

# Methods of Regulating Migration Processes in EU Countries

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## Summary

Modern methods of regulating migration processes in EU states include a wide variety of adapted, transformed under the sway of globalization tools in order to influence the movement of human capital within the European space. The main purpose of the regulatory policy on migration flows is the redistribution of professionally competent professionals between different spheres of life. Herewith, the determining factor in the effectiveness of such distribution is a rational combination of stimulating and disincentive levers of influence on the movement of citizens of different EU countries and taking into account the motives of such mobility. Modernization of migration management approaches can be a major economic, social, political and cultural progress of European countries. The purpose of the research is to conduct a detailed analysis of existing practices of migration flow management, in particular their stimulation or containment, and to outline key migration trends formed under the influence of multicomponent approaches to migration regulation, transformation of regulatory legislation and changing priorities of modern society. The research methods: statistical-analytical method; ARIS method; method of tabular, graphical and analytical modeling; comparative analysis; systematization, generalization. Results. Current pan-European methods of regulating migration processes are insufficiently adapted to the multinational social-economic space; consequently, there are some disparities in the distribution of migrants between EU countries, although the overall dynamics of migration is positive. Fluctuations in the population of European countries during 2000-2019 and trends in the transformation of social-economic space confirm the insufficient level of influence of current methods of regulating migration flows. Along with this, the presence of a characteristic asymmetry in the distribution of migrants requires a greater focus on the modernization of regulatory instruments, in particular, the regulatory mechanism for managing migration processes. As a result of the conducted study, further prospects for the implementation of alternative methods of regulating migration processes in EU states have been outlined; the current and projected limits for increasing the level of observance of migrants' rights at the European level have been clarified through the adoption of appropriate regulatory acts; effective solutions for intensifying the influx of high-quality labor resources from different countries to EU have been identified. The research results

can be used to study methods of regulating migration processes in the countries in the global dimension.

## Key words:

*Migration, Migration Flows, Migration Policy, Migration Flow Management Mechanism, Mobility of Human Capital.*

## 1. Introduction

The modern globalized social-economic environment, which is characterized by a high level of human capital's mobility, digitalization of the society and dynamic integration into the world requires the modernization of approaches to the regulation of migration processes. The need to improve existing methods of managing the flow of migrants is caused by the intensification of interstate cooperation of EU member states and the deepening of their social-economic and political interactions. Nowadays the European continent is one of the key centers of attraction for migrants [1; 2].

Further development of the globalized social-economic space will expand the possibilities of migration within the European environment, which causes an urgent need to improve methods of regulating migration flows. The investigation of migration management methods is important not only in the context of improving the practice of regulatory measures; it also occupies a leading position in the formation of theoretical and methodological aspects of migration policy in European countries. Accordingly, the European government seeks to structure migration flows and streamline the distribution of human capital between traditional production and those industries that are just beginning to develop.

Increasing mobility of human capital in the absence of effective regulatory measures can lead to excessive separation of individual countries. Therefore, the regulation of migration flows is a modern method of balancing the autonomy and integration of European countries by equilibrating cultural traditions and preserving national identity. In accordance with the outlined issues, the change in the organization of the economic space, which occurs due to labor migration, is an urgent problem that combines the

solution of social transformation, as well as economic, political, cultural, religious and educational components.

The purpose of the research: conducting a detailed analysis of the existing practice of managing migration flows, their stimulation or containment, outlining key migration trends and opportunities for migration regulation in the context of changing the priority areas of the modern society.

The research objectives are as follows:

1. To identify and characterize the main European methods of regulating migration processes under modern conditions.
2. To analyze and summarize the main trends of global indicators of migration processes. To consider the dynamics of international migration flows and the place of the European continent in their structure.
3. To highlight the features of methods of regulating migration processes; to outline further prospects for expanding opportunities for movement between EU countries, to clarify the current and projected limits of improving the level of respect for migrants' rights at the European level through the adoption of relevant regulations.
4. To identify effective solutions in order to increase the influx of high quality labor resources from different countries to EU.

## 2. Literature review

Global economic cooperation remains a strategic goal of migration policy in both individual European countries and the world community. Consequently, modern authors carry out a thorough analysis and improvement of conceptual approaches to migration management in the XXI century. The problem of mass social-economic insecurity causes the likelihood of poverty and social exclusion of certain ethnic groups [3]. Inequality is becoming a characteristic feature of modern society; it has a negative impact on the development of the global economy and the formation of a market model of cooperation around the world [4].

In particular, the works of Castillejo and Castles consider current trends and shortcomings in the regulation of migration flows in the context of globalization and the formation of a multiethnic society [5; 6]. Castles argues that the effectiveness of regulatory measures depends on the differentiation of approaches to managing migration flows according to different categories of migrants. The researcher has proposed the following classification of migrants and appropriate methods of regulating their movements, namely [6]:

- temporary labor migrants. Methods of regulating the movements of this group of migrants are reduced to the use of rational levers of influence on their productivity in order to obtain high quality products and maximize personal income of the employee;
- casual migrants. This category includes mostly illegal movements of labor capital and the use of undocumented

sources of income. Methods of regulating the movements of this group of migrants are reduced to the use of means in order to legalize their activities;

- refugees or a category of people seeking asylum. As international law [7] still has some controversial aspects regarding the separation of refugees and migrants, the methods of regulating the flow of refugees are aimed at protecting the interests of this category, legalization of their displacement, as well as ensuring social needs and eliminating negative cultural consequences for refugee countries;

– population that is forced to migrate. The designated group of migrants is wider than refugees, and, therefore, the regulation of displacement of this category requires the use of additional social, political levers of influence on their social-psychological adaptation, as their mobility is mainly connected with unforeseen situations (natural disasters, in particular) [8]. However, this category of people also includes migrants whose relocation is associated with obtaining new labor prospects as part of the implementation of large-scale international research or development projects. The basic regulatory measures that can be applied by national or international bodies in order to implement migration policy include influencing the effectiveness of the labor potential of migrants and expanding the prospects for the implementation of professional competence;

– migrant - family members or re-emigrants. The outlined category of migration flows aims to address a set of national problems of social-demographic nature, forasmuch as the strategy of family reunification is a priority vector of the social component of EU policy. Methods of regulating the movement of this group of migrants are reduced to the implementation of measures in order to adapt migrants to the modern society of a particular nation, preserving family values and eliminating imbalances between different categories of the population.

Thus, the emergence of the gradation of migrants and methods of regulating their mobility presented in the researcher's works is caused by the intensification of cooperation within European countries. In contrast to the outlined views, there are the opinions of scientists on the need to use modern methods of rationalizing population mobility, as well as adjusting migration in the context of a multiplicity of ethnic groups in the structure of the European community. The outlined vector of society transformation was called "Concept of super-diversity", which was analyzed by Vertovec [9]. Excessive diversity of mankind is a generalizing concept that indicates the deepening of social interaction and changing the status of individual ethnic groups. Consequently, "super-diversity" entails the emergence of new models of inequality and social prejudice. Therefore, the author insists that the above concept should remain only at the level of the modern social-economic paradigm and adheres to the idea of

improving the practical mechanism of regulation through the development of appropriate migration models [9].

Considering the potential economic consequences of immigration for the European economy, Bouoiyour et al. have investigated general migration, economic migrants and refugees [10]. The obtained results suggest that although most migration is not directly driven by EU's labor needs, migrants play a significant role in the most dynamic sectors of the economy. According to viewpoint of Kirkegaard, it is the employment-based migration that is crucial in considering the likely long-term economic consequences of rising immigration to Europe in recent decades [11].

It is worth remembering that the basic lever of influence on the effectiveness of migration policy is the use of legal instruments to manage the flow of migrants [12]. Therefore, European Commission in the context of regulatory measures has adopted a set of regulations that indirectly support migration processes [13].

On the basis of the formed branched system of regulation of migration processes new economic categories and social trends emerge, in particular, the concept of scaling of social and economic space [14]. Consequently, modern researchers insist that migration processes in EU countries are a natural phenomenon [15]. Therefore, the application of migration management methods becomes a prerequisite for changing the social-economic space; it stimulates territorial integration and increases the functional differentiation of EU economy. However, the necessity to regulate the processes of labor movement is caused by the need to preserve the national identity of individual European countries; it aims to increase the level of functionality of the society, the territory and the political system of the country.

Along with this, the integration of national cultures into the European social-economic and educational space, as well as the preservation of the cultural identity of individual countries are of particular importance in the process of regulating migration flows. The authors have proven that adjusting the relationship between migrants and the population of the host country is necessary to reduce the negative impact of intercultural distance of different people of the world and eliminate difficulties in social adaptation of migrants [16].

The optimization of educational systems of European countries is a special direction of development of the global social-cultural space. It is migration that acts as one of the social-economic instruments of influence on the formation of powerful personnel, institutional and information-analytical support, namely: using effective methods of regulating migration flows will allow correcting global population movements [17; 18;], attracting highly qualified personnel from distant countries to European educational space [19] well as expanding the possibilities of using the

latest innovative developments in the educational systems of different European countries [20].

### 3. Methods and Materials

Methods of comparison and generalization have been used to identify individual features of migration, to compare modern regulatory practices of migration processes in different European countries and to summarize the obtained data. The use of the outlined methods made it possible to distinguish various aspects of the regulation of migration flows, to identify the characteristic features of migration in the modern conditions of formation of the global economic space and to generalize the principles of labor mobility management.

Due to the detailed analysis, the conceptual bases of application of different approaches to the regulation of migration processes depending on the strength of their influence on the state of the European social-economic environment and the level of regulatory potential have been outlined, namely: stimulation or restraint of migration flows. Statistical-analytical method has been used in the process of analyzing the dynamics of migration processes within European countries and the level of effectiveness of modern methods for regulating the flow of human capital. In order to determine the key factors in increasing the level of migration activity, modern integrated approaches to statistical analysis have been used, in particular the ARIS method. The outlined technique has helped determine the quantitative changes in the flow of migrants under the influence of the transformation of the regulatory framework. Thus, as a result of modeling the relationship between law-making and migration processes, the following conclusion has been obtained, namely: updating migration legislation directly proportionally increases the level of mobility of human capital; it causes moderate incentives for migration, however, it hinders active development by setting certain restrictions for migrants.

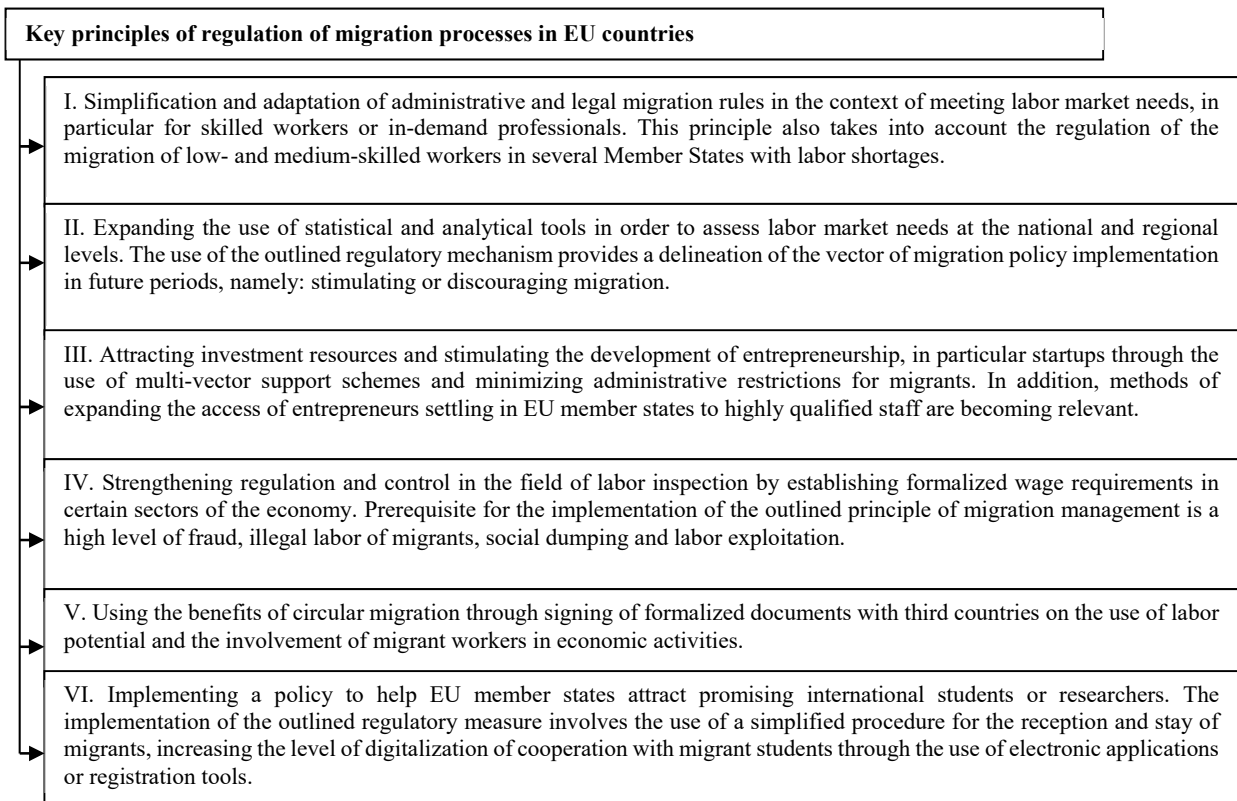
In order to assess the dynamics of migration within the common European space, to characterize the features of using differentiated methods of regulating migration processes and to determine the current trends in population mobility, statistical and analytical information from the collections of European Commission [13], United Nations [2] and International Organization for Migration has been used [1; 21].

Due to the application of tabular, graphical and analytical modeling, the analysis of the dynamics of international migration flows and the place of the European continent in their structure has been carried out as well as study of quantitative indicators of emigrants and immigrants of the European continent and changes in the quantitative structure of the population of some EU countries as a result of intensified migration processes.

### 4. Results

European methods of regulating migration processes are aimed at optimizing the movement of migrants and streamlining the distribution of human capital between different spheres of the society. EU migration policy is characterized by a high degree of liberalization and adaptation to the needs of the population. Consequently, its development is carried out in accordance with current trends in interstate cooperation. The basic vector of

development of European social and economic life nowadays becomes maximization of efficiency of use of labor potential through application of innovative methods of the organization of work with the population, development of cooperation between the society and the government, adaptation of European social-economic and political interests to human needs, as well as opportunities. Within the framework of the modern European strategy of cooperation between the government and the population, the regulation of migration flows has received the following special characteristics (see Figure 1):



**Fig.1.** Principles of introducing regulatory measures in the context of the implementation of migration policy in EU Member States

Thus, the modernization of methods of regulating migration processes is taking place at a dynamic pace. The reasons for such modernization are changes in migration policy and tools for its implementation at the European level, expanding the supply of jobs at the global level and the development of labor mobility. Investigating the global

indicators of the development of migration processes, it should be noted that European continent remains the most attractive for migrants. The dynamics of international migration flows and the place of the European continent in their structure are shown in Table 1.

**Table 1:** The main centers for attracting migrants in 2000-2019, million people

Region	The total number of migrants, million people					Growth rates, %	
	2000	2005	2010	2015	2019	2010/2000	2019/2010
World	172,7	195,2	213,9	243,7	271,6	23,8	26,9
European continent	57,0	64,3	69,7	76,1	82,0	12,6	17,6
North America	40,0	45,6	50,0	54,5	58,9	25,0	17,8

North Africa and West Asia	20,0	22,1	33,9	41,7	49,0	69,5	44,5
Africa (sub-Saharan Africa)	13,0	14,3	15,9	21,3	24,0	22,3	50,9
East and Southeast Asia	11,4	14,9	17,0	18,1	18,6	49,1	9,4
Latin America and the Caribbean	7,0	6,9	7,4	9,2	12,0	5,7	62,2
Oceania	5,0	5,5	6,0	8,1	9,1	20,0	51,7

Thus, the European continent is characterized by a high level of attraction of migrants over the past 20 years. This trend has various reasons, however the basic ones are as follows: the modernization of the legal framework for the regulation of migration flows and the complication of the demographic situation in most EU member states, which causes the complexity of ensuring the labor market. In order to improve the regulatory mechanism, a number of legal documents have been adopted that support the level of migration development, but do not provide opportunities for active expansion of opportunities for movement between EU countries. In particular, the following regulatory acts were adopted during 2000-2019:

1. Dublin Convention (adopted in 1990, entered into force in 1997), became the basic document for regulating the migration of refugees and granting them asylum;
2. Dublin II Regulation (2003), modification of the Dublin Convention;
3. Directive 2003/86/EU (2003), which aims to regulate the order of family reunification;
4. Directive 2003/109/EU (2003), which determines the status of third-country citizens who are long-term residents;

5. The Blue Card Directive (2009), adopted in order to simplify the conditions of movement and residence of highly qualified workers;
6. Directive 2011/98/EU (2011), which determines the procedure for obtaining a residence and employment permit for migrants;
7. Dublin III Regulation (No. 604/2013) (2013), modification of Dublin II Regulation;
8. Directive 2014/36/EU (2014), adopted to regulate seasonal migration;
9. The Intra-Corporate Transferees Directive 2014/66/EU (2014), adopted to facilitate labor mobility and improve the mechanism of redistribution of workers employed in international companies;
10. Directive (EU) 2016/801 (2016), adopted to facilitate the migration of the population involved in research, scientific or educational activities and aimed at improving the mechanism of students' mobility.

The level of dependence between the adoption of the outlined acts and the level of development of migration processes is shown in Figure 2.

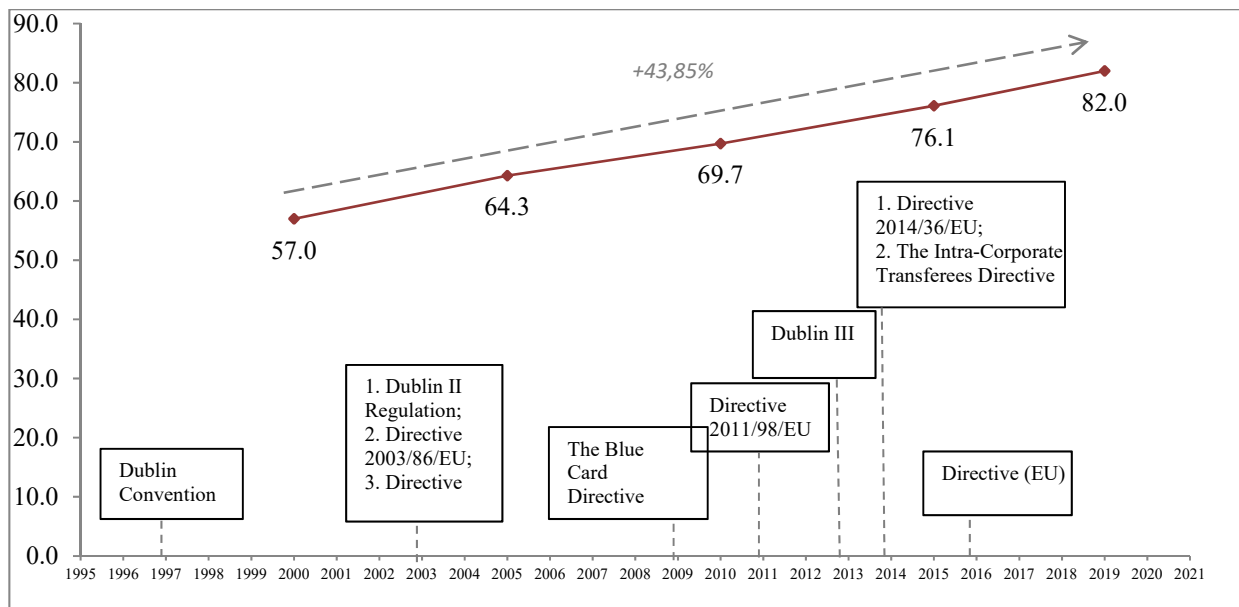


Fig 2. Relationship between the transformation of the legal framework for the regulation of migration processes and the total number of migrants in the European region

It should be noted that the dynamics is positive, however, the outlined regulatory acts do not allow the dynamic

development of the European labor market. The renewal of the legal framework during 2000-2010 led to an increase in

migration flows by 22,28%; during 2010-2019 the positive dynamics also remains, the change in the number of migrants in the European region is 17,65%. The total increase in migrants during 2000-2019 is 43,85%. It is necessary to ensure the preservation of the outlined trends. It is expedient to balance the methods of stimulating and discouraging migration, that is, further regulatory practice should be aimed at attracting highly qualified human capital and curbing illegal migration flows.

Forasmuch as EU's migration policy aims to increase the influx of high-quality labor from different countries, it should be noted that the attractiveness of the European continent for migrants lies in:

- a favorable policy for the reception of migrant workers and the expansion of internal European mobility through the improvement of the regulatory framework;
- implementation of measures in order to increase the level of observance of migrants' rights at the European level through the adoption of relevant regulatory acts;
- a highly effective strategy for the adaptation and integration of migrants into the European working space;
- ensuring the synergetic effect of migration and social-economic development of the European society.

The level of provision of European countries with emigrants and the number of immigrants as of 2019 is shown in Figure 3.

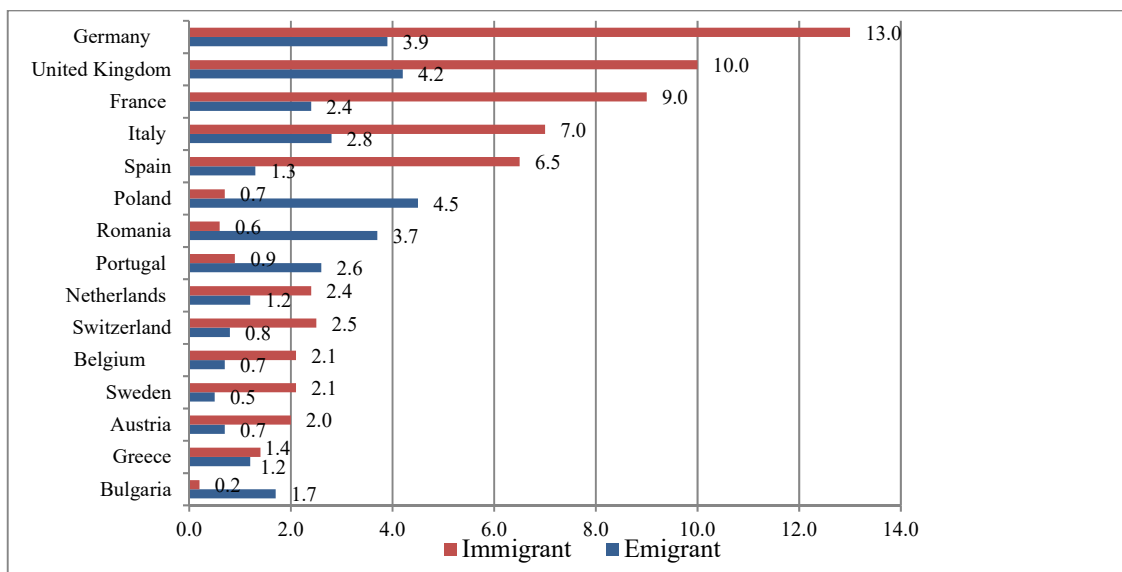


Fig. 3. Top 15 European countries with the largest share of emigrants and immigrants in 2019 (million people)

The countries with the highest supply of jobs and, as a result, host a significant proportion of migrants are as follows: Germany (the number of migrants in 2019 was 13,0 million, which is 1,9 million more than in 2000), the United Kingdom (the number of migrants in 2019 was 10,0 million people, which is 4,7 million more than in 2000), France (the number of migrants in 2019 was 9,0 million people, which is 2,7 million more than in 2000), Italy (the number of migrants in 2019 was 7,0 million people, which is 4.7 million people more than in 2000) and Spain (the number of migrants in 2019 was 5,5 million people, which is 4,5 million more than in 2000) (United Nations, 2019).

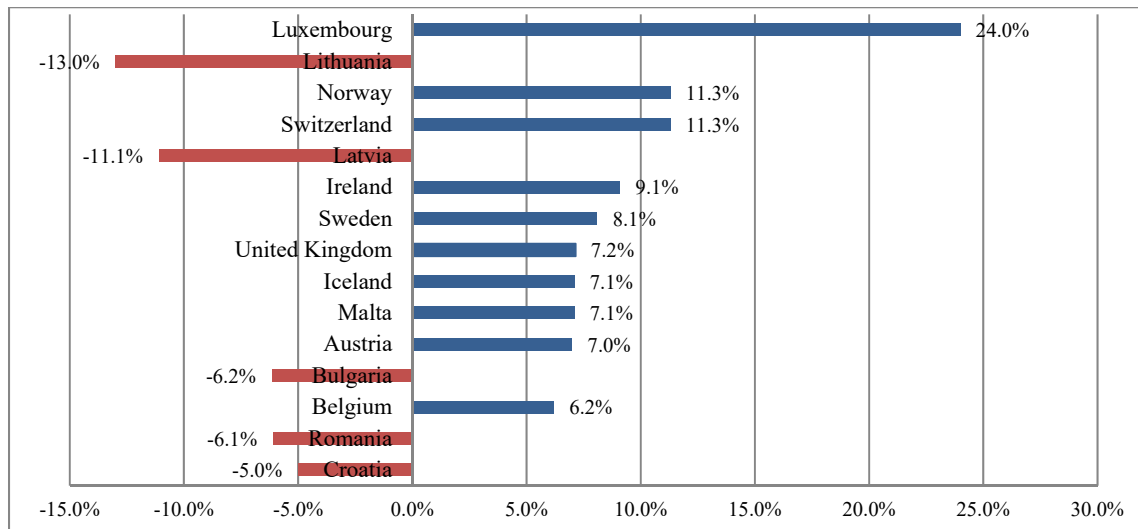
Under the influence of regulatory measures, most European countries have undergone significant changes in the structure, quality and population. The top 15 European countries with the largest proportional population change due to the intensification of migration processes and modifications in their methods of regulation are shown in

Figure 4 (the study covers the ten-year period from 2009 to 2019).

As a result of updating the policy of migration management and intensification of migration flows during the studied years, stable migration corridors were formed within the European continent, which include the following countries:

1. Poland – Germany (1,8 million people in 2019);
2. Romania – Italy (1,1 million people in 2019);
3. Poland – the United Kingdom (0,9 million people in 2019).

The feature of these migration corridors lies in the fact that they are intra-regional, and, therefore, their relevance is quite high among EU countries. In addition, regulatory activities have simplified the mechanism for attracting migrants from other countries, including Algeria, Turkey, Morocco, Kazakhstan, the Russian Federation, Ukraine and India.



**Fig. 4.** Top 15 European countries with the largest change in the quantitative structure of the population as a result of migration processes in 2009-2019 (%)

In order to intensify migration processes, EU Mobility Partnership Structure (MPF) was established in June 2016. It aims to mobilize tools and resources; their impact on both EU and the Member States will promote cooperation with partner countries for the purpose of “sustainable management of migration flows” [22].

The characteristic features of European Union that limit mobility and reflect many potential migrants from traveling abroad is that very often the institutional structures, regulating the labor market at the national level, contribute to the configuration of a rather rigid and fragmented European labor market. In addition, legislation, governing access to social security and health care, has not been developed to meet the needs of migrant workers. Consequently, the European institutions still have a long way to go to address these shortcomings.

Thus, further improvement of methods, regulating migration flows, will ensure the rationalization of the redistribution of highly skilled labor. It will optimize the work of the European educational environment, increase the efficiency of the functioning of the social-economic systems of EU member states and create favorable conditions for the deeper integration of the pan-European economic environment into the world community.

## 5. Discussion

Discussions on the causes of migration processes continue. Researchers link the active implementation of the policy of intensifying the involvement of highly qualified personnel, young professionals and successful students with the development of European ideas of preserving freedom, security and justice in the society. Adhering to the outlined

point of view, it can be argued that the modernization of the social and economic environment is a consequence of the evolution of methods for regulating migration processes; however, the results of the transformation of the society are conditional and unpredictable [23].

Forasmuch as changes in migration trends are considered by scientists as the result of complex multi-vector processes, caused by political or economic pressure [24], the study of the causes of migration processes should be conducted through the prism of historical methods and approaches of analysis, which is beyond the scope of this study, but is reflected in the works of other modern scholars [24; 25].

Some scholars emphasize the lack of a clear migration policy strategy. The application of contradictory tools in order to influence migration flows reduces its regulatory potential and causes significant both economic and social stratification of the society. Thus, migration control will be effective only if a balance and reduction of inequality in the society is achieved [26].

The basic factors that stimulate the transformation of methods of influencing migration and determine the priority of the application of certain regulatory mechanisms in the structure of European migration policy can be combined into the groups according to the following principles. Firstly, increasing the inflow of high-quality human capital from non-EU countries, as well as the transformation of the pan-European labor market. Investigating EU migration policy, Lutz et al. [27] pay special attention to the attractiveness of the European continent for migrants; it lies in a favorable government policy and should provide a synergistic effect on the social-economic development of the European society. It is worth agreeing with researchers [28] that the harmonization of a modern society centers around balancing, adapting and minimizing cultural differences.



Consequently, regulation of migration flows should smooth out interpersonal differences and promote the formation of a multicultural society. However, in our opinion, modern methods of influencing the organizational structure of the society are not effective enough. They do not perform the function of coordination of interests of different ethnic groups that interact within the multinational European space. A key aspect of the rationalization of interethnic relations should be the strategic direction of modernization of EU's social-demographic policy, which will aim to systematize the rights and responsibilities of each of the participants in the multinational environment. Active use of various methods of regulating migration processes will increase the level of social and legal protection of human capital from around the world, improve labor law, focused on preserving jobs and ensure the proportionality of regional and sectoral adjustment of wages.

Secondly, the formation of a global multinational European space. Improving the concept of the of society's "super-diversity" in terms of intensification of integration and migration processes is becoming a very important area of work for researchers. In particular, an important contribution was made by Vertovec [29]. Such approach to the formation of a pan-European social-economic space can be the latest stage in the structure of global processes; it will increase the overall level of technology and digitalization of mankind through the exchange of positive experiences of different European countries. In our opinion, it is necessary to take into account the potential consequences of the impact of the outlined concept on individual national economies of EU member states, which have some autonomy and are formed under the pressure of various domestic factors. Nowadays, the existence of the outlined concept should be considered only from a research or theoretical point of view. For the practical implementation of the provisions of this paradigm, the difference in social-economic potential of EU countries should be taken into account, as well as the autonomy of national economies and domestic interests, the coordination of which in a multinational global environment has some difficulties nowadays due to lack of effective regulatory mechanisms. Thirdly, expanding the practice of using the regulatory leverage in order to influence migration processes. It is worth agreeing with viewpoint of Besharov and Lopez that the difficult situation with the level of coherence of European, national and international legislation not only reduces the attractiveness of Europe as a destination for migrant workers, but also calls into question the priority of European Union as a global industrial and economic, research and educational center [30]. The problem of modernity is the compromise of migrants by increasing the importance of the rights of the European population. Taking into account the existence of an extensive system of research in the outlined direction [30; 31], further legislative activity, in our opinion, should be focused on balancing the

rights and responsibilities of migrants and local people, improving existing trends in system of regulatory measures, provided that the historical institutionalist view of the process of formation of migration policy and migration legislation, in particular. Adherence to the outlined directions of activity will provide preservation of ascending dynamics of migration processes and will compensate imbalance of interests of various national groups.

## 6. Conclusion

As a result of the conducted study of current methods of regulating migration processes in European countries and substantiation of key factors of interstate mobility, it has been determined that modern approaches to influencing migration flows in the future should be aimed at streamlining the redistribution of highly qualified professionals between those sectors of the economy that have a significant shortage of human capital or need to transform approaches to using existing labor potential. Methods of managing migration processes directly form the vectors of development of the pan-European labor market, namely: further implementation of the personnel management strategy aims to eliminate the demographic problems of EU and minimize imbalances in the social-economic sphere.

The importance of the practical use of the research results lies in the further improvement of the regulatory mechanism, the influence of which should be aimed at stabilizing the social-economic European space and ensuring the proportionality of the distribution of labor resources in the context of the cyclical nature of migration processes. Forasmuch as the modern paradigm of European economic environment is based on the idea of stimulating social development and implementation of cohesion policy, the further use of migration management methods should be aimed at balancing the interests of individual European countries and ensuring their active cooperation in the context of labor potential redistribution.

Therefore, updating the methods of regulating migration processes and improving the conceptual framework for managing migrant flows can become a modern paradigm for maintaining globalization trends and mechanisms in order to integrate national economies of EU into the world community.

Expansion of opportunities for highly qualified workers and the widespread use of innovative, technological, scientific research approaches to regulating migration processes at the interstate level of organizing the labor market can become the basis for a pan-European migration strategy for future periods.



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