

The Analysis of Immigrant in Europe

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Abstract. Europe has a lengthy and intricate history concerning immigration, as individuals from various regions of the world have migrated to the continent for numerous reasons over the centuries. This migration has occurred both voluntarily and involuntarily. However, in recent years, the issue of immigrants in Europe has become a highly controversial topic, with divergent perspectives and debates. This paper examined the fundamental aspects surrounding the phenomenon of migration to Europe, including a detailed analysis of the origin and characteristics of the migrant population. Additionally, an extensive discussion and investigation of the impact and transformations brought about by this population will be presented. This paper also provided insights into several potential changes and challenges associated with this group, offering specific recommendations to local governments. Furthermore, this paper suggested the implementation of specialized labor training programs and job opportunities that address the underrepresentation of immigrants in specific industries. The extended researched information and detailed suggestions provided by this paper gave the public a clearer understanding of the general status quo of European immigrants and the chances of solving some essential issues that have been bothering the society brought by the group.

Keywords: Europe, immigrants, economic impact.

1. Introduction

Immigrants in Europe are individuals who move to European countries from other regions or countries. Europe has a long history of immigration, with various factors influencing migration patterns such as economic opportunities, political stability, conflicts, and family reunification.

The integration of immigrants into European society is a complex and ongoing process. Many immigrants face challenges such as language barriers, cultural differences, discrimination, and limited access to education and employment in and after the process of migrating. Some European countries have adopted policies and programs to support integration and social cohesion, including language training, vocational programs, and anti-discrimination measures.

Immigration often sparks debates and discussions about national identity, cultural assimilation, security, and economic impact. Immigration in Europe can be controversial due to a variety of reasons. Firstly, immigrants may compete with native-born citizens for jobs and put pressure on wages. This concern is particularly prominent during times of economic downturn when job opportunities are scarce. Secondly, immigration brings cultural diversity to Europe, which can lead to clashes between different values, norms, and traditions. Some individuals may express concerns about the preservation of their national or local culture. Thirdly, there are concerns that immigrants may pose a security threat, particularly in light of terrorist attacks carried out by individuals with radicalized views. Critics argue for stricter border controls and more extensive vetting processes. Moreover, the process of integrating immigrants into the host society can be complex. Language barriers, cultural differences, and discrimination can hinder the successful integration of immigrants, leading to social segregation or alienation. Finally, immigration has often become a key issue in political debates, with some parties taking strong stands either in favor or against immigration. This can further contribute to the controversy surrounding the topic.

Currently, the public is still lacking a clear, systematic, simple demonstration, explanation and suggestions on the questions surrounding the topic of immigration. Specifically, messed up and lost information needed to be gathered, illegal immigrants and the danger of immigrants need ideas and solutions to be solved, which is what this paper is going to fill.

This paper offered an in-depth exploration of the discourse surrounding European immigrants, covering their origins, the transformative journey as they integrate into European society, and the subsequent changes and tangible effects that arise within the host community. Moreover, the study delved into the potential negative ramifications that this process may entail when encountered by European communities. In light of these concerns, the paper provided valuable insights and recommendations aimed at addressing and resolving the potential issues arising from the migration process. Employing an academic tone, this research sought to contribute to the scholarly discourse surrounding immigration dynamics and enhanced understanding of the complex challenges and opportunities associated with European immigrant populations.

Research on immigrants is crucial for several reasons. Firstly, it helps develop policies and programs that support successful integration into European societies. Secondly, it dispels myths and stereotypes surrounding immigration, providing a more accurate understanding of their contributions. Thirdly, it sheds light on factors influencing migration patterns and helps address root causes. Lastly, it contributes to a greater understanding of the benefits and challenges of multicultural societies. Overall, this research on immigrants informs policies, promotes social cohesion, and fosters a more inclusive Europe.

2. Current Situation of Immigrants

2.1. Numbers of Immigrants in Europe

The number of immigrants in Europe has been steadily increasing over the years. However, it is challenging to provide an exact figure due to various factors, including the lack of standardized data collection methods and the distinction between different types of immigrants (e.g., refugees, economic migrants, students, etc.). Additionally, immigration patterns can change over time due to political, economic, and social factors.

According to the European Commission, the official office of the European Union, in 2022, there were in total of 446.7 million citizens in the EU, with which around 23.8 million non-EU citizens living in the EU countries. This represents approximately 5.3% of the total population in those countries. It is important to note that this figure includes both recent migrants and those who have been residing in Europe for some time.

In addition, Europe received a total of 962,200 applications in 2022, with 881,200 being first-time applications. This represents a 52% increase from 2021 and a 38% increase from 2019, indicating a considerable influx of individuals seeking refuge in Europe prior to the COVID era.

2.2. The Major Composition of Immigrants

2.2.1. Eastern Europe

A large number of immigrants in Western European countries come from Eastern European countries such as Poland, Romania, Bulgaria, and Ukraine. These individuals often seek employment opportunities or better living conditions. For example, according to the data from the Pew Research Center, the number of Poland born other EU countries immigrants in the year 2015 was around 3.5 million, most of them were immigrants to Germany, around 1.93 million.

2.2.2. Middle East and North Africa

The conflicts in the Middle East and North Africa, particularly the Syrian civil war, have led to a significant influx of refugees and asylum seekers from countries like Syria, Afghanistan, Iraq, and Libya. From the official report from the EU, since the year 2015, under the policy of EU resettlement schemes, around 115,000 people have found personal protection in the EU, mostly Afghan refugees. In the year 2022, EU Member States resettled approximately 17,300 individuals seeking international protection from non-EU countries. The majority of those resettled were of Syrian nationality, accounting for a significant 63% of the total [1].

2.2.3. Sub-Saharan Africa

Immigration from Sub-Saharan Africa to Europe has been increasing due to factors such as poverty, political instability, and limited economic opportunities. Countries like Nigeria, Senegal, and Mali are often major sources of migrants. In research published by the Pew Research Center in the year 2018, the number of Sub-Saharan African EU living immigrants was around 4.1 million, showing the importance of this group in the European Union [2].

2.2.4. Asia

Immigrants from Asia, including China, India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh, contribute to the diverse composition of Europe's immigrant population. Many come for employment opportunities, education, or family reunification. According to a report published in the Journal of Global Policy and Governance in the year 2013, the population of Asian immigrants to Europe was around 4.1 million, also showing its significance to the EU. While the number of immigrants from Latin America is relatively smaller than in other regions, countries like Spain and Italy have significant immigrant populations from countries like Colombia, Brazil, and Peru [3-5].

3. The Impacts of Immigrants on the Economy

3.1. Labor Market

The impact of immigrants on the labor market in Europe is complex and can vary depending on several factors, including the skills and qualifications of the immigrants, the specific characteristics of the labor market in each country, and the economic conditions at a given time.

3.1.1. Employment

According to the European Commission, the number of non-EU citizens working in labor was 8.84 million, which occupies 4.7% of the total labor force. But at the same time, According to Eurostat data for 2022, the overall employment rate for non-EU citizens aged 20-64 in the EU countries was 61.9%, lower than 77.1% for local EU citizens. This rate varies across different countries, with some immigrants facing higher unemployment rates due to various factors such as language barriers, recognition of qualifications, or discrimination. Immigrants from around the world to Europe fill many jobs in the local market, boosting the manufacturing process.

3.1.2. Skill levels

Immigrants in Europe possess a wide range of skills and qualifications. Some highly skilled immigrants, such as those working in specialized fields like technology, medicine, or academia, can contribute to innovation and economic growth in their host countries. On the other hand, there is also a segment of the immigrant population that may have lower levels of education or skills, which can lead to challenges in finding suitable employment, which was shown in the last bullet point, in which the employment rate of immigrants was actually lower than local citizens [6].

3.1.3. Labor market gaps

23.8 million immigrants have created a large labor force group that can help fill gaps in the labor market. For instance, some European countries have experienced a demand for workers in sectors like healthcare, construction, and agriculture, where immigrants often contribute to meeting workforce needs. This was shown clearly in the data from the European Commission, in which it claims that the representativeness of overall employment of non-EU citizens in accommodation and food service activities reaches 11.3%, also, non-EU citizens occupy 9.1% of employment in the construction industry, showing the importance of migrant labor in basic service industry.

3.2. Economic Growth

3.2.1. Entrepreneurship and business creation

Immigrants are also active in entrepreneurship and business creation in Europe. According to a report from the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), in 2020, approximately 14% of the 18.5 million individuals working in the EU, who were born in another country, were self-employed. Many immigrant entrepreneurs establish businesses, create jobs, and contribute to local economies. They contribute to economic growth by establishing businesses and entrepreneurial ventures in their host countries. They bring innovative ideas, skills, and networks, which can lead to job creation and economic development [7].

3.2.2. Consumption and consumer demand

Immigrants contribute to economic growth also through their consumption patterns. They often contribute to local economies by purchasing goods and services, thereby stimulating demand and supporting local businesses. In a report done by the OECD, it was shown that the average regional income per capita tends to rise by 0.15% when there is a 10% increase in the share of the migrant population. In addition, the impact is more significant in less developed areas, particularly in lower-income countries within the European Union. On the whole, for the 25% of regions with the lowest income levels in a nation, the beneficial influence of migration on per capita incomes is more than double (0.36%). Consequently, migration can facilitate the process of economic growth in underprivileged regions, enabling them to narrow the income gap with the rest of the country and ultimately leading to greater income equality across Europe.

3.2.3. Innovation and knowledge transfer

Highly skilled immigrants, such as scientists, researchers, and professionals, often bring valuable expertise and knowledge to their host countries. They can contribute to innovation, technological advancements, and research and development activities, which drive economic growth.

3.2.4. Tax contributions

Immigrants who participate in the formal economy contribute to tax revenues, which can support public services, infrastructure development, and investment in education and healthcare.

A clear example was the United Kingdom. In a paper published by the economic department of the school of University College London (UCL) in *Economic Journal*, the research indicates that immigrants who have arrived in the UK since 2000 and who have a complete record of their migration history have consistently made positive contributions to the fiscal system, regardless of their country of origin. Between 2001 and 2011, recent immigrants from the A10 countries (Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia, and Slovenia) contributed around 12% more to the fiscal system than they received, resulting in a net fiscal contribution of approximately £5 billion. Similarly, recent European immigrants from other EU countries had a net fiscal contribution of £15 billion, with fiscal payments exceeding transfers received by 64%. Immigrants from countries outside of the EU also made a net fiscal contribution of around £5.2 billion, paying about 3% more into the system than they received.

Consequently, the net fiscal balance of immigration in the UK from 2001 to 2011 was a positive net contribution of approximately £25 billion. This report shows the significant benefits and tax revenue that countries could receive from immigrants and verifies the positive effects of immigrants on the economy [8].

3.2.5. Demographic and workforce dynamics

Europe is facing demographic challenges, including an aging population and declining birth rates. According to the statistics from Eurostat, the average age of immigrants to the EU was 30 years old in the year 2021. This provides EU member countries with valuable young potential workers as the average population age of EU members was 44.4 years old at the same time. Immigrants can help

address these challenges by adding to the working-age population and supporting the sustainability of social welfare systems.

4. Problems Brought by Immigration

4.1. Higher Local Unemployment Rate

Immigrants entering the country may compete with native workers for the same job opportunities, leading to lower wages and job displacement for certain groups, especially in lower-income industries. A recent study done by the International Labour Organization (ILO) claims that migrants in high-income countries experience a wage difference of almost 13% compared to local workers. The disparity in certain nations even reaches a staggering 42%. Additionally, labor migrants often exhibit a greater willingness to accept lower wages or less desirable working conditions compared to those who are locally employed. This can particularly affect low-skilled native workers who may be replaced by immigrants willing to work for lower wages.

4.2. Unstable Security of the Country

The EU has been trying to address the issue of illegal immigration through collective efforts. Initiatives such as the Common European Asylum System, the Dublin Regulation, and the recently proposed Pact on Migration and Asylum aim to establish a fairer and more efficient system for managing immigration flows and preventing unauthorized entry. However, progress has been slow and contentious due to differing priorities and perspectives among member states.

Illegal immigration is a contentious and intricate matter within the European Union (EU), involving the unauthorized entry of individuals into an EU member state without the necessary authorization or documentation. According to the EU's official website, there were a total of 331,400 instances of irregular border crossings in 2022, marking a significant 66% increase compared to the previous year, 2021. Additionally, the number of non-EU citizens found to be unlawfully present in the EU stood at 1.08 million in 2022, reflecting a notable 59% rise from 2021. Furthermore, 422,400 non-EU citizens were instructed to depart from EU territory; however, only 77,530 individuals complied with this order and were subsequently returned in 2022.

For the host countries, illegal immigration can strain social services, create economic competition, and challenge the rule of law. It often generates public debates around issues like national security, social cohesion, and the overall management of migration flows. This has led to varying responses from EU member states, resulting in a patchwork of immigration policies and approaches. In France, a country recently troubled by riots due to a high unemployment rate, the far right's anti-immigration mantra is seeping through a once ironclad political divide between it and mainstream politics. More voices are now embracing a hard line against immigration and blaming immigrants not only for the car burnings but for France's social problems as well.

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4.3. Occupy Government Spending

Limited resources and language barriers can lead some immigrants to overuse public services like healthcare and welfare. This puts strain on government resources and affects overall service efficiency. An Oxford report suggests that for recent immigrants in the UK between 2016 and 2017, the EEA (European Economic Area) migrants have contributed a net fiscal contribution of £4.7bn, while at the same time to a net cost of £9bn for non-EEA migrants [8]. Similar results were also shown in a report from UCL's economic department, suggesting that recent immigrants in the UK between 2000 and 2011 consumed valuable human capital equivalent to £6.8 billion in education

spending [9]. Meanwhile, the EU plans to allocate €34.9 billion (\$38.4 billion) towards border security in its next budget cycle, aiming to manage the influx of migrants attempting to enter the region. The EU's Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) will also see a significant increase in funding, amounting to €9.9 billion for 2021-2027 compared to €3.137 billion in the previous period of 2014-2020.

5. Suggestions

5.1. Reinforcement of Identification and Borderline

It is crucial to acknowledge that, based on the available data indicating figures 4.2 and 4.3, illegal immigrants have significantly disrupted the harmonious functioning of local governments through their illicit presence. Moreover, their repeated violations of border crossing regulations and deliberate destruction of personal identification documents have greatly impeded the timely and efficient processing of their legal status. Consequently, there exists a pressing need for the implementation of a comprehensive foreigner identification system, particularly for immigrants, that can systematically record their personal biological data upon entry into the country in a manner that is resistant to tampering or erasure. Such a system would undoubtedly serve as a valuable tool for law enforcement agencies in facilitating the repatriation process and addressing the issue of illegal migration more effectively.

The continuous enhancement of borderlines necessitates further specialization. Borderline enhancement should be predicated not only on the footprint of immigrants but also on the geographical advantages of a location. For instance, there should be an emphasis on enhancing port security at entrance points situated along the coastline of the Mediterranean. Governments have been actively engaging in these measures for several decades and have made significant progress. However, the world has witnessed numerous tragic failures of illegal border crossings, which are deeply distressing. As a result, it is suggested in this paper that while new and tougher border controls are being implemented, concurrent efforts should also be dedicated to the improvement of humanitarian relief endeavors.

Given the perilous and hazardous methods employed by smugglers, it is imperative to have more efficient and effective rescue operations in place to minimize the number of victims. This proposed approach recognizes the need to address not only the enforcement of border security but also the provision of assistance and protection to individuals undertaking dangerous journeys. By simultaneously bolstering border controls and enhancing humanitarian relief efforts, the overall effectiveness of border management can be significantly improved [10].

The adoption of this approach aligns with the increasing recognition of the complex multifaceted nature of border control challenges. It acknowledges that border security is not solely about preventing unauthorized entry, but also about ensuring the safety and well-being of individuals involved in migration processes. It is imperative for governments and relevant stakeholders to strike a balance between security and humanitarian considerations.

Furthermore, addressing the issue of illegal border crossings requires a holistic and systematic approach that includes both preventive measures and responsive actions. While enhancing border controls acts as a deterrent, it is equally crucial to provide support and assistance to those who find themselves in vulnerable situations. This implies coordinating efforts with relevant international organizations, non-governmental organizations, and humanitarian actors to develop robust rescue and relief mechanisms.

In conclusion, the enhancement process of borderlines should continue, but it must be complemented by greater specialization. Governments should not solely focus on border control measures but also augment efforts in providing humanitarian relief. By investing in more efficient rescue operations, the number of victims involved in dangerous smuggling attempts can be reduced. This proposal recognizes the need to strike a balance between border security and humanitarian

considerations, providing a comprehensive approach to managing border challenges in the modern world.

5.2. Construct Training Programs and Diverse but Aimed Job Offers

The paper highlights that immigrants are increasingly overrepresented in low-skilled job sectors in the last sector, thereby contributing to higher unemployment rates in local labor markets. This phenomenon can largely be attributed to the fact that many immigrants possess limited education and lack specialized skills for employment opportunities. In order to address this issue, it is suggested that governments and local industries establish formal technical schools and training programs, which can effectively redirect a significant portion of the immigrant labor force toward industries experiencing a shortage of workers, thus alleviating labor scarcity.

The implementation of such programs could be facilitated by charging tuition fees to immigrants, thereby reducing the operational costs and resource requirements. At the same time, if the fees were paid by the sectors in need of workers, a higher number of immigrants could readily avail themselves of this pathway. By facilitating the influx of a new, specialized workforce into industries experiencing labor shortages, a proportion of low-skilled job openings would be made available to the local labor market, thereby partially resolving the issue of unemployment.

6. Conclusion

This paper analyzed the current situation of immigrants in Europe, focusing on their composition and impact on the labor market. It concluded that immigrants filled gaps in certain industries but were overrepresented in low-skilled sectors, reducing the demand for domestic labor. The paper also discussed the economic implications, noting immigrants' contributions to economic growth and taxes paid, but acknowledged the high government spending on assistance. It suggested reinforcing identification systems and border security, improving humanitarian relief measures, and creating targeted job opportunities to address the challenges.

Overall, the paper provided an academic examination of the situation and recommended strategies to tackle the discussed challenges, filling the gap between the lack of simple organized data explanation and the lack of novel ideas and solutions to important problems.

The inherent weaknesses and information gaps in the present paper cannot be overlooked. To enhance its quality, it would greatly benefit from the inclusion of more specific data and information pertaining to the precise numbers and ratios of immigrants based on their country or regional origins. Additionally, in order to provide more practical and enduring recommendations, it is essential to offer more comprehensive and detailed suggestions for immediate implementation by local governments. Furthermore, improving the mathematical models employed to forecast the future impact of suggested policies would further refine the paper.

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