

GLOBALIZATION PROCESSES AND REASONS FOR MIGRATION OF THE POPULATION OF AZERBAIJAN TO EUROPE

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Abstract

Political and social changes at the end of the 20th and beginning of the 21st century radically changed the socio-economic situation not only in the post-Soviet space, but throughout the world. One of the clearest manifestations of such changes was the active migration of the population, in which millions of people were forced to migrate from one state to another, thereby becoming involved in the process of globalization. Unlike developed countries that experienced a migration boom long before, the Republic of Azerbaijan faced particularly intense migration flows. In this context, the subject of the study is the study of migration from Azerbaijan to Europe after gaining independence.

Within the framework of the created theoretical model, an analysis of migration from Azerbaijan to European states, especially to Germany, was carried out, as well as the reasons for migration from Azerbaijan to Europe and the integration process were assessed. Under the conditions of economic and demographic crises in Azerbaijan, population migration can be a fairly accurate indicator of the depth of these crises; on the other hand, effective regulation of migration contributes to solving both economic and demographic problems faced by Azerbaijan.

Key words: azerbaijan , europe ,globalization, migration, economic motives

1. Introduction

Mankind has observed migration processes throughout history. Only the nature, content and specificity of these processes have changed over time. Namely natural resources and military-political factors of migration were of special importance in the early stages of history, while in the twentieth century the standard of human

life, acquired a huge dimension. In modern society, migration processes have become a very widespread and socio-economically important phenomenon. Every year about 2-3% of the planet's inhabitants participate in these processes. In other words, modern migration has become a more dynamic and complex phenomenon related not only to socio-economic reasons.

People's willingness and ability to act are shaped by a number of factors, including socio-economic, political, ethnic, religious, environmental, demographic and others. The study of migration processes is especially relevant in the 21st century, when there are unprecedented social upheavals, economic crises and radical historical transformations that require a shift in political paradigms. In addition, spatial movements have begun to play an increasingly prominent role not only in the life of all societies, but also in the life of an individual.

This has determined the relevance of studying migration processes, their nature, causes and aspects in the historical context. Migration processes have often led to the disruption of the historically established ethno-cultural balance in different countries, as well as generated conflicts and contradictions between states. In the globalizing world, migration has become a threat not only to the security of individual states, but also to the security of society and individuals. This has put the migration problem in the center of public attention and prompted researchers of various scientific directions to study population migration in more detail, and on the basis of the obtained results it was possible to develop prognostic recommendations to improve the effectiveness of migration policy of the Republic of Azerbaijan taking into account modern migration processes.

2. Literature Review

At the 45th session of the UN International Law Commission, the special rapporteur on the legal rules of international migration, G. Pambu-Chivunda, recognized the need to develop a concept of international migration.[1] However, he did not formulate the concept of "migration", but instead proposed to replace it with the term "population movement". According to him, such a substitution would allow, on the one hand, to consider the phenomenon of migration in all its diversity and, on the other hand, to develop a general idea that would reflect the dynamics of migration. However, his report did not contain any arguments justifying the use of the term "international population movement".

Swiss international lawyer R. Perrucu was one of those who emphasized the absence of an agreed term "migration" in international law. However, he did not give a specific definition of migration, but only drew attention to the subject composition of migration: refugees, displaced persons and economic migrants. In his last work he tried to explain the concept of international migration: it is a temporary or permanent relocation of people to another country, leaving their country of origin or permanent residence [2]

In its original meaning, “migration” was also related to the English verb “migrate” - to walk, to travel. Some sources interpret the term in a broad and narrow sense. In the narrow sense, migration was defined as leaving a permanent place of residence, “immigration”, and in the broad sense, the movement of people within or between countries, regardless of time, source, purpose or duration. Literally, “migration is a series of acts of change of residence.”[3] Ravenstein was the author of one of the first in-depth theoretical studies of migration[4] .

Population migration has not only played a major role in the socio-economic and demographic development of many countries of the world, but also acted as one of the important factors in the functioning of the entire world economy as an object of international regulation[5].

In addition to economic motives, the process of international migration is also conditioned by political, ethnic, legal, cultural, family and other features.[6].

3. Development of Azerbaijan’s relations with European countries

Europe, which is a center with special geopolitical weight and economic potential and plays an important role in the processes of the modern world, rightfully occupies a priority place in Azerbaijan’s foreign policy. Azerbaijan’s interests in Europe are realized through both broad bilateral relations and multilateral diplomatic channels.

The establishment of mutually beneficial cooperation and friendship with all States of the world, including the largest and most authoritative countries of Western Europe, is of great political and international significance for the Republic of Azerbaijan, which is on the path to independence. The political significance of these relations is due to the fact that European States have the opportunity to provide comprehensive assistance to Azerbaijan’s successful representation in all international and regional organizations of which Azerbaijan is a member and its integration into the international security and economic system. system. On the other hand, these states have the opportunity to exert significant influence on the implementation of OSCE principles and decisions related to the settlement of the Armenian-Azerbaijani, Nagorno-Karabakh conflict and the establishment of peace and security in the Caucasus region. The role of these countries in the reflection of unfounded claims of certain states regarding the status of the Caspian Sea is indisputable.[7].Mutually beneficial cooperation and friendship between Azerbaijan and European states is also conditioned by very important economic factors.

From this point of view, first of all, European countries have a very strong potential for the development of Azerbaijan’s natural and geographical resources, and thus for the intensive development of the state’s economy. They have great financial opportunities, advanced technologies, important interstate economic and political ties all over the world. These states can be useful partners of our country not only in development of Azerbaijan’s oil resources and supplies to the world

market, but also in reconstruction of other important branches of petrochemistry, oil machine building, metallurgy, processing industry. This entire system of political and economic factors has necessitated the establishment of active and productive relations between the independent Azerbaijani state and European countries.

The development of Azerbaijan's relations with European countries positively influences the realization of fundamental reforms in the public and private sectors, as well as the creation of a modern market economy and the attraction of foreign investments. It should be noted that European countries act as the main export market for Azerbaijan.

In addition, Azerbaijan benefits greatly from mutually beneficial cooperation with European countries in the process of developing its civil society.

In December 1991, the state independence of Azerbaijan was recognized by England, and in January 1992 by France, Germany and Italy, and diplomatic relations were established at the beginning of the same year. France opened its embassies in Azerbaijan in March 1992, Germany in September and Great Britain in September 1993. Azerbaijan opened its diplomatic representations first in Germany (September 1992), then in Great Britain (January 1992) and France (October 1994). After the establishment of diplomatic relations, the heads of state and government of the Republic of Azerbaijan and Western European countries took appropriate steps to improve bilateral relations and signed a number of documents regulating bilateral relations.

“Contract of the Century” on Caspian oil production, signed by the Azerbaijan State Oil Company on September 20, 1994, with a consortium in which Western companies were widely represented, brought cooperation between European states and Azerbaijan to a new level.[8] However, the commissioning of the Azerbaijani section of the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan main export pipeline on May 25, 2005, brought the deepening of Azerbaijan's political and economic ties with Western countries and mutually beneficial cooperation to a qualitatively new level. The opening ceremony of the “Pipeline” The opening ceremony of the Pipeline [9] was attended by representatives of various levels of the governments of Great Britain, Italy and Norway, and the heads of state and government of France, England, Norway and other countries sent congratulatory messages to the President of Azerbaijan on the realization of this great economic project.

This confirms that European states attach special importance to cooperation with Azerbaijan.

In addition to bilateral relations with European countries, Azerbaijan is also developing multilateral relations within the EU and other European organizations. Relations between Azerbaijan and the EU were established more than 25 years ago. The first contacts started in 1991 within the framework of TACIS technical assistance programs for CIS countries.

The basis of relations is the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement signed in Luxembourg on April 22, 1996 and entered into force on July 1, 1999.[10] In

2009, Azerbaijan joined the Eastern Partnership integration program initiated by the EU for greater rapprochement with post-Soviet countries. The most important achievement within this program was the easing of visa regime between Baku and Schengen countries. In addition, the EU has become the country's main trade partner, accounting for 48.6% of Azerbaijan's total trade turnover. More than 26 ministries and departments of the country have benefited from the joint project. [11] Thus, the Republic of Azerbaijan pursues a purposeful foreign policy in developing multilateral relations with European states and takes consistent steps to protect its national interests.

This continues to be one of the strategic interests in the energy sector in relations between Azerbaijan and the EU.

Azerbaijan's economy is based on oil and gas production, and in the current geopolitical conditions, the problem of diversifying gas supply sources and reducing energy dependence on Russia is more important than ever for the EU. In this context, Europe is pinning high hopes on the Southern Gas Corridor project, in which the main role is assigned to Azerbaijan and the opening of which was announced in December 2020. The pipeline runs through Georgia, Turkey, Greece and Italy, connecting the Caspian Sea with the EU. Also, according to Baku-based political scientist B. Aslanbeyli, "Azerbaijan is currently the largest economy in the South Caucasus, as well as a gateway to Central Asia.

It is important for the EU to raise its status in these regions. For this purpose, it can be beneficial to develop relations in the Azerbaijan-Georgia-Turkey triangle of cooperation." [12] Today, Europe needs a supplier of alternative energy sources, and Azerbaijan is vitally interested in investments that can stimulate the country's economy. Therefore, both sides are determined to improve relations and bring them to a new level. Both sides are making every effort to strengthen partnership relations.

4. Reasons for migration from Azerbaijan to Europe and the integration process

After Azerbaijan's independence, most of those who decided to immigrate to foreign countries turned their eyes to Turkey, post-Soviet countries, and especially Russia. The Western countries were much more difficult: there were slums, visa regime and strict immigration rules, and the labor market was very saturated with people from other countries. The West could not be a region where Azerbaijanis could earn money to send regularly to their families back home. Here Azerbaijani immigrants faced a difficult dilemma: To leave almost permanently with their families to Western countries and to think about integration into local communities. This became a very serious problem for Azerbaijanis who were not adapted to life in the diaspora, isolated from their homeland. Therefore, only those who are self-confident, have relevant knowledge, including the language of the host country,

and are inclined to take such a step for political or other reasons, decide to move to Western countries.

In the first decade of independence, mainly more educated, mostly Russian-speaking young residents of the Azerbaijani capital, as well as representatives of opposition parties and organizations who had a chance to obtain the status of political emigrants or asylum seekers migrated to Western countries.

Later these two groups of immigrants (political emigrants and young people) were joined by other residents of Azerbaijan. Due to the deterioration of living conditions in Russia in recent years, more and more people have been forced to seek work in other parts of the world, including European countries.[13]

The heterogeneous social structure of Azerbaijani immigrants has also affected the problem of integration. A small group of businessmen do not worry about finances and see Western countries, especially European countries, as a field for a successful career. They find contract work in foreign oil companies or open their own companies.

They become businessmen in one or another country, while such Azerbaijanis remain quite isolated from other compatriots and do not experience serious problems of integration into the Western society that accepts them. This is largely due to the fact that they often have the opportunity to visit their homeland and therefore do not experience feelings of nostalgia.

In addition, the youth of Azerbaijan, who found themselves in the West due to their educational programs, do not face serious problems in terms of integration and employment, this new generation of Azerbaijanis who have adapted to life in a different environment, know the local languages, try to make a career in the conditions of Western civilization and at the same time change their country of residence quite easily.

Problems with integration are also observed among other groups of Azerbaijani immigrants. First of all, these problems are observed among political immigrants, especially among representatives of the older generation. As a rule, it is difficult for them to learn the language of the country of residence, to get used to their new status, they have very strong nostalgia for their homeland.

The worst option for integration is Azerbaijanis who found themselves in Western countries in search of work and a better life. They are mostly from rural areas of Azerbaijan, with little or no knowledge of foreign language, no connections and support from the host country and no large funds to run their own business.

These are labor migrants arriving in Western countries in various ways, including illegally. Their main problem is employment. As a rule, the mechanism of entry is as follows: for a certain fee, Azerbaijanis or Turks living in European countries send the future immigrant an invitation to Azerbaijan (1-3 months) to obtain a legal short-term tourist visa. Of course, such a visa does not entitle the immigrant to official employment. But this is a problem that is solved simply: Azerbaijani immigrants start working illegally in the enterprises of Turks or other Azerbaijanis,

avoiding police attention and contacts with the local population. In case of danger, they move to other EU countries and continue their illegal residence.

They try to obtain official status under the guise of “victims” of political or ethnic oppression.[13] Besides employment, another serious problem of such immigrants is the lack of contacts with the local population, very closed life in their own society, especially in Turkish society, lack of family and the resulting strong nostalgia. Especially those who come illegally or have connections with criminal organizations, so they have to avoid contacts not only with local law enforcement agencies but also with local residents. The majority of illegal immigrants from Azerbaijan to European countries live in Germany and the Netherlands, as well as in France and Sweden.

5. Reasons for migration from Azerbaijan to Germany

The fact that Germany is a powerful state in Europe opened the way for the immigration of Azerbaijanis to this country. The mass influx of Azerbaijanis to Germany occurred in the early 90s of the 20th century. The reasons for this flow were the Nagorno-Karabakh problem, the increase in the number of refugees and the difficult economic situation.[14] The unification of Germany in 1989, the collapse of the Soviet Union and Azerbaijan’s independence marked the beginning of a new era in German-Azerbaijani relations. This period affected the activities of Azerbaijanis here. Sending Azerbaijani students on educational programs to Germany, migration of Azerbaijani doctors, engineers, builders, technologists and other specialists to this country became one of the main events of the years of independence. According to Eurostat, one of the EU member states, Germany was the main recipient country, with 15,509 Azerbaijani citizens living there in 2010.

In the same year, in the EU alone, the authorities of Member States discovered that more than 800 Azerbaijani nationals were illegally staying in their country. It should be noted that this figure only includes persons reported to national immigration authorities and is therefore not intended to measure the total number of irregular migrants in a country[15] A total of 1,445 people with Azerbaijani citizenship returned from the EU between 2014 and 2019 after being notified of their departure to Azerbaijan. The main country where people forcibly left was Germany[16] According to the German Federal Office for Migration and Refugees, 4,750 Azerbaijani citizens applied for asylum in Germany in 2016, three times more than in 2015. Less than 10 percent (459) of applications are granted, including political refugees and “protected status holders” who have been granted a residence permit but must reapply every year[17]

In 2017, the meetings held with the presidential delegation of the State Migration Service of Azerbaijan in Berlin discussed friendly and partnership relations between the two countries at a high level. The parties agree on the existing level of cooperation in scientific, technical, environmental and cultural spheres, in such issues as investments, taxes, finance, customs, judicial system,

training of specialists. They spoke about the desire to expand cooperation in the field of migration. It was stated that the signing of the Protocol of Implementation by reaching an agreement with Germany within the framework of the “Agreement between the Republic of Azerbaijan and the European Union on the readmission of unauthorized residents” will be a transitional stage of cooperation in the field of immigration.

In 2019, 3166 people fled Azerbaijan and sought asylum in other countries. This is about 0.032% of all residents. The most targeted countries were Germany, France and Netherlands. Overall, 80 percent of asylum applications are rejected. Refugees in Finland and Russia were the most successful, with a total of 1,280 people fleeing from Azerbaijan to Germany. With a total of 58 positive decisions, 5.05 percent of all applications were accepted[19]

Table. Asylum applications of refugees from Azerbaijan (2019)[20]

	New applicants	accepted	Not accepted	acceptance rate	Repeat applicants	accepted	Not accepted	acceptance rate
Germany	1.280	58	1.09	5.1	518	39	1.551	2.5
France	468	36	181	16.6	226	88	136	39.3
Holland	375	5	11	31.3	49	0	21	0

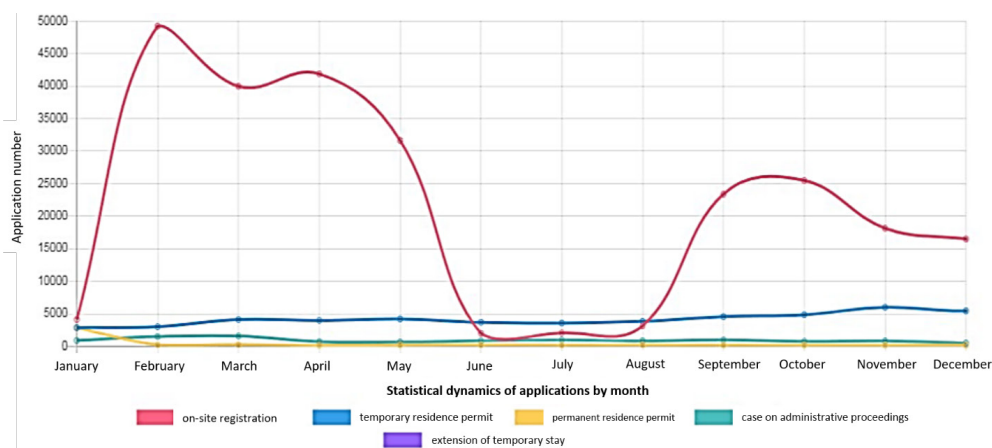
Azerbaijanis wishing to immigrate to Germany apply not only for asylum, but also for medical or engineering practice, for education as a student, for treatment in case of illness and for other purposes. One of the reasons for the increase of immigrants to Germany is the large number of people who have migrated to Germany from Turkey to work, which makes it easier for Azerbaijani citizens to integrate with Turkish people and integrate into the country.

Close cooperation has been established with leading German universities and the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) within the framework of the implementation of the “State Program for Education of Azerbaijani Youth Abroad”.

In this context, the number of Azerbaijanis studying in German universities in the 2016-2017 academic year amounted to 240. The German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) has been operating in Azerbaijan since 1997. The fact that university education in Germany is free or tuition fees are low compared to many countries is considered one of the main reasons for choosing this country for education[21] When considering the statistical dynamics of those who applied to the State Migration Service for residence in Azerbaijan in 2021 by month (Figure 1), it can be seen that the number of people who applied for employment in relation to administrative procedures is more stable than in 2020.

Similarly, there were no significant changes in the number of persons applying for permanent residence permits and temporary residence permits. Applications of foreigners and stateless persons for registration at the place of residence in the Republic of Azerbaijan increased compared to 2020. The reasons for these differences are the fact that the borders were closed due to the 2nd Karabakh war in 2020 and the pandemic. For both reasons, restrictions were imposed on entry and exit from the country.

Figure 1: Dynamics of applications to the State Migration Service of the Azerbaijan Republic in 2021 by months



Source: State Migration Service of Azerbaijan. <https://migration.gov.az/az/statistics>, date of access: 25.03.2022

When we consider Azerbaijani citizens who migrated to Germany for work, it is usually seen that former labor migrants lost their jobs due to stricter regulations, termination of employment contracts concluded with them by their employers, immigrated to other neighboring countries. either continued to live there or were forced to leave the EU territory, facing the strict immigration laws of these countries.

6. Conclusion

Speaking about the migration process, it should be emphasized that special attention should be paid to the organization of Azerbaijanis resettled in other countries. This issue gained special importance after the restoration of the independence of the Republic of Azerbaijan in 1991.

Migration processes, which have always played an important role in the history of mankind, have undoubtedly become one of the prominent problems in

the system of international relations. The geography and scale of migration has expanded, classified by criteria - legal and illegal, voluntary and forced, permanent and temporary, refugees and asylum seekers, family reunification and brain drain. New types of migration have emerged - migration of highly qualified personnel and unskilled people, mainly due to illegal migration. Forced migration trends have increased and migration has attracted attention as one of the factors of social change in the world. Undoubtedly, migration plays an important role in shaping demographic processes and ethno-cultural composition.

Against the background of universal changes and significant events in the world, there is an intensive increase in migration flows. As a rule, immigrants seek a good life, safe and comfortable work. As a result, from year to year the number of those wishing to become citizens of a stable, developed country, where security is provided at a high level, in search of a decent life increases. Other parts of the world is an integral part of the global processes taking place in the modern world the influx of labor force, illegal immigrants, refugees from armed conflict zones.

In the conditions of economic and demographic crises in Azerbaijan, population migration can be a fairly accurate indicator of the depth of these crises; on the other hand, effective regulation of migration contributes to the solution of both economic and demographic problems that Azerbaijan faced after the collapse of the USSR.

This may be one of the important processes that can be found. The sharp increase in migration processes is related to the strong social upheavals experienced by the population due to the collapse of the USSR. Migrants experienced contradictory consequences and reflected the complexity of the period in which they lived.

Among the important aspects of the formation of a new model of migration policy in Azerbaijan are the following:

- Amending the legislation on migration of Azerbaijani citizens abroad through the adoption of the Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan on Migration, improving the national legal framework, preparing conditions for participation in international legal instruments on the protection of immigrants' rights ;

- creating incentives for migrants who have gone abroad, and above all for highly skilled migrants, to return to their homes;

- Migration policy should not be solely in the hands of the state. The most important element of this policy should be the activity of various public structures, associations and organizations acting in the interests of immigrants, migrants, repatriates and representatives of the diaspora.

- The activities of diaspora organizations in relation to Azerbaijani immigrants in European countries and especially in Germany should be expanded. In this range:

- Diaspora organizations should be involved in facilitating the integration of new immigrants into the host society;

- Diaspora organizations are used to identify illegal immigrants and can assist them in legalizing their status or returning to their home country.

His committee (State Commissioner for Diaspora Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan) should utilize the potential of our citizens living abroad in accordance with the national interests of our state, at the level of parliaments and congresses, and in the political arena.

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