
Migration Trends in the World and in Poland versus National Security

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Abstract:

Purpose: The aim of the paper is to analyse migration trends in the world from 1990 to the present day and economic migration in Poland in the years 2015-2019. Aspects related to national security in the context of the scale of crimes committed by economic migrants residing in Poland will also be discussed.

Design/Methodology/Approach: In the research implementation process, data, and sources analysis, as well as a modeling method to show extrapolation of migration trends.

Findings: The methodology used allowed the authors to determine that international migration processes have permanently entered the order of functioning of countries around the world.

Practical Implications: According to the authors, showing current trends in global migration contributes to acting at international and national levels to counteract the negative effects of migration

Originality/value: According to the authors, presenting the forecasted upward trend in international migration based on the logistic model of the number of migrants in the world may become a factor stimulating the activities of specific countries in terms of their security in the broad sense.

Keywords: Economic migration, public policy, migration, national security.

JEL classification: J61, F22, F52, H56, O15, R23.

Paper Type: Research study.

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1. Introduction

Migration issues, including economic migration, have been some of the main topics on the social and political agenda of most European societies in recent years. The intensification of migration processes and their various conditions make it difficult to define the concept of migration unambiguously. Due to the multidimensional nature of migration and the adoption of various research perspectives, no exhaustive and commonly accepted migration theory or theoretical concept explaining mobility-related phenomena has so far been proposed (Górny, Kaczmarek 2003; Wójcik-Żądek 2014; Marcu *et al.*, 2018; Son and Noja, 2013). There is a lot of room for misinterpretation and misuse of the concept of migration, depending on the context. Often, the issue of migration is mistakenly linked only with refugee issues and illegal border crossings. This is particularly evident in the context of the migration crisis and the wave of refugees that followed the Arab Spring of 2011. Since the dawn of humanity, population migration has been an inherent characteristic of mankind, triggered by many factors. Therefore, the conceptual scope of the phenomenon of migration comprises several components, such as:

- immigration – population influx to a country;
- emigration – leaving the country of one's citizenship, e.g. for work purposes;
- exile – escaping from the home country, due to political persecutions, warfare, religious repressions, etc.;
- deportation – being forced to change one's place of residence as a result of political/administrative decisions;
- repatriation – returning to one's home country from abroad, e.g. the return of prisoners of war after the termination of war activities, under the terms of peace (Minkner, Drosik, Baraniewicz-Kotasińska, Haber, and Maziarz 2019).

The main reasons for population migration include economic, political and tourism-related reasons. Economic reasons should be understood as economic migrations aimed at getting a better paid job outside one's home country, and – in the long run – improving the living conditions of the migrant (Noja and Cristea, 2018). The political factors of migration are usually the effects of political decisions, political persecution in undemocratic regimes, non-compliance with and/or violation of human rights and civil liberties, armed conflicts, terrorism, religious and ethnic repression, etc. Tourism-related migrations are always limited in time and are based on the natural desire of people to get to know other cultures, nations, etc., (Minkner, Drosik, Baraniewicz-Kotasińska, Haber, and Maziarz 2019).

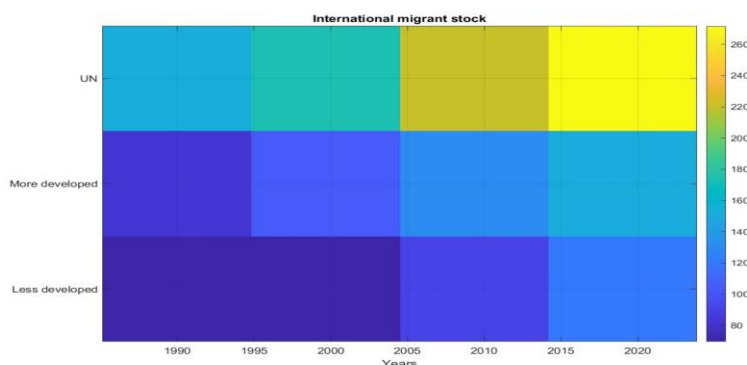
The aim of the paper is to analyse migration trends in the world from 1990 to the present day and economic migration in Poland in the years 2015-2019. Aspects

related to national security in the context of the scale of crimes committed by economic migrants residing in Poland will also be discussed.

2. International Migrations

United Nations data clearly indicate that the number of migrants has almost doubled over the last three decades. In 1990, there were about 153 million migrants in the world, and in 2019, the number was already 271.6 million (United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs 2019). According to UN estimates, migrants constitute 3.5% of the human population (United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs 2019). Details are presented in Figure 1.

Figure 1. *The number of migrants in the world in undeveloped and highly developed countries.*

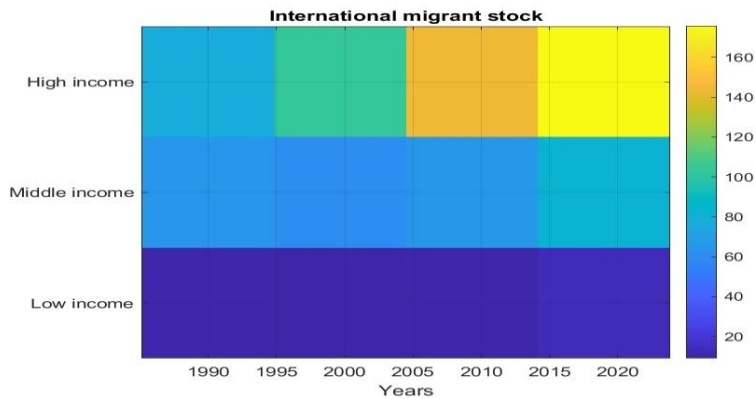


Source: *The authors' own work based on the United Nations report. Source: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, International Migration 2019. Report, New York 2019.*

Figure 1 illustrates the increase in the number of migrants over the last 30 years. The visible growth of the number of migrants in each group of countries, i.e. highly developed as well as less developed ones, indicates that this is a global trend. It is visible in the upper part of the graph marked with the symbol "UN" (United Nations) and includes aggregated data on the total number of migrants worldwide since 1990.

A similar increase can be seen in the classification prepared by the World Bank, with the difference that the organization distinguishes three levels of classification. The first level concerns high income countries, the second level – middle income countries, and the third level – low income countries. Details are presented in Figure 2.

Figure 2. The increase in the number of migrants based on the World Bank classification.



Source: The authors' own work based on the United Nations report. Source: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, *International Migration 2019. Report*, New York 2019.

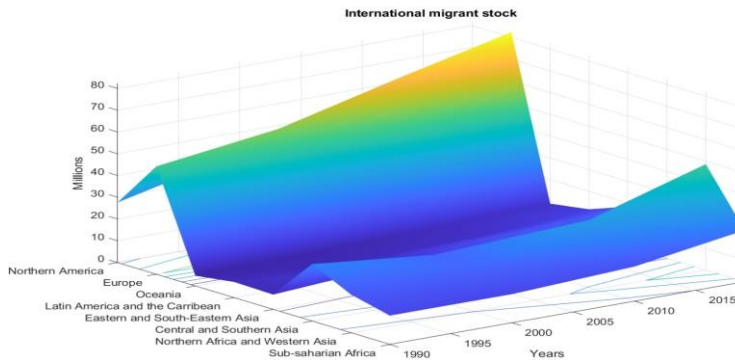
Presented in the graph, the increases in the number of migrants and their vertical flows from low income countries to more developed countries over the three decades also constitute an integral element of the global character of migration.

Since 1990, the largest increase in the number of migrants has been recorded in Europe, North America, North Africa and Western Asia – it has amounted to about 30 million people (United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs 2019). The increase in the number of migrants in Europe and North America is relatively stable and amounts to about 2 percent per year. The largest increase of almost 5 percent in the number of migrants has been recorded in North Africa.

In Eastern and South-eastern Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa the number of migrants has increased by 10 million since the early 1990s. Also, in South America, the Caribbean and Oceania, this number has increased by 4 million for each of the three regions. In Central and Southern Asia, the number of migrants has increased by about 7 million since 1990. Details are presented in Figure 3.

The growing number of migrants is directly proportional to the growing world population. According to UN estimates, the number of people on Earth will increase to 9.8 billion over the next decade. If the rate of population growth is maintained, by 2100, over 11 billion people will inhabit the world (Minkner, Drosik, Baraniewicz-Kotasińska, Haber, and Maziarz 2019). It should be noted that the population growth concerns predominantly developing countries and so-called failed states. Despite the constantly rising population growth trend in highly developed regions, i.e. Europe, North America, Australia and highly industrialized countries of East Asia, they record negative natural population increase rates (Minkner, Drosik, Baraniewicz-Kotasińska, Haber, and Maziarz 2019).

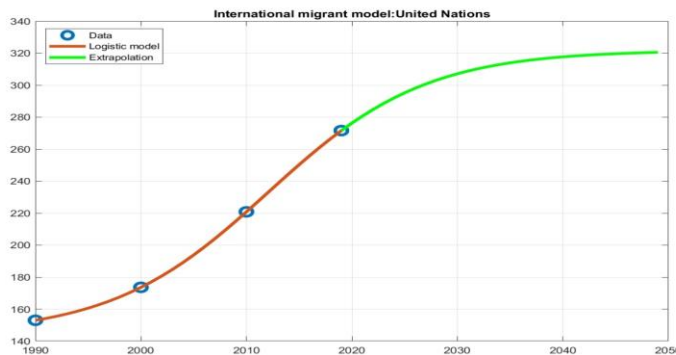
Figure 3. The increase in the number of migrants by world regions



Source: The authors' own work based on the United Nations report. Source: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, *International Migration 2019. Report*, New York 2019.

In order to illustrate better the ongoing changes and the growing number of migrants, the authors used the modelling method. The applied logistic model based on UN data allowed an extrapolation of the growth trend. The forecast presented in the graph is based on the assumption that, with the current rate of growth in the number of migrants (based on data from the last 30 years), by 2050 this number will have reached 320 million worldwide. Details are presented in Model 1.

Model 1. A logistic model of the number of migrants in the world (in thousands).



Source: The authors' own work based on the United Nations report. Source: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, *International Migration 2019. Report*, New York 2019.

The phenomena indicated above – the growth of the world population and the increase in the number of migrants – will constitute some of the most serious challenges for the national security environment in the coming decades. This problem is mentioned, for instance, in Tomasz R. Aleksandrowicz's book *Kluczowe megatrendy w bezpieczeństwie państwa w XXI wieku* [Key Megatrends in National

Security in the 21st Century]. For Aleksandrowicz, demographic phenomena underlying the problem of ageing societies in highly developed countries, as well as high birth rates in developing and failed countries, will be the main determinants of upcoming social, economic and, in the long run, political and, perhaps also military conflicts. One of the most interesting approaches to security threats resulting from population growth in the countries of the Global South⁴ is the so-called war/violence index (Aleksandrowicz, 2020). Introduced by Gunnar Heinsohn, the term concerns the relation between the number of men in pre-retirement age (55-59) and the number of young men at the start of their professional career (15-19) in a given society. The higher this ratio, i.e. the greater the number of young men in society, the higher the risk of violence (Aleksandrowicz, 2020).

3. Economic Migrations in Poland and their Impact on National Security

The briefly outlined trends and the resulting potential security threats on a macro scale, fortunately, do not apply to Poland and the majority of the EU countries. However, it should be assumed that this situation may change in the coming years. As regards national security, the issue of migrants should be considered in a slightly narrower perspective. It means that the more important issue is economic migration to Poland and resulting potential threats. Apart from political, family and religious migration, economic migration is one of the types of migration distinguished on the basis of causes. The desire to obtain higher income resulting in the improvement of living conditions of a migrant and their family and the desire to multiply one's own life capital (qualifications, professional experience, knowledge of languages, becoming familiar with another culture, testing and increasing one's own life chances) are the two main reasons for economic migration indicated the most often in the Polish academic discourse (Łukowski, 2004; Oziwicz, 2005; Orłowska, 2013). Economic migrants are mainly those who migrate in order to earn money, usually without plans to stay in the host country permanently, moving in order to take up employment outside their place of origin, wherever there are vacancies that consequently increase the level of income and standard of living (Pujer, 2017).

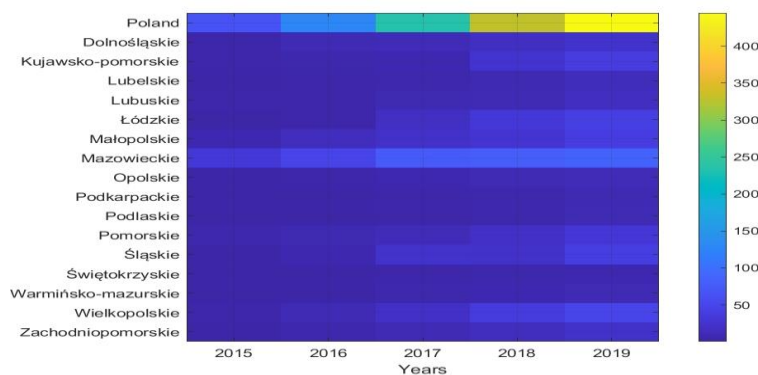
The scale of economic migration to Poland has significantly increased in the recent years. The avalanche growth of migrants, most of them coming from the countries to the east of Poland, is the reason for changes not only in the labour and wage market (Kubiciel-Lodzińska and Solga, 2019). Currently, we are witnessing the transformation of the social tissue also on the cultural and social levels. The high demand for employees results from the rapid pace of Poland's economic development in the last three decades, as well as its demographic problems the negative rate of natural increase and the ageing society (Central Statistical Office, Demographic Research Department 2020). In 2019, the rate of natural increase in Poland was -0.9 per mille, and in 2018, -0.7 per mille (Central Statistical Office,

⁴*It is a neutral term that has replaced terms carrying a high pejorative charge, i.e. "Third World countries" or "developing countries".*

Department of Demographic Research 2020). An aggregation of accurate data concerning the number of paid employees in Poland is a difficult task, as these data are collected and catalogued in different ways. Each institution that deals with migrants uses a different methodology of counting the arrivals of foreign workers.

This results in significant discrepancies in the social perception of the number of foreign workers staying in Poland. This problem is also indicated by the Supreme Audit Office, which states that both the Central Statistical Office and the Office for Foreigners collect data in different manners (Supreme Audit Office, 2019). For the purposes of this paper, the authors will use data from the Central Statistical Office. According to the report of the Central Statistical Office of May 2020 containing data on the number of foreign workers in Poland, in 2019, foreigners were issued a total of 444,700 work permits (Central Statistical Office 2020, *Work permits for foreigners in Poland in 2019, Signal Information*). For comparison, in 2018, 328,700 work permits were issued, and in 2015 – only 65,700. Detailed figures concerning work permits issued in the years 2015-2019 are presented in Figure 4.

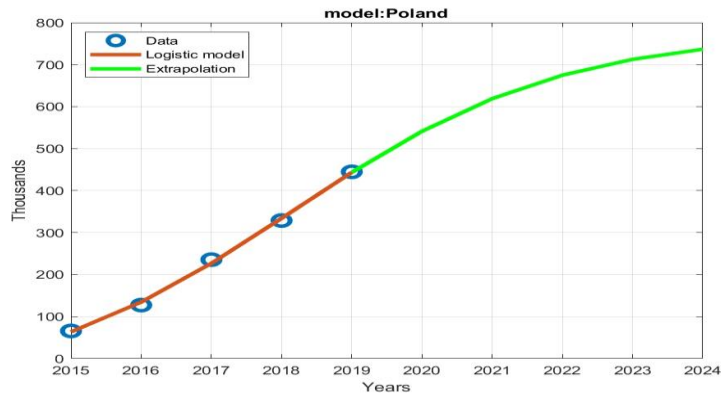
Figure 4. *The number of work permits issued to foreigners in Poland in particular provinces in 2015-2019 (in thousands)*



Source: *The authors' own work on the basis of the data of the Central Statistical Office.*

The graph shows that the highest increase in the number of economic migrants in Poland occurred in 2017, with 235,626 permits issued. The number increased by almost 200 percent compared to 2016, when 127,394 permits were issued (Central Statistical Office 2020, *Work Permits for Foreigners in Poland in 2019, Signal Information*). Analysing the number of work permits issued in particular provinces, the largest increases are visible in the Mazowieckie Province, starting from 2016. Based on the CSO data concerning the number of work permits issued, the authors also applied a logistic model to forecast the growth trend. The details are presented in Model 2. The extrapolation of the trend of growth in the number of work permits issued to foreigners, at the current pace, allows the authors to estimate that by 2024, the number of work permits issued in Poland will have increased to over 700,000.

Model 2. A projection of the increase in the number of work permits issued in Poland by 2024 (in thousands).



Source: The authors' own work on the basis of the data of the Central Statistical Office.

In 2019, foreign workers arrived mainly from Ukraine (74% of all work permits issued). The second most numerous group of workers came from Belarus (6.1%), followed by Nepal (2.1%), Moldova (1.9%), and India (1.8%) (Central Statistical Office 2020, *Work Permits for Foreigners in Poland in 2019, Signal Information*). More than a quarter of foreigners worked in the field of construction (25.4%), a little less in industry (22.8%), administration and support activities (22.4%), and in warehouse management and transport (15.8%).

The data come from all provinces and concern more than three quarters of all work permits issued in 2019 (Central Statistical Office 2020, *Work permits for foreigners in Poland in 2019, Signal Information*). The names of the areas of economic activity with the largest percentage of foreign employees come from the Polish Classification of Business Activities (in Polish – PKD). An analysis of the vocational specializations of foreigners working in Poland shows that the largest percentage of employees were industrial workers and craftsmen (38.7%), workers performing simple work (27.5%), and specialized operators and fitters of machines and equipment (20%). A characteristic feature of work permits issued in Poland is the fact that the vast majority of them (97.5%) are new permits, i.e. permits which are not a continuation of permits issued earlier (Central Statistical Office 2020, *Work permits for foreigners in Poland in 2019, Signal Information*). It proves the seasonal nature of foreigners' employment and a considerable rotation.

The Supreme Audit Office's estimates of the total number of foreigners are equally important to show the scale of economic migration to Poland. In the course of four years, starting from 2014, a total of 910,500 applications for work permits were submitted to provincial offices. 807,500 permits were issued. In addition, since 2018, 121,400 required seasonal work permits have been issued (with almost twice as many applications submitted, i.e. 235,300 in 2018). Thus, since 2014, at least over a million foreign workers have come to Poland, with the largest increase

recorded in 2016 – 139,100 applications for work permits in comparison to 74,100 in 2015 and 46,900 in 2014 (Supreme Audit Office 2019).

Referring to the current epidemic situation in Poland, it should be pointed out that the lockdown caused by the pandemic and the closure of Polish borders have caused chaos among foreign workers, their employers, families and services responsible for security. Despite the first media reports about a decrease in the number of economic migrants in Poland, this situation will be temporary (Klinger, Osiecki, and Otto 2020). With the gradual “thawing” of social life in Europe, economic migration will also be resumed. Special circumstances resulting from the coronavirus pandemic may cause the situation of foreign workers in Poland to undergo far-reaching changes. These changes will cover many spheres of the social and economic life of the country, including the sphere of national security.

A sociological study conducted by EWL S.A. and the Centre for East European Studies at the University of Warsaw from 9 to 15 April 2020 on a group of 600 foreign workers confirmed that the Covid-19 pandemic had an impact on economic migrants staying in Poland at the time of declaring the state of epidemic emergency and then the state of pandemic (the EWL S.A. Report 2020). Foreign workers in Poland were affected by the pandemic. Prohibitions and restrictions related to counteracting the coronavirus pandemic contributed to a reduction in the number of working hours in 60% of employees and a rebranding of every fourth employee (EWL S.A. Report 2020). More than 20% of employees had to move away from the place where they had worked before the pandemic, and every fourth employee had to change their place of accommodation (EWL S.A. Report 2020).

Among foreign employees’ fears related to the coronavirus pandemic, the loss of work comes first. 58% of the surveyed foreigners fear that such a measure could be used by their employers (EWL S.A. Report 2020). The economic crisis which will affect directly the employed foreigner is the second major fear indicated by more than 37% of the respondents (EWL S.A. Report 2020). Every fourth surveyed foreigner is afraid of the necessity to return to their country, and slightly more than 23% of them – of the inability to re-enter Poland for a longer period of time (EWL S.A. Report 2020). 10% of the employed foreigners declare that they have no fears related to the coronavirus pandemic (EWL S.A. Report 2020). More than 3/4 of the employed foreigners positively assess the restrictions preventing the coronavirus epidemic that the Polish government has decided to implement, and more than 76% of them consider the restrictions on crossing the Polish border to be justified (EWL S.A. Report 2020).

During the coronavirus pandemic, the employed foreigners expect support from both the Polish government and the employer. From the Polish authorities, they expect above all an extension of the validity of documents allowing their further residence and work in Poland (58% of the respondents), financial support in case of stopping the activity of the company in which they are employed (38% of the respondents),

and assistance for the employer in job preservation (35% of the respondents) (EWL S.A. Report 2020). In turn, expectations from employers concern free accommodation in case of quarantine (52% of the respondents), paying fees related to the acquisition of residence cards in Poland (48% of the respondents), and ensuring appropriate conditions and safety at work (45% of the respondents) (EWL S.A. Report 2020).

The study confirmed a small outflow of economic migrants from Poland during the pandemic. A vast majority of the foreigners, as much as 85%, decided to wait for the end of the pandemic in Poland, which was determined in particular by such reasons as: work and earning opportunities offered by our country even during the pandemic (55%), a lack of work during the pandemic in the foreigner's country of origin (50%), a greater sense of security during the pandemic in Poland than in the foreigner's country of origin (29%), and the prospect of not being able to come back to Poland for a longer period of time (27%) (EWL S.A. Report 2020). 2/3 of the foreign workers plan to take advantage of solutions facilitating the legalization of their stay proposed by the Polish government (EWL S.A. Report 2020). It should be added that the provisions of the Act of 2 March 2020 on specific solutions to prevent, counteract and combat COVID-19, other infectious diseases and crisis situations caused by them normalized the issues of the impact of the SARS-CoV-2 virus epidemic on the legality of foreigners' stay in Poland and introduced special solutions for foreigners (The consolidated text: Journal of Laws 2020, item 374, as amended).

The proposed solutions allow the legal continuation of employment in the event of the expiration, during the state of epidemic emergency or the state of an epidemic, of documents related to the foreigner's stay and employment in Poland. It has been decided that foreigners who have legally stayed in Poland so far, in order to be able to remain in its territory during the time of the state of an epidemic, in accordance with the provisions of the law, will not have to apply to public administration bodies for granting or extending residence permits or visas or extending the periods in which they should eventually leave the territory (Office for Foreigners 2020). By law, national visas, residence permits for foreigners in Poland, residence cards, work permits, seasonal work permits and declarations of entrusting work to foreigners entered in the register of declarations are subject to automatic extension for the entire period of the epidemic and 30 days after the end of the state of epidemic emergency or the state of an epidemic.

It should be noted that in the nearest future the restrictions on movement between countries and the closure of borders will have an impact on the number of economic migrants in our country. The decrease in the number of foreigners entering Poland in the first quarter of 2020 is confirmed by Border Guard statistics concerning passenger border traffic. They show that in the first quarter of 2020, 3,202,344 third country nationals and 419, 477 EU/EEA citizens entered Poland, which gives a total of 3,621,821 foreigners (Border Guard Headquarters. Border Guard 2020). This is a

total of 541,445 persons fewer than in the corresponding period of the previous year, when Polish borders were crossed by 4,163,266 foreigners, which constitutes a 13% decrease in the number of foreigners entering Poland (Border Guard Headquarters. Border Guard 2020). In relation to the same period of 2019, it is 496,713 foreigners fewer from third countries and 44,732 citizens fewer from the EU/EEA. Among the nationals of the third countries from which economic migrants in Poland come the most frequently, the most numerous group of foreigners who crossed the border of the Republic of Poland in the first quarter of this year were citizens of Ukraine (2,133,430 persons; 289,044 persons fewer than in 2019), Belarus (642,176 persons; 123,045 persons fewer than in 2019), and Russia (266,656 persons; 38,916 persons fewer than in 2019) (Border Guard Headquarters. Border Guard 2020).

The arrival of economic migrants to Poland is associated with threats related to the security of our country, including threats related to crimes committed by them. As the guardian of the security of the Republic of Poland, the Polish legislator has regulated the basic principles of criminal liability of foreigners for crimes and offences committed in the territory of Poland. Under the criminal law, foreigners, perpetrators of criminal acts involving offences and crimes committed in the territory of Poland are subject to Polish jurisdiction. The liability of a foreigner for committing a crime or an offence in the territory of our country is the same as the liability of a Polish citizen and is connected with the principle of territoriality in the Polish legal system as expressed in Article 5 of the Penal Code (the consolidated text: Journal of Laws of 2019, item 1950, as amended) and Article 3 § 1 of the Code of Offences (the consolidated text: Journal of Laws of 2019, item 821, as amended).

According to this principle, acts committed in the territory of the Republic of Poland and on a Polish ship or aircraft fall under the Polish criminal law. It is required that the perpetrator act or refrain from acting to which they have been obliged in these places, or when the effect fulfilling the specific elements of a prohibited act has occurred or has been intended by the perpetrator. Therefore, first of all, in the practice of law enforcement authorities, what needs to be resolved is the question whether a foreigner has committed a crime or an offence in the territory of the Republic of Poland or in one of the places to which the territoriality principle has been extended, i.e. a Polish ship or aircraft. If a crime or an offence has been committed by a foreigner in the territory of the Republic of Poland, then proceedings are conducted on the basis of the provisions of the Code of Criminal Procedure (the consolidated text: Journal of Laws of 2020, item 30, as amended) or the Petty Offences Procedure Code (the consolidated text: Journal of Laws of 2020, item 729, as amended).

Taking into account the number of economic migrants staying in the territory of Poland, the group's delinquency and criminogenic character are relatively small. Unfortunately, in this case, the availability of current data is also hindered by the fact that publicly available statistics of the Police Headquarters end in 2012. This is due to the introduction, as of 1 January 2013, of a new system for recording crimes

by the Polish Police, based on data from the National Police Information System (Rzeplińska, Włodarczyk-Madejska 2018). In police statistics concerning crimes, similarly to employment statistics, the first place is taken by citizens of Ukraine (5,500 suspected crimes in 2013-2016), followed by Belarusians (961 suspected crimes), Romanians (868 suspected crimes) and German citizens (858 suspected crimes).

In the catalogue of crimes, it is traffic offences that dominate (39%), followed by offences against property (30%) and document forgery (12%). The smallest percentage of crimes concerned the violation of an officer's bodily integrity (5%), and crimes against health and life (3%) (Rzeplińska, Włodarczyk-Madejska 2018). The slightly more recent statistical data published by the daily "Rzeczpospolita" are similar and refer to crimes and offences committed by foreigners in 2017. Citizens of Ukraine were still the most frequent offenders with over 3,600 crimes, and Belarusians with 357 crimes. The catalogue of crimes committed the most often by foreigners comprises road traffic offences, which continue to dominate, and the vast majority of them concern driving under the influence of alcohol, theft, vandalism and drug-related offences. In total, in 2017 foreigners committed 6,264 crimes in the territory of Poland, i.e. 1,700 crimes more than in 2016 (Zawadka 2018).

When comparing the data concerning the number of offences committed by foreigners with the total number of offences committed in Poland in similar periods, it should be noted that foreigners are responsible for a negligible part of them. For comparison, in 2017 a total of 490,000 crimes were committed in Poland, and in 2016, over 518,000 (Ceglarski 2018). Committing crimes is a natural feature of every social group, so among foreign employees working in Poland there will also be people who continue their criminal activities. Despite this, the group of economic migrants should not be seen as a potential source of security threats (CBOS 2018; Mazuś 2017).

4. Conclusion

Today we live in an era of global migration. The intensified migration process in the world was initiated in 1990 and continues to this day. International migration flows do not involve people from poorly or moderately developed countries. Citizens of highly developed countries also migrate. The global upward migration trend includes citizens from all continents. Since 2015 Poland has witnessed an upward trend in the number of economic migrants taking up employment. The number of migrants who have been issued a work permit is increasing. Legal economic migrants come to Poland mainly from the countries of our eastern neighbours.

The largest percentage of economic migrants in our country are citizens of Ukraine and Belarus. Despite a very large number of foreigners working in Poland, both those covered by official statistics, as well as a large part of those outside them (belonging to the so-called grey zone, which should also be kept in mind), the

number of crimes and offences in comparison to the total number of crimes committed in the country is very small. The nature of crimes and offences committed by foreigners also deserves attention. In the vast majority of cases, these are petty and criminal offences, i.e. drunk-driving, robbery, theft, etc. Due to the nature of contemporary threats and the pace of security-related processes, it is worth taking appropriate long-term measures to increase national security. One of the most urgent issues is a better coordination of the activities of the state services responsible for broadly understood national security.

It is necessary that the flow of information, including information concerning foreigners, between the Police, the Border Guard, the Internal Security Agency, and central administration bodies be undisturbed and transparent. Also, at the international level, coordination of activities and exchange of information between Polish and foreign services, including the EU and third countries, is of crucial importance. Such problems as international terrorism, organized crime, including drug, human and arms trafficking, can only be combated effectively if appropriate standards of cooperation, information exchange and coordination of services are maintained. It is equally important to strengthen counter-intelligence protection, as there is a real risk that groups of foreigners may be targeted by foreign intelligence services.

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