



## MIGRATION AND MOBILITY AS A FACTOR OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN EUROPE

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**Abstract:** *Contemporary discourse on the international and national level of individual countries concerning the dilemma of sustainable development and the future of societies pays particular attention to the phenomenon of migration in Europe. The article aims to identify social factors, especially migration processes, affecting sustainable development in Europe and Poland.*

*Synchronization of economic, social and environmental capital is to prevent the creation of one-line development plans. In addition, it is intended to eliminate potential conflicts related to uneven development.*

*The starting point for the considerations is the definition proposed by I. Sachs "Sustainable development is a process by which it is possible to harmonize the exploitation of all natural resources, direct investment and technical and institutional changes, as well as meet the current and future needs of people according to the production and assimilation capacity of ecosystems" (Sachs, 2000) [Own translation from Polish]. Specific questions and research problems arise*

- What impact do contemporary migration processes have on sustainable development?*
- Is sustainable development possible in a situation of growing social disproportions?*
- How do economic migrants affect sustainable development?*
- Foreign students, (migrants), as the capital building large urban centers.*

**Keywords:** *migration, sustainable development, European Union, Poland*

### 1. INTRODUCTION

#### **Impact of migration on sustainable development in Europe and Poland**

Sustainable development concerns not only the economic, industrial, ecological, but also social sphere. In recent years, we see an increase in the migration balance, which affects the development of large urban agglomerations and the deficit of development of small towns. This is evident from the example of migration from Poland to EU countries. The most-chosen countries of immigration

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of Poles are Great Britain (17% of those leaving Poland in 2004-2007), Germany (16%), Italy (11%), Ireland (9%), Norway (5%), USA (2%), other countries (18%) (Central Statistical Office 2011).

**Participation of immigrants in building (economic and social) sustainable development**

In addition to expatriates, who would not have difficulties finding a job in Poland, i.e. highly qualified people coming from metropolitan centers, many of those who leave Poland are people from economically underdeveloped regions, from villages and small and medium-sized cities going abroad before attempting to enter the labor market in Poland, and at the same time poorly educated (the graduates of narrowly profiled vocational schools) (Central Statistical Office 2011). The main countries from which immigrants are recruited in Poland are countries belonging to the former USSR, primarily Ukraine, Russia and Belarus. A relatively large immigrant group are also citizens of highly developed countries: Germany, the United States, France and Great Britain as well as Vietnam. Every third foreigner living in Poland comes from a country directly neighboring with us. Particularly noteworthy are the two main features of immigrants living in Poland. First of all, they are usually very well educated (as many as 36% of those graduated from higher education institutions) and dominated by a group of people of working age. 80% are between the ages of 20-59, which means that we deal primarily with the immigration of professionally active people, and not full foreign families.

**We also note increased migration for educational purposes.** One of the goals of sustainable development is access to education and the fight against social exclusion. Creating educational opportunities for young people from less developed regions. Another important issue is the migration of young people for educational purposes, who choose large urban agglomerations and build the innovative capital of the city to which they emigrate and in which they stay after completing the education stage. In Poland, large urban centers are becoming metropolises, e.g. Warsaw, Wrocław, Gdańsk, and small towns are depopulating. Sustainable development applies not only to cities but also to countries (the expansion of students from Ukraine to Poland). Research carried out under the European Eastern University project (EEU 2016) shows that young people from Ukraine are interested in studying in EU countries.

## **2. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS: ECONOMIC, ECOLOGICAL AND SOCIAL, AND MIGRATIONS**

### **2.1 The goals of sustainable development**

Sustainable development involves maximizing the net benefits of economic development while protecting and ensuring recovery of usability and quality of natural resources during the long period. Economic development must then mean not only an increase in per capita income, but also improvement of other elements of social well-being. It must also include the necessary structural changes in the economy as well as the whole society. [own translation from Polish] (Pearce, Turner 2001). Definitions of sustainable development, despite different interpretations of this term, indicate the need to combine economic, ecological and social objectives in the development. This means that the concept is a long-term process that aims to combine three dimensions, i.e. social, and economic development as well as environmental protection. All these elements of the triad, i.e. society – economy – environment, should develop fairly evenly, and therefore none of them should dominate the others (Szadziwska, 2010: 159).

The concept of sustainable development requires:

- comprehensive and systematic recognition of economic, social and natural phenomena, which means the necessity of respecting their interdependence and treating environmental protection as an inseparable part of development processes;
- selection of development priorities (mainly production and consumption) that will not limit or interfere with development (the main task is eradication of poverty and improvement of quality of life); their selection should take into account an appropriate set of economic, ecological and social criteria, a balance of costs and benefits, and the use of instruments specifically created for this purpose, which enable implementation of priorities;
- treatment of the natural environment as an organic whole (ecosystem), which is subject to constant developmental processes of an evolutionary character and sporadic revolutionary type transformations
- evaluation of changes in the environment through a new paradigm of values, i.e. the ecosystem's ability to sustain development;
- taking into account the problem of cultural delay by adjusting the level of public awareness (including ecological awareness) to economic changes

(Kryk, 2004: 9-10). The concept *sustainable development* should be identified with the constant development of specific sectoral policies, in particular, environmental, economic and social policy. Indicators of sustainable development in Poland in the social aspect are: demographic change, education, social integration, access to the labour market, public safety **and migrations** (Report CSO 2011).

One should consider the triad of goals: **economic, ecological and social, and migrations**. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is a plan for the development of the world, assuming, by 2030, the elimination of poverty, a decent life for all and the provision of peace. The agenda includes 17 Sustainable Development Goals and 169 related tasks. Sustainable Development Goals and related tasks are monitored by appropriate indicators. They are global and are to be implemented around the world, taking into account the conditions of individual countries, their capabilities and level of development as well as compliance with national strategies and priorities (Report 2012). Annex 4 indicates the exact goals of sustainable development regarding migration.

## 2.2 Impact of demographic change and migration on sustainable development

In general, one can mention two basic approaches to sustainable development:

- The first approach is of practical and economic nature and is identified with the paradigm of environmental protection and shaping. In this sense, sustainable development is perceived as a reconciliation of traditional economic growth with ecological conditions (environment)
- The second view on sustainable development is ideological and related to the philosophy of history. This understanding challenges the current patterns of civilization development and focuses on the search for new social behaviors and goals, and thus the context of new forms of civilization development. Sustainable development holistically captures individual elements of civilization. It includes the management of natural, economic and human resources, space management, institutional solutions, moral sphere, awareness development or the choice of a specific model of life. In essence, therefore, it is about searching for and formulating a new, optimal, ecological and satisfying vision of civilization (Piontek, 2002).

**Table 1.** The main goals of the concept of sustainable development and migration

Sustainable development: Dimensions		
Economics	Environment	Society
- Economic stability - Management - Risk management	- Environmental protection - Pollution prevention - Logistics - Sources of resources - Control of chemical substances	- Political stability - Solidarity - Equality - Occupational health and safety - Employment
Migrations: – Economic migrants – Refugees		

Source: Piontek, 2002

The concept of *sustainable development* was recognized as a new philosophy appropriate for global challenges, which included: climate change and clean energy, sustainable transport, sustainable consumption and production, protection and management of natural resources, public health, social and demographic inclusion and migration, the challenges of global poverty and stable development (Kronenberg, Bergier, 2010). The definition emphasises the three indispensable features, including:

- sustaining itself consisting in creating reserves and stimuli for further development,
- stability, understood as a permanent maintenance of development through long-term operation and
- balancing understood as the necessity of maintaining proper proportions in resource management (Florczak, 2009).

Most often, the concepts of sustainable development are considered in macroeconomic terms, referring to the development of the world and civilizations or individual regions, taking this into account one should notice the direct impact of demographic changes and migration on sustainable development.

Demography is a fundamental development factor because the size, age and geographical distribution of a country's population determine the demand for land, water, food and jobs.

According to UN World Population Prospects – if current trends continue, the global population (currently 7.3 billion) will reach 8.5 billion in 2030 and 9.7 billion in 2050. However, the growth will be unevenly distributed: Africa will be the region with the fastest growth by 2050, while the population in Europe is expected to decline after 2020. More than half of the global population growth forecast for 2050 will only take place in nine countries – in India, Nigeria,

Pakistan, Ethiopia, Tanzania, the United States, Indonesia and Uganda. The EU recognizes that good migration management stimulates economic growth and should be included in the program for the post-2015 period (Council on Foreign Affairs, December 2014). The Union also adopted its own policies, in particular through a global approach to migration and asylum.

### 3. MIGRATION MANAGEMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

#### 3.1 Migration and the labor market

Sustainable development requires systemic thinking and cooperation of specialists from many fields. According to political declarations, to ensure sustainable development, environmental protection should be an integral element of individual sectoral policies. The EU Sustainable Development Strategy also requires sustainable development to be the overarching goal of all policies. Each proposal for a new policy should be assessed in terms of its impact on the economy, society and the environment, both within the EU and abroad.

The European Parliament spoke on the link between migration and development, including in its large-scale resolution (2005/2244), which refers to the integration of migration into EU development policy, dialogue with third countries, the role of remittances and diasporas, "brain drain", circular migration and other issues. The Parliament also called for protection of the rights of migrants, in particular women (Manrique Gil, 2015), European Parliamentary Research Service, Directorate-General for External Policies, EU and Eulalia Claros.

From the perspective of Guy Standing, the **concept of a precariat** was popularized by Guy Standing in the book "The Precariat: The New Dangerous Class", (2011). Standing is not the author of the title concept. Earlier, it was used by French sociologists in the 1980s for a synthetic description of the situation of temporary employees (Barbier, 2005). The definition of precariat formulated by Standing is to cover many existing categories considered to be in a worse situation on the labor market, e.g. poor employees, temporary employees (no permanent contracts, no protection against dismissal, no leave), forced to be self-employed, trainees. The key to the concept of precariat is to understand what is its opposite, that is, safe and reliable work, good quality work. Standing distinguishes seven forms of work-related security (Standing, 2014: 49):

- a) Labour market (policy for full employment);
- b) Employment (protection against arbitrary dismissal);

- c) Workplaces (chances of keeping your place in the organization, for professional development with this place);
- d) Occupational health and safety
- e) Chances of getting qualifications
- f) Income (wage regulation, social security through social insurance)
- g) The right of association and the right to strike.

**Table 2.** Foreign migration rate – international comparison<sup>1</sup>

Country	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Austria	6.6	6.1	3.0	2.8	2.9	2.1	2.6	3.7	5.2	6.5	7.7	13.0	-
Belgium	3.2	4.7	4.9	5.5	5.9	5.9	7.9	6.3	4.3	2.3	3.2	5.5	-
Bulgaria	-2.1	-2.2	-2.3	-2.3	-2.4	-2.5	-2.4	-0.7	-0.3	-0.2	-0.3	-0.6	-
Cyprus	9.7	11.0	13.7	19.9	21.1	22.0	19.2	21.3	-0.7	-	-	-2.4	-
Czech Republic	1.3	3.0	2.9	7.7	6.5	2.4	1.4	1.6	1.0	-0.1	2.1	1.5	-
Germany	1.0	1.0	0.3	0.5	-0.7	-0.1	1.6	3.7	4.9	5.6	7.2	14.3	-
Denmark	0.9	1.2	1.9	3.7	4.6	2.8	3.0	2.4	3.0	3.8	4.8	7.4	-
Estonia	-2.7	-3.8	-4.0	-2.1	-1.5	-1.8	-2.8	-2.9	-2.8	-2.0	-0.5	1.8	-
Greece	2.6	2.9	2.2	2.1	2.1	1.3	-0.1	-2.9	-6.0	-5.4	-4.3	-4.1	-
Spain	15.5	14.5	14.9	17.2	9.5	3.0	1.6	1.4	-3.0	-5.4	-2.0	0.0	-
Finland	1.3	1.7	2.0	2.6	2.9	2.7	2.6	3.1	3.3	3.3	2.8	2.3	-
France	3.2	3.0	1.8	1.2	0.9	0.5	0.6	0.3	1.1	1.5	0.9	1.0	-
Croatia	3.4	2.5	2.3	2.1	1.4	0.2	-1.0	-0.9	-0.9	-1.1	-2.4	-4.3	-
Hungary	1.8	1.7	2.1	1.4	1.6	1.7	1.2	1.3	1.6	0.6	1.1	1.5	-
Ireland	12.2	15.2	22.2	16.9	3.7	-4.2	-5.6	-7.4	-7.4	-5.5	-3.2	12.9	-
Italy	6.3	3.5	2.7	7.5	6.1	3.6	3.4	1.3	6.2	19.7	1.8	0.5	-
Lithuania	-9.5	-	-7.5	-6.7	-5.1	-	-	-	-7.1	-5.7	-4.2	-7.7	-
Luxembourg	9.6	13.1	11.3	12.5	15.8	13.2	15.1	21.2	18.9	19.0	19.9	19.6	-
Latvia	-6.8	-4.9	-4.0	-3.6	-	-	-	-9.7	-5.9	-7.1	-4.3	-5.4	-
Malta	4.8	4.0	0.1	3.8	5.7	5.6	0.2	4.0	7.4	7.6	7.1	9.7	-
Netherlands	-0.6	-1.4	-1.6	-0.1	1.9	2.3	2.0	1.8	0.8	1.2	2.1	3.2	-
Poland	-0.2	-0.3	-0.9	-0.5	-0.4	0.0	0.1	-0.3	-0.1	-0.7	-0.3	-0.3	-
Portugal	1.4	1.5	1.6	2.1	0.9	1.5	0.4	-2.3	-3.6	6.9	-2.9	-1.0	-
Romania	-4.5	-4.0	-4.1	21.9	-8.0	-5.4	-2.4	-2.4	-1.1	0.2	-0.8	-2.3	-
Sweden	2.8	3.0	5.6	5.9	6.0	6.7	5.3	4.8	5.4	0.4	7.9	8.1	-
Slovenia	0.8	3.2	3.1	7.1	9.2	5.6	-0.3	1.0	0.3	0.2	-0.2	0.2	-
Slovakia	-0.2	-0.1	-0.1	0.4	0.4	-0.1	0.9	0.5	0.6	0.4	0.3	0.6	-
EU-27	3.4	3.1	2.8	3.1	2.4	1.4	1.5	1.5	1.8	3.5	2.2	3.8	-
EU-28	3.4	3.1	2.8	3.1	2.4	1.4	1.5	1.4	1.8	3.4	2.2	3.7	-
Great Britain	4.3	4.9	4.5	4.9	4.1	3.8	4.2	3.4	2.6	3.8	4.9	5.1	-

Source: Central Statistical Office, Sustainable Development Indicators.  
CSO Foreign Migration Rates (Katowice), 2016.

<sup>1</sup> **Balance of migration-** this is a negative or positive difference between the inflow of immigration and the outflow (emigration) of the population.

**Foreign migrations,** going abroad and arriving in the country to settle (permanently reside) or for temporary stay.

**Foreign migration rate** is defined as the quotient of foreign migration for permanent residence to the number of population in a given year per 1,000 inhabitants (CSO).

In addition, Standing distinguished 10 definition features of the precariat. The first one referred to the relations of production, and here the precariat is to be deprived of all forms of security distinguished above, which has structural determinants in global capitalism. The second concerned distribution relations and broadly understood income.

Negative aspects of globalization include the emigration of talented and educated people, usually from poorer countries to more developed ones, which made underdeveloped countries have no chance of being able to develop further (without educated specialists and resources of specialized workforce). A negative phenomenon is also the development of large, international corporations, which monopolize various markets gradually, and are able to block the activities of smaller, domestic companies, and even cause their bankruptcy. Sustainable development also means that countries should cooperate with each other and integrate, but considering basic values such as health and environmental protection and respect for the rights of weaker and poor people (Pawłowski, 2013:7-8).

### **3.2 The concept of migration management and cooperation for sustainable development**

The global approach to migration and asylum means the implementation in bilateral political dialogue and operational cooperation of capacity building in 2012 and in 2013. The Commission has allocated over EUR 200 million to more than 90 migration projects in developing countries. The EU also has a budget for migration and asylum under the Development Cooperation Instrument, which provides EUR 357 million in 2014-2020 to maximize the impact of human mobility on development and to support migration management and management of migratory flows, in particular regarding migration (Manrique Gil, 2015).

Within the institution, law and politics are defined, educational, administrative and other activities are carried out, connected with the functioning of society, including the reference to its connections with the natural environment. Institutions operate thanks to social capital, i.e. human resources combined with numerous dependencies. Social capital is therefore crucial from the point of view of sustainable development, both as a regulator of the impact of the economy on the environment, and a basis for future development. At present, the crises of institutions in the EU indicate the need for reforms including migration policy.

Some of them can be counteracted by greater public involvement in all processes that affect it. Such a civil society can actively participate in building sustainable development. One of the important aspects of civil society is the



participation of citizens in planning local development and in addressing their conflicts at the interface between the economy, society and the environment. The ultimate goal of sustainable development is the quality of life (ability to meet needs) for current and future generations (Kronenberg, Bergier, 2010: 24).

This also requires action at local level. Sustainable development is a process. Migration is an important element of demographic changes taking place at the national level, it can partially offset the effects of an aging population; it also has an impact on the size of resources, the labor force and the economic development of the country.

#### 4. CONCLUSION

Globalization has two sides: as every process, it brings with it many threats as well as positive aspects. It is important how this process will happen and how people will guide it. Countries can cooperate with each other; there should be foreign and international trade, flow of goods, services and people. However, it should be balanced – then it will actually lead to development not only locally, but also globally. A selfish vision of globalism. A more conscious and active society has a key role to play in sustainable development. On the one hand, the tool to achieve it (the regulator of the impact of the economy on the environment), and on the other – the state of social capital determines the nature of development (high-quality social capital ensures the continuity of development vision and planning its implementation) (Kronenberg, Bergier 2013: 28).

Sustainable development today requires:

- knowledge, education and public involvement, including human resources management and conflict resolution at the interface between the economy and society and the environment.
- due to the increased migration flows, it is now necessary to create a management system for the migration flows of people at international and national level.
- reconciliation at the institution level.
- sustainable development requires systemic actions

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