MIGRATION IN EUROPE

Sanda CONSTANTIN[1]

Abstract: *The paper presents the main aspects of migration in the European Union and the influence in population changes. A few aspects regarding this major subject were analysed, like the immigrants, the non-national population, foreign born population and acquisition of citizenship in 28 European Union countries. At the end of the paper, the conclusions show the main changes that appear or could appear in the population structure. Also, the possible changes are specified for both sides involved, the countries of origin and the countries of destination, like unemployment or the lack of labour force, demographic indicators changes and possible social problems*

Key words: *migration, immigration, emigration, citizenship acquisition*

1. Introduction

In the past years in Europe the migration has increased sometimes dramatically not only inside the European Union, but also regarding immigrants from other parts of the world like Asia and Africa. This situation involved many changes in the population number and structure, as well as in social conditions.

According to the EUROSTAT Glossary, the main concepts about the migration phenomenon are as follows:

"Migration refers to the number of migrants, people changing their residence to or from a given area (usually a country) during a given time period (usually one year)."
"Immigration is the action by which a person establishes his or her usual residence in the territory of a Member State for a period that is, or is expected to be, of at least 12 months, having previously been usually resident in another Member State or a third country (Regulation (EC) No 862/2007 on Migration and international protection)."

"Immigrant is a person undertaking an immigration."

"Emigration is the action by which a person, having previously been usually resident in the territory of a Member State, ceases to have his or her usual residence in that Member State for a period that is, or is expected to be, of at least 12 months (Regulation (EC) No 862/2007 on Migration and international protection)."

"Emigrant is a person undertaking an emigration."

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[1] *Transilvania* University of Braşov, sanda.constantin@unitbv.ro

2. Methodology

The main information was provided by the EUROSTAT database. The raw information was systematized and processed using specific statistical methods and indicators. The results were presented in graphs and the analysis focused on the evolution, tendency and influences of the main problems regarding the migration in the European Union.

3. The main aspects of migration in the European Union

In 2017, more than 4 million people emigrated in the European Union. This does not mean that all immigrants came from outside EU, as there are also flows between EU member states.

The migration flows in the 28 EU countries in 2017 is presented in Figure 1 according to EUROSTAT:
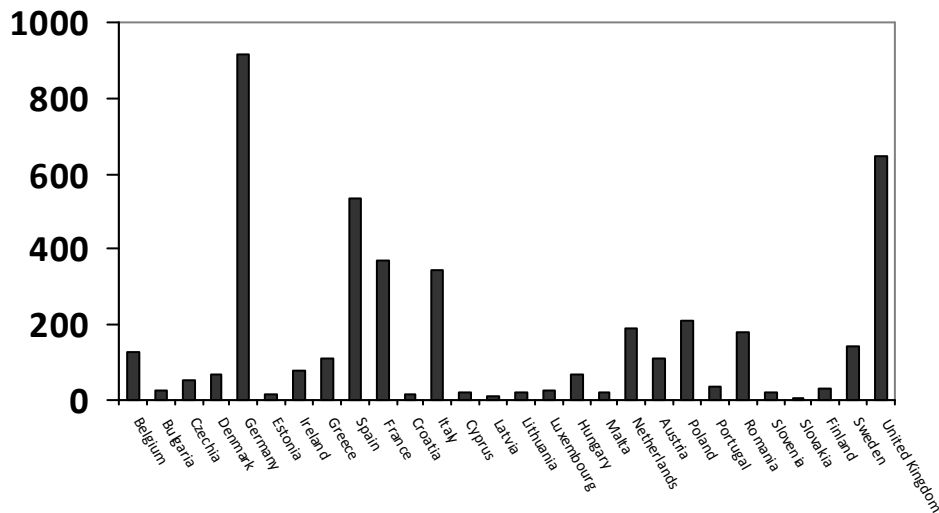

Fig. 1. *Immigration in EU, data source EUROSTAT*

We can notice that Germany holds the first place regarding the number of immigrants with 917.1 thousand persons.

On the following places we can find the United Kingdom with 644.2 thousand persons, Spain with 532.1 thousand persons, France and Italy with 370 and 343.4 thousand persons.

The lowest level of immigrants was in Latvia, 9.9 thousand persons and Slovakia, 7.2 thousand persons. At the same time, Germany, United Kingdom, France, Spain saw the highest number of emigrants, not at the same level, meaning that in those countries the

migration balance was positive.

There are also some countries in which the balance was negative, which means that the emigrants exceeded the number of immigrants. This situation was reported in Romania, Poland, Bulgaria and Croatia.

From the total number of immigrants in the European Union, approximately 2.4 million came from non-EU countries in 2017.

Most of the immigrants were males 54% and also, a study of EUROSTAT reveals that most of them were usually young people, less than 30 years.

This aspect modifies some demographic indicators in countries with immigrants, as well as countries with emigrants. Indicators like life expectancy, rate of birth, mortality rate, fertility rate and so on can register major changes in most of the European countries.

At the entire European Union level the birth rate has decreased in the past years from 2.1 children per women which represents a replacement level, to a rate of 1.59 children per women in 2017 according to EUROSTAT.

That represents a decrease of the population with approximately 0.2 million persons.

According to Eurostat, the only EU states which comprise regions with a birth rate over 2.1 children per women are Romania, France and the United Kingdom, but even in these countries the national level is situated under the replacement rate.

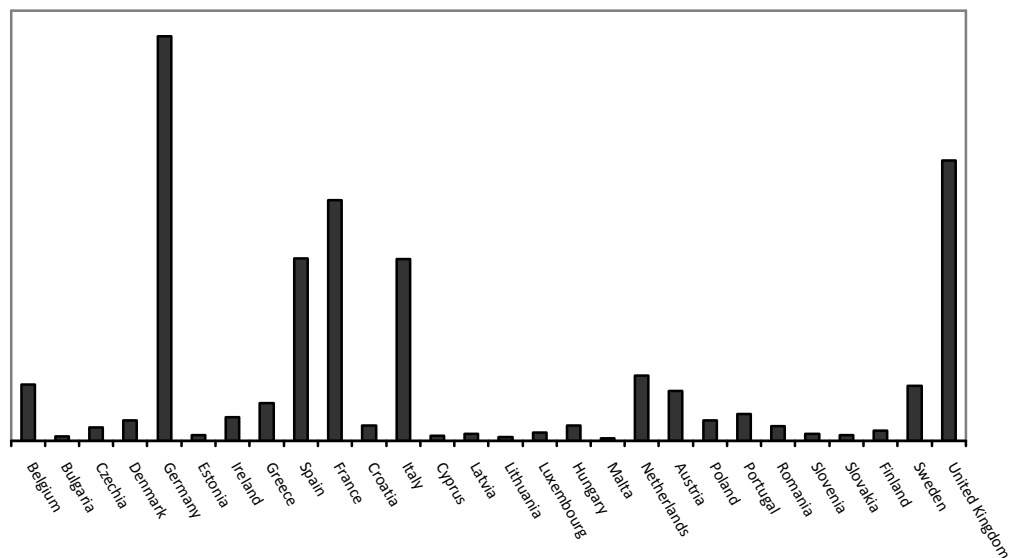The foreign born population by country of birth is presented in Figure 2:

Fig. 2. *Foreign born population, data source EUROSTAT*

The highest levels of foreign born population were registered in Germany (13745.8

thousand persons), the United Kingdom (9512.5 thousand persons), France (8177.3 thousand persons), Spain (6198.8 thousand persons) and Italy (6175.3 thousand persons) on 1 January 2018.

The lowest number of foreign born population was in Malta (83.4 thousand persons), Lithuania (131.0 thousand persons), Bulgaria (156.5 thousand persons), Cyprus (181.4 thousand persons) and Slovakia (190.3 thousand persons).

According to EUROSTAT: "Regarding the country of birth, there were 38.2 million people born outside of the EU-28 living in an EU Member State on 1 January 2018, while there were 21.8 million persons who had been born in a different EU Member State from the one where they were resident. Only in Ireland, Cyprus, Luxembourg, Hungary, Malta and Slovakia was the number of persons born in other EU Member States higher than the number born outside of the EU-28."

The situation of immigrants from non EU countries on 1 January 2018 is presented in Figure 3:
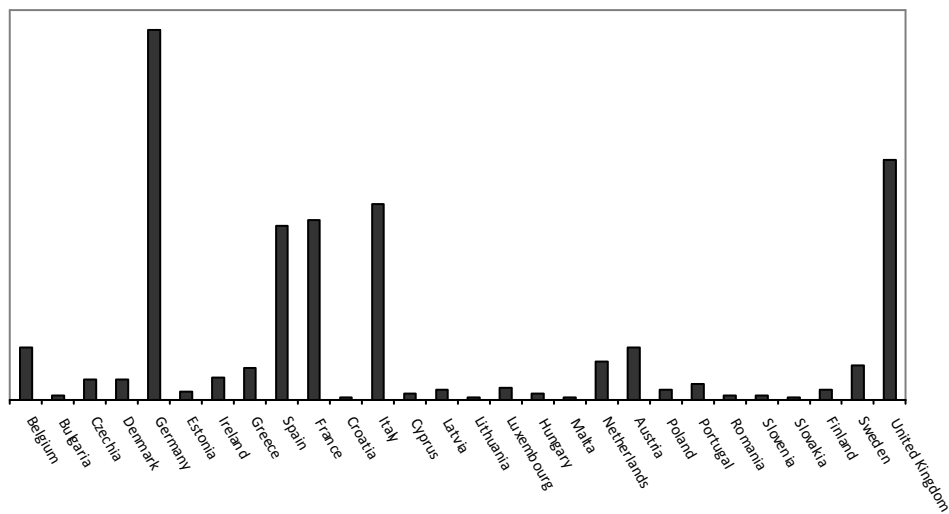

Fig. 3. *Non-national population, data source EUROSTAT*

In the European Union, 22.3 million persons from non-EU countries were reported on 1 January 2018.

The highest number of non-EU citizens is in Germany (9678.9 thousand persons), the United Kingdom (6286 thousand persons), Italy (5144.4 thousand persons), France (4687.4 thousand persons), and Spain (4563 thousand persons).

The lowest level is in Bulgaria (85.9 thousand persons), Slovakia (72.9 thousand persons), Malta (67.1 thousand persons), Croatia (52.0 thousand persons) and Lithuania (27.3 thousand persons).

In Poland, Romania and Lithuania, taking into consideration the percentage in the total resident population, we can notice that this indicator is situated to a very small level, less than 1%.

According to EUROSTAT, "In relative terms, the EU Member State with the highest share of non-nationals was Luxembourg, as non-nationals accounted for 48 % of its total population".

A high proportion of foreign citizens (10 % or more of the resident population) was also noticed in Cyprus, Austria, Estonia, Malta, Latvia, Belgium, Ireland and Germany. In contrast, non-nationals represented less than 1 % of the population in Poland and Romania (0.6 % in both countries), as well as in Lithuania (0.9 %)."

The acquisition of citizenship in the European Union countries in 2017 is presented in Figure 4:
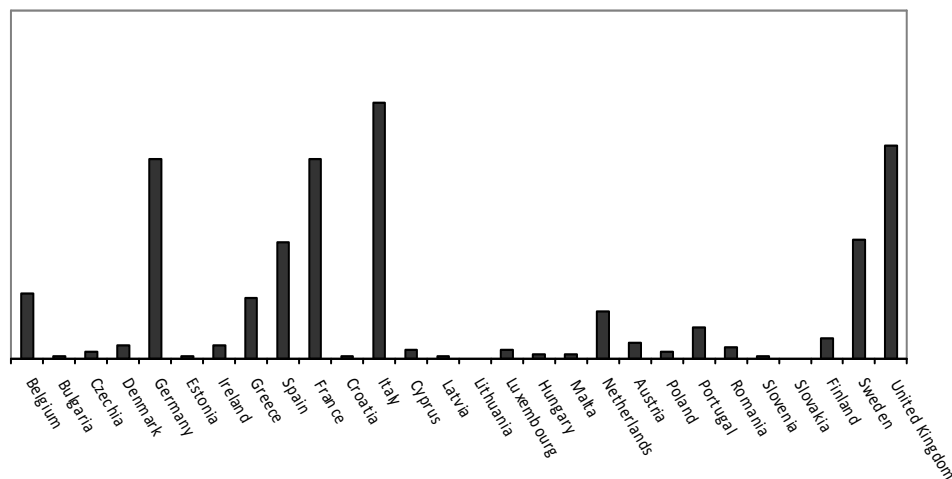

Fig. 4. *Acquisition of citizenship, data source EUROSTAT*

In 2017, approximately 800 thousand persons acquired citizenship in one of the European Union countries. According to EUROSTAT, the number decreased by 17% in comparison with the previous year 2016. The first places are hold by Italy with 146.6 thousand persons, the United Kingdom with 123.1 thousand persons, Germany with 115.4 thousand persons, France with 114.3 thousand persons and Sweden with 68.9 thousand persons.

On the opposite side, the lowest level of acquired citizenship was in Lithuania with 0.2 thousand persons, Slovakia with 0.6 thousand persons, Croatia with 0.7 thousand persons, Bulgaria and Estonia with 0.9 thousand persons and Slovenia with 1.6 thousand persons.

From all the acquisitions of citizenship, 673 thousand were persons from other countries than the European Union like Morocco, Albania, India, Turkey and Pakistan. Still, there was also a decrease in comparison with the previous year with 22%.

4. Conclusions

Migration is a very complex aspect of the present society and with a major impact over the countries, both for the countries of origin, as well as for the countries of destination. The present paper analysed only a few aspects of what migration involves.

The countries with immigrants' exhibit problems linked to unemployment, social problems with integration in all its aspects.

In countries with emigrants there are changes with some demographic indicators. As it has already been presented, most of the emigrants are young people.

This means that the countries where they live see a decrease in the birth rate and an increase in the mortality rate. Other problems which can appear are the separation of the family, the divorce rate and even the lack of labour force, as we can see today in Romania.

The analysis showed that the European Union countries became attractive also for non-European Union citizens not only from non-members in Europe, but from countries from Asia and Africa.

The most attractive are the countries from Western Europe, especially Germany, Italy, Spain, France and the United Kingdom. Also, the same countries are attractive for the European Union members from Eastern Europe.

The long-term consequences, positive or negative, are partially unknown, but what is for sure is that there will be major changes in the European Union population.

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