



Evaluation of Jana Remenarova's thesis: Ukrainian Labour Migration to European Union Countries: The case of the Czech Republic, with Special attention to "Client System" as Predominant Way of Organising Labour Migration of Ukrainians.

The title of MA thesis is well chosen and covers the content in an adequate way.

1. Research question/Objective

The thesis addresses recent features of labour migration from Ukraine to Czech republic, especially the interesting "client" system, that allowed Ukrainian emigrants easier access to Czech labour market. Research questions are a bit simplistic but cover the area of research in an adequate way. Attractiveness Of Czech Republic for Ukrainian migrants is addressed, pull factors for emigration are questioned and "client" system explored. Objective is well set, goals ambitious but realistic.

2. Structure:

The structure of the thesis is adequate. It starts with the introduction where the importance of the topic is evaluated and decisions to undertake the research explained. Also research questions are to be found here. Methodology chapter is next where methods of the research are explained. Semi structured in depth interviews are introduced as one of the main research tools.

I miss the Literature review chapter as theoretical part is scattered all over Introduction, Methods and Findings chapters and creates a bit of confusion. The consequence in my opinion is that theory is not explained in details. So Push pull model is not thoroughly explained and the same goes for Migration Networks theory. Authoress is also mentioning "Migration industry theory" but maybe is thinking about "Institutional theory of migration".

So the Findings chapter starts quite early in the thesis and the results of her deskwork and fieldwork are presented in an interesting way and from historical and theoretical points of view.

Conclusions chapter summarizes the findings and results and addresses the research questions. Interesting data is again presented and put in context. The thesis ends with Literature list.

3. Methodology and presentation:

Methodology for this type of research is adequate. Quantitative part draws on official data and offers a fair foundation. Numbers are a bit problematic since discrepancies are sometimes very high and methodologies are different and sometimes influenced by politics. Most of the time they are not problematised. Qualitative part draws on data from a survey authoress conducted in Czech Republic and Portugal in 2006 and 2012/13. Semi structured in depth interviews were used. 22 Ukrainian migrants and 4 Czech NGO workers were questioned. Time span of interviews is a bit problematic as ten interviews were collected in 2006 and others in 2010 and 2013. This is hardly creating a "snapshot of particular time and place, taken by particular person" as authoress promises us in her thesis, quoting E. Newcombe.

Anyhow this research offers a lot of information about Ukrainian migrants in Czech Republic and the challenges they face. Also "client" system is explored and its effects on migration and integration evaluated. Results are interesting not only for the Czech Republic and Ukraine but also other EU countries where Ukrainian migrants live and work.

4. Examination of the research question in terms of the context:

As I already mentioned in the beginning theoretical part is a weak part of this thesis. Push pull theory is mentioned but not explained in details. Also main authors are not mentioned and/or quoted. The same goes for migration network theory. Some of the considerations, expectations, developments are taken for granted and are not problematised. Also it is not clear where empiric results are explained with help of theory. Also "Migration industry theory" is mentioned but authors, theoretical framework, are absent. However that has little impact on the conclusions of this thesis since fieldwork offers the variety of answers for research questions.

I grade the MA Thesis with C as it is in my opinion interesting and demonstrates a high degree of hard work during fieldwork and a lot of persistence.

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