

Irregular Migration – A New Challenge in the Current Economics Condition

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Abstract: The establishment and development of an area of freedom, security and justice have led to prevention and control of irregular migration. This topic is perceived since the late 1990s as an important issue of the European domestic policy. The “New” migration, as a side effect and consequence of the so-called Arab Spring, but also the acute economic situation in many South-East European countries in recent years, have spurred ongoing the debate about how to deal with the phenomenon of the irregular migration in the EU. Irregular migration is one of the fastest growing migration. Many countries face a major challenge in dealing with this phenomenon. To reduce the number of irregular migrants, most states have invested substantial resources in their control instruments in the past years. But the success takes place very slowly. This paper aims to explain the concept of the irregular migration and the main aspects on how German authority deals with the Phenomenon of this type of migration. The paper therefore stress the negative aspects that this problem has on the Romania’s migration policies.

Keywords: migration; control policies; labor market

1. The Concept of the “Irregular Migration”

On the national and international level, there is an intense debate about the concept of “irregular migration”. This fact has an impact on the political handling of the phenomenon.

The European Union uses the term of the “illegal migration”. But this concept is not unique, because it is usually used for illegality with crime. Many NGOs speak of undocumented immigrants, because this group of people do not have valid identity documents or residence authorization or work permit. The OECD uses the term “unauthorized migration”, for similar reasons as the NGOs. In practice, however, there are many forms of illegal residence and work permit.

The term “irregular migration” is used to by the Global Commission on International Migration (GCIM) to describe many different phenomena. It refers to people who enter illegally in a foreign country and remain there, or they are victims of trafficking, people who were rejected asylum, who fail to meet their

obligation to leave, and people, that pass by the controls on Schengen. This term is generally accepted by most international organizations and used because is considered not discriminatory and neutral and also sufficiently comprehensive.

2. Migration Control Policies in Germany

Due to its geographical location, Germany has no land borders with third countries. Therefore, the focus is put on the control of the international airport and seaport.

Germany has undertaken many measures to deal with the phenomenon of irregular migration. Primarily this includes restrictive - legal measures of control, including the basic need for state sovereignty, security and integrity, and the goal of the consistency of the legal act. But also solution-oriented approaches are emerging, designed to: irregular migration movements do not occur in the first, and to minimize problems that may arise in connection with continued irregular stay for affected foreigners and for society.

The German system of migration control functions primarily by external controls (on the visa proceedings and the external border) and by a system of internal controls by residence and work permit. There are also controls that work on data exchange, cooperation between authorities and reporting obligations of public entities.

Germany and Romania developed since many years many projects on bilateral contacts (particularly with the Ministry of Interior of Romania), which serve to improve the opportunities for repatriation or no longer resident to nationals of Romania. So far, in dealing with irregular migrants, the focus is put in

3. The Economic Risks of Irregular Migration in Germany and Romania

The Irregular migration can have negative effects for the economy and society, both in Germany and in Romania. First, in Germany can be observed adverse consequences of immigration for the labor market, as the Irregular Migration would extend the scope of the informal sector of the labor market. In this way the level of wages of regular workers may decrease and also worse their working conditions. This applies mainly to the workers in the sectors such as construction and agriculture, where the irregulars are used mostly for low-skilled workers.

Additionally to that stress above, the irregular migration have negative effects on economic modernization and restructuring of companies, because the availability of cheap labor reduces the adaptation to the market conditions to the company. Uneconomic enterprises remain on the market with cheap labor costs, because they

have cost advantages over the companies with regular employees. In this way, a company mislead its low labor productivity.

Secondly, even for Romania there are many risky as the country of origin for the illegal immigrants: a growing dependence on remittances and overall economy is a problem when in fact economic adjustments are not considered. So it shows a sharp increase in the global scope of remittances and the magnitudes, which have agreed to financial transfers in some countries. The World Bank notes that inflows are larger than the sum of public development aid and foreign direct investment, in many countries of origin of the illegal immigrants.

4. The Romanian Immigrants

The EU – accession of Romania put a considerable extent for the undocumented migration with the open of the western border of Romania in the EU countries, people who passed the border easily since joining the Union: since the gradual opening of the EU labor markets to the new members can be observed a massive migratory outflow in the old EU member states such as the UK, Spain, Italy and Germany observed.

Only in 2011 came to Germany 112.000 from Bulgarians and romanian people. The Federal Employment Agency is not concerned about a drastic increase in undeclared work and a poverty-migration to the German social security systems by eliminating the restrictions on 1 January 2014.

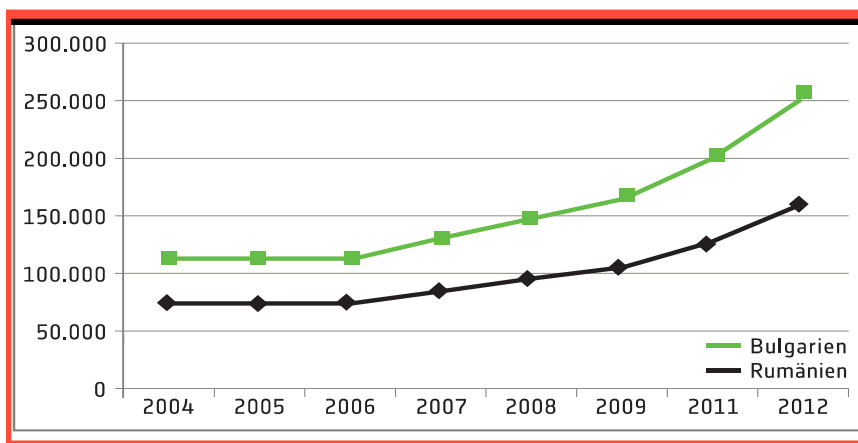


Figure 1. Increase of the Romanian (in black) and Bulgarian (in green) citizens in Germany between 2004-2012

Source: Information from Statistisches Bundesamt

This exodus has caused in Romania a serious shortage of highly skilled professionals, particularly in health care and computer science field. These results in the context of demographic change, Romania with its low birthrate generate a sharp increase in demand for foreign workers. The Romanian government has so far pursued no serious immigration oriented migration policy, so it may increase the number of irregular immigrants significantly.

5. Conclusions

The topic of irregular migration is politically extremely sensitive. There is no other issue that can be abused by demagogues so easily and this can bring governments in legitimacy losses caused by alleged inadequacy of policy.

Overall, there is a good cooperation between Germany and Romania to find solutions for the control of irregular migration. But the forms of bilateral cooperation have not been exhausted. Often they are limited to cooperation on exchange of information on the specific problems of irregular migration. Many actors are involved to overcome problems, the largest is the European Union. In the early 1990s, the Irregular migration is a topic on the political agenda of the EU. The Member States shall promote closer cooperation migration policy, for example, the Budapest Process, since 1993, with regular attended by high level government officials from 40 countries.

Governments should conduct a realistic policy aim to transform the irregular migration as much as possible into regular, and should make significantly the economic and demographic benefits of controlled migration.

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