

## **Migration and Social Exclusion**

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### **Abstract**

In recent years, the intensification of the migration phenomenon has become a fact, with the result that many people leave their country in search of shelter elsewhere. In this change of life, it is essential, through access to education, to acquire new knowledge, for their integration into the host country. Adult education is called upon to respond to this new reality, not only by providing knowledge and skills to this vulnerable group of learners, but also by developing critical reflection in relation to the acquired attitudes and assumptions. Adult migrants have certain special characteristics that differentiate them from other learners, very often experiencing social exclusion without being able to participate equally in public goods, such as education. In addition, the difficulties they face in terms of their integration into the labor market and the lack of professional identity contribute to their economic exclusion and their inability to live in terms of dignity. The negative experiences they have had in the past, combined with the adverse discrimination they suffer, contribute to their often negative self-image and to their strong suspicion of the majority population. It is worth emphasizing that the significant socio-economic problems they face and the feelings of disadvantage they experience are reinforced by the absence of an organized framework of protection, on the part of the state, regarding these social groups.

**Keywords:** Immigration, Migration, Social Exclusion

## **The Concept of Migration: Clarification of The Concept**

Immigration, both in International Law and in the social sciences, is the movement of people to a country of which they do not have citizenship, but who wish to settle as permanent residents or future citizens of that country. Immigration is a multidimensional and multilevel phenomenon, inherent in the human evolution of society, economy, politics and culture (Bagavos, Ch., Papadopoulou, D., Symeonaki, M., 2008), while at the same time it is a dynamic process, the forms of which vary and change in relation to broader political, social and economic changes. The phenomenon of migration exists and emerges from the historical and social organization as a whole, while it is a form of social relationship determined by the market, the nation, the state and gender, which constitute the social categories, groups and the way of contact and communication between them (Petrahou, I., 2009). It is an ancient phenomenon where the first immigrants crossed Africa, gradually spread to Asia and over the course of thousands of years to the other continents (Goldin, I., Cameron, G., Balarajan, M., 2013). Even in prehistoric times, the various human races were forced to migrate from one place to another, trying to survive. From cold climates they went to warmer ones, from mountainous to lowland, from poor in fruits and hunting to richer ones. We see, therefore, that the main reason that justified constant migration in the past was the effort to survive. The same reason is valid to a significant extent even today, when migration appears in new forms. While in prehistoric times it was a general phenomenon, and often forced, in the historical era it begins to differentiate itself with large groups of people being transported from one place to another, within the framework of domination over their fellow humans and the conquest of new countries. According to the International Organization for Migration, every person has the right to move freely from one country to another. The free movement of people means that anyone can leave a country and return to it, determining the period of their absence and stay. On the other hand, no state can keep a person involuntarily on its territory. However, there are exceptions, where the law provides for special restrictions, citing the protection of national security (Adrada, J., 1994).

Basic characteristics of migration in order to conceptually interpret the phenomenon are:

- Changing the place of work and residence.

- Travel, individual or group.
- The transition from any area to another (from rural to urban and vice versa) with the criterion usually being the possibility of claiming a higher standard of living.

Reasons that lead to migration, both voluntary and forced, are the efforts of those who migrate to get rid of various factors that oppress their lives and personalities, such as economic, religious reasons, but possibly also a war that forced them to abandon their homes. Thus, people migrate due to conditions and parameters that they cannot control or suppress themselves, and certainly migrant groups bring with them to the host countries influences from their social and cultural context.

There are various types of migration. Depending on the criterion, migration is divided into categories: ( Koiliari , A. ,1997).

- Based on location: it can be external, internal, intracontinental, intercontinental and overseas.
- Based on time: it can be temporary (seasonal workers) and long-term, which can however develop into permanent.
- Based on population size : there is individual (single travel) and family travel, while in some cases travel evolves into group travel.
- By reason: voluntary and involuntary are mentioned. However, this last distinction is somewhat confusing. For example, movement is considered voluntary for work reasons, while involuntary when it occurs for political and social reasons. At this point, however, one must ask oneself how one would characterize the movement of people who are forced to leave their homeland because they do not see any prospects for themselves and their families?

### **The Immigrant's Profile**

Countries have now become multicultural as they accept people from every part of the world. Some of them have entered legally while others illegally. This situation makes it difficult to estimate the number of immigrants, especially for the period from 1990 to the present. However, in general there are four categories of foreign immigrants ( Koiliari , A.,1997):

- Those who are nationals of European Union member countries and are covered by community legislation.
- Those who are nationals of non-European Union countries but can, under certain conditions, settle and work legally in that country.
- Those who are nationals of non-European Union countries and have entered the country irregularly, reside and work illegally in it, and
- Those who are refugees and enter either in this capacity or illegally into each country.

To the above categories are added the migratory flows of returnees.

Looking for information about the profile of immigrants, it is found that many are economic immigrants ( Koiliari , A., 1997). Elements that characterize them are that:

- Most are not employed in a regular job. They are absorbed in manual tasks that the natives do not prefer and are usually employed occasionally.
- Their work is characterized in most cases as precarious, their wages are low and they are afraid to demand any social security.
- Their jobs usually have no relation to their specialty or the level of education they have completed in their home country.
- They have a low level of knowledge of the Greek language.
- They are classified in the lowest social and economic strata of society.
- They prefer to associate with people from their own ethnic community.

Factors that influence the profile of the immigrant are the length of stay in the host country, the legalization process, the length of legality, language, educational background, participation in employment, family reunification, residence and stability in residence, relations with the broader public sector, informal social relations as well as the relationship with the respective society and its citizens (Papadopoulou, D., 2006).

A significant problem of immigrants is their residence status, since a significant percentage do not have a work permit, while most do not have a residence permit. The short validity period of residence and work permits as well as the long delay in the return of the above to the directly concerned result in immigrants receiving the necessary documents after they have expired. Thus, both immigrants and their families appear to be living and working illegally in the country, while in reality the state structures delay the process of their legalization ( Dimoulas , K., 2006). In general, surveys present the following data about immigrants: They are people aged between 20-44 years old, while most of them are married. Initially, they come to the country alone without their families, while when they feel financially secure they desire family reunification. A large percentage, more than half, has completed secondary education, women have a high level of education and the percentage of illiterates is low. They are not employed in jobs related to their specialization and thus graduate immigrants are forced to engage in manual, poorly paid and degraded professions. Most of them live in the wider area of the capital, while several live in large urban centers and in rurally developed areas (IMEPO, 2008). The primary concern of immigrants is to improve their living conditions to a significant extent and to move from degraded areas to other more socially recognized ones (IMEPO, 2007). With this change, they seek to reverse the negative climate that prevails due to the inability of the state mechanism to respond to the reception and adaptation of these specific groups ( Moschopoulou , A., 2005).

Through the study of the phenomenon of migration and the analysis of the characteristics of the immigrant, it is found that these specific population groups are in many cases at risk of being marginalized. They face problems with their legalization, the search for a job worthy of their skills and knowledge, the creation of friendly relations, their transactions with state services, etc. Therefore, it would be useful to talk about the term of social exclusion and its relationship with the process of integration of immigrants into a new society.

### **Immigration Policy and Integration Policies**

Five European states, France, Germany, Belgium, Luxembourg and the Netherlands, decided to create a border-free area between them, the “Schengen” area, a name derived from the city of the same name in Luxembourg where the treaty was signed. This decision was the springboard for a common European immigration policy.

The first treaties and texts establishing migration policy in the European Union are:

- a. The Schengen Treaty, 1985
- b. The Maastricht Treaty, 1992
- c. The Treaty of Amsterdam, 1999
- d. The Tampere Council, 1999.

The signing of the Schengen Treaty (1985), for the control of the external borders of the Union and the free movement of citizens of member states in the Single Area, in combination with the Single European Act (1986), which provided for the creation of a market area with free movement of persons, services, goods and capital, were the starting point for the creation of a common immigration policy. Thus, immigration policy now takes on a community character, that is, it is determined and shaped within the framework of the European Union (Varvitsiotis, I. M., Kambouroglou, G., 2006). The external border control and the free movement of individuals belonging to a member state of the Union create a strong distinction

and form two categories of citizens: its nationals or legal citizens and citizens residing outside the EU ( Naxakis , Ch., & Chletsos , M., 2003).

Citizens enjoy a multitude of rights, few of which are granted to immigrants who settle in the territory of the Union. The Treaty of Lisbon, which took place in 2000, defines the concept of citizen of the European Union. According to it, a citizen of the Union is any person who has the citizenship of a member state ( [www.ekem.gr](http://www.ekem.gr) ).

With regard to the movement of individuals within the Community, an immigrant who settles to work in a country that is a member of the European Union and is not a citizen of that country is classified as a third-country national . country .

In terms of immigration, always in accordance with the Community framework, citizens are divided into immigrants who are European citizens , with exceptions and restrictions for people coming from countries that are new members of the Union, and immigrants who are third-country nationals . A corresponding distinction exists in their rights. Thus, those belonging to the first category have free access to any member state of the Union, while those belonging to the second category do not. For them, there are strict controls on their entry into the country, but also on their stay in it. Their rights are limited and are determined by the legislative framework of each country, which, of course, follows the guidelines of the Community immigration policy. In particular, we can highlight the following: As an immigration policy, according to Schnapper D (2008), defines the set of measures and adopted social practices according to two necessary and complementary axes which:

- Regulate and control the entry, residence and employment of non-citizens of a given society, including measures to encourage return and to combat illegal immigration. The first axis corresponds to the pure “immigration policy” of a country and is mainly “repressive”, “police”, “defensive” and negative in nature in terms of its content.

• They deal with the already settled immigrant populations on the national territory. The second axis is the axis of pure social policy that is distinguished in the individual national policies of integration and integration of immigrants, whether they concern educational policy, housing policy, social security, health and welfare policies, or employment policies that are applied to legal populations who do not have the nationality of the country in which they are settled. This axis corresponds to the so-called "integration and integration policies" that have a positive character, at least apparently, and tend to create the legal and formal conditions for the convergence of immigrant populations with the citizens of a society ( Bagavos , Ch., Papadopoulou, D., 2006). The strengthening of the EU workforce is becoming increasingly necessary due to the current and future demographic situation. Of course, immigrants are divided into low-skilled/ low- skilled skilled ) and highly qualified ( high skilled ) and according to Hatton and Williamson (2005) *“the vast majority of potential immigrants are low-skilled. It is a matter for research why richer countries are not more open to low-skilled immigration, since such immigration has the potential to increase the income of developing countries”* ( Hatton T , J and Williamson , J , G , 2005) Furthermore, migrants bring with them new ideas and methods that can stimulate creativity and innovation. For countries of origin, the economic benefits of migration are well documented and include contributing to poverty reduction through remittances and diaspora investment initiatives. The financial, human and social assistance provided by diasporas can also directly contribute to achieving social development goals, including development goals for health and education in multicultural societies.

However, *“Immigrants must respect the rules and values of the society that welcomes them, and society must ensure that immigrants have opportunities for their full participation in social activities. Immigrants must learn the language of their new country, and have the same rights in studies and work, or in other areas, as nationals of EU countries .”* (source:

The European Union in simple terms: Immigration and asylum ([http://europa.eu/pol/index\\_el.htm](http://europa.eu/pol/index_el.htm) ). Studying the policy of the European Union, one will notice that although an attempt is made to ensure a balance between the rights of immigrants, the consequences of the migratory movement and the expected development of the EU, unfortunately this is not always possible. On the contrary, immigrants are often victimized . The right balance between enhancing the mobility of bona fide travellers and the risks of illegal immigration and threats to public order and public security must always be ensured. Finally, everyone should understand that migration is now a permanent social phenomenon , its benefits can only arise if immigrants successfully integrate into the host society, and long-term planning is necessary so that immigrants can integrate “ *with social peace and stability, with social cohesion and respect for their rights and in such a way that it is productive and beneficial for the economy and social structures* ” (Pavlou , M. , 2005).

Modern developments at international levels have imposed a joint coordinated effort to address migration and it is a priority of the Union and a pillar of European policy to address the problem in a rational manner. The ultimate goal of the policies that states must implement is to legally address the phenomenon of migration. It is easy to understand that the goal must now be the smooth integration of immigrants and their families in the host countries, in order to ensure their rights and combat social exclusion.

### **Concept and Characteristics of Social Exclusion**

The concept of social exclusion was initially identified with situations of poverty, marginalization and non-satisfaction of basic living needs. It was first encountered in EU texts in 1989 as a translation of “poverty”. In 1994, the Green Paper of the Commission of the European Communities defined social exclusion as insufficient income, as well as backwardness in housing, education, health and limited access to services. Trying to describe the concept of social exclusion, one finds that the numerous attempts of different social

theories to approach the term have created confusion in its definition (Papadopoulou, D., 2002). Also, all this variety in the reading of the concept led to the conclusion that social exclusion can be defined in a dual way: by the academic community and by the conditions of everyday reality ( Tsiakalos , G., 1998). From the academic perspective, then, the definition focuses on the dynamics of exclusion. The concept is presented as a progressive process in which individuals are disconnected from the social fabric and face the possibility of finding themselves in a state of economic impoverishment. In addition, individuals are hindered in matters related to the absorption of social and public goods and are at risk of various forms of social and cultural disadvantage (Spanou, E., 1999). According to this approach, social exclusion is realized and completed gradually through the characteristics it presents ( Mousourou , M.L., 1998). Essentially, the extent and intensity of deprivation that accompanies social exclusion starts from a degree of risk and ends at the degree of actual exclusion, in which a complete rupture with the social bond and the inability to restore this relationship is observed ( Sdrali , D., & Karametou, P. , 2008). On the other hand, social exclusion is interpreted as a situation that divides individuals into two groups (Papadopoulou, D., 2006):

- To those who participate in the productive process, the access mechanisms, events and resources of social life and
- To the others who are excluded from all of the above and experience poverty and social marginalization.

People in the second category face problems due to the weaknesses of social policy and find that their lives are affected by the following parameters ( Byrne , D. , 2005 ; Retinioti , A. & Mantziou , I., 2010; Adam, S. & Papatheodorou, X., 2010): the way the state chooses to address the consequences of social exclusion, the spatial concentration of excluded groups, as well as the temporal persistence of the phenomenon.

The different aspects and degrees of social exclusion depend on what was mentioned above and in their own way consolidate social inequalities ( Kavounidis , T., 2005· Shepley , W. O. , 2005). Looking for some correlation between the above approaches , one concludes that exclusion evolves gradually ( Sen , A. ,1992b· Gallier , D. & Paugam , S. , 2002· Papadopoulos , E. & Tsakloglou , P. , 2005) :

Initially, individuals, due to a lack of abilities, cannot participate in the functionalities of adult life, which extend from meeting basic living needs to self-realization. Subsequently, this weakness of individuals begins to be associated with a series of deprivations, which operate cumulatively. This whole situation has negative consequences in the process of shaping both individual and social identity, resulting in specific individuals and/or groups not having access to social resources, which, however, are available to the majority of the population.

Consequently, social exclusion is perceived either as the inability of individuals and/or groups to participate in social institutions or as a social distance that separates the various social groups ( Balourdos , D., 2006). The concept of social exclusion is inextricably linked to immigrants and their attempt to integrate into a new society. These specific population groups face economic poverty, unemployment, precarious work, illiteracy, integration into a minority, residence in marginal areas, etc. All the characteristics of immigrants and the reasons that cause them, constitute a situation according to which individuals are socially excluded. In such a case, individuals cannot enjoy or exploit economic, political, social and educational privileges that are offered to others within the framework of an organized society.

From the above data, it follows that social exclusion is not necessarily and exclusively linked to the economic problems of immigrants. The phenomenon is mainly manifested through the inability of individuals to participate in the labor market, education, the health

sector, access to administrative and other services as well as in the search for and finding housing. Thus, the different cultural, ethnic, linguistic and religious identity of immigrants creates dividing lines, which prevent this group from adapting effectively to society ( Gkotovos , A., 2002). Of course, according to Cummins J. (2000), social exclusion does not arise as a result of all these different elements that characterize immigrants, but is a consequence of the negativity with which institutions, state and political, treat these people. Weber describes social exclusion as a form of social entrenchment, arguing that “ *the exclusionary entrenchment constitutes an attempt by a group to secure for itself a privileged position at the expense of another group through a process of subordination* ” and that “ *the dominant group, feeling threatened, tries to tame and assimilate the disadvantaged group* ” (Eikonomou, Ch., - Feronas , A., 2006).

Social science researchers, taking into account the above effort to clarify social exclusion, have concluded the following characteristics ( Atkinson, A.B., 2002; Silver, H. & Miller, S. M. , 2003; Balourdos , D. & Chrysakis , M. , 2006; Adam , S. & Papatheodorou , C., 2010):

- ❖ It is multidimensional: it varies according to the type of deprivations experienced by individuals and/or groups. It is mostly social and economic in nature.
- ❖ It is dynamic and procedural: it evolves over time and varies depending on circumstances.
- ❖ It is active and interactive : it takes place within the context of social interaction.
- ❖ It is relational: it defines the form of relationship that can be created between the individual and/or group with the physical and social environment.
- ❖ It is relevant to the content, the particular conditions and the opportunities offered within a society.
- ❖ It has a multifocal action: it focuses its attention on social disadvantages and forms of disconnection of individuals and/or groups with their social environment.

From the above, one concludes that as a concept, social exclusion presents significant differences with poverty, which has to do with the deprivations experienced by individuals and groups due to their low incomes ( Sdrali , D., & Karametou , P., 2008). Defining the concept exclusively in economic terms is considered a one-sided approach, mainly because social exclusion hides political and cultural dimensions ( Bynner , J. 2003; Chrysakis , M., 2005). By extension, it is necessary to investigate the ways in which inequalities of all kinds are reproduced and lead to the marginalization of large population groups ( Balourdos , D., 2006).

### **Effects Of Social Exclusion**

In order to understand the concept of social exclusion and to realize the magnitude of its dimensions within the social context, it is necessary to talk about the effects that this specific phenomenon has on individuals and groups. In general, people who live excluded do not have, as mentioned, free access to their physical, social and political rights. This situation significantly affects their psyche and has implications for the perceptions and attitudes they form towards social reality as well as the way they choose to claim their rights. Individuals find that they are not able to cope with such a situation and consequently cannot change the living conditions not only for themselves but also for their families, so they acquire guilt ( Shepley , W. O , 2005). Gradually , excluded individuals find that they live in an uncertain and unsafe environment for them, which intensifies the appearance of negative emotions. People feel anxious, they feel that they are disadvantaged in relation to others and they are angry because from the behavior of others around them they perceive that society does not respect their rights. All of this in the long term develops into other more serious problems, such as psychological disorders and depression ( Williams, K. D. , 2007 ; Sdrali , D. , & Karametou , P., 2008). The manifestation and intensity of the above emotions is determined by two parameters ( Williams , K. D. & Nida , S. A. , 2011):

- ❖ the length of time the effects of the exclusion last
- ❖ the way people decide to react to these difficult circumstances.

The emergence of negative emotions develops in exactly the same way as the deprivation of the individual's rights. While initially the individual may experience disappointment because he is unable to satisfy his livelihood needs, later on, he experiences negative emotions more intensely because he finds that social exclusion significantly slows down his self-realization ( Sdrali , D., & Karametou , P., 2008). According to Oaten , Williams , Jones & Zadro (2008), the unpleasant emotions experienced by the individual in combination with the rejection he receives from society, contribute to the following:

- ❖ The excluded person no longer feels like they belong to society.
- ❖ The excluded person closes in on himself because he feels that no one supports him.
- ❖ The excluded person does not cultivate empathy .
- ❖ The excluded person accepts any external influence with apathy.

The result of all this is that individuals or groups become easy victims who are at risk of being manipulated, where most of the time their reaction is accompanied by the manifestation of extreme antisocial behaviors, which can lead individuals or groups to complete isolation from the social fabric. ( Twenge and al ., 2007) The removal of individuals or groups from society causes their definitive break with the social whole, strengthens competitive relations, limits social cohesion and essentially undermines the functioning of society. This of course means that people do not believe in or support collective actions mainly because as excluded people they experience the opposite. Thus, unable to react to a vicious situation, they become trapped in the choices that the system decides for them. In periods of economic recession, all of the above worsens even more, where they try either to publicize their problems and in this way make their presence felt, or to accept their fate and stoically endure the consequences of their decline. What is needed is a unified approach to

legal immigrants based on respect for human rights, freedom, equal treatment and a rule of law, aiming at social cohesion, with rights such as access to work, health, education and welfare services, the guarantee of political rights and equal participation in society.

**Conflict of Interest:** The corresponding author, on behalf of second author, confirms that there are no conflicts of interest to disclose.

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