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**ЗАДГРАНИЧНИ МИГРАЦИИ НА СЕЛСКОТО НАСЕЛЕНИЕ СЛЕД
ПРИСЪЕДИНЯВАНЕТО КЪМ ЕС
THE INTERNATIONAL MOBILITY OF THE RURAL POPULATION
AFTER THE EU ACCESSION**

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Abstract

Polish accession to the European Union and the subsequent opening of the labour markets for Poles caused an increase in the influx of Polish immigrants to most European countries (including the countries of the so-called old EU). In a relatively short time, the Poles proved to be one of the most mobile nations in Europe for international migration. This article aims to analyze the scale of migration of people from rural areas and socio-demographic characteristics of migrants as determinants of spatial mobility. Described and assigned a fixed direction of movement of the rural population in 2005-2011 and the main character trips.

Key words: rural areas, the rural population, spatial mobility, migration

INTRODUCTION

Rural areas in Poland occupy the area of 291.2 thousand square km, which represents approximately 90,3% of the total area of the country. In 2011, nearly 15 million people (39,3% of the Polish population) lived in those areas. Since 2005, the number of rural residents increased by 419,2 thousand people. The growth of the rural population has been observed since 2003. At the same time the statistics recorded a massive decline in the number and share of the urban population in the total population of the country. This process has been observed throughout the country.

In 2011, the population on rural areas lived in more than 53,8 thousand villages. On average, the total population for one such a place (in 2011), was 278 people. This indicator was on the same level as in 2005. The most numerous rural centres were concentrated in the southern regions of the country (the south-east and south-west macro-regions), and the least number were in the north macro-region, where

the rate was at the level of 189 and in the middle-east macro-region (on average 201 persons living in one village).

The agricultural sector provides the employment of a limited number of people. At the same time on the rural areas there is a clear lack of off-farm employment opportunities. Not without a meaning is the fact that over the last decade there has been a significant improvement in the level of education of the population in Poland. Thus, in the rural areas the percentage of women with higher education and post-secondary education also appreciably increased.

For the rural population in the working age, commuting to work outside the place of residence is characteristic, which is often the only way of finding a job. However, a gradual increase in the number of rural residents is reflected in the reversal trend of depopulation of rural areas. The trend of positive net migration to the rural areas took place in the past few years, but it must be emphasised that a positive balance relates primarily to migration within the country (Table 1).

Table 1. Long-term migrations and natural change in rural areas in 2005-2011 (per 1000 population)

<i>Specification</i>	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
<i>Natural change</i>	0,3	0,6	0,8	1,5	1,2	1,4	0,8
<i>In-migration balance</i>	2,2	2,4	3,2	2,6	2,8	3,1	2,6
<i>Out-migration balance</i>	-0,2	-0,7	-0,4	-0,3	0,0	0,0	0,0
<i>Gross migration balance</i>	2,0	1,7	2,8	2,3	2,8	3,1	2,6

Source: own study based on Central Statistical Office data

However, each year a relatively large group of people is leaving our country, both from the urban areas and rural areas.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The study uses the data of Central Statistical Office (CSO), 2005-2011, the comparative and descriptive analysis was conducted. The scale and intensity of the migration of rural population was compared with the general population of the country as well as the residents of the urban areas.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

1. THE SIZE (INTENSITY) OF INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION

In general, in Poland, during the analysed period (2005-2011), on average about 30 thousand people emigrated from the country every year (checked out from a permanent residence) according to CSO data¹. Significantly lower rates of

¹ One source of data on which the CSO announces two streams of migration, the emigration and immigration from / to Polish are those derived from the registry acts out for permanent residence (i.e., check for permanent residence means the acquisition by a person of the rights of the permanent resident of the country). Emigrant is defined in the database as a person checking out a permanent resident to travel abroad permanently as an immigrant is, in turn, the person who checked in Poland for permanent residence. According to the accepted definition of immigration includes both Polish citizens returning from abroad as well as foreigners who settled in Poland.

immigrants were coming into the country (checked in for a permanent residence) - on average, over the surveyed period, it was less than 12 thousand people per year (Table 2).

Table 2. Long-term external migration of Polish people in 2005-2011
(in thousands)

Specification	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
<i>Poland</i>							
<i>Immigration</i>	9,4	10,8	15,0	15,3	17,4	15,3	15,5
<i>Emigration</i>	22,2	46,9	35,5	30,1	18,6	17,4	19,9
<i>External migration balance</i>	-12,8	-36,1	-20,5	-14,8	-1,2	-2,1	-4,3
<i>Rural areas</i>							
<i>Immigration</i>	2,7	2,9	4,4	4,4	5,1	4,3	4,3
<i>Emigration</i>	5,2	12,9	10,7	9,1	4,8	4,2	4,9
<i>External migration balance</i>	-2,4	-10,0	-6,3	-4,8	+0,3	+0,1	-0,7

Source: own study based on Central Statistical Office data.

In the years 2005-2011 on the rural areas, on average about 7,4 thousand people left every year (checked out from permanent residence), and the reverse process was at the level of 4,0 thousand people. The decreasing number of trips abroad observed after the year 2006 can be connected with the deteriorating economic situation in the world. However, it should be noted that in the last two years that were analyzed, the number of emigrants and immigrants were at a similar level, so net migration has reached a low level. The highest negative net migration was observed in the year 2006 when the balance of migration, in general, in the whole country amounted to 36 thousand people, and in rural areas - 10 thousand people.

2. THE DIRECTIONS OF MOBILITY OF THE RURAL POPULATION

In the scale of the country, migrants from the rural areas, during the surveyed period, mostly travelled to three countries: two from the so-called Old Europe i.e. Germany and the United Kingdom and to the United States of America. The exception was the year 2005, when the prevailing direction of a permanent settlement was Norway.

The conducted research (Wrzochalska, Karwat-Woźniak, Chmieliński, Dudek, 2012) shows that labour migration to Germany are primarily short-term and seasonal. More than half of the people, who over the last ten years were working in Germany (58%) declared that during the last labour migration they were employed for three months or less. The situation was slightly different in case of economic migrations to the UK. These trips were a bit longer - more than three months up to a year. That was indicated by more than one third of respondents (37%). A similar in number group of immigrants worked there for over a year (34%), and three months or less, worked less than 29% of respondents. Nevertheless, in the year 2009, compared to 2007, the proportion of people declaring the short term trips

(less than one year and less than two years) significantly reduced. However, the number of people declaring the permanent stays abroad increased. Currently, an increasing percentage of people are starting to treat emigration as a long-term decision.

Another important direction of migration for the population of our country was the Netherlands and Italy. A similar situation was observed for immigrants. During the considered period the largest group of settlers, both at the national scale and on rural areas were immigrants from Germany and the UK, as well as North America. It can be stated that a significant proportion of migrants mainly from the areas of the UK, are the newborn children of Polish immigrants living there permanently (The demographic situation Poland 2011, 159-162). In 2010, nearly 4,2 thousand people have migrated from the rural areas, which represent one-quarter of all Polish immigrants. The highest percentage of rural areas migrants (2010), among the total number of migrants in the country, was accepted by Germany, Austria and Belgium (Table 3).

Table 3. External migrations by continents and countries in 2005-2010 (emigration)

Specification	2005	2007	2009	2010	2011	Total 2005-2011
Poland						
Total	22 242	35 480	18 620	17 360	19 858	190 636
Europe	18 416	31 163	15 726	14 651	17 150	164 037
UE (15)	18 047	30 229	15 137	13 997	*	142 562
Including rural areas						
Total	5 162	10 701	4 754	4 175	4 944	51 679
Europe	4 626	9 706	4 152	3 754	4 445	46 589
Austria	72	321	117	115	182	1 367
Belgium	20	105	67	87	96	559
France	31	126	85	52	77	618
Spain	15	146	68	66	54	632
Ireland	42	505	97	71	104	1 729
Netherlands	54	324	183	178	232	1 629
Germany	108	5 284	2 600	2 352	2 708	22 547
Norway	3 656	82	42	40	56	4 044
Sweden	34	109	78	65	76	593
UK	441	2 194	522	479	610	10 353
Italy	69	236	147	139	112	1 196
Asia	3	11	1	7	8	68
Africa	3	9	7	3	8	55
Northern and Middle America	510	945	558	391	434	4 711
Canada	135	160	107	108	84	977
USA	372	781	451	277	348	3 712
South America	2	0	2	2	9	17
Australia and Oceania	18	29	34	18	40	238

Source: own study based on Central Statistical Office data.

3. THE FACTORS AFFECTING THE MIGRATION OF THE RURAL POPULATION

The most important factor for migration abroad was **the age of migrants**. The highest percentage in the group of migrants in 2010 was people aged 25-34. In rural areas it was 23.8% and on the urban area - 29.5% of the total migration abroad. People in the group of productive age, mobile, dominated over people in the non-productive age, non-mobile - after 45 years of age (Table 4).

Table 4. Long-term external migrations in 2010 by the place of residence, age and gender of the migrants (emigration)

Emigrants' age	Poland total		Urban areas		Rural areas	
	total	in %	total	Including women in %	total	Including women in %
Ogółem Total	17 360	100,0	13 185	54,1	4 175	54,1
0-14	2 303	13,3	1 731	46,5	572	55,6
15-19	1 035	6,0	768	36,7	267	32,2
20-24	1 385	8,0	987	54,8	398	49,0
25-44	8 235	47,4	6 444	58,4	1 791	60,0
45-64	3 745	21,6	2 786	51,8	959	48,1
65 years and more	657	3,8	469	63,1	188	64,9

Source: own study based on Central Statistical Office data.

Table 5. Long-term external migrations in 2010 by the place of residence, age and gender of the migrants (emigration)

Emigrants' age	Urban areas			Rural areas		
	total	men	women	total	men	women
w procentach in %						
Ogółem	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0
0-14	13,1	15,3	11,3	13,7	13,2	14,1
15-19	5,8	8,0	4,0	6,4	9,4	3,8
20-24	7,5	7,4	7,6	9,5	10,6	8,6
25-44	48,9	44,3	52,8	42,9	37,3	47,6
45-64	21,1	22,2	20,2	23,0	26,0	20,4
65 i więcej	3,6	2,9	4,2	4,5	3,4	5,4

Source: own study based on Central Statistical Office data.

In 2010, people migrating abroad were aged 25-44 years accounted for 47,4% of total number of immigrants. Nearly 1,8 thousand people in this age group left from the rural areas. Women accounted for 60 percent of this population. The age structure of migrants by sex and place of residence (Table 5) was similar in the two populations, both in urban and rural areas.

It should be emphasized that **gender is not a factor which mainly determines** migration from the country, although the level of unemployment between women in Poland is higher than in many European countries. However, there was a clear regularity that, regardless of place of residence (rural or urban), women were slightly more likely to migrate than men, and men dominated the

group of immigrants. The higher percentage of women in the stream of migration could be affected by the increased of the scale of family trips. Women more often migrated to Italy, Austria and Belgium than men, and men mostly migrated to Ireland and Africa. It can be believed that this is primarily connected to the nature of the potential offered jobs in those countries or to the mentioned family situation.

The experience of working abroad was significantly influenced by **the level of education** of immigrants. The CBOS (Public Opinion Research Centre) surveys (Working Polish expats, 2011), shows that even still a few years the work outside of our country was undertaken mainly by those with a higher education.

Currently, the experience of temporary labour migration and migration of people with lower levels of education is becoming more common. The most educated people declared employment abroad equally frequently, as respondents with secondary or basic (professional) education. Among the respondents to the survey conducted in 2011, the proportion of immigrants with higher education was 16%, middle level of education - 13% and 15% of vocational education. The barrier limiting the labour migrations abroad was the basic level of education. Holders of the lowest level of education accounted for only 5% of the population working abroad.

The phenomenon of migration was also **spatially varied**. In 2010, more than one-third of the Polish migrants left the south-east area of the country (the Małopolskie, Podkarpackie, Śląskie and Świętokrzyskie Voivodeships), and more than a quarter came from the south-western parts of the country (the Dolnośląskie, Lubuskie and Opolskie Voivodeships). The first group of regions is characterized by a high fragmentation of arable land and unfavourable conditions for agricultural production, which is reflected in the high labour intensity and low productivity. Locally, in this area there is also a high level of unemployment². The inhabitants of the latter group of voivodeships have a relatively better access to the labour market in Germany (where in 2010 migrated up to 55% of all immigrants from this area).

In general, in 2010, the migration directions of the inhabitants of the various regions were the same as in the scale of the country. Most often Germany and the United Kingdom were chosen. The first country was particularly popular place to travel for migrants from the aforementioned, border region of south-western Poland.

4. THE CHARACTER (THE GOALS) OF THE TRIPS ABROAD

International migration was essentially economic in character. This phenomenon was mainly influenced by greater job opportunities and attractive salary levels in other countries, in comparison with the level of earnings in the home country. Not only the unemployed people decided in favour of economic migration, but also those who had joined the economic activities in the country with

² Particularly high levels of unemployment, measured unemployment rate were in the Podkarpackie and Świętokrzyskie Voivodeships, where the unemployment rate was much higher than the national average, and in 2011 amounted to 19,1% in rural areas and 16,4% in urban areas (the Świętokrzyskie Voivodeship) and 18,0% in rural areas and 16,4% in urban areas (the Podkarpackie Voivodeship), with the national average 12,4%.

temporary stays abroad³. Some wanted to save funds for the establishment or development of their own businesses. Some of the trips had the goal to invest in own professional development through, for example, increasing qualifications. This kind of mobility was particularly often preferred by certain professions, such as physicians or scientists. We can distinguish the typical educational migration, including to study, or what is more common, only a few semesters of study at universities abroad. This kind of travel was allowed by numerous educational programs, which, after the Polish accession to the EU, have become more widely available. This type of migration, however, was marginal. According to Social Diagnosis... 2011, in 2005-2007 and 2007-2011, for learning purposes had emigrated, respectively 0,4% and 0,5% members of all households. The vast majority of these people were in the age group of 18-34 years (from 74,0% in 2005-2009 - up to 67,3% in 2007-2011). These figures, however, translate, respectively (in the periods highlighted above) to 1,2% and 0,8% of the population aged 18-34 years. In both surveyed periods, women accounted for the vast majority of outgoing (62,0%). These trips were mainly concerning the residents of large cities (83-85% of outgoing). Studying abroad was undertaken mostly by students and graduates, fewer, the people with secondary education. Relatively frequent the study abroad was combined with taking up a job. It is difficult to determine whether the work was undertaken for reasons of high cost of living in the selected country (receiving insufficiently high scholarship) or was treated as a purely profit-making activity.

CONCLUSIONS

The increase in the influx of migrants from Poland affected most of the European countries, but was particularly strong in relation to the countries of the so-called old EU. Polish accession to EU structures and thus more opportunities of migration noticeably affected the scale of migration. The young people are the most mobile. It should be emphasized that the young citizens of our country are increasingly treating their mobility (both at home and abroad) as the ability to move and use the best opportunities offered by the single European labour market. This may translate into new experiences and skills that after return to the place of previous residence can be transferred to the local ground. This makes it possible to increase the scale of internal migration and to improve the efficiency of the allocation of labour and domestic labour market flexibility. In a wider perspective, it gives the opportunities to generate the "circulation" schema which implies a willingness to move, high adaptability and active respond to the needs and possibilities offered by the labour market both in the domestic and international

³ In the first years after our country to the EU, Polish workers earning trips abroad were quite significant problem for the development of many enterprises. Employers have indicated even gaps and difficulties associated with obtaining the workers they need. The problem now is marginal, as evidenced by the results of research carried out by the National Bank of Poland in November 2009 and in May and November 2010, in subsequent editions, such signals were reported by only 1,6%, 1,3% and 1,2 % of businesses compared to 16,4% in May 2007.

dimensions. The level of education also differentiates immigrants. Still in some parts of the country - especially the south-eastern Poland - the migrant outflow of Poles abroad is higher than in other parts of the country.

In Poland, the influx of workers⁴ from abroad is done while the simultaneous outflow of Poles. In the end of 2010, 97 thousand foreigners had the valid residence permit in the country, including more than 28.4 thousand citizens of Ukraine, 12,5 thousand Russians, 8,9 thousand citizens of Belarus and 8,5 thousand Vietnamese. In 2010, over 37 thousand work permits had been issued. This was more than 7,7 thousands more than in 2009. Most of the work permits were issued for the Ukrainians - 13.1 thousands, the citizens of China – 6,3 thousands, Vietnamese – 2,2 thousands, Belarusians – 1,9 thousands, but also for the Turks – 1,5 thousand. However, most foreigners received a work permit from the voivode of the Mazowieckie Voivodeship, thus they found employment primarily in the Warsaw agglomeration (The demographic situation Polish , 2011, 159-162).

It should be emphasized that immigration of the employees brings benefits for both the incoming host country, as it is a supplement shortages on the labour market, as well as for the sending country, where the situation is improving, thanks to the so-called transfer of unemployment or the financial means received by the family members in the home country.

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⁴ In Poland, the employees may be foreign nationals who have legally stayed on Polish territory, on the basis of the so-called residence cards or visas (other than a tourist visa, transit, issued in connection with the use of temporary protection, the so-called humanitarian visa or a visa issued to a national interest or international obligations). Potential foreign workers must have a work permit at the same time or the opportunity to work without having to obtain a work permit.