

Migration – Trends, challenges and opportunities

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Abstract

Many European countries are facing significant demographic change, associated with the retirement wave of the baby-boomer generation and a shrinking workforce. As a consequence, unemployment rates are decreasing and labour shortages are an increasing concern. Because of better opportunities at home, (international) migration rates may drop in the near future and return migration might be expected. Once workers decide to migrate, their destinations are often favourable regions and cities, leading to potential losses for the home regions. What does the influx but also the outflow mean to for individuals, firms, and regions?

Migrants are known to be a highly selective group according to age, education, skills and gender. Recent evidence suggests that cultural drivers, networks and migration history are key in reinforcing the mobility of individuals and families. There are benefits and costs related to the individual's embeddedness in local societies. The benefits include network effects and avoidance of the direct and indirect cost of migration. The costs however include limited opportunity to escape adverse local circumstances.

The main aim of this special session is to look at the phenomenon of internal and international migration, its drivers, costs and benefits and it's impact from a variety of perspectives.

Submissions are welcome that focus on issues such as

- Regional disparities and changing migration flow patterns,
- Gains and costs of out- and immigration for states, regions, firms and individuals,
- Labour market effects and potential labour shortages,
- Return migration of Eastern Europeans to their home countries,
- Human capital and the re-distribution of people in space,
- Potential discrimination and other negative effects,
- Psychological aspects and the acceptance of migrants,
- Cultural, social and economics integration from the perspective of migrants and local communities,
- Individual decision modelling and family attachment,

and related aspects on migration.