

## Extended abstract

# CIRCULATION AND INTERNATIONAL CIRCULAR MIGRANTS IN HUNGARY

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### Introduction

The concept of usual place of residence is one of the basic elements of the notion of internal and international migration according to the definition of United Nations. Migration was a non-recurring event what happens rarely during the individual life cycle. But the volume and intensity of migrations has been growing for the epoch of globalisation and the migratory movements have been developing as a sort of events repeated, in fact. Unfortunately, there is scarce information on phenomena interlinked by serial number, which become system of migration. The introduction of repeated and chain migration occurred in the literature as the prototype of migration system. The circulation is a completely fresh idea in the recent literature theoretical. This presentation provides empirical materials based on the registered-type of data erected from the Immigration and Naturalisation Office in Hungary. The main aim of this study is to transform the notion of circulation highly theorised to the practice of statistics, demography and migration studies.

Multiple moves of individuals often show some systematic features, since they include at least two steps. Even the simplest migration system consists of at least two elements. We can mention migration back as the most typical example, which inevitably includes also the preceding migration. If return migration is a regular activity with specific time-related aspects, we can talk about seasonal migration. In another case if economic incentives are involved, we arrive to the notion of long-distance commuting; and, if the purpose of migrations is recreation and gaining new experience, we reach to tourism. In addition, we can presume that both regular and irregular migrations can be, with increasing probability, associated with at least three geographical locations. For such cases we suggest introducing the old-new notion – *circulation*. Circulation refers to a system of multiple, recurrent spatial movements of individuals, while the word *multiple* is as significant as the spatial movement and the system itself.

### Multiple migration – Interlinked migrations

The core of traditional concepts of migration is that they consider it as a non-recurring event. Migration happens rarely during the individual life cycle so it is considered to be an exceptional event. However, from a demographic point of view it is a repeatable event and its parity analysis is a task that can be solved. The growth of volume and intensity of migration processes, moreover the links between them, attracted the attention of scientists even in the 19th Century. Ravenstein claimed that every single significant migration flow – after a certain time period – creates its reflection, the counter-flow. The concept of chain migration developed as the very first idea in the middle of the 20th Century and it can be more or less transformed to the concept of return migration was just linked to it. It is also necessary to

mention that the next step on the way towards the recognition of the phenomenon of circulation was the sporadic application of the concept of repeat migration.

Parallel with more frequent multiple movements in the era of globalisation some other multiple phenomena could also be observable, namely:

- Multiple residence
- Multiple citizenship
- Multiple property occupancy
- Multiple property ownership
- Multiple employment
- Multiple identity
- Multiple partnerships (family, friendly, marital)

### **Circulation and migration within the international movements of Hungary**

In our study we deal with the Hungarian appearance of the abovementioned phenomenon, namely circulation. We examine the number of total immigrants entered Hungary during 2006; how many of those immigrants were already registered by the immigration office in previous years; how do circulating migrants differ by gender, age, family status, citizenship from other single-moved international migrants. In other words, from those who got to the immigrant status for the first occasion. Regarding the territorial relations we examine if there are attractive areas for circular migrants, that is those who return to Hungary prefer to stay in their previous place of residence or they choose a new one.

#### *Data*

Examined data files consist of those foreign citizens' data, which entered Hungary between 2001 and 2006. The figures are taken from the database of the Office of Immigration and Nationality of the Ministry of Justice and Law Enforcement. In 2006 23 569 foreign immigrants entered Hungary. 4084 people have already stayed in Hungary as an immigrant between 2001 and 2005, which means that more than 17% of "new comers" have personal experience of the country (this share could be even higher; we had access to data only since 2001). We could also establish that out of those 4048 return migrants (who were registered as immigrants not for the first time), 91.75% entered the country for the second time, 7.80% for the third time, and 0.45% of them arrived for the fourth time since 2001.

#### *Demographic composition of circular migrants*

In 2006 55,2% of the total number of immigrants were men and 44,8% women. Among circulating migrants this percentage is the following: women 45,8%, men 54,2%. At the same time, the average age of women within circular migrants is lower (30,68) than the average age of men (33,30). If we examine the first immigrants' average age, this difference is smaller, that is 30,47 regarding women and 31,38 regarding men.

Observing the age composition we could declare that among repeated immigrants there is much less children or students (age of 0-24) and elderly people (age of 55-X). The most characteristic age of those who got the immigrant status for more than first time is 25-54. More than half of circular migrants (51,1%) belong to the age group of 20-34. The following age group (35-49) amounts to 22,1%.

Examining the circular migrants according to the parity it can be ascertained that parallel with the increasing parity the circular subpopulation's age structure is growing older. This statement is valid for, mainly to 20-59 years old economically active population. It indirectly strengthens the hypothesis of close relationship between the circulation and the

economic activity. These results are fully evident to the achievement of higher parity is possible only with the possession of the previous migration history.

If we examine the demographic structure regarding the family status, we can allege that the share of single people among the circular migrants is higher than in case of others. It suggests us that this “mobile” way of life is not typical for those who have formal partnerships.

Classification regarding to the citizenship shows us that circulations are more typical for citizens erected from the south and east countries like Romania, Ukraine and Serbia, while citizens of Western European or other more distant countries do not return to Hungary so often. The circulation is more typical for border regions of neighbouring countries and the capital as receiving areas. In case of long geographical distances between certain countries this phenomenon drastically decreases.

### **Preliminary conclusions**

The full scope and comprehensive administrative database indicates that circulation of foreigners in Hungary, as the host country is not an unknown phenomenon. In 2006, more than 17% of all immigrants in Hungary were circular migrants having experience of living conditions in the country due to their previous status of immigrants. In which, since the initial period of 2001, 91.75% of all registered immigrants entered the country for the second time, 7.80% for the third time, and 0.45% of them arrived for the fourth time.

Circulation is most typical for single persons in productive age from Ukraine, Romania and Serbia. Their gender composition corresponds to general sex ratio of immigrants for 2006. However, it is important to note that the average age of circular women is almost three years lower than that of circular men. The group of multiple migrants include a significantly lower number of children, students and elderly than the subpopulation of total immigrants or the population of the country of origin and/or the host country. Most of the circular migrants are aged between 25-54. Therefore we can assume that the primary factors encompassing these groups of population in long-term scale to circulate include the necessity to make money in the host country along with the necessity to continue “usual” living in their country of origin.

The continuation of research is in progress. The data of 2007–2008 will be processed and analysed.