

Some Tendencies of Post-Soviet Migration and Unemployment

Avtandil Silagadze^{*}, Tamar Atanelishvili^{**}, Nodar Silagadze[§]

^{*} Academy Member, Faculty of Economics and Business, Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University, Tbilisi, Georgia

^{**} Faculty of Economics and Business, Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University, Tbilisi, Georgia

[§] Free Academy, Tbilisi, Georgia

Since the collapse of the former Soviet Union, the socio-economic development of the independent countries proceeded in different ways. Some countries chose the European vector and some immediately joined the European Union, while the others do not yet openly express such a tendency. During the 30-year period of the market economy development, some common and specific tendencies appeared in the independent countries. The goal of the present paper is to examine the relation between the two major problems in the post-Soviet countries such as migration and unemployment. According to the findings of the study, jobs deficit and low salaries became the favorable factor for intensification of the migration processes. In some countries the unemployment rate would be even higher unless the emigration flows were so intensive. During the research period, the number of population significantly decreased in eight post-Soviet countries, including Georgia. That was conditioned by both economic (jobs deficit, low salaries) and political factors – disruption of territorial integrity, globalization tendencies, desire and opportunity of receiving high salaries (the Baltic states), etc. The economic development proceeded in quite different way in the Russian Federation, where the population also declined, but the rich energy resources allows the country to employ the job seekers from different countries. Population significantly increased in six energy-rich countries, which do not yet openly show the tendency towards the Western vector of development. In some countries (e.g. in Georgia) the migration balance of population declines at the expense of immigrants from the other countries (despite the jobs deficit). Personal remittances from the overseas are important for the country, but that cannot cover the loss caused by the emigration of domestic workforce. © 2020 Bull. Georg. Natl. Acad. Sci.

Migration, post-Soviet period, unemployment rate, energy resources

In the early 1990s, the independent states formed after the collapse of the former Soviet Union developed in different ways. Their development was based on different economic doctrines. A group of the post-Soviet countries chose the European vector from the very beginning. Another larger group of the countries do not openly pursue such a vector. During 30 years of

the post-Soviet period, certain tendencies appeared in the independent countries. The present paper examines two major problems such as migration and unemployment. Various aspects of this problem are studied in the papers of different scientists [1-13].

In 1990-2018 the number of world population increased (by 43.8%). The number of population in

EU countries increased by 7.4%, while it decreased in many post-Soviet countries (but not in the Baltic States). It decreased by 21.9% (the greatest decrease) in Georgia (calculated on the basis of:

<https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.POP.TOTL?end=2018&start=1960&view=chart> (08.01.2020)).

In the 1990s there was a large wave of emigration in Georgia due to the severe economic situation and territorial conflicts in the country. The migration level increase was also noticeable in later years. It was also great in Armenia, Ukraine, and the Baltic states.

Migration balance in Georgia, i.e. difference between the immigrants and emigrants, was great in 2002-2012, while in the following years it significantly decreased (Fig. 1).

In 2012-2018, the migration balance decline in Georgia was caused by the increased number of immigrants from different countries. According to the Geostat data of 2018 (geostat.ge/en/modules/categories/316/population-and-demography), the majority of the emigrants and immigrants are 15-64-year old, mostly the men. The increased number of emigrants come from Russia, Turkey, Iran, Azerbaijan, India, Ukraine, Armenia, the US,

China, Greece and other countries, while the largest flow of immigrants move to the Russian Federation, Turkey, Azerbaijan, Ukraine and others.

Given the above-mentioned facts, it is necessary to implement migration regulations, to increase national production and to create new jobs.

As mentioned above, the scale of migration is stimulated by unemployment. In most post-Soviet countries the unemployment rate is high. In 1991-2019 the average annual unemployment rate ranged from 4.4% (1991) to 5.0% (2019) in the world, and from 11.2% (1994) to 6.5% (2019) in the EU (Table 1).

Thus, in Georgia, Armenia, Moldova, Ukraine, Latvia and Tajikistan the unemployment rate is higher than the average rate in the EU member countries, while in the energy-rich countries, which are dependent on the world prices of those resources, the unemployment rate is less. Georgia, Ukraine and Moldova will fail to meet the "integration indicators" required for EU membership unless the rate of unemployment is significantly reduced.

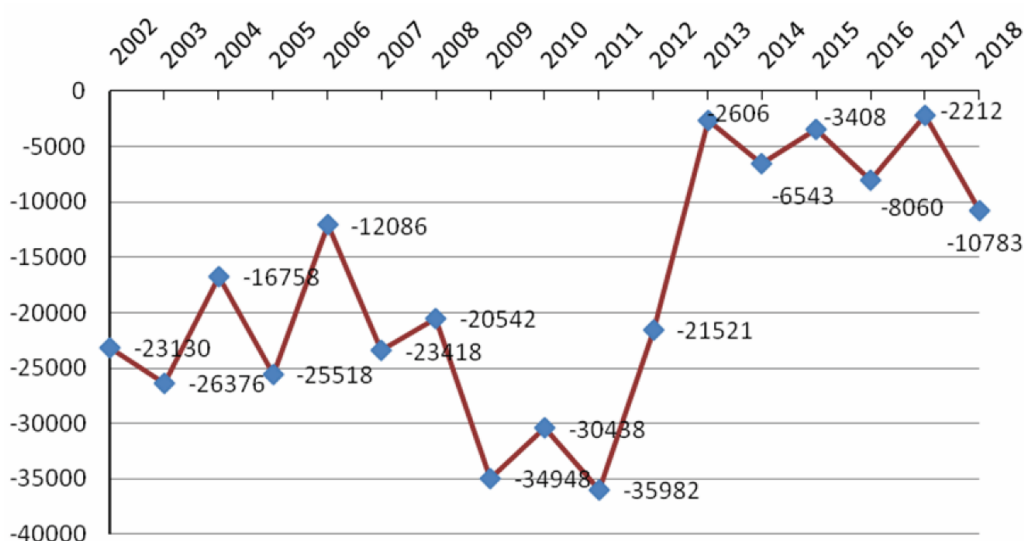


Fig. 1 Migration balance in Georgia.*

Calculated according: <https://www.geostat.ge/ka/modules/categories/316/mosakhleoba-da-demografia> (08.01.2020).

*The assessment data for 2002-2011 and the data for 2012 based on the information of MIA Border Police.

Table 1. Unemployment rate (%)

Year	Georgia	Azerbaijani	Armenia	Ukraine	Moldova	Estonia	Latvia	Lithuania	Russia	Belarus	Kazakhstan	Uzbekistan	Tajikistan	Turkmenistan
1991	2.7	0.9	1.6	1.9	1.9	1.5	2.7	1.1	5.1	0.6	0.9	1.9	1.9	1.4
2003	11.5	9.3	11.2	9.1	8	11.3	12.1	12.9	8.2	10.2	8.8	9.2	13.9	9.2
2004	12.6	8	11.2	8.6	8.2	10.3	11.7	10.7	7.8	9.3	8.4	8.1	13.4	8.2
2005	13.8	7.3	10.8	7.2	7.3	8	10	8.3	7.1	8.5	8.1	6.9	13	7.4
2006	13.6	6.6	10.3	6.8	7.4	5.9	7	5.8	7.1	7.6	7.8	5.6	11.9	6.4
2007	13.3	6.5	9.8	6.4	5.1	4.6	6.1	4.3	6	6.8	7.3	5	11	5.4
2008	17.9	6.1	16.4	6.4	3.4	5.5	7.7	5.8	6.2	6.1	6.6	5	10.9	4.5
2009	18.3	5.7	18.8	8.8	6.4	13.6	17.5	13.8	8.3	6.1	6.6	5.1	11.5	4.4
2010	17.4	5.6	19	8.1	7.5	16.7	19.5	17.8	7.4	6.1	5.8	5.4	11.6	4
2011	17.3	5.4	18.4	7.9	6.7	13.3	16.2	15.4	6.5	6.1	5.4	5	11.6	4
2012	17.2	5.2	17.3	7.5	5.6	10	15.1	13.4	5.4	6	5.3	4.9	11.7	4
2013	17	5	16.2	7.2	5.1	8.6	11.9	11.8	5.5	6	5.2	4.9	11.8	4
2014	14.6	4.9	17.5	9.3	3.9	7.4	10.9	10.7	5.2	5.9	5.1	5.1	11.7	3.9
2015	14.1	5	18.3	9.2	3.7	6.2	9.9	9.1	5.6	5.9	4.9	5.2	11.4	3.8
2016	14	5	17.6	9.4	4.2	6.8	9.6	7.9	5.6	5.9	5	5.2	11	3.8
2017	14	5	18.8	9.5	4.1	5.8	8.7	7.1	5.2	5.7	4.9	5	10.7	3.7
2018	14.1	5.2	17.7	9.4	3.4	5.5	7.9	6	4.7	5.7	4.9	5.2	10.9	3.8
2019	14.3	5.4	17.7	9.3	3.7	5.9	8.2	6.6	4.6	5.8	5.4	5.5	11.1	3.9

Calculated on the basis of: <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SL.UEM.TOTL.ZS> (08.01.2020).

However, the migration rate is very high in Georgia and in some other post-Soviet countries, where a peculiar tendency is marked in recent years: in previous years, the immigrants' share in gross migration was significantly higher, while in recent years, for example in Georgia, the migration balance is sharply reduced due to the increased number of immigrants from different countries that can cause changes in demographics of the country in future.

In conditions of globalization it is impossible to resist the migration of the workforce because the personal remittances are very important for the emigrants, for their families and for the nation, but for national economy it is more important to create adequately paid new jobs for local workforce.

The more the migration rate the more the personal remittances (both monetary and natural) increase, especially in the early stages. The personal remittances are significant for some countries, while their share in total GDP of the world and the EU countries is small with 08% and 0.7%, respectively (Table 2).

Table 2. Personal remittances received (current US\$), 2018

	Personal remittances (\$ billion)	Personal remittances share in GDP (%)
World	624.5	0.8
European Union	121.1	0.7
Georgia	2	11.6
Azerbaijan	1.2	2.6
Armenia	1.5	12
Ukraine	14.7	11.2
Moldova	1.8	16.1
Estonia	0.6	1.8
Latvia	1.2	3.6
Lithuania	1.4	2.6
Russia	8.6	0.5
Belarus	1.2	2
Kazakhstan	0.6	0.4
Uzbekistan*	2.5	3
Tajikistan**	2.2	31.3
Kyrgyzstan	2.7	33.2
Turkmenistan	1.6	0.1

* 2016; ** 2017

Calculated on the basis of:

<https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/BX.TRF.PWKR.CD>
DT; <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/BX.TRF.PWKR.DT.GD.ZS> (09.01.2020)

Thus, the personal remittances do not play an important role in the economies of the world and EU countries, energy-rich post-Soviet countries and Belarus, as well as in the EU member post-Soviet states, while they are important for the economies of Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Moldova, Armenia, Georgia and Ukraine.

Overall, during the analysis period the number of population decreased significantly in eight post-Soviet countries (mostly in Georgia) due to economic (jobs deficit, low salaries) and political factors – disruption of territorial integrity, globalization tendencies, motivation and opportunity of high salaries (the Baltic states), etc.

The way of economic development proceeded in quite a different way in the Russian Federation, where the population also declined, but the rich energy resources allows the country to employ the foreign workforce. Mainly, the population sharply increased in six energy-rich countries. They do not yet openly show the tendency towards the Western vector of development. In some countries (e.g. in Georgia) the migration balance of population is declining, where the jobs deficit is the main factor of development. Personal remittances play an important role in the economic development of some countries.

ეკონომიკა

პოსტსაბჭოური მიგრაციისა და უმუშევრობის ზოგიერთი ტენდენცია

ა. სილაგაძე*, თ. ათანელიშვილი**, ნ. სილაგაძე§

* აკადემიის წევრი, ივანე ჯავახიშვილის თბილისის სახელმწიფო უნივერსიტეტი, ეკონომიკისა და ბიზნესის ფაკულტეტი, თბილისი, საქართველო

** ივანე ჯავახიშვილის თბილისის სახელმწიფო უნივერსიტეტი, ეკონომიკისა და ბიზნესის ფაკულტეტი, თბილისი, საქართველო

§ თავისუფალი აკადემია, თბილისი, საქართველო

ყოფილი საბჭოთა კავშირის დაშლის შემდეგ, დამოუკიდებელი ქვეყნების სოციალურ-ეკონომიკური განვითარება განსხვავებული გზებით წარიმართა. ქვეყნების ერთმა ჯგუფმა ევროპული ვექტორი აირჩია, ზოგიერთი მათგანი იმთავითვე გაწევრიანდა ევროკავშირში. ქვეყნების მეორე დიდი ჯგუფი ამ ვექტორისაკენ სწრაფვას ჯერ-ჯერობით ღიად არ ამჟღავნებს. საბაზრო ეკონომიკის მშენებლობის 30-წლიან ეპოქაში, ამ ქვეყნების დამოუკიდებლობის გზაზე გამოიკვეთა საერთო და სპეციფიკური ტენდენციები. წინამდებარე ნაშრომის მიზანია პოსტსაბჭოურ ქვეყნებში ორი უმნიშვნელოვანესი ისეთი პრობლემის ურთიერთკავშირის გამოკვლევა, როგორებიცაა: მიგრაცია და უმუშევრობა. კვლევის შედეგად მიღებული დასკვნის მიხედვით: სამუშაო ადგილების დეფიციტი და დაბალი ანაზღაურება გახდა მიგრაციული

პროცესების გასაძლიერებელი ნოყიერი ნიადაგი; რიგ ქვეყნებში რომ არა ემიგრაციის დიდი ტალღა, უმუშევრობის მასშტაბები კიდევ მეტი იქნებოდა; საანალიზო პერიოდში, რვა პოსტსაბჭოურ ქვეყანაში, მნიშვნელოვნად შემცირდა მოსახლეობის რიცხოვნობა, მათ შორის სამწუხაროდ, ყველაზე მეტად – საქართველოში. აღნიშნული განაპირობა, როგორც ეკონომიკურმა (სამუშაო ადგილების დეფიციტი, დაბალი ანაზღაურება), ასევე პოლიტიკურმა ფაქტორებმა – ტერიტორიული მთლიანობის დარღვევამ, გლობალიზაციის ტენდენციებმა, მაღალი ანაზღაურების მიღების სურვილმა-შესაძლებლობებმა (ბალტიისპირა ქვეყნები) და სხვ.; განსხვავებული გზით განვითარდა რუსეთის ფედერაციის ეკონომიკა, სადაც ასევე შემცირდა მოსახლეობის რიცხოვნობა, თუმცა მდიდარი ენერგორესურსების ფლობით, ის მაინც ახერხებს სხვა ქვეყნებიდან სამუშაოს მაძიებელთა დასაქმებას; ძირითადად ენერგორესურსებით მდიდარ ექვს ქვეყანაში მოსახლეობის რიცხოვნობა მკვეთრად გაიზარდა. ისინი ჯერ-ჯერობით ღიად არ ამულავნებენ განვითარების დასავლური ვექტორისაკენ სწრაფვას; ცალკეულ ქვეყნებში (მაგ., საქართველოში) სულ უფრო მცირდება მოსახლეობის მიგრაციული სალდო სხვა ქვეყნებიდან იმიგრირებული მოსახლეობის ხარჯზე (მიუხედავად სამუშაო ადგილების დეფიციტისა); უცხოეთიდან პირადი გზავნილები სამამულო ქვეყნისათვის მნიშვნელოვანია, მაგრამ სამამულო მუშახელის ემიგრაციით განპირობებული დანაკარგების კომპენსირება ამის ხარჯზე ვერ მოხდება.

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