

Who is leaving? Potential emigration from Bulgaria in the beginning of the XXI century

Non-Technical Summary

Emigration is not a new phenomenon in Bulgaria. Even during the Cold War years international mobility of Bulgarian citizens, based on bilateral agreements, is observed. For the period between two last censuses (1992-2001) the gross emigration amounts at 196 thousand persons. Emigration attitudes are strong over time.

That's why the aim of the paper is to answer two questions:

- “Who leaves from Bulgaria?”
- “Why some people prefer to move for good and others – temporarily?”

Thus, the paper focuses on emigration potential assessment and on settlers, long- and short-term emigrants' profile. The difference between immediate emigration and general willingness to move is discussed.

Data is used from two surveys carried out in 2001 and 2003 adopting identical questionnaires. Three main sets of variables are considered when identifying emigrants' profile:

- Demographic characteristics;
- Employment/education status and previous stay abroad;
- Destinations, motivation and modes of departure.

The first two sets of variables summarize both potential emigrants' and non-emigrants' answers, whereas the third one recapitulates emigrants' answers only. Authors examine standard cross-tabulations and binary logit models. Three separate logit models for each emigrant's type are estimated. Each dependent variable differentiates the respective emigrants and non-emigrants. Net effects of demographic, employment/education and previous stay abroad variables are assessed.

The main findings of the paper are as follow:

- The immediate emigration potential from Bulgaria (within the current year) doesn't differ drastically in comparison with Central Europe.
- Age and previous stay abroad are among the most important determinants of emigration attitudes in Bulgaria.
- Employment, Education and Income variables don't indicate the expected impact.
- Some preference of potential emigrants towards Mediterranean countries is observed.

In addition, authors argue that immigration policies based on restrictions and bilateral agreements (in its European version) could hardly be efficient given the newly formed networks and businesses having already found a niche in the provision of emigration services.

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Financial report

BUDGET in USD

Items in the budget	Costs, according to the contract	Costs, during the period of project's implementation (February 2003 – June 2004)
Principle investigator	2125	2125
Senior Researchers	3875	3000
Junior Researchers	-	1200
Labor costs total	6000	6325
Translation	-	570
Purchase of information	-	402
Field Studies	7000	5600
Overheads	1000	1103
Total	14000	14000

Team members

Principle investigator	Dr. Vesselin Mintchev
Senior researchers	Dr. Valentin Goev; Dr. Iordan Kaltchev
Junior researchers	Venelin Boshnakov
Translation	Ivan Gospodov

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