in connection with Orientalism and Eurocentrism and show how the white-German "helpers" with their "helpfulness" in the self-image (consciously or unconsciously) construct themselves as complete and without fundamental deficiencies while viewing asylum seekers as helpless, needy and weak "others". In the analysis of their self- and foreign images (with both leftwing and non-political self-conceptions) in the context of their own auxiliary activities, I therefore focus on Othering processes from a post-colonial perspective. I examine the collective white "we" of the norm and the associated privileges and power structures, through whose unquestioned acceptance and reproduction refugees as "others" are excluded from this norm, and thus from the privileges. Accordingly, the question is to what extent these white German actors, especially as "helpers", do/ do not reflect on their whiteness and their privileges associated with their own dominance culture.

Keywords: refugees, post-colonial perspective, culture, racism.

The Soviet plan of 1949 for the ALBANIAN-MACEDONIAN STATE!

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Abstract

The CIA reveals the 1949 Russian plan to establish an independent Macedonian state that would immediately join Albania.

According to a Soviet plan for the establishment of an independent Macedonian State, the largest area would be taken from Yugoslavia. In addition to the present State of Macedonia in Yugoslavia, the portion taken from Yugoslavia would include the territories within the line running from Prizren to Pristina, Vranje and Nis. In addition, the plan envisages the inclusion of a corridor between Yugoslavia and Bulgaria which would give the new Macedonia the disputed area of Pirot, and a strip of territory to include the railroad line leading from Nis to Negotin and connecting with Orsova along the eastern borders. This new Macedonian state would cut into Bulgaria as far as Radomir and the Pirin Mountains. Furthermore, the new state would include Salonika and parts of Greece north of the line from Salonika to Greek – Albanian – Yugoslav border, CIA reports.

To carry out its program in Macedonia, the Soviets have ostensibly concentrated fifteen motorized and tank divisions in the Kustendil – Peteric – Bistrica mountain area.

In furthering th above aims, the Soviets have concentrated the entire naval fleet which was taken from Italy as war booty in the harbour of Durres, now being built into a strong naval base. According to projected plans, Durres would also be the site of a powerful submarine base for the purpose of shutting off the Straits of Otranto, thus preventing any direct action by the Anglo – American fleet, should the latter to intervene in the prospected clash.

Keywords: Independent Macedonia, Soviet, Albania, CIA, invade.

The division between "We" and "Others" in the era of mobility and migration in the case of Albanians

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Abstract

In Albanian public opinion there is an everyday thesis that Albanians experience internal divisions in terms of religious and national values that risks national unity. Recently, there was a call for debate on this issue by an academic from Kosovo, Mehmet Kraja. Therefore, we decided to present this problem as an issue influenced by global movements that align the East with the West not only on economic aspect, but which also has an influence on both political and especially ideological and religious aspects. As a method of study, we have selected the analysis of global movement projections made by Thomas L. Friedman, Zbigniew Brzezinski, Samuel P. Huntington, as well as studies and forecasts made by the
European Commission at "Global Europe 2050," and PwC Institute "In The World in 2050: How will the global economic order change?" Furthermore, we have studied data from the current situation of Albanian public opinion and studies related to it.

Based on the analysis, findings are made as to the causes of the "us" and "others" division, as well as the possibility of overcoming these divisions. There are allegations that this paper will enable significant conclusions to be drawn about the continuation of this study, and as well as real actions that should be taken by state institutions and bodies in preventing further divisions.

Keywords: Mobility, migration, "we" and "others", economy

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