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The Influence of Economic Indicators of the Country on Youth International Migration: a Comparative Analysis

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ABSTRACT

Human capital represented by young people is becoming an important potential for the country's development. To reduce young people's migration flows, it is necessary to know what influences their decision to leave the country. The purpose of this work is to study economic factors of youth migration globally through the literature review and to conduct a comparative analysis of economic indicators between the member-states of the Eurasian Economic Community. The methodology is based on the most similar and the most diverse systems, which are widely used in comparative studies. Accordingly, a small number of cases were selected based on similar models used. An analysis of similarities and identified differences between countries was carried out. The study included three stages: literature review, indicators selection and comparative analysis. Comparative analysis was based on four indicators, such as public spending on R&D, the total number of emigrants, the share of remittances in GDP and the unemployment rate. The data was collected from open sources. According to the literature review, investment in R&D was found to have a strong influence on the decision of emigrants, especially young people, to migrate. The analysis showed strong similarities between Armenia, Kyrgyzstan and Belarus regarding unemployment and educational indicators. The results for Russia and Kazakhstan confirmed the assumption of utility theory, according to which young people usually leave for the sake of better educational programs. The results of this study can be used to improve and adjust the youth and migration state policy, which may reduce the migration of young people abroad.

KEYWORDS: Foreign Migration, Comparative Analysis, Economics, Youth Migration, Economic Indicators, Education, R&D, Strategy

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Елдің экономикалық көрсеткіштерінің жастардың халықарылық көші-қонына әсері: салыстармалы талдау

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ТҮЙІН

Жастар негізіндегі адами капитал ел дамуының маңызды әлеуетінің біріне айналуда. Жастардың көші-қон ағынын азайту үшін олардың елден кету туралы шешіміне не әсер ететінін білу қажет. Бұл жұмыстың мақсаты әдеби шолу арқылы әлемдегі жастар көші-қонының экономикалық факторларын зерделеу және Еуразиялық Экономикалық одаққа кіретін елдер арасындағы экономикалық көрсеткіштерге салыстырмалы талдау жүргізу болып табылады. Зерттеу әдістемесі салыстырмалы зерттеулерде кеңінен қолданылатын ең ұқсас жүйелерді жобалау және әртүрлі жүйелерді жобалау принциптеріне негізделген. Тиісінше, істердің аз саны қолданылды. Елдер арасындағы ұқсастықтар мен анықталған айырмашылықтарға талдау жасалды. Зерттеу үш кезеңде жүргізілді: әдеби шолу, көрсеткіштерді таңдау және салыстырмалы талдау. Салыстырмалы талдау мемлекеттік ҒЗТКЖ шығындары, эмигранттардың жалпы саны, ЖІӨ-дегі ақша аударымдарының үлесі және жұмыссыздық деңгейі сияқты төрт өлшемге негізделген. Деректер ашық көздерден жиналды. Әдебиеттерді шолуға сәйкес, ҒЗТКЖ инвестициялары эмигранттардың, әсіресе жастардың көші-қон туралы шешіміне қатты әсер ететіні анықталды. Талдау Армения, Қырғызстан және Беларусь арасында жұмыссыздық көрсеткіші мен білім беру көрсеткіші бойынша қатты ұқсастық бар екенін көрсетті. Ресей мен Қазақстан бойынша нәтижелер пайдалылық теориясының ұстанымын растады, оған сәйкес жастар әдетте үздік білім беру бағдарламалары үшін кетеді. Бұл зерттеудің нәтижелерін елдің жастар және көші-қон саясатын жетілдіру және түзету үшін пайдалануға болады, бұл жастардың басқа елдерге көші-қонын төмендетуі мүмкін.

ТҮЙІН СӨЗДЕР: шетелдік көші-қон, салыстырмалы талдау, экономика, жастардың көші-қоны, экономикалық көрсеткіштер, білім, ҒЗТКЖ, стратегия

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Влияние экономических показателей страны на международную миграцию молодежи: сравнительный анализ

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АННОТАЦИЯ

Человеческий капитал в лице молодежи становится одним из важных потенциалов развития страны. Для того, чтобы снизить миграционные потоки молодежи необходимо знать, что влияет на их решение покинуть страну. Цель данной работы состоит в том, чтобы исследовать экономические факторы молодежной миграции в мире через литературный обзор, и провести сравнительный анализ экономических показателей между странами, входящих в Евразийский экономический союз. Методология исследования основана на принципах проектирования наиболее похожих систем и проектирования самых разных систем, которые широко используются в сравнительных исследованиях. Соответственно, было использовано небольшое количество случаев. Был проделан анализ сходств и выявленных различий между странами. Исследование проводилось в три этапа: литературный обзор, выбор показателей и сравнительный анализ. Сравнительный анализ базировался на четырех показателях, таких как государственные расходы на НИОКР, общее число эмигрантов, доля денежных переводов в ВВП и уровень безработицы. Данные были собраны из открытых источников. Согласно обзору литературы, было выявлено, что инвестиции в НИОКР оказывают сильное влияние на решение эмигрантов, особенно на решение молодежи мигрировать. Анализ показал, что существует сильное сходство между Арменией, Кыргызстаном и Белорусии по показателю безработицы и по образовательному показателю. Результаты по России и Казахстану подтвердили положение теории полезности, согласно которому молодые люди обычно уезжают ради лучших образовательных программ. Результаты данного исследования можно использовать для совершенствования и корректировки молодежной и миграционной политики страны, что возможно снизит миграцию молодежи в другие страны.

КЛЮЧЕВЫЕ СЛОВА: зарубежная миграция, сравнительный анализ, экономика, миграция молодежи, экономические показатели, образование, НИОКР, стратегия

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Introduction

Human capital is the most important capital of any state and society, with which you can create a national profile, which depends on its quality and quantity. In addition, with the help of human capital, progress and sustainable development of the country can be achieved. The role of youth in human capital is important and has a certain weight at the state level and globally. But provided that she has the opportunity to receive a quality education and knowledge, there will be conditions and opportunities for development and self-realization. And when there are no such conditions or insufficient, young people have to migrate from their country to other countries in search of better conditions and life. Young people live in an era of globalization, in an era of constant change, and realizing this, they leave in search of better economic opportunities and a better life, on the one hand, and political stability, on the other, including in order to avoid armed conflicts, violence and discrimination, and climate change and natural disasters.

There are 1.2 billion young people aged 15 to 24 in the world today, representing 16 per cent of the world's population. The number of young people in 2030, according to UN forecasts, will increase by 7 per cent and reach almost 1.3 billion people (UN, 2020). According to the World Bank, almost a third of the migration flow from developing countries comprises young people aged 12 to 24 (WB 2020). These numbers are likely to increase in the coming years, given population dynamics and the lack of development and employment opportunities, especially in rural areas, as well as climate change.

The number of foreign migrants worldwide has risen to 169 million, which is three per cent more than in 2017. The authors of the paper estimate that in 2019, foreign migrant workers made up nearly five per cent of the global workforce. More than two-thirds of foreign migrant workers work in high-income countries: 63.8 million (37.7 per cent) in Europe and Central Asia and 43.3 million (25.6 per cent) in the Americas. Thus, together, Europe, Central Asia and the Americas receive 63.3 per cent of all migrant workers worldwide. The youth share in the foreign labor force increased globally from 8.3 per cent in 2017 to 10 per cent in 2019 (ILO, 2020). And by 2020, the share of international migrants comprised 281 million migrants or 3.6% of the global population (IOM, 2022).

The number of international migrants is growing every year in the world, which is confirmed by official data. Unlike refugees, they change their place of residence in search of a more comfortable standard of living. Every year, millions of young people worldwide decide to leave their native lands and move to other countries. The reasons for migration are studying abroad (mainly in developed countries - in Europe, the USA), job offers or job searches, and family reunification. There is much debate about the po migration's positive and negative aspects in the donor and receiving countries. Economists worldwide refer to the first argument in favor of such a process as additional funds in the form of remittances that migrants send home. Remittances help increase the population's income and improve the general standard of living in the country from which the migrant came. Secondly, international migration attracts cheap labor or, conversely, skilled human resources ("brain drain") to the host country. Although for the countries where the sought-after specialists leave, this process may have negative consequences in the future. Thirdly, in some developed countries of the world, mainly in European and developed Asian countries, such as Japan and South Korea, the share of the working-age population is declining every year. While the demand for labor remains the same. Moreover, developing countries that function as donor countries suffer from a loss of intellectual potential.

Early research on migration focused primarily on the potential for innovation and dissemination of knowledge among scientific or educational migrants in host countries. It has been proven that a lack of resources will prevent scientists from doing good research or publishing high-quality publications (Breschi et al., 2020). Some scholars suggest that in order to reduce educational migration, it is necessary to develop a research infrastructure (Ledeneva et al., 2021). Initially, studies on migration after the collapse of the USSR were associated with the processes of innovation potential (Dzhooshbekova et al., 2022). Also, the studies conducted in Kazakhstan use a questionnaire and interviews to determine the causes of youth migration (Iskakova et al., 2022). Different researchers considered different indicators and research methods.

The study's novelty lies in the methodology: the analysis of youth migration globally and within the EAEU member countries based on the most similar and the most diverse systems, which are widely used in comparative studies based on economic indicators. Also in the contribution

of new knowledge to research dedicated to youth migration. Therefore, there is a need to find out the causes and factors influencing the migration of young people to correctly develop a youth policy and adjust its timing to reduce the level of migration in the country. The research question is to identify what economic factors influence youth migration. This paper aims to study the economic factors of international youth migration through a literature review and conduct a comparative analysis of economic indicators between Eurasian Economic Union member-states.

Literature review

Various works are focused on migration externalities and consequences. For instance, former Soviet Union countries regarded migration as an opportunity. Although for women, it was more of a risky step as few reliable official institutions assisted migrants in the early 1990s (Krassinets & Tiuriukanova, 2001). Apart from economic factors, employment and age are also considered important factors. Thus, it was observed that the migration rate decreases as potential migrants become older. The stumbling era was even defined, where migration dynamics among the population of 40+ is very low. The consequences of migration have a direct impact on the human capital and intellectual potential of a country. At the same time, the positive outcome is reflected in positive remittance. While working abroad, migrants tend to provide financial support to their families or invest in property in their home countries. Especially those students who had previous experience in migration (e.g., working abroad) tend to migrate abroad after graduation (Aidis et al., 2005).

Migration is regarded as a negative trend with negative consequences for receiving and sending countries, especially in terms of skilled migration, e.g., healthcare. Record & Mohiddin (2006) in their study stated that migration positively impacts poverty reduction in developing countries, especially at the micro level. This is provided by money transfers by migrants, who send financial support to their families. Moreover, the influence of money transfers on poverty reduction is more significant than the financial support of official organizations, e.g. foreign investments (Record & Mohiddin, 2006). There is also a possibility for receiving countries to improve their competitiveness. Migrants are usually characterized as skilled workers with financial reserves. Therefore, they are regarded as potential individual entrepreneurs, their businesses differ in creativity, and they are less expected to break laws (Poot, 2008). At the same time, entrepreneurs and educational migrants form the highly skilled population of donor countries, and such "brain drain" also leads to the loss of financial capital (Mishchuk et al., 2019).

Latova (2012) in her study defined the following factors of migration among scientists specific to countries with developing economies. Moreover, she stated that the transition to the market economy had led to high dynamics in migration. The identified factors are low wages and social prestige, poorly equipped laboratories, weak state policy for science support and housing opportunities for scientists (Latova, 2012). A link was also identified between PhD production and scientists emigration, which can negatively impact economic development (Ganguli, 2014).

In the studies of Thomas & Inkpen (2017), the age range in the analysis included between 15-29. They studied the relationship between several variables to identify the main reasons for migration among youth. First, they stressed a difference in migration dynamics among youth between migrants from countries with economies in transition and developed countries. Moreover, countries with low income and employment rates experience high levels of migration. However, if a country's government increases investment in education, the migration rate decreases, which is explained by the government providing educational grants (Thomas & Inkpen, 2017).

In developed countries, international migration has an indirect influence on internal migration. Due to the low affordability of studying abroad, students pay attention to the educational curriculum of universities, which is regarded as the main factor for educational youth internal migration (Davletshina et al., 2017). Konstantinova (2016) and Kaliaskarova (2019) divided factors which prevent emigrants from coming back into several groups: socioeconomic, academic, political, natural and environmental. Socioeconomic factors include weak social policy. Moreover, scientists expressed concern about the unstable social protection in retirement caused by the low level of trust in local authorities. Academic factors are poor support of science by the government as low salaries, high bureaucracy and poorly provided technological support. Political factors talk about authoritarian regimes and low levels of safety. Natural and environmental factors

discuss severe weather conditions and pollution, respectively (Konstantinova, 2016; Kaliaskarova, 2019). Early migration studies primarily focused on the potential of innovation and knowledge distribution among scientific or educational migrants in receiving countries. In the case of reverse migration, when migrants return to low-quality life conditions in their home countries, there is the possibility of human capital deterioration among scientific migrants. This is because a lack of resources will prevent scientists from doing good research or high-quality publications (Breschi et al., 2020). Some scientists suggest that in order to reduce educational migration, research infrastructure needs to be developed (Ledeneva et al., 2021).

Azadi et al. (2020) divided drivers of outward migration into four groups in their study. The first group included factors that were developing for a time or which have accumulated effect. It includes low-income levels, repressions by the government, social norms, religion, secularism, individualism and labor mobility. The second group are economic drivers, including inflation, low economic development, high corruption and crime, low trust in government and state institutions, and air pollution. The third group of drivers is related to the Iran-Iraq war, as well as government collapse, natural disasters, economic sanctions, and monetary shocks (Azadi et al., 2020).

The dynamics of international migration in post-Soviet governments were observed after the collapse of the USSR (Dzhooshbekova et al., 2022). Initially, studies on migration were related to the potential innovation processes. As developing countries moved on to the transition process from the traditional administrative-command economy to the market economy, the migration of human capital started to increase in line. Accordingly, the mobility of the labor force started to increase, and people began paying more attention to the level of quality of life in developed countries.

The conducted literature review showed that the opportunity to find a job and make better earnings for a living are the most important factors among migrants. Migrants are usually motivated by the opportunity to have higher salaries despite the nature of their occupation. Therefore service industry is prevalent for migrants from developing countries. They are pushing factors such as a high unemployment rate and low opportunities to find a job and gain professional skills significantly influence the decision to migrate. Therefore, it is essential to look at the interaction between these economic drivers and their role in migration.

Methodology

Current research predicts providing statistical analysis of cases with a set of variables. The research methodology is based on the Most Similar Systems Design framework and the Most Different Systems Design, widely used in comparative research. The advantage of this method is that it can describe and account for complex socio-economic processes. In addition, it allows for the exclusion indicators necessary for further quantitative analysis of a particular phenomenon, in this case, migration. Accordingly, there will be used a small number of cases (countries) selected based on similar patterns. There will be provided analysis of similarities and identified differences between the cases (countries).

The research design will include several three stages. The first stage includes the selection of variables according to the conducted literature review. Table 1 presents variables used in various research.

The table includes articles from the literature review, which provided quantitative research or identified drivers of migration abroad among youth. It is clear that the majority of the studies state that economic factors have a higher level of importance than social or cultural ones, especially for emigrants from developing countries. Based on a critical literature review, it can be concluded that four leading indicators influence young people's decision to migrate. These indicators are Remittance as a share of GDP, Unemployment rate, and Research and Development expenditure as a share of GDP, shown in Table 2.

The data was collected from open sources. The limited number of variables is due to data limitations. The second stage includes the selection of countries by methodology, which is based on one major similarity. This will help to limit the number of cases. If there are unlimited or significant number of cases, the results make it difficult to analyze the interaction effect between variables to explain the phenomena. Therefore, there were selected member-states of the Eurasian Economic Union: Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Russia. The third stage includes comparing cases and identifying interaction effects between variables and overall analysis of international migration.

Table 1 –Review of migration factors used in various research

No.	Article details	Factors	Receiving country	Donor country
1	2	3	4	5
1	Krassinets & Tiuriukanova, 2001	Low wages; Low prestige and social respect toward their profession.	All countries	Lithuania
2	Record &Mohiddin, 2006	Professional "brain drain" (healthcare, science)	All countries	Malawi
3	Latova, 2012	Low wages of young scientists and teachers; Lack of housing opportunities; Lack of a modern laboratory base and conditions for research; Lack of prospects and the unpredictability of an academic career; Low social prestige of scientific work; No clear policy of the Russian State to remedy the situation.		
4	Ganuli, 2014	Economically active population, Regional budget, R&D organizations, number of PhD students/ PhD graduates/Admissions to PhD programs	USA, England, France, Germany, Israel, Western Europe, other countries	Post-Soviet Russia
5	Konstantinova, 2016	Socioeconomic; Academic; Political; Natural and environmental factors.	USA	Russia, Eastern Europe, post-Soviet governments, China
6	Thomas & Inkpen, 2017	Population age/proportion; Fertility rate; GPD per capita; FDI flows; Urban population	USA	Asia, Europe, Africa, Latin America, the Carribean (LAC), other regions
7	Davletshina et al., 2017	Search for more interesting and modern training programs; attractive salaries; opportunity for self-development.	All countries	Republic of Tatarstan
8	Mishchuk et al., 2019	Number of students; Number of scientific and pedagogical staff; Graduates of higher education.	All countries	Ukraine
9	Azadi et al., 2020	Low income; Underdeveloped civil law and society; Cultural and religious impact; Low quality of education; Rise of labor mobility; Urbanization; Individualism, and secularism; Unemployment; Economic stagnation, inflation, devalvation; Decay of the government institutions; Corruption and crime; Environmental challenges in megacities; Internet access.	USA, Canada, Germany, United Kingdom, Sweden, Turkey, other countries	Iran

1	2	3	4	5
10	Ledeneva et al., 2021	1) Economic factors: high unemployment, limited employment opportunities, low wages, lack of jobs in certain professions. 2) The situation in the field of education: low level of education, corruption in the field of education, poor material and technical equipment of universities, low level of qualification of teaching staff. 3) Political factors: the level of confidence in the future, personal security, the ability to plan their lives and the lives of their children.	The Russian Federation	Kazakhstan
11	Labor Market of Kazakhstan, Development in a New Reality, 2021	National Testing; Corruption, bureaucracy, impunity and irresponsibility of officials and inefficient public administration; Professional lack of demand; Lack of prospects for self-realization and career.	All countries	Kazakhstan
12	Lazaretou, 2022	Employment; Income; Quality life; Education.	Germany, Europe, other countries	Greece
Note - compiled by authors				

Table 2 – List of selected determinants: economic determinants for comparative analysis

No	Determinant	period	Source of information
1	Total number of emigrants	1990-2020	Our world in data [https://ourworldindata.org/migration]
2	Remittance as a share of GDP	1995-2018	Our world in data [https://ourworldindata.org/migration]
3	Unemployment rate	2009-2021	World bank open data
4	Research and Development expenditure as a share of GDP	2009-2020	World bank open data bank [https://data.worldbank.org/]
Note - compiled by authors			

Analysis and Results

The analysis of the migration development in the member-states of the Eurasian Economic Union

The overall trend for the emigration rate observed an upward trend at the beginning of the period. This could be related to the fact that in the early 90s, the collapse of the Soviet Union enlarged border limits for countries, including current members of the Eurasian Economic Union. At the beginning of the period, the number of emigrants from Kyrgyzstan and Armenia comprised less than one million, 522,574 and 899,678, respectively. Belarus (1,77 million) was for about one million emigrants less than Kazakhstan, with almost 3 million emigrants (2,97 million) and Russia had more than 12 million emigrants in 1990. However, the emigration dynamics in Russia and Belarus decreased by more than two million and 290 thousand emigrants. The rest two countries showed an insignificant increase from Armenia (958,190) and Kyrgyzstan (774,377). The number of emigrants in Kazakhstan increased significantly (by more than one million) and reached 4,20 million emigrants.

In figure 2 there is presented data on the unemployment rate of Eurasian Economic Union member-states.

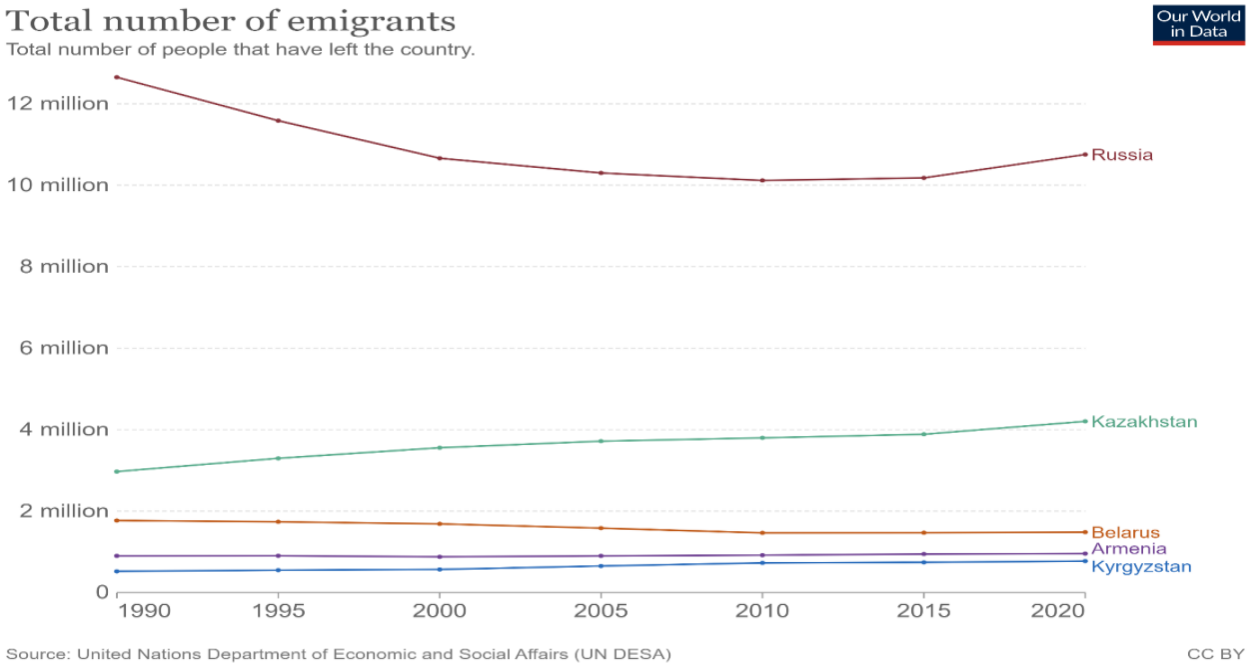
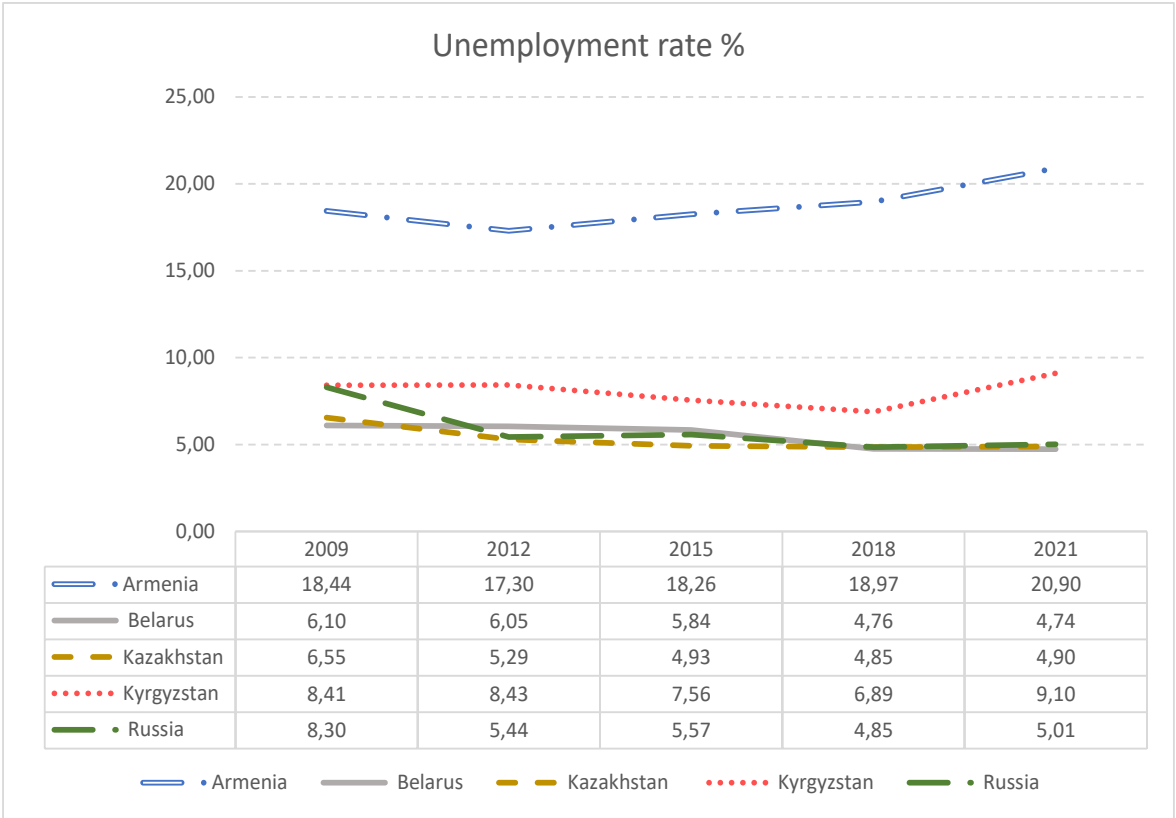


Figure 1 – Total number of emigrants in the Eurasian Economic Union member-states for 1990-2020

Note - compiled by authors



	2009	2012	2015	2018	2021
Armenia	18,44	17,30	18,26	18,97	20,90
Belarus	6,10	6,05	5,84	4,76	4,74
Kazakhstan	6,55	5,29	4,93	4,85	4,90
Kyrgyzstan	8,41	8,43	7,56	6,89	9,10
Russia	8,30	5,44	5,57	4,85	5,01

Figure 2 – The unemployment rate in the Eurasian Economic Union member-states for 2009-2021

Note - compiled according to source [World bank, 2022]

Unemployment is one of the key drivers of international migration as people from developing countries move in search of income. The number of unemployed people in Armenia and Kyrgyzstan increased by the end of the period by just above 2% and made up 20.90% and 9.10%, respectively. Accordingly, they comprise countries with high unemployment among countries of the Eurasian Economic Union. The unemployment rate in Belarus and Kazakhstan decreased insignificantly by about 1,60% and comprised 4,47% and 4,90%, respectively. In Russia, the unemployment rate decreased significantly compared to the rest countries by 3,29%, making up 5,01% of the unemployment rate in 2021.

Figure 3, there is presented information on the remittance as a share of GDP in Eurasian Economic Union member-states.

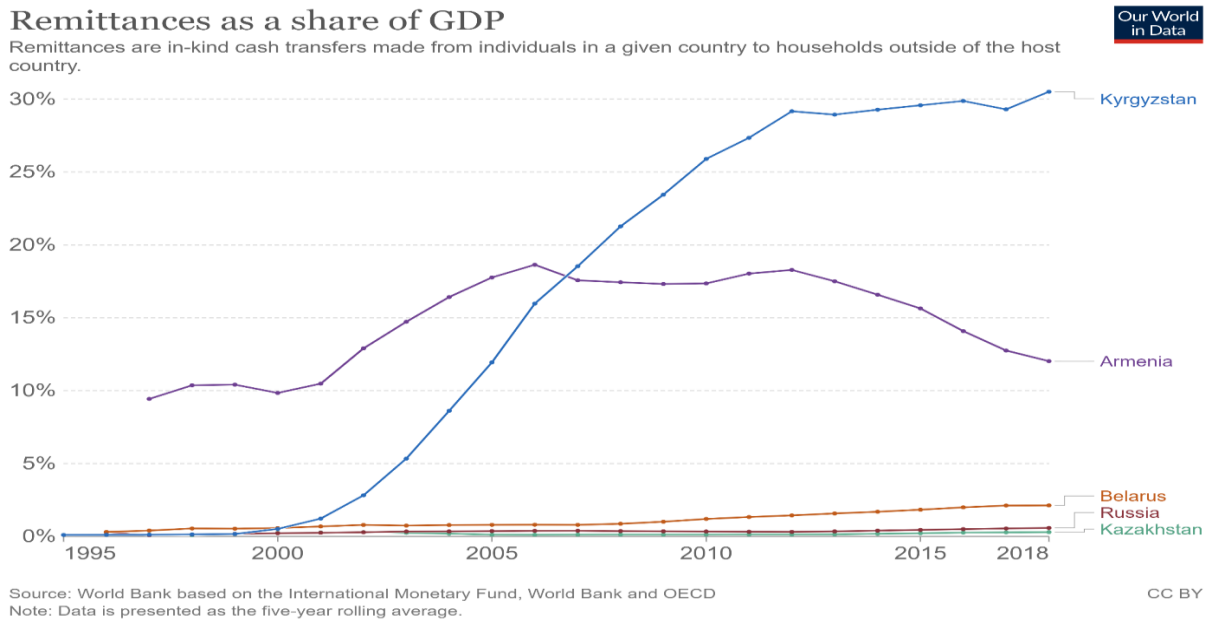


Figure 3 – Remittance as a share of GDP in Eurasian Economic Union member-states, 1995-2018

Note - compiled by authors

As one of the major reasons for migration was a low employment rate and low salaries, people wanted to move to other countries to support their families. Therefore, as the migration rate started increasing, the amount of received cash by individual households also increased. The unemployment rate in Armenia was the highest. Accordingly, the share of remittance for Armenia made up 9,43% and gradually increased up to 12,02% share of GDP, while for the rest of the member-states, it was less than one per cent. Throughout the period, the share of remittance for Kazakhstan (0,29%) and Russia (0,58%) remained relatively the same, except for Belarus, which increased more than two times and was 2,13% in 2018. The share of cash transfers made by Kyrgyzstan increased dramatically and was more than two times the remittance share of Armenia's GDP and reached 30,51%.

To sum up the interaction effect of economic drivers, it is clear that in a country with low employment opportunities, there is a high demand to move to another country to make for living and support families in their home countries, which is explained by the high rate of cash transfers. This explains the process of migration for Kyrgyzstan, Armenia and Belarus.

Although Russia and Kazakhstan showed a high rate of emigrants throughout the period, a low remittance and unemployment rate was observed. Therefore, according to the provided literature review, it can be assumed that emigrants from Russia and Kazakstan mostly migrate for socio-cultural benefits.

Next, figure 4 presents data on research and development expenditure in Eurasian Economic Union member-states.

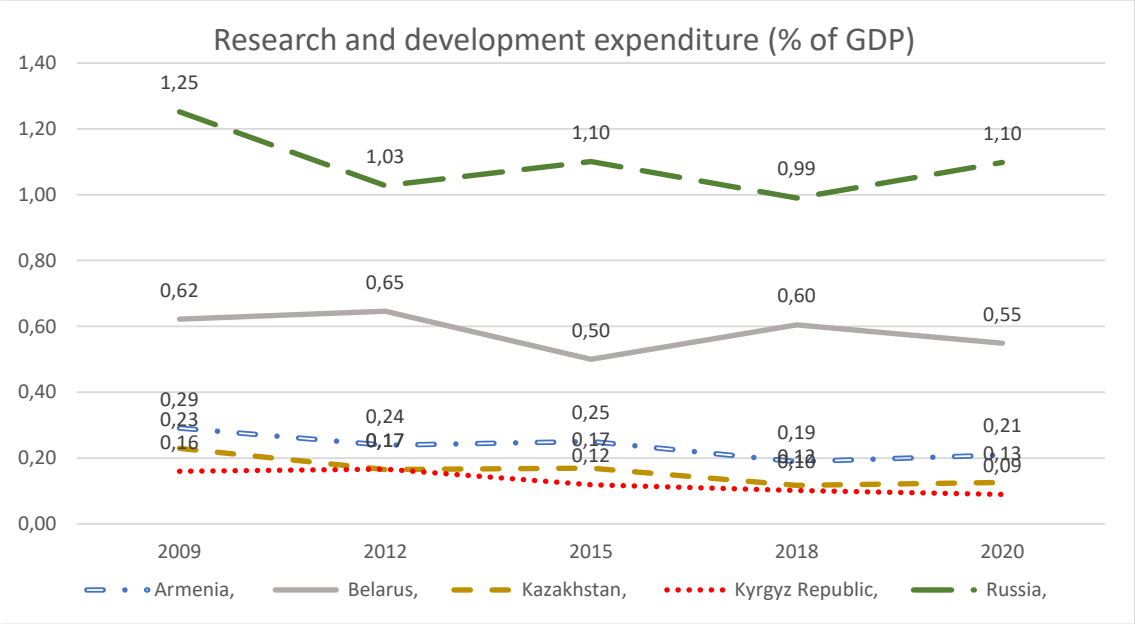


Figure 4 – Research and development expenditure in Eurasian Economic Union member-states, 2009-2020

Note - compiled according to source [World bank, 2021]

The graph on R&D expenditures among Eurasian Economic Union member-states showed a gradual downward trend for Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Belarus and Armenia. Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Armenia made up less than 0,30% of expenditure on R&D in 2009. Throughout the period, there was an insignificant decrease in expenses on R&D in Armenia (0,13%) and expenses in Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan decreased almost two times, 0,13% and 0,29%, respectively. Belarus spent about on R&D 0,60% throughout the period, with an insignificant decrease in 2020 and was 0,55%. The expenditures on R&D in the beginning of the period in Russia was 1,25%, which decreased gradually to 1,10% in 2020. Nevertheless, Russia kept spending on R&D more than two times more than the rest countries.

Provided literature review stated that if governments spend more on education, the emigration rate among youth decreases, as educational migration is related to a variety of educational curricula. This supports the prediction that the majority of emigrants from Belarus, and especially from Armenia and Kyrgyzstan are driven by the need to support financially their families. At the same time, it can be predicted that Russian and Kazakh emigrants are driven by the utility theory. Thus they move to gain more professional skills or are more interested in different educational opportunities.

Analysis of the current situation on youth migration in the world and in Kazakhstan.

Half of all migrating natives of 20 countries where India is the leader - 17.5 million citizens of this country are scattered worldwide. In second place is Mexico, which became the country of origin for 11.8 million migrants. Like to move in search of better conditions and the Chinese. 10.7 million people left the country. Slightly fewer Russians moved - almost 10.5 million people. In fifth place is Syria, from which about 8.2 million are left. A sufficient number of representatives of Bangladesh (7.8 million people migrated), Pakistan (6.3 million), and the Philippines (5.4 million) did not want to stay in their country of origin. Ukraine (5.9 million), Afghanistan (5.1 million), Indonesia (4.5 million), Poland (4.4 million), Great Britain (4.3 million) and Germany (4 million). Figure 5 shows the situation of youth migration in 2020.

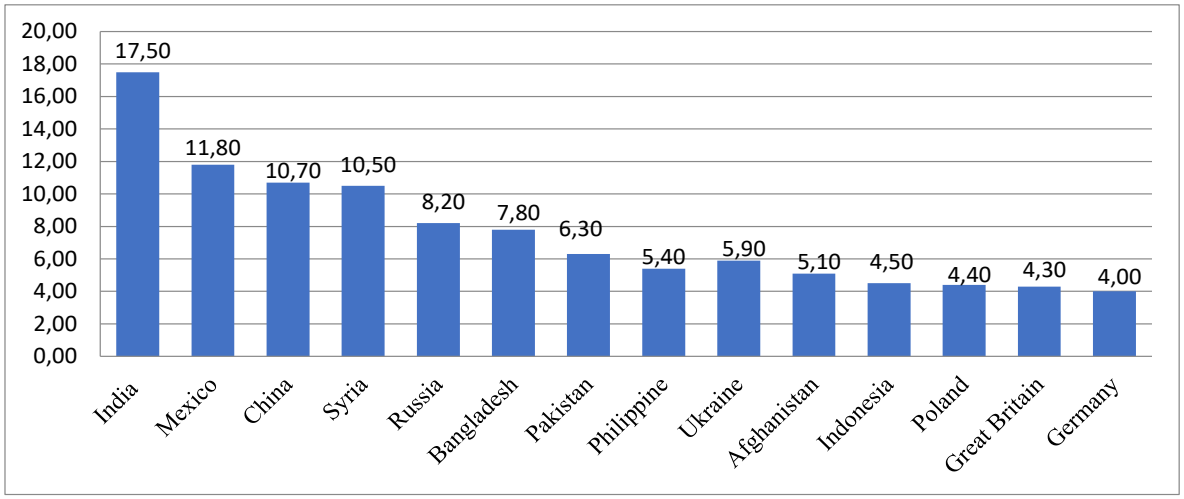


Figure 5 - Top 10 countries of youth migration in 2020, in million people

Note - compiled according to source [World bank, 2021]

Other 20 countries receive more than 65% of all international migrants. The leader in the number of accepted migrants is the United States. In the middle of 2019, 50.7 million people from different regions of the world lived in the country. The share of migrants in the total population was about 15,4%. The second country which is attractive for migrants was Germany - 13.13 million people, which is almost 16% (15,7%) of the total population of the country. Migrants are particularly interested in Saudi Arabia, as 13.12 million migrants moved there. They accounted for about 38% of the total population. The fourth place belongs to the closest neighbour of Kazakhstan - the Russian Federation, where 11.6 million migrants lived (8% of the total population) in 2020. On the fifth line of the rating in terms of the number of migrants is the United Kingdom. She sheltered 9.6 million people (14,1% of all residents). The second top five is opened by the United Arab Emirates, which received 8.6 million migrants. The share of migrants in the UAE was almost 88% (87,9%) of the total population of this country. The next are France and Canada, which were homes to 8.3 million (12,8% of the total population) and about 8 million immigrants (21,3%), respectively. Australia and Italy closed the top ten countries of interest in migration. The number of migrants in these countries reached 7.6 million and 6.3 million people. The share of migrants in the countries' total population is 30 and 10,4%, respectively (Figure 6).

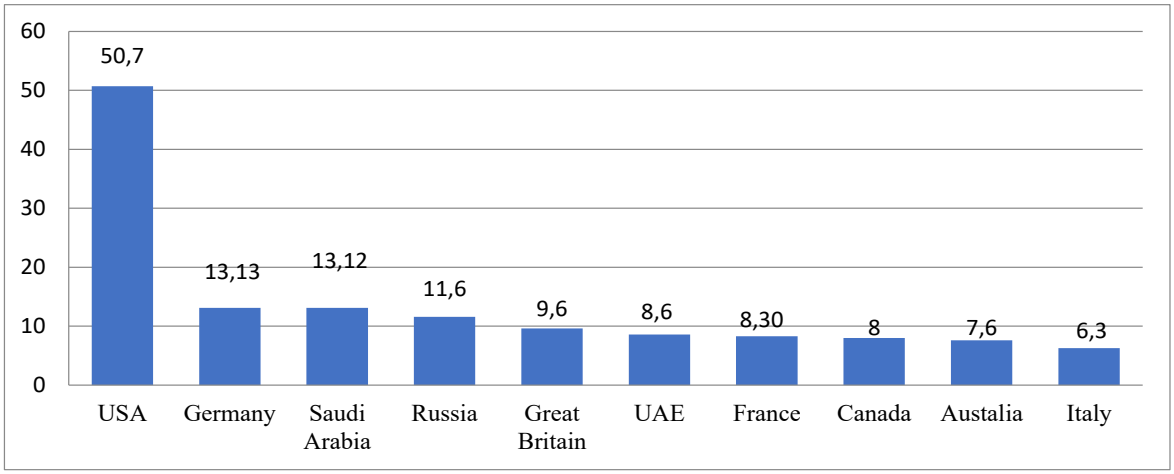


Figure 6 - Top 10 host countries, million people, 2020

Note - compiled according to source [World bank, 2021]

Kazakhstan ranked 16th in the world in terms of the number of migrants. The country received 3.7 million international migrants, according to the UN. Almost 68% of the total number of international migrants were citizens of the Russian Federation - 2.5 million people. 353 thousand people moved from Ukraine to the republic, 294 thousand from Uzbekistan, 72.2 thousand from Belarus, 50.6 thousand from Azerbaijan, 16.5 thousand from Tajikistan, 9.6 from Armenia thousand, from Moldova - 12.6 thousand, from Kyrgyzstan - 7 thousand, from Georgia - 3.4 thousand, from Estonia - 1.2 thousand, from Latvia - almost 1.2 thousand, from Turkmenistan - 1 thousand. The number of figures given is certainly surprising, but it is worth remembering the features of the calculation methodology mentioned above. The number of migrants from neighbouring China amounted to 2.3 thousand people, about 49 thousand from Turkey. Young Kazakhstanis travel to almost all countries of the world. However, the leaders are - the Russian Federation, the United States and China. In 2015-2020, 87% of the total number of emigrants moved to Russia.

The following factors explain such a large percentage of emigration to Russia: the possibility of free movement and employment; there is no language barrier; repatriation of citizens to their historic homeland, which is also facilitated by the state migration policy of Russia to attract "compatriots". So, according to the results of 2020 alone, more than 40 thousand Kazakhstanis received Russian citizenship.

From 2015 to 2019, the negative balance of youth migration increased by almost four times. At the same time, the number of those who left increased by 3%, while the number of arrivals decreased by 37% (Figure 7).

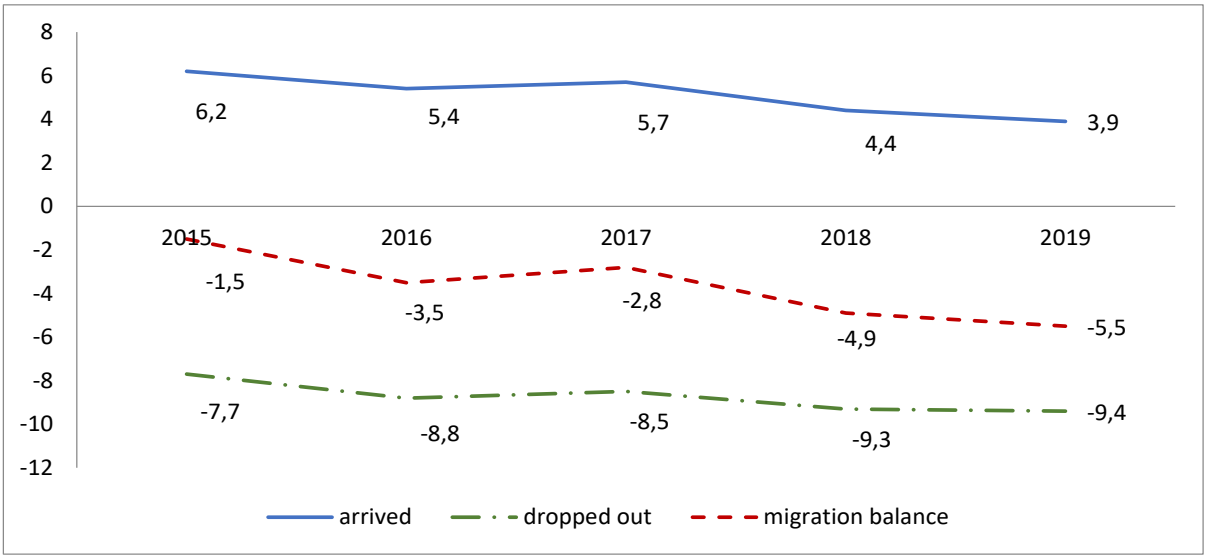


Figure 7 - Youth migration in Kazakhstan from 2015 to 2019, thousand people

Note - compiled according to source [Bureau of National Statistics, 2020]

The main reason for the educational migration of young Kazakhs is that there is no need to take the UNT abroad. In addition, young people who have already formed a point of view were motivated to leave the country by corruption, bureaucracy, impunity and irresponsibility of officials, and inefficient public administration. Also, professionals lack demand and lack prospects for self-realization and career (IOM, 2022).

Solving equality between supply and demand in the labor market becomes possible thanks to migrants from other countries. For example, according to The Wall Street Journal, South Korea issues about 45,000 visas per year for labor migrants from Pakistan and Nepal in order to fill the shortage of personnel in manufacturing, fishing and other sectors of the economy. Taiwan's Migrant Bill supports the recruitment of foreigners who can help care for the sick. The main argument against international migration is the increase in tension (political, economic or social) that migrants can cause in the host country and the resulting risk of

conflict. Another reason is the additional burden on the state budget through social payments for migrants. Another argument of the opponents of the global process is related to the increase in competition for jobs in the host country, which may affect (downwards) the level of wages. It should be noted that migrants often work in areas where residents do not aspire and for a salary that locals do not agree to. In most cases, this is work that does not require high qualifications.

Conclusions

This paper aims to study the economic factors of international youth migration through a literature review and conduct a comparative analysis of economic indicators between Eurasian Economic Union member-states. The literature review identified four factors influencing youth migration: government spending on R&D, the total number of emigrants, the share of remittances in GDP, and the unemployment rate. The current study provided analysis based on similarities and differences in economic factors among Eurasian Economic Union member-states. According to the literature review, it was revealed that investment in R&D strongly impacts the decision of emigrants, especially youth, to migrate.

Next, it was stated that emigrants are driven mainly by the need for better earnings to support their family members. This is usually conditioned to low employment rates and low salaries. Accordingly, increased cash transfers from abroad to individual hose hold must be observed.

The analysis showed that there is a substantial similarity between Armenia and Kyrgyzstan, where the development of the migration process based on the analyzed drivers supports the literature review assumptions. First of all, there is a high unemployment rate in both countries. As the number of emigrants started increasing, the number of cast transfers to home counties also increased. The educational factor showed that there had been little investment in R&D. Therefore, higher education infrastructure is not developed, which is crucial for young specialists especially.

The results for Russia and Kazakhstan supported the utility theory position, in which people usually travel for better educational programs, better professional opportunities and higher income. The results showed that Russia and Kazakhstan have higher numbers of emigrants, low rates of unemployment and a number of cash transfers.

In the number of emigrants and cash transfers, Belarus showed similar results as Armenia and Kyrgyzstan. However, the results for the rest two drivers were similar to Russia in the unemployment rate and expenditures on R&D. It can collude that economic factors have a higher impact on the decision to move among the working-age population. Therefore local government must improve the opportunities for graduates to find a job and increase average salaries.

However, educational factors are also of high importance. The analysis showed that Kazakhstan had decreased the amount of financial support to develop scientific infrastructure. This reduces the interest in science in Kazakh youth. Due to this, they move to other countries in search of more interesting educational programs which give more opportunities in the labor market to students after graduation. Moreover, the low level of R&D in Kazakhstan also supports the fact that the education system and interaction of higher educational institutions with students and businesses are on a low level. Thus, it increases the possibility of migration among youth.

The main limitation of this study was the limited data. This prevented from providing a broad analysis of economic factors such as income rate or level of industrial development in selected countries. Therefore, future studies can enlarge the set of variables and provide a more profound analysis.

Youth can play an important role in development if they are given the knowledge and opportunities they need to realize their potential. In particular, young people should receive the education and skills necessary to contribute to the development of the economy, and they need access to labor markets.

The results obtained in the course of this study may be useful for the state policy of youth in the EurAsEC countries. Since today the issue of youth migration outside the country is acute. And this leads to a decrease in human capital, which is also one of the reasons for the poor economic development of the country. Therefore, states need to consider the indicators that have been studied and improve them so that young people are not tempted to leave the country.

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