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Working Paper



Silesian University in Opava  
School of Business Administration in Karvina  
Institute of Interdisciplinary Research



**Working Papers in Interdisciplinary  
Economics and Business Research**

An Overview of Migration in the Czech Republic and  
Germany until 2013

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August 2015

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### *Citation*

Bobáková, H. and Chylková, M., 2015. *An overview of migration in the Czech Republic and Germany until 2013*. Working Paper in Interdisciplinary Economics and Business Research no.16. Silesian University in Opava, School of Business Administration in Karviná.

## **Abstract**

Hanne-Lore Bobáková, Martina Chylková: **An Overview of Migration in the Czech Republic and Germany until 2013**

*The article tackles migration in the Czech Republic and Germany until 2013. After introducing migration issues and clarifying some terminology German and Czech literature dealing with this topic is characterized and the contribution target with defined hypotheses is formulated. The subsequent part presents a historical insight into migration issues in the Czech Republic and Germany, followed by research of developments in numbers of foreigners with permanent residence in both countries. The data, which is evaluated, was issued by the Czech Statistical Office.*

### *Key words*

migration, foreigner, emigration, refugee, residence.

*JEL: F02, F22, F6, J61*

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### *Acknowledgement*

This paper was supported by the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports Czech Republic within the Institutional Support for Long-term Development of Research Organisation in 2015. The support is gratefully acknowledged.

## Introduction

The migration issue has currently been a live issue discussed at various levels and in different contexts. It turns out that the Czech Republic will also have to deal with migration policy in more detail as it becomes an exposed place to an influx of migrants from different countries. Schmidt (2002, p. 3) assigned the border between the US and Mexico, the southern states of Italy, the northern border of Australia and the countries of Central and Eastern Europe to these exposed spots.

### 1. Terminology

Migration of population is becoming an issue. Based on the processed migration research it can be stated that this area has been widely examined. In Germany, where the issue of migration has been dealt with for a long time, it is associated with varying degrees of intensity and population movements in the past. Before we tackle the issues of migration in the Czech Republic and Germany, we will clarify some terminology.

In agreement with Lederer we consider the concept of migration a specific form of spatial mobility, which involves crossing the geographic and political boundaries (Lederer, 2004, p. 8). By international migration is understood that the origin and destination of migrants are in different countries (Lederer 2004, p. 8). According to Lederer undocumented migration is a term synonymous with the term illegal migration (2004, p. 1).

Currle (Currle 2007) approaches the issue of migration in Germany in terms of migration policy and statutory regulations for integration. According to him, the migration in Germany can be divided, according to its forms, into 7 areas:

- 1 Migration within the EU
- 2 Asylum seekers
- 3 War refugees
- 4 Immigration of family members
- 5 Labour migration
- 6 Late emigration
- 7 Jews from the former Soviet Union

Stobbe (2004) deals with the issue of migration from the so-called undocumented migration in Germany aspect.

Due to the fact that in today's world is more and more immigrants without regular residence permits, there are also publications dealing with this specific kind of migration. Schmidt (2002) focuses on the analysis of migration and its social aspects in his paper. He mainly discusses immigrants' economic prosperity, the economic effects of immigration and the pension system, especially in terms of fiscal benefits.

Also in the Czech Republic migration is a frequent topic emerging in different connotations:

- 1 Migration, economic development and labour market (Horakova 2006)
- 2 Migration from a sociological perspective (Leontiyeva, Vojtkova 2006)
- 3 Migration of individual national groups (Šišková et al. 2001)
- 4 Migration and security (Nožina, Kraus 2009)
- 5 Migration from a demographic and geographic perspective (Bartonova 1997).

## 2. Hypotheses

When defining hypotheses professional literature search has been used and we are submitting the following ones:

H1: The proportion of foreigners in the Czech Republic in the total population is low (Vavrejnova, 2004, p. 198).

H2: The proportion of foreigners in Germany in the total population is higher in Germany than in the Czech Republic<sup>1</sup>.

H3: The number of foreigners in the Czech Republic and Germany has not risen continuously.

H4: The structure of foreigners by nationality is different in Germany and in the Czech Republic.<sup>2</sup>

H5: Migration of the Czech population in Germany will not be significant (Vavrejnova, 2004, p. 15).

## 3. Goal and methods

This paper aims to map the state of migration in the Czech Republic and to compare it with the situation in Germany. Mapping of this issue is limited by the availability of statistical data until 2013. Specifically, the following questions are asked:

- 1 The number of people involved in the migration in the Czech Republic and Germany.
- 2 How the number of migrants in these countries has been changing.

The quantitative part of the study has been engaged in numerical terms of migration. The Czech Statistical Office data are used.

The qualitative part deals with relevant issues related to migration processes and it illustrates possible connections of migration from different points of view.

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<sup>1</sup> Comparative data were not discovered in literature search.

<sup>2</sup> Comparative data were not discovered in literature search.

#### 4. Historical insight into the problems of migration

Migration in Germany can be divided according to Geis (2005, p. 55) into the following periods:

- 1 1945 - 1949
- 2 1949 – 1961
- 3 1961 – 1973
- 4 1973 – 1988/89
- 5 1988 – 1991/92
- 6 from 1992/93

The following table gives the overview of the characteristics of each period:

**Tab.1: Migration phases in Germany since 1945**

Period	Characteristics of migration
1945-1949	Immigration of the majority of refugees and displaced people of German origin, return departure or the next departure of forced labourers of non-German origin, prisoners of war and concentration camp inmates during the Third Reich
1949-1961	The first peak migration between East and West Germany
1961-1973	Massive recruitment of guest workers by the Federal Republic of Germany
1973-1988/89	End of recruitment, consolidation of the foreign population through the supply of family members, the recruitment of contract workers of the GDR
1988-1991/92	The arrival of emigrants, recruitment of refugees, war refugees, new labour migrants, the second migration between East and West Germany
1991/92	Introduction of new regulations to restrict the immigration of displaced persons and asylum seekers

Source: Geis (2005, p. 55)

According to Geise (2005, p. 61) it is estimated that by 2020 about 3 million people will have come into Germany, around 200,000 every year.

As Vavrejnova (2004, p. 198) stated in the years 1948-1989 about 450,000 inhabitants emigrated from the Czech Republic, on the other hand, the workers from Cuba and Vietnam in the number of 100,000 were recruited. As mentioned below, the proportion of foreigners in the total population is low (around 2%).

Development of migration movements in the Czech Republic can be divided into the following stages:

**Tab. 2: Development of migration movements in the Czech Republic**

Period	Characteristics of migration
1945-1947	Expulsion of the Germans living in the Czech Republic, settlement of border areas formerly inhabited by the Germans
1948-1989	Emigration of the population after 1948 and after the occupation of the Warsaw Pact troops in 1968. The influx of Slovaks in the Czech Republic. Between the 70s and 80s the influx of migrants from Poland, Vietnam, Hungary, Cuba, Angola, Mongolia and Korea was recorded.
Since 1989	

Source: Vavrejnova, 2004

Porizkova (2008, p. 10) divides the period after 1993 into 3 following phases:

1 1993 – 1996

2 1997-1999

3 1999 until now.

The period 1993 - 1996 is characterized by a liberal attitude to the arrival of foreigners. Porizkova explains this situation by the fact that only foreigners compensated the shortage of jobs in the labour market, which had been refused by domestic applicants.

In the second period it leads to restriction measures, mainly because of the tightening in conditions of stay and employment in the CR and the need to meet the EU's conditions for the CR's EU accession.

The third period can be described as controlled and managed, based on the approved documents.<sup>3</sup> Porizkova considers the approval of these documents as the beginning of the CR's migration and integration policies.

## **5. Foreigners in the CR by their citizenship**

According to the latest available statistics, in the Czech Republic there are Ukrainians, Slovaks, Vietnamese, Russians, Poles, Germans and Moldovans. From a quantitative perspective, Ukrainians are the largest group of foreigners in our country, which represents 105,138 inhabitants. These are followed by Slovaks 90,948 and the third largest ethnic group are Vietnamese 57,347. Another nationality, which does not have the numerical representation such as Ukrainians, Slovaks and Vietnamese, are Russians with 33,138. Poles living in the Czech Republic reached according to the statistical data the number of 19,452.

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<sup>3</sup> These are The Czech Government's Migration Policy Principles (1999) and Policy for Integration of Foreigners within the Territory of the Czech Republic (2000).

**Tab. 3: Foreigners in the CR by their citizenship**

Total number of foreigners	EU citizens	Ukraine	Slovakia	Vietnam	Poland	Russia
439 152	173 556	105 138	90 948	57 347	19 452	33 138

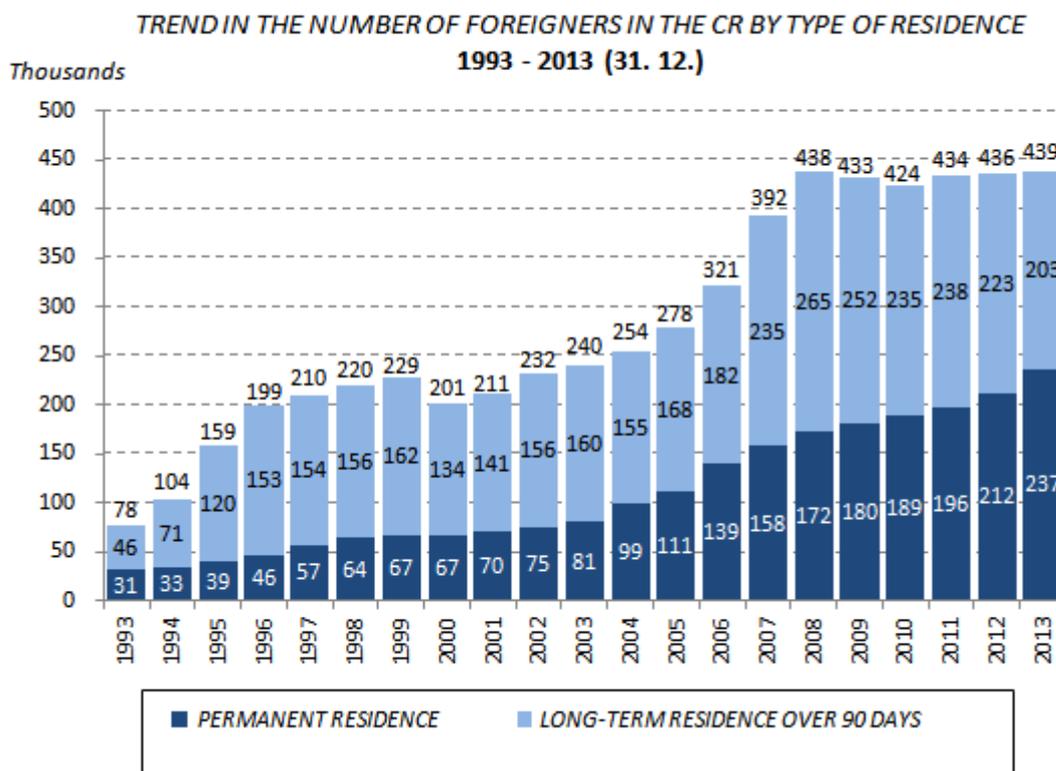
Source: the Czech Statistical Office

## **6. Trend in the number of foreigners with permanent residence in the CR**

In 1993, the number of foreigners with permanent residence was 31,000. In 1994 it slightly increased to 33,000, an annual increase of foreigners amounted to 2,000. In 1995, the total number of foreigners with permanent residence went up by another 6,000 to 39,000. In 1996 the number of foreigners already numbered 40,000, and the annual increment of 7,000.

In 1997 the number of foreigners rose again, even by 11,000, representing the highest increase since 1993 to 1997. The number of foreigners rose to 57,000. In 1998 the previous annual increase was no longer achieved, the number of foreigners climbed by about 7,000 to 64,000. In 1999, the increase was only about 3,000 and amounted to 67,000. The year 2000 was notable for the fact that from the point of view of the long-term development of migration that was the only year when the number of foreigners remained in the number of foreigners in 1999. In the following year 2001 the number of foreigners increased again by 3,000 to 70,000. In the period from 2002 to 2006 the number of foreigners went up, about 5,000 (2002), 6,000 (2003), about 18,000 in 2004 and 12,000 in 2005. Between 2006 and 2013 the number of foreigners grew faster than in previous years. Their number increased to 139,000 in 2006, in 2007 their number already reached 158,000. In subsequent years, the number of foreigners grew again to 172,000 in 2008 to 180,000 in 2009, 189,000 (2010) 196,000 (2011), 212,000 (2012) and 237,000 (2013).

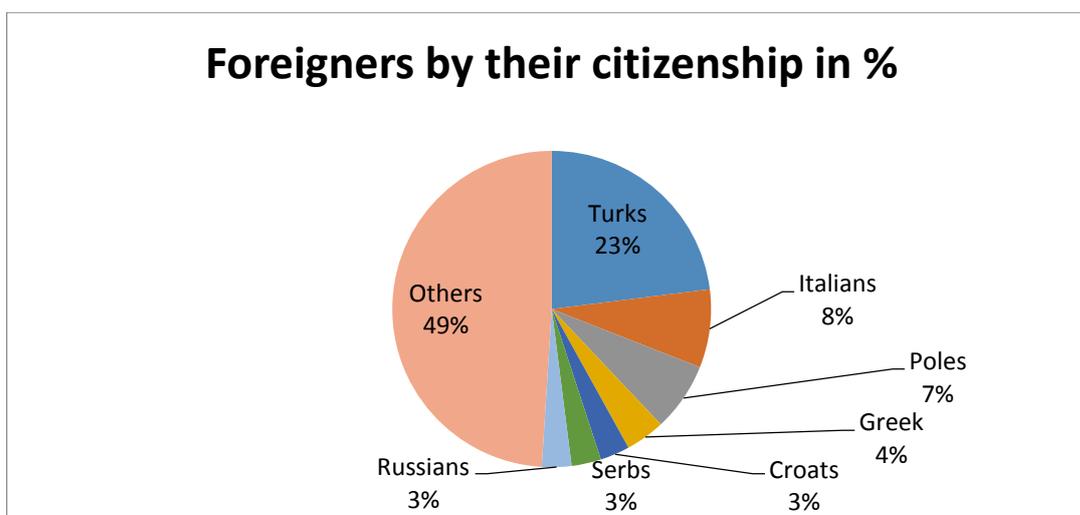
An overview of the number of foreigners with permanent and long-term over 90 days residence in the Czech Republic brings Graph 1:



**Fig.1: Trend in the number of foreigners in the CR by type of residence**  
Source: The Czech Statistical Office

## 7. Foreigners in Germany by their citizenship

According to the CSO data, the largest group of the population is of Turkish origin, who make up 23% of all foreigners living in Germany, followed by the Italians 8%, Poles 7%, Greeks 4%, Croats 3%, Serbs 3% and Russians 3%. The rest 49% are of other nationalities whose percentage is insignificant.



**Fig. 2: Foreigners in Germany by their citizenship**  
Source: The Czech Statistical Office

## 8. Trend in the number of foreigners in Germany

Using the data for the trend in the number of foreigners in Germany the total number of foreigners, which includes nationals of Member States of EU and non-EU nationals living in Germany to 1 January of the year, was taken into account.

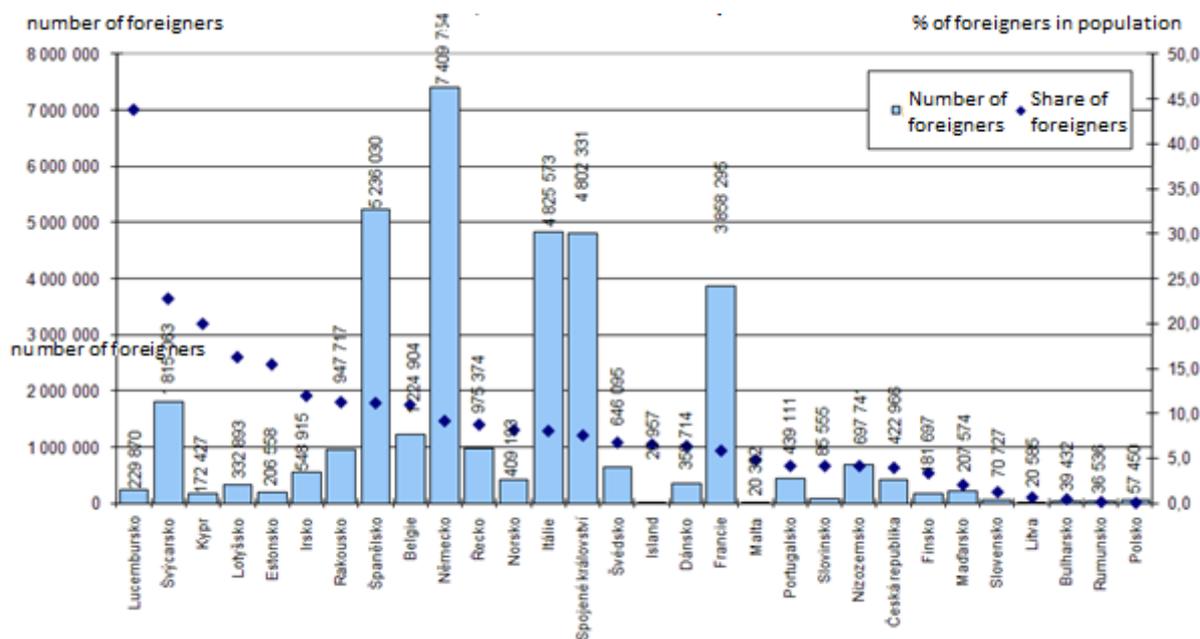
**Tab. 4: Number of foreigners in 2002 - 2013**

Year	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Number of foreigners	7 318 203	7 347 951	7 341 820	7 287 980	7 289 149	7 255 949
Year	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Number of foreigners	7 255 949	7 185 921	7 130 919	7 198 946	7 409 754	7 696 413

Source: The Czech Statistical Office

If we look at the trend of foreigners in Germany from a developmental point of view, we can see discontinuity in the trend. Between 2004 and 2005 the number of foreigners declined in 2004 by 6,131, in 2005 it was about 53,840. In 2006 the number of foreigners increased slightly to 7,289,149. The next year, 2007, however, it fell again to 7,255,949 and remained stable in 2008. From 2009 until 2010 the sharp decline in foreigners can be seen, when the decline reached number 7,130,919. From 2011 until 2013 sharp rise in the number of foreigners is obvious, when their number reached 7,696,413.

Looking at numbers of foreigners and the share of population they represent in given European countries, we will come to interesting comparisons. Germany is one of the countries with the highest number of foreigners followed by Spain. Italy and the United Kingdom both reach approximately the same number of foreigners. Detailed data are displayed in the following chart.



Data from 1. 1. 2012

**Fig. 3: Selected European countries: number of foreigners in each country and its share on inhabitants**

Source: Eurostat

## Discussion

Tables 3 and 4 confirm that the numbers of foreigners in the Czech Republic and Germany have been increasing. It is apparent that their number in the Czech Republic has more than doubled since 2002, more precisely number of foreigners with a long-term residence, whereas the number of foreigners taking into account both permanent and long-term residence over 90 days has even increased fivefold. Total number of foreigners in the CR is then according to 2013 statistical data 439,000, in Germany this number in 2013 equalled to 7,796,143.

It is to be expected that due to the political situation in Ukraine, the amount of foreigners in the Czech Republic, Germany, Syria, African and Asian continents will increase. It will be hence interesting to monitor further development of migration in these countries.

Hypothesis about a low share of foreigners in the CR on total number of inhabitants could be confirmed. Hypothesis about a share of foreign inhabitants in Germany on the whole population being higher than in the CR could be confirmed as well. Even on the issue of continual growth of foreigners in the CR and Germany our hypothesis could be confirmed.

The structure of foreign people in Germany differs from the one in the CR. While in Germany the most prevalent nationality is Turkish followed by Italian and Polish (however these two represent lower percentage), in the CR the largest group of foreigners is created by the Ukrainians. Thus even this hypothesis could be confirmed.

As for the migration of Czech people to Germany, statistic data summarized in previous overviews did not include information about Czech foreigners in Germany, which means that Czech foreigners were included in the Others category and their number is fairly low. That is why, this hypothesis could be confirmed. As stated by Vavrecková and Janata (2006, p. 18), Czech workforce in such a low number cannot destabilize EU labour market.

At this point, it is suitable to note, that increasing migration invokes consequences on social system and it is sometimes referred to as an immigration to social systems (in German „Zuwanderung in die sozialen Sicherungssysteme“), therefore it is desirable to discuss the issue in the relation to the burden of the welfare state (Schmidt 2002, 3).

No less serious is the issue of education of people with migration background, most notably with regard to their further education and professional integration (Bildung in Deutschland 2014, p. 155).

## Conclusion

The goal of this paper was to map the development of migration here in the Czech Republic and in Germany until 2012. We limited ourselves to migration to the Czech Republic and Germany and on examples from both countries we tried to demonstrate that the issue of immigration does not concern solely one country. Immigration as such is not a new phenomenon, it existed almost in all eras (Wenning, 1994, p. 106). Even in the future it is to be expected that the number of individuals moving from various reasons to countries providing better living (in different aspects) than their country of origin, will increase. Nevertheless, it is desirable to monitor the numbers of foreigners together with the rate of unemployment in order to prevent growth of social tension precisely because of increasing unemployment in countries in question.

At the same time due to the changes in the approach to the migration issue in Europe, especially in 2015, which has a diversification in nature, in the future it would be for a common Europe beneficial and desirable to approach to the issue of population migration with utmost caution from various aspects of view, such as security, social stability, cultural diversity and the impact of migration on the financial systems of individual countries.

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