

Youth migration in the Danube Region

- a theoretical approach

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„Information matters: towards positive pathways of migrants' integration”
Bratislava, 26. 10. 2017

1. YOUMIG

”Improving Institutional Capacities and Fostering Cooperation to Tackle the Impacts of Transnational Youth Migration”

- boosting institutional capacities → enhance scarce evidence on migration → better governed and more competitive *Danube region*
- supporting *local governments* → exploit developmental *potential of youth migration* → improved policymaking
- 2017 – 2019
- Lead partner: HCSO, Budapest
- Focus: migration, youth, local level

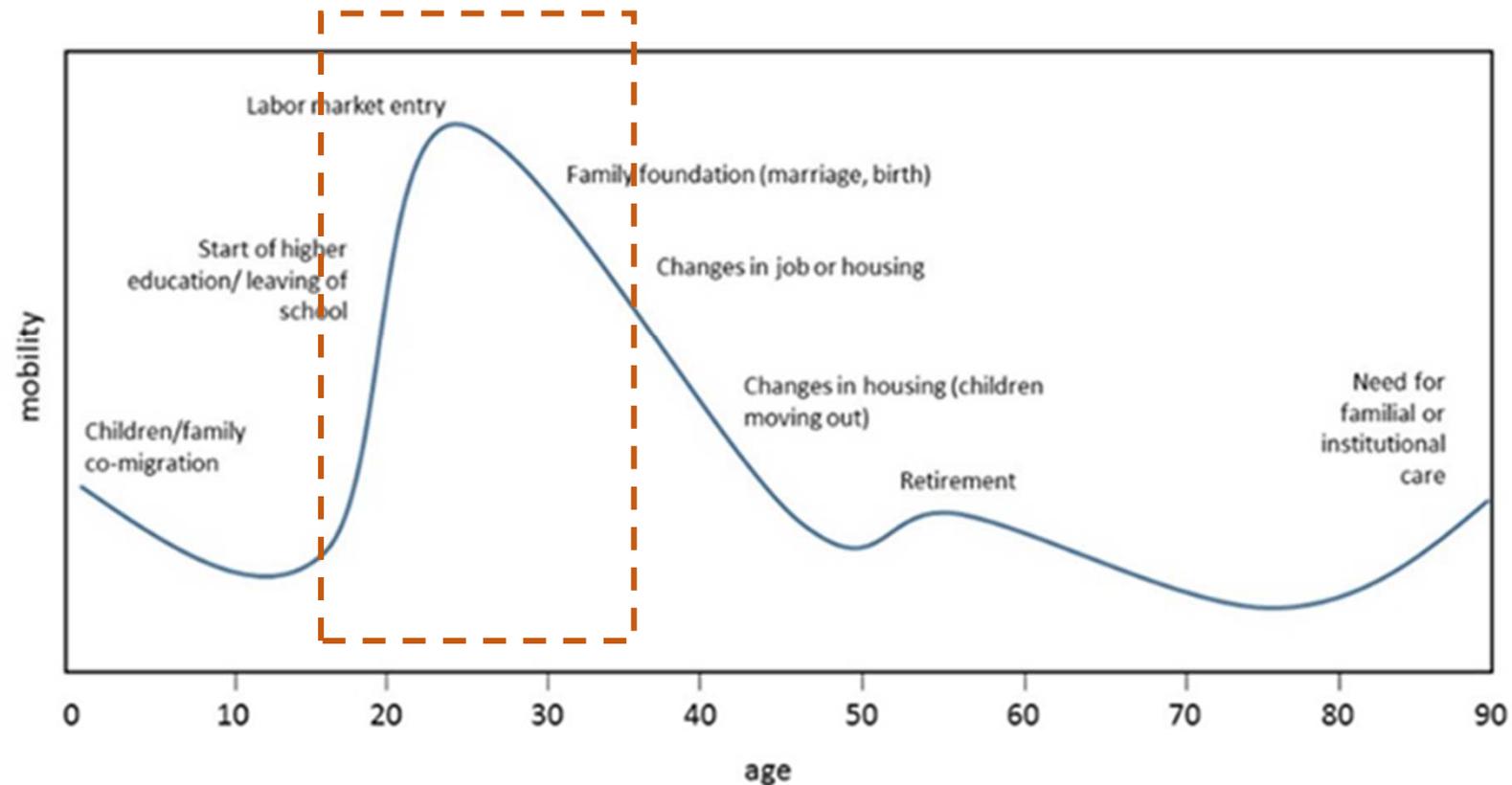
1. YOUMIG



2. Youth migration

- **Why youth? (aged 15-34)**
 - Migration is selective: young, educated people
 - Quantity: the majority of migrants is young
 - (Less costs and more profit)
 - Different migratory patterns regarding their aspirations
 - Key to improve labour market development and demographic trends - their potential is often neglected
- **Two pillars:**
 - **Push-and-pull model revisited**
Micro-, mezo- and macro-factors
 - **Life course approach** – transitions structuring the life course:
 - transition to higher education
 - from education to work
 - from unemployment to employment
 - from living with the parents to living independently

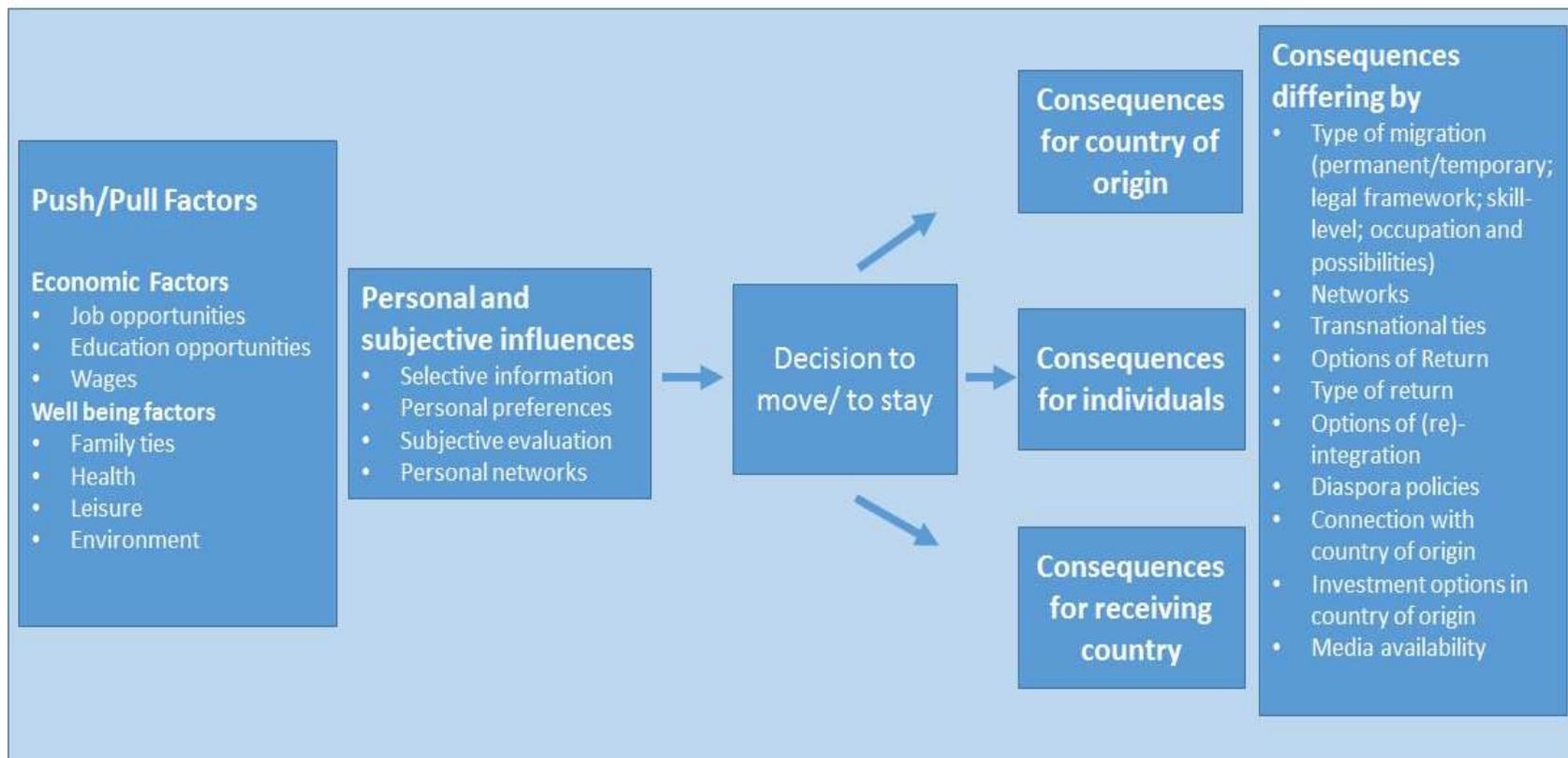
2. Youth migration



Idealized model of age specific migration (based on Bernard et al. 2014, modified)

2. Youth migration

Migration decisions and consequences



2. Youth migration

Debate on the migration - development nexus

- Retrospect
 - One-way stream, win-loss situation
 - Emigration: negative for sending country (brain drain, care drain, demographic problems → hinders development, negative feedback mechanism)
 - Immigration: rather positive for receiving country (gain of innovation, enhancing labour market efficiency, economic growth), but also challenges (integration, social cohesion, brain waste)
 - Control migration
- Nowadays
 - Multi-directional migration streams (return, circular, transnational mobility)
 - Manage migration - using international cooperation
 - Gaining a triple win - interests of (1) migrants, (2) countries of origin, (3) sending countries

2. Youth migration

From a 'win-loss' situation to 'triple win'

- Emigration: strategy to boost development through alleviation of labour market pressures
- Valorisation of **diaspora's** potential for development
 - Remittances
 - Financial investments (transnational entrepreneurs)
 - Transfer of knowledge and skills (transnational ties)

Measures attracting diaspora investment (IMP: 75):

- tax exceptions or breaks
- reduction of tariffs on goods or import duties for diaspora companies
- preferential treatment in providing credit or licences
- streamlined bureaucratic procedures for investment
- diaspora bond or mutual fund

From a 'win-loss' situation to 'triple win'

- **Programmes for return migration – social innovation**
 - migrant network policies (stimulating contacts)
 - temporary return programmes (e.g. research for a limited period of time in the home country)
 - permanent return programmes

Priorities: supporting housing policy (families with children), developing child care provision, raising the standards of employer-employee relations, changing the tax and social benefit systems, easing of bureaucratic obstacles to running a business etc.

Many examples in the Danube Region (success / failure)

2. Youth migration

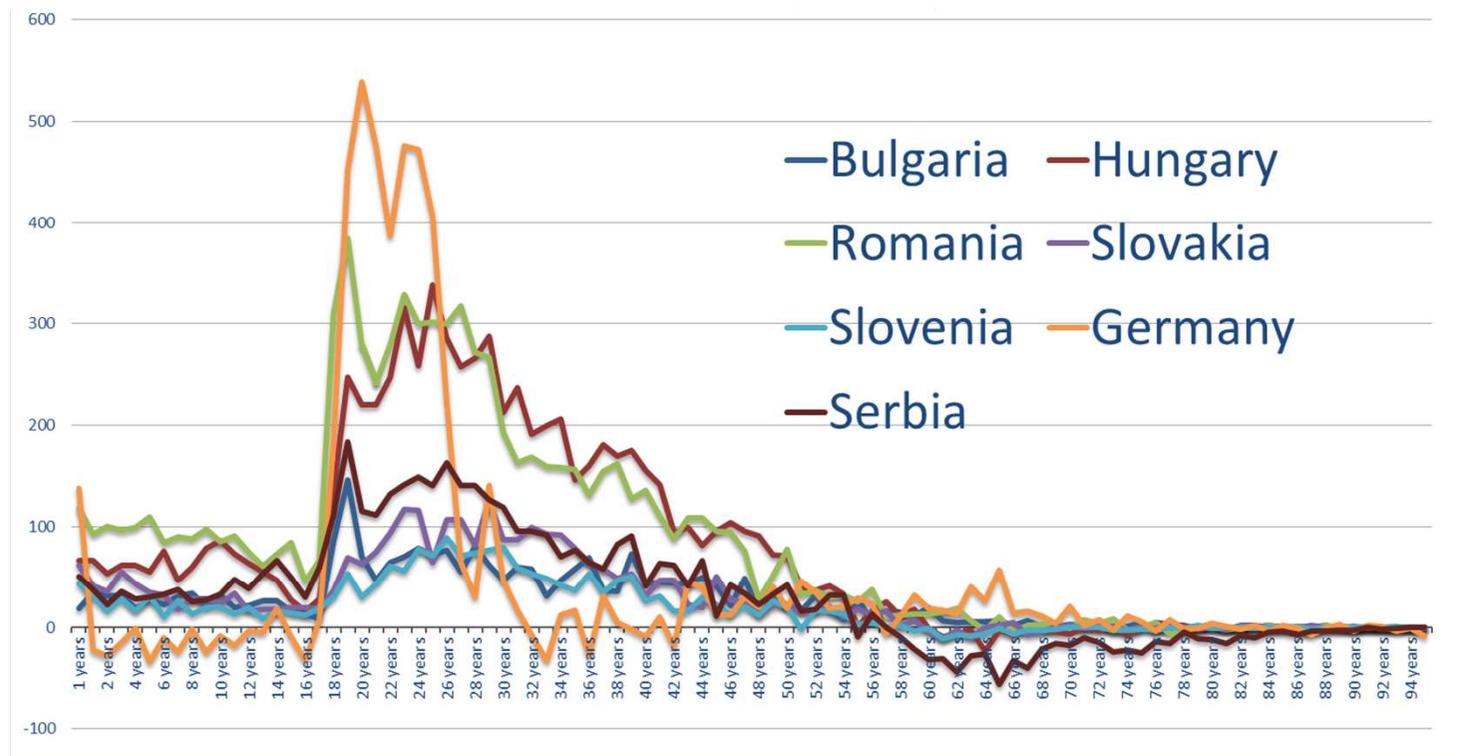
From a 'win-loss' situation to 'triple win'

- **Dual citizenship policies**
 - right to vote in the country of origin; support the rights and welfare of population in the destination countries – maintaining transnational ties
- **Mobility partnerships**
 - E.g. temporary programme of labour for Mexicans and Canadians proposed for the US labour market
 - Germany: binational programmes for educating and procuring labour force in the health care sector (Serbia, Vietnam)
 - Binational agencies, e.g. insurance, bank – option to save money (SVR 2016: 172)

2. Youth migration

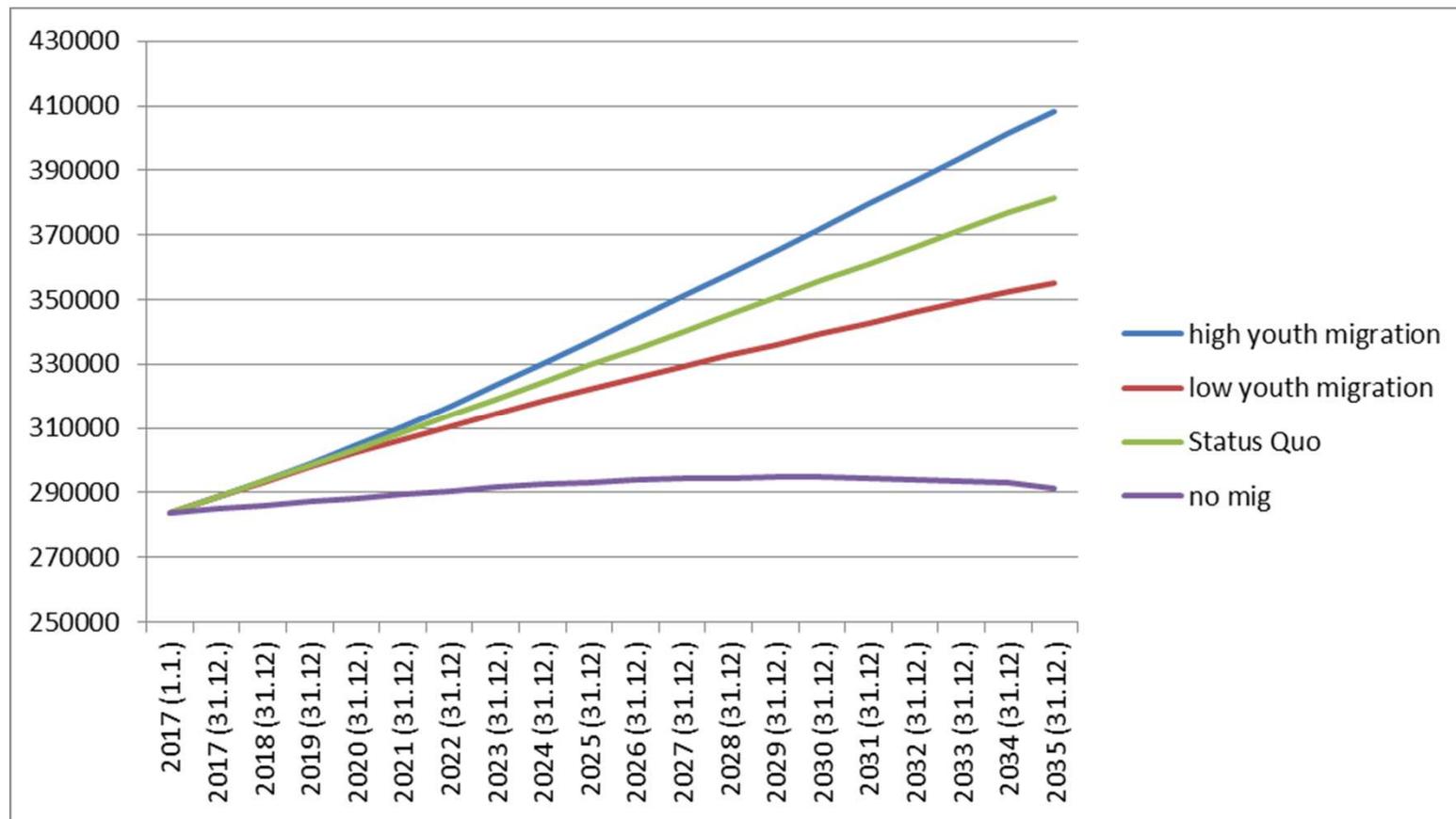
- **Paradigmatic shift** - turning the whole topic into a more positive direction
- Youth: key to improve the labour market development and demographic trends
- Local level: often neglected
 - The impacts of migration accumulate on national level
 - Local governments could play a pivotal role in managing youth migration; supporting the youth to cope with challenges
– *lack of capacities*
- **YOUMIG**
 - Improved evidence base
 - Improved tools to measure and trace the effects of youth migration and tackling the challenges

what data show



Age-specific international migration from YOUMIG countries to Austria, 2015

what data show



Four scenarios of the potential future population development in Graz

what local experts think

Migration Forum
Graz, 19.06.2017

- All types of immigration is observable in Graz (mainly international students and labour migrants)
- Return migration: lesser known phenomenon
- “Highly-skilled immigrants are needed” - consensual position
- Education system should deal with a growing number of foreign students
- Immigrants: growing number, usually send remittances, often take jobs that local people are unwilling to do
- “brain waste” is very typical (and a serious challenge)
- Divergent opinions about the degree of immigrants’ integration into the local community

what young migrants say

Focus group
Graz, 25.09.2017

Return migration

- Returning to the country of origin is not an issue at the moment. Some things had to change, e.g. opportunities for employment, communication patterns, security in public places, opportunities in everyday life.
- "So I know in Romania, it is OK, if you have made experiences abroad and with people and education ... If your qualifications are good and your German skills as well, there are really good jobs waiting for you."
- "I think in Hungary ... if you return with a wide range of experience from living abroad ... you cannot expect to have good opportunities for instance on the labour market because they would say "ok, you are better than us, we won't give you a job."

Brain waste

- "I am a teacher, that is, in Hungarian, but I have worked as a waitress in Germany, now my qualifications are recognized, I had it done in Graz"

Importance of family ties

- "Germany was just too far from our family, we could visit home one or two times a year only, ... so we wanted to go to Austria, never again to Hungary, we thought, however, Graz is quite good, here you can live well"

what young migrants say

Focus group
Graz, 25.09.2017

Compare native and receiving country

- "I see nothing but poverty. It is quite different in Budapest, obviously Budapest is a country within the country, OK, but in Pecs or, as I have heard, in other big cities too, it is quite difficult. So there are a few big companies, with good job opportunities, but not enough."

Integration

- "As soon as someone lives according to the laws and speaks German, it shouldn't be an issue any more ..."
- *Her German is flawless, she likes Kaiserschmarren and Apfelstrudel, still she feels that she does not fit the picture of a typical Austrian, because she is visibly Muslim: "So I ask myself: Am I accepted? Because ... we get that message, even if I refuse to feel that way and even if I would prefer to be part of this society ... let's say by the way media talk about us, that I am alien, even if I do not feel that way." (F4)*

Thank you for your attention!

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Youmig-Project: <http://www.interreg-danube.eu/youmig>