Research workshop

*Migrations and Development*

17. - 18. October 2014
Sarajevo / Bosnia and Hercegovina

**Skilled mobility, diaspora outreach, remigration – policies and experiences in Croatia**

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migration / mobility in perspective

international
⇒ sign of crises (economic, ecological) and development shortcomings
⇒ sign of economic and social development (increasing migration from the North, skilled and circular migration)

regional
⇒ modernisation deficits, post-socialist transitions hardships (political, economical, cultural), wars / ethno-national state building processes
⇒ Integration in international labor markets, progress in local development (economy, political stability, education)
Discourse about migration

Positive

• releasing pressure from local labor markets
• gaining of international experiences, skills and know how
• providing economic and social remittances
• support from diaspora networks abroad

⇒ Migration: factor of / contribution to development
⇒ Diaspora: ressource / strategic partner for development, transcultural mediator

Negative

• loosing labor force, de-skilling abroad
• accelerating aging and shrinking of local population
• jeopardizing local pension systems
• loosing touch with homeland realities, radicalising in diaspora

⇒ Migration: detrimental to development
⇒ Diaspora: polarising factor and regressive force
Local responses to migration and related processes

Germany
Migration, labor market and family policies

Target groups
• elderly
• (skilled) migrants
local responses ...

Croatia
Diaspora outreach / policies

Target groups
co-ethnic
• emigrants
• business community
• scientists http://www.ukf.hr/

NewFELPRO: non-co-ethnic skilled migrants
http://www.newfelpro.hr/default.aspx?id=63
Croatian migration

- V migration phases
- economic and forced migration
- *pursue of hapiness* (cultural and religious orientation)

**Remigration after 1991**
- refugees, IDPs
- Economic migrants / pensioners
- Political emigrants
- investors
- 2. generation and „ancestral returners“
- Skilled migrants

**Today (post EU accession)**
- circular and remigration, seasonal migration (region)
- low migration from non European countries (i.e. China)
- Carreer / knowledge or skilled migration mostly inner EU
Croatian diaspora

Globally dispersed


Question of generations

Croatian official perspective:
- ca. **50%** of total Croatian population (1., 2. and later generations / also non-citizens)

Worldbank Migration Factbook 2011:
- ca. **17.1%** of total Croatian population (mostly 1. generation / citizens)

Heterogenous diaspora and also remigrant community
Outlook

*Croatia as knowledge society?*
Outlook

Migrating to Croatia?

2013

- 15,262 emigration
- 10,378 immigration

decreasing illegal immigration / transit country
ca. 50% Croatian citizens; many double citizens)
70 % inner-European mobility
65% EU, 35% non-EU / regional
30% other: Asia, USA…

=> predominantly co-ethnic and remigration
Outlook

*Migrating from Croatia?*

2013: 15,262 *emigration*, 10,378 immigration

Amongst outgoing migrants higher percentage of skilled in relation to share in local population

**MAJORITIES IN ALL COUNTRIES – EXCEPT FOR ALBANIA – WANT TO STAY AT HOME**

*Ideally, if you had the opportunity, would you like to move permanently to another country, or would you prefer to continue living in this country?*
Remigrating to Croatia?

=> dynamic labor market / transparency
=> access to public services
=> low inequality
=> safety and social security
=> socio-cultural diversity and pluralism
=> leisure

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Remigrant experiences

- Networks and social capital
- Chances for knowledge transfer
  - Strategies of adaption
... anyone who wants to return... has to start from the very first day preparing return. It means building... keeping your relationships there. Don't forget, when families return there are more ways how it can go wrong: it can go wrong with the job, it can go wrong with the wife, husband, the kids, so basically everyone has to succeed. (...) And then you have to have a lot of money to survive. It's not very much a business deal, it's financing your love, let's say. (...) I am always saying, probably it's ten times easier to leave the country than to come back. The ratio is for sure one to ten. So, everyone can leave, but not everyone can come back.

Boris, univ.prof. technical sciences, in his fiftees