

## **MIGRATION IN EUROPEAN UNION: BETWEEN NECESSITY AND INSECURITY**

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### **ABSTRACT:**

*THIS PAPER AIMS TO EVALUATE THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN EXTERNAL MIGRATION, HAVING AS TARGET THE EU, AND THE SECURITY ISSUES THAT IT GENERATES. IN THE FIRST PART OF THE PAPER WE TRY TO PRESENT THE MIGRATION FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF OPPORTUNITY THAT IT REPRESENTS, IN ORDER TO SOLVE TWO MAJOR DEMOGRAPHIC PROBLEMS OF THE UNION: NEGATIVE NATURAL GROWTH AND AGING POPULATION. IN THE SECOND PART IS EXPOSED THE MANNER IN WHICH MIGRATION CAN BE CONSIDER A RISK FACTOR TO THE EUROPEAN SECURITY. TO HIGHLIGHT THIS DILEMMA: MIGRATION - OPPORTUNITY / MIGRATION - VULNERABILITY, THE AUTHOR PRESENTS A SWOT ANALYSIS OF ALL THESE ISSUES. THE CONCLUSION OF THE AUTHOR POINTS OUT THE FACT THAT MIGRATION IS THE ONLY MEANS BY WHICH THE EU CAN SOLVE THE PROBLEM OF THE DEMOGRAPHIC DEFICIT (IN THE MEDIUM TERM) AND THE AGING POPULATION.*

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**KEY WORDS:** MIGRATION; MIGRATORY FLUX, IMMIGRANT, SWOT ANALYSIS

### **INTRODUCTION**

Overcoming the demographic transition phase by all European nations conducted to decreased of population growth and, more important, to the aging of population. As a result, there are needed measures to balance the natural increase, in the context of population aging. Unfortunately, most of the policies pursued by European states have failed in stimulating the birth rate, and population growth remains as close to "0" or negative. In this context, the integration of immigrants may seem like a solution, even if just temporary one, in order to allow states to preserve, if not to increase the number of population.

Immigrants themselves all over the globe (that they have colonized another time), the Europeans are faced with a significant dilemma: to keep their identity by refusing integration of immigrants, or to use them to support population growth and even to revitalize their populations. Major European nations seem respond differently to these problems. The Great Britain and France - representative exponents of classic European colonialism - adopted important measures, most of them visible in the integration of immigrants, which has already led to an obvious demographic growth. This fact situates them, over the coming decades, in the top of the most populated European countries. In contrast, Germany has failed

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the same thing, which will lead to the gradual loss of leadership that the issue of the German population. The East European nations are far away in implementation of policies which stipulate the role of immigrants in stabilizing a positive demographic growth.

As expected, the contribution of migration in European population growth generates multiple problems in terms of security. The impact of migration occurs in all dimensions of security: societal, political, economic, military and even the environment. Among these, the issue of illegal migration seems to be the worst. Organized crime and even terrorism might be considered the most important "benefit" of it.

Whatever its consequences, migration remains a reality which cannot be stopped, but it can be managed.

The awareness of this fact depends on the adaptation of European policies and also of the national policies, in order to manage the migration phenomenon. Therefore, this study aims to answer the question whether the contribution of migration within the EU means, in addition to demographic growth, an increase of insecurity. In order to answer this question we tried to analyze contemporary migration phenomenon in terms of its multiple security implications, and having as source documents both the UN and the EU, regarding the international migration and some studies point. Also, an important role in the study has the statistical documents delivered by institutes from different European countries and have been selected as the basis for analysis.

The findings of the study will try to show whether migration within EU is necessary, in order to maintain the current economic and political position of Union at the global level, with the condition that the phenomenon can be controlled and managed.

## **CHAPTER 1. GENERALLY, ON MIGRATION**

In order to avoid any confusion on Migration, this chapter aims to provide an overview of this social phenomenon taking into account the information provided by human geography.

The definition given by the Encyclopedic Dictionary for the word "Migration" is the following: *"the voluntary movement of individual person or of populations from one country to another, or from one region to another, determined by economic social, political, cultural or natural factors"*<sup>2</sup>.

According to the site [www.romaniaeacasa.ro](http://www.romaniaeacasa.ro) developed by the Interior Ministry and the European Commission in order to integrate third-country nationals in Romania, *"Migration is the movement of people from one place to another."*<sup>3</sup>

Therefore, the emigrant can be defined as a person who leaves his birthplace in favor of moving to another area, and the immigrant is a person who arrives in a place where it sets permanently or temporarily.

According to Constantin Vert, *"Migration is not only a change of address; it is also a change of social, cultural, economic and emotional environment. Migration has no dual character - biological and social – as had birth and death have, it is entirely a social event"*.<sup>4</sup>

A definition which generated controversy is the one given by the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) that says: *"a long-term international*

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<sup>2</sup> Dicționar Enciclopedic, Editura Enciclopedică, 1993-2000

<sup>3</sup> <http://romaniaeacasa.ro/index.php/ro/cui-de-adresam/129-informatii-generale/523-despre-migratie>

<sup>4</sup> Constantin Vert, *Geografia populației și așezărilor umane*, curs universitar, Universitatea de Vest Timișoara, 2000, pg. 104

*migrant is a person who moves to a country other than that of his or her usual residence for a period of at least a year*"<sup>5</sup>.

Relating these definitions we can say that migration is caused by several reasons, the most significant being: overpopulation territories, social causes (which are based on political considerations, historical, religious, cultural and even traditions causes) or environmental destruction. Motivating factors that generate the migration are economic, social, political, environmental factors, rejection or attraction. Depending on these factors and causes the migration can be "internal migration" (within a state) and "international migration". The distance to move of migrants is conditioned by their motivation, by the possibilities for travel and by the overall security situation in the area he or she is heading towards.

An important feature of migration is the duration of this movement. If migration involves a significant number of people this phenomenon becomes "migratory flux" and might change the ethnic structure and / or confessional of two areas: the starting and the finish.

Also, taking into the account the globalization, we can say that migration is directly influenced by this phenomenon. The access to information, media, and especially the increasing speed of transport and travel safety comes to support of this assertion.

Referring to the typology of migrants we can say that there are different types: one that wants to change the country and nationality; immigrant temporary, foreign worker represented by people who have been forcibly displaced (expelled, transferred) from their country of origin and refugees who have decided to leave their countries for political, environmental, religious reasons etc<sup>6</sup>.

In conclusion, we can say that Migration is a complex phenomenon that takes into account both: the natural dynamic of population and the political, economic, social, military and environmental factors. The phenomenon is continuously, impossible to be stopped, and therefore it requires a deep knowledge and, in the same time, it involves mechanisms able to manage it.

## **CHAPTER 2. MIGRATION WITHIN THE EUROPEAN UNION**

In order to understand better the effects of migration in terms of security, in the European Union, we will initially try to do a brief presentation on the phenomenon within the EU, and the proposed policies meant to manage the phenomenon. Speaking about the typology of EU migration, we identify the following types:

- Migration within the national borders of EU member states: determined by economic factors (looking for a job; the loss of economic facilities that required a large number of employees, etc.), social (migration from rural to urban areas due to search better living conditions, education, health, etc.);

- Migration between member states of the Union: takes place mainly from the states that joined the EU in the last and second last wave, especially Romania, Bulgaria, Poland towards Western and Southern Europe, especially to France, UK, Germany, Benelux, Italy and Spain;

- Migration into the EU from outside the EU: Africa (especially from Maghreb), Middle East, Asia;

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<sup>5</sup> Pauline FRON, Georges LEMAITRE, Thomas LIEBIG, Cécile THOREAU, *Standardised statistics on immigrant inflows results, sources and methods*, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, September 2008, p 3, <http://www.oecd.org/els/mig/41281008.pdf> accesat la 01 iulie 2014

<sup>6</sup> Pierre George, *Etude sur les migrations de population*. Paris: Centre de documentation universitaire, 1952. <http://www.erudit.org/revue/cgq/2008/v52/n146/019598ar.pdf>

If the first two types of migration do not represent a major threat to the security of the Union, immigration from Africa, the Middle East and Asia is a major problem, in particular because is an illegal one.

Also, if we take into account the legality of immigration within EU it is two categories: legal and illegal. If the first is under the strict control of immigration destination states, the second can generate vulnerabilities, risks and menace to the security of the Union in general and in particular member states.

In order to control the phenomenon of immigration, the EU adopted a series of decisions that underline a European policy on immigration. It aims to develop a comprehensive EU policy regarded the future-oriented migration, a policy based on solidarity and responsibility, and it will become a key-policy objective for the European Union.

Since 2005 the European Council adopted the document on "Global Approach to Migration"<sup>7</sup>.

Also, in **Stockholm Program** - *An open and secure Europe serving and protecting citizens*<sup>8</sup>, in the chapter "**Access to Europe**" is stated: "*The EU should continue to develop its integrated border management and visa policies to streamline the access of third country nationals in Europe, and ensuring the security of its citizens. Strict border controls are necessary to combat the illegal immigration and cross-border crime. At the same time, we need to ensure access to those who require international protection and for the vulnerable groups, such as unassisted minors*".

**European Pact on Immigration and Asylum** is a new important step towards a comprehensive EU migration policy. This document aims to give a new and impetus approach, establishing a common policy on migration and asylum, using clearly defining responsibilities at national and EU level and enhancing dialogue with countries of origin, taking into account the common interest of the EU, and the specificities of each Member State<sup>9</sup>. Pact member states propose five political commitments that will be enforced by clear measures. They are subject to annual assessment and are elaborated by a joint EU Council and the European Commission. Pact requires Member States to establish indicators of impact and effectiveness and mutual information for any new measures or legislative reforms on immigration and asylum.

Regarding political commitments, the European Council has taken five basic commitments, which will continue to be developed and translated into concrete measures, especially in the Stockholm Program - Towards a Europe of citizens in the area of freedom, security and justice, namely: organizing legal immigration must to take account of the priorities, needs and reception capacities determined by each Member State and to encourage integration; control the illegal immigration, by ensuring the provision of effective return foreigners in irregular situation; better protection of Europe, by improving the efficiency of border controls; construct a Europe of asylum; create a comprehensive partnership with the countries of origin and states of transit to encourage the synergy between migration and development<sup>10</sup>.

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<sup>7</sup> Raport anual privind imigrația și azilul (2010), Comunicare a Comisiei către Parlamentul European și către Consiliu, Bruxelles, 24.5.2011, COM(2011) 291 final, pp 2 Programul de la Stockholm, 2 decembrie 2009, Consiliul Uniunii Europene 17024/09.

<sup>8</sup> Programul de la Stockholm, 2 decembrie 2009, Consiliul Uniunii Europene 17024/09.

<sup>9</sup> Pactul european privind imigrația și azilul, Consiliul Uniunii Europene, Bruxelles, 24 oct 2008, 13440/08, pp 3, <http://register.consilium.europa.eu/doc/srv?l=RO&f=ST%2013440%202008%20INIT>

<sup>10</sup> Document Măsuri concrete stabilite de Pactul european privind imigrația și azilul, [http://mae.ro/sites/default/files/file/2010\\_08\\_Masuri\\_Imigratie\\_Azil.pdf](http://mae.ro/sites/default/files/file/2010_08_Masuri_Imigratie_Azil.pdf)

Every year the European Commission draws up an annual report on migration and asylum. At 17 June 2013, the Commission calls for the development of future policies towards migration<sup>11</sup>. Co-author of the report, Cecilia Malmström, Commissioner for Home Affairs, said in the press conference: *"We are about to establish a common European asylum system that protects the most vulnerable people and we are in solidarity with them. Many of these people are very skilled and it should be given the opportunity to exploit the full potential of them by the host countries. The same thing is true for other groups of migrants. Our manner of approach the migration should reflect our common priorities and our future needs. The establishment of policies oriented politically to the future and initiative can certainly make the migration a dynamic force for growth and progress."*<sup>12</sup>

In conclusion, we can say that the European institutions consider Migration a major phenomenon and confer it a significant importance, allocating it financial and political resources for a proper management. However, nation-states continue to have a major role in the implementation of European policy on migration and asylum. This might be a vulnerability to the whole European policy in the field, knowing the divergent opinions of the European countries on migration and compliance with measures imposed by European legislation.

### **CHAPTER 3. MIGRATION IN THE EUROPEAN UNION - A SOURCE OF DEVELOPMENT AND BALANCING OF DEMOGRAPHIC DEFICIT**

In the last annual report of the European Commission, regarding the future policy on migration, in the Section from June 2013 this concept is seen "as a tool for growth."<sup>13</sup> The Report states that it will not be long until Europe starts to feel the effects of an aging population and decreasing workforce, suggestive in this sense being the fact that, at the level of 2012, there were about 2 million vacancies across the EU in health, ICT, engineering, sales and finance. EC considers that immigration can be a way to counter the deficit gaps of labor force that could support further EU growth strategy.

Already, the EU legislation on migration helps to attract certain categories of immigrants. For example, the Directive from 2009 on the EU Blue Card, stipulates that third country nationals are granted the right of entry and residence to fill highly skilled jobs. It is essential that in the field of immigration, Member States will ensure that effective measures are taken to promote the integration of immigrants. According to this imposed rules meant to ensure migrants' rights, they can develop their full potential. Proper implementation by the Member States, the Directive on single residence, granting equal rights to certain third-country workers will be particularly important.

In conclusion, we can estimate that immigration from the third countries becomes an opportunity for the EU, taking into account the fact that, in 2015 the natural increase in the Union will have a negative trend, and the process of aging will become more visible<sup>14</sup>.

Here are some data to support this affirmation:

- the EU-27 population will grow from 506.8 million on 1 January 2012 to 521 million in 2035, and thereafter, it will decrease gradually to 506 million in 2060;
- since 2015, the number of deaths will exceed the number of births, and the increase of population due to natural growth would stop;
- since 2015 the positive net migration will be the only population growth factor;

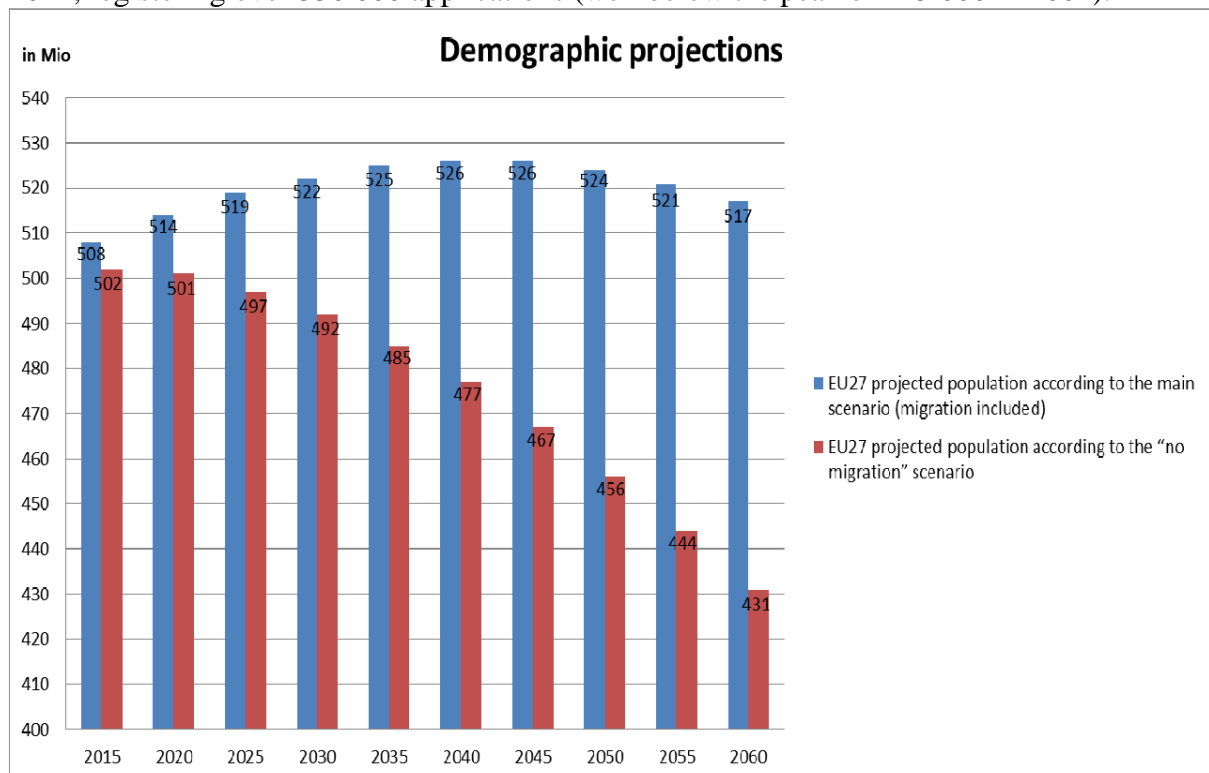
<sup>11</sup> Ultimul avut la dispoziție

<sup>12</sup> European Commission - IP/13/552 17/06/2013

<sup>13</sup> European Commission - IP/13/552 17/06/2013, [http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_IP-13-552\\_ro.htm](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-13-552_ro.htm)

<sup>14</sup> EUROSTAT, Population projections 2008-2060, STAT/08/119

- however, in 2035 the positive contribution of migration would no longer counterbalance the negative natural increase, and the population will decline;
- the EU working population (being between 15 to 64 years old) was about 335.4 million people in 2012, and is projected to continue to decline over the next 50 years to 290.6 million people in 2060;
- the age rate dependency regarding the old people reached 26.8% in 2012 and is projected to increase significantly to 52.6% in 2060;
- the number of third-country nationals residing in the EU (20.7 million) represents about 4.1% of the total EU population;
- in 2012, the total number of asylum applications increased by 9.7% compared to 2011, registering over 330 000 applications (well below the peak of 425 000 in 2001).



Sursa: Eurostat, December 2013 (online data codes: proj\_10c2150p and proj\_10c2150zmp)

Analyzing these data through the global interests that EU has assumed - as the global economic leader, the main donor in poor areas, exporting democracy - but also the evolution of the main competitors - U.S., China, India, the Union must find and ensures the human resources able to support this effort. Or, migration from third countries is likely to become one of the main instruments of support, along with population growth ensured already by integrated immigrants.

#### CHAPTER 4. MIGRATION IN THE EU - SOURCE OF INSECURITY

If we regarding immigration as subject for study or research, immigration in order to work or immigration for family reunification, EU has developed appropriate mechanisms, so, it remains to solve the problem of illegal immigration.

These assessments are based on the existence - closer to EU - of some instability poles, characterized by lack of development, environmental problem and democratic deficit. All these factors are generating migration.

Maghreb and the Middle East have become a starting point for EU migrants; they begin to migrate having as motivation the desire to find a suitable job, or individual rights and freedoms. Refugees resulted because the civil wars throughout the Middle East have become a source of migration to the EU. Overpopulation territories and lack of economic and social prospects in Asia have also generated a wave of migrants to the EU. Sub-Saharan Africa with its serious climatic and humanitarian issues and the rest of Africa - marked by underdevelopment and internal struggles - are a constant source of migration to the EU.

Lack of appropriate policies aimed to control these waves of migrants could create a major security problem at EU level. We talk about "Control" because we appreciate that stopping these waves of migrants at the external borders of the Union is almost impossible.

In other words, the first security issue that EU will have to solve is how it can control the number of migrants. Insecurity caused by the Arab Spring, the fall of totalitarian regimes in the North African region has generated a massive wave of immigrants, having as terminal point the EU, particularly Italy. It was almost impossible to manage the large number of immigrants. Only the financial, material and humanitarian involvement of Union help to avoid a humanitarian disaster in the Mediterranean area. Syria and Iraq are other sources of illegal immigrants. Bases in the region to recruit Islamist fundamentalist terrorist organizations can facilitate the infiltration of members of terrorist networks, targeted against Western interests. The biggest danger for the EU can be including the second generation of immigrants, being already in the integration phase, but, in the same time, being under the ideological pressure put by fundamentalist terrorist networks located in their home countries. The organizers of the terrorist attacks in London in July 2005 were descendants of the first immigrants from South Asia.

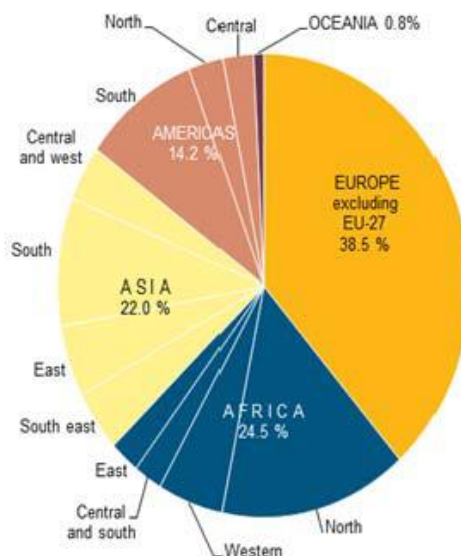
Organized crime can just take advantage of ongoing illegal migration routes. Most problematic are the persons and drug trafficking.

Immigrants coming especially from Asia are under the pressure of specialized organized crime, drug and persons trafficking.

In order to solve these problems the integration of immigrants becomes essential. Without feeling that they belong to a common civilization space emigrants are victims of recruitment actions, organized by terrorist networks and by organized crime. Migratory flow can generate the transfer from one region to another of epidemics and pandemics. From here derives the importance of controlling the entry of migrants within EU.

Migrants' pressure on certain countries, regions or European settlements can generate imbalances in the social, medical or educational field, represented by insufficient budgets. Changing ethnic and religious composition of some areas can be a source of insecurity that can generate conflicts community members.

## ORIGIN OF NON-EU NATIONALS RESIDING IN THE EU BY CONTINENT



(\*) Estimates.  
Source: Eurostat (online data code: migr\_pop1ctz)

In order to highlight the issue of migration in the EU, between “necessity” and “insecurity” we have chosen to present a SWOT analysis of the main elements regarding this security dilemma.

### SWOT Analysis

<b>Strengths</b>	<b>Weaknesses</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- migration from outside the EU can solve the demographic problem;</li> <li>- on the European labor market there are labor shortages that can be filled by immigrants;</li> <li>- immigration can bring social and cultural benefits.; exchanges can be a benefit for all involved parts and can help to create one more tolerant society. European Agenda for the Integration of third-country nationals stretch on participation of immigrants in the economic, social, cultural and political life of the host country, paying particular attention to measures taken at the local level and the role that the countries of their origin play in the integration of their citizens.</li> <li>- EU Global Approach on Migration provides a framework for EU foreign policy in this area.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- the disappearance of internal borders allow people to move freely and immigration can not be managed at the national level;</li> <li>- immigrants who live within the EU can be integrated into host countries only through an active participation at all levels of society;</li> <li>- immigration benefits arise only if immigrants are successfully integrate into their host countries;</li> <li>- sometimes, there are not respected the immigration law; there are people who enter legally in the EU, based on a short-stay visa, and not go out after it;</li> <li>-“black market” force labor attracts many illegal immigrants;</li> </ul>
<b>Opportunities</b>	<b>Threats</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-immigration brings not only benefits for the people who move in the EU, but also for their host societies;</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- illegal immigration is supported by criminal organizations and sometimes they</li> </ul>

<p>-immigrants may fill vacancies, from those that require a high level of specialization, for which there are not sufficient qualified labor force in the EU, to those that Europeans are not willing to deal;</p> <p>-immigrants bring with them new ideas and methods that can boost creativity and innovation;</p> <p>-immigration can be helpful for the countries of origin; migrants send to their relatives a part of the wages they get in the EU or return to the country they came with significant baggage of knowledge, thereby improving the living conditions from there;</p> <p>-the work of researchers, students, pupils and trainees will be improved significantly due to implementation of more efficient and transparent terms of entry, residence and mobility within the EU.</p>	<p>continue to depend on after arriving in the EU;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- trafficking networks can easily exploit those people without legal documents;</li> <li>- terrorist organizations can take advantage of the existence of immigrants that are enrolled ideological in anti-Western radical movements;</li> <li>- it is possible to arise inter-ethnic and inter-confessional conflicts, between the majority and immigrants;</li> <li>- the public welfare and education can not cope with an increased number of beneficiaries;</li> </ul>
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**CONCLUSIONS**

Migration will be a continuous challenge for the EU, a challenge to which the EU and the member states can not answer without adapted tools and a proper management of the phenomenon;

States that hold EU's external borders will not be able to manage the migration flow without the strong and active involvement of the EU at the borders. External borders of the Union belong not only to the Member States of EU. It would be necessary to establish a community structure of control and management of external borders, similar to the European Border Police. So, the weaknesses shown by national states border management could be removed;

Demographic deficit and the aging of the European population can be counterbalanced by the contribution of migration from third countries;

Possible links between terrorist organizations or organized crime networks and migrants can be canceled by a better integration of migrants;

Illegal migration originating from conflict areas and poverty zone will be the main challenge for European policy makers, charged with managing migration issues.

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