

Joint Master in Migration and Intercultural Relations (JMMIR)

Ukrainian Labor Migration to European Union Countries: The Case of the Czech Republic,
with Special Attention to “Client System” as Predominant Way of Organizing Labor
Migration of Ukrainians

Appraisal of MA Dissertation

Student's name

Mgr. Jana Remenárová

1. Research question/ Objective

Research project of Jana Remenárová “*Ukrainian Labor Migration to European Union Countries: The Case of the Czech Republic, with Special Attention to “Client System” as Predominant Way of Organizing Labor Migration of Ukrainians*” is very topical and well written analysis of labor migration case study. Jana Remenárová’s objective is to explore two main research questions:

1) Why is the Czech Republic one of the most attractive European destinations for Ukrainian labor migrants? What are the main pull factors which draw Ukrainians to come to the Czech Republic?

2) Why is the majority of Ukrainian labor migrants coming to work into the Czech Republic through the so-called “client system”, special semi- legal system of intermediation of employment, documents and accommodation?

Result of her scientific research brings much needed original data and thoughts and helps understand the phenomenon of Ukrainian labor immigration to the Czech Republic.

2. Structure

More than half of submitted thesis – 42 out of 80 pages are devoted to chapter called “Findings”. This chapter consists of both descriptive part (history of Ukrainian migration to Czechoslovakia, the Czech Republic, summarization of economical determinants of both countries, outline of all Ukrainian emigration after the collapse of the Soviet Block) and from an analysis of interviews that the author recorded. In the “Findings” chapter author also confronts theories she wants to use as she describes them in the methodology chapter with information from her field research. It is a pity that the part of the work dedicated to the methodology is not more precise in description of theories author wants to use. Structure of submitted dissertation is clear and corresponding with this type of scientific publication.

3. Methodology and Presentation

Author uses combination of qualitative and quantitative research. Main theories which she uses as a point of reference are: push and pull theory by (Castles, Miller, 2003); migration network theory; “client system”; “culture of migration” theory. As mentioned above used theories and their authors main reasons for formulating them should be mention more thoroughly. As the most important foothold in regard to methodology of the work Jana Remenárová uses instructions of theorist Alan Bryman (Bryman, A. (2004). *Social Research Methods* (2nd edn). Oxford: Oxford University Press.)

Main contribution of the work lies in the author's original research, which is based on 26

semi structured in depth interviews (22 Ukrainian migrants and 4 Czech NGO workers were questioned).

As author describes some of these interview were conducted in the year 2006, two in the year 2010 and majority in the year 2013. Such a long interval is problematic for various reasons and validity of those older interviews could be questioned. On the other hand it allows author to cover bigger historical period of researched phenomenon and to capture developments in the field.

In terms of ambiguities in the thesis I found only these irrelevant details:

Page 49: "She started to be homesick and later, when it was possible, she traveled home as much as possible, even though she settled here in Pilsner". (correct form is Plzeň or Pilsen).

On page Nr. 67 Jana Remenárová writes:

"In general, stay in the Czech Republic has been so profitable for temporary migrants anymore, especially for those whose average monthly income ranges around 10 000 Czech crowns". From given context author might want to say: In general, stay in the Czech Republic has been **NOT** so profitable for temporary migrants anymore, especially for those whose average monthly income ranges around 10 000 Czech crowns.

In various section author compares average salary in studied countries, but it would be desirable to add also some other economical data, showing for example how big part of populations do not earn those average salaries.

Very strong feature of submitted thesis is how readable the work is. Author presents her very convincing and many times very interesting findings in a very clear way.

Referencing in the text is correct.

4. Examination of research question in terms of the content

The overall impression of submitted thesis of Mgr. Jana Remenárová is very positive. When it comes to responding to the research questions the author has utilized the topic fully.

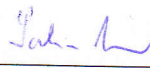
Taking into the consideration how sensitive is the client system topic among labor immigrants and how extremely difficult it is to convince respondents to participate in research conducted in this field, submitted thesis is thus an important and original contribution in migration studies in the field of Ukrainian labor immigration into the Czech Republic. Jana Remenárová well explained rich history of Czech – Ukrainian immigration ties and also on the background of Ukrainian labor immigration pictured the development of fast changing reality of strong need for cheap labor in the Czech Republic during the transformation and growth of the Czech economy until recent economic recession. Especially the part of the thesis which focuses on the client system is very interesting and revelatory reading (Although this section mainly due to dependence and often mistreatment of migrant workers is not exactly cheerful reading)

I therefore suggest grading A for this master thesis.

Overall evaluation A

19 August 2013 in České Budějovice
the Czech Republic

PhDr. Salim Murad, PhD.



Date

Name/Signature of Teacher