

ENTREPRENEURSHIP AMONG MIGRANTS

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Abstract

Studies regarding the benefits of migration on economies of the origin countries are not numerous, although migration can result in some degree of welfare of family members of migrants who send remittances. Savings and migrant remittances generate capital input which contributes to overcoming capital constraints and act as a pillar supporting the development of the region of the migrant worker.

When we are dealing with temporary migration, the benefits brought by migration process shall be increased: on the one hand, the country of origin receives remittances brought by the migrant, on the other hand, the country benefits from the transfer of knowledge acquired by migrants during the migration process that took place thereof, which may lead to economic prosperity. In other words, human and physical capital plays an important role in increasing economic growth achieved by migration.

Keywords: *migrants, entrepreneurship, economic benefits of migration, remittances.*

1. Introduction

Once back in their home country, the majority of migrants bring savings which are applied to purchase consumer goods to secure a certain period of time a steady income or to provide a productive utility. The utility savings is achieved through productive entrepreneurial activities of returning migrants. They contribute to generation of wealth and creation of jobs. Most often, starting a business in the country of migrants' origin is hampered by constraints in the economic climate and migration may be the way to overcome these constraints [Mesnard [26]].

Migration is part of the life cycle of capital accumulation for its own recruitment activities, or for leisure activities after returning home. Migrants often tend to choose re-migration, especially to be able to finance economic activities pursued after returning home. The models used by Dustmann [9; 8] and Stark, and Helmenstein and Yegorov [38] to analyse the determinants of migration and the optimal duration of migration are based on the assumption that after coming back home migrants pursue only an activity. However, studies revealed that post-return activities influence the migration period. Thus, if after returning migrants have considered several activities, the optimal duration of migration may differ, depending on the activity. The optimal duration of migration is directly influenced by economic variables, such as, for example, wages in the host country.

In the book “The Optimal Duration Activity Choice and after Re-migration” 2001, Dustmann C. and O. Kirchkamp analysed the period of migration and selection of optimal activities after the

period of return, based on data from a survey applied to Turkish migrants who returned to Turkey from Germany in 1984 and who were interviewed twice, in 1986 and 1988. The results showed that about half of migrants became entrepreneurs after their return, and the capital needed to open the business came both from savings, and also from the money raised during migration.

2. The investigation degree of the problem currently, and purpose of research

The economic benefit of migration for countries of destination of migrants is the central theme of a number of studies on migration. We identify a series of works focused on the economic performance of immigrants in the economies of host countries [Chiswick [7], Borjas [4], Galor and Stark [15]], the contribution made by migrants to social security schemes of the host countries [Borjas [2]].

Studies regarding the benefits of migration on economies of the countries of origin are not numerous, although migration can result in some degree of welfare of the family members of migrants by sending remittances. Migrants' savings and remittances generate capital input which contributes to overcome capital constraints and act as a pillar supporting the development of the region of the migrant place of origin.

When we are dealing with temporary migration, benefits brought by the migration process shall be increased: on the one hand, the country of origin receives remittances brought by migrant, on the other hand, benefits from the transfer of knowledge acquired by migrants during the migration process that took place thereof, which may lead to economic prosperity. In other words, human and physical capital play an important role in increasing the economic growth achieved via migration.

Studies conducted in the past have revealed that migration was perceived by policymakers as a way of acquiring a certain level of expertise.

3. Methods and techniques applied

The research is based on articles which examine the topic of entrepreneurship among migrants. Numerous studies have focused on the possibility of migrants to access credit in the economies of destination countries, post-migration activities, self-employment and entrepreneurship.

Thus, Ilahi [19], using cross-sectional data from Pakistan, found that upon return, savings have become an important factor in choosing private employment. However, Mesnard [26] presents migration patterns as the best way to overcome credit constraints caused by the imperfections present in the capital markets. Thus, the work is centered on the idea that most entrepreneurial projects run by returned migrants in Tunisia were financed from savings collected abroad. The model proposed by Dustmann and Kirchkamp [10] is based on the concept that migrants simultaneously decide the optimal duration of migration and post-return activities.

McCormick and Wahba [24] bring a new approach by the fact that they demonstrated that the money raised by Egyptian migrants, with a restricted level of education, while abroad, have a greater role than the human capital in the decision of choosing entrepreneurship as a post-migration business. On the other hand, as regards former migrants with a higher level of education,

both access to credit by savings in countries of destination and human capital accumulation, are determinant factors in choosing entrepreneurship as post-migration activities.

Woodruff and Zenteno [41] believe that migration networks are offering support in overcoming capital constraints in Mexico. Following a study carried out by self-employed team and owners of small farms in Mexico, having access to remittance flows, they could determine the impact of ties with migration networks, in terms of capital investment, the rate of capital-output, sales and profits of microenterprises. But all these studies are limited to analysing the return of migrants, while Woodruff and Zenteno [41] take into account migrant households which received their remittances.

4. Results and discussions

Entrepreneurship is closely correlated with change and is often associated with problems of choice. Definitions of entrepreneurship distinguish the functional role of entrepreneurs, which are based on coordination, innovation, neutralizing uncertainty, supply of capital, decision-making, ownership and resource allocation [14, pp. 1-2; 20, p. 5]. The Schools of entrepreneurship are the three roles of it:

- Search of Risk: entrepreneurs want to assume the risks associated with uncertainty
- Innovation: entrepreneurs described by Schumpeter hasten generation, dissemination and implementation of innovative ideas
- Search of opportunity: entrepreneurs identify and manage opportunities to capitalize on them [29, p. 11; 6, p. 8].

An operational definition of entrepreneurship that successfully synthesizes functional roles of entrepreneurs is given by Wennekers and Thurik [40]: "... the ability and willingness of individuals, on their own, in teams inside and outside existing organizations, to perceive and create new economic opportunities [new products, new production methods, new schemes of organization and new combinations produced market] and introduce their ideas on the market, despite uncertainty and other obstacles, by making decisions about the location, shape and use of resources and institutions".

Entrepreneurship is closely linked to the migration of labour force. This is largely due to the work experience acquired abroad. With the satisfaction of basic needs and the accumulation of capital, most often, from the financial, relational and human point of view, a migrant will develop a certain tendency to invest in activities that are productive, which will turn into an entrepreneur (Figure 1).

Migration for employment is an integral part of business strategy for a large part of Romanian migrants. Between work experience gained in the destination country and the migrant entrepreneurial orientation there is a strong bond both from behavioural point of view, but also in terms of entrepreneurial intention.

The effects of migration on migrant-sending country's economy are closely correlated with significant deviations and many disorders of the labour market, such as:

- The employability of labour force;
- The unemployment rate and its features;
- The brain drain;
- Wage distortions and labour segmentation;

- Underground economy amplification ['black' labour];
- Reducing the potential of local labour force;
- Use of immigrants in order to compensate the lack of local labour force.

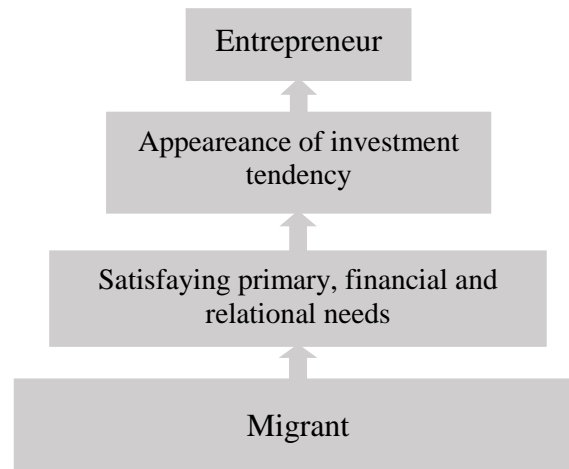


Figure 1: Steps in transformation of a migrant into an entrepreneur

Source: Self prelucration

Reduction of unemployment is among regional beneficial effects of migration, in the short term. Also, if unemployed people are involved in the migration process, migration will positively influence the budget, because there will be fewer applications for unemployment benefits.

The positive effects of migration on micro and macro level are the remittances, which have significant impact on household consumption, influencing the GDP, the internal influence on aggregate demand. Remittances result in increased consumption, temporary help reduce poverty and the redistribution effects of their influence on social polarization.

It can be affirmed that entrepreneurship is a behavioural characteristic of a person. Entrepreneurs can expose it only during a certain phase of their career, or only on certain activities [6, pp. 4-5].

Many economic, psychological and sociological studies emphasize that entrepreneurship is a process, not a static phenomenon. Entrepreneurship is more than a mechanic economic factor [31, pp. 14-15].

The studies which tried to establish factors that determine private activities in developed countries were made around the question What makes you an entrepreneur? [1; 11; 12], but very few studies tried to study these interviews for the benefit of developing the countries. Lately, it was observed that there is a link between wealth and poverty of developing countries and entrepreneurial nature of their economies. Economic growth is influenced by the existence of entrepreneurship initiative that plays an important role in the economic growth, and innovation and competitiveness, first highlighted by Schumpeter in 1911 [35] may also have an important role in combating poverty [22].

The literature on entrepreneurship in developing countries invoked the importance played by financial constraints in making the decision to become an entrepreneur. The major obstacle is access to credit. Limiting personal and family savings, and lack of access to credit in a sharp manner restrict promising growth prospects of starting a business in developing countries.

Policymakers and international organizations concerned with economic development have supported microcredit programs in developing countries as a result of encouraging entrepreneurship.

International migration has started to play an important role lately in terms of overcoming limitations of access to cash. Temporary migration is a source through which people engaged in the process have the capacity to accumulate some money which they can use then in business start upon returning to their country of origin.

However, it is important to know whether after returning in home country, the rate of former migrants who choose to engage in entrepreneurship is higher than the rate of people who were not involved in any activities of migration.

There is limited research on the rate of conversion of former migrant entrepreneurs after returning to their home country. Probability that temporary migration allows individuals to accumulate human and physical capital is high, which increases the probability that they will become entrepreneurs.

Entrepreneurs rely on their contacts regarding information and services [16], which makes human capital play a particularly important role in the decision to start entrepreneurial activities.

Economic research is not focused on this issue, the vast majority of studies relying on the role of social networks on migration in emerging countries [28; 25], and on the role played by social networks in obtaining employment [36]. Most studies have been focused on researching the role of social networks in deciding migration, reducing migration costs, support offered in finding employment upon arrival in the host country.

There are very few studies in the field on the role of migration networks in deciding to start entrepreneurial activities.

Regarding the types of entrepreneurial activities involving migrants, it appears that in many OECD countries, migrants show higher rates of self-employment than native population. Countries where migrants occupy higher rates of self-employment are: Belgium, France, the Nordic countries, especially in Central and Eastern Europe. The figures measure independent activity but in no way an exhaustive measure of entrepreneurship.

Migrants often have higher rates of self-employment than natives. Fair and Mayer [38] did not find evidence that self-employment rates of illegal work among Americans were lower in poorer regions with a majority of companies owned by migrants.

Borjas [5] found that highly qualified migrants contribute to reducing wages for skilled native workers by increasing the rate of skilled labour. But at the same time increasing the number of highly skilled migrants can generate the growth rhythm of innovation.

Table 1: The number of self-employed migrants

Country	Natvs	Foreign workers
1	2	3
Australia	16.3%	18.8%
Austria	9.3%	8.4%
Belgium	12.1%	15.5%
Canada	14.5%	17.5%
Czech	15.3%	19.6%

1	2	3
Denmark	7%	9.6%
Switzerland	12.4%	9.1%
Finland	9.6%	14.1%
France	8.1%	10.8%
Germany	10%	9.5%
Greece	26.4%	10.6%
Ireland	16.8%	9.3%
Italy	23.6%	17.5%
Luxembourg	5.4%	6.5%
Norway	5.8%	6.9%
Holland	11%	11%
Poland	11.2%	29.2%
Portugal	15.6%	12.1%
UK	11.9%	13.4%
Slovakia	12.6%	26.4%
Spain	16%	11.7%
USA	9.9%	10.2%
Sweden	8.5%	10%
Turkey	21.5%	18.2%
Hungary	10.8%	16.4%

Source: OECD Migration Outlook 2009

Regarding the United States, research conducted by Kerr and Lincoln [13] revealed that with increasing number of visas for Chinese immigrants and Indians, the number of patents granted to migrants increased, without noticing a decrease in the number of patents granted to the native innovators.

By the way, research carried out by Hunt [18] has resulted in the fact that with increasing the number of skilled immigrants, the number of patents increases as well.

Research on entrepreneurship is based mainly on the factors that determine a person to become an entrepreneur.

Entrepreneurship can be considered one of the engines of sustainable growth. Thus, cultural and personal disposition, favourable legislative regulations supporting entrepreneurship, access to capital and labour options alternatives have been identified as determinants in deciding the start of entrepreneurship and transforming a person into an entrepreneur.

Culture has an important role in the decision to commence entrepreneurial activity. Risk aversion, the ability to trust other people can play a role in entrepreneurial skills. Entrepreneurship is more pronounced in certain ethnic groups such as Jews, with strong entrepreneurial traditions and who, historically, have been the subjects of discrimination that forbade them to enter the guild.

The legacy of Jim Crow laws in the United States, which banned the right to business property may explain lower rates of entrepreneurship among black Americans. Although at present this discrimination is no longer valid, there is reluctance that entrepreneurship is viewed currently because of risks both within families and in the community. According to Hout and Rosen [17] human capital necessary to become a successful entrepreneur is a feature that is passed from parents. Following the studies, they found that the tendency to become self-employed is very pronounced among persons with parents who have their own businesses. Moreover, if a migrant is

coming from an environment with entrepreneurial culture, the probability that they will develop their own business is more pronounced than for natives of the destination country.

Hout and Rosen found that migrants who came from families with entrepreneurial activities were not inclined to develop such activities like ordinary migrants. In other words, we can say that migrant effect in starting entrepreneurial activities may be stronger than the effect of parenthood.

However, one can observe the existence of the selection of migrants, because many migrants, especially foreign students and those who choose to migrate for work purposes, choose to migrate from a desire to have earnings significantly better compared to the country of origin. Thus, these migrants are more ambitious, more independent and more prone to take risks, compared to those who remained in the country of destination.

These effects may be observed most frequently in Germany and the United States, where some nationalities are more prone to self-employment. In turn, the Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Development found that there are similar patterns of entrepreneurship among migrant groups in Sweden, for example, migrants from South Asia, who tend to develop higher rates of entrepreneurship in Sweden, as happens in Germany and USA.

Table 2: Self-employment rate in Germany, depending on the country of origin criteria

Country of origin	Self-employment rate in Germany [% of total employees]	Total employees number [thousands] in Germany
Nativs	11.20%	31 804
Europe	10.42%	3 781
EU-27	13.72%	1 815
Greece	16.24%	197
Italy	12.28%	391
Poland	15.53%	322
Romania	7.50%	120
Rest of Europe	7.38%	1 966
Bosnia-Herzegovina	4.35%	138
Croatia	6.88%	189
Rusia	5.24%	248
Serbia	6.88%	160
Turkey	8.16%	968
Ukraine	8.70%	69
Africa	8.84%	181
America	13.99%	143
Nord America	15.49%	71
Asia, Australia and Oceania	14.56%	577
Middle East	11.79%	263
South Asia and South-East Asia	16.82%	105

Source: Federal Statistical Office of Germany: Migration in Germany 2007, Results of the Micro Census, Fachserie 1, Reihe 2.2, Table 16, Wiesbaden 2008.

Migrants coming from South America, in all three countries, tend toward lower rates of entrepreneurship compared to migrants of other nationalities and locals.

Table3: Self-employment rate in USA, depending on the country of origin criteria

Country of origin	Percent of self-employees from the total number of employees in USA	Self-employees number in USA in thousands
1	2	3
Nativs	11.5%	53 133
Europe	15.3%	1 126
Africa	8.7%	283
Mexico	7.8%	2 411
Canada	14.7%	215
South America	9.4%	2 015
Asia/Oceania	12.6%	2 230
Middle East	21.3%	203
India/Pakistan/Bangladesh	9.5%	373
East Asia	17.6%	979

Source: Current Population Survey, January 2007

However, it appears that some cultures importing their entrepreneurial ambitions or that some groups face more difficulties on the labor market in the host country and continues to develop entrepreneurship as an alternative.

Romania has become the country of origin, as well as a destination for international migration. The main countries that Romanian migrants work in are Italy, Spain, Israel, Germany and Great Britain. Two thirds of money received in the country come from migrants from Italy and Spain. The sum of remittances has represented around 5.7% from the GDP, and Romania has occupied the 10th place in the World and the 2nd place in the EU, according to a rating made by the World Bank. The bachelors of higher education represent around 10-12% from the total amount of legal migrants, and 26% of official migrants are bachelors of lyceum of post-lyceum studies [42].

Romanian migration is characterized by the following migration mainly of the young population, capable of labor, that leads to a situation of crisis not only of the labor market, but also on the market of insurance and social services, in the way that more pressure is applied on the population on Romanian labor market. Positive effects of remittances are on investments and private consumption, the elasticity of consumption being larger in than in the case of foreign direct investments.

The migration of Moldavians has started as early as 2000 and continues up until now. This migration has registered two big migration waves in 2007 and 2010. The second wave was as a response to the impact of the economic global crisis on the economy of the Republic of Moldova. Another reason for this migration wave was the obtaining of the Romanian citizenship by the Moldavians (approximately 256000 citizenships were awarded in the period 2010-2012) [43].

Until the year 2010 migration of Moldavians was oriented mainly towards the EU region, where there has been an increase in migration from 40% to 47%. However, in the period of 3 years, a change in the migration model was stated, precisely, the redirecting of migration toward CIS, mainly Russia. The increase in the amount of migrants in the CIS region can be explained by the decrease of the difference between the incomes and the economies from CIS and EU. The countries from Southern Europe have become less attractive for migrants from Moldova, the latter reorienting toward countries from Northern Europe. As is the case for preferences toward CIS, this tendency is in accordance with priorities of potential migrants, both having a common factor – accumulation of wealth.

In general lines, the migrants come from different social categories. Males from poor regions from the rural area choose CIS as their destination, at the same time females from urban areas tend to migrate towards the EU. The latest estimates indicate a predisposition for the young population toward migration, in the last 4 years the rate of migrants with ages ranging from 18 to 29 years old has increased from 55% to 66%.

The unemployment rate continues to be one of the factors that motivate the population to migrate: 1 out of 4 migrants were unemployed before migrating. Moreover, the studies indicate that migrants are more flexible and adapt better to the conditions of the labor force market than the local population. Migrants are more predisposed to change the field of activity as well as change one country for another. Another new tendency among the factors that promote migration is the process of family reunion, especially in the EU region.

One of the key features of Moldavian migrants is the high level of studies and professional expertise – the aspect that reflects the population's profile as a whole. Prior studies have shown that more migrants during their migration period often change from less qualified labor to more qualified one in accordance with their level of studies/qualification and integrate seamlessly into the host country's society. Currently, this is less seen in case of Moldavian migrants. This situation can be explained by the fact that Moldavian migrants continue to be hired in construction and the field of housekeeping.

In 2012, Moldavian migrants' households have registered a net yearly average income of 17 328 Euro (as compared to 14 196 Euro in 2009), from which 10 044 Euro are savings (8 316 Euro in 2009). This fact shows a high predisposal for saving (before remittance) 48% from household income (net, after all the mandatory taxes), time during which the absolute value of income and savings has increased. A high rate of saving can be explained through characteristics and the dynamic of Moldavian migration, including by those factors that determine a low maturity of migration cycle, such as a low rate of family reunion.

5. Conclusions

Migrants often start businesses in services, and natives select areas represented mainly by manufacturing branches when starting businesses. At the same time, migrants, having fewer alternatives to conduct lucrative businesses tend to keep them longer periods of time. Regarding the rate of relativity success among migrant entrepreneurs, it is not possible to determine yet, but it appears that businesses demarcated by them occupy a segment increasingly more important in the German economy, which is applicable in the economies of other OECD countries. The Centre for an Urban Future found out that in New York City between 1990 and 2000, the number of self-employed migrants increased by 53%, while the number of native self-employed was reduced by 7%.

Activities in the field of entrepreneurship is the way in which migrants contribute to the economies of countries of origin and of destination.

Entrepreneurs come from the ranks of migrants tend to show a reduced aversion regarding risks being called super-entrepreneurs. The discussions on the link between migration and the need to undertake entrepreneurial activities are different, but we can draw three essential characteristics of entrepreneurship among migrants:

- Migrants are more likely to start entrepreneurial activities compared to natives of the host country;
- Migrants can send remittances with which can finance very often the start of business in their countries of origin;
- When coming back home, returning migrants bring a baggage of knowledge and entrepreneurial skills valuable to the countries of origin.
- Although entrepreneurship has a more pronounced character over those who choose to emigrate, this is not universally true for all migrants. The various situations faced by migrants in destination countries can influence the decision to start entrepreneurial activities.

Discrimination is a common situation of migrants in destination countries, which can prevent potential entrepreneurs to conduct business.

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Rezumat

În ceea ce privește beneficiile migrației asupra economiilor țărilor de origine, studiile din acest domeniu nu sunt numeroase, cu toate că migrația poate avea ca efect și un anumit grad de bunăstare pentru membrii familiilor migranților, prin trimiterea de remitențe. Economii și remitențele migranților generează intrări de capital ce contribuie la depășirea constrângerilor de capital și acționează ca un stâlp de susținere în dezvoltarea regiunii de proveniență a migrantului.

Atunci când avem de-a face cu migrații temporare, beneficiile aduse de procesul de migrație se majorează: pe de-o parte, țara de origine va primi remitențe aduse de migranți, iar pe de altă parte, va beneficia de transferul de cunoștințe dobândite de migranți în perioada în care a avut loc procesul de migrație a acestuia, ceea ce poate duce la prosperitatea economică. Altfel spus, capitalul uman și cel fizic joacă un rol important în creșterea economică realizată prin migrație.

Cuvinte-cheie: migranți, antreprenoriat, beneficiile economice ale migrației, remitențe.

Аннотация

Что касается влияния миграции на экономику стран мигрантов, исследования не многочисленны, хотя миграция может в какой-то степени влиять на уровень жизни членов семьи мигрантов, посредством получения денег из-за рубежа. Сбережения и денежные переводы мигрантов содействуют вхождению капитала в страну, что вносит свой вклад в преодоление нехватки капитала и действует как опора в развитии стран мигрантов.

Когда мы имеем дело с временной миграцией, выгоды, принесенные процессом миграции, увеличиваются: с одной стороны, страна мигрантов получает денежные переводы, посланные мигрантами, с другой стороны, страна будет пользоваться знаниями мигрантов, полученные в период миграции, что может привести к экономическому процветанию. Другими словами, физический и человеческий капитал играют важную роль в повышении экономического роста достигнутого за счет миграции.

Ключевые слова: мигранты, предпринимательство, экономические выгоды от миграции, денежные переводы.

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