

**Migratory Phenomena and EU policy on migration:
An Analytical Reflection and perspectives within the
European Social Dialogue**

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Migration policy in Europe: an overview
and general policy recommendations

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Euromemorandum 2016 and 2017

Post-war Migration

- Two distinct migration Flow:
 - Migration within Europe (South to North)
 - East to West (W.Germany 7.5, E.Germany 3.5 mln ethnic Germans from Eastern Europe and former USSR)
 - Migration from outside Europe (Immigration from Turkey, North Africa, Morocco, Tunisia, Algeria, ex-colonies – UK, France, NL, Belgium)
- EU (since 1960s)
 - Migration within EU (South to North, East to West)
 - Migration from outside EU (family re-union, East to West, refugees and asylum seekers, economic migrants, investors, students, health care,...)

EU and Migration – a short history

- From Common Market to EU – Treaty of Rome (1957) – Maastricht Treaty (1992)
- Freedom of movement for:
 - Goods, Money and People → Convergence of Living Standards.
- Freedom of Movement → Migration → Individual Improvement - escape poverty at home / seek new opportunities abroad
- Major Migratory movements:
 - Italy (South unemployment → Migrate to North and other EU)
 - Other countries growing fast, high demand for labour
 - Expansion 1970s, 80s: UK, Greece, Portugal, Spain...Migration limited
 - Migration of retirees from North to South
 - 50% EU migrants born in other EU countries
 - Therefore: MIGRATION NO ISSUE!

...why migration an issue now?

- Migration within Europe
 - New members – Eastern European
 - Large income difference between Old and New members
 - Freedom of movement → Problem: labour supply and access to social security
 - 7 years embargo on Freedom of movement (except UK, Ireland, Sweden)
 - Changed migration dynamics: numbers, flows and concentration of migrants in some areas (esp. in UK)
- Migration from outside Europe EU:
 - Middle Eastern/Asian and African refugees (wars)

Post-Maastricht Migration Flow

- Who are they? Easter European
- Where do they come from? Poland and others
- Where do they go to? Mostly to UK, Sweden, Ireland TO WORK (7 year embargo ended → Migration other countries)
- What is their impact on destination?
 - Reduce labour shortages, esp. in low paid/manual jobs
 - Pressure on housing, health, transport, education in UK (but run down by years of low public investment)
 - Qualify for social security support if on LOW PAY like the national low paid workers

Potential Negative impacts on Destination BUT evidence or Myth?

- Take jobs from nationals? No evidence. Migrants do jobs national won't do.
- Don't contribute? They Invest, demand and provide Complementary skills (building site: national engineers and migrant low skilled works)
- Stop wages rising? Only in low pay/low skill sectors (for short time because migration flow slows). Why?
 - Unions
 - Labour Market Regulation (job protection?)
 - Financial crisis → Low wages 2009-14
- Crime? No Evidence! Migrants NOT more criminal than nationals! (anti-immigrant myth: Trump, Wilder, LePan!)
- Racial bias against European Romas across EU

Migrants and Local Labour Market

- Migrants' employment rate same as nationals in job rich growing economies BUT in depressed economies migrants lose out FIRST as they work in depressed sectors, mostly on casual basis
- Social Assistance Use? No: 67% or more NOT use
 - But if on low pay, like EU working poor rely on social assistance to live: 17 million (15%) of 120 million poor in EU are working!
 - 135,000 Bulgarians and Romanians working in Germany in 2016, 42% had to rely on welfare support in order to have an adequate income (The Guardian, 2016)
- Fiscal impact (Tax=Benefit?): on balance/over time ZERO

Migration helps EU Population Ageing

- Low fertility rate (<2 children per woman) →
 - Working age population decreases over time
 - Increase in Old (65+) Pop. / Working age Pop
 - Who would work to pay and care for old?
- Migration will not solve EU ageing but would help
 - Migrants younger (median age Mig. 35 <EU 43)
 - **N.B. Cost of upbringing to country of origin**
 - Female 40-50 % of immigrants (fertile age)
- Migrants working in care sector (health, old age...) high already

Non-EU Migrants/Refugees Policies

- Dublin Convention 1992: In first entry/safe country to apply for asylum, but:
 - No account of wishes of asylum seekers
 - Huge pressure on 'front line' countries (Greece, Italy) who have had very late and limited support
- EU allocation of refugees by population size?
- Resistance by Hungary, Poland...
- Right wing ideology of White/Christian
 - N.B. Variety of Muslims and in Europe for centuries!
- Can EU look after current flow of asylum seekers?

Estimated Cost of care for 3 million asylum seekers?

- EU social security norms: 0.1% of the EU GDP
- Cost varies based on number of migrants and level of social transfer: low of 0.008% GDP in Latvia and a high of 0.2% GDP in Denmark. Germany, largest quota of 0.5 mln 0.17% GDP
- N.B. Temporary cost
- Migrants settle → work → contribute

How to finance the cost?

- Euro bonds and quantitative easing (transfer funds to asylum support (current QE to finance bank speculation on stock markets!))
- Transfer money to support poorer EU nations with poor health, education and housing (support to all population → solidarity)
- Transfer money from Defense Budget (and Shelve Plans for EU Armed Forces)

Solidarity with ALL Migrants

- Migration to escape unemployment and poverty has always been important in European history; which has also recorded its fair share of migration to flee wars and persecution
- Uphold principle of ‘freedom of movement,’ it is the only area where people of Europe are directly affected and experience the cultural diversity and ‘citizenship’ of Europe
- We should learn the lessons of the pogroms and wars of 19th and 20th centuries. The mark of a civilisation is when it looks after its weakest people.