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Jankauskaitė D.,

Vilnius University, Kaunas Faculty of Humanities, ЛИТВА

ANALYSIS OF LITHUANIA'S AND UKRAINE'S INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION DYNAMICS, BETWEEN 1991 AND 2014

Migration is a complex process that influences social, political, economic and other aspects of well-being in countries of origin, destination and transit. Hence investigation of migration dynamics, challenges and problems is of paramount importance. After reestablishing independence both, Ukraine and Lithuania were faced with various new challenges concerning migration. Ukraine has experienced a sharp drop in population, while Lithuania – has maintained one of the highest emigration levels in EU. Aim – compare dynamics of international migration in Ukraine and Lithuania.

Keywords: migration dynamics, international migration, Lithuania, Ukraine.

АНАЛІЗ ДИНАМІКИ МІЖНАРОДНОЇ МІГРАЦІЇ В ЛИТВИ ТА УКРАЇНІ 1991-2014 РР.

Янкаускайте Д.

Міграція являє собою складний процес, який впливає на соціальні, політичні, економічні та інші аспекти добробуту в країнах походження, призначення та транзиту. Як наслідок міграційної динаміки, виклики і проблеми, що мають першорядне значення. Після відновлення незалежності і Україна, і Литва зіткнулися з новими проблемами міграції. Україна пережила різке падіння чисельності населення, в той час як Литва зберегла один з найвищих рівнів еміграції в ЄС.

Ключові слова: динаміка міграції, міжнародна міграція, Литва, Україна.

АНАЛИЗ ДИНАМИКИ МЕЖДУНАРОДНОЙ МИГРАЦИИ В ЛИТВЕ И УКРАИНЕ 1991-2014 ГГ.

Янкаускайте Д.

Миграция представляет собой сложный процесс, влияющий на социальные, политические, экономические и другие аспекты благосостояния в странах происхождения, назначения и транзита. Как следствие миграционной динамики, вызовы и проблемы, имеющие первостепенное значение. После восстановления независимости и Украина, и Литва столкнулись с новыми проблемами миграции. Украина пережила резкое падение численности населения, в то время как Литва сохранила один из самых высоких уровней эмиграции в ЕС.

Ключевые слова: динамика миграции, международная миграция, Литва, Украина.

Introduction. Since the fall of the “iron curtain” in 1991 a set of complicated migration trends and patterns transpired in both countries. The first table represents Lithuania’s and Ukraine’s migration dynamics from 1991 till 2014.

Table 1. Comparison of Lithuanian and Ukraine international migration dynamics

Period	Ukraine	Lithuania
1991 – 1992	High immigration and emigration.	Increase in emigration and decrease in immigration
	Migration destinations – former Soviet Union countries and Western Europe	Migration destinations – former Soviet Union countries and Western Europe
	Net migration positive	Net migration negative
1993 – 2004	Emigration remained unchanged while immigration decreased greatly.	Reduction in both, immigration and emigration
	Migration destinations – former Soviet Union countries, western countries (especially Germany), United States and Israel	Migration destinations – Western Europe and United States
	Net migration negative	Net migration negative
2005 – 2008	Decline in emigration, while immigration remains unchanged.	Immigration remains unchanged while there is a slight decline in emigration.
	Migration destinations – former Soviet Union countries, western countries (especially Germany), United States and Israel	Migration destinations – Western Europe (Mostly Great Britain and Ireland)
	Net migration positive	Net migration negative
2009 - 2014	Inconsistent emigration and immigration. A sharp increase in emigration since 2014.	Insignificant growth in immigration and decline in emigration.
	Migration destinations – former Soviet Union countries, Western Europe, United States	Migration destinations – Western Europe, United States
	Net migration positive	Net migration negative

Source: [1;2;3;4;5;6].

According to the State Committee of Ukraine for Statistics, over 1 million individuals immigrated to Ukraine between 1991 and 1992. Of those, about 95% moved from the former Soviet Union countries and were mostly military personnel [1]. Since 1993 till 2004 immigration has decreased, this resulted in the net migration becoming negative (Figure 1). Between 1991 and 2004 - 2,537,400 individuals were accounted for as to have emigrated; approximately 74% of residents have moved to other post-Soviet states, while about 26% moved to other destinations [1]. According to Malynovska et al Ukraine lost about 15-20% of its intellectual potential as a result of emigration [2].

In 2005 Ukraine's net migration became positive (Figure 1). In 2006, only 8 600 people emigrated, former Soviet Union, Israel, the United States and Germany remain the principal countries of destination [2]. The State Statistics Committee of Ukraine conducted a large-scale survey in 2008, which revealed that in 2005-2008 5.1% of the working age population of Ukraine, have at least once left abroad for employment [4].

Ukraine's population fell from 51,944,000 persons in 1991 to 45,533,000 persons in 2013 [7]. According Korostelina, one of the main causes is considered to be significant net migration outflows [7]. According to the Ukrainian State Statistics Service, the number of incomers to

Ukraine in 2009-2013 has been stable at 30,000 – 37,000 a year with an evident peak in 2012 (Figure 1). Due to the complicated political situation in 2014, it is difficult to forecast possible international dynamics trends in Ukraine. Figure 1 presents migration data from 2003 to 2013.

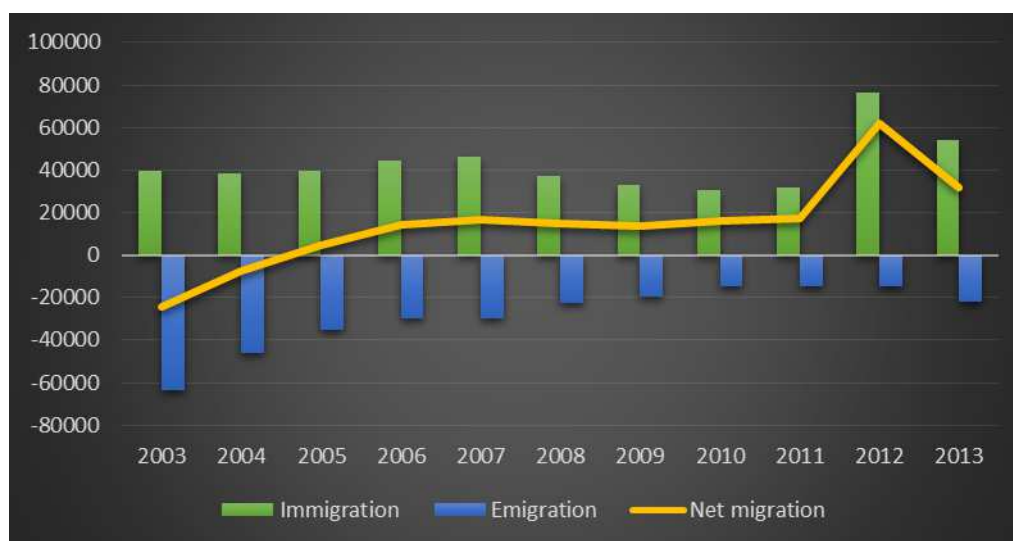


Figure 1. Emigration, immigration and net migration in Ukraine (the period between 2003 and 2013)

Source: [4;5].

Since Lithuania regained independence, emigration increased greatly and majority of emigrants were of not of Lithuanian descent. Emigration destinations were former Soviet Union countries. Meanwhile there has been a decrease in flows of immigrants and the part of Lithuanians in these flows has increased manifold (mainly military personnel). Since 1994 emigration and immigration have decreased, migration directions changed to Western Europe, as well as USA [3]. Between 1991 and 2004 – 334,000 individuals emigrated, resulting in negative net migration.

Before 2005 – 2009 five countries of the European Union (EU) have displayed negative net migration, yet during the period other countries transitioned to positive net migration, while Lithuania remained one of the leaders of negative net migration. Main migration destination – Western Europe (mostly Great Britain and Ireland) as well as USA [3]. In the context of the EU, Lithuania remains at the top, having in mind the number of emigrants per 1000 residents, and the highest negative net migration in the last decade.

In 2010 departure was declared by 83,000 migrants (Figure 2), this number was influenced by the liability set in regard of permanent residents of the country to pay compulsory health insurance premiums; therefore, even the migrants who have departed from Lithuania to foreign state in earlier years had also declared their departure [6]. Most residents depart due to economic reasons, however research suggests, that the decision to emigrate is also affected by other factors: social insecurity, lack of justice, perception of dissatisfactory perspectives, poor treatment by the employer, better perspectives for career abroad. Figure 2 presents Lithuania's emigration, immigration and net migration data from 2003 till 2013.

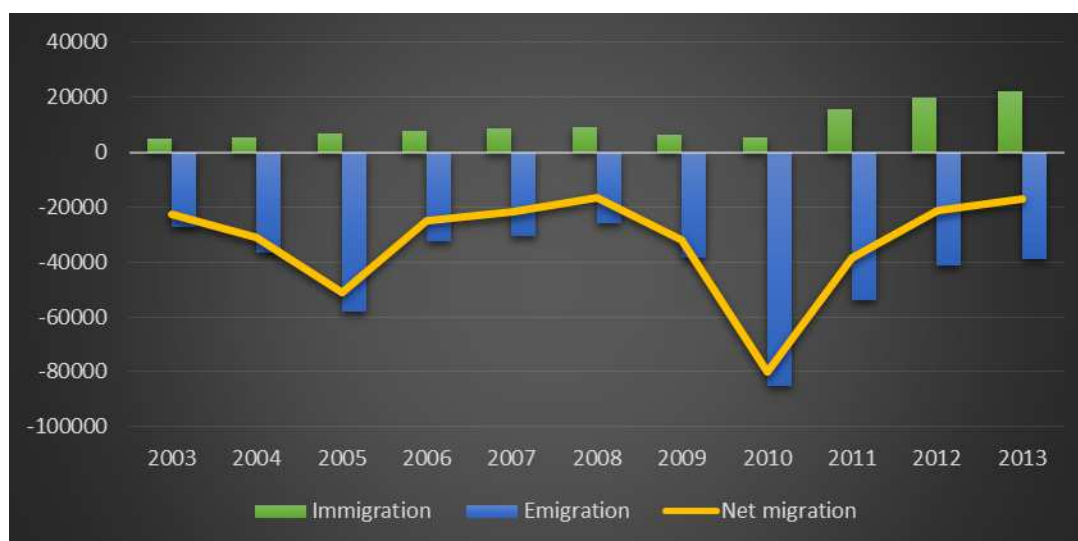


Figure 2. Emigration, immigration and net migration in Lithuania (the period between 2003 and 2013)

Source: [6].

Conclusions. Similarities can be observed between migration dynamics of Ukraine and Lithuania: from 1991 till 1992 in both countries – Lithuania and Ukraine – there has been an increase in emigration and immigration, main migration destinations – former Soviet Union countries. In later years migration has reduced, migration destinations started shifting towards Western Europe countries, United States, Israel (in the case of Ukraine). However, Lithuanian net migration remained negative, while Ukraine's net migration was positive throughout 1991-1993, Ukraines ner migration was negative only during 1993-2004 period, and became positive once again in 2005.

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