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Households migration as a significant part of the globalization process

Keywords: globalization, households, migration
Słowa kluczowe: globalizacja, gospodarstwa domowe, migracja

Introduction

Globalization as a process closely linked to the development of the modern world has an impact on the development of national economies, companies, as well as households that can work in other countries. One of the elements of globalization is migration which is becoming increasingly important both for households and economies of individual countries. This article aims to analyze the phenomenon of households (member of a household) migration as an important part of the process of globalization, taking into account income inequality. There are few issues that raise as much controversy as migration, especially international migration. In part, this is due to the fact that it involves many other issues: economy, demographics, politics, national security, culture, language, and even religion. In addition, these links contribute to difficulties in the development of policies to maximize the benefits of migration for the countries where migrants reside, for the countries they leave, as well as for the migrants themselves.

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The process of globalization

Globalization is a universal term. Generally, it can be said that globalization is an irreversible process leading to the co-dependency and close cooperation between countries, economies, societies and cultures (Kempny, 1998). The origins of globalization go back to the great geographical discoveries taking place in the 15th century. However, it was not until the 1980s that globalization became the subject of studies (Walczak, 2006). In 1960, the concept of “global village” was introduced by Marshall McLuhan. The aim was to address the problem of the already “shrinking world” as a result of the introduction of newer and newer communication technologies (Scholte, 2003). It has been a long time since then, and hence, there have been many new definitions and approaches to this problem. The concept of globalization, as explained by various authors, is shown in Table 1.

Table 1. Globalization from a definitional perspective

Author/source	Definition
X. Yang (1995)	“Changing technical and economic conditions of competition between enterprises and countries, as well as flows of capital and goods on an international scale.”
R. Robertson (2001)	“Globalization as a concept refers both to the “shrinking” world as well as to the increasing level of seeing the world as a whole.”
B. Liberska (2002)	“Globalization is a progressive process of integration of national and regional markets into a single market for goods, services and capital.”
M. Wolf (2004)	“The globalised economy can be defined as one in which neither distance nor national boundaries hamper economic transactions.”
J.E. Stiglitz (2007)	“Globalization is a closer integration of countries and people around the world, caused by a large reduction in the cost of transport and telecommunications, and the abolition of artificial barriers to the flows of goods, services, capital, knowledge and people from country to country.”

As is clear from the listed definitions, globalization has many of the characteristics associated with loosening the flows of goods, services and people on an international scale. In order to standardize and provide a clear explanation for the definition, the authors of the article assume that globalization is an irreversible process aimed at unification of national economies, leading to the slow disappearance of local goods, while promoting deep integration and liberation of goods and services in international trade, especially the free flow of people. Unification of national economies allows individuals (households) the transfer between particular countries, which is aimed to improve the economic situation of these people. Globalization can be considered in both a negative and positive context. On the one hand, it improves the exchange of goods and services, migration of household members between countries. On the other hand,

however, it leads to the disappearance of the sense of local identity. Globalization is also reflected in the everyday functioning of households – it influences choices and consumer decisions, as well as functioning within a given country or a decision to leave. The process of globalization is closely linked to the issue of migration – both departures and arrivals for work purposes. One of the trends associated with globalization, **globalization of migration**, stands out. It is connected with the fact that there are more and more sources of migration flows (the host countries are different in terms of society, culture and economy), and there have never been so many countries before with the phenomena of migration occurring simultaneously (Castles, Miller, 2004).

Migration of households in the process of globalization

Migration is defined as the change of permanent or temporary place of residence (Holzer, 1999). In addition, migration is presented as a movement of people between specific countries (Zolberg, 1981). Migration can be divided into: internal migration (changing the place of residence by crossing the administrative boundary of a territorial unit in order to settle temporarily or permanently in another unit within the same country), and external migration (crossing the state border). In the context of households, it is extremely important to mention the concepts of emigration and immigration, where:

- emigration is going abroad permanently or temporarily,
- immigration is coming from abroad permanently or temporarily (Górny, Kaczmarczyk, 2003).

One of the theoretical issues related to emigration and immigration that should be mentioned are the motives that push households to leave their country. Factors attracting people to a certain country and those inducing them to leave are shown in Table 2.

Table 2. Motives for migration

Factors	Repelling	Attracting
Economic and demographic	Poverty, unemployment, low wages, high population growth, lack of basic medical care, deficiencies in the education system	Higher wages, improved standard of living, personal and professional development
Political	Conflicts, violence, danger, corruption, human rights violations	Political freedom, sense of security
Social and cultural	Discrimination (for ethnic, religious reasons)	Families connecting, migration to the land of ancestors, lack of discrimination

Source: compiled on the basis of World Bank data World Bank (2006).

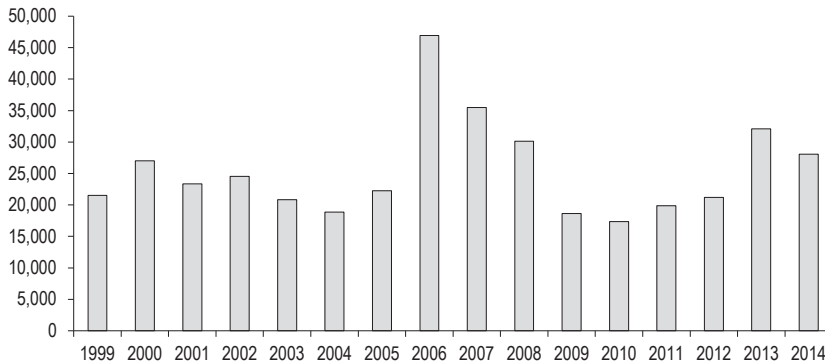
In case of Poland, the impact of globalization on households¹ can be discussed from the end of the 1980s. Since then, Poland has been in fact participating in international cooperation (in terms of economy, science, society, as well as politics and culture). Integration (mainly membership in the European Union), cooperation and international exchange have led to the increased impact of globalization on households (Wałęga, 2010). Globalization also has a direct influence on the decision to migrate – to leave the country, and then to come to another one. According to the Work Service and CEED Institute report (2015), there was a 6-point decrease in the interest in economic emigration, compared to the previous year. One out of five emigrants comes from the southern or eastern region of Poland. The potential emigrant is a young person (up to 35), coming from rural areas, and the preferred country is Germany (then, the United Kingdom and Norway). One out of three people planning to emigrate would like to leave for no longer than three months, but up to 27% of the respondents declare leaving the country permanently. Permanent emigration is much more common for men (32.7%) than women (8.2%).

Households move from the countryside to the city and from the city to the countryside, and for a couple of years now, leaving the country for permanent residence abroad has been more and more popular. Young Poles are leaving the country in search of better job and development opportunities, and to improve their living conditions. Few come back, mainly for sentimental reasons (Gwiazdowski, 2014). The number of permanent migrants leaving their country is shown in Figure 1.

As it is shown in Figure 1, the largest outflow of population took place in 2006. This can be linked to the opening up of labour markets in Finland, Portugal, Spain, Greece, Italy and Iceland. However, it is interesting that in 2004, right after the Polish accession to the European Union, which made it possible to find a job in up to 10 countries (including the United Kingdom, Ireland and Sweden), the permanent outflow of population decreased in relation to previous years. From 2006 until 2011, the number of changes in addresses decreased. Since 2011, the number of migrants has been rising again. The reasons for this could be found in the opening of the labour markets for the Poles in Germany, Austria and Switzerland. It should also be mentioned that Poland has been seen as a traditional emigration country for centuries. From the 19th century until the period of transformation, Poland had the highest net emigration rate when compared

¹ According to the Central Statistical Office, household is a group of people who are or are not related, but live together or earn a living together. It can be added that if any person in this flat supports themselves (separately from the others), they are a (single) household (GUS, 2011). However, despite the attempts to define household in a clear way, it is often identified with concepts like family household, consumer household, and most often – family (Zalega, 2007). For the purposes of the article households are understood as all households as for example a family and their individual members.

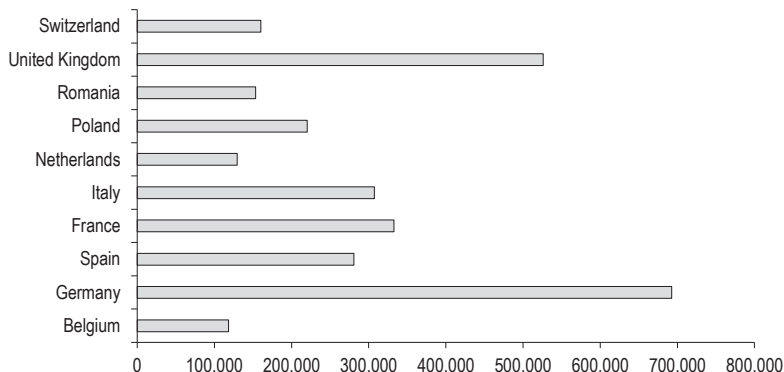
Figure 1. Permanent migration from Poland in the years 1999–2014 (amount of people)



Source: compiled on the basis of GUS data: <http://stat.gov.pl/obszary-tematyczne/ludnosc/migracje-zagraniczne-ludnosci>, (2.01.2016).

to other European countries (Kaczmarczyk, 2008). Permanent migration can be considered in two contexts – as something positive, which gives an opportunity for many, especially young people to improve their economic status. On the other hand, however, permanent economic migrations connected with draining (migration of the most skilled and talented employees) contribute to the breakdown of families, and has caused some serious losses in budgets (Brzozowski, 2010). The United Kingdom and Germany are favorite destinations not only for Poles. They are far ahead of other European countries in terms of accepting people from other countries. In Figure 2 there is presented the number of emigrants by citizenship in 2013.

Figure 2. Immigrants by citizenship (2013)



Source: compiled on the basis of Eurostat data: <http://ec.europa.eu> 2016 (27.12.2015).

Countries chosen for permanent place of residence that are next in line (behind Germany and the United Kingdom) include France, Italy and Spain. France, which is considered a multicultural country, can offer to immigrants many jobs, the shortest working week among the European countries, as well as a rich package of social benefits (Ministère de l'économie et des finances, 2012). In addition, for years, France has had a low rate of long-term unemployment, which only encourages people to migrate to the French territory. Reasons to come to Spain and Italy are quite different. Long-term unemployment rate in both countries is at a high level (in 2014, for Spain: 12.9%, for Italy: 7.8%, for Poland: 3.8%). The percentage of people coming from Western Europe is decreasing, as is the number of immigrants from the East and Arab countries (Caritas Roma, 2012). Poland has become the 10th European country with the highest number of immigrants. From the economic crisis in 2008 until 2014, in Poland there was an increase of 3,872 people who received Polish citizenship. Poland is visited mainly by Ukrainians, Belarusians, Russians and Armenians. More and more Germans receive Polish passport as well. The growing number of immigrants results in the fact that Poland worsens its position on the list of countries with MIPEX calculated² (Ośrodek..., 2015). Among 38 countries surveyed, Poland is located at 32nd place (behind Croatia and Japan, before Malta, Lithuania and Slovakia). It is a worse position compared to 2013 (Poland took 19th place). The most popular countries in terms of migration – Germany, the United Kingdom, France – took 9th, 16th, and 18th place respectively in 2014 (MIPEX, 2016).

Table 3. The Gini coefficient in European countries in 2012

The index value	Countries
34–35.7	Spain, Portugal, Greece, Latvia
32–33.9	Lithuania, Estonia, the United Kingdom, Romania, Bulgaria
29–31.9	Poland, France, Italy, Croatia, Ireland
26–28.9	Germany, Denmark, Belgium, Luxembourg, Austria, Hungary
23.7–25.9	Finland, Sweden, the Netherlands, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Slovenia

Source: compiled on the basis of GUS data: stat.gov.pl/files/gfx/portalinformacyjny/pl/defaultaktualnosci/.../oz_polska_w_ue.pdf (2.01.2016).

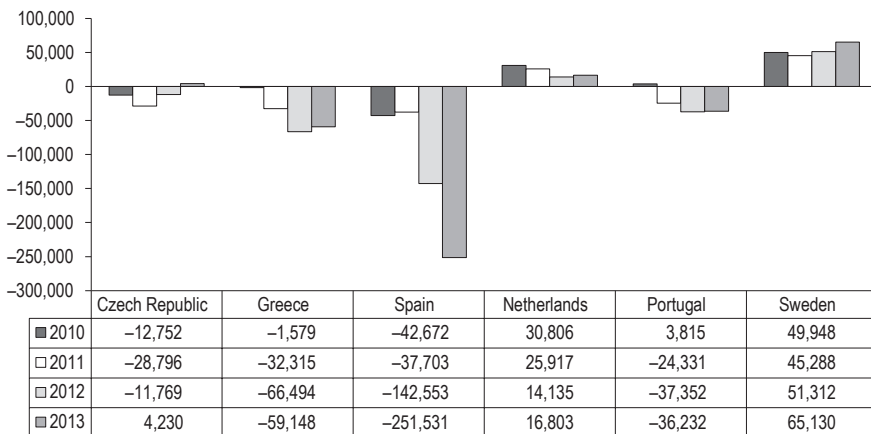
In the context of globalization and migration directly related to it, apart from the aspects mentioned that affect households, other issues discussed include the growing inequalities that are increasingly visible through this transnational process. There are a number of comparisons and lists showing the living conditions in the country. The Gini

² MIPEX (Migrant Integration Policy Index) – an index evaluating policy towards immigrants in the European Union countries and Australia, Canada, Iceland, Japan, South Korea, New Zealand, Norway, Switzerland, Turkey and the USA.

coefficient is one of those indicators, it shows the level of income inequality. The Gini coefficient, according to the definition of the Central Statistical Office (2015), is a measure which ranges from 0 to 100; it has the value of 0 when all people from the area have the same income, and the value of 100 – when all people, apart from one, have no income. The greater the difference in income, the greater the value of the Gini coefficient. This index is shown in Table 3.

In the years from 2005 to 2012 there was a reduction of income inequalities in Poland – in 2012, the Gini coefficient was 30.9% (and in 2005 it was 4.7 percentage points higher). Apart from Poland, Portugal and Lithuania registered a significant improvement. Across the European Union in the audited year, the index held steady at 30.6%; Germany, France and Croatia were below this average. Countries where income inequality was the lowest were: Slovenia, Czech Republic and Sweden (with 23.7, 24.9 and 24.8% respectively). Spain, Portugal and Greece had the highest value of the index – it fluctuated in a range between 35.7 and 34.3%. The index worsened in two countries: Denmark (up 4.2%), and in Bulgaria (up 8.6%) (GUS, 2016). Income inequalities presented using the Gini coefficient can also be referred to migration. The migration balance (the difference between immigration [arrival] and emigration [departure]), also reflects the standard of living in the country – the lower the index (no negative values – above 0), the bigger dominance of immigration in the country (compared to emigration). The migration balance is presented in Figure 3.

Figure 3. The migration balance in selected European countries in the years 2010–2013



Source: compiled on the basis of GUS data: <http://stat.gov.pl/obszary-tematyczne/ludnosc/migracje-zagraniczne-ludnosci> (2.01.2016).

In Figure 3 there are presented countries with extreme values of the Gini coefficient – the highest and the lowest. The data show that countries with the highest level of income equality (Greece, Spain, Portugal) also have the negative rate of the migration balance. This means that there are more people leaving these countries than coming to them. It may result from a desire to improve the quality of life, and more importantly, the elimination of income inequality. The situation is different in countries with one of the lowest levels of the Gini coefficient. In the Czech Republic, the Netherlands and Sweden, the migration balance has a positive value – more people come to these countries than leave. They are destinations of migrating people – they allow decent living and employment. These countries show that the higher the rate of income inequality, the bigger the number of people (households) leaving the country.

Summary

Globalization shapes the needs, influences the perception of the world, it is transnational. This process controls every economy, society, company, as well as households. On the one hand, globalization causes a loss of local identity; on the other hand, its aim is equality and improvement of standard of living (including the increase and standardization of income) in many countries. The process of globalization facilitates the movement of people from one country to another. The Poles, given the opportunity to travel abroad, are willing to attempt to work abroad. They choose countries that guarantee high social benefits and high wages. In comparison to the previous year, the trend is downward, however, the interest in emigrating is high. The Gini coefficient confirms that the bigger the inequality, the more willing people are to leave. In countries where income inequality is not significant, there are much fewer people emigrating. Globalization has an impact on the migration of households, especially the economic emigration.

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Abstract

Globalization as a process closely linked to the development of the modern world has an impact on the development of national economies, companies, as well as households that can work in other countries. One of the

elements of globalization is migration which is becoming increasingly important both for households and economies of individual countries. This article aims to analyse the phenomenon of migration of households as an important part of the process of globalization. There are few issues that raise as much controversy as migration, especially international migration. In part, this is due to the fact that it involves many other issues: economy, demographics, politics, national security, culture, language, and even religion.

Migracje gospodarstw domowych jako znaczący element procesu globalizacji

Globalizacja, jako proces, ściśle powiązany z rozwojem współczesnego świata ma wpływ na rozwój gospodarek narodowych, przedsiębiorstw, a także gospodarstw domowych, którym pozwala na podjęcie pracy w innym państwie. Jednym z elementów globalizacji stanowią migracje, które mają coraz większe znaczenie zarówno dla gospodarstw domowych, jak i gospodarek poszczególnych krajów. Celem artykułu jest analiza zjawiska migracji gospodarstw domowych jako istotnego elementu procesu globalizacji. Niewiele kwestii budzi tak wiele kontrowersji, co migracja, głównie migracja międzynarodowa. Po części wynika to z faktu, iż wiąże się ona z wieloma innymi problemami: gospodarki, demografii, polityki, bezpieczeństwa narodowego, kultury, języka, a nawet religii.