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**Article**

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The desire to discover, to explore new horizons has always been an important characteristic of the human being. Ever since ancient times, people have sought different economic and social opportunities beyond the borders of their territories of origin, mainly driven by the desire for a better living, taking into account various aspects such as work, education, political rights, personal safety, or healthcare.

An extremely dynamic, complex and multidimensional phenomenon, migration is an integral part of human development. As a particular case, international migration is a reality that will continue to exist as long as there are discrepancies in terms of wealth and development between different regions of the world, as there are economic, political or social issues. As it allows people to realize their aspirations and it represents an important factor of human and economic exchanges, this phenomenon may represent a great opportunity for development.

A less important issue before 2000, the freedom of movement has become a focus of political debate in recent years. This was fuelled by a considerable increase in mobility within the European Union (EU), particularly from East to West, with negative effects on increasing xenophobia and anti-EU sentiments, and also the recent BREXIT vote that was the most pronounced expression thereof.

The current migration and refugee crisis in Europe represents a major challenge to existing regulations for granting asylum, and to identify practical solutions in a wide range of areas in connection with human mobility, with strong implications at economic level. At the same time, migration management in the EU includes an internal dimension, which derives from the joint responsibility of the member states but also an external dimension, managed in cooperation with non-EU countries, countries of transit and of origin of migrants.

In such a framework, the articles comprised in the thematic section of this journal's issue bring to the fore a myriad of aspect referring to **international migration and its economic implications**, as outlined below.

The thematic section is opened by the paper entitled “*Determinants of Romanians' migration within the European Union: static and dynamic panel gravity approaches*”. From an econometric perspective, this highlights the main determinants of Romanians' migration towards 10 EU member states – Czech Republic, Denmark, Italy, Netherlands, Finland, Germany, Norway, Poland, Spain, and Sweden – for the period 2007-2014. Through the accomplished study, the paper outlines one of the first mappings of these determinant factors in the specific scientific literature, for the case of Romania. Alongside important pull factors that fuel Romanians' migration such as the unemployment rate, life expectancy, education spending, population density, and the existing social networks in the destination country, the key player in this process is represented by the economic conditions in the destination countries.

Based on a panel data set comprising information from 74 developing countries for the period 1989-2015, the analysis developed in the paper *“Migrants remittances influence on fiscal sustainability in dependent economies”* outlines migration's influence on the origin country, from the perspective of the impact remittances may have on economic growth, private consumption, private investments, and the government tax revenue, in low and upper middle-income countries.

In the article *“Demographic optimum in the context of migration. The German case”*, the authors aim to test whether the unbalanced structure of indigenous workforce supply in developed economies (taking the case of Germany), originates both in the structure of rewards associated with each type of job in accordance with the required level of education and in the algorithm of their allocation in order to satisfy the economy's workforce demand. Developed based on game theory, the study reveals that any alternative of demographic optimum for Germany, built on economic efficiency principles, cannot ignore the contribution of immigrants to the achievement of the required workforce level.

The article *“Impact of migration upon a receiving country's economic development”* approaches the effects of migration on the economic development of receiving countries, members of the EU, based on an analysis regarding the perception on migration and on an empirical study about the economic impact of migration on receiving countries, using a linear model with panel data with specific fixed effects for cross section units.

The paper *“An assessment of the immigration impact on the international housing price”* brings to the fore the correlation between the evolution of the housing price - as measured by House Price Index - the flow of immigrants and other macroeconomic variables for a sample of 21 representative countries, for the period 2007-2014. The model developed by the authors explains and highlights the existence of a positive relationship between the House Price Index evolution and the flow of immigrants, market capitalization share to Gross Domestic Product, and the growth rate of the economy.

The study accomplished in the paper *“The analysis of Romania's external migration and of the causality between remittances and Romania's economic growth”* deals with the impact of remittances on Romania's economic development, investments and exports. The developed study did not reveal any Granger causality between remittances and the economic development of Romania (expressed in the GDP), investments, and exports.

Based on a set of socio-economic indicators for EU/EFTA countries and cluster analysis, the paper *“Mobility in Europe: recent trends from a cluster analysis”* provides an extensive overview on migration trends and on regional differences across European countries, for the period 2005-2013. The analysis accomplished by the authors revealed three country clusters: EU/EFTA centre-receiving countries, EU/EFTA periphery-sending countries and EU/EFTA outlier countries. Their names suggest not only the geographical position within Europe, but also the trends in net migration flows during the years, highlighting the persistence of a movement from periphery to Central Europe, strongly connected with recent migration flows.

In the article *“An empirical study on the migration among young skilled and creative people”*, the authors aim to identify the main factors that bring a contribution to the amplified migration of young people, especially of those highly-skilled, talented and creative. The authors, also focus on promoting a series of factors that may motivate young people to return to their country of origin.

The interview-based research carried out among doctors employed in the public health system about their opinion on international migration, presented in the paper “*International migration from public health systems. Case of Romania*” reveals many shortcomings in the health system, transformed into strong decisional arguments for emigration.

The paper “*Economic effects of migration from Poland to the UK*” aims to assess various economic effects of migration in the two countries, highlighting the fact that the intensive emigration of the Poles to the UK affected Poland’s economic growth in the long run, but it also reduced tensions on the labour market by decreasing the unemployment rate, while, on the short run, the UK has not been significantly affected in what concerns its economic growth and unemployment rate.

The article “*Migration and remittances nexus: economic implications and analysis*” provides a thorough analysis on the characteristics of remittance behaviour, in the context of Ukraine-Czech Republic country models, highlighting the fact that the reverse economic effects of remittances on the country of origin might be just a combination of regular and occasional form with different weight.

In the paper entitled “*The impact of international migration on the labor market – a case study from Hungary*” the authors outline a series of economic and non-economic determinants of the quantitative assessment of migration. The main results of a questionnaire-based survey carried out by the authors outline that an anti-migration behaviour cannot be fully justified by its economic impact on the labour market and the integration of foreigners is hindered by the so-called socio-cultural barriers, which cannot be removed solely by economic policy measures.

The thematic section of this issue ends up with the article “*The relations between labour market institutions and employment of migrants*” that investigates different aspects specific to the labour market such as the minimum wage, unemployment benefits, union density, and active labour market policies in the context of increasing employment among immigrants. The focus on the determinants of immigration tendencies and on dynamic regression models generated for clarifying how these aspects can affect native- and foreign-born migrants, is remarkable.

In recent years, international migration has become one of the most important challenges faced by policy-makers, at the same time being also a research topic of great interest for the scientific community.

In contemporary society, international migration can be an important growth and development generator for both the origin and destination regions, particularly due to its demographic, economic, social, cultural, and even political impact. A proper management aiming to minimize or even to eradicate the negative effects associated with migration and to maximize all its positive outcomes, represents an essential element that policy-makers should focus on, when building and developing competitive regions.

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