International Migration in Central and Eastern Europe - current and future trends

Paweł Kaczmarczyk   Marek Okólski

Centre of Migration Research and Faculty of Economics
Warsaw University
Outline of the presentation

- Introductory remarks
- Current migratory trends in CEECs – a brief overview
- Causal factors of observed migration behaviour
- Selected features of international migration from and to CEE
- Future trends
- Conclusion – migration and development in CEE
Introductory remarks

- What do we understand under the term ‘Central and Eastern Europe’?
  - there is no universal definition of CEE
  - definition applied for purpose of the presentation: former Council of Mutual Economic Assistance (COMECON) countries, excluding ex-GDR and including countries of former Yugoslavia
Introductory remarks (2)

- Migration data quality:
  - reasons for inconsistencies or incompleteness
  - data sources
  - indicators of data validity
Immigrant stock according to different data sources – UN 2002

Source: Own elaboration based on UN data.
Immigrant stock according to different data sources – OECD (SOPEMI)

Figure II. Foreign population according to OECD (SOPEMI) (per cent of total population, 2000, Europe non CEE = 6.7)

Source: Own elaboration based on OECD (SOPEMI) data.
Introductory remarks (2)

- **Migration data quality:**
  - Indicators of data validity:
    - Quality of Immigration Coverage (QIC) → relation between data on immigration as reported by receiving country and sending countries; e.g. Romania: 5%, Poland: 4%, the Slovak Republic: 4%
    - Quality of Emigration Coverage (QEC) → Romania: 3%, Poland: 16%, the Slovak Republic: 4%, Hungary: 5%
    - UK: QIC = 163%, QEC = 114%
Key features of migration in the pre-transition period

- Majority of long-term population movements directed to the West
- Only a few returns recorded
- Migration between CEE countries – negligible (apart from the republics of Soviet Union)
- Major factors: political factors, economic factors (shortages in supply of basic goods, low incomes, rising value of the dollar), demand factors in the USA and Western Europe
Migration in the transition period

- **Continuation of pre-transition trends**
  - Emigration to the West
  - Temporary employment in Western Europe

- **New trends in migratory behaviour**
  - Movements between successor states of the ex-USSR
  - Movements of people in need of protection
  - Transit migration
  - Settlement immigration
  - Immigration of migrant workers
Outflow – emigration to the West from selected CEECs

Source: Own elaboration based on Okólski 2004b
Ethnicity-based outflow from selected CEECs

Source: Own elaboration based on Okólski 2004b
Continuation of pre-transition trends

- **Emigration to the West:**
  - Constraints – absorptive capacity, tightening of the admission rules
  - Opportunities – liberal exit rules, liberalisation of immigration policies within CEE → short-term migration strategies

- **Temporary migration as typical response to socio-economic changes**
Source: Own elaboration based on OECD and Eurostat data.
Outflow – temporary employment abroad - selected CEECs

Source: Own elaboration based on Okólski 2004b
New migration phenomena

- Migration between successor states of the ex-USSR:
  - 1994 (peak year): 1,143 thousand persons from the former Soviet Union immigrated to Russia, 227 thousand emigrated;
  - 1990-1997: almost 5.7 million ex-Soviet citizens were involved in migration to or from Russia → 4.6 million immigrants, 1.1 million emigrants;
  - Estimation: more than 11 million documented migrations for settlement took place between the successor states of the former USSR in that period.
New migration phenomena

Movements of people in need of protection:

- Since 1990 practically all CEECs experienced inflow of asylum seekers and refugees

- Flows from within the region:
  - Major conflicts: conflicts in the former USSR and in ex-Yugoslavia;
  - Example → Hungary: 1988-1995 – around 60 thous. refugees from Romania, 75 thous. from ex-Yugoslavia, 20 thous. from other countries; displaced people from ex-Yugoslavia

- Flows from outside the region → Asia and Africa
Inflow of refugees / asylum seekers to selected CEECs

Source: Own elaboration based on Okólski 2004b
New migration phenomena

Transit movements:

- Very heterogenous process:
  - Citizens of CEE countries who attempt to migrate to Western Europe
  - Citizens of developing countries (transit routes)

- Estimates (1993):
  - at least 100 thous. migrants of this kind transited through Poland
  - at least 140 thous. migrants of this kind transited through the Czech Republic
New migration phenomena

Settlement immigration and the inflow of migrant workers:

- Limited regular inflow (officially recognized)
- Estimates of irregular immigration:
  - Czech Republic (1995): about 160 persons in regular situation and 150-200 thous. persons in irregular situation
  - Russia (2000s): number of irregular immigrants – 1.5 million; Ukraine – 1.6 million.
Immigration to selected CEECs

Source: Own elaboration based on Okólski 2004b
Employment of foreigners in selected CEECs

Source: Own elaboration based on Okólski 2004b
Inflow of petty traders to selected CEECs

Source: Own elaboration based on Okólski 2004b
Migratory trends in CEE - summary

- Significant difference between flows observed prior to 1990 and since then
- The number of net emigration countries decreased
- The volume of ethnicity-based outflows declined
- Irregular movements as a typical feature of contemporary migration
- Polarisation of the region with regard to mobility
Potential causal factors of observed migration behaviour

- Demographic
- Economic
- Political
Economic factors

From an almost perfect unipolar system to sub regional differentiation:

- Transition leaders – the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Slovenia, Slovakia, Baltic countries
- Countries lagging behind – Bulgaria, Romania, countries of former Yugoslavia
- Transition marauders – CIS countries
- Serious differences with regard to: private sector share of GDP, unemployment rates, inflation, labour costs, etc.
Example: Labour costs - wage ratio between Russia and selected CEE countries* (Russia = 100)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>1990</th>
<th>1993/94</th>
<th>1997</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bulgaria</td>
<td>93.0</td>
<td>125.4</td>
<td>47.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Czech Republic</td>
<td>35.4</td>
<td>261.8</td>
<td>215.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hungary</td>
<td>41.1</td>
<td>181.8</td>
<td>196.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poland</td>
<td>21.0</td>
<td>265.4</td>
<td>217.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Romania</td>
<td>26.7</td>
<td>127.3</td>
<td>70.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Russia</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Slovakia</td>
<td>34.6</td>
<td>220.0</td>
<td>172.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Slovenia</td>
<td>173.7</td>
<td>832.7</td>
<td>558.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ukraine</td>
<td>82.7</td>
<td>105.4</td>
<td>52.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* USD equivalent according to official exchange rates

Source: Okólski 2004
Economic development and its potential effects on international migration

- **Transition to market economy** → excessive supply of labour revealed → high unemployment rates, declining participation ratios → migration propensity

- **Inflow of capital** → decrease in labour outflow to the West; strong differentiation between migratory pressures

- **Migration as a survival strategy.**
Political factors

- Dissolution of the Soviet Union → movements between successor states of the Soviet Union
- Ethnic related mobility
- Refugees and internally displaced persons
- „Fortress Europe“ – tightening of admission rules in the West
- Liberalisation of migration policies within CEE – abolition of exit visas, ratification of international conventions, etc.
Key features of current migration

CEE as a separate entity / migration system:

- CEE as a new migratory pole with growing importance of flows between neighbouring countries sharing common historical, economic and cultural traditions (OECD, 1996), “new migration space” or “new regional migration pole”

- 1990s - growing complexity and heterogeneity with regard to mobility

- CEE – “migration space” or “migration system”? 
Key features of current migration

„Incomplete migration”

- Mobility hardly captured by definitions and typologies
- Features of incomplete migration: quasi-migratory character (temporary or circular mobility), "loose" social status and/or flexible occupational position in the country of origin, irregularity of stay or work in the host country, maintaining close and steady contacts with migrant's household
- Migrants – usually poorly skilled, living in the countryside and small towns, often coming from marginalised groups, frequently not having a regular employment
- Structural causes → „underurbanisation”
Future trends – selected issues

- Migration from CEECs in the context of EU enlargement
  - Migration potential estimates prior to May 1st, 2004
  - Recorded flows – UK: recorded inflow (2004) of 130,000 migrants from new member countries but about one-half of them constituted people who arrived in earlier periods and regularised their stay after May 1st

- Future trends - migration forecasts
# International migration forecast for selected CEE countries

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Net external migration (b)</th>
<th>Percent of labour force originating from external immigration since 2002</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2002</td>
<td>2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bulgaria</td>
<td>5020</td>
<td>7463</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Czech Rep.</td>
<td>12232</td>
<td>23711</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estonia</td>
<td>478</td>
<td>1823</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hungary</td>
<td>7060</td>
<td>22800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latvia</td>
<td>-1343</td>
<td>2842</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lithuania</td>
<td>-1631</td>
<td>4270</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poland</td>
<td>-1303</td>
<td>49373</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Romania</td>
<td>2796</td>
<td>19205</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Slovakia</td>
<td>895</td>
<td>7098</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Slovenia</td>
<td>3022</td>
<td>5584</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>203774</td>
<td>205994</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EU-27 (a)</td>
<td>1059895</td>
<td>1173122</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(a) EU-25 plus Romania and Bulgaria
(b) yearly averages

Source: Own elaboration based on Bijak and others, 2005.
Instead of conclusion – migration and development

Migration and development in CEE

- Massey (1999): migration stems not from stagnant isolated places but rather from places undergoing rapid change
- Major components of change within CEE – inclusion into the capitalist world system, socio-economic transition
- Incomplete migration as a product of transition
- Migration as a factor of change:
  - remittances
  - migration as survival strategy
  - culture of migration, modes of behaviour.