INTERNATIONAL LABOR MIGRATION AS ECONOMIC SCIENTIFIC CATEGORY: NEW CONCEPTUAL APPROACH

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International economic integration, transnationalization and world economy globalization are the most important catalysts for international labor migration development, involving all countries of the world, shaping the labor global demand and supply, labor markets trends, and as a result, contribute to the growth of international migration, change its geographical directions, as well as the qualitative structure of foreign labor. On the other hand, international migration itself, being a complex and ambiguous phenomenon, has a multidirectional impact on the economic, social, political, and cultural development of the world population. The paper proposes a new conceptual approach to revealing the essence of international labor migration, as an economic scientific category, through its multidimensional nature.

Keywords: international labor migration; migration processes; economic scientific category; international economic relations; multidimensionality; migration regulation

The research relevance

The economic life internationalization, international economic integration, the world economy transnationalization, the labor markets of goods and services globalization, have increased the interdependence of the structural links of the world economy, manifested in the activation of all forms of international economic relations, including international labor migration.

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At the present stage of the world economy development, migration processes become especially dynamic. According to the International Organization for Migration, in 2020, approximately 281 million people lived and worked in the world outside their countries, 2/3 of them are migrant workers (169 million people) (World Migration Report 2022).

Leveling the negative consequences of migration processes in the context of globalization necessitates the development of new conceptual approaches to the study of the migration phenomenon in order to form a migration policy adequate to national interests at all levels of regulation.

As international labor migration, scientists understand the territorial movement of the able-bodied population associated with crossing the border of another state, primarily due to economic reasons. Both from a scientific point of view and practice, international labor migration is an area characterized by a variety of approaches and concepts, since in the context of globalization the new nature of migration processes is determined not only by economic factors, but also by social, political, demographic, and ecological ones.

The most important methodological problem in the study of migration processes is the lack of its unified understanding as an economic scientific category, while the justification of the state policy of the countries of the world in relation to such a complex multifaceted socio-economic phenomenon as labor migration, in the author's opinion, suggests the need for its comprehensive study, precisely as a scientific category.

**International labor migration as an economic scientific category**

A scientific category reflects the most general, essential properties and connections of the phenomena of the objective world, revealing their essence and cause, forms of manifestation (Philosophical dictionary, 1980).

Scientific categories, on the one hand, are the result of theoretical generalization, and on the other hand, they are a means of new scientific knowledge of changes in phenomena and relations generated by new conditions of objective reality.

From an economic point of view, categories are a theoretical expression of real-life production relations that comprehensively reveal the phenomena and processes inherent in the stages of development of social production. It can be argued that the economic category is a multidimensional concept.

In the author understanding international labor migration as an economic scientific category is a system of socio-economic and organizational relations between migrant workers and public authorities of the countries of origin and receiving countries regarding their departure / entry in order to search for work and related restrictions, benefits, job security, observance of rights, etc., as well as other subjects of these relations (business structures, TNCs, international organizations, integration organizations, etc.), leading to the redistribution of labor between countries in accordance with economic needs.

The methodology for studying international labor migration as an economic scientific category involves its consideration as a multidimensional phenomenon, including:

1. international economic aspect;
2. production aspect;
3. economic and stimulating aspect;
4. social and humanitarian aspect;
5. political and administrative aspect.
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We can substantiate and reveal the listed aspects.

In the international economic aspect, international labor migration is considered as a form of international economic relations, which is developing taking into account the transformational changes under the global economic trends influence.

Back in the 1960s E. P. Pletnev (1962) described the mechanism of interaction of all forms of international economic relations, considered international labor migration in a broad sense as an integral part of the world capitalist economy, in its relationship with the capitalist production cyclical development, the movement of unemployment, investment, trade, currency relations.

The author agrees with Lowell & Findlay (2017), who believe that considering the links between migration and international trade, the flow of investment, technology transfer, etc., it is advisable to talk about migration of highly qualified specialists and, as a result, the emergence of new types of migration. At the same time, the highly qualified specialists’ migration gives rise to a number of contradictions, the objective basis of which is the “brain drain”.

However, labor force migration itself has a direct impact on these processes (foreign investment, technology transfers, sale of licenses, etc.). The document of the International Labor Organization (ILO, 2004) draws attention to the fact that in the countries of the outflow of highly qualified specialists, there is a decrease in the investment activity of foreign companies, which in their strategy take into account the level of qualification of the personnel available in the field. The connection between monetary and financial relations and migration can be traced through the remittances of labor migrants to their homeland.

Thus, the international migration of labor is interconnected with all forms of international economic relations, its dynamics, directions; features directly depend on the development of the entire system of international economic relations.

The production aspect of international labor migration is manifested in combination of labor movement and other factors of production movement, moreover, the international migration of labor has become one of the leading forms, and the intensive formation of international labor market is developing along with world markets for goods, services and capital.

A deep internal connection between the laws of production development and population mobility is shown by K. Marx and F. Engels (retrieved from https://www.marxists.org/russkij/marx/cw/t08.pdf). The law of population mobility expresses a causal relationship between social progress and the intensification of the migration movement, which is becoming more and more a socio-economic necessity.

These findings were confirmed by the formation of centers of immigrant’s attraction primarily due to economic factors.

Thus, Europe, which in the 19th and early 20th centuries was the largest donor of human resources for Canada, the USA, Australia, New Zealand, has been becoming a powerful center of attraction for skilled and unskilled labor from all over the world.

The different provision of countries with factors of production leads to the specificity and unequal depth of their integration into the world economy.

In the conditions of the modern economy formation, the world labor market acquires becomes segmented. In this regard, two sectors of the labor market are emerging in developed countries, the so-called primary, which provides stable work and high pay, and the
secondary, which provides work with low wages and the absence of any prospects: stability, professional growth, etc.

The complication of relations between countries regarding the movement of factors of production leads to the formation of an integrated system of world economic relations actualizes the need for bilateral and multilateral cooperation.

The economic-stimulating aspect of international labor migration was identified as early as the middle of the 20th century in the works of a number of scientists (Harris & Todaro, 1970; Sjaastad, 1962), who in their theoretical concepts considered the role of migration as a factor in the development of receiving and sending countries. Analyzing the causes, directions and consequences of international labor migration, it was proved that the international movement of labor from a donor country to a recipient country leads to an increase in the welfare of the host country, since it increases the competitiveness of the product due to lower production costs (labor migrants are usually paid less than local workers) and generally eliminates shortages in the labor market. In addition, migration interdependence is being formed between labor donor and recipient countries. This thesis is empirically confirmed by J. Saimon, the author of the theory of "prosperity" or taxes on the example of mainly four countries (USA, Canada, Britain and Israel), proves that immigration has a direct impact on the economic and demographic development of countries (Simon, 1989).

According to R. Skeldon, population mobility enhances economic growth and improves the situation of the population. Typically, countries with "sedentary" populations stagnate economically. It should be noted that remittances are a significant source of financing for developing countries, which is confirmed by statistical data. Thus, in 2020, remittances from labor migrants reached $702 billion, of which more than ¾ went to developing countries (World Migration Report, 2022).

Migration of the population has a decisive influence on the demographic development, on the economic indicators of states, and creates opportunities for the rapid development of individual industries. Active migration flows between countries stimulate the development of trade and the movement of capital. Understanding this, labor exporting countries apply programs aimed at stimulating investments made by labor migrants in their economy.

An example is the PARE 1 + 1 program, which has been operating in the Republic of Moldova since 2010, aimed at stimulating the creation and development of small and medium-sized enterprises by emigrants and beneficiaries of remittances. The program operates on the basis of the “1 + 1” rule, according to which each lei (local currency) invested from remittances is supplemented by one lei in the form of a grant.

The amount of the grant is up to 250,000 leis (retrieved: https://www.odimm.md/ru/novosti/press-relizy/3802-программа-pare-1-1-продлена-до-2021-года). Thus, the return of migrants to their homeland with money (or with the means of production) contributes to the formation of the middle class and the development of the economy.

The social and humanitarian aspect of international labor migration as a scientific category follows from its subject-object features, which manifests itself in the fact that migrants are subjects of international labor migration along with states, international organizations, business structures, international corporations, and integration associations.

But at the same time, the labor force is an object of international migration. The labor force cannot be considered outside the personality, and this feature introduces a number of
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aspects into the study of international labor migration that do not arise in the study of other forms of international economic relations, primarily, for example, the social aspect of regulation.

Russian scientist D.I. Valentey (1967) concluded that migration movement is conditioned not only by economic interests, but also by the desire to improve the quality of life, to enable their children to receive the benefits that developed countries have.

The author shares the position, expressed by A.S. Akhiezer (2007), who believes that the purpose of migration may be the realization of the individual's need for the fullness of his being. “Territorial migration is one of the forms of human life activity. Its specificity lies in the fact that, as a form of need for the fullness of being, it is realized through the search for the novelty of life, new conditions, places of residence, work, and rest”.

It should be noted that the social aspect of the regulation of international migration is emphasized in the documents of international organizations (for example, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948, the Convention on the Status of Refugees of 1951, the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families of 1990, etc.). In this regard, the social policy of the state, raising the level of education, health protection, etc., is of particular relevance.

The strengthening of the countries economic interdependence, the informatization of not only developed but also developing countries provide potential migrants with wide access to information on employment, living conditions, etc., thereby facilitating their choice, both in terms of migration itself and in the country of migration.

Thus, objective reality contributes to the expansion of migration opportunities.

The political and managerial aspect of international labor migration as a scientific category is due to emerging problems and contradictions between international labor migration and the interests of various subjects of the world economy.

The problems of state regulation of migration relations have been studied by statesmen and scientists for a long time, however, the task of managing immigration processes does not lose its relevance. The origins of modern views on the role of regulating migration processes refer to the theories of historical structuralism (Castles, 2003; Cohen, 1987; Hugo, 1998), whose supporters are still in In the 1960s and 70s, the intensification of migration processes was explained by the development of state structures and other organizations.

The experience of migration relations regulating shows that no state can achieve results without connection with others. Migrants are in the coordinate system of at least two legal systems: the country of their citizenship and the country where their labor force is located.

The complication of relations of international labor migration, the contradictions and problems generated by it, both in the countries of origin of migrants and in the countries of their stay, as well as in the countries of transit, are so significant that they necessitate strengthening not only state, but also supranational regulation, expanding cooperation between countries (Rubinskaya, 2014).

The resolution of contradictions, or at least their mitigation, is impossible without strengthening the regulation of migration at the international, supranational, national, intraregional levels, namely:

1. at the international level, new development programs should be developed, taking into account current trends in the world economy and growing contradictions between countries-donors of foreign labor and recipient countries; between labor migrants and business structures of recipient countries;
2. at the supranational level, it is necessary to expand and deepen cooperation between countries that are part of an integration group with countries-donors of labor migrants, the creation of targeted programs in areas, sectors of the economy, social groups, and the adoption of joint measures to prevent illegal migration;
3. at the national level, national interests should be combined in the migration policy with the interests of migrants, the protection of the national labor market;
4. at the intra-regional level, within the framework of state legislation and migration cooperation, it is necessary to expand the rights of the intra-state regions of the countries of attraction with the regions of the countries of origin of migrants in order to increase the efficiency of attracting and using foreign labor.

**Conclusion**

Modern trends in the world economy development have an ambiguous impact on international labor migration, involved all countries of the world, form the global demand and supply of labor, which entails an increase in the scale of labor migration, a change in geographical directions, as well as a transformation of professional qualifications workforce structures.

In addition, in the context of globalization, the place and role of international labor migration in the system of the world economy is changing: migration is becoming a means of promoting the globalization of countries and regions, the most important factor in socio-economic development.

The analysis of the multidimensional nature of international labor migration confirms the logic and validity of classifying this phenomenon as an economic scientific category.

At the same time, defining international labor migration as a scientific category, it should be emphasized that its essence is revealed through the integrity of the organic unity of the world economy and the interdependence of its subjects, in which the migration process connects all countries of the world under the influence of modern trends in the development of the world economy.

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