

Migration and Integration in the European Union – Facts, Figures, Challenges and Policy Responses



THE EASTERN BORDERS OF THE EUROPEAN UNION IN MIGRATION PARADIGM(S)

Warsaw

March 26, 2019

Vasile Cucerescu

ECSA Moldova

EU POLICY AND LAW ON MIGRATION



- Shared competence (TFEU, art. 2-6)
- Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (art. 79 & art. 80)
- Legislative developments:
 - The Global Approach to Migration and Mobility (GAMM), 2011
 - European Agenda on Migration (EAM), 2015
 - Various packages (each year) during 2015-2019: legal and illegal migration: relocation, resettlement, migrant smuggling, fingerprinting, return, refugee crisis, integration, smart borders, asylum, Dublin reform, solidarity and management of migration flows, visa policy, visa reciprocity, visa liberalization, and the last, managing migration in 2019
- Problem-based approach

CONCERNS



- E. Collet (2015):
- invest in leadership
- improve coordination
- invest in human resources
- develop end-to-end monitoring and evaluation processes
- identify and utilize benchmarks for success that meet practical – and not just formal – standards and take specific, national contexts into account

EASTERN BORDERS ROUTE



- Approach to legal and illegal practices:
- *Challenging* aspects
- *Positive* aspects

- Hard borders control

- Illegal border crossings between January-December 2018 (997 cases):
- Top 5 migrants' countries of origin:
 - Vietnam (370)
 - Iraq (90)
 - Russia (82)
 - Ukraine (82)
 - Turkey (66)
- In total more than 70 countries from all over the world

EB COUNTRIES AND NEIGHBOURS



Distances	Russia	Belarus	Ukraine	Moldova	Total
Finland	1309				1309
Estonia	324				324
Latvia	332	161			493
Lithuania	261	640			901
Poland	210	418	535		1163
Slovakia			97		97
Hungary			128		128
Romania			601	683	1284
Total	2436	1219	1361	683	5699

EB: DIMENSIONS



- **Complex border:**
- **political border:**
 - between the EU and RU, BY, UA and MD
- **cultural border:**
 - complicated to make a clear delimitation, the borders do not always correspond to identity/linguistic borders; borders were shaped in the result of the WWII; Finns in North-Western RU; Poles in BY and UA; Romanians, Hungarians and Slovaks in UA; MD – 2nd Romanian state, outside the EU; Russians in EE, LV and LT
- **civilizational border (the end of Europe):**
 - the East – “the barbarians”, “the Mongols” or “the Russians”; “the civilized world” and “the uncivilized world” lost its validity due to imprecise cultural borders: dislocated people (Russians to the West, e.g. EE, LV and LT) and re-moved borders (by the Soviets to the West, e.g. BY, UA and innumerable annexations of MD);
 - new curtain? dramatically different standards of living!
- **geopolitical border:**
 - bridge between 2 geopolitical projects: Euro-Atlantic (the EU and the USA) and Euro-Asiatic (Russia); sensitive borders – division (fragmentation) of nations that live on both sides of the borders

EASTERN BORDERS ROUTE: CROSSINGS



- Irregular migration
- Dynamics of illegal border crossings:

2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
1050	1050	1050	1600	1300	1275	1927	1384	872	1084

- balanced numbers (excepting the pick of crisis)
- about a quarter from neighbouring countries (others from worldwide, especially the CIS and Asia)
- most crossed borders: PL-UA & RO-UA
- non-regional migrants: Afghans – HU-UA, Vietnamese – LV-RU, Afghans and Syrians – FI-RU (Arctic route)

EASTERN BORDERS ROUTE: COMMON



- Peculiarities:
- economic migrants
- naturalization for pecuniar reasons

- abuse of legal travel channels than illegal crossings, chiefly by citizens of the CIS
- smuggling of excise goods: cigarettes, alcohol, fuel and stolen cars

- immigrants from the East (EaP, RU and Central Asia) reside in: DE, IT, ES, PL, CZ and the Baltic states (top countries of origin are RU & UA)

EB-RAN: INDICATORS



- **Eastern Borders Risk Analysis Network (2016)**
 - EaP + Schengen associates: NO, FI, EE, LV, LT, PL, SK, HU, RO
- Indicators for irregular migration:
 - detections of illegal border crossing between BCPs
 - detections of illegal border crossing at BCPs
 - refusals of entry
 - detections of illegal stay
 - asylum applications
 - detections of facilitators
 - detections of fraudulent documents

EB-RAN: JAN-MAR 2018



Indicator	EU Totals	EU MS (eastern land borders only)	% of EU Total	Only EaP Countries
Facilitators	2 542	5	0.2%	17
Clandestine entries	970	15	1.5%	:
Illegal border crossings between BCPs	20 422	112	0.5%	:
Persons using fraudulent documents	4 755	719	1.5%	187
Applications for asylum	103 621	2 705	2.6%	234
Illegal stay	87 402	4 848	5.5%	:
Effective returns	36 450	8 355	23%	:
Returns decision issued	61 678	10 747	17%	:
Refusals of entry	45 367	22 104	49%	13 821

MIGRATION: DEVELOPMENT & FUTURE



- Development of migration in 2019 (Risk Analysis for 2019):
 - the likely (prevention activities by transit countries determine arrivals in the EU, border management will continue to be tested, systematic border checks will require further sources)
 - the possible (sub-Saharan migrants could lead to new record in arrivals in the EU, exodus from Syria's Idlib region could trigger a new uncontrollable migration wave, migratory pressure from Central and South America)
 - the unknown (incomplete information, threats of terrorism-related issues)
- Migration drivers for the future:
 - economic drivers in countries of origin; economic drivers in countries of destination; demography; geographical distance, trade and globalisation; network effects; new forms of international mobility; climate change; policies
 - shifts in migration paradigm could occur and are likely to modify them in the future

EB-MIGRATION MANAGEMENT



- Migration management:
 - alongside with other policy areas, it belongs to cooperation instruments between the European Union and its border neighbours (including neighbours of the neighbours)
- Migration management approach:
 - intergovernmental cooperation (focus), a normal process in a globalizing world (perception of migration), being proactive (key aim) and a more holistic approach including development and human rights (key notion)
 - applied by the EU with bilateral and multilateral instruments of cooperation
 - European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP), Eastern Partnership Policy (EaP), A Global Strategy for the European Union's Foreign and Security Policy (EUGS)
 - complex external measures for preventing and solving migration problems; EU partners – transboundary aquifers; cross-border cooperation – key priority in enhancing border and migration management

CONCLUSIONS



- **Eastern borders:**
 - accessible – traveling, shopping, asylum, etc.
 - permeable (illicit activities): abuse of legal travel channels, illegal border crossings, smuggling of excise goods, etc.
 - economic immigrants (EaP, the CIS and Asia)
 - migration in both directions: non-EU ➔ EU, EU ➔ non-EU (ethnic Russians of the Baltic states)
 - migration management:
 - ✦ more comprehensive and sustained engagement of all parties
 - ✦ visa regime should become humane
 - ✦ development of global border dialogue
 - ✦ migration governance
 - Schlechtesgränzen- Rechtegränzen:
 - ✦ political/geopolitical border (“Schlechtesgränzen”, bad, incorrect, unnatural) vs. cultural/civilizational border (“Rechtegränzen”, good, correct, natural); may be conducive to potential conflicts with/without the will of the EU