IDEA PROJECT FINAL CONFERENCE
Cracow, 3-5 June 2009

"Mediterranean and Eastern European Countries as New Immigration Destinations in the European Union – IDEA" Project has come to an end. All the scientific challenges and results of this Project were presented and discussed by the distinguished guests during the Final Conference, which took place on 3-5 June 2009 in Cracow, at Jagiellonian University Centre in Przegorzały. Wonderful scenery – conference centre located on a picturesque hill and surrounded by impressive greenery – contributed to a great scientific and social atmosphere during the Final Conference, summarising 30-month long efforts performed by all the IDEA research teams. The organiser – Centre of Migration Research – was honoured to host guests representing 20 European countries, of which 9 were involved in the IDEA Project.

Despite the whimsical weather and surprisingly low temperature - as for the beginning of June – the scholarly level of scientific discussions following each session of the conference was very high, and the

View of the IDEA Final Conference Venue, photo: Wojciech Gorgolewski

conference occurred to be a great opportunity for exchange of ideas, comments and suggestions for further research.

Expressing our most sincere thanks to all the Participants of the Conference for their presence and contribution, we kindly invite you to read the last issue of the IDEA Newsletter.

First Session
Patterns of immigration in the "old" immigration countries

Heinz Fassmann, University of Vienna, Academy of Science, Austria

The term "old immigration country" means a country in which surplus of immigration over emigration happened somewhere in the past.

How useful is the comparison of "old" immigration countries? The results show how different the timing and pattern are within the selected "old" immigration countries: Germany, France, UK and Austria. It demonstrates the importance of demographic as well as economic factors. But, of course, it must be stressed that the demographic and economic trends are embedded into the history of a country.

Discussant: Godfried Engbersen, Erasmus University Rotterdam, the Netherlands

Fassmann's model of migration transition is relevant to analyse migration history in other "old" immigration countries, e.g. in the Netherlands. However, there appear some questions regarding this model.

The first question is related to the strong emphasis on historical framing and its effects on emigration and immigration: can we explain migration, unexpected flows, with reference to historical factors? For instance nowadays, many immigrants in the Netherlands come from countries to which the Netherlands has had very few or no political or cultural ties.

The second question deals with the three dimensions of the model - demographic development, economic growth and the division of the labour markets: where should the fourth factor, namely migration control, be included? Migration control also creates specific social reality. State policies are formulated not only as an answer to economic or demographic needs.

What can we learn from the "old" immigration countries?

- Accept migration as a permanent element.
- Accept change.
- Accept diversity of migration patterns.
- Avoid the wrong expectations.
- A pro-active migration policy should take into account the interests of the receiving country.
- Offer clear perspectives to the newcomers.
- Combine migration policy with integration measures.
- Differentiate asylum seekers from the labour migrants.

Second Session
Patterns of immigration in the "new" immigration countries

João Peixoto, Centro de Investigacao em Sociologia Economica e das Organizacoes, Portugal

The presentation raised the question of the comparative analysis of immigration experiences in the Southern European countries: Greece, Italy, Portugal and Spain.

Similarities among all four countries were emphasised, including: firstly, timing of inflow - countries went from net emigration to net immigration in the last decades and face similar problems with managing immigrant flows, secondly, age effect - immigrants are young adults and challenges for welfare institutions are still ahead, thirdly, type of labour demand - economies were built on labour intensive and low productive sectors where the role of informal economy cannot be underestimated', fourthly, socio-economic structural regimes (1. segmented labour market favours natives who work in the protected labour market, while immigrants in unprotected one, 2. strong labour unions protect natives and only recently started dealing with immigrants, 3. women who entered labour market and filled vacancies in the sector of domestic work, 4. higher level of education and social expectations caused the rejection of low-skilled jobs by natives).

Regularisation actions are the best known and most controversial measures adopted by the Southern European countries. Although each regularization process has been believed to be the last one, they are recurrently conducted due to the fact that they are believed to be a political choice and question of fairness as there are no other options of legalizing immigrants. Regularization is a policy and not the policy.

There are premises to talk about Southern European immigration model. It is dynamic as countries are learning from their own and others mistakes. New challenges are ahead in the light of the economic crisis. Will it end some phase?

> **Joaquin Arango**: *I do not think that impact of the crisis is too much migration-specific. In 2008, when the crisis was already in full swing, immigrants kept coming to Spain and total employment remained stable. But new arrivals were transferred to unemployment.*

Discussant: Ferrucio Pastore, Forum Internazionale ed Europeo di Ricerche sull'immigrazione (FIERI), Italy

The main focus of the presentation was the deliberation concerning differentiation between the Southern European countries. Privileging one over another brings up the question about transferability of the lessons to other countries, e.g. the Central and Eastern European countries.

Similarities were overemphasized while differences among countries were not sufficiently accentuated. Among the most important divergences are: structural aspects, different migratory and mobility systems, different demand structures, different degrees of exposure to irregular immigrants, diverse number of asylum applications and above all - different political climate around migration. The most important structural failure of all four countries was the employer driven admission system which has failed.

Third Session
Patterns of immigration in the "future" immigration countries

Dušan Drbohlav, Charles University in Prague, the Czech Republic

The presentation raised the question whether the Central and Eastern European (CEE) countries follow the same migration cycle.

There are some similarities: economic - crucial role of economic transition for triggering immigration flows and considerable size of foreign labour force in the shadow economy, demographic - low fertility levels together with growing life expectancy leading to population ageing, and in migration policy - gaps in migration policies served as a pull factor flexibly used by migrants and a significant influence of the EU - Europeanization of migration policies, and low politization of the migration topic.

In all the CEE countries a clear migration policy doctrine together with stimulated migration debate among stakeholders should be created. The issues could be learnt from the older immigration countries.

Discussant: Sophie Nonnenmacher, International Organization for Migration

The Central and Eastern European (CEE) countries - "future" immigration destinations - can indeed learn a lot from more experienced immigration countries.

Policies of the CEE countries have well developed policies towards ethnic diasporas, which can help them in creating new policies. There are also weaknesses of a learning process, as it is not possible to adapt models of migration policies of more mature immigration countries, because they do not often adhere to needs of the CEE countries. The other problem of the CEE countries is relatively large size of the shadow economy. However, there are also some opportunities, such as e.g. the EU funding, which may help in implementing migration policies.

All in all, although the Central and Eastern European countries are latecomers, it will be a challenge to develop comprehensive migration policy that would be well-planned, well-organized and efficient.

> **Marek Okólski**: *The immigration to all three countries, except the inflow from the Far East (Vietnam, China), is based mainly on the principle that migrants organize their lives as "birds of passage". They have developed a habit that makes us think of the future as something different from the experience of both "old" and "new" immigration countries. We have adopted a notion of "fluid migration". Maybe we will never have a high level of second generation immigrants, although we may have a lot of immigrant labour in our countries?*

Fourth Session
Patterns of immigration and immigration regimes in Europe: historical, regional, structural

Joaquin Arango, Instituto Universitario de Investigación Ortega y Gasset, Spain

Immigration receiving countries in Europe are bound to differ on account of their defining structural characteristics, above all the types of socio-economic structure and socio-economic systems. It results in different intensities and types of demand for immigrant labour. For example, first substantial immigration flows in Northern and Western Europe ("old" immigration countries) started when international flows were limited, while in the Southern European countries ("intermediate", rather than "new", immigration countries) more open and pro-active labour migration policies were implemented and larger demand for immigrant labour was observed.

The effect of "age" as a differentiating factor is transitory. Contemporary global trends affect all countries and are likely to lead towards a certain degree of convergence.

Discussant: Jorge Malheiros, University of Lisbon, Portugal

The three groups of the countries examined could be seen as migration systems regarding the type and nature of migration that has developed in a specific international migration regime.

Nowadays, in a world of fragmented production and knowledge-based economy, virtual mobility and short-term migration prevail. That is why inflows in the Central and Eastern European countries are mostly circular.

Maybe integration policies will not be needed in the future era of circular migration? And policy makers should concentrate in that case rather on "international movement policies"?

Godfried Engbersen: *What is the relevance of including the notion of "national ethos"? For instance, in the Netherlands "national ethos" is rapidly changing.*

Joaquin Arango: *"National ethos" is something about which I'm not very sure, although I believe that it can be a rather important factor, however, very difficult to be researched and explained. I think there are cultural predispositions and underpinnings towards the acceptance of the "other" that can be very solid and very relevant. It has to do with the conception of the nation (ethno-cultural or political/civic), past experiences (country of immigrants from the beginning or much later) and political culture.*

Fifth Session
Immigration prospects/possible futures

Jakub Bijak, Marek Kupiszewski, Arkadiusz Wiśniowski, CEFMR, Poland

Who is a demographer? This is someone who understands Lexis diagram and forecasts population wrong, but at least quantifies his uncertainty. In the presented approach, contrary to commonly used both single- and muliti-variant deterministic forecasts, the uncertainty plays a crucial role. We believe its assessment, in the case of such a highly unpredictable process as immigration flows, is even more important than the usual output of forecasting procedures, i.e. level of immigration expected in the future.
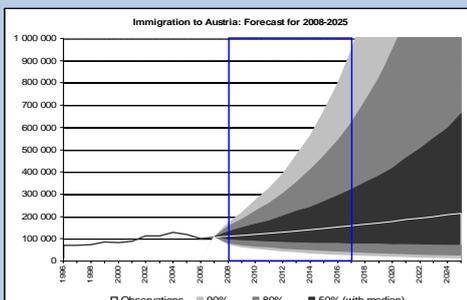
The Bayesian methodology that was applied to that fruitful exercise made it possible to combine quantitative information with qualitative analysis. However, both languages still need to be improved to elaborate a more common vocabulary.

Discussant: Leo van Wissen, Faculty of Spatial Sciences, Population Research Centre, University Groningen, the Netherlands

There is no doubt that applying Bayesian methodology is a significant step into an important direction of research. However, the arguments that the migration flows are highly unpredictable in the long run are not convincing and rather counterintuitive.

The obtained results may be determined and biased by the choice of the class of models, not considering interactions between explanatory variables as well as by the quality of the data, which in this case is relatively low.

I believe that we are able to predict migration flows more precisely and expert's knowledge may significantly reduce the uncertainty.

Immigration to Austria: Forecast for 2008-2025

☐ Observations ▤ 90% ▨ 80% ▧ 50% (with median)

The better the data, the better the forecasts

Anna Janicka-Żylicz: *Do country specific definitions of migration flows influence the uncertainty of the forecasts?*

Arkadiusz Wiśniowski: *Actually, yes. We observe a wider uncertainty span in the case of Austria, Italy and the Czech Republic where some problems with data occurred. However, this issue requires more in-depth study.*