

Lecture 9

Migration II: Types of migration

Migration of the highly qualified (I)

- **Migration of the highly qualified has flourished during the 1990s:**
 - Basically in sectors such as finance, banks, insurance, and business services
 - But increasingly also in fashion, design and R&D
 - The main beneficiaries has been the financial centres and large urban areas of the Continent (London, Paris, Frankfurt, Berlin, Madrid, Milan, Amsterdam)
 - Increasing importance of airport hubs
 - Recruitment in many of these sectors is increasingly happening at a European, if not global, level

Migration of the highly qualified (II)

- **One of the triggers of the increased mobility has been the implementation of the principle of free mobility of labour in the SEM.**
 - No longer are work or residence permits needed for EU nationals who live abroad
 - Cultural and linguistic barriers are now less important for these groups
 - Better prepared and better travelled generations
 - Mutual recognition of qualifications
- **But also process of globalization...**

Migration of the highly qualified (III)

- **Process of globalization:**
 - Restructuring of large companies (international M&As)
 - Radical change in the profile of the European migrant
 - In contrast to the low-skilled worker from Southern Europe...
 - We now have highly qualified young professionals
 - This migration is however tiny in numbers (5.5 million EU nationals living outside their country, in comparison with 12 million in the early 1970s)

Migration of the low-skilled and clandestines (I)

- **Migration at the lower end of the scale has been taken over by people from outside the EU**
 - Immigrants escaping poverty to the East and South of the EU and hoping to find ‘Eldorado’ Europe
 - In comparison, the migration of the European low skilled has been negligible
- **Main destination is low-value added service jobs**
 - Pay in these sectors is often so low that European workers cannot or do not compete for these jobs with immigrants from outside the EU

Migration of the low-skilled and clandestines (II)

- **Migration is becoming a truly global phenomenon**
 - Not only is western Europe receiving more immigrants from outside the EU than in the 1980s...
 - But the regions of origin of the migrants are increasingly diversified
- **Several waves:**
 - Fall of the Berlin Wall: Eastern Europeans
 - First wave: Poles, Czechs, and Hungarians into Germany and other European destinations
 - Followed by former-Yugoslavs, Albanians, Romanians, Bulgarians, Ukrainians, and Russians

Migration of the low-skilled and clandestines (III)

- **Several waves (II):**
 - South/North flows increasing since 1995:
 - Northern and Sub-Saharan Africans
 - Latin Americans
 - Central and South East Asians
 - Chinese
 - Situation similar to that of the US
 - Although European borders are more difficult to police
 - Most migration is likely to be illegal
 - Overstaying visas
 - Entering the EU through its Eastern Border
 - Making perilous Mediterranean sea crossings
 - Illegal immigration increasingly in the hands of gangs and crime syndicates

Migration of the low-skilled and clandestines (IV)

- **Sectors benefited by migration:**
 - Low-value added services: cleaners, waiters, hotel, and chamber maids
 - Construction
 - Labour-intensive agriculture
 - The frequent use of clandestines make them easy prey for exploitation
 - Informal sector
 - From working as street sellers...
 - to criminal activities.

Refugees and asylum seekers (I)

- **Boom of refugees and asylum seekers since the end of the 1980s**
 - As a result of increasing conflict and of political persecution elsewhere in the world
 - But also, some claim, as a result of the increasing differences in wealth
- **Countries of destination:**
 - Germany at first (more than 100,000 asylum applications per year at the beginning of the 1990s)
 - The UK since (more than 100,000 applications in the year 2000)
 - Belgium, Ireland, and the Netherlands with the highest relative weight

Refugees and asylum seekers (II)

- **The inclusion of restrictive legislation across Europe have contributed to stem the flow**
 - Extension (and co-ordination) of visa requirement to a large number of countries (Schengen)
 - Restriction of asylum rights to national of countries which have not signed the United Nations Conventions on Refugees and on Human Rights
 - Co-ordination of asylum applications across Europe

Asylum applications in selected EU countries

	1985	1988	1992	1996	1999
Belgium	5,387	4,510	17,675	12,433	35,778
France	28,925	34,352	28,872	17,405	30,830
Germany	73,832	103,076	438,191	117,333	95,113
Netherlands	5,644	7,486	20,346	22,857	39,286
Sweden	14,500	19,595	84,018	5,774	11,771
UK	6,200	5,740	32,300	29,640	70,410
EU	159,180	210,740	672,380	227,800	352,380

Source : EUROSTAT data.