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ABSTRACT

of the dissertation submitted for the Degree of Doctor of
Philosophy

**STUDY OF MIGRATION PROCESSES
GOING IN THE MODERN EUROPE**

Specialty: 5401.01 – Economic geography

Field of science: Geography

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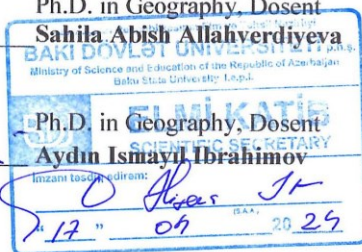
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GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS OF WORK

Relevance and degree of exploration of the topic. Countries located in various regions of the world are different for their natural-geographic conditions, natural resources, economic and socio-demographic potential, and these differences are constantly increasing. Developed countries with high economic, technical and technological potential and qualified labor force occupy an important place in the world economic system. Meantime, since urbanization is about to reach its high level while standard of living and life expectancy increase, these factors cause the natural increase rate of population to drop and the share of the elderly to increase. As a result, the growth in population number of those countries slows down and in some cases it even can decrease.

Europe, which has reached a high level of development, has long been known as a region that receives the highest number of migrants in the world. Every year, hundreds of thousands of people from countries lagging behind in terms of science, technology and welfare move to Europe in search of relatively high-paid jobs and thus becoming the participants of demographic processes going in the region's countries. Migrants stay and work in countries they arrive, and over the years, some of them try to get citizenship of those countries.

Immigration policy and social problems related to migrants are one of the most discussed issues among European society in recent decades. The investigation of the migration problem typical for the region is very topical for the modern era in terms of studying the possible effects of migrations and the emerging socio-demographic problems. The study of the intensification of migration flows and labor migrations in Western Europe, and the determination of ways of regulating these processes are of great theoretical and practical importance.

At the same time, studies of this direction play an important role in terms of improving the scientific and theoretical basis of the legal framework adopted for the regulation of migration in certain countries. Despite many years of research carried out in this field,

the question how to mitigate the mass population flow to Europe remains unsolved. As is known, there are migration relations between Azerbaijan and European countries. In this regard, conducting scientific-research works on defining the number of migrants, the main directions of migration, protecting the rights and social protection of migrants, regulating migration, etc. are urgent issues.

Object and subject of the research. The object of the study is the European region, including Western and Eastern Europe, and demographic and migration processes in the countries of this region. The subject of the research is the changes occurring in the demographic development of Europe, the study of the role of migrations in this process, the study of the ways of regulating these processes, the preparation of proposals and recommendations of practical significance with appropriate scientific and theoretical bases.

Research goal and objectives. The purpose of the research is to study the migration processes going in Europe, determine the changes taking place in the demographic situation of the region due to the increase in the number of participants in recent years, and investigate the changes in the gender and age and also ethnic structure of the population.

To achieve these goals, the following tasks are targeted:

- Identification of factors influencing socio-demographic development in European countries;

- Determination of socio-demographic trends associated with the historical-geographical development characteristics of Western and Eastern Europe and studying the main related results;

- Studying the changes in the gender and age composition and natural growth of the population that can take place due to the influence of migration processes in European countries, and studying the associated problems, and preparing proposals to eliminate them;

- Determining the main stages of foreign migrations in Europe, analyzing the main directions of population flows in historical and geographical periods, and studying the characteristic

features of migrations in the modern era;

- Studying the impact of migration processes taking place in the countries of North Africa and the Middle East recently driven by social and political events, on migration flows to Europe, with defining the main results of this impact and related problems;

- Studying migration of the population from Azerbaijan to Europe, and determining the main stages, current situation and main directions of migrations.

Research methods. Migration processes going in Europe have been studied with using methods such as statistical analysis, historical-geographical approach, cartographic, comparative analysis, and generalization.

Main provisions of the dissertation submitted for defence.

The following can be considered as the scientific innovations of the dissertation:

1. Assessment of the current state of demographic development in European countries, the responsible factors, and the main relevant trends;

2. Identification of the role played by the migration processes in the demographic development in Western and Eastern European countries, including the CIS countries, the factors contributing to the occurrence of the migration processes and the related problems arisen in this connection;

3. Analysis of the situation related to the migration flows from Azerbaijan to Europe and the study of trends in this regard in recent years.

4. Exploration the direction of migration regulation in Europe, the role of the legislative framework adopted by region's states in the field of migration management;

Scientific novelty of the study:

- The main indicators of demographic development in Europe have been studied, and the factors seriously affecting changes in these indicators have been studied in relationship and comparatively;

- The differences in the demographic development of Eastern and Western Europe, their causes and problems in the current development trends were studied;

– The migration relations between Europe and the CIS countries were studied, and the problems caused by them in both regions were analyzed;

– The composition and number of people coming from North Africa and the Middle East countries, situated close to Europe, and the effect of migrants on the gender and age and ethnic composition of the population in the regions have been studied.

Theoretical and practical significance of research. The results of the analysis and generalizations carried out in the dissertation bear important scientific-theoretical and practical significance. They can be used to study demographic conditions in other regions of the world. The data and results analyzed in the dissertation serve as a source in the teaching process in higher and secondary educational institutions, in the preparation of legislative acts on migration, and in the study of migration processes. Studying the migration relations between Azerbaijan and European countries is of great scientific and theoretical importance.

Approbation and application of the dissertation. The main results of the dissertation were presented at the following conferences:

* Scientific conference on "Man and environment" relations, Baku, 2017,

* Materials of the international scientific-practical conference on "Actual issues of labor, employment and social protection", Baku, 2017,

* International scientific-practical conference on "Development of social protection system in Azerbaijan - yesterday, today, tomorrow", Baku, 2019.

* "The past and the future of the Turkic world", Kazakhstan, Nur-Sultan, 2021.

17 scientific articles and theses were published on the topic of the research work.

Level of study of the problem. Migration processes in Europe have been constantly studied by international organizations, including the UN Population Fund, the EU, statistical offices of certain countries, and scientific research centers. The main trends of

demographic development in Europe were studied in the works of scientists. These processes have been studied in Russia, USA, Ukraine, including Azerbaijan.

Besides, there have been serious changes in the number and composition of immigrants arriving the region in recent times. They have a serious impact on the demographic situation of Europe and the dynamics of indicators. Therefore, it is important to study the situation and conduct scientific research in this direction.

Research information base and data sources. The reports of the UN Population Fund (UNFPA), the materials of the Central Statistical Office for the CIS countries, and EU reports were used to conduct the research. Meantime, the compilations of the statistical committees of the Russian Federation and the Republic of Belarus, and annual statistical reports on demography and population of separate countries served as a source.

In the research process, the scientific and theoretical and methodological provisions of the works of scientists of Europe, including the CIS countries, USA, decisions, resolutions and programs of the UN, EU, CIS organizations were used in the research process. During the preparation of the dissertation, the reports and fund materials of The Institutes of Geography and The Institute of Economics of ANAS were reference sources.

Besides this, the information collected by the applicant about migration processes in Europe over many years was used. Information of this kind was referred as a source to conduct analysis.

Name of the institution where the dissertation was carried out. The dissertation work was carried out at the "Economic-political geography and tourism of foreign countries" department of the Faculty of Geography, Baku State University.

The volume, structure and main content of the dissertation. Dissertation entry – 8681 marks; including chapter I – 63851 - number of signs; Chapter II - 144031 - sign number; Chapter III - number of signs 50637; result and bibliography - consists of 3477 characters. It consists of a list of 137 titles, 15 tables, 13 maps and pictures. The dissertation consists of 270729 signs without maps, tables and pictures.

THE MAIN CONTENT OF THE RESEARCH

In the introduction part, the relevance of the topic and degree of exploration of the topic, the purpose, tasks, subject of the research work are defined, the main propositions defended, scientific innovations, the theoretical and practical significance, approval and application of the research are given.

The first chapter of the dissertation entitled "Importance and theoretical-methodical foundations of studying migration of population" examines the general issues of migration of population, as well as historical, demographic, economic, socio-political, etc. aspects of the migration problem, are analyzed.

In this chapter, various views and approaches to migration are interpreted, and the processes that influence and cause migration are examined. These mentioned issues are analyzed both in the context of the entire European region and by referring to the migration and demography policy experience of separate countries of the region.

The migration processes in Europe as a study area, are characterized by general aspects that are common in most countries of this region, and also manifest differently in separate country, depending on the economic-geographical conditions, as well as economic and demographic development potential.

In general, the international migration flows directed to Western Europe are affected by such factors as: opening of borders, the expansion of the geographical space that allows migration processes to be unhindered, the attractiveness for foreigners interested in higher education, the availability of high living conditions, opportunities for working in compliance with specialty, the need for migrants due to the assimilation of backward regions. These issues are analyzed in detail in the first chapter.

Since the early 2000s, millions of people have participated in migration flows in the European region. A part of the working-age population from Poland, Baltic countries, Bulgaria, Romania, and Balkan countries situated in the Eastern European region has turned to neighboring countries in search of higher wages and a better life, and this process is still ongoing. These population flows have had a

positive effect on the population change and population growth rate in large countries such as Germany, France and Great Britain, as well as in the Netherlands, Belgium, Sweden, Luxembourg, and Alpine countries. Differences in the level of socio-economic and demographic development between countries are the main causes of migration.

In the last few years, hundreds of thousands of people have spontaneously left Turkey by land, North Africa by water to Italy, Greece, and from there to other European countries. In addition to Italy, Greece and Turkey, which initially received migrants according to the agreement, other countries also participate in this process. The distribution of foreign migrants in all countries is put forward as an important condition. However, most of the emigrants prefer to go to Germany, France and Italy and other Central European countries and stay there. Although there has been relative stability in migration flows from North Africa and the Middle East to Western Europe, the migrants received had a serious impact on the population change in the countries of the region. Their accommodation, providing them with housing, jobs, and acceptance by the local population become serious problems.

Migrations have a significant impact on demographic indicators in countries. These include the gender-age composition of the population, location in cities and villages, marriages, dynamics of birth and natural growth, national and religious composition, etc.

One of the indicators subject to changes due to migrations is the gender and age structure. For a long time in Europe, the participants of immigration processes were mainly men, and in recent years, the share of women has tended to increase compared to previous periods. Due to immigration, the share of young people is higher in European cities and newly developed regions.

The large number of young people among the immigrant population in Europe has a positive effect on the number of marriages. This creates conditions for the increase of birth and natural growth. Such a situation has a significant impact on the regulation of low birth rates in countries of immigration. In European countries, the marriage age is higher than in other regions,

the number of children in families is small, in most cases there is only one child. This does not ensure the increase of the population. The birth rate is higher in immigrant families.

The first chapter also presents the views of individual scientists on the migration problem, including migration processes in European countries, important works done in the field of studying the theoretical issues and geography of migration, and their overview. Based on the works of scientists, it is noted that various factors affect the demographic development.

This chapter also analyzes the importance of regulating the demographic development and the continuous growth of the population, maintaining the appropriate ratio of sex and age composition. In order to achieve demographic development, the importance of ensuring development in economic and socio-cultural fields is shown. It is noted that one of the main difficulties in regulating migrations and developing an action plan is the improper registration of migrants.

In Europe, the idea is accepted that although there are certain problems related to the adaptation of the immigrants to the new society, acceptance of the local language and customs by them, the second generation has already grown up in the country and its view on various issues is different. The new generation is fully educated as a citizen of the country, participates more actively in the demographic development, and has professional skills in accordance with the requirements of the economic fields such as labor force.

The analysis shows that active demographic policy was implemented in Eastern European countries. The main measures of the demographic policy in the countries of this region include offering one-time loans to young families, giving allowances to families for the birth of children, and increasing the amount of allowances as the number of children in families increases. Also, increasing allowances given during pregnancy and childbirth, advantages in the right to buy housing, and increasing number of child-care institutions were measures implemented within the framework of the demographic policy in these countries.

Demographic policy has been implemented in this direction in

Western Europe. Here, the main aspects of the demographic policy include the application of discounts to families, giving allowances to mothers to take care of children during leave, facilitating the provision of housing and its implementation by the state.

In the second chapter of the dissertation entitled **"The main stages and directions of migration processes in Europe"**, a regional historical-geographical analysis of migration processes is carried out, and the issues of migration flows, brain drain, labor supply, international and internal migration flows in the European region, rural-to-urban migration, etc. are studied by separate countries grouped for their demographic indicators. Factors affecting migration and demographic processes, the relationship between migration and gender-age composition, employment structure of the population and employment of women are studied and extensive statistical analysis is carried out. This chapter also examines the change in the balance of migration in the countries of the region, the share of migrants among the population of the countries, the impact of migration on socio-demographic development, migrations from Azerbaijan to European countries. Integration processes are more intensive in Europe than in other countries of the world (Figure 1).

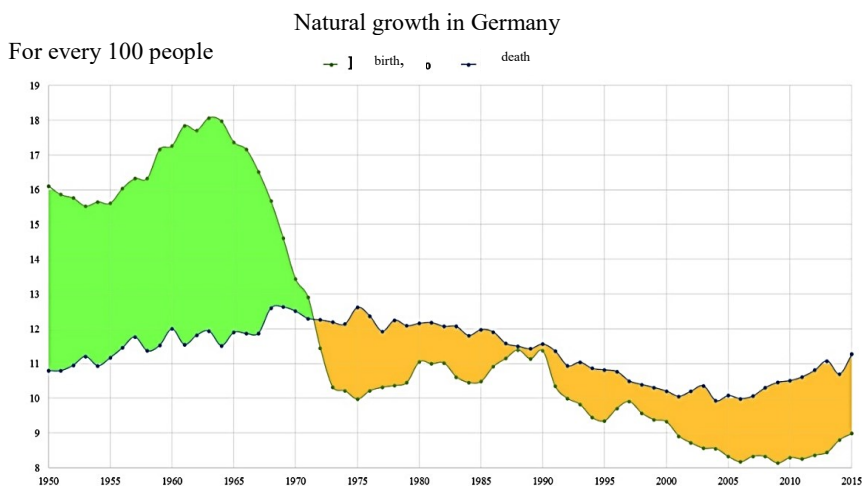


Figure 1. Dynamics of natural growth indicators in Germany

In recent years, a number of trends have been seen in migration processes in various European countries. Migrant quotas in the Russian Federation are increased depending on demand, foreign migrations are decreasing. The migration policy conducted in this country creates conditions for accepting foreign migrants in accordance with sufficient and required rules.

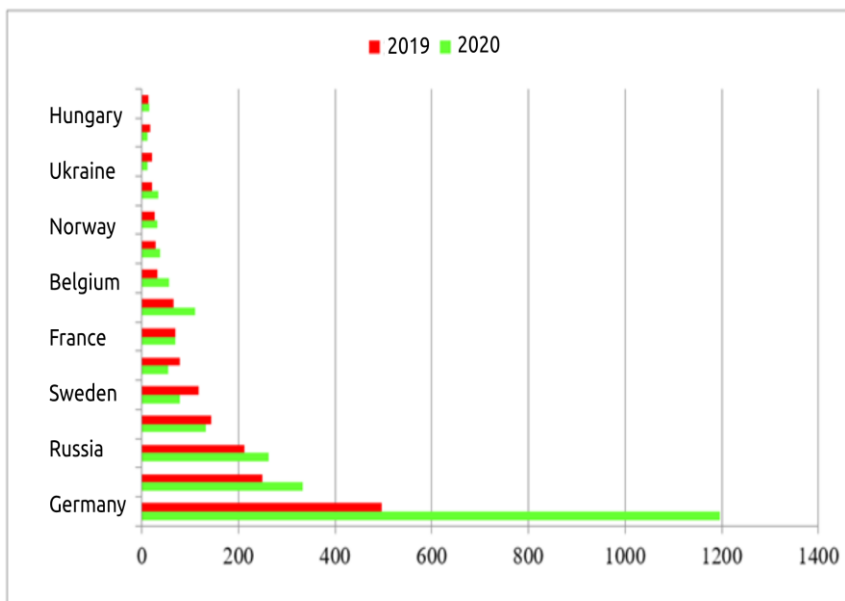


Figure. 2. Countries with a positive net migration in Europe, thousand persons

The changes in the region at the end of the 20th century and the beginning of the 21st century led to the creation of new independent states, changes in the social and political structure, and an increase in the intensity of population migration. The processes taking place are showing their effect even now. In some countries of the continent, the main part of population growth is provided by migrations. The absolute number of the population in the countries that receive large numbers of migrants is also increasing year by year.

In recent years, a number of trends have been shown in migration processes in various European countries. Migrant quotas in the Russian Federation are increased depending on demand, foreign migrations are decreasing. The migration policy conducted in this country creates conditions for accepting foreign migrants in accordance with sufficient and required rules.

In Germany, one of the largest immigration countries in Europe and the world, the number of population has continuously increased in the first half of the 90s. In the 1990s, migrations from the east to the west of the country, a large number of foreign migrations, and the return of Germans living in Europe and the territory of the former USSR played a major role in ensuring this growth. The 21st century began with the decline of the population in Germany. In recent years, events in the Middle East and North Africa have intensified the flow of migration to Europe, and Germany has received the majority of migrants. In 1995-2000, the population increased by 918,400 people, but this did not prevent the decrease of the population in the country. In 2005-2010, as in the previous period, the population of Germany decreased mainly due to the fact that the death rate was higher than the birth rate, and migrations decreased. The wave of immigration that started in 2015 and continued in the following years was caused by war refugees from countries such as Syria, Iraq, and Afghanistan. In that year alone, the number of people who came to the country exceeded 1 million, and the country spent 0.5% of its gross domestic product to resettle refugees.

In France, where the population continues to grow relatively rapidly, the positive effect of natural growth on absolute growth is high. The population increased by 67.7 thous. pers. due to migration in 2018. In addition to natural growth in population growth, the share of migration is relatively large compared to a number of countries. The share of natural and migration growth in population growth was 76.9% and 23.1%, respectively¹. In France, the integration of foreign migrants into society remains a serious

¹ Беларусь и страны мира. Статистический сборник / – Минск, – 2020. – 389 с.

problem. Compared to other European countries, France has a higher percentage of those with Muslim ancestry from Arab countries. The contribution of that group of population to demographic development and population growth is huge.

The United Kingdom is one of the most populous countries in Western Europe. In this country, the role of natural increase of population is relatively low. Immigrants contribute to absolute population growth considerably. In 2018, 54.9% of the population growth was due to natural growth, and 45.1% was due to foreign migration. Although the immigration restrictions adopted in the late 1960s and early 1970s reduced the number of immigrants, compared to other countries in the region, the UK has high rates of population growth due to foreign migration.

Despite the restrictions on immigrants in the UK, more than several hundred thousand foreign citizens are admitted to the country every year based on the principles of "preference". Young people are the majority among immigrants. Migrations to Britain from Asian countries, including English-speaking countries-former colonies, continue. Among foreign migrants, young people make up the big majority of the population. Among them, natural growth remains high. Therefore, it can be considered that the population growth in the country is expected to be at a low level in the coming decades.

Another large European country is Italy, where steady increase in population has been observed since 2000. However, the demographic problem in the country, especially low natural growth, remains a serious problem. The population increases almost entirely due to foreign migrations. In 2000, the net international migration balance in the country was 210.4 thousand people, whereas in 2015 it was 260.6 thousand people, and in 2018 it was 143.8 thousand people. Recently, the number of visitors to the country has increased significantly.

Italy stands as a transit between North Africa and other European countries. Most of those who come to the region stay in this country. This factor is the main source of population growth in Italy. Calculations show that the average annual amount of

migration in the country varies between 210-250 thousand people².

Although a positive trend in population growth was observed in Spain in the first decade of the 21st century, the number of the population remained almost constant or decreased in individual years for the following period. Economic difficulties in the country, problems in creation of jobs, lowering of the standard of living cause people to leave the country. Most of them move to Central European countries.

In Spain, natural growth is with a negative sign that means the migration of the population from the country has a negative impact on the number of the country's population. Consequently, the population did not increase in the years after 2010, and the figure was 46.7 million in 2011 and 46.6 million in 2015.

Ukraine is one of those countries in Europe where the demographic crisis is observed. In the first years of independence, economic difficulties, the lowering of the standard of living, the very tense relations with Russia in recent years, and the outbreak of war between the two countries had a negative impact on the country's demographic development. Natural growth has been decreased, and the migration to other countries has been increased. In the period from 2000 to 2010, the population has been decreased as less as 300,000 people per year, and in 2011-2015, the figure made up 550,000-600,000 people. The population decreased by 2851 thousand persons or by 6.3% in 2011-2015³. The number of those who moved to Ukraine in 2011-2014 made up more than 141.2 thousand people, and in 2017 the figure 20.2 thousand people.

Poland, which is the third most populous country in Eastern Europe after Russia and Ukraine, is experiencing a serious demographic crisis, which prompts the government to take important measures in the field of demography. Migration has a negative balance. After the accession of Poland to the European Union, foreign migrations became more intensive. In 2011-2015, 1086.2

² Иммиграционная политика западных стран: альтернативы для России / Под ред. Г.Витковской. – М., – 2003. – 264 с.

³ Население Украины за 2018 год. Демографический ежегодник. Государственная Статистическая Служба Украины. / – Киев, – 2019. – 134 с.

thousand people left the country, the balance of migration was - 269.0 thousand people.

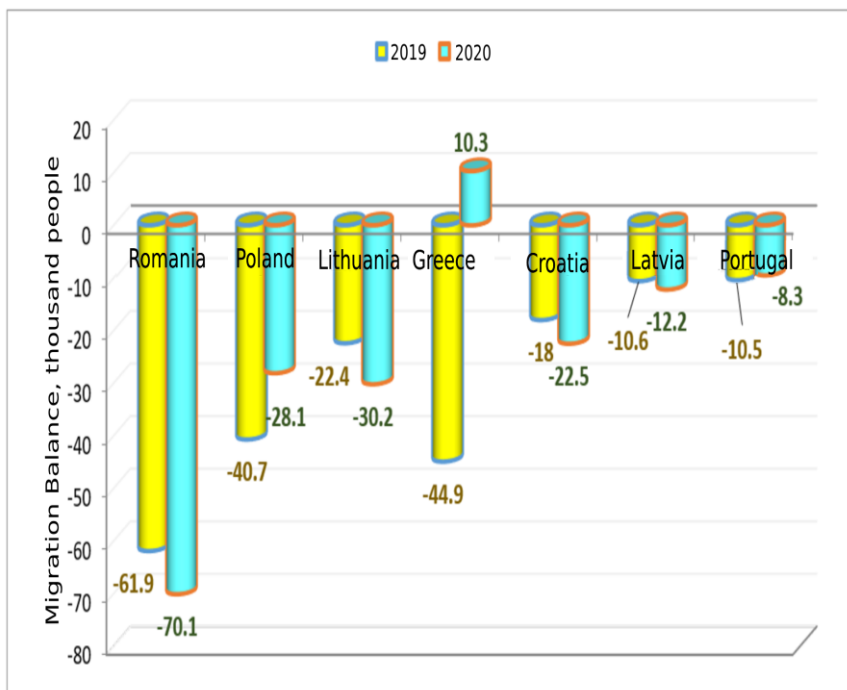


Figure. 3. Countries with a negative net migration in Europe, thousand persons

Population growth in the Netherlands is mainly due to migration, but immigrants also make a large contribution to natural growth. Recently, the annual intake of foreign migrants in the country was close to 20-30 thousand people, and the population growth was 15-20 thousand people. These sources ensure the growth of the population in the country⁴.

Due to the economic crisis in Greece, the population is moving out of the country en masse. In Belgium, the situation is

⁴ Официальный сайт Евростата: <http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/>

the opposite. The country has become one of the main migration centers in Europe.

A growth at 50-60 thousand people per year achieved due to migration has been observed. This is a sign of its effect on the population growth. In Bulgaria, Hungary and Belarus, fall in natural increase of population and high rates of emigration has resulted in population decline in these countries. In the relatively small countries like Denmark, Ireland and Slovenia, low natural increase rate and the adoption of foreigner ensured population growth. Although Ireland has one of the highest natural increase rates in Europe, population outflows occur here. In some years, the its mass nature has led to a decrease in population number.

The Baltic countries like Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia experienced a serious demographic crisis during the years of independence. In these countries, the mass migration abroad has led to a decrease in the population. Thus, since the end of the 20th century and the beginning of the 21st century, the natural growth of the population in Europe has decreased, and the demographic situation has become unfavorable. In this regard, the reception of migrants has become a very necessary factor to prevent population decline in the region.

One of the practical measures of great importance in terms of the regulation of migration in European countries is the large involvement of labor migrants in various sectors of the country's economy. At the end of the 20th century, 25 millions of labor force became migrants, half of which was accounted by developing countries. The main center attracting foreign labor force is Western European countries, primarily the "big three" – Germany, France and the United Kingdom. in these countries. It is assumed that up to 12-13 million foreign workers and on-citizen people are concentrated in these three countries. In the countries where labor migrants left, there was a massive lack of qualified labor, and it was not possible to manage these processes.

At the end of the second chapter, the migration relations of the Republic of Azerbaijan with European countries are studied. Here Russia has played an important role for many years. Other

CIS countries such as Ukraine, Moldova and Belarus, also played an important role in migration relations with Azerbaijan. The number of people who move to other countries of Europe was relatively small.

Migration flows from Azerbaijan were high in 1990-1995. Therefore, a negative net migration was recorded by most countries. The major part is accounted by Russia. In this period, the balance of migration with Russia was about -120,000 people, with Ukraine -20,100 people, and with Belarus -3.7 thousand people. In 1996-2000, migrations decreased. Eventually, the differences (balance) between arrivals and departures were low. In this period, the balance of migration in relations with Russia was -30.3 thousand people, with Ukraine -1.5 thousand people, and with Belarus -437 people. The number of those being involved in migration relations with Germany was highest in number, since the net migration in 1996-2000 was 720 people. The number of arrivals and departures to other countries was relatively small.

The 2000s are characterized by slow migration. This was due to factors such as the intensity of migrations decreased during that period, the number of population in villages decreased, and people from other nationalities left the country. In 2001-2005, the figure made up -11,100 people with Russia, -303 people with Ukraine, and -476 people with Belarus. In the first half of the 2000s, the number of people moving to Germany was high. The net migration was -228 people. By other countries the figure reflecting the number of migrants was small. In 2006-2010, the net migration was -248 people with Russia, and -130 people with Belarus.

In recent years, the intensity of migration of population has decreased significantly, and the number of people migrating from the country has decreased. Compared to previous years, some of those who left the country returned. Therefore, the net migration with most countries was positive. Its highest values were fixed by Russia (3308 people), as well as by Ukraine (about 582 people).

In 2011-2020, the number of people migrating to Belarus and

Germany increased, and the net was negative, making –100 people with Germany, and –157 people with Belarus. Thus, the CIS occupy a leading position in migration relations of Azerbaijan with the near and far countries. Among them, Russia, Ukraine and Belarus are distinguished.

The third chapter of the dissertation is called **“The main ways of regulating migrations and the implemented measures in Europe”**. This chapter examines the differences between European countries for the level of socio-economic development, the relationship and influence between economic development and migration, cooperation between European countries in the field of migration regulation and the role played by this cooperation in solving problems, the importance of the legal framework of migration in separate countries in regulating migration processes.

Developed countries are sharply different in terms of their structure and socio-economic potential. Many of them have reached a high level in economic potential, the standard of living, and develop sustainably. Farms from these countries are provided with labor at the expense of internal potential. Hence, the population of those countries is involved in migration flows poorly. In most developing countries of Asia and Africa, natural increase rate is high, and economic growth rate is low, and the number of jobs is many times lesser than the number of working-age population. In this group of countries, the weak economic potential is not able to maintain the demographic potential. This is so because the higher prevalent share of mining industry and agriculture in the economic structure limits the possibilities for job creation, whereas incomes are low, and the daily living conditions of the population and the provision of socio-cultural services are insufficient. As a result, the population moves from villages to cities within countries. At the same time, foreign migrations have become intensive.

In some countries of the world, higher education institutions have high material and technical base and personnel potential. The training of graduates of these science and educational centers meets modern world standards. They include India, Malaysia, Turkey, Brazil, Pakistan, China, Indonesia, Mexico, Algeria, Egypt, etc.

Meantime, in addition to these countries, young people from other countries stay and work there after studying at universities in European countries, USA, Canada and other countries of immigration. This factor has a significant impact on the economic development of countries receiving immigrants.

The flow of highly educated labor from backward countries remains a very serious problem for them. This process is clearly manifested in countries with smaller population and is increasingly difficult to solve.

Variety of measures on demographic policy taken in the countries of the European Union (EU) in the field of regulation of migrations have been lessened for many years. Moreover, the management of relevant measures from a single center increases their efficiency.

Although there are certain restrictions in the field of external migration in the EU, the freedom of internal migration is ensured. From its early period, integration processes in Europe were based on the four principles: free movement of goods, services, capital and population. These factors have resulted in intensive nature of internal migrations in Europe.

The Treaty of Rome, signed in 1957, envisaged the free migration of labor resources in European countries. According to the agreement reached, workers, servants, entrepreneurs from the countries that joined the agreement are eligible to move to another one without obstacles. Since there was no danger posed from large-scale international migrations during this period, each country regulated migrations based on internal laws, and there were no agreements to regulate the flow of immigrants from other countries. At the end of the 60s of the 20th century, the formation of customs agreements was completed, and the right of citizens to move freely within the countries of the union was fully provided^{5,6}.

Since the mid-1970s, regulation of immigration flows from

⁵ International Migration Report 2002. United Nations Population Division Department of Economic and Social Affairs. – New York, –2002. –p.1.

⁶ Lucassen, J. eds. Migration, Migration History, History: Old Paradigms and New Perspectives. / J.Lucassen, L.Lucassen – Bern: Peter Lang. – 1997. – 220 p.

non-EU countries has been widely discussed. As a result of the implemented measures, in 1985 the EC adopted documents for the formation of a single migration policy within the Union. These documents reflected the rules for the coordination of visa policy within the borders of the Union, the simplification of migration control, and the determination of the status of immigrants from other countries, primarily refugees and asylum seekers.

Towards the end of the 20th century, some serious problems in the field of migration regulation became clear in Europe. The collapse of the socialist system and the strengthening of uneven development between countries caused migration flows to be intensified. The region where most migrations were head was Western Europe. Relatedly, migration flows became a factor having a serious impact on economic, political, demographic development, and inter-country relations. Taking these into account, it was necessary to take develop much influential proposals and measures to regulate immigration flows. The rapid increase in the number of foreign migrants within the European Union made it necessary to solve the problem of their adaptation and integration into society, to regulate demographic processes according to strategic interests, to protect the rights of migrants, and to cooperate in this field.

On February 7, 1992, the Treaty on the European Union was signed in Maastricht (Netherlands), and this document entered into force in 1993. The agreement included the control of external borders, making general decisions on immigration policy, regulation of migration flows, and keeping the solution of many issues within internal affairs of countries. The introduction of migration limits, the number of entry visas, and the fight against illegal migration were recognized as internal tasks.

One of the most important issues adopted by the EU countries is the imposition of serious restrictions on the admission of immigrants from non-members. The countries have reached an agreement on the following issues: the policy of granting asylum, the rules for regulating the transition from the external borders of the member countries, the implementation of appropriate control, the immigration policy and the treatment of people from other countries,

control of entry into the Commonwealth countries and their movement within the EU, living conditions of citizens from other countries, provision of jobs, arrival and accommodation of family members, measures to combat and prevent illegality⁷.

The general rules adopted during the admission or expulsion of refugees to the EU countries are followed. They include the 1951 Geneva Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and the 1967 Protocol.

Asylum is granted to refugees from foreign countries based on the Schengen Convention adopted in 1990 and the Dublin Convention signed on June 15, 1990 (entered into force in 1997).

Under the 1997 Amsterdam Agreement, the principle of a "free, secure and rule-abiding" Eurospace was adopted. Under its terms, immigration, the protection of the EU's external borders and the granting of asylum were transferred to the Central Government. These measures facilitated the adoption of joint decisions and increased the effective functioning of EU institutions.

Adopted in 1999, the document titled "Tampere Refugees" reflected the application of a unified system for granting political asylum in the EU countries and the fight against illegal migrations and human trafficking. Meantime, it was decided to protect the rights of immigrants and allow legally living foreigners to participate in local elections.

Various institutions and bodies are involved in the management of migration processes in the European Union. These are migration and deportations, asylum, borders, police cooperation, and other groups. The Strategic Committee on Immigration, Frontiers and Asylum (SCIFA) operates at the upper level. At much higher, the third level, a permanent committee of representatives of member countries (COREPER – Committee of Permanent Representatives) was established. At the highest level is the Council of Ministers of the Interior and Justice, the EU's legislative body. This Council was

⁷ Ионцев В. Международная миграция населения: теория и история изучения / В.Ионцев. – М.МАКС – Пресс, – 1999. – С. 85-116.

established within the framework of the Maastricht Treaty⁸.

In 2014-2016, after the intensification of migration flows and the emergence of the migration crisis, the countries of the region began to take measures independently to protect security.

Due to the relatively soft and attractive migration legislation in the countries of Northern Europe at the end of the 20th century and the beginning of the 21st century, the flow of both internal EU migrants and foreign migrants has increased year by year. The social protection system is highly developed in Norway, Sweden, Finland, and Denmark. Since 2016, strict border control has been established in all countries of the region and the flow of refugees has been prevented. Social protection costs for migrants have been reduced.

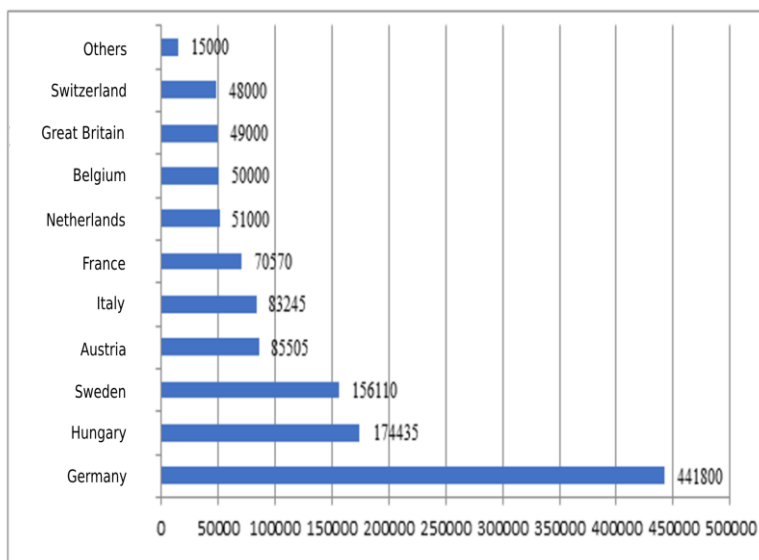


Figure 4. Total number of refugees by host countries in 2015-2019 (according to Eurostat)

In order to regulate the number of migrants coming to the United Kingdom, it is planned to accept 100,000 people a year.

⁸ Одиссер С. Объединение Европы. Прошлое и настоящее / С. Одиссер. – Гамбург: Дом ученых, – 2013. – 310 с., s.132.

According to the current migration legislation, migrants from EU countries must receive an official job offer before arriving in the country. After working in the UK for 4 years, they can be given tax benefits. Migrants are deported after 6 months of unemployment in the country⁹.

In order to regulate migration processes in Germany, the “Act to Control and Restrict Immigration and to Regulate the Residence and Integration of EU Citizens and Foreigners (Immigration Act)” was adopted. Here, Germany is acknowledged as a country of immigration, while the selection of foreign citizens in accordance with the country’s economic and strategic interests are considered. Hence, it is noted that accepting the number and education of migrant workers, attracting foreign students, those who want to invest in the country, those who wish to engage in entrepreneurial activities, and those who are fluent in the state language are important issues.

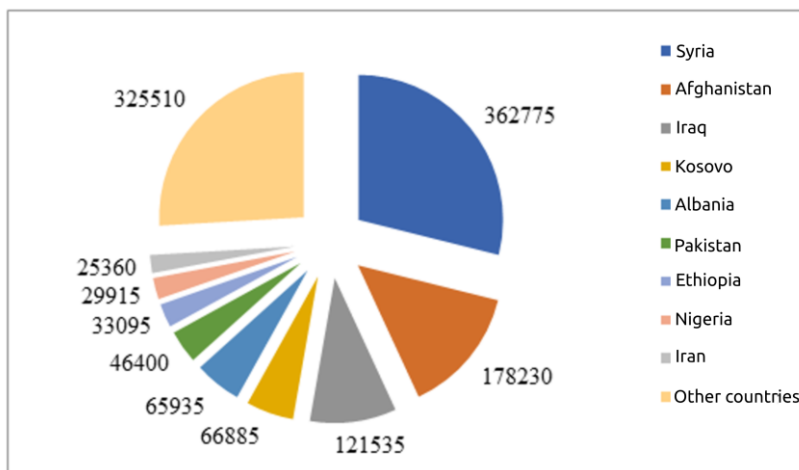


Figure 5. Total number of refugees by country of citizenship in 2015-2019 (according to Eurostat)

⁹ Небренчин В.Р. Иммиграционная политика Великобритании на современном этапе /В.Р.Небренчин, А.В.Яшкин // Государственное регулирование миграционных процессов и международная политика как факторы обеспечения стабильности в современном мире: российский и зарубежный опыт, – М., – 2015. – с. 151-153., s. 151-153.

According to the Regulation on combating illegal migration and adaptation of legal migrants to society, adopted in France, the rules for the social protection of these foreign migrants, learning the language and laws of the country were defined, and foreign citizens were given the right to stay in the country for one year. The Law on the treatment of immigrants and the stay of foreign citizens in France was adopted, which reflected the issues of combating illegal migration. In addition to the implementation of the migration policy in accordance with the economic interests of the country, the prevention of population decline is considered as an important issue.

In Italy, changes to the migration laws in 2002 made the admission of migrants into the country and their right of residence more difficult. The entry and residence of foreign citizens into the country is permitted by the Ministry of the Interior and is carried out in accordance with EU laws.

It can be concluded that the issues of arrival of migrants in Europe, border control, recognition of migrants' rights, etc. are jointly approached by the region's countries while considering their common interests. Meantime, countries make decisions at the national level regarding the regulation of migrations and the adaptation of migrants to society.

RESULTS

1. Factors affecting the international flows of population toward the countries of Western Europe include: opening of borders, the expansion of the geographical space that allows migration processes to occur unhindered, attractiveness for foreigners willing to come to take higher education, the availability of high living conditions, opportunities to work in compliance with specialty, the needs in migrants in backward regions of the region's larger countries.

2. Most of the emigrants come to Germany, France and Italy, and other Central European countries and prefer to stay in these countries permanently. Increase in population number in the countries like Germany and Italy takes place due to migration. In the United Kingdom, 55% of the population growth is due to natural growth, and 45% is due to immigration. In France, where the population continues to grow relatively rapidly, natural increase of population plays a greater role in population growth than migration. Immigration to the Russian Federation is decreasing.

3. In a group of European countries (Eastern and Southern Europe), the natural increase rate is negative and, moreover, a high emigration of the population is observed, people from these countries move mainly to the highly developed countries of Western Europe. Therefore, the population has been decreasing in recent decades. The decrease in population number was more intense in countries such as Romania, Greece, Portugal, Lithuania, Bulgaria, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Kosovo.

4. In 2014, the entry of 10 new Central and Eastern European countries into the EU led to the expansion of borders and the weakening of their control mechanism. Proximity to the regions where political, economic and social relations are tense, the increase in the intensity of migration of the population gave a great impetus to this process. In recent years, events in the Middle

East and North Africa have intensified the flow of migration to Europe, and Germany has received the majority of migrants.

5. As a result of intensive migration to Western Europe, serious problems have arisen with respect to placement of migrants and provision of housing and social services to them. To solve the problem, it has become necessary for the EU countries to provide economic and political support to the countries where migrants come from, as well as to regulate migration processes, solve the problem of illegal migration, and cooperate with those countries more closely in combating transnational crime.

6. The number of people migrating from Azerbaijan to foreign countries, including to European countries, was higher than those who moved to Azerbaijan in recent years, whereas some of those who left the country have returned. Due to the implementation of reforms and satisfying the needs in jobs, arrivals to Azerbaijan from the post-Soviet countries of Eastern Europe were higher compared to the departures in opposite direction in most years.

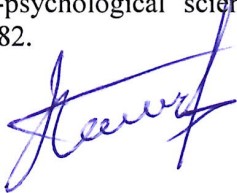
7. At present, official documents such as the Schengen Agreements of 1985 and 1990, the Dublin Convention of 1990, the Maastricht Agreement on the EU, and the Amsterdam Agreement constitute the main legal sources and basis for the regulation of immigration policy in Europe. These documents define the functioning of EU institutional structures and bodies in the areas of justice and domestic policy, including migration flows.

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A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'I. B. Mammadov', is written over the bottom of the third list item.

The defence of the dissertation will be held on 24 may 2024 at 11⁰⁰ at the meeting of the Dissertation Council FD 2.51 operating under the Baku State University.

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