Migrant students: between dream and reality

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1. Definitions

Foreign students are defined as non-residents of a country who are enrolled in education in that country and are not citizens of the country.

Migrant students are students who have crossed a national border and moved to another country with the objective to studying. That is to say, the student has moved from the country of origin to the country where he is studying (also called country of destination). The status as a mobile student is dependent on the crossing of a border motivated by education.

2. Foreign students in Europe

Poland

In 2012, approx. 25 thousand foreign students studied at Polish universities, about 43% more than in 2008. It is estimated that globally, the market for international studies generates about $100 billion a year to host countries of foreign students. In Poland, the estimated contribution of foreign students to the economy is at the moment around 100 million euros per year.

The number of foreign students in EU28 and Poland in 2012 – the first stage of tertiary education (level 5)

Graph. 1. The number of foreign students in EU28 and Poland in 2012 – the first stage of tertiary education (level 5)

Graph. 2. The number of foreign students in Europe in 2012 – the first stage of tertiary education (level 5)

Most foreign students in EU28 (2012) are from the USA (37%), Malaysia (15%), Brazil (11%), China (10%) and India (7%). In Poland over 80% of foreign students come from Ukraine (18%), followed by Bangladesh (6.4%), Pakistan (5%) and China (4%).

Graph. 3. Percentage of foreign students in the population of students in a given country in 2012 – the first stage of tertiary education (level 5)

Table 1. Areas of analysis and expectations from education among students from the Eastern Partnership

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Integration

1. The highest percentage of foreign students is in Medien (35.2%), followed by Medicine (35.2%), Business Administration (30.1%), Social Sciences (24.5%), and Computer Science (20.2%). In total, foreign students account for 34.7% of all students at level 5 and 6.

2. In the EU, the share of foreign students in Medicine is lower than in Poland. In Poland, Medicine is the most popular program, followed by Social Sciences (24.5%), Computer Science (20.2%), Business Administration (30.1%), and Medicine (35.2%).

3. The highest percentage of foreign students is in Liechtenstein, where foreigners make up 25% of the total student body. In terms of numbers, the highest number of foreign students is in the United Kingdom, Germany, France, Italy, and Spain.

4. In the Eastern Partnership, the highest percentage of foreign students is in Belarus, followed by Georgia and Moldova. In Poland, the highest percentage of foreign students is in the United Kingdom, Germany, France, and Spain.

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Impact of educational migration on selected spheres of life – difficulties

The analysis of the data from interviews regarding the internationalization of higher education shows that:

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