

Frequency and policy matters of the international circular migration related to Hungary

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The current study's empirical analysis of international circular migrants was limited to Hungarian immigration data. This choice had several advantages. The data set came from a comprehensive administrative database. The method of data gathering harmonised well with international recommendations. In this study, we concentrate on the aspects of multiple movers related to immigration. As a reference group, of course, we can also distinguish the first-parity immigrants. In our subjective opinion, which may be open to dispute, the main value of this research is that we could distinguish the international circular migrants within the overall complexity of immigration patterns. In addition, we explored particular aspects of the demographic and territorial patterns shown by the international circular immigrant population in Hungary.

The system of multiple and recurring human mobility emerges due to the rapid development of information, transportation and telecommunication technologies. This is also due to policies and practices allowing free movement between the countries of the European Union. Thus the nation-state borders have been disappearing in most part of the continent as a result of the free movement of individuals has become a reality within such regional unions. Students of transnationalism claim that multiple affiliations are increasingly possible and common. One of the distinguishing features of transnational movers is that their status transcended the exclusive relationship between the territory of the nation-state and its population.

Several phenomena involving multiplicity accompanied the more frequent recurring spatial movements in the era of globalisation. These phenomena included multiple residence, multiple citizenship, multiple property ownership, multiple employment and multi-occupationality, multiple social and political activities, multiple identity, multiple knowledge, multiple loyalty and multiple partnerships (family, friendly, marital). This list is not exhaustive and naturally, it can be expanded further. However, we only refer to the emerging phenomena of multiplicity which may have something to do with circulation as a migratory system.

The findings of this study indicate that the long-term circular movement of foreigners to Hungary as the receiving country becomes sizeable. Based on the unique data processing method used in this study, over one seventh all registered movers arriving in Hungary were circular migrants between 2006 and 2015. As a distinguishing feature, these individuals had previous experience of living in the host country. Of these registered circular movers, at about three fourth entered the country for a second time, one fifth for a third time, and less than 5 per cent for a fourth time. Men dominate the international circular movers, but the surplus is smaller than their dominance of all international movers. The probability of internationally mobile women to become circulars is higher than male movers becoming circular. From a gender perspective, this empirical evidence points a feminisation process in the international human mobility towards Hungary. Firstly labour, secondly student and thirdly retirement mobility would be the predominant sources of international circular migration. Many migrants are involved in one or more systems of emigration and return. In the Hungarian labour market, the circular immigrants might feel marginalised from the host society. Accordingly,

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they simultaneously retained links to their country of origin by sending remittances, by conducting dual entrepreneurial activities and by moving back and forth. These activities reflect a dual attachment to the source country and the receiving country. The strongest finding of empirical research is that the vast majority of circular movers are single individuals (at about two thirds). It is highly probable that getting married -often meaning a settled life style- is incompatible with the circular mobility trajectory of individuals.

One of the main reasons of the popularity of circulation is the triple-win mantra in policy circles. This potential works on global, international, national, regional and local territorial levels, too. Circulation issue is strong correlation with international migration and development on global level. On EU level circulation is an alternative of labour shortage, costly integration process and a sort of fight against illegal immigration. From national perspective, international circular immigration is a solution of the dilemma of ethnic Hungarians living in the border regions of neighbouring countries. They may live in motherland (home) or mother country (home).