

GENDER ASPECTS OF IMMIGRATION: THE CASE OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC

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Abstract

The paper focuses on women's labor immigration in the Czech Republic. The first part shows trends that from the beginning by examining women migration emerged, in what areas of research on this topic is going, and what are the impacts of these analyzes to the portrayal of migrants. The focus of research on gender aspects of migration is reflected not only a quantitative increase in the number of migrants, but also changes in terms of their integration. The goal of the second part of this paper is to provide a brief information on the statistical data on the number of foreigners who are economically active in the Czech Republic with respect to the gender structure of the foreigners. The detailed analysis will focus on the gender structure of foreigners who are employees, registered in the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, as they make up 70 % of the total economically active foreigners in the Czech Republic. This group is analyzed separately by nationality, or, depending on whether they belong to the group of EU foreigners or foreigners outside the EU. All detailed data will be presented for the year 2010.

Key words: immigration, gender, economically active foreigners, Czech Republic

JEL Code: J21, J22, J64

Introduction

In a global perspective the developments of migration in the second half of the 20th century marked serious changes. Stephen Castles and Mark J. Miller in 1998 in this regard talked about "globalization accelerating, diversifying and feminisation of international migration (Castles, Miller, 2003). New trends are the result of social development, which is characterized by globalization processes, new temporal and spatial flexibility and transnational nature of migration (King, 2002). In terms of political and social developments in Central and Eastern Europe (including the Czech Republic) is a qualitative and quantitative change in the migration process even more pronounced (Favell, 2008).

In response to the increasing diversity of migration processes researchers in the field of migration emphasize the growing need for new conceptualization of migration. Understanding of migration based on the post-war development of migration in Europe and the debate on migration, integration and citizenship based on post-colonial model is already outdated and inadequate (Favell, 2008). Inaccurate and inadequate monitoring of migration from a gender perspective is one of the shortcomings of the analysis of migration, which was typical for research until the end of the 70th 20th century (though largely true today). Only in the 70th 20th century women as active participants of migration become the subject of migratory research studies (Hondagneu-Sotelo, 1999; 2000, Boyd, Grieco, 2003). The first studies in this area have focused on their integration in the labour market (eg Phizacklea, 1983; Morokvasic, 1984, etc.). In this context, it was accentuated by linking feminization migration and the feminization of the labour market: the feminisation of the labour market leads to an increase in demand for caregivers of children and housekeepers, which are mostly migrants. This leads to enhance the migration of women for this work. Analogous to the process of brain drain in the migration analysis appears drain care: care outflow caused by the above-described tendencies.

1 The Current Level of knowledge

Feminization of migration is a fundamental change in the participation of women in migration: women become its important actor. In the literature, most agree that the feminization of migration represents a main specific of international migration in recent years. Some authors argued that the comparative data from recent years confirm a significant increase in migrant women, but only slight increase of their share on legal migration (Zlotnik, 1995; King, 2004). Hania Zlotnik in the article *The Global Dimensions of Female Migration* (Zlotnik, 2003) wrote: „The majority of female migrants, like the majority of all migrants, are currently living in developed countries, In those countries, women often outnumber men among international migrants. In the developing world, the 32 million female migrants present in 2000 were still outnumbered by their male counterparts, but not by much. Clearly, female migration is a key constituent of global migration.” Opponents point out that in the case of feminization of migration there is a very problematic calculation of the proportion of women in migration, because women have relatively high participation in the informal economic migration and in the unrecorded migration (Phizacklea, in King at all 2004). Nevertheless it is undeniable that the position of migrant women and their strategy is

changing. Women are becoming an important contributor to economic migration. Important point in feminization of migration is not a quantitative increase in the proportion of women, but a qualitative shift in the way of their participation in migration. "Women in the migration process have shifted from 'marginal subjects' to 'social actors' ". (Campani, in King at all 2004).

Migrant women, compared with men have more complicated position in the host society. Gender of course is not the only social categories affect the individual's status in society: disadvantage position of migrant women in society is a result of overlapping of the different characteristics of migrants, based on ethnicity, social status, class and so on. To understand the position of disadvantaged groups in society, we need to examine how these groups based on and how they integrate. The theory of "blending" focuses on how the interaction of different variables creates inequality in society (Knudsen, 2006). The application of this approach to foreign migrants shows that not all women experience the same disadvantages.

A particular problem in the case of migrants is their dependence on the husband and the family and the broader social ties, as well as legislation. Many EU countries have introduced protection against marriages of convenience by stricter regulations, which prevent addiction stability of stay for those migrants who are married to a citizen of the host country. Specifically for women the disadvantaged may resulted when they are excluded from relationships with others as a result of unpaid work in the home. Such a woman is in a position to double disadvantage - the family, the position of migrants, resulting in further dependence women from family and close community. As shown by empirical data from other countries, migrant dependent families often suffer from multiple disadvantages in comparison with those that are at least partially integrated through work or other activities.

Migrants are especially vulnerable when they participate in informal or undeclared migration. This group is mainly active in the labor migrant households - older people or caregivers of children and domestic workers, and migrant workers as well in the provision of sexual services. Legislative rules and strict immigration and integration policies of the EU often prevent legally employment of migrant. Ultimately, this leads to the fact that they have not the opportunity to participate in all aspects of citizenship - have adequate social protection, health insurance and the like. The current European discourse on migration and domestic work formulates the need for changes in legislation and the overall approach of EU Member States to such migrant. On the one hand, labor migrants in the care demand, forcing her current demographic trends and changes in gender roles (increased participation women in

paid employment) in EU countries. On the other hand, the current way of widespread abuse of nursing labor migrants and migrants in conflict with democratic principles and the principles of equality (Lutz, 2008).

2 Gender structure of foreigners in the CR

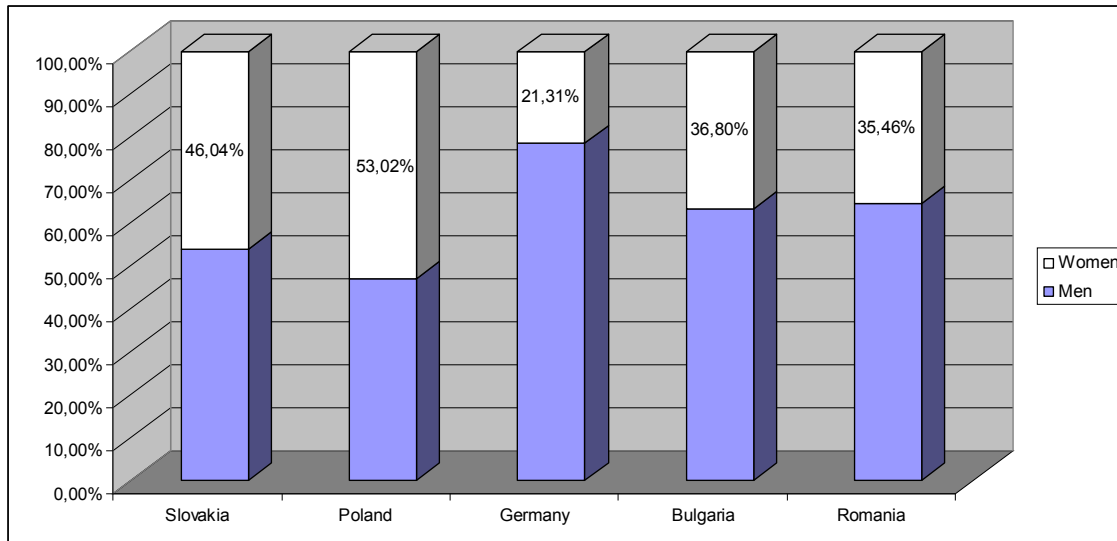
The characteristic of the structure of foreigners in the Czech Republic by gender we will base on looking at the structure of foreigners registered in the Czech Republic and also to a deeper look at the structure of the economically active foreigners. The foreigners who are economically active in the Czech Republic may be divided into two parts. The first part consists of those who are employees, officially referred to as foreigners filed at labour offices. The second part is made up by those with trade licenses. The data for the first group is collected by the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (MLSA) while the data for the second group is gathered by the Ministry of Industry and Trade. The following detailed analysis will focus on the gender structure of foreigners registered in the MLSA, who make up 70 % of the total economically active foreigners.

For a more thorough knowledge of foreign workers, this group was analyzed separately by nationality, or, depending on whether they belong to the group of EU foreigners or foreigners outside the EU. The following two diagrams show the top five of citizenship and their structure by gender. The reason for this simplification is that the five most frequent nationalities of the group had always decisive share of the total (80-85%).

The Czech Republic does not belong to the countries with a high proportion of foreigners. In recent years, the proportion of foreigners in the Czech population was about 4 % (4.18 in 2008, 4.12 in 2009, 4.03 in 2010 and 4.13 in 2011). There were always more foreigners from countries outside the EU than foreigners from EU countries. In 2010, the share of foreigners from countries outside the EU was more than 68 %. Year 2010 will be the selected year for all of the following detailed analysis, since it is the last year with available detailed information.

Figure 1 shows the five most frequent nationalities of foreigners from the EU (approximately 85 % of the total foreigners from the EU). In terms of structure by gender there are more men than women (most in the case of Germany), with the exception of Poland. By contrast, in Poland, there was the higher the proportion of women: nearly 54%.

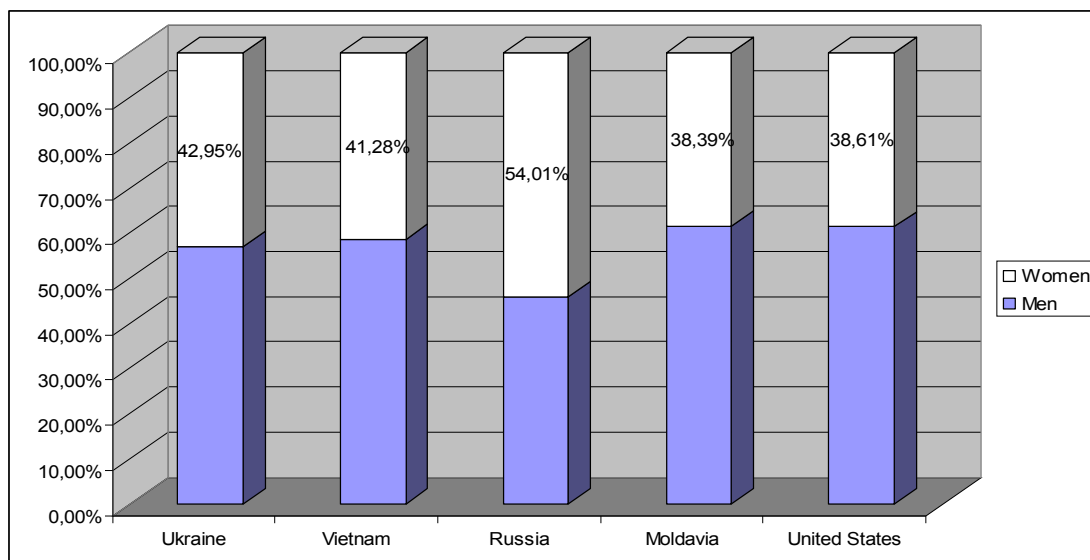
Fig. 1: The five most frequent nationalities of EU foreigners in the Czech Republic and their composition by gender (31st 12th 2010)



Source: Czech Statistical Office (CSO), author modification

Figure 2 shows the five most frequent nationalities of foreigners from non-EU (approximately 80 % of the total foreigners from non-EU). In terms of structure by gender there are more men than women (most in the case of Ukraine), with the exception of Russia: there was the higher the proportion of women.

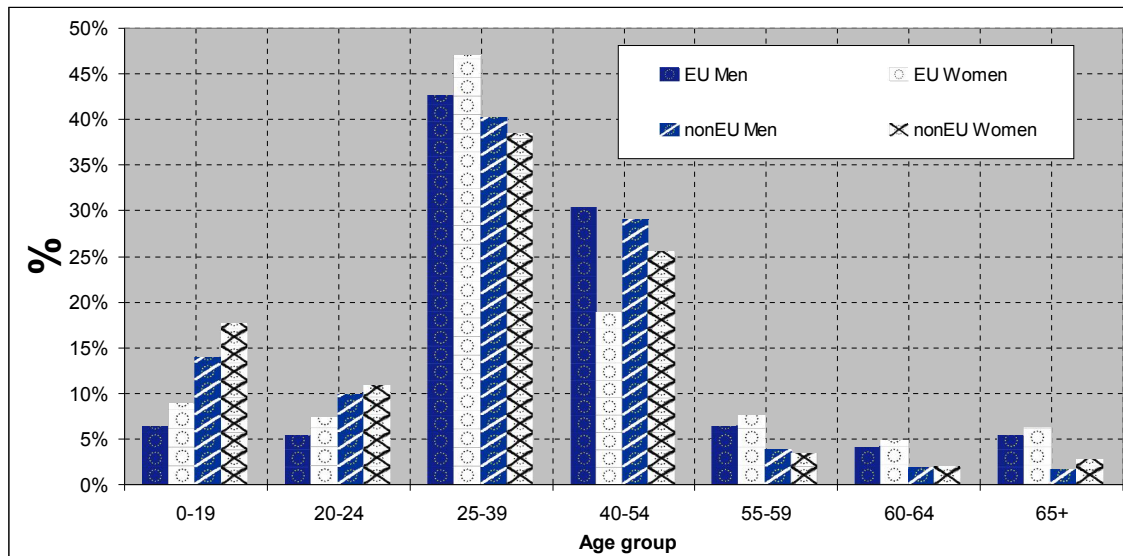
Fig. 2: The five most frequent nationalities of non-EU foreigners in the Czech Republic and their composition by gender (31st 12th 2010)



Source: Czech Statistical Office (CSO), author modification

There is an interesting look at a different gender distribution of foreigners by age (figure 3). A relatively high number of foreigners coming from non-EU were in the younger age groups compared to foreigners from the EU. In the youngest age groups, foreigners younger 24 years prevailed in the gender division women regardless of origin from EU countries or from non-EU countries. In the most numerously represented age groups, the situation is changing: in the group of 25-39 years, slightly dominated men in the group of none-EU foreigners, while the in the group of EU foreigners still dominated women. In the next age group (40-54) in both two groups of foreigners dominated men, while in the oldest age groups (60+) dominated woman.

Fig.3: Age structure of foreigners by gender; 31st 12th 2010



Source: Czech Statistical Office (CSO), author modification

3 Gender structure of economically active foreigners in the CR

Next, we focus on the gender structure of economically active foreigners in the Czech Republic. The following detailed analysis will focus on the gender structure of foreigners in employment (registered in the MLSA). The first reason is that they make up 70 % of the total economically active foreigners, the second reason is that the data for this group collected by the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs are better off, including information on the status of foreigners in employment and level of their education.

We shall first concern to five most frequent nationalities of foreigners from EU countries and five most frequent nationalities of foreigners from non-EU countries registered

at MLSA and their composition by gender (31st 12th 2010). In all five of citizenship of foreigners from EU (tab. 1) is evident that in the Czech Republic worked more men than women. In the case of Germany, the share of men was almost 80 %.

Tab. 1: The five most frequent nationalities of foreigners from EU countries registered at MLSA and their composition by gender (31st 12th 2010)

	men	women
Slovakia	64453	36272
Poland	14350	4699
Bulgaria	3843	1824
Romania	3627	1188
Germany	2450	620

Source: Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs of the Czech Republic

Tab. 2: The five most frequent nationalities of non-EU foreigners registered MLSA and their composition by gender (31st 12th 2010)

	men	women
Ukraine	25151	16988
Russia	1672	1986
Mongolia	1493	2055
Moldavia	2206	1291
Vietnam	2173	959

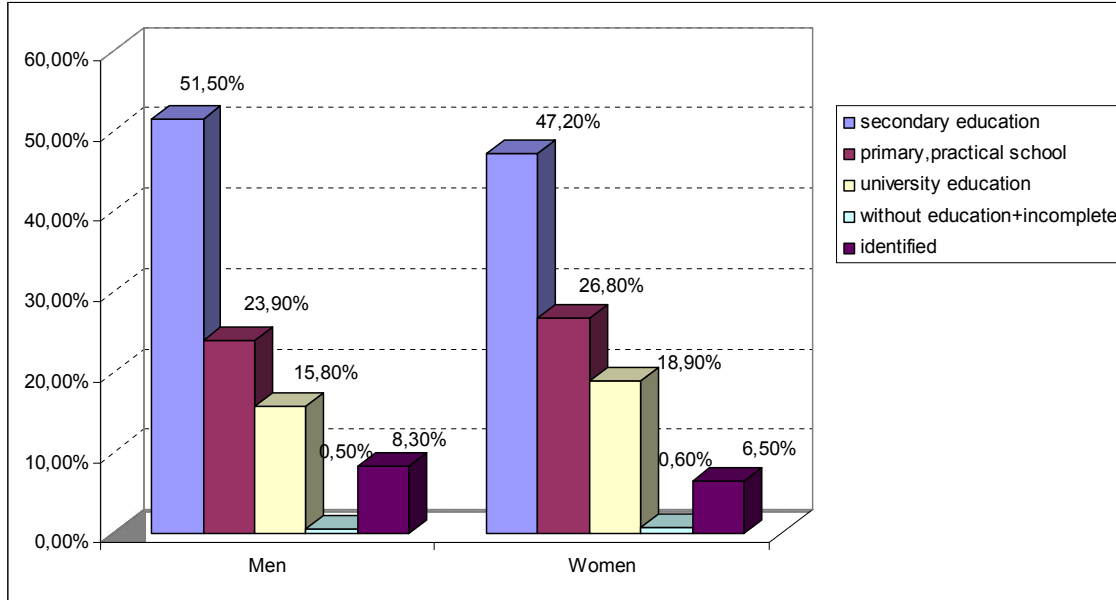
Source: Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs of the Czech Republic

The structure by gender showed differences compared to the group of foreigners from the EU: the distribution by gender is very balanced, even in the case of Russia and Mongolia there were employed more women than man.

MLSA has data on the highest educational attainment of foreign workers. These data are shown in Figure 4. Both genders are characterized by more than one-quarter representation of persons with incomplete or basic (practical) education, women were slightly more than men. In comparison with the citizens of the Czech Republic can be a quarter of the lowest levels of education considered high (citizens of the Czech Republic, the share of people with this type of education was around 16 %). Most foreigners both women and men in 2010 had completed secondary education (compared with the Czech Republic's numbers were also lower). This is not true for the proportion of foreigners who possess a university education: women exceeded the share of university-educated foreign men. Relative

distribution of foreign education certainly influenced by the fact that a relatively large share of foreigners in the category identified

Fig. 4: Educational attainment by gender according to records MLSA (31st 12th 2010)



Source: Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs of the Czech Republic, author modification

According to Czech Statistical Office (CSO) data we can compare the number of foreigners registered by the MLSA education, respectively difference between "supply and demand". As supply may be considered foreigners by education level, which reached, as demand can be considered the interest on foreigners by the required education. Demand exceeds supply in the case of the two lowest types of education: foreigners with these types of education in the Czech Republic were less than what was required of them. Greater differences occurred while in men than in women. In contrast, demand exceeding supply in the case of foreigners with secondary and university education.

The above described facts can be interpreted in such a way that for foreigners with higher education is not on the Czech labor market enough seats. From this we can conclude that these foreigners with higher education probably work on the places for persons with lower education, where, by contrast, demand exceeds supply. Furthermore, it can be concluded that a large number of foreigners is employed in poorly paid jobs and low social status, in addition to sectors that are more subject to economic crises.

Conclusion

International migration is increasingly devoted to scientific research and in recent years has become a part of their analysis also the participation of women in migratory processes. There is more talk about the feminization of migration. In the second half of the 20th century labour migration was dominated by men, women usually migrated as wives and dependents. Currently, there is a clear increase in labor migration of skilled and highly qualified women.

Statistical data illustrating gender structure of immigrants in the Czech Republic show a large proportion of women with secondary education, and even predominant proportion of women with a university education. Although it is among migrant women, a large percentage of professionals, stay out of the spotlight more detailed statistics and research. Existing studies focus on those professions that are traditionally performed almost exclusively by women. This approach does not reflect the reality of migration, but reproduces existing stereotypes. Yet it is gender-sensitive labor migration of women's studies can capture the diversity of migration experiences of women and men.

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