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## IMMIGRATION IN THE EUROPEAN UNION: IMPACT AND STATISTICS

Kristina Lazebna

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### Introduction

Immigration is one of the major political, economic, social issue in the world. Immigration in Europe has increased over the last decades, and became an urgent issue after the “refugee crisis” in 2015 and 2016.

European Government have struggled to handle the huge amount of refugees, and to agree on an acceptable distribution of burdens between the different National States.

How should Europe handle with increasing immigration?

In given research we will look at the impact of immigration at the global level and also pay attention to immigration policies and reactions of European countries as Germany, Sweden and Austria; at the end of the research we also will look at some statistics, relevant to the topic.

*The Union shall develop a common immigration policy aimed at ensuring, at all stages, the efficient management of migration flows, fair treatment of third-country nationals residing legally in Member States, and the prevention of, and enhanced measures to combat, illegal immigration and trafficking in human beings* (Article 79, point 1 of the Treaty on the functioning of the European Union).

*A forward-looking and comprehensive European Union policies governed by the principle of solidarity and fair sharing of responsibility, including its financial implications, between the Member States* (Article 80 of the Treaty on the functioning of the European Union).

Significant reasons why becoming immigrants, that because Some States are not reaching their policy objectives; individuals are often unable to achieve their goals or to protect adequately their basic rights. Therefore, their relatives following immigration to same region.

Also European countries recognize that they need to do more to bring in highly skilled immigrants, including those from outside of EU in sectors with labour shortages.

For the country of origin, benefits are realized when migrants return with new skills, experiences and networks but mutual benefits can also be achieved through the cooperation of international networks.

### **Impact of the immigration in Europe**

Due the fact that migration is one of the high-profile topics in Europe, in this part of the research, we will look at the impact of immigration at the global level and pay attention to immigration policies and reactions of such European countries as Germany, Sweden, and Austria.

Impact the immigration thereof is observable in many areas, but the migration regimes quite greatly among the countries at hand.

Moreover, these regimes determine the individual extend and nature of the impact of immigration to a great degree. In general, research shows that number of factors influence the impact of immigrants have societies.

From the words of the senior analyst at Elcano Royal Institute and professor at the IE School of Global and Public Affairs – Miguel Otero-Iglesias: *“If we as a society want to continue to benefit from immigration, we will have to develop migration policies that are less liberal but take into account the concerns of those they displace. If not, the far right will destroy the opportunities for progress altogether.”*

First of all, the laws and regulations directly deal with immigration appearance on the local, regional, national European and international levels.

**Demographic challenges** actually makes the more pressing. Immigration is no panacea, but it is one of few obvious partial responses to large problems. For instance, if Germany did use immigration to maintain its working-age population, the *ius sanguinis* “Germans” would be a minority before 2150. We cannot confidently predict, however, that the debate over how much to open the doors will become more and more salient.

**The politic** of immigration is so dire these days that the limitations of rights arguments are not especially relevant. Alongside the legal space they occupy, human rights also occupy a political

space. (The new politics of immigration and the end of settled societies. Catherine Dauvergne 2016 p.203)

One of the principle factors fuelling the panic against immigration in Europe is the perception that authorities have lost control. There are no repatriation agreements that would allow European Governments to send back irregular migrants.

Immigration also intimately tied to serious **global economic pressures**: the challenges of population and welfare-state reform. Both observes and European public are increasingly convince that European's future will turn to substantial degree on how they incorporate and integrate non-Europeans into European culture, customs and institutions.

One of the most problem facing the world today is terrorism.

Social tensions between different minorities, the growth of anti-Semitism. Fighting the rhetoric of hatred, which pushes for radical action – this can weaken the tensions in multicultural societies. Unfortunately, the issue of cultural intolerance around the world is not given enough attention.

In addition to reviewed information, let us turn to some examples of regulation facts and polices of the immigration in Austria, Sweden and Germany.

**Austria:** The Austrian Government (a mix of Christian-democrats and far-right Eurosceptics) has taken over the rotating presidency of the Council with a programme focused on tackling immigration. In addition to these three priorities, the Austrian presidency will also deal with two major challenges: the negotiations on the multiannual financial framework for the 2021-2027 period, as well as the UK's final stretch for its leave from the EU, scheduled for March 2019.

**Sweden:** Facts: In 2017, a total of 113 cases of lethal violence were reported in Sweden. This number represents all forms of lethal violence, not only cases in which firearms were used. 113 cases is equivalent to 1.1 cases per 100,000 inhabitants. This number has fluctuated between 68 and 113 (0.71–1.21 per 100,000 inhabitants) since 2002.

The Swedish Police Authority started to collect data on the number of shootings in Sweden in 2017. That year saw a total of 324 shootings. In 2018, the number was 306.

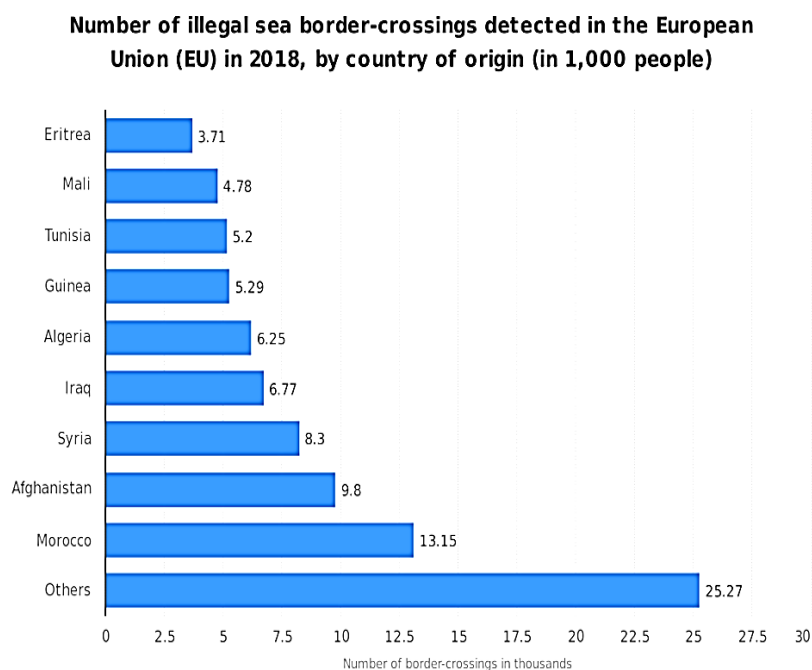
It is reasonable to view such levels of violence as out of control. Mainstream Swedish politicians have chosen to ignore problems created by immigration rather than having uncomfortable conversations about race.

**Germany:** According to the new immigration law, skilled labour from abroad with the adequate training and education will face fewer restrictions when they attempt to get a job in Germany. *“Germany has a very open system for highly qualified migration, but was quite closed for medium-qualified,”* said Thomas Liebig of the OECD group of industrialised nations. *“This is the area where labour shortages are particularly strong. The new law opens up in the mid-skilled segment.”*

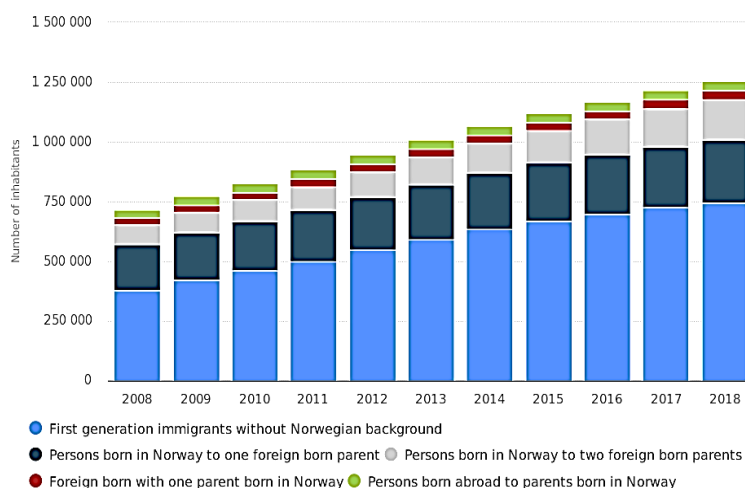
*“Even cleaners at the Doner Kebab joint have an employment contract,”* said AfD lawmaker Lars Herrmann. *“Germany needs an immigration law that regulates and limits immigration.”*

### Statistic information of immigration in European countries

*Why? What's going on? Who are Europeans immigrants?*

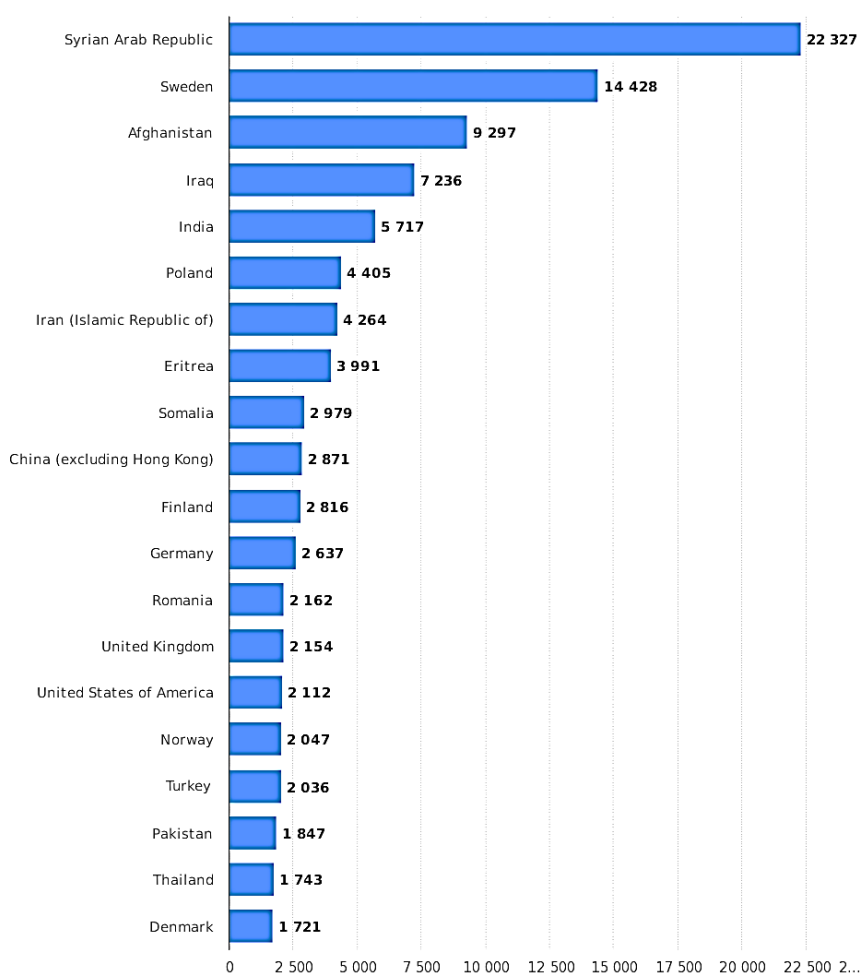


This statistic shows the total number of individuals illegally crossing sea borders to the European Union (EU) in 2018, by country of origin. In 2018, almost 13.15 thousand Moroccans were detected illegally crossing sea borders to reach the EU.

**Foreign population in Norway from 2008 to 2018, by immigration category**

Given statistic shows the population in Norway from 2008 to 2018, by immigration category.

As of 2018, the number of inhabitants born to two foreign-born parents in Norway amounted to almost 170 thousand.

**Number of immigrations in Sweden in 2017, by top 20 countries of origin**



## Conclusions

To summarize the research, needs to say that the problem of immigration in the European Union is not finally resolved and require further overcoming of negative trends.

As we mentioned, immigration has impact widely on European societies, economic, peace, and it will continue to do so. The allochthonous populations with an immigration background in Europe have contributed to its economic transformation.

Europe has diversified itself culturally. This has led to the development of new forms of dealing with discrimination, social exclusion, racism and xenophobia.

*Words are no longer enough.* Europe urgently needs to come up with solutions. Without strong distributive and compensatory policies, there is no way to address the real economic anxiety of migration.

The adoption of stricter legal acts and legal rules governing the entry and stay of migrants, including the unification of visa standards, and the strengthening of control over common borders are only some measures to overcome immigration as a socio-economic phenomenon. These tools, interacting with other foreign policy measures and, above all, the security policies of the European Union, will be able to provide for predictable and regulated immigration.

*We as a peaceful society wish that immigration promote only economic, social and cultural benefit, by the way from analyses and statistics of these huge phenomena we observe that It's brings enough challenges, which have to be managed by powerful Governments.*

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## **ENLARGEMENT OF THE EU TOWARDS EASTERN EUROPE: THE CASE OF HUNGARY**

Rabia Efe

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With the end of the Second World War, most Eastern European countries had many difficulties. During the Cold War, they were forced to remain under the Soviet Union. Because Soviet Russia made the Eastern European countries their own satellites to spread the communism.

According to the research, the lack of good economic and democratic conditions in Eastern European countries shows that it has acquiesce. Eastern European countries, which have not yet completed the democratic structure, have been under the influence of the Soviet communism. The Soviet Union realized this with Comecon and Cominform, which it established against the US.

With the fall of the Soviet Union, Eastern European countries were hopeful. They found their way out to Europe and applied to the European Union for membership. At the time, the European Union, which had the idea of enlargement, evaluated the applications of the candidate countries and presented criteria. The Copenhagen criteria were conditions that Eastern European countries should make for membership. In my opinion, Eastern European countries have not attached importance to the conditions about human rights, economy and social life after entering the European Union. For example, I reached information about Romania's corruption and low growth rate of Eastern Europe countries.

The Eastern European countries made their country's democracy, human rights and economic corrections to meet these criteria. They are eligible to become members. For example, Hungary could not loyal about human rights. In addition, according to the datas, Eastern European countries lagged behind the founder countries. For example, economically, the currency of countries such as Poland and Hungary is not Euro and has influenced these economies. According to the data, I think the situation of Eastern European countries is not getting better. I can show this as a dangerous heritage of Soviet. They still could not develop as economically as founder countries. This affects social living standards negatively. This is not a positive item for the conditions of the European Union.

After 1989, the important integration of the process of change for Hungary has undoubtedly been the membership of the European Union. The European Union has been positive about Hungary in this regard and has supported Hungary's admission to membership as a result of fulfilling the essential conditions. Hungary has fully fulfilled these conditions and has been entitled to membership.

According to the gathered data, there are certainly economic and political reasons that Hungary wants to become a member of the European Union and wants to be integrated with the West. Despite the fact that it has been a difficult integration process after membership, we see that it has a good economic situation between 2013-2019. In between 1998-2009, the economy was not bright. However, we have analyzed that it is not only economic, but also in some issues such as education and the judicial system. About education, I determined that it was many old universities and fertile education system. About judicial system, executive organ is important for EU conditionality. It provide contribution about democracy, regional governements and PHARE Program.

### **Impacts of accession and integration to Europe**

The goal of Hungary's to membership to European Union was contained the economic policy interventions, the establishment of political sovereignty, and the institutional system of a market economy. (Losoncz, 2011). Thus, this contribution of accession to the EU on Hungary concentrates some issues such as changing institutional structure, economic performance, social lifesyle, social and regional disparities, education, attitudes towards the EU. In the context of the criteria, issues should be mentioned such as agriculture, free movement and economic funds.

### **Agriculture and EU funds**

During the cold war, agriculture in Hungary is not very important. However, investments and projects started to be supported in the 2000s and beyond about agriculture. EU membership has created a revival in agriculture. With EU membership, customs duties for protection in agriculture have been abolished. The agricultural products of the EU have started to enter the domestic market. In addition, government incentives have been revised within the scope of EU common agricultural policy. Although modern farms, the productivity level is below the EU

level. 121 large state farms took part in privatization. Agricultural land covers 63% of the country's surface area.

In 1996 Hungary was divided into several regions. With the 'regional reform', all regions were able to benefit from structural funds. Hungary also benefited from the cohesion fund. Between 2004 and 2006, Hungary received a total of € 1.77 billion in structural funds and € 3.7 billion in cohesion funds.

SAPARD has been prepared in order to benefit from EU funds more effectively. These programs are very important before and after EU accession. The EU attaches great importance to income-raising activities and trainings, especially in agriculture, such as rural development, infrastructure and increasing agricultural productivity. SAPARD is one of these programs. The aim of the program is to eliminate the problems in agriculture. At first it was beneficial for Hungary, then there was no significant financial resource.

### **The institutional structure and politics**

The important impact of accession to the European Union is the institutional change of Hungary. This was one of the important steps because it was one of the principles of conditionality in the EU. Hungary was successful in this matter.

“In Hungary, The only form of interference which was still present was the presence of the executive branch within the judiciary, due to the fact that executive members of the government were still represented within the Constitutional Court.” (Elskamp, Thesis, & De Vita, 2017).

This can be stated as well for the executive branch of the government, although a modernisation of public administration was necessary to improve transparency and to minimize corruption.

The European Commission has always proposed these changes for the development of Hungary. Because it has the court's slowness. And, it was necessary the separation of powers between the judiciary and the executive branch.

The first reports provided by the European Union with regard to the European accession of Hungary confirmed these positive developments, although there was still much room for improvement.

After 1989, there was a new structure in power distribution. In 1990, the Law on Local Governments came into force for regional development. The Law on Local Governments has played an important role in Hungary's democratic state structure. For Hungary, wide powers were given with the law. Democracy is developed well. This law was very important for Hungary in aspect of integrity and institutionalization. As for the contribution of the European Union, EU funds rate contributed to this development.

An EU report, dating from 1998, stated that the institution of parliament is functioning well. Their powers are meritorious and their role is active in the opposition (Elskamp et al, 2017). This is a positive step for Hungary, given the participation to the European Union. Because the European Commission has provided funds to change Hungary's institutional structure. Hungary has not abused its institutional power. Thus, this provide Phare program has also been positive. However, the PHARE program was expanded. Phare supports restructuring in the region towards market economy and democracy. The Phare Program focuses on strengthening institutions to develop policies and strategies, preparing projects for overall modernization of infrastructure and providing human support.

## **Economy**

Hungary's EU membership process has also given a relative dynamism to the Hungarian economy. In this process, liberalization, privatization and ensuring stability have occurred priorities. At the beginning of the 1990s, administrative barriers to foreign trade were abolished, a favorable environment for foreign direct investments was created, foreign exchange transactions were gradually liberalized. The Hungarian currency was converted to Forint in 1996 and the process of liberalization of foreign exchange transactions was completed in 2001.

In generally, Hungary has small market as compared with the other European countries. After accession to European Union, was expected development but Hungary economy regressed. Especially, On Greek economic crises affected to Hungary economy. So, Hungary economy is not good despite of being member of European Union (Türker, 2015).

According to my observation of Hungary, the economic situation of the country was very bleak. Especially in 2011–2012, many economists thought that the bankruptcy of Hungary is 6 years.

In fact, Fitch<sup>1</sup> reduced Hungary's long-term government debt rating from "stable" to "minus". This is also a risky situation for Hungary. This means that a possible financial bankruptcy is getting too close. In addition, the euro currency is not valid in the country and the 'forint' is used. This will lead to difficult situations for the European country, Hungary.

Hungary has been the European country most affected by the global economic crisis. As a result of the high budget deficits, the economy has slowed down, the growth rate has decreased and the economic indicators have become increasingly negative.

In recent years, the Hungarian economy has made significant progress towards financial sustainability and economic stability. In this framework, financial programs have been implemented. In this context, public expenditures were reduced and made transparent. Furthermore, in the financial sector, banking activities were monitored and a framework for banking regulations was established to strengthen markets.

“Hungary’s GDP per capita in 2007 was 63.5% of the EU27 average. This level means a considerable development compared to the level of one decade before (51.6% in 1997), but, since 2003, this indicator has not changed much; since 2006, it has even declined. The forecast (before the financial crisis) for 2008 was lower than the level in 2003.” (Szemplér, 2009).

According to these data, we can say that, Hungary has been declining instead of rising in the first years.

In other words, the recent low economic growth has affected this situation. Between 1998 and 2006, the average growth rate was 4%, but in 2007 it decreased by 1.1% (Szemplér, 2009). This is a bad result of non-disciplinary economic programs in Hungary.(Szemplér,2009).

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<sup>1</sup> A business credit research and ratings firm. Fitch Ratings issues creditworthiness opinions for the bond, Eurobond, and funds markets.



Graph: Hungary Annual GDP Growth. *Source: Hungarian Central Statistical Office*

The Hungarian economy was revived in 2013 and growth was around 1.5%. In 2014, the Hungarian economy grew by 3.7%. It has been the fastest annual growth since 2006. The increase in investments and private consumption in 2014 are the most important factors enabling the economy to grow. According to a Image, the economy grew by 2.2 % in 2016 and 3.9% in 2017, and the annual average growth between 2018–2023 is seem to be 2.5%.

## Education

In Hungary, the education system has always been planned, planned and programmed. However, following the political and social changes experienced by the country in the 1990s, the education system was restructured according to the current conditions.

Education is not a state-run sector in Hungary. Local governments, minority governments, foundations, churches and real persons can also open schools. The state provides financial aid to these schools in order to increase productivity from time to time.

In universities and colleges have equipped laboratories and libraries. After the European Union membership, the libraries of important historical sites such as the Buda Castle and the Parliament building were further developed. There are a lot of opportunities for students.

The result of analyses, in ten years, the number of students studying in colleges and quality universities has quadrupled. (Hiller, 2007, p.29). The European Union provided financial support for the development of students' educational and training infrastructure. Thus, Hungary



improved itself and contributed to the education system. Even, Hungary was an important participant in terms of training on Europe level.

### **Lifestyle and cultural policies**

Hungary developed about social life and cultural policies. When we look at the accession of Eu, it includes the seven regions, and the 168 small regions, to whose cultural self-government the ministry provides guidelines and ideas but the decisions themselves are made in the regions mentioned. According to Szabo, this management improves cultural communication. The Ministry for National Cultural Heritage provide contribution Hungary's public education programmes and strategies (Szabó, 2015, p.59).

“For at the beginning of the 1980s, the social structure of the classical Kádár period underwent a transformation (Valuch, 2014).” After accession of EU, changed social and cultural situationas negative and positive. While many Hungarian people thought that participation in the European Union would have more influence in the country, such as crime, morally negative events, social inequality, etc. But EU integration was not the case (Kentmen, 2008, p.487). On the contrary, Hungary developed about social and cultural policies. Sometimes, its negative or positive. Firstly, population of the country forms mostly young people. So, welfare of young people is important for government, also families. According to Viktor Orbán<sup>2</sup>, “the increasing of population realise with increasing of birth rate, not immigration. In addition, social aids are increased. In addition, 67 local counseling centers have been established for women to find employment. Subsequently, committees were organized to plan family policy. (Tarki, p.2016)” Otherwise, the crime rate of Hungary is so low nowadays. The government increased safe-living conditions.

One of the important issues related to Hungary is the subject of homeless people. There are many homeless people in Hungary. Most of these homeless people live in subways or on the streets. The living conditions are not for a European country. It causes social inequality in this country.

Also, negative ones are mostly health care, refugee and pension issue. Health care issue caused large-scale public protest. According to Tarki's analysis, the health sector is not at a good level.

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<sup>2</sup> The Prime Minister of Hungary since 2010.

Because, the hospitals had corruption and wrong management. However, hospitals were under debt and lacked health personnels such as nurses. The other bad thing was that doctors and nurses failed in issues such as brain drain. Other issue is pensions. The Orbán government directed policies and increased poverty among pensioners. The most important one is refugee issue for Hungary. The Orbán government believes that non-European and non-Christian people carry a serious risk for the Hungarian identity. Its so dangerous for Hungarian people according to government. (Tarki, 2016) This issue still is a highly controversial topic.

When we look at the social and regional disparities, EU accession in itself didn't change the aspect related to social and regional disparities in Hungary. In this issue, impact of being Eu member of Hungary is important with restrictive measures of Eu such as convergence programme. Regarding regional disparities, EU funds can promote to decrease them on the long term. Because Hungary is still new member. But, Eu fund provide contribution to Hungary about regional disparities. However, it can be seen as an achievement that territorial disparities did not increase significantly. This is positive result for Hungary after Eu accession. "Using EU funds transfers with a more emphasised regional focus (the National Strategic Reference Framework for 2007–2013 points into this direction) can help begin reducing existing disparities." (Szemplér, 2009, p.38)

We have concluded that negative one is in the background of health and human rights issues. In fact, it is now seen that it deadlock with the European Union. We see that the president of Hungary, Orban, has a clear stance on refugees. For example, enter of anti-refugee constitution in Hungary and closing border gates is prove for this. This means that the ropes between Hungary and the European Union will be regressed. In my opinion, if the refugee problem continue, European Union can want resignation from membership of the Hungary.

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## **PROGRESS OF THE EUROPEAN UNION MONITORING MISSION IN GEORGIA**

Kristina Khodonashvili

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European Union Monitoring Mission in Georgia is a civilian mission, which was first deployed in the year of 2008 September right after the “August War” between Russia and Georgia. The mission followed the Six Point Agreement which was arranged by the European Union’s mediation in order to disperse the military conflict in South Ossetia. The six principles are as follows: “1. No recourse to use violence between the protagonists. Sarkozy: This applies to everyone: Ossetians, Abkhazians, Georgia in its entirety and Russians. 2. The cessation of hostilities. 3. The granting of access to humanitarian aid. 4. The return of Georgian armed forces to their usual quarters. 5. Russian armed forces to withdraw to the positions held before hostilities began in South Ossetia. Russian peacekeepers to implement additional security measures until an international monitoring mechanism is in place. Sarkozy: These measures affect only the immediate vicinity of South Ossetia and in no instance the entire territory of Georgia. 6. The opening of international discussions on the modalities of security and stability of South Ossetia and Abkhazia.” (ReliefWeb, 2008)

European Union Monitoring Mission in Georgia was built on these principles and considers its main tasks to be: “Stabilisation: monitoring the situation in order to promote stability. The mission operates a ‘hotline’ to deal with incidents; Normalisation: monitoring the normalization process between the conflict parties and how people are affected; Confidence building: contributing to the reduction of tensions through liaison, facilitation of contacts between parties and joint projects; Contributing to informing European policy regarding the conflict.” (Eumm.eu, 2018) Area of responsibility covers Georgia: headquarters in Tbilisi and Field offices in Gori, Mtskheta, and Zugdidi. As of today, the head of Mission is Erik Høeg and all EU Member States can contribute to the Mission.

No doubt the mission’s tasks are good-hearted and directed to the wellbeing of civilians, but we should also consider whether its doings have a positive effect or any effect at all in the area of responsibility. Are all the used resources enough to solve the problem and is the €38.2 million budget contribution spent effectively?

One of the main problems and difficulties that the EUMM faces is the limit of its mandate in the territories occupied by Russia. The most they can do is to monitor the vicinity at the Georgian police checkpoint near the Administrative Boundary Line. They patrol the area all day long at the Administrative Boundary Lines to South Ossetia and Abkhazia. They observe security as well as the humanitarian situation on the ground and report situations to the EU policymakers. The process is continuous with a twenty-four-hour hotline available for any emergency situation. The de facto authorities of Abkhazia and South Ossetia have denied EUMM access to territories under their control.

Just last year of 2018 The EU Monitoring Mission in Georgia marked the 10th anniversary of its deployment on 1st of October. “For a decade, the EUMM has contributed to enhanced security and stability, conducting over 65,000 patrols on the ground. Over 1,700 EU nationals have served in the Mission over the years. That the staff has come from all 28 EU Member States is the strongest possible testament to the commitment of the entire European Union to this Mission. The Mission focuses on enhancing stability, monitoring the situation and rights of the people most affected by the conflict, building confidence and reporting factually.” (Eumm.eu, 2018). Mr Vincenzo Coppola, who was recently appointed as commander of EU civilian missions worldwide, once again announced about the main goal of the mission and how it strives to bring peace to the Georgian citizens who still continue to suffer from the consequences of the war ten years ago: “EUMM Georgia demonstrates the EU’s continued long term commitment to regional stability and to a peaceful, prosperous future for all citizens, in full respect of Georgia’s territorial integrity within its internationally recognized borders.” (eumm.eu, 2018)

If the mission has been successfully functioning for a whole decade, there must be a reason why. It should be explained by the effectiveness in achieving its fundamental goals. As said above the mission’s continuous effort put into monitoring the conflict area has shown its outcome. It has been effective in diffusing the conflict as well as de-escalating tensions between the parties on many occasions. “Incident Prevention and Response Mechanism (IPRM) allows participants from both sides of the Administrative Boundary Lines to talk with one another on security issues and other matters that affect the lives of people residing in these areas. Over the years, the IPRM format has proven to be a very efficient tool to manage situations on the ground and also to promote stability in Georgia.” (eumm.eu, 2018)

In Common Security and Defence Policy Annual Report of 2017 we read about the few achievements from the EUMM. The report quotes that on the conflict prevention Hotline, there have been 1400 activations. The quality of monitoring has been improved by using vehicles with masts. Other than technical developments the mission has achieved freedom of movement in enabling people to access religious sites and agricultural land, despite the negative environment. It is worth mentioning that the redeployment of staff across all locations has become quicker, which increases the effectiveness of their work to promote stability.

As for the activities, the annual report of 2017 states that “In 2017, conducted 4,827 patrols, and enabled and responded to 1400 activations of the Hotline. Launched a gender-integrated tasking initiative in an effort to enable Mission Monitors to integrate a gender perspective into their patrolling activities and reports. Progress was monitored at the field office level through monthly reporting by Gender Focal Points to Mission headquarters.” (EU Annual Report, 2017)

There are a number of practical support that EUMM has given to Georgian citizens, including: “10 projects under the Confidence Building Facility to the value of €150,000, contributing to civil society dialogue and exchange across the Administrative Boundary Lines. Among the projects launched were an internet radio station in the Abkhaz language for unbiased fact-based news, a training series for internally displaced women in civic engagement with a view to enhancing their participation in peacebuilding processes, and a workshop for young leaders from Abkhazia and Tbilisi-administrated Territory on how to overcome environmental challenges through cooperation across the Administrative Boundary Line.” (EU Annual Report, 2017)

To put all this information into perspective here is one of the press releases published on 9th of November, 2018, which describes the borderisation activities that have been taking place in the area of Atotsi (Balta) since early November 2018. “A total of nearly 400 meters of new fencing works, running alongside the Administrative Boundary Line with South Ossetia, have been observed by EUMM patrols in the area.” Although the description is pretty accurate and the hotline has been activated multiple times, there is not so much the mission can do to reverse the actions. The report has been made, the responsible people have been alerted, but the actions lack practicality in means of what improvement it has made. (eumm.eu, 2018)

Press release, published on 4-th of December 2018 announced on the European Union Monitoring Mission in Georgia’s official website, that the mission mandate has been extended until 2020, which will lengthen the mission for another 2 years until the fourteenth of

December, 2020. The extension period will leave the basic main tasks unchanged, which include stabilization, normalization, confidence building and informing EU policymakers. However, there will be some changes towards improving the mission, especially in its analytical work and monitoring/reporting areas as well as issues concerning cultural heritage.

After all, it is obvious that the European Union Monitoring Mission in Georgia has definitely made progress and has made the conflicting situation diffuse between the two sides. Its great dedication to achieving peace and providing much-needed help to those who were unfortunate to witness the 2008 “August War” is greatly appreciated within the local Georgian community. However, their power to eliminate the further borderisation is extremely limited. Though it is helpful for the European Policymakers to be made aware of the current situation in the conflict area, it is nowhere enough to reverse the acts which were done unrightfully and affect the lives of the local citizens on the day to day basis.

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## **CONSEQUENCES OF THE BREXIT**

Nina Kuijken

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### **Introduction**

The most prominent challenge for the EU is the United Kingdom's expected exit from the EU, known as the Brexit, (Congressional Research Service, 2018) Brexit is the nickname for "British exit". Brexit is the June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2016 referendum where the United Kingdom voted to leave the European Union. The citizens decided that the benefits of belonging to the unified monetary body no longer outweighed the cost of free movement of immigration. They felt that the EU membership was changing their national identity and did not like the budgetary constraints and regulations the EU imposed. The British referendum on membership of the European Union came as a surprise to many. For the first time in history, a member of the state had voted to quit the EU. The UK referendum is a major event that influences the strategic course of the EU. (Amadeo, 2019)

The referendum itself and the history has deep roots in British politics and the outcome reflects the confluence of several long-term and more contingent factors, and can be considered due the consequences of the EU's many failed policies and the EU problems. But the result was also a consequence of the referendum campaign itself. The strategy of adopting a critical stance towards the EU, promising a referendum and ultimately campaigning for continued membership failed. In constant, the leave camp ran an effective campaign, highlighting key themes that resonated with the public, who are increasingly disinclined to trust their leading politicians (Menon & Salter, 2016). But what are the consequences of the Brexit that causes the Brexit to be such challenge for the European Union? That is something that will be discussed during this essay.

### **Current situation of the Brexit**

Before the consequences can be discussed, it is important to know the current situation regarding the Brexit. The negotiations between the UK and the EU are still ongoing. On March

2017, the UK prime minister submitted the withdrawal notification to the EU. It gave the UK and EU until March 2019 to negotiate an agreement. But, in March 2019, the Brexit deadline was extended to April 2019. After this, the deadline has been postponed to October 2019. So the UK's withdrawal is therefore still ongoing. The reason for postponing the Brexit can be the difficult choices the U.K. has to make. This includes the decision whether or not to leave with a free trade agreement. A Brexit without a free trade agreement is also called the 'no deal Brexit'. There is also talk of a "hard Brexit." That means leaving the EU with no restrictions other than a new free trade agreement. One other hard decision is to vote again on Brexit. This tough decision led to a Parliament voting against the Brexit deal for the third time in March, which ensured that the Brexit was postponed again. (Amadeo, 2019)

### **Consequences of the Brexit vote**

The broader scale and shape of the impact of the Brexit is at some point not totally clear. But there is an idea of the shape of future British-EU relationship or an outline of any treaty or trade agreement between London and Brussels. Besides the idea of the future relation, there also are a few clear consequences. (Riley, 2016)

#### *The shared border*

Brexit will have consequences for the shared border. What exactly those consequences are for the shared border between North-Ireland and Ireland, depends on a hard or soft Brexit. That is the reason why it was important to explain the current situation first, before continuing with the consequences.

Also after Brexit, North Ireland would remain with the UK, and Ireland would stay a part of the EU. Therefore the UK and EU will share a border. The Brexit would create an actual border with customs between the two. This could reignite the troubles. There was a 30-year conflict in North-Ireland between Catholic Irish nationalist and pro-British Protestants. This ended in 1998, with the promise of no border between North-Ireland and Ireland. (Amadeo, 2019) That is why even now, the UK and EU officials have repeatedly pledged to avoid a hard border to protect the North-Ireland peace process. In addition, Ireland (and therefore the EU) benefits even more from a border without customs and security checks because the UK is Ireland's

second-biggest export destination. Reaching precise agreement on how a border without customs would function has not been easy. The protracted negotiations have prompted fears of a “hard Brexit.” (Congressional Research Service, 2016) If it leads to a “hard Brexit” without a trade-deal, there is no other choice that there be a customs border between North-Ireland and Ireland. (Amadeo, 2019)

### *Political, military and economic consequences*

Other consequences of the Brexit are of political, military and economic nature. In the first place, the Brexit will have political and military consequences for the UK and the EU as well. The UK is one of the largest economy and military power within the EU. With Germany and France, the UK has long been viewed as one of the EU’s “big three” and the UK has served as key driver in certain EU initiatives. The UK had a big role in in the EU efforts to forge more common foreign and security policies, but Brexit has immediately ended the UK’s membership of the European Defence Agency and because of the given UK’s foreign policy clout and defence capabilities, Brexit could diminish the EU’s role as an international actor. (Congressional Research Service, 2018)

Without the UK, the EU becomes a “small power”, and has to adjust its ambitions to its capabilities. The implications of the UK not being in the EU will truly be devastating for Europe. Europe will become less important and that has a huge impact on the foreign policy, not just geographically, but also economically, politically and military. Brexit has already cast its shadow on the development of the EU’s new global strategy on foreign and security policy: without British support, France is unable to instil Realpolitik in the EU’s security discourse. This implies that the EU has to tone down its ambitions and behave accordingly. Like said before, after Brexit, the EU should make amends and adjust to new geostrategic reality. (van Ham, 2016)

EU officials are also aggrieved that they are going to lose important British knowledge. What the EU is going to miss out on in UK knowledge are British personnel with technical expertise, British negotiating prowess on issues, British military know-how and many key planning bodies and agencies. So Brexit might dampen prospects for further EU enlargement because the UK had longer been one of the staunchest supporters within the EU of continued expansion. (Congressional Research Service, 2018)

Besides, the European Union probably lost its most economically liberal member. The effect of the Brexit is to result in slower development of the single market. A lot of European Union projects will also lose a major champion, for example the Energy Union. There will be a rise in nationalism in Europe, in that with the loss of the UK some of the single market gains may well vanish. Rising nationalist parties demand more protection for local industries. Without the UK available to weigh in the balance against such protectionism, the capacity of the northern European free traders to defend the single market is in doubt. (Riley, 2016)

### *EU durability*

When a member votes to leave the EU, this is a shock to the European Union's self-image, global standing and sense of durability of the European Union. If one membership can vote to leave, so potentially can others; there is nothing inevitable. Particularly because of the euro crisis, the sense of EU already existed, the Brexit vote will now future waken the Union's credibility, legitimacy and political capacity to act. (Riley, 2016) Eurosceptic parties, including in France, the Netherlands, Italy and Sweden, have been encouraged by the British decision and called for similar referendums on either EU and/or Eurozone membership. Although that the most EU countries are too small to do it alone, some EU officials worry that Brexit could undermine the EU if it prompts other countries to demand special membership conditions. (Congressional Research Service, 2018)

In addition, the Brexit vote has strengthened anti-immigration throughout Europe. If these parties gain enough ground in France and Germany, they could force an ant-EU vote. If either of those countries left, the EU would lose its most robust economies and would dissolve. (Amadeo, 2019)

### *Further burden on EU institutions*

Brexit will cast a shadow on further burden on EU institutions. Because member states have to deal with the complex Brexit negotiations reduces the resources available to deal with other crises like immigration flows, IS and Russian Aggression. It also increases the complexity of managing these crises as they begin to feed off on another. This interaction between crises can be seen in the use by national forces. It galvanises anti-EU forces across the continent, with the

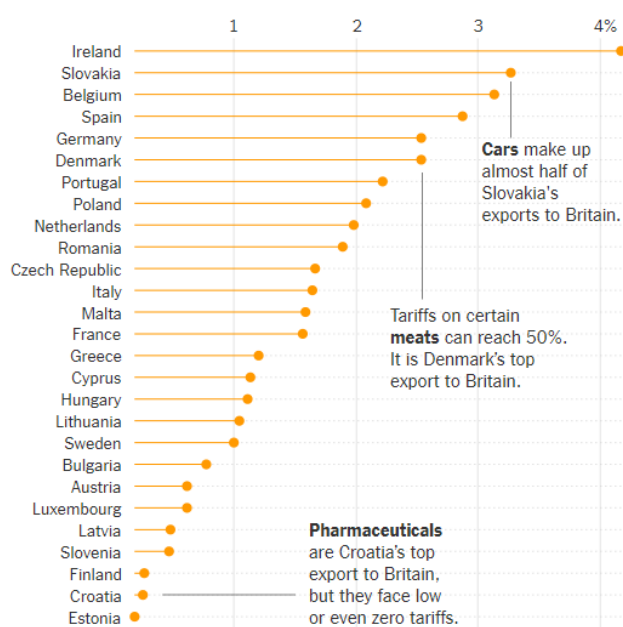
prospect that the EU is indeed toppling and it will only need a few more events like the Brexit to end the European Union. (Riley, 2016)

### *The European Union and Russia*

The Brexit may be positive for Putin's Russia, potentially leading to more accommodating EU approach. The UK has always been a supporter of the EU sanctions on Russia and is concerned about Russia's more assertive military posture. It is not the only EU member state that support the sanctions and is against the Russia military posture. Without the UK, the EU would seek to recalibrate its policies toward Moscow. Brexit could complicate efforts to forge and maintain any common EU stance toward Russia given the diplomatic and military capabilities the UK brings to the EU and its frequent leadership part in building consensus on major foreign policy and security issues. The Brexit could provide an assist to Putin's boarder goal of challenging the Western-oriented, post-Cold War order in Europe. (Congressional Research Service, 2018)

### *No more free trade*

In case of a "no-deal Brexit", there are some other big consequences involved. The most important one is that there is no more free trade between the EU and UK. This will force them to default to the tariffs set by the World Trade Organization. Studies are looking at the impact on trade of a no-deal Brexit and found a wide range of exposure across Europe. Almost every member facing possible reduction to trade. (McCann et al, 2019)



*Positive consequences?*

Some views contend that Brexit could ultimately lead to a more like-minded EU. The EU might be able to pursue deeper integration without UK opposition. For example, Brexit could strengthen the prospects for closer EU defence cooperation because the UK often voted against many EU policies that other member states supported and served a brake on certain measures in this area. The UK typically sought to circumscribe EU initiatives. EU initiatives that the UK viewed as infringing too much on national sovereignty. (Congressional Research service, 2018 and Amadeo, 2019) International Monetary Fund Director Christine Lagarde said about the Brexit and a new cohesiveness: “The years are over when Europe cannot follow a course because the British will object. Now the British are going, Europe can find a new élan.” (Amadeo, 2018)

Another outcome of the Brexit is a tighter, more integrated configuration; the EU would emerge from its current challenges more united and integrated. The Brexit is resulting in an EU of member states more aligned on the need for further political and economic integration. (Congressional Research Service, 2018)

**Steps taken by the EU after the Brexit referendum**

Due to the UK’s Brexit referendum, the EU leaders acknowledge that it could no longer be “business as usual” and announced that the other member states would launch a “political reflection.” This political reflection consider the EU’s future. The first initial discussion by the leaders was held in Slovakia in September 2016. The result asserted that although one country had decided to leave, the EU remains indispensable for the other member states. Despite the attempt to demonstrate unity in Bratislava, some EU officials were disappointed that measures proposed were not bold enough. That is why in the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary Rome declaration, the leaders of the EU renewed their commitment to the European integration project. They pledged to make the European Union stronger and more resilient, through even greater unity and solidarity amongst the member states. Press reports indicated that the EU governments were in favour of developing a multispeed EU. Due a formal decision to move toward a multispeed EU, the EU appears to be pursuing greater integration in certain areas. Over the past two years EU leaders have announced serval new initiatives to bolster security and defence cooperation.

In 2017, twenty-five member states agreed on a new defence pact, aimed at spending defence funds more efficiently, developing military capabilities jointly, and increasing interoperability. Yet many analysts note that such policy debates are common in the EU and to be expected, but suggest that implementing any significant EU reforms or restructuring will be a years-long subject to continue debate and prolonged negotiations. (Congressional Research Service, 2018)

## Conclusion

What can be concluded is that Brexit is a complex process in which both the EU and the UK face difficult choices. There also will be consequences for both parties which cannot simply be solved. Therefore negotiations are still ongoing and it now appears the Brexit has been postponed until October 2019. During this essay, the consequences for the EU were mainly looked into. Although the failed policies of the EU is a reason for Brexit, the EU was powerless in the UK's choice to leave/not leave the EU. Yet, the EU has to deal with the consequences arising from the Brexit. My vision on these consequences is that the EU can get in into serious problems if they do not take these consequences very seriously. Brexit has also made other member states start to reconsider their membership. If a few or one other superpower leaves the EU (like France or Germany), it can suddenly all be over for the EU. But the UK leaving has also a few positive consequences for the EU; because of the Brexit the EU might be able to pursue deeper integration without UK opposition, because the UK cannot vote against any EU policies anymore. If the EU takes advantages of this and tries to find a solution for the consequences, I think that in the end the EU might come out stronger. But it will be a long, hard and difficult process.

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