

A LITERATURE REVIEW ON THE IMPACT OF IMMIGRANTS' SOCIAL AND ACCULTURATIVE MOBILITY IN THE HOST NATION

Elena Raluca CRISTIAN¹

Abstract

Relocating to a new country entails several adjustments and changes for the individual concerned, including stress related to the immigrants' accommodations in the new nation. Moving abroad entails not only leaving behind one's family and place of origin, but also enduring an exhausting and taxing process of institutional and societal integration into a new culture. Following the Covid-19 epidemic, a new wave of Muslim immigrants arrived in Western Europe. These immigrants had to deal with the harsh austerity policies of the governments and political parties in the nations that welcomed them the most—Germany, France, and Italy. These policy changes only served to limit immigrants' access to the labour market and to reasonably priced food establishments prior to 2020, which in turn limited their access to social welfare benefits. The sociological and economic theories of international migration begin with the identification of the causes that explain the migration phenomenon, the factors that contribute to the emergence and scope of the phenomenon, as well as the manner and cultural, social, religious, and linguistic integration, and the consequences that immigrants face, both in the country of destination and the country of origin of the person involved.

Keywords: Assimilation of culture (acculturation), immigrants, social mobility, social welfare, social inequality

JEL Classification: I24, J15, J61, O15, R23.

1. Introduction

Globalisation affects human civilizations in many ways, influencing chances for progress but also posing threats to personal safety. It leads to free trade, which is beneficial to society, but it also leads to drug use and trafficking, organised crime, terrorism, the spread of diseases, and unchecked pollution.²

¹ PhD, Teaching Assistant at Romanian American University, Bucharest, elena.raluca.cristian@rau.ro

² Pescaru, C. M. (2014). International migration and European integration – factor of globalization. *Migratia internationala si integrarea europeana-factor al globalizarii. Regionalizare si politici regionale*, Iasi, Romania: Editura Lumen, p.188

It is challenging to provide a comprehensive response to the effects of globalisation on people because of the ensuing contradictory image regarding economic performance, regionalization and regional policy, the persistence of inequality, environmental degradation, and poverty”.³

Globalisation has resulted in a multitude of complicated personal motivations and grounds for movement, making international migration an ever-present phenomenon across all nations. The primary factors influencing international migration are shifts in global social, political, religious, xenophobic, and economic institutions.

In specialised literature, the notion of international migration changes based on the present global environment in which it is processed and understood at the micro (individual) and macroeconomic levels, with diverse political, economic, social, religious, xenophobic, and cultural overtones. Regardless of academic perspectives or individual (immigrant) motivations, the entire phenomenon is founded on two elements that determine international migration: time and space. Internal migration (inside a country) and international migration (population mobility between countries) are defined by these two variables (time and space).

The worldwide phenomena and repercussions of labour migration are heavily influenced by the policies implemented and pushed by the states concerned, both globally and nationally. It is critical that the world's states discover genuine, concrete solutions to stop or diminish the migration phenomenon, as well as less explanations and theoretical arguments on the causes of the migration problem's emergence.

Two primary drivers of migration are the need for survival and the desire for personal growth and family accomplishment. Therefore, whether permanent or circular, external migration is a component of development strategies as opposed to survival strategies. The propensity to enrol in a circulatory migration course increases with the amount of social capital or relationship resources. The proximity of the place of residence to the nation's borders, the urban/rural environment, the level of development of the area, and the ethnic composition of the population are among the many ecological elements that have a particular impact on the migratory phenomena.⁴

Whether we are discussing lifetime mobility (intra-generational mobility) or the shift in a person's socio-economic circumstances, social mobility refers to the interaction between an immigrant and his parents (intergenerational mobility).

In other words, social mobility refers to the degree to which people leave with the same chances of succeeding in life, regardless of their parents' socioeconomic background, gender, age, sexual orientation, race, ethnicity, religion, place of birth, or other independent

³ Stoica, Ionel, (2011). *Tentația migrației. Necesitate și oportunitate într-o lume globalizată*, București: Editura Militară, p.47

⁴ Andreea Arsene, (2010), *Travellers into the Giant Space of Globalization – Migration Phenomenon and its Implications at the Family Level*, *Revista de Administrație Publică și Politici Sociale* Anul I, Nr. 2 / Martie 2010, p.36

factors. Social mobility is primarily related to the equality of opportunities between individuals who settle within the same community.

Individuals' social mobility and equality of opportunity can be measured in terms of their earnings, income, or social class, but they can also have distinct relationships with well-being, health, and education.

Inequality in a person's birthplace eventually results in inequality in opportunities later in life.

When they are young adults, the jobs available in the labour market vary a lot based on where they reside, where they are from, and how developed the cities are economically.

Social mobility is a constant struggle, particularly for people with low-quality positions in the labour market and those with little opportunities to quite temporary or low-paying professions. The chances of those with less education may also be restricted, leaving them with fewer options for career advancement or retraining. The term "acculturation" describes the process by which individuals from various cultural backgrounds interact directly, continuously, and over an extended period with members of a distinct demographic in a particular nation. In the end, circumstances force immigrants to assimilate the culture, language, and customs for a better collective and social integration on the labour market and beyond. This is specific to immigrants who come from completely different environments and cultures and who come into permanent contact with the native population.

Anthropology is the source of the theory of collective integration, commonly known as assimilation or acculturation. The anthropological notion of acculturation, as acknowledged in specialised literature, is attributed to Redfield, Linton, and Herskovits. Immigration integration is a protracted, intricate process that is influenced by a variety of objective and subjective economic, ethnic, psychological, and other factors.⁵

2. Immigrants' perspectives on acculturation

Acculturation is the result of a mass phenomenon in which groups of people from various cultures come into direct, long-term contact, with subsequent modifying impacts in one or both groups' original cultural patterns. Several types of acculturation models are reported in the specialised literature. The unidimensional model of acculturation, which was historically motivated by European immigration to the United States in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.⁶

⁵ Rumbaut R.G. (1999). Assimilation and Its Discontents: Ironies and Paradoxes, in: *The Handbook of International Migration: The American Experience*, ed. by C. Hirschman, P. Kasinitz & J. De Wind. New York: Russell Sage, p. 172.

⁶ Ecaterina Zubenschi, (2018), *Teoriile Sociologice ale Migrației*, Csei Working Paper Series, Issue 10, December 2018, p.49.

According to the first acculturation model (of total absorption), the process of acculturation can be understood as a series of adaptations to the new environment, with the ethnic legacy being gradually lost.⁷

The new immigrants eventually adjusted to the new environment completely. Religion was typically unaffected by the process of acculturation. Some people believe that the process of adaptation happened over a period of three generations. The first generation to relocate was this one. There were two cultures in the second generation. The new cultural framework was fully assimilated to by the third generation.⁸

Table 1. The primary means of assimilating immigrants in the destination or host country

Integration components	Assimilation	The mutual co-existence of cultures
Civil integration	Naturalization Lack of restrictions on territorial mobility The possibility of realizing the requested rights The exchange of ethnic identity with civic identity	Acquisition of Naturalisation No limitations on the movement of territory The potential for obtaining the desired rights. The potential to identify oneself with a certain social group, such as a particular ethnicity, religion, or territory.
Economic integration	Opportunities include: - finding employment - earning a wage commensurate with that of the local people The potential to get any of the following social advantages - recognising one's capacity for entrepreneurship -	Opportunities include: - finding employment - earning a wage commensurate with that of the local people The potential to get any of the following social advantages - recognising one's capacity for

⁷ Gordon M. M. (1964). *Assimilation in America Life: The Role of Race, Religion, and National Origins*. New York: Oxford University Press

⁸ Portes A., Fernandez-Kelly P., Haller W. (2005). Segmented assimilation on the ground: The new second generation in early adulthood, *Ethnic and Racial Studies*, (28), p. 1037.

	investing in real estate and doing exercise property rights	entrepreneurship - investing in real estate and utilising one's property rights
Ecological integration	Satisfaction regarding the natural and geographical conditions and characteristics of the territory of the host country; Satisfactory health	Satisfaction regarding the natural and geographical conditions and characteristics of the territory of the host country; Satisfactory health
Social-psychological integration	Free access to education Knowledge and fluency in the language of the host country	Possibilities: - to learn and speak in the mother tongue; - to obtain traditional national studies; - to live compactly, together with his compatriots from the ethnic group
Religious integration	Accepting the new society's predominant religion	Ability to profess previous religion requested
Cultural integration	Accepting the culture of the host country Denying national traditions	The possibility to: - develop and propagate national art and culture; - share the national traditions of the country of origin

Source: Reproduced from Sociological Theories of Migration by E. Zubenschi, 2018, p.50⁹.

To start again and integrate fully into the community in the destination or host country is a driving force behind this kind of acculturation. Many Western European countries exhibit a similar trend of complete absorption of migrants into the host nation, as seen by the full integration of Jewish immigrants from Southern and Eastern Europe into Dutch ethnic languages and customs.¹⁰

⁹ Ecaterina Zubenschi, (2018), Teoriile Sociologice Ale Migrației, Csei Working Paper Series, Issue 10, December 2018, p.49.

¹⁰ Klein J., Fontan J. (2004). La mobilisation du capital socio-territorial: le cas du technopôle Angus. Lien social et Politiques, (52), p.143.

According to the model, an immigrant is connected to both the culture of his or her home country and the culture of the country they are living in. The extent of the immigrant's assimilation into the new culture is mostly determined by his or her level of knowledge and desire to fit in.

Cultural and social integration is the process of assimilating into the dominant culture while yet maintaining one's ethnic heritage. Thus, integration is the encounter between the immigrant's own culture and a new one; it is up to the immigrant to determine how much of his own culture he absorbs and what he keeps in mind from cultural assimilation. According to recent studies on acculturation, immigrants' most common option is integration¹¹

E. Zubenschi claims that immigrants continue to live their lives in accordance with the peculiarities of their ethnicity in their new nation. For example, Muslim women who have lived in Western Europe for decades are unable to speak the language of their new country. Over the years, their cultural, linguistic, and psychological component has remained constant. When immigrants reside in an area where they are the only foreigners in that country, separation might cause issues of isolation. However, separation is a feasible choice when immigrants live in a context with many of their fellow citizens. Assimilation, the reverse of separation, is the total loss of ethnic culture and total absorption into the host culture. One might use the one-dimensional acculturation model as a model to understand what assimilation entails.¹²

Immigrants must continuously blend and mix elements of their ethnic culture with the prevailing culture to fully integrate into their new country. When the attitudes and behaviours of the immigrants are fully assimilated, both cultures are equally represented. The two-dimensional model seems to be implicitly based on the quality of acculturation. It's important to keep in mind that immigrants prefer to live their lives separately in every way. The vast range of individual and group characteristics that are reflected in how immigrants maintain their ethnic culture and/or embrace the majority culture are not adequately captured by the idea of acculturation as a quality.¹³

The most well-known representative of the movement, Michael Joseph Piore (1979), contends that the result of labour demand characteristic of developed economies is international migration. According to the author, structural inflation, hierarchical motivational barriers, economic dualism, and demographic shifts in the labour force reserve are the four main causes of the need for immigrant labour.

At the macroeconomic level, the labour market in developed and emerging nations is primarily dual, with two sectors: primary and secondary. In contrast to the secondary market, which is made up of inexpensive, unskilled labour, the primary sector employs

¹¹ Pajares M. (2007). Inmigrantes de un país de la unión europea: red social, inmigración irregular y acceso al empleo de los inmigrantes rumanos. *Migraciones* nr. 21., p.197.

¹² Ecaterina Zubenschi, (2018), *Teoriile Sociologice Ale Migrației*, Csei Working Paper Series, Issue 10, December 2018, p.51.

¹³ Ecaterina Zubenschi, (2018), *Teoriile Sociologice Ale Migrației*, Csei Working Paper Series, Issue 10, December 2018, p.51.

skilled labour, people with higher education (both undergraduate and graduate), better working conditions, and higher wages. We will encounter a lot of immigrants, mostly in the secondary sector, who are underqualified for the positions they may find in their new nation, whose working circumstances frequently leave them unsatisfied, and whose earnings barely cover the minimum wage.

Due to low pay, unstable employment, and the low status and prestige of secondary sector occupations, native workers frequently avoid entering this labour market. In this scenario, foreign immigrants are frequently forced to accept "low-paid jobs and jobs considered to be shameful" as a last resort to find employment and integrate into society in the host nation.

3. Impacts of immigrants' social mobility on the host nation

The classic theory defines social mobility as any change in a person's socioeconomic status that happens during their life, either in relation to their parents or independently of them. This type of mobility is known as intra-generational mobility.

There is a distinction between migration and spatial mobility. Mobility is a broader term that include migration. It is a social construction to transform the status of a citizen from one of mobility to one of migration. A community that defines migration narrowly is likely to produce more transient residents, tourists, foreign students, temporary labourers, and other mobile individuals rather than migrants.¹⁴

As we saw from the specialised literature analysis, the term of mobility encompasses a wider range of individuals than labour migration, including researchers, scientists, businesspeople, and those who go to see their temporarily placed relatives abroad.

However, the education of individuals who have travelled abroad, whether permanently or temporarily, as well as their professional background, are crucial to their integration not only into the host nation but also into the workforce.

We believe that states that are experiencing a large-scale immigration wave should consider their policies regarding migration, particularly regarding labour mobility.

More accommodating immigration laws are desperately needed in order to draw in inhabitants of other third-world nations who have a certain set of competencies, professional abilities, or professional certifications in specific fields of endeavour.

If students from third countries have the opportunity to find job after completing their studies, their increasing mobility as a labour force has a direct impact on the labour market, particularly when we discuss the "brain drain" or "brain migration".

Reworking Ravenstein's laws in 1966 to emphasise internal (or push) forces, sociologist and demographer Everett S. Lee added the idea of obstructive factors (obstacles to migration) as variables that interfere and influence the volume and distance of migration. Using four types of factors—obstacles separating the two places, factors related to the

¹⁴ Pescaru, C. M. (2014). International migration and european integration – factor of globalization [Migratia internationala si integrarea europeana-factor al globalizarii]. In Rogojanu, D. C. (coord.) (2014). Regionalizare si politici regionale, Iasi, Romania, p.189

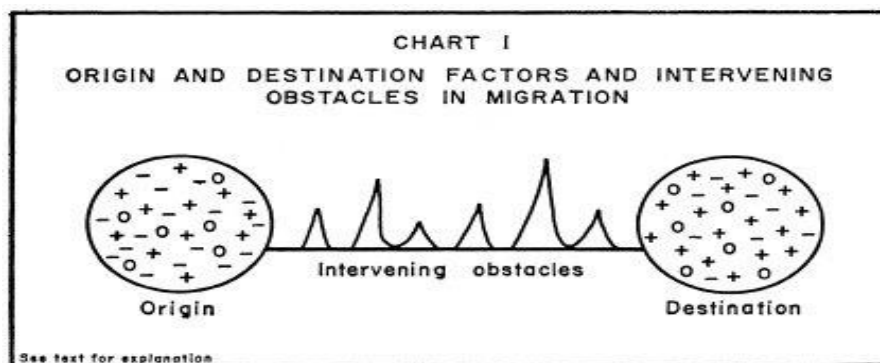
origin area, factors related to the destination area, and personal characteristics—he attempts to create a basic scheme for migration.¹⁵

The writers Raveinstein and Lee's theoretical approaches to migration fall within the category of "gravitational models of knowledge of labour migration" in the specialised literature, with the origin and destination countries serving as their starting points. The concept of intervening obstacles (i.e., barriers that must be surmounted prior to migration) was first proposed by Everett S. Lee. The amount and distance of migration are influenced by these variables. Both the migrant's country of origin and destination are viewed differently by everyone based on personal traits such as professionalism, capabilities, and opportunities. The ability to overcome migration difficulties is influenced by a variety of characteristics, including age, education, gender, all forms of belongings, social class, marital status, familial ties, and degree of knowledge of the receiving community.

These factors operate through mediation rather than direct action.¹⁶

In Figure 1 we find the Push&Pull type factors elaborated by Everett S. Lee (1966), representing the factors that intervene between the country of origin and destination for immigrants.

Figure 1. Push & Pull Factors of Migration According to Everett S. Lee's Theory (1966)



Source: Diagram of Pull & Push factors by Everett S. Lee (1966)¹⁷

Everett S. Lee found a correlation between these parameters and people's mental health and life stages. "Some people oppose moving, but they don't want to go through the nerve-

¹⁵ Ecaterina Zubenschi, (2018), Teoriile Sociologice Ale Migrației, Csei Working Paper Series, Issue 10, December 2018, p.47.

¹⁶ Ecaterina Zubenschi, (2018), Teoriile Sociologice Ale Migrației, Csei Working Paper Series, Issue 10, December 2018, p.45

¹⁷ Ryakitimbo, Crispin & Hossain, Babul. (2019). Factors of International Migration of Haitians to the Dominican Republic in 2010-2015. International Journal of Global Sustainability. 3. 88. 10.5296/ijgs.v3i1.15841.

wracking issues that others usually go through. Some people must have compelling reasons to migrate, whereas others only want modest incentives or assurances.¹⁸

Lee concludes that moving cannot be totally logical. Reason may occasionally be irrationally overshadowed by emotional and mental imbalances, depressive states, and unforeseen circumstances when deciding to relocate. As such, personal considerations are hard to interpret, even if they play a big part in the decision to immigrate.¹⁹

These factors are conceptualised by Everett Lee in relation to the decision to migrate and the migration process, and he divides them into four categories: personal, obstacle-related, and factors related to the country of origin or area of origin. Lee lists several traits of migrants in relation to the four categories of factors, including: When all migrants are considered together, selection for migration tends to follow a binary pattern; the degree of positive selection increases with the difficulty of the impediments; migration is selective; migrants who respond to positive destination factors tend to be positively selective; migrants who respond preferentially to negative factors at origin tend to be negatively selective. Destination migrants typically fall somewhere in between those of the local population in their place of origin and those of their destination. The selection made by migrants is influenced by their greater propensity to migrate at phases of their lives.²⁰

O.D. Duncan proposed a hypothesis addressing the mobility of agricultural population in his book, *The hypothesis, and Consequences of Farm Population Mobility*. His theory is based on the interaction of microscopic and macroscopic active forces in the migration process.

According to Duncan, whatever consequences are induced by changes in the country's structural characteristics, the same effects are caused by migration. As a result, migration is the functional alternative to social change for achieving many structural goals.

In 1981, Standing Guy developed this thesis in his book *Migration and Modes of Exploitation: The Social Origins of Immobility and Mobility*. According to this theory, the magnitude and amount of migration are determined by the relationship between a society's production, the nature of wealth, the land ownership system, and the variables influencing the expansion of a society's production forces. He focused on migration that occurred during the transition period between the end of feudalistic production and the beginning of capitalistic production. In ancient times, whatever migration occurred was within a certain group, but migration in the present capitalistic system is primarily of a personal kind. There was no considerable migration in the feudalistic system since cultivators were under the

¹⁸ Lee E. S. (1966). A theory of migration. *Demography*, 3(1), p.36.

¹⁹ Ecaterina Zubenschi, (2018), *Teoriile Sociologice Ale Migrației*, Csei Working Paper Series, Issue 10, December 2018, p.47.

Idem, p.48

²⁰ Ș.C. Stanciu, A. Toma, (2020), *Fenomenul Exodului De Creiere Și Migrația De Elită: Migrația Medicilor Români În Franța*, *Revista Transilvană de Științe Administrative* 2(47) / 2020, p.98.

jurisdiction of feudal lords. There was no significant development of cities during this period, and there was no rural push migration. Whatever industrial development has occurred in the capitalistic system has been made feasible by migration. Migration ends the old types of class relations and gives birth to a new type of class structure, the capitalist labour class. Thus, Standing has described the migratory process in terms of diverse economic systems and forms of production, as well as the nature and flow of migration considering Karl Marx's Theory.

4. Theories about migration

Because of the shift in the migration flow over the past 30 years from being countries of emigration to countries of immigration (destination), the Southern European countries of Italy, Spain, Portugal, and Greece are regarded as genuine models for labour migration in the region, not just in specialised theory.²¹

According to theory, there are a few things that make being an immigrant stressful, including adjusting to a new culture and way of thinking, social and linguistic barriers, shifting economic circumstances, shifting workplace and employment norms in the destination nation, issues pertaining to the new social status of immigrants, and issues with xenophobia and religion.

A study carried out in 2006 on immigrants from Italy showed us that citizens of Tunisian origin are more stressed than citizens of Senegal and Pakistan.²²

The percentage of immigrants' children born in a new nation, their ability to learn the language, and their level of social integration in schools all provide intriguing insights into the linguistic and cultural assimilation of these individuals. Nevertheless, in addition to all of this, analysis was done on school dropout rates, high unemployment rates, xenophobic and social prejudice, and violence in the border neighbourhoods where these immigrants reside.

Since the Second World War, the demographics of the European continent have dramatically changed. Europe has a high rate of population ageing and a low birth rate. The European nations (France, Germany, Great Britain, Spain, Italy) that have seen recent waves of immigration have had to accommodate and reconcile with the new immigrant populations. The native populace was compelled to accept immigrant children attending the

²¹ C. Novara, M.J. Martos-M'endez , L. Gomez-Jacinto, I. Hombrados-Mendieta , L. Varveri a , C. Polizzi; The influence of social support on the wellbeing of immigrants residing in Italy: Sources and functions as predictive factors for life satisfaction levels, sense of community and resilience, *International Journal of Intercultural Relations* 92 (2023) 101743, <http://www.elsevier.com/locate/ijintrel>

²² S. Toselli & E. Guardi-Russo, Psychosocial indicators and distress in immigrants living in Italian reception, 2008, *Stress health*, 24, pp. 327-334, *European Journal of Public Health*, centres<https://dx.doi.org/10.1002/smi.1195>.

same educational system as their own and the knowledge that these factors will eventually lead to their assimilation into the labour market.

The initial research on labour mobility was conducted between 1950 and 2000 on diverse immigrant groups from Asia (China, Vietnam, Korea, India, Pakistan, Iran, Iraq) and Africa (Senegal, Somalia, Lebanon, Egypt, Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco) that were arriving in Western Europe. Rather, the studies concentrated mostly on the multicultural and linguistic aspects of these immigrants' offspring and how they themselves adopted another language and culture.

Their parents, who were also immigrants, had been hired for low-skilled positions in the construction, cleaning, transportation, and other related industries. Early research suggested that to comprehend the distinctions and parallels with social mobility among the descendants of the working class generally, it would be valuable to investigate the mobility processes among immigrants as well as their offspring.²³

One citizen out of every ten legal residents in most Western European countries nowadays does not hold citizenship in the nation in which they currently reside. In terms of Western European nations, the range is as follows: 12% in France, 18% to 20% in Austria and Germany. A 2016 survey found that one in three French people have immigrated at some point, either through one or both of their parents.²⁴

For all nations that take in cheap labour from outside, integrating migrants into the labour market is a critical issue. Topics that need to be taken seriously include the division of labour and raising labour productivity at the macro and microeconomic levels. The host population's mistrust of immigrants has only grown because of recent acts of terrorism and anti-xenophobia; this is a common worry shared by both groups.

The division of states in Europe based on economic models is a good example of how the states that receive many immigrants each year can be analysed. Denmark, Norway, Finland, and Sweden are known for their coordinated markets, which are based on the social-democratic welfare model, while Germany, Austria, and France adopt more conservative and restrictive immigration policies. Great Britain and Ireland are known for their liberal market model. Additionally, it was discovered that nations like France and Germany guarantee a greater level of integration for immigrants on the labour market.²⁵

Numerous elements that can affect an immigrant's level of cultural, linguistic, and educational assimilation as well as their social mobility have been discovered in specialised

²³ Andreas Pott, Maurice Crul, and Jens Schneider, *Producing Pathways to Success: New Perspectives on Social Mobility* (2022), *New Social Mobility Second Generation Pioneers in Europe*.

²⁴ Beauchemin, Cris, Bertrand Lhommeau and Patrick Simon. (2016), "Histoires migratoires et profils socioéconomiques". In *Trajectoires et origines: Enquête sur la diversité des populations en France*, p.34.

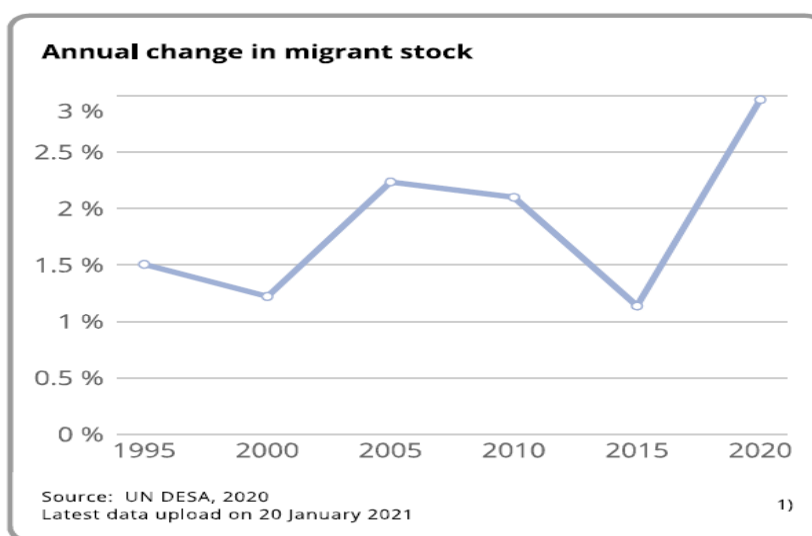
²⁵ Juhyun Lee, A comparative study of eight European countries: how life course events affect female migrant labour market integration under the perspective of welfare and production regimes, 2022, *Journal of International and Comparative Social Policy* (2022), 38: 3, 254–274 <https://doi.org/10.1017/ics.2022.17>,

literature. The most significant ones among them are listed here²⁶: Moral values- refer to integrity, general universalism, ethnic minority universalism, gender related universalism.

- Tradition values- refer to religion, politics, and ideology.
- Social values- refer to family, community, and social interaction.
- Instrumental values- refer to material values, educational values, competence, and achievement.
- Intrinsic values- refer to psychological and physical needs.

The immigration phenomena in many EU member states invariably leads to a host of social, political, and economic issues. Whether immigrants make "fair" contributions to the tax and social welfare systems of their new nation is still a major concern for both public opinion and legislators. Citizens of Europe are more and more likely to share the legitimate concerns of the indigenous community.²⁷

Figure 2. Annual change in migrant stock in Europe²⁸



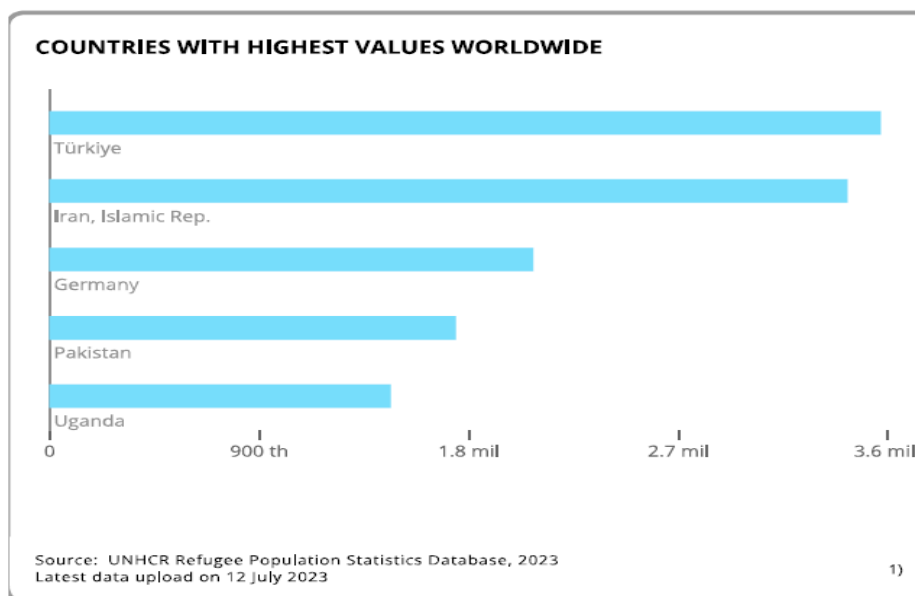
Source: https://www.migrationdataportal.org/international-data?t=2022&i=refug_host

²⁶ López-Rodríguez, L., Vázquez, A., Constantin, A. A., Bonafonte, M., & Zagefka, H., (2023). The values we share: A multi-method approach to understanding how perceived outgroup values is related to attitudes towards immigrants. *British Journal of Social Psychology*, p 53, <https://doi.org/10.1111/bjso.12583>

²⁷ M. Christl, A. Bélanger, A. Conte, J. Mazza, E. Narazani, (2021), Projecting the fiscal impact of immigration in the European Union, *Fiscal Studies, The Journal of Applied Public Economics*, Volume 44, Issue 3, p.366. <https://wileyonlinelibrary.com/journal/fisc>

²⁸ Statistics refer to international migrant stocks. Stocks include all foreign-born residents in a country regardless of when they entered the country. For countries where data on the foreign-born population are not available, UNDESA uses data on foreign citizens. As such, the number of international migrants may not include second-generation migrants that were born in the country but have parents who migrated. Stock data should also not be confused with annual migration flow data (i.e., the number of migrants that entered or left a country within one year).

Figure 3. Total number of refugees in host country by the end of 2022²⁹



Immigrants' process of cultural assimilation, or integration, is complicated and contentious in both academic literature and modern life. Lastly, there are other ways that cultural integration can be defined. More broadly, it might refer to knowledge and an emotional connection to the host community. More specifically, it can refer to immigrants' cognitive capacity to pick up a variety of skills.³⁰

In France, for example, Maghreb immigrants from former French colonies in North Africa earn far less than other European immigrants. This is largely due to the French government's tight labour market laws and salary disparities. According to socioeconomic data in France, young Maghrebian or Turkish citizens are disproportionately unemployed. Although the minimum wage in France has grown in recent years, the government still has a racially discriminatory wage policy for both Maghreb and Muslim citizens.³¹

European governments have implemented labour market integration contracts as a means of assisting in the integration of diverse immigrant groups. The goal of these is to get immigrants to respect the moral, cultural, and religious values of the host society by means of language instruction, mandatory training, and civics classes. Despite their widespread use, there is insufficient empirical data to determine if they encourage integration or set off

²⁹ https://www.migrationdataportal.org/international-data?t=2022&i=refug_host

³⁰ D. Ch. Spies, S. J. Mayer, J. Elis, A. Goerres, (2022), Why do immigrants support an anti-immigrant party? Russian Germans and the Alternative for Germany, *West European Politics*, Volume 46:2, p.282, <https://doi.org/10.1080/01402382.2022.2047544>

³¹ Ababacar S. Gueye, Nila Ceci-Renaud, (2022), The Dynamic of the Wage Gap between Natives and Descendants of Immigrants in France, French Ministry of Labor – DARES, Paris, France, p.37.

a violent or aggressive domino effect within a particular immigrant population that is adamant about maintaining their own identity, morals, and religion. Many immigrants failed to identify with the social and cultural norms of the host nation despite the state's best attempts.³²

The demands of a changing society, where the expression of several identities takes the shape of solutions to the problems posed by the national state as well as the transnational and global arena, appear to be met by multiculturalism. Therefore, the process of globalisation forces us to continually recognise, accept, and affirm diversity. It also forces us to deal with the constant resettlement of majority/minority relations in real cultural contexts as well as globally.³³

Intercultural communication - that which distinguishes the specifics of relationships between individuals with different socio-cultural identities, as well as the awareness of one's own identity within the integration process - is a daily reality, a practical way of life in society. The affirmation of the society's linguistic and ethnocultural plurality, typical of the concept of multiculturalism, entails the recognition of the fact of cultural coexistence and the legitimacy of this plurality, elucidates the increased degree of influence of other cultures and civilizations on national socio-cultural heritages.³⁴

The European model of immigrant integration is distinguished by a trade-off between employment and job quality, which takes various forms throughout Southern and Central Europe. Migrants in Mediterranean nations have similar occupations and prospects as the native population, but they face a significant danger of falling into the lowest tiers of the occupational hierarchy. In continental Europe, the trade-off is reversed: migrants have fewer work prospects but face a smaller penalty in job quality once hired than immigrants from southern Europe.³⁵

While some Muslim immigrants remain faithful to the moral, religious, and traditional values of their country of origin, defending their own social and ethnic identity; on the other hand, we can identify another group of foreign immigrants, primarily from African countries, namely the Maghrebs, who make efforts to integrate into the host country, assimilating their language, culture, and, to a lesser extent, their religious identity.

³² Mathilde Emeriau, Jens Hainmueller, Dominik Hangartner, David D. Laitin, (2022), "Welcome to France." Can mandatory integration contracts foster immigrant integration? " National Science Foundation Grants No. 1624048 and 1627339, the European Research Council (ERC) under the European Union's Horizon.

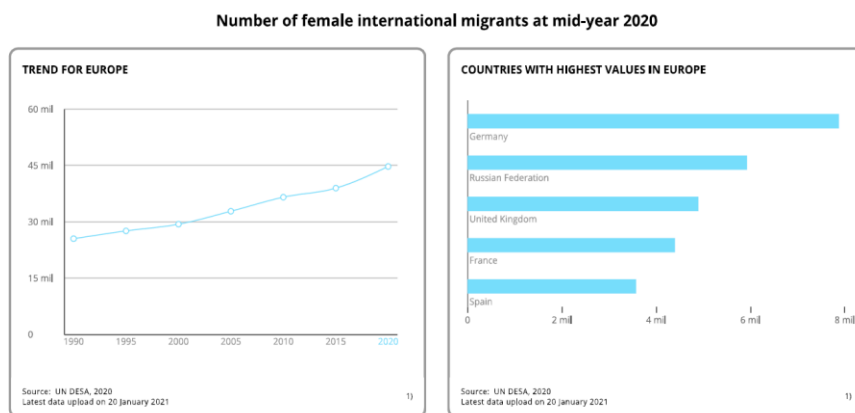
³³ Andreea Arsene, (2010), Travellers into the Giant Space of Globalization – Migration Phenomenon and its Implications at the Family Level, Revista de Administrație Publică și Politici Sociale Anul I, Nr. 2 / Martie 2010, p.31.

³⁴ Victor Moraru, Tatiana Moraru, (2005) Mass Media, Migrația Și Fenomenul Interculturalității, Republica Moldova, Chișinău, p.53.

³⁵ R. Schmidt, C. Kristen, P. Muhlau, (2021), Educational Selectivity and Immigrants' Labour Market Performance in Europe, European Sociological Review, 2021, Vol. 38, No. 2, p. 252. <https://doi.org/10.1093/esr/jcab042>

The countries of Western Europe (France, Germany, Austria) and Southern Europe (Italy, Spain, Portugal) have the highest immigrant populations of Muslim, African (Maghreb), and Jewish descent. Research indicates that the process of assimilating into a new culture, language, and "national-social identity" is less difficult for immigrant groups that originated as former colonies of the countries they are now living in. This assimilation is semi-natural, not forced, and occurs over several generations.

Figure 4. Number of female international migrants at mid-year 2020



Source: https://www.migrationdataportal.org/international-data?t=2020&i=stock_abs_female_³⁶

5. Conclusions:

Modern globalisation has resulted in the global dissemination of knowledge in real time for all aspects of economic and social life. Individually, globalisation provides the opportunity for a better life for those qualified in the labour market, who are much more advantaged, but also for the unqualified, who can find jobs in other countries and fields of activity other than their country of origin, where there is more demand for work.

Stiglitz noted of globalisation in 2005 that it can be a factor of well-being for everybody everywhere in the long run, bringing several benefits in delivering riches to all, particularly the impoverished or countries with no economic prospects. While millions of migrants return to their home countries each year, not all of them are recorded. The COVID-19 pandemic caused significant hurdles to return migration in 2020 due to lockdowns, travel restrictions, limited consular services, and other containment measures, and slowed return activity.

Many countries eased travel restrictions in 2021, and various sorts of migration, including return migration, resumed, but not to pre-pandemic levels. Returns returned to pre-pandemic levels in 2022.

³⁶ https://www.migrationdataportal.org/international-data?t=2020&i=stock_abs_female_

A significant factor in the modern social developments is migration. It is a product of worldwide shifts as well as a catalyst for further changes in both the host and the country of origin. Currently, under the normal circumstances of a global society, one of the main issues facing the European Union at its external borders is migration management.

These countries are distinguished by a swift pace of economic, political, and social change, which has led to swift changes in the fundamental policies governing migrant integration. In addition to regularising and controlling migrant flows, migration management considers the social ramifications of newcomers' integration into the community and the establishment and development of efficient mechanisms for managing diversity in the insertion communities.

Migration management does not begin with the first immigrant. Thus, diversity management primarily considers the design and development of suitable instruments to support the preservation and manifestation of immigrant communities' beliefs, customs, and cultural practises. Most often, these traits take the shape of rights that serve as interculturality promotion and individual protection tools.

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