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MIGRATION OR MOVING OF THE PEOPLES / NATIONS

During the last decades, global flow of migration have grown significantly. 200 million people migrate due to various conditions – political, economic, climate, personal. However, international migration is mostly influenced by increasing economic migration, changing demographic indexes, growing technological progress, levelling of migration policy among countries, etc. The phenomenon of emigration to the EU is not new. From the historical retrospective it can be seen that this is not the first migration of peoples in the human history, and probably not the last one.

Keywords: migration, emigration, peoples, nations, development, process, Lithuania, European Union.

МІГРАЦІЯ АБО ПЕРЕМІЩЕННЯ НАРОДІВ / НАЦІЙ

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Динаміка міграційних потоків показала значне зростання. 200 мільйонів людей мігрують через різні умови: політичні, економічні, кліматичні, особисті. На міжнародну міграцію впливає економічний розвиток, зміни демографічних показників, зростання технічного прогресу. Явище еміграції в ЄС – це історичний процес. Ретроспектива показує, що переселення народів є динамічним процесом.

Ключові слова: міграція, еміграція, народи, нації, розвиток, процес, Литва, Європейський Союз.

МИГРАЦИЯ ИЛИ ПЕРЕМЕЩЕНИЕ НАРОДОВ / НАЦИЙ

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Динамика миграционных потоков показала значительный рост. 200 миллионов людей мигрируют вследствие различных условий: политических, экономических, климатических, личных. На международную миграцию влияет экономическое развитие, изменение демографических показателей, рост технического прогресса. Явление эмиграции в ЕС - это исторический процесс. Ретроспектива показывает, что переселение народов является динамическим процессом.

Ключевые слова: миграция, эмиграция, народы, нации, развитие, процесс, Литва, Европейский Союз.

Introduction. In 1992, when the EU included only 15 member states and 380 million people, the EU had to accept over 672 thousand refugees. As the EU has become a political subject and expanded, all its member states have to take on shared obligation in solving the refugee crisis. This phenomenon of migration that was slow from 1992 to 2006 has sped up again. With the

development of the EU, the number of emigrants in the member states is increasing. From 2002, the ES houses 1.5 – 2 million immigrants every year (from third countries). According to the data of the European Community Statistics Service (Eurostat), the EU currently houses over 459 million citizens, 42 million or 8.86% of whom were born outside the EU, yet mostly citizens of third countries who have come to the EU to work. It is thought that additional 5 – 10 million foreigners live in the EU illegally. The largest groups of third country citizens who live in the European Union are from Turkey (2.3 million), Morocco (1.7 million), Albania (0.8 million) and Algeria (0.6 million). In 2010, the 27 EU member states housed 32.5 million foreigners, which is 3.5% of the total number of the EU citizens; 20.2 million of them are third country citizens, and the remaining 12.3 million are citizens from other member states (Vasileva, 2011). Out of all the people who come to the EU to work, only 1.3% are highly qualified workers. Germany has the largest number of foreigners in the EU (7.7 million) [8].

In Lithuania, foreigners comprise 1% of the country's population; however, immigration flows have been increasing since 2004 when Lithuania entered the EU: in 2004, 5 612 foreigners arrived to Lithuania, in 2005 – 6 091, in 2006 – 7 595, and in 2007 – around 12 000. With regard to the fact that the structure of immigrants (third country citizens) living in the EU includes mostly immigrants from Turkey or the Mediterranean region, Lithuania expects to set geographical priorities, employ active measures to encourage immigration from priority states (Belarus, Ukraine, Moldova, countries in Southern Caucasus) and separate the policies of the formation of eastern and southern directions: by emphasising fighting illegal migration (cooperating with the EU neighbours to the South) and legal migration opportunities in contact with the neighbours to the East.

In 2007, immigrants to Lithuania from Belarus, Ukraine, Russia and Moldova were issued the largest number of work permits.

Further immigration tendencies are observed in Lithuania. According the data of the Migration Department of the Republic of Lithuania, in the beginning of 2013, 33 267 foreigners lived in the Republic of Lithuania. During the last 6 months, the number of foreigners has grown by 2.5%, whereas the number of citizens and their family members of the European Union member states and the European Free Trade Association member states has grown by 9.3%, and the number of citizens from third countries – by 1.7% (Annual Politics Report: Migration and Refuge, 2013). The emigration from the Near East to the EU that started in the summer of 2015 has touched Lithuania as well. According to the general EU international agreements, the Lithuanian society should integrate approximately 1105 refugees from Syria, Eritrea who currently live in Italy and Greece.

Lithuania, like other EU states, is ready to integrate refugees into the society thus partially solving a serious problem to the country and the society, i.e. the lack of labour. Lithuania is a country of emigration. The country's emigration indexes for one thousand residents are among the highest in the European Union. During the years of independence, 825 thousand people or almost one third of the Lithuanian residents have left the country. Even though emigration in itself is not a negative phenomenon, in the case of Lithuania large extents of emigration pose many challenges for the country, i.e. the demographic structure of the country is changing (the society is getting older), there is the lack of labour, brain drain occurs. On the level of individual, both positive and negative consequences of emigration can be observed. Emigrants earn more; however, they do not always use their maximum potential or gain new experience; they live far away from home in a foreign

environment [1]. Intellectual emigration is influenced not by the lack of desired working and living conditions but their attractiveness abroad. This allows thinking that improvement of working and living conditions in Lithuania will not necessarily work as a factor preventing brain drain because existence of better conditions abroad will also increase labour migration potential [3].

The figure introduces emigration (blue) and immigration (green) processes in Lithuania during 10 years (2004-2014). This is the period when Lithuania is an EU member state.
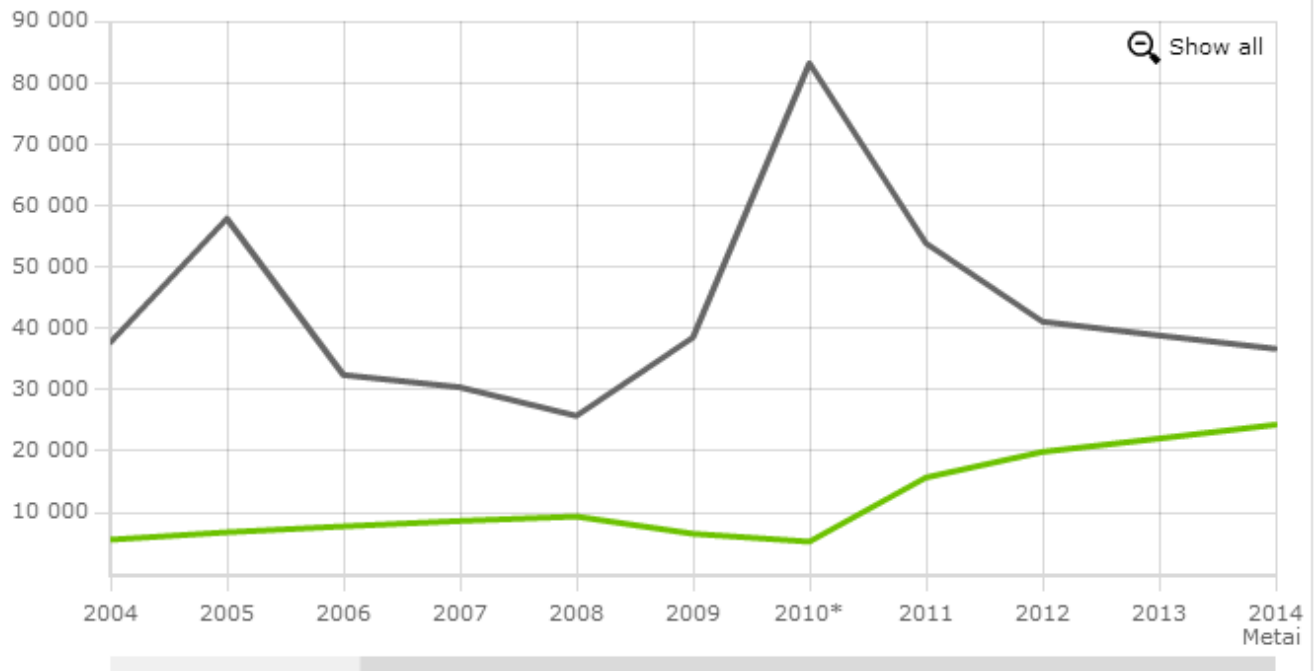

Fig. 1. Emigration (blue) and immigration (green) processes in Lithuania (2004-2014)
Source: [8].

As the figure shows, immigration processes in the country are statistically insignificant, and only from 2011 have they been gradually increasing. However, it can be related to the lack of labour in the country itself rather than global emigration and immigration processes. Meanwhile, emigration from the country at its highest in 2010 is also getting weaker; however, it does not reach the pre-recession numbers in 2008. According to Statistics Lithuania, emigration from Lithuania has been increasing for about a decade; a slow-down was recorded only in 2006-2007 just before recession. Later on, the curve of emigration went up (emigration of 2011…).

In 2014, the extent of emigration slowed-down insignificantly, and immigration increased, i.e. in 2014, 36.6 thousand people left, which is lower than the number in 2013 by 2 thousand, and 24.3 thousand people arrived, which is a higher number than in 2013 by 2 thousand. However, in 2014, 1.5 times more people left than came [6].

It is expected that with refreshing economics the number of Lithuanians who are coming back as well as flows of foreigners will increase.

Why do Lithuanians emigrate and peoples migrate?

Lithuanians are a nation distributed all over the world. From the beginning of capitalism in the second half the 19th century, Lithuanians began the emigration process that continues until now.

This period excludes the Soviet occupation and reoccupation in 1940-1990 and German occupation during World War II.

The following four emigration waves from Lithuania are distinguished:

1) economic emigration of the 19the century end – 20th century beginning (so called green-horns);

2) emigration from the Republic of Lithuania in 1920-1940 (Some researchers attribute these emigrants to green-horn emigration and do not distinguish them into a separate emigration wave);

3) political refugees who left Lithuania in the end of World War II (so called DPs – displaced persons);

4) modern emigration from Lithuania;

However, the number of emigrants that increased only in 19th century end – 20th century beginning determined the fact that Lithuanians were labelled as a nation of emigrants [2].

Conclusions. The migration of the peoples during mid-2nd decade of the 21st century could have been determined by the colonialism policy carried out by the Western Europe in the Near East and Africa during the 19th and 20th centuries. When civilisation development of these regions during the 19th century and the first half of the 20th century is analysed, it reveals the economic and political goals of the large countries in Western Europe to use material and human resources by stopping their natural development. A new global phenomenon that began after the Cold War is a topic for discussion; the phenomenon is neo-colonialism. These policies carried out by the large global states in the 19th, 20th and 21st centuries are a consequence of the big emigration from the Near East and Africa to the EU. However, from the historical retrospective it can be seen that this is not the first migration of peoples in the human history, and probably not the last one.

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