Migration policy and national security challenges in globalization conditions

Abstract. The authors discuss some pending issues related to migration in terms of ensuring national security of the countries involved in international integration processes; it is emphasized that security challenges are closely related with the formation and implementation of migration policy. The preconditions of forced and illegal migration types are identified together with their influence on the security state in different spheres of social life. It is shown that intensification of migration processes may have a very good economic effect and can be justified economically and politically. At the same time, it is proved that unregulated migration is able to harm economy and put national security at risk, as it can strain social, economic, international or inter-religious contradictions and cause a growth in crime. Migration issues have become even more acute in the face of destabilizing trends running in the world including the growing number of refugees and stepping-up terrorist activities. Hence, prevention and mitigation of national security risks related with migration processes is becoming an urgent need for many countries that have to encounter with massive migration challenges. It is argued that the efficiency of a struggle with national security migration threats depends on a well-balanced cautious governmental policy including legal, economic and organizational mechanisms of migration control and regulation, which shall be supported by migration justice response measures due to increased social risks.

Keywords: Migration Policy; National Security; Globalization; Economic Integration; Illegal Migration

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1. Introduction. Migration has always been a part of community life. Today migration is a globalization attribute. «Migration,» as you can see, can make an important contribution to social and economic development both in the countries of origin and in the countries of destination. Migration can offer more possibilities to people and is essential to provide access to resources and decrease poverty rate»; said Mr. Wu Hongbo (2015), Under Secretary General in the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs [1]. Migration can level negative consequences of a demographic crisis, for example in Russia, facilitate the development of science intensive innovative economy due to the influx of highly qualified workforce, like in the USA or Germany. At the same time it can satisfy the need in unqualified labor, which is the case in many European countries and first of all in Germany.

At the same time, it must be remembered that uncontrolled large-scale migration processes are not so much a component of economic integration, but rather a by-product of non-efficient, sometimes even ill- reasoned political strategies that are quite often dictated to a state by its dominating political and economic counterparts from abroad.

For instance, the US Middle East «democratization» policy at first has led to the creation of ISIL terrorist organization and regional wars, then to mass migration processes, which have become a subject of social and political discourse in well-situated and trouble-free Europe.

As a result, Europe is experiencing the greatest migration crisis since World War II. In 2013, the number of illegal migrants was 60,000 people, in 2014 it increased to 219,000; while in August of 2015 it was already 239,000. The majority of migrants come from Syria (34%), Afghanistan (12%) and Eritrea (12%) [2].

Many experts think that this situation may lead to economic misbalance, as the European economy, or at least the economies of many European countries, do not need that amount of low-skilled foreign workers. The front-line receiving states, such as Greece, Italy and Spain, that have to face their own economic difficulties, have to spend enormous funds to provide for the migrants’ accommodation and social adaptation. They also have to take responsibility for migrants’ evidence of identification and barring individual terrorists or terrorist groups from getting into Europe.

Besides causing economic problems, large-scale migration is also related with social and cultural challenges, starting from the unwillingness of a part of immigrants to adjust to local mo- rals, custom or traditions, and finishing with total Islamization.

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3. Research objective is to identify possible approaches to the optimization of European migration strategies in the context of national security of the receiving country.

4. Main research outcomes. First of all, let us review existing world practices in developing and implementing migration policies.

Depending on regulation and implementation levels, migration strategies can be classified into world, supranational and national policies.

World-level migration policy is realized through different international organizations, such as the UNO and its IOM and ILO organizations. All documents issued by these organizations are of advisory nature, they outline the general directive in migration policy development.

In today’s globalizing community, a very important role belongs to the supranational policy, which is mainly determined by international economic integration that has a consolidating character and makes the economies of different countries merge by means of various international and/or regional unions. In order to function properly the united economies are supposed to «open» their borders, and that in its turn facilitates free movement of goods, monetary supplies and labour force as well. All these processes are regulated by agreed policies jointly implemented by the country-members of a union.

However, national interests of some countries may not match the union interests to certain extend. For example, the European migration crisis has shown that underestimating national security interests to favour economic interests of the integrated union is able to drive into some deplorable consequences: in the most pessimistic scenario it can trigger the EU disintegration and result in the lost national sovereignty of the European integration members.

Hence, the national migration policy, especially in terms of ensuring national security, has gained the utmost significance, as «... a governmental migration policy predetermines whether migration will become a positive and stabilizing factor, or, on the contrary, it will aggravate social and economic problems in the society» (Voloh V. A. & Suvorova V. A., 2009; 2015) [19; 20, 83]. Several types of national migration policies can be distinguished based on the nature, scope and means of migration processes regulation.

Its liberal type is predetermined by the need to meet a demand in labour force. Such type of migration policy is characterized by a simplified procedure of granting the rights for permanent residence, freedom of travel and free choice of residence place on the territory of the receiving country. This policy was carried out by Western European countries in respect of the South and East Europe states within the framework of European integration. This policy is pursued today by some EU member countries (for example, Spain, Portugal and Netherlands) with regard to the immigrants who do not come from EU.

At the same time, there is also a recognized opinion that, in fact, the liberal migration policy can hardly be viewed as a pro-government policy type, but rather is an evidence of the lack of accepted governmental approaches towards the regulation of internal migration processes (Zayonchkovskaya G., 2001) [21, 173-176], which is a typical situation in some former USSR countries, such as Moldova or Tajikistan.

Strict migration policy type, or the «closed door» approach, is implemented by authoritarian or totalitarian state regimes that are not interested in international integration (a good example is the North Korea). This approach is characterized by a complete absence of illegal migration.

Conservative migration policy type is connected with migratory streams regulation by allocating job quotas, imposing visa barriers, selecting immigrants based on their specific capabilities, including the ability to integrate into the society for example, language skills, education level or the ability to

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get education in the receiving country, age, work experience, etc.). Such policy is a combination of «immigrationism» and «restrictionism», i.e. on one hand, it lays emphasis on the nation’s openness and universalism, on the other hand, it demands that immigration should be restricted and immigrants should be more apt to conform to existing fundamental values of the receiving country (Baranov A. V., 2004) [22, 24]. To be efficiently implemented such policy needs to be safeguarded by a system that can prevent any illegal migration, including criminal justice response measures. The followers of this policy are the USA, Canada and Australia.

Synthetic type of migration policy, like its conservative type, is based on the necessity to regulate migration processes, but it is more biased to meeting the migrants’ interests. However the adherent countries are creating legal, organizational and economic conditions to stop migration simultaneously and developing a system of measures to prevent illegal migration. This policy is supported by some EU countries, for example, Germany, France, Check Republic, Slovakia and Italy. (Balashova T., 2011) [23, 214-216].

All these types of migration policy, that have been implemented during different time periods and with different efficiency, permitted the states to control migration processes (Urda M. N., 2015) [24, 104]. Thus, in the situation of «closed door» policy there are practically no threats to the national security, because mass migration is absent, but basic human rights for labour, freedom, free choice of residence and free travel can be seriously infringed in the environment of political and economic isolation. Another side effect of such policy is economic stagnation. On the contrary, the liberal migration policy is able to stimulate economic relations, because it not so much provides immigrants with an access to the means of production, as creates the most attractive conditions for life activity and personal self-fulfilment. However, in such situation national security interests are at biggest migration risks.

5. Conclusions. Today’s European reality is a widely acknowledged need to re-assess excessively liberal approach to migration policy considering the migration crisis and the necessity to ensure national security interests.

The most optimal way to control conflicting migration processes, that seem to be unavoidable under globalization conditions, is to apply a conservative approach when migration strategies are consolidated with national security interests of the receiving country. Top priorities within the framework of such policy comprise effective organizational, economic and legal measures of migrants’ socialization combined with restrictive mechanisms including forced migration suppression tools reinforced by illegal migration adequate controls, which should be ensured by appropriate criminal justice response.

References


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