



The possible impacts of immigration of third country nationals on the security of European Union member countries

Možné dopady imigrácie občanov tretích krajín na bezpečnosť členských krajín Európskej únie

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Abstract:

The year 2015 can be considered a turning point in the area of immigration of third-country nationals to Europe. The year-on-year increase in the number of immigrants by 48 percent caused a wave of outrage and fear of acceptance among the "domestic" European population. The growing number of medialized cases of immigrants' crimes has divided the population, but also the governments of individual countries of the European Union (hereinafter "EU") into several opinion-forming groups. There are studies that describe the impact of immigration on the security of a particular EU country. The results of the studies vary from country to country. The studies focus in particular on examining the impact of immigration at national level and do not examine the European area as a whole. For that reason, the main aim of the article is, with use of relevant scientific research methods, to define the possible impacts of immigration of third-country nationals to security of all EU member countries. The evaluation of the results showed that the impact of the share of immigrants on the number of thefts did not manifest itself in countries with a share of immigrants below 3.7%. The impact of the share of immigrants on the number of homicides is in EU countries minimal. It has not been confirmed that the country with the highest proportion of immigrants has the highest proportion of terrorist attacks. By summarizing the study, it can be argued that immigration does not have an impact on crime, widespread in all EU countries. For that reason, the number of foreigners in their territory is only a relevant indicator of immigration.

Keywords: European union, third country nationals, migration, immigration, security



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Abstrakt:

Rok 2015 možno v oblasti imigrácie občanov tretích krajín do Európy považovať za prelomový. Medziročný nárast počtu imigrantov o 48 percent vyvolal u „domáceho“ európskeho obyvateľstva vlnu nevôle a obavy z ich prijatia. Zvyšujúci sa počet medializovaných prípadov trestnej činnosti imigrantov rozdelil obyvateľov, ale aj vlády jednotlivých krajín EÚ na niekoľko názorových skupín. Existujú štúdie, ktoré popisujú dopady imigrácie na bezpečnosť niektorej z konkrétnych krajín EÚ. Výsledky štúdií sa pre jednotlivé krajiny odlišujú. Štúdie sa sústreďujú prevažne na skúmanie dopadov imigrácie na národnej úrovni a neskúmajú európsky priestor komplexne. Preto hlavným cieľom článku je za pomoci využitia relevantných vedeckých metód definovať možné dopady imigrácie občanov tretích krajín na bezpečnosť všetkých členských krajín EÚ. Vyhodnotením výsledkov vyplynulo, že vplyv podielu imigrantov na počet krádeží sa neprejavil v krajinách, ktorých podiel imigrantov bol nižší ako 3,7%. Vplyv podielu imigrantov na počet vražd je celkovo pre EÚ minimálny. Neplatí, že krajina s najvyšším podielom imigrantov, má najvyšší podiel teroristických útokov. Zhrnutím štúdie je možné tvrdiť, že imigrácia nemá dopad na trestné činy, plošne vo všetkých krajinách EÚ. Z uvedeného dôvodu je počet cudzincov na ich území iba relevantný ukazovateľ imigrácie.

Kľúčové slová: Európska únia, občania tretích krajín, migrácia, imigrácia, bezpečnosť

Introduction

Historically, Europeans can be considered true masters of the demographic invasion. Paradoxically, the European continent is currently facing the opposite trend. Representatives of individual EU governments are divided on the issue of tackling migration. While some EU countries see immigration as a threat, others see it as an opportunity that will be an economic advantage in the future. The system of functioning of the EU, which has been built for several decades, thus faces existential problems also due to the wave of migration and its other accompanying phenomena, which also have a negative effect on the further direction of European society. The inflexible and inconsistent solution to the current migration trend points to the weaknesses of EU integrity, which is being exploited by populist and far-right parties. In general, migration from a global perspective brings us economic opportunities and security threats.

Immigration can subsequently lead to other global problems such as religious conflicts, crime, nationalism, terrorism and racism. Illegal migration has therefore become a priority for the EU in the fight against organized crime [1]. The study of the effects of immigration is very important due to further unfavourable prediction. Immigration pressure on Europe is expected to continue to increase, not only as a result of the conflicts in Africa and the Middle East, but also as a result of climate change.

1. Definition of basic concepts

Migration is the change of place of residence beyond the boundaries of a particular territorial unit. According to the International Organization for Migration (IOM), migration is the process by which individuals and entire groups of people leave their homes for various reasons [2]. Migration can be legal or illegal. Legal migration is a controlled activity, on the basis of which we obtain an overview

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of the movement of persons, therefore illegal migration is more dangerous due to the absence of an overview.

Immigration is 'moving to a specific territorial unit' [3]. The concept of migration and immigration must be seen separately and not confused.

According to the provisions of Article 2 (6) of the Schengen Borders Code (2016), a third-country national is any person who is not an EU citizen or a family member of an EU citizen. A third-country national also means a stateless person [4]. Such a person may apply for asylum after crossing national borders in order to ensure his or her safety.

People who want to deal with migration should also pay attention to the study of security, as there is a very close link between migration and security. Gradually, opinions are beginning to come to the fore that the sphere of security either overlaps or affects all the basic spheres of human life and society. The overlap is causing a growing impact of globalization, which is increasing the number of different integration clusters.

Security is an extremely complex phenomenon that spans many areas. Until the 1990s, security was synonymous with defence. Until that period, the concept of security was associated primarily with the security of the state, or their groupings depending on the military threat. Internal and non-military threats, including migration, were not included in the definition. With the gradual increase in new security threats, the definition of security has been extended to include other military and non-military factors [1].

From a geographical point of view, national security can be considered synonymous with state security [5]. 'The required level of security of the State is where the degree of threat to the protected interests does not require the adoption of extraordinary measures and the normal operation of the State and its authorities is sufficient to eliminate the threats [6].

It follows from the above definitions that security does not have an absolute value, but is a relative and dynamic quantity. It further follows that the required level of safety is an expression of an individually set value of the magnitude of the acceptable risk. In practice, these statements can be seen as a response to the growing number of immigrants from third countries when adopting different measures taken by individual EU countries. The state must take into account the changing security environment when guaranteeing security. In an effort to ensure security, the state can choose two approaches. It will either guarantee its security individually or in cooperation with other sovereign states. The Slovak Republic as well as other EU countries are part of the global security environment. The security interests of EU countries are linked by such a strong bond that individual solutions are almost impossible. Despite this claim, the impact of mass immigration into Europe shows some countries (e.g. Hungary) trying to create individual solutions. Countries are more able to influence the regional security environment than the global security environment [7].

Swedish Prime Minister Stefan Löfven claims that disagreements can threaten the EU and the Schengen area and even cause their disintegration. There is a general perception that the interconnectedness of the EU and the Schengen area is so important

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that its demise would seriously jeopardize the future of the EU. A positive perception of the EU and its institution by citizens is one of the important preconditions for its democratic legitimacy.

The EU is developing its security policy in parallel with the growing economic impact. This is necessary because of the growing economic impact and economic development, the threat of illegal and uncontrolled immigration increases [5].

In an interview with EurActiv.sk, Muschel said that due to terrorist attacks in Europe, Europeans' views on immigration had changed, despite the fact that the terrorist attack was committed by people born in Europe but of immigrant origin [8].

2. Integration of immigrants

The number of foreigners in the territory of individual states is the only relevant indicator of immigration. In relation to immigration, integration is a very important element and should be given more attention, especially in the field of education. Its course is not linear and the ability to integrate decreases with increasing age of a person. This leads to a positive finding that the process of integration in Europe can be successful under well-established conditions, as the largest proportion of immigrants are third-country nationals aged around 20-30. According to the Research of the Centre for Economic Policy Research in London, highly qualified migrants are associated with a significantly lower risk of terrorism compared to low-skilled migrants.

The success of integration depends mainly on the approach of individual countries. The obstacle is that not all EU countries have the same integration potential. It is assumed that more economically developed countries and their inhabitants have a more tolerant approach to integration. The tolerance rate of the indigenous population also increases with the level of education attained [9], [10].

Modern theories of cultural coexistence and conflict began to emerge in Europe during the 19th century. Theoretical concepts at the time have developed theses that the greater the number of contact points between races (nations), the faster assimilation and vice versa. The closer the cultures are, the greater their mutual contacts will be. The authors of the time believe that this is a two-way process, where a person needs stimuli for assimilation and, on the other hand, gives a response. Based on generational models, it is assumed that the first generation of immigrants has bigger problems in adapting to the new environment.

Opposing is a study from the United States which postulates that the "second generation" of immigrants commits crimes to a similar extent as the domestic population. This is a surprising conclusion of the study, as the second generation tends to significantly outperform their immigrant parents in terms of education and labor market outcomes. For this reason, according to theories, the second-generation crime rate should be lower than their predecessors. However, the conclusions are the opposite.

The problem may lie in the environment in which immigrants live. Immigrants tend to be disproportionately concentrated in poor areas with higher crime rates. Immigrant status creates more difficult conditions for competitiveness in the labour

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market, which reduces the chances of immigrants to live in more expensive areas. Another reason for living in these areas is the tendency of immigrants to concentrate in localities with high rates of population of the same ethnic origin. Such conditions complicate the integration process [11].

3. The link between immigration and crime

Research from Italy suggests that the legal position can largely explain the differences in crime between legal and illegal immigrants. This is probably due to the fact that the status of legal immigrant leads to greater opportunities in the labour market for immigrants. Researches from Europe suggest that gaining legal status reduces migrants' criminal behaviour by improving their labour market opportunities [12].

The standard framework that economists use to examine the economic impact of crime is a model developed by Becker. In this model, individuals are examined for their expectations when deciding whether or not to engage in crime. This means that individuals commit a crime if the expected revenues of crime outweigh the expected revenues from another alternative, such as official employment. This framework is sometimes criticized for suggesting that all that matters is economic benefits alone. Because people have different priorities, there are individuals who simply never commit a crime, regardless of economic incentives. The strength of the model is that it makes direct predictions about how crime will change depending on the relative incomes of immigrants.

There is no evidence that immigration has caused the problem of rising crime in all countries. Based on the results of another research on the crime rate of immigrants, it can be argued that the crime rate in areas with a larger number of immigrants is at the same or even lower level compared to the domestic population.

Opinions differ on the link between immigration and terrorist attacks. According to EUROPOL terrorist groups continue to exploit the socio-economic grievances of Muslim immigrants to the EU in order to recruit and incite them to engage in terrorist activities [13].

Some sources say that there is little evidence that there are terrorists among immigrants. At present, this is difficult to prove, as terrorist attacks can only be carried out by descendants, i.e. the next generation of immigrants, who are already likely to be counted among the domestic population [1].

On the contrary, various intelligence services suggest that various radical groups (such as IS) and potential terrorists are moving to Europe as refugees arrive. In 2015, the Federal Office for the Protection of the Constitution in Germany (BfV) pointed to the failure of Europe and the underestimation of the consequences of mass immigration. On the other hand, it is considered as a demonstration of IS capabilities that the security forces did not expect because they considered it a risky step by the IS. They take advantage of the fact that up to 70% of all migrants coming to Germany have not presented a valid travel document. Refugees thus enter the country on the basis of a false identity. With the arrival of almost 970 thousand (in 2015), the control of radicals by ordinary border control is almost impossible [14].

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It must be taken into account that immigration is a threat where it is irregular, large-scale and involving people from other cultures.

According to Europol some nationals have been concerned about the risk posed by migrants trying to enter Europe. Europol's report acknowledges that some terrorists have entered the EU posing as refugees but insists that this is not happening on a systematic basis: "There is no concrete evidence that terrorist travellers systematically use refugee flows to enter Europe unnoticed." This allegation is critical on the one hand, and on the other hand it eases the gravity of the situation, as there are reports of thousands of immigrants who have not been registered or checked when entering the Schengen area.

By studying the theoretical findings, we came across the statement that the probability of a terrorist attack increases if a larger number of foreigners live in the country. In addition, it is likely that as the number of immigrants increases, the space decreases proportionately and the time required for more detailed control of immigrants decreases. Many of them have false documents, or have no documents, or enter the country illegally and we do not have an overview of their movement. This is where space is created to increase security threats. As security threats increase, so do expenditures related to guaranteeing state security (increasing the number of members of the security forces, purchasing new accessories and technology, strengthening borders, more complex administration).

In recent years, migration has thus become the subject of conflict and often a tool in the hands of politicians who are gaining in popularity through attitudes to migration issues [15].

4. Examining the effects of immigration on third – country nationals on selected offenses

In order to define the possible effects of immigration of third-country nationals on the security of all EU Member States, it was necessary to obtain and analyse data on the percentage of immigrants to the domestic population in each of the EU countries surveyed. The results of these data were compared with the results of data on committed crimes.

The level of safety was assessed in three areas. From the whole range of crimes, data on the number of thefts, the number of recorded murders and the number of jihadist terrorist attacks in individual EU countries were used for the purposes of the investigation. The data are general and do not distinguish whether the crime was committed by an immigrant or a domestic population. The selection of these forms of crime was carried out intentionally. These are crimes that are very often associated with migration processes in scientific studies, articles and publications or in the media.

A method of comparison was used to prove the impact of immigration (whether negative or positive) on these crimes. The examination of the signs of agreement and differences in the development of the examined relations was carried out separately for each EU country. The examined time period represents the years 2013 to 2017. Due to the possibility of comparing the level of security in the period before the outbreak of the migration crisis with the period after its outbreak. In this case, it is a comparison of the period before 2015 and after.

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During the research process, we tried to limit resources that are subjective in nature and focus mainly on studies based on mathematical-statistical basis. The aim was to prevent possible distortion of results by acting and introducing personal feelings and attitudes. For this reason, mainly statistical data of the FRONTEX and EUROSTAT organizations were used. The obtained data had to be first processed into a uniform form, which could be used later.

The adoption of new legislation¹ during the research had an impact on the production of statistics, which distorted the data. For this reason, it was necessary to omit some data already obtained, adjust them to the required form to be compatible with the methodology already used, or not to work with the data after the change in legislation.

Before starting the relationship research process, it was necessary to identify and define the constraints. In the first place, it was necessary to rule out general migration. We have achieved this by focusing only on immigrants who are third-country nationals. Otherwise, citizens of the European Union would also be included in the sample examined, which would lead to unintended data distortions, which would also include internal migrants. The study does not take into account the differences between legal and illegal immigration, the age or gender of immigrants. This means that the figures showing the share of immigrants represent the general value of the share of immigrants in a particular country.

Some of the constraints existed naturally (for example, the inconsistency of keeping statistics), for this reason it was necessary to find an intersection or define them precisely. Other restrictions were artificially created by the author of the article (for example: the already mentioned selection of third-country nationals, or the definition of their own criteria). The definition of the criteria was done in order to determine more precisely the impact of immigration on individual crimes.

Set criteria:

- a) If the maximum value of the share of immigrants is recorded in the same time period (in the year) and at the same time the maximum value of the assessed crime is recorded.
- b) If the minimum value of the share of immigrants is recorded in the same time period (in the year) and at the same time the minimum value of the assessed crime is recorded.
- c) If the development of the curve showing the share of immigrants in the evaluated time period (2013 -2017) is similar to the development of the curve showing the evaluated crime. This means that when the share of immigrants decreased, a decrease in the number of crimes committed was recorded at the same time, and vice versa. In addition to the above, we should also maintain proportionality. This means that the percentage increase in the share of immigrants was similar to the percentage increase in the number of crimes.

¹For example, a change in the management of crime statistics in the Federal Republic of Germany, which only since 2015 specifically includes immigrants from third countries, as an other group of people committing crimes in the country.

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When comparing the ratio of immigrants with the values of any of the crimes, a conclusion was drawn based on the behaviour of the graph curve.

Process of evaluation:

- If all three criteria were met at the same time when comparing the values, it was concluded that the share of immigrants has an impact on one of the compared crimes (theft, murder).
- If two criteria were met at the same time when comparing the values, it was concluded that the share of immigrants has a slight effect on one of the compared crimes (theft, murder).
- If one of the criteria was met when comparing the values, it was concluded that the share of immigrants has a minimal impact on any of the compared crimes (theft, murder).
- If none of the criteria was met when comparing the values, it was concluded that the share of immigrants does not affect any of the compared crimes (theft, murder). Respectively, it was determined that the connection did not manifest itself.

When evaluating the impact of immigration on jihadist terrorist attacks, it was necessary to approach it individually. In assessing the impact of terrorist attacks on individual countries, it was necessary to confirm the relationship that the terrorist attack was carried out at a time when the country's share of immigrants was at its peak.

The results:

Impact of the share of immigrants from third countries on the number of thefts in individual EU countries:

- The impact of the share of immigrants on the number of thefts was felt in the Republic of Estonia, the Republic of Latvia, the republic of Croatia and the Kingdom of Sweden. Compared to other EU countries, the leading countries also have some of the highest proportions of immigrants from third countries. So the common feature is the high proportion of immigrants from third countries. In individual years, the share of immigrants was at the level of: Republic of Estonia (13.1 - 13.9%), Republic of Latvia (11.3 - 12.2%), Republic of Croatia (11.2 - 11.7%) and Kingdom of Sweden (10.6 - 13.1%).
- The share of immigrants in the number of thefts has had a slight effect on Ireland, Republic of Cyprus and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.
- The minimal impact of the share of immigrants on the number of thefts was felt in the Hellenic Republic and the Republic of Lithuania.
- In countries such as the Czech Republic, the Kingdom of Denmark, the Republic of Finland, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, the Republic of Malta, Romania, the Slovak Republic, the Republic of Slovenia and the Kingdom of Spain, there was no link between immigrants and theft. This means that the proportion of immigrants in these countries does not affect the crime of theft.
- It was a surprising finding that countries such as the Kingdom of Belgium, the Republic of Bulgaria, the French Republic, Hungary, the Federal Republic of Germany, the Republic of Poland, the Portuguese Republic, the Republic

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of Austria and the Italian Republic showed the opposite trend, with a declining number of thefts.

- Another common feature is that the impact of the share of immigrants on the number of thefts did not manifest itself, or had the opposite (positive) effect in countries with a share of immigrants below 3.7%.

Impact of the share of immigrants from third countries on the number of homicides in individual EU countries:

- All three criteria were not met at the same time in any of the countries examined.
- The share of immigrants in the number of homicides had a slight effect in the Federal Republic of Germany and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.
- The minimal impact of the share of immigrants on the number of homicides was felt in the Kingdom of Denmark and Ireland.
- In countries such as the Kingdom of Belgium, the Republic of Bulgaria, the Republic of Cyprus, the Czech Republic, the French Republic, the Hellenic Republic, the Republic of Croatia, the Republic of Lithuania, the Republic of Latvia, Hungary, the Republic of Poland, the Portuguese Republic, the Republic of Austria, Romania, the Slovak Republic, the Republic of Slovenia, the Kingdom of Spain and the Kingdom of Sweden, there was no link between the proportion of immigrants and the number of homicides. This means that the proportion of immigrants in these countries does not affect the crime of murder.
- The opposite trend, with a declining number of homicides with a growing proportion of immigrants, was reflected in the Republic of Finland and the Italian Republic.
- The evaluation could not be made for the Kingdom of the Netherlands (for which we did not have the necessary data on homicides) and for the Republic of Malta and the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, for which the number of recorded homicides was so low that the conclusions could be distorted.

Impact of the share of immigrants from third countries on the number of jihadist terrorist attacks in individual EU countries:

In this case, only countries in which a jihadist terrorist attack was committed in the period under review (2013-2017) in which a person died were evaluated. Terrorist attacks in which only the attacker died were not counted in the investigation. These are countries such as the Kingdom of Belgium, the Kingdom of Denmark, the Republic of Finland, the French Republic, the Federal Republic of Germany, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the Kingdom of Spain and the Kingdom of Sweden. This means that in each of the countries mentioned, immigration has an impact on jihadist terrorism, as each of the attacks examined was carried out by a person of migrant origin.

Examining the impact of the share of immigrants on jihadist terrorist attacks did not show that the higher the share of immigrants, the higher the share of terrorist attacks. All terrorist attacks were committed in countries with an immigrant share of 4.3-13.1%. Looking for further links between the proportion of immigrants and terrorist attacks, it was confirmed that the largest number of terrorist attacks (25 attacks, representing 80.6% of all attacks examined) were carried out in countries whose proportion of immigrants at the time of the terrorist attack was 5 - 8.9%.

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In countries such as the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the Kingdom of Spain, the Kingdom of Sweden and the Republic of Finland, they recorded the highest terrorist activity at a time when the proportion of immigrants in the country was at its peak. The increase in the number of attacks, but also in the number of victims, is recorded just after 2015, when the wave of immigration to EU countries was at its peak.

Conclusion

The article is a suitable source of information and knowledge for works of a similar nature. The conclusions of the article can be followed by other authors and thus expand the researched issues and can also be a source of information for future use in the educational process for students dealing with migration and security issues.

Based on the findings, it can be argued that the number of foreigners in the territory of individual states is the only a relevant indicator of immigration. In relation to immigration, integration is a very important element, the success of which depends mainly on the approach of individual countries. It is confirmed that in some countries the number of crimes is decreasing with the increasing share of immigrants. In general, education is the key to successful integration, as educated immigrants have a better chance of finding a job. At the same time, the tolerance of the domestic population in relation to migration increases with the level of education attained. It is likely that the successful integration and legal status of an immigrant will have an impact on the decline in the number of crimes committed by immigrants.

By examining the impact of the share of immigrants from third countries on the number of thefts in individual EU countries, it was possible to define a common feature, which is that the impact of the share of immigrants on the number of thefts did not show or had the opposite (positive) effect in countries in which the share of immigrants within the population was 3.7%. The impact of the share of immigrants on the number of homicides is minimal for the EU as a whole. In general, the trend in the number of recorded homicides in Europe has been declining for a long time.

The largest number of terrorist attacks was carried out in countries whose share of immigrants was 8.5-8.9% at the time of the terrorist attack. It follows that the country with the highest share of immigrants does not have the highest share of terrorist attacks. The countries in which the terrorist attacks were investigated recorded the highest terrorist activity at a time when the share of immigrants in the country was at its peak. The increase in the number of attacks, but also in the number of victims, is recorded just after 2015, when the wave of immigration to EU countries was at its peak.

The study concluded that immigration has no impact on crime, confirmed in all EU countries. Each type of crime must be considered separately. This does not mean that if immigrants affect the number of homicides, they automatically affect other crimes of a different kind.

Uncontrolled and illegal immigration is dangerous for EU countries, when security forces lose track of the movement of people in EU countries.

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Despite the established conclusions about the impact of immigration on individual crimes, it is not possible to claim (with the exception of jihadist terrorist attacks) that crimes are committed by immigrants. But it can be argued that their share of the domestic population has an impact on these crimes.

We consider the fact that the EU is still not sufficiently prepared to deal with crisis situations as a homogeneous whole to be the most serious current problem. This problem is also more serious because security interests are linked by such a strong link that the security problems of an EU country cannot be addressed individually. Other current problems include the inconsistency of migration legislation, the division of the EU according to opinion and the insufficient form of initial control of immigrants entering the Schengen area at the time of the greatest arrival of immigrants to EU countries.

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