

Tackling Emigration in EU Member States

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The Welfare Dimension

Workshop at the University of Bremen
6 & 7 October 2022

Heterogeneity in economic development among countries is a major cause for labour migration. In the European Union, rounds of Eastern enlargement have fundamentally increased these differences, and with this development different kinds of labour migration, as (posted) workers or self-employed, have gained importance, eased by the far-reaching rights to equal treatment that the EU's *acquis communautaire* includes. With the increase of intra-European mobility in the richer member states, possible negative repercussions of free movement rights have been discussed more critically. The Brexit process, and the politicisation of intra-EU migration stand out in this respect.

It is only relatively recently, that emigration countries receive more attention in the scholarly and political debate. The extent of intra-EU labour migration clearly has major implications for these countries. Romania stands out here, as about 20% of its working-age population has left the country. Potential negative implications abound: Economically, development may suffer from brain-drain, and over-reliance on remittances could inflict additional harm. Specific sectors, such as health, face severe problems, given the extent of labour migration. Partly, emigration countries transform themselves into immigration countries and compensate their loss of workforce. An example is the migration from Ukraine to Poland. Socially, some regions have lost a significant amount of their population, with consequences especially for rural areas and villages. For families, the so-called Euro orphans, whose parents work abroad and care is provided by the extended family, are an issue. Politically, the migration particularly of well-trained persons has been argued to play into the hands of illiberal regimes, as those supporting democracy may exit more easily, reducing the scope for critical voice. Regarding the welfare state, the demographic repercussions of migration together with the specific skill shortages, particularly in health, are as much an issue as the question of whether return migration as well as the rules of EU social coordination have specific consequences for social services. Consequently, there are increasing discussions in countries and at EU level about the cost of emigration, that partly result in policy measures, such as higher child benefits, higher wages for specific sectors, or tax benefits for certain groups, in order to counteract the development. On a theoretical level, emigration has received scant attention as a variable in theories of EU (dis-) integration and the functioning of the single market.

Preliminary program

Thursday 6 October	
13.30 – 13.50	Arrival
13:50 – 14.00	Welcome
14.00 – 15:30	<p>Session I – Seasonal migration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remus Gabriel Anghel, Stefania Toma & Lucian Vesalon: Romania's agricultural workers – social inequality, temporary move and return • Valer Simion Cosma: Discipline and Envy: Roma Labor, Seasonal Migration and their Effects in Romanian rural communities • Discussant: Christof Roos
15:30-16:00	Coffee break
16:00-17:30	<p>Session II – Emigration and return from a comparative perspective</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cecilia Bruzelius & Lea Reiß: Regulating return migration: mapping return policies in the EU • Maria Giulia Montanari: The overqualification of Eastern EU migrants – an unbalance of EU free movement • Discussant: Anna Kyriazi
19:00	Dinner
Friday 7 October	
8.30 – 10.45	<p>Session III – National perspectives: Reasons and reactions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kamil Matuszczyk: Tackling, encouraging or ignoring? A political perspective on the export of domestic care workers from Poland to EU countries • Bresena Kopliku: Posted Health workers from Albania. A new type of migration • Krystian Heffner: Migration problems and depopulation in the minorities regions in Poland • Discussant: Martin Seeliger
10.45 – 11.15	Coffee break
11.15– 12:45	<p>Session IV – Public opinions on emigration in the EU</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anna Kyriazi & Francesco Visconti: EU public support between emigration and immigration • Christof Roos, Martin Seeliger, Kseniia Cherniak, Hanna Kieschnick & Max Nagel: The paradoxical politics of EU emigration: public support for FoM and increasing concerns about population drain • Discussant: Susanne K. Schmidt
13.00	End of the workshop

Note: ± 10 minutes of presentation & ± 30 minutes of discussion per paper

Workshop participants

Name	Institution
Remus Gabriel Anghel	Romanian Institute for Research on National Minorities, Cluj
Cecilia Bruzelius	Eberhard Karls Universität Tübingen, Institute of Political Science, Tübingen
Kseniia Cherniak	Europa-Universität Flensburg, Seminar für Politikwissenschaft und Politikdidaktik
Valer Simion Cosma	Center of the Study of Modernity and the Rural World, Telciu
Krystian Heffner	University of Economics in Katowice, Katowice
Hanna Kieschnick	Europa-Universität Flensburg, Seminar für Politikwissenschaft und Politikdidaktik
Bresena Koplaku	University of Shkodra "Luigj Gurakuqi", Geography Department, Shkoder
Anna Kyriazi	University of Milan Statale, Department of Social and Political Sciences, Milan
Kamil Matuszczyk	University of Warsaw, Centre of Migration Research, Warsaw
Maria Giulia Montanari	Department of Architecture and Urban Studies, DASTU – Politecnico di Milano
Max Nagel	Europa-Universität Flensburg, Seminar für Politikwissenschaft und Politikdidaktik
Lea Reiß	Eberhard Karls Universität Tübingen, Institute of Political Science, Tübingen
Christof Roos	Europa-Universität Flensburg, Seminar für Politikwissenschaft und Politikdidaktik
Martin Seeliger	Universität Bremen, Institut Arbeit und Wirtschaft
Susanne K. Schmidt	Universität Bremen, Institut für Interkulturelle und Internationale Studien
Francesco Visconti	University of Milan Statale, Department of Social and Political Sciences, Milan

Location

GW2 B2880, University Bremen

Accommodation

Hotel 7THINGS Bremen



Organizers

Susanne K. Schmidt, Universität Bremen

Christof Roos, Europa-Universität Flensburg

Martin Seeliger, Universität Bremen



In case of questions please contact Christina Grabbe
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