



Re-Turn

Regions benefitting from returning migrants

Re-Turn Migrant Survey Report: The Migrants' Potential and Expectations

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Re-Turn

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Content

0. Executive Summary	8
1. Introduction	9
2. Researching return migration: state of the art and open questions	10
2.1 Defining return migration	10
2.2 Theorising return migration.....	11
2.3 Typologies of returnees	14
2.4 Empirical result of previous studies on return migration in Central Europe 17	
2.5 Open questions.....	19
2.6 Hypotheses	20
3. Methodology.....	22
3.1 Definition of target groups.....	22
3.2 Sampling frame: Selection of the countries resp. regions	22
3.3 Sampling strategies	23
3.4 The Online Survey	24
3.5 The Re-Turn Questionnaire	25
3.6 Data collection period	26
3.7 Data and sample distribution	26
3.8 Distribution of the sampling population by countries	27
3.9 Description of the sampling population.....	28
3.10 Merits and limitations of the study	29
4. Migrant Stories	31
4.1 Katarzyna Chelińska (Poland).....	31
4.2 Eszter Sziladi (Hungary)	32
4.3 Joanna (Poland).....	33
4.4 Matthias Läufer (Germany)	34
4.5 Marianne Strahler (Germany).....	35
4.6 Radek B. (Czech Republic)	37
4.7 Irena Šuler (Slovenia)	38

- 4.8 Vivien Horvat (Hungary) 40
- 5. Global analysis: CEE migrants - innovative potential for their home regions? . 43
 - 5.1 General characteristics 43
 - 5.2 Theoretic assumptions and empirical findings..... 48
 - 5.2.1 Returnees’ age and qualification 48
 - 5.2.2 Motives of migration and motives of return 53
 - 5.2.3 Return: A consequence of failure? 56
 - 5.2.4 Return barriers: expectations and experiences 59
 - 5.2.5 Returnees’ potential of innovation..... 63
 - 5.2.6 Returnees’ willingness to compromise 66
- 6. Conclusions 69
- 7. Literature 71
- 8. ANNEX: Country studies 73

0. Executive Summary

Since migration in general is becoming more common and especially more circular in Central Europe, return migration can no longer be seen as a marginal phenomenon. Due to the fact that the share of nationals among immigrants is above average in EU-2004 states the survey area and Re-Turn project partners are located in seven Central and Eastern European countries.

The purpose of the project is to determine the questions concerning the decision and probability of return and the attributes which remigrants are dealing with. Further the project wants to evaluate how such remigrants can impact regional development in their respective target regions. Rounding off the Re-Turn project also tries to implement a measurement tool for remigration. This stems from the previous lack of research on transnational labour mobility, with all of this studies differing methodologically. To achieve the mentioned goals several working hypotheses were developed out of the theoretical framework of the study. Before starting data collection the target groups had to be defined. In this process two groups were identified. One being emigrants that had already returned and the other one being emigrants who are living currently abroad who or who don't consider a return. The study areas were chosen from the fact that they all are rural and peripheral regions in New EU-Member states that experienced strong emigration since 2004 and are dealing with weak labour markets.

Because of the target group being spread internationally and due to restrictions regarding the projects resources an Online Survey was chosen to sample data. To increase the popularity and therefore number of participants the survey was linked to websites that are frequently visited by members of the target population and promoted via newspapers, radio stations and social networks. Since internet based data collection has several shortcomings, the results have to be interpreted in context to it.

During a period of eight month between December 2011 and August 2012 over 3000 cases were collected. After data evaluation almost 2000 cases remained in the sample, providing valid information for the main data. Although the sampling population shows big differences in the number of participants concerning their nationality and has a well above average educational background important information regarding the motives, prerequisites and labour market performance was provided.

The results of the Re-Turn survey are, among others, that the return of emigrants results out of differing qualifications, experiences in the host country and motives of staying resp. leaving. The survey also shows that most of the emigrants return successfully and consider the return easy. Another exemplary conclusion is that return is less driven by economic reasons than private motives.

Country-Reports

Definitions:

- **Emigrants:** People who currently live outside of their home country.
 - **Permanent Emigrants:** Emigrants without considerations to return to their home country.
 - **Potential Returnees:** Emigrants with considerations to return to their home country.

- **Returnees:** People who returned to their home country after they had been abroad for at least 6 months.
 - **Country Returnees:** These are return migrants who have moved back into a different region than their home region.
 - **Region Returnees:** These are return migrants who have moved back into their former home region.

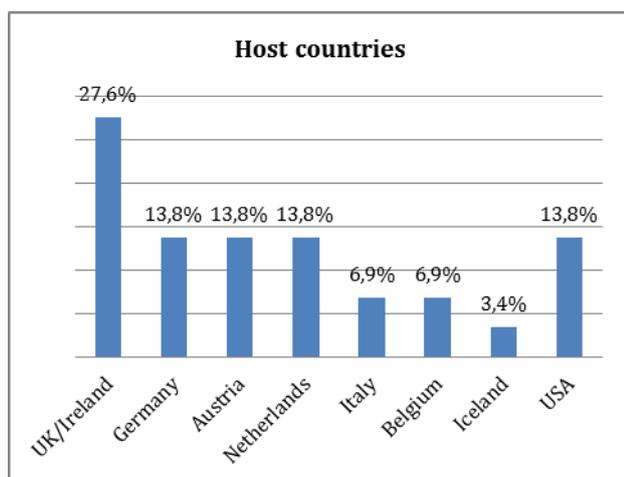
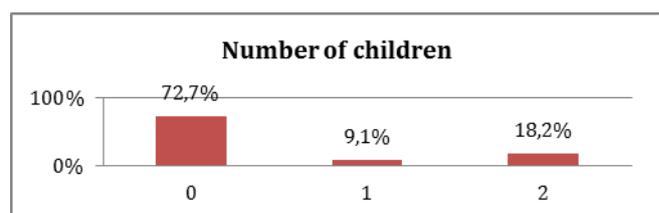
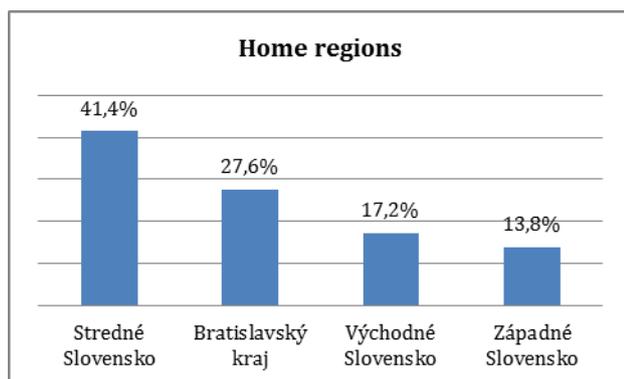
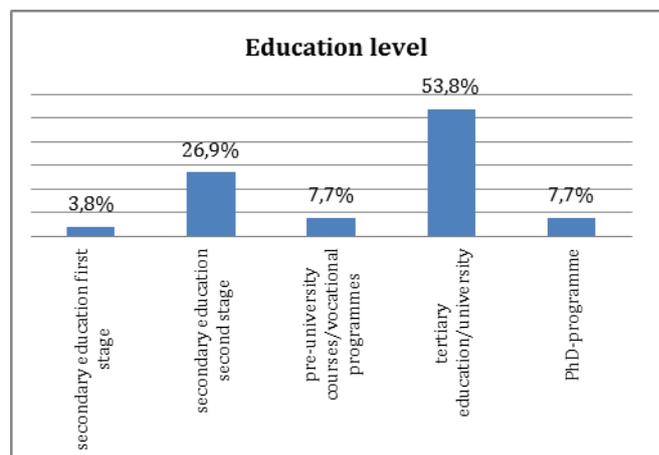
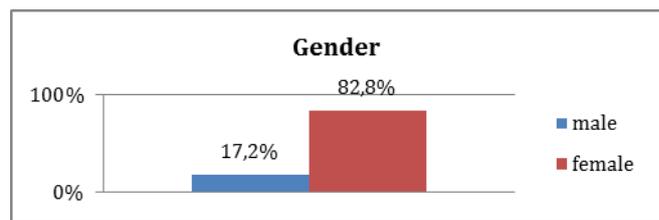
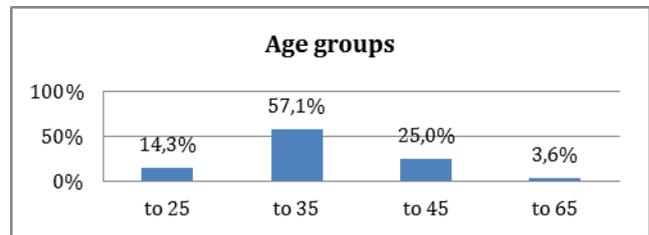
- **Host Countries**
 - **EU15:** Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom
 - **EU (new member states):** Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia
 - **Remaining Europe:** Countries on the European continent but outside of the European Union.

7. Slovakia

7.1. Populations, geography and key descriptors

General information: Because of the small number of the Slovakian sample (N=29), this report is confined to a marginal analysis. Therefore, the validity and the representativity of the outcomes are highly bounded.

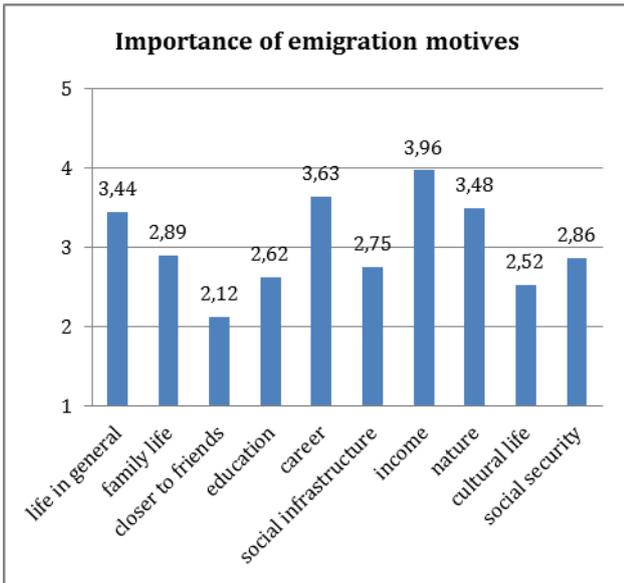
	n	%	out of which	n	%
Emigrants	23	-	Potential Returnees	9	-
			Permanent Emigrants	14	-
			Region Returnees	6	-
Country Returnees	0	-			
Returnees	6	-			
Total	29	100,0			



7.2. Thematic Analysis

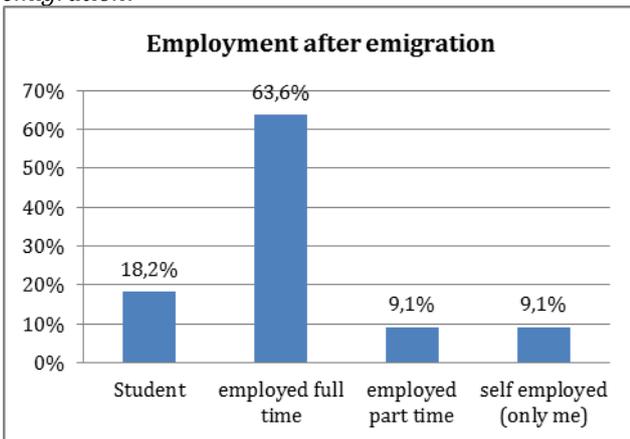
7.2.1. Migration Motives and Satisfaction abroad

„How important was it to improve the following factors when you decided to move abroad?“ (mean values; 1=not relevant ; 2=less relevant ; 3=important ; 4=very important ; 5=most important)

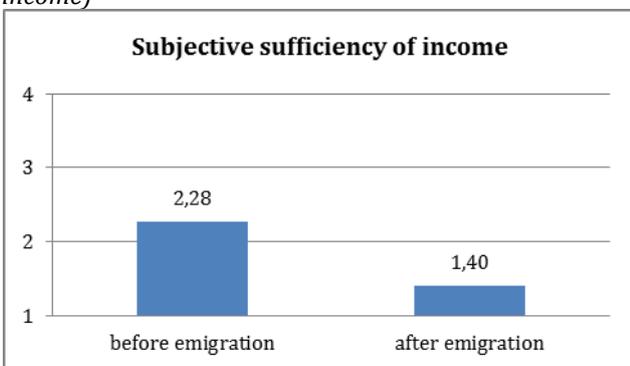


7.2.2. Employment and Income

„What was your employment situation abroad after emigration?“

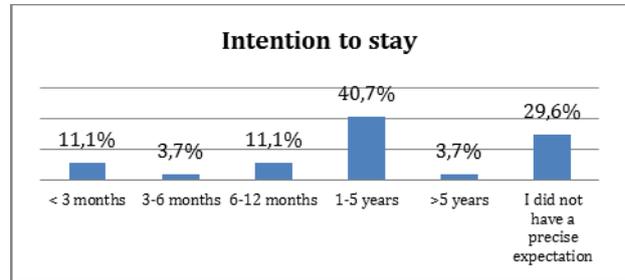


„How good could you live on your income before emigration and after emigration?“ (1=living comfortable on this income; 2=coping on this income; 3=finding it difficult on this income; 4=finding it very difficult on this income)

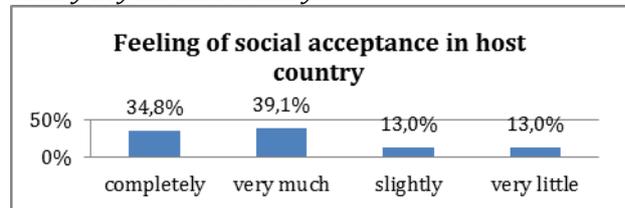


7.2.3. Intention to stay and social acceptance abroad

„Before your emigration, how long did you intend to stay abroad?“

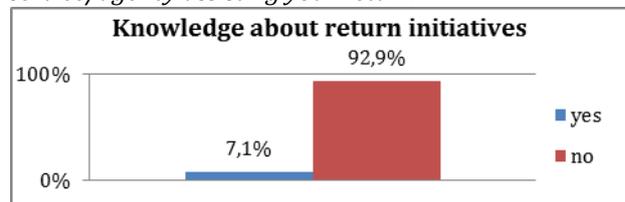


Returnees: „How much did you feel being accepted as a member of the society in your host country abroad? Potential Returnees and Permanent Emigrants: „How much do you feel being accepted as a member of the society in your host country?“



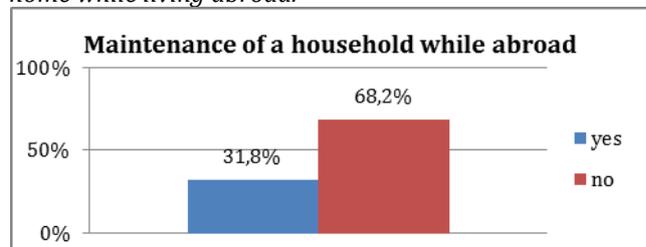
7.2.4. Obstacles of a (potential) return

„Did/do you know about any initiative/support service/agency assisting your return?“



7.2.5. Social factors and the decision process

Returnees: „I maintained a household home while living abroad“; Emigrants: „I am maintaining a household home while living abroad.“



Regions benefitting from returning migrants

After 1989 Central Europe has gone through important political, economic and social changes. The entry of many CE countries to the European Union during first decade of 21st century enhances the European integration. Joining European space accelerated economic growth of these countries and opened work migration flows, mainly from Central Europe to North-Western Europe.

Economically motivated migration of in particular young and well educated people from the New Member States to high-income countries is currently dominating international migration flows in Europe thanks to the free right to work in any other EU Member State. This is intensifying a brain drain process for many regions in Central Europe and certainly for the Re-Turn case study regions.

On the other hand statistics show the willingness of these people to come back to their countries. However, this process is often associated with significant problems of reintegration. Often the home regions neglect the returning migrants' contribution to regional economic development of these countries, and they do not support migrants in their return. It is estimated, that up to 50% of these outmigrants would return to their home countries within 5 years after emigration - a huge potential for

Project message:

"Re-Turn perceives returning migrants as a key factor for innovative regional development and therefore it creates new services and tools in order to facilitate their return and reintegration in their home region."

regional development as these people gained new social, cultural and professional competencies while being abroad.

Re-Turn's main objectives are linked to the development and implementation of services needed to support migrants in their wish to return, the promotion of returning migrants as a human capital resource for innovative business development, the creation of framework conditions for reintegration into their home countries' labour markets and social communities. The project aims at developing, testing and implementing joint strategies, new support policies, tools and services in the participating regions.

Target groups:

1. decision takers, senior officers from regional authorities and labour market organisations
2. training and qualification organisations
3. business associations and economic development organisations
4. social groups representing migrants
5. returning migrants

Further information:

www.re-migrants.eu

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The project seeks to gather original knowledge on the specific situation of returning migrants. Therefore an online survey has been conducted between December 2011 and July 2012 addressing emigrants and returnees. This knowledge will be used to raise awareness about 'return migration' at the political agenda, providing an account of the specific motivations and problems of returning migrants, and offering solutions for regional stakeholders to support them in their return.

Project information:

Project partners:

Countries involved: Germany, Poland, Czech Republic, Austria, Hungary, Slovenia, and Italy

Case Study Regions:

Ústí Region (CZ)

Görlitz Region (DE)

Harz Region (DE)

Mid Pannon Region (HU)

Lodz Region (PL)

Swietrzykie Region (PL)

Piemonte Region (IT)

Podravska Region (SI)

Main outputs:

1. *CE remigration online visualisation platform*
2. *Toolkit with methods and instruments of success stories*
3. *Handbook with Transnational joint planning and management tools*
4. *Tools and services to re-attract emigrants*
5. *Transnational Strategy for attracting and reintegrating migrants*

Project duration: 5/2011 - 4/2014

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