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Supervisor Tanekenov Aslan

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Written by Zhazira Akkozina

Supervisor Aslan Tanekenov

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M. Narikbayev KAZGUU University

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Zhazira Akkozina

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«Approved»

Supervisor`s First and Last Name Tanekenov Aslan

Supervisor`s Signature _____

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REVIEW

Reviewer

Tanekenov Aslan First and Last Name, degree, job title

Signature

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Abstract of «Migration from Kazakhstan to Europe: Latvian repatriates»,

by Zhazira Akkozhina

HSE, M. Narikbayev KAZGUU University

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The European migration crisis, which began six years ago, is increasingly attracting the attention of the international community. Despite the current situation with arriving refugees, Europe remains an attractive destination for migrants from any part of the world. According to the UN, the number of migrants in Europe is 82 million migrants.

In this regard, it became necessary to take measures to support the adaptation of migrants.

A special Project has been developed by the European Union to support migrants arriving from third countries. In this research paper, an analysis was carried out to assess the process of socialization and adaptation of returnees in Europe. In particular, on the example of ethnic Latvians who arrived from Kazakhstan to their historical homeland Latvia.

A qualitative approach was chosen to study the process of socialization with in-depth interviews used to collect the primary data and address the research question. The composition of the respondents included: two respondents are experts in the field of migration, two respondents are representatives of the diplomatic corps, three respondents are ethnic Latvians, and the remaining five respondents are citizens of Kazakhstan living in Latvia.

Based on the responses of the respondents, we concluded that, despite the cultural characteristics and mentality, the process of adaptation of migrants proceeded quite easily and took on average 2-3

months. However, it is important to take into account that this process depends on several factors: gender, age, purpose of arrival, etc. Respondents who arrived for family reasons or for studies received support not only from the state, but also from close relatives, friends and the university. However, for repatriates, this process is longer, since the retrieval of archival certificates to confirm the status of a repatriate takes a lot of time. Knowledge of the language is one of the key factors for the further successful socialization of a migrant of any category, since all documentation (correspondence with the competent authorities, medical insurance), as well as for employment, it is necessary to learn the state language. The main conclusion is that for holders of repatriate status, expand the range of support and develop a separate program for this category.

Key words: migration, socialization of migrants, integration, repatriates, Latvia, international migration

Chapter 1

Introduction

The European migration crisis, which emerged in 2015, is gaining impulse every year. The number of refugees arriving from the Middle East, North Africa is increasing. According to UN official figures, the number of international migrants in the world in the middle of 2019, according to the UN, increased markedly - to 272 million from 153 million in 1990. The share of international migrants this year was 3.5% of the total population of the world. Due to the current migration situation, migration issues expand beyond politics, economic and legal concepts. If earlier, it was determined by the movement of people from one territory to another, now is cost about social inequality, political conflicts. The global movement of people has blurred the lines between simple sociology and migration policy. As we mentioned earlier, the main reason for migration is the economic factor, people move to places where there are more opportunities to improve their financial situation. Traditionally, popular destinations are North America (North America - 59 million), and Europe (82 million migrants are in Europe). According to the data, USA had 50.7 million people from different regions of the world last year (2019). This share of migrants in the total population was about 15.4%.

After Latvia's accession to the European Union, the migration pattern has also changed. According to statistics, in 2005 the main reason for moving to Latvia was family reunification 40%; on the contrary in 2009-45% of migrants received an invitation to work. But since 2017, the main reason for migration has been investment. The bulk of those staying in this category were from China, 84%, from Russia and from Kazakhstan (each of them more than 50%). The second category is those who have been to study (India 76%, Uzbekistan more than 60%, Kazakhstan almost 30%).

According to the statistics provided by the expert during the interview, nowadays: “600 citizens of Kazakhstan with a temporary residence permit and 200 citizens with a permanent residence permit live in Latvia”. Moreover, the main three groups were identified: the first group is 40% of citizens of

Kazakhstan who have real estate in the territory of Latvia. The second group is 25% of citizens who arrived for the purpose of employment; the third group was 20%, citizens of Kazakhstan who arrived for study. And only 8% of citizens arrived in the country for family reasons.

According to the latest data, the number of citizens who have left Kazakhstan has increased dramatically in recent years. Over the past ten years, the number of citizens who have left Kazakhstan has doubled, for example in 2010 – 26 thousands people, in 2019 – 45 thousands people. According to official statistics, the most popular destination for migrants from Kazakhstan is Russia, almost 85% of citizens move there. About 7% of people move to Germany, then Israel, USA, Canada are selected from the list (Osipova, 2021).

In this research paper, the following theories will be discussed, which reveal all aspects of the migration process:

- Segmental Assimilation Theory
- A Theory of Migration and the Law of Migration; Economic Theories of Migration
- Socialization process of migrants
- Repatriates program and Return Migration Action Plan

As mentioned earlier, sometimes the decision to emigrate is directly related to our place of origin. This category includes Repatriates. Therefore, the purpose of our research question is to study what difficulties migrants face, in particular, Repatriates. For this, it is important to study in detail the process of implementing the Integration Policy in Europe.

Social integration, an important process for the immigrant and for the host country. Because the process of integration is the establishment of a connection and further cooperation between two objects of society that have not previously been in contact (Kleinberga, 2010).

Definition. The International Organization for Migration defines a **migrant** as a person who moves within the state or to another country, his movement can be voluntary or forced and is associated with various reasons and for different durations (IOM Migration Glossary 2019).

According to Office of Citizenship and Migration Affairs of the Republic of Latvia, Repatriation Law defines the status of the repatriate as: "**Repatriate** is a person, who is a citizen of the Republic of Latvia or whose one of the relatives in the direct ascending line is Latvian or Liv and who is voluntary moving for a permanent life to the Republic of Latvia".

Dr. William Little, defines the term **Socialization** as "Socialization is the process through which people are taught to be proficient members of a society. It describes the ways that people come to understand societal norms and expectations, to accept society's beliefs, and to be aware of societal values. Socialization is not the same as socializing (interacting with others, like family, friends, and coworkers); to be precise, it is a sociological process that occurs through socializing" (Little, 2014).

This definition also coincides with the opinion of the American sociologists of the 20th century, George A. Lundberg, who believed that "Socialization consists of the complex processes of interaction through which the individual learns the habits, beliefs, skills and standards of judgment that are necessary for his effective participation in social groups and communities."

The research goal of this paper will be to draw attention to the significance of the study of existing resettlement programs, to assess the adaptation process of returnees.

Research question

- What kind of difficulties are faced by Latvian ethnic repatriates who arrived from Kazakhstan?

The structure of the dissertation consists of an introduction; this chapter provides an overview of the main points of my dissertation work. Second, the literature review looks at previous research by scientists using a wide range of sources, from classic research papers to recent articles in specialized

publications, and then proposes a theoretical discussion. The third and fourth chapters describe the research methodology and field research during which the collected primary data were analyzed. Finally, the conclusion addresses the research question and makes recommendations.

Chapter 2

Literature review

Theoretical part of theses

When we start talking about migration, we understand that this is a complex issue, full of contradictions and constant changes. However, we must admit that migrations are the engine of progress. Migration provides an opportunity to exchange knowledge, culture, improve financial well-being and contribute to the development of host country.

The following study also indicates that the pattern of international migration has undergone tremendous changes in recent decades. This circumstance was influenced by many reasons, both positive and negative. If, on the one hand, globalization has improved relations between countries, expanded transport opportunities, on the other hand, constant geopolitical conflicts and economic crises lead to a large income gap between countries, the demographic picture in the world has changed (Audebert and Dorai, 2012).

Against the background of all these changes, special attention should be paid to the composition of migrants and the flow of migrants (Audebert and Dorai, 2012). As a rule, most of the labor migrants move in prosperous countries.

According to the study, Europe is perceived as countries with a precise national framework, in which the cultural context, nationality is the main determining factor. Various migration processes have led to the need to address the transnational and transcultural changes that have begun to take place in Europe (Robins and Aksoy, 2015).

This factor also supported by Ronald Skeldon. According to the author, over the past 20 years, new characteristics have appeared in migration that require additional study: remittances, diasporas, skilled migrations and brain drain (Skeldon, 2010). In these definitions of the author, the last two

characteristics are directly related to labor migration. Labor migrants can be defined as highly skilled and low skilled. What is now observed in the world is that the Brain Drain factor has affected many countries. Since this phenomenon has a negative impact of economic, political and even cultural nature. In most cases, if the receiving party benefits from the given, but even they have problems how cultural and religious differences lead to conflicts.

The segmental assimilation theory was developed in America in the late 1980s and early 1990s. Initially, the theory was based in order to understand how to go through the process of adaptation of migrant children. That is, previous studies indicated that the process of assimilation of migrants from Europe was successful. However, when a new wave of migrants from Asian and Latin American countries arrived in America, the need to study this direction again arose. The authors of the theories, Alejandro Portes and Ruben Rumbó, argue that the children of migrants in the course of assimilation do not end up in the general stream, but in different segments of society. Therefore, the process of assimilation takes place in different ways, it all depends on which group of assimilations he falls into and which path he chooses. In their work, they identify three paths of assimilation: 1. acculturation and integration into the American middle class; 2. acculturation and assimilation into the urban lower class; 3. preserving the culture and values of their community.

At the same time, according to the theories, segmented assimilation has different consequences for the new migrant and his children. This process depends on three factors: on the migrant group to which he belongs; from the root group with which he assimilates; the last factor is related to the individual differences of the migrant. The researchers came to the following conclusion: that a migrant from a poor family must assimilate with the indigenous culture (in particular, with the American), only partially. Because according to theories, his assimilation will go down and negatively affect him. At the same time, middle-class migrant children must fully assimilate with American culture, since this does not have negative consequences for him. However, the authors believe that in order to avoid the severe

consequences of assimilations, it is better to choose "selective acculturation" for safe adaptations (Xie and Greenman, 2011).

A Theory of Migration and The Law of Migration

Unfortunately, today there is no single theory that would serve as a basis in the study of the migration process. However, Ravenstein is considered the very first founder of this direction. In his work written at the end of the 19th century, he described the main 7 laws of migration, later the number of laws increased to 11 points (Ravenstein, 1885).

It is important to mention that his so-called "laws" are more like the principles or characteristics of migration. Since his laws are based on his observations and descriptions made after a major census in Great Britain in 1881.

According to his observations, according to the first law, he determines the distance that migrants prefer: short distance and long distance. As a rule, the latter prefer large cities where industry and trade are developed. Further, according to the second point, there are more women than men among migrants, but this observation concerns movement over short distances. Since over long distances, the number of male migrants is significantly higher than that of women (Lee, 1966).

Based on data obtained from the census, it turned out that population growth in large cities is due to constantly new migrants, and not because the birth rate of children has increased (Ravenstein, 1885).

The following three laws, it seems to me, clearly describe the migration processes taking place in the modern world. According to Ravenstein, rural people are more likely to move than urban people. Moreover, when choosing a place to move, the choice falls where production and transport are developed. In today's world, it is technology and innovation. And of course, according to the author of the laws, the main reason for migration is the economic factor. This factor is also relevant in the 21st century.

As mentioned above, Ravenstein's laws are descriptive, so we will not be able to understand the main reasons for migration, which affects the migration process. In addition, when developing laws, he considered only internal migration, so there is practically no data about external migration. His laws characterize migrations, which later served as the basis for the development of Pull and Push factors by Everett Lee. Push and pull factors act as determinants of migrations. Using these factors, we were able to understand what factors influence the decision to migrate. According to this model, the migration process is influenced by various factors: the economic factor, political, social and even the climate in which a person lives (Lee, 1966).

In simple terms, push and pull factor is based on the fact that low incomes in our country push us to travel to other countries that attract us with their high income level. A recent study (Nguyen *et.al.*, 2019, p.115) shows that, the push factors are usually so strong that they force a person to leave the country: poverty and low income; lack of prospects for professional growth, lack of natural resources; high unemployment, social problems, war and natural disasters, hunger, crime.

In contrast, a pull factor, this is a favorable place to live and work. These include developed countries, large and modern megalopolises. The author (Rosenberg, 2020) argued that, where democracy is developed, there is freedom of religion and human rights are respected, countries with a high social security system. This country provides opportunities that they could not get in their home country.

According to the theory of migration (Lee, 1966), the following factors influence our decision to move: firstly, factors of a personal nature (family circumstance), and secondly, our place of origin is directly related to where we will migrate, which direction we will choose. And the last factor is called Interfering Obstacles (healthcare, accessible education).

There is a widespread belief that the economic factor is the main and only motivator for migration. According to the author, they conducted research among Indian citizens planning to move to Canada. The survey of showed that most of the respondents, when asked “why did they choose Canada and move

there,” indicated that, firstly, these are career opportunities, promotion, gaining work experience, and in most cases the purpose of the move was related to family circumstances (Winchie and Carment, 1989).

According to the above, the economic factor was the main reason for migration. In this regard, in the second half of the 19th century, in the study of migration processes, more attention was focused on economic sciences. According to neoclassical economic theories, migration flows were determined by supply and demand in the labor market. Developed countries attract migrants from disadvantaged countries because they offer high salaries.

The theory developed by M. Piore, "The theory of the dual market" states that the reason for migration is that economically developed countries always require foreign labor. According to his theories, he identified four main characteristics: economic dualism, labor force demography, structural inflation, and motivational problems. Structural inflation occurs because the wages of local workers and foreign workers need to be constantly increased. The emergence of a motivational problem is connected with the fact that a migrant needs a status, even a small promotion, in addition to a salary. The demography of the labor force is explained by the fact that if there is a need for labor, workers are hired, if the demand for them falls, then they are fired. Economic dualism stems from the fact that there is always a demand in the labor market for workers willing to work at low wages and in difficult working conditions. However, it is difficult to find workers from the local population, so foreign migrants are hired for this job (Baron, 1980).

The authors of the following study created a two-sector model of rural-urban migration; this model is based on the fact that there is a significant difference in income levels in the city and in the countryside. According to this model, the authors calculate that, despite the high level of unemployment in cities, the outflow of migrants from rural areas does not stop. The developed model was named as the two-sector internal trade model with unemployment. In this context, the two sectors are the village and the city. According to the analysis and calculations, the authors propose the following scheme: the city produces goods that are sent to the village in exchange for agricultural products. At the same time, the village uses

the local labor force to produce an agricultural product, or use only part of the labor force to produce a commodity; the rest of the labor force will leave for the city. Their assumption is based on the fact that as long as urban income exceeds rural income, the outflow of migrants from the countryside will not stop (Harris and Todaro, 1970).

The author of the study identified four main theories for studying the process of return of migrants: neoclassical economics, the new economics of labor migration (NELM), the approach of structuralism and the approach of transnationalism. With the help of these theories and existing characteristics, it is possible to identify the main reasons for the return of a repatriate. Neoclassical economics is directly related to the economic factor, when a migrant leaves for more prosperous countries in order to earn money and improve their financial situation. Accordingly, if the repatriate returns, this indicates that after living for some time, the repatriate did not see a significant difference in wages, but gained the necessary experience and returns to his homeland. The next model considers the process of the return of the migrant conscious and thoughtful. For example, the purpose of migrations is to earn money or get an education. In this case, the migrant, having received what he wants, returns to the country.

According to the structuralist model, the return of a repatriate is associated with integration. In the case when a repatriate is faced with uncertain factors, the integration process is delayed and fails. The theory of transnationalism characterizes the current situation in the world. According to theories, the process of migration has no end, which means that the migrant leaves the country and returns after a certain time. However, this is not the end, the migrant again decides to leave the country and this can happen repeatedly and constantly. (Kļave E., Šūpule I., 2019)

Socialization process of migrants

The above theories have repeatedly mentioned that the economic factor is the main reason for migration. However, in the issue of return migrations, it turned out that the feeling of belonging to one's homeland, affection to relatives, are noted as the main reasons.

Based on the results of the study, the author was able to identify which regions the repatriates are returning to based on age, gender, education and marital status. It is becoming evident that highly skilled migrants return to big cities, and accordingly low-skilled migrants return to the regions and rural areas. There is reason to believe that the experience and knowledge gained abroad does not create opportunities for competition in the local labor market. One of the positive aspects of international migration is that migrants have an increased sense of ethnic and cultural identity. Being outside their home country for a long time, migrants develop awareness and belonging in their homeland. As a result, this aspect influences the decision to return to the country. At the same time, the sense of belonging is an obstacle to quick adaptation and integration (Apsīte-Beriņa, E., et al 2018).

Numerous studies mention the importance of the socialization process for migrants. In the next scientific work, the authors investigated the social feeling of loneliness among migrants in Belgium, as the object was studied mixed marriages, a total of 237 people. In the course of the study, they came to the conclusion that despite the fact that one of the spouses belongs to the indigenous population, migrants experience a sense of loneliness. And in order to reduce the feeling of social loneliness, it is very important to connect with close people, namely your own relatives and your own friends. It is important for a person to be close to those who share his cultural characteristics, and when they have something in common: mentality, traditions, upbringing (Koelet and De Valk, 2016).

Moving away from the family, it is difficult for a person to fill his need for communication at a long distance. Therefore, the process of socialization is different for everyone. For example: the level of social loneliness among women is higher than among men. Moreover, the study indicates that the feelings

of loneliness among migrants of European origin and those of Turkish origin (and Moroccan origin) are different. As a rule, in the latter group of migrants, the level of social loneliness is much higher. Again, this largely depends on cultural differences, language barriers and the level of discrimination in the country (Koelet and De Valk, 2016).

Based on the above, research shows that length of residence in a country reduces loneliness. Obviously, this is due to the fact that the migrant has close friends, close relationships; this has a positive effect on socialization.

As we can see, to be a full member of society, a person must learn a number of requirements: knowledge, social norms, rules and values.

The study of Amelina and Hotvath (2017) points out that in recent years, other approaches in the sociology of migration, more modern ones, have appeared. Let us say a transnational approach, when a migrant connects several countries, and this proves that the migrant moves from one territory to another, not once, but several times. The next approach indicates that gender has a decisive role in the migration process. And the process of assimilation suggests that after the migration of the migrant, "*ethnic groupism*" as such does not exist. From the above, the author concludes that the research done in the field of migration must come into contact with sociological theories.

The reasons for migrations were indicated above; now take into account the stages through which the migration process takes place. According to subsequent research, the author divides migration into three stages (Bhugra and Becker, 2005).

The first stage includes making a decision on migration and preliminary preparation for the move. The next stage is a complete transfer to the destination. The third stage, the author defines, as: "... *the absorption of the immigrant into the social and cultural framework of the new society.*" This stage is described as a period where the immigrant learns to accept new social and cultural roles and adapt to

them. It is important to note here that the adaptation process depends on the duration of the move, the closeness of the host society and culture to the country of origin. That is, if there is a strong difference in culture, a person experiences rejection and does not accept the local culture, which in turn affects his socialization. One of the factors that occurs during migration is **culture shock**. This is a state where expectations do not coincide with reality. The migrant finds himself in a new cultural environment, and experiences a state in which he cannot move from one cultural society to another, since for a migrant in a new country everything is alien.

According to the author of the study, in order to get rid of culture shock, first of all, you need to get to know the local people better, for this there should be no language barrier. Language is one important tool for rapid adaptation. Having mastered the local language, there is a high probability of making friends with the same interests. The adoption of a new culture will be easier and faster (Oberg, 1960).

We already mentioned that, the socialization of migrants is a separate area requiring detailed study. In addition to adapting to a new environment, many migrant families are faced with such a problem as raising children. Moreover, the difficulties of socialization become more noticeable when the new environment is very different from the previous one: culture, traditions and religious differences. It is believed that strong cultural differences between countries lead to long adaptations. The author of the study refers to Margaret Eisenhart, who uses the term "cultural productions". This term implies that cultural identity is not about what should be in reality, it is about cultural identity changing depending on the environment in which you live. By changing your environment, your cultural identity is also rebuilt, and such changes help you adapt faster. The cultural model inherent in childhood does not disappear, but takes on a new form (Pels and Mariëtte, 2007).

Some researchers claim that the ethnic origin of migrants influences socialization and adaptation. That is, the goal of this study is to explain the importance of ethnicity, just like racial or national identity, and to understand whether this affects the migrant's perception of the destination and how they will be

received in a new place. For example, in the process of studying social relations among migrants, the author of the study points out that ethnicity is a key aspect. Since the life experience gained during migrations will probably depend on ethnicity, and in the future this factor will be reflected in everyday life. As an example, the author of the study notes ethnic networks can be used in job search. Migrants belonging to the same ethnic group have better chances of finding a job, since a trusting attitude is built among migrants, and they are ready to recommend someone from their own. Moreover, when studying ethnic ties, the author points out that transnationalism plays an important role. Despite the fact that the migrant leaves the country, he has a connection with his homeland, in the form of family, relatives, friends, traditions. All of this points to ethnicity. This means that the concept of transnationalism is studied within the framework of ethnicity. Ethnicity in the context of migration serves as a tool for understanding the interactions between migrants, and for analyzing migration processes. (Moroşanu, 2011).

The study is based on the issue of ethnic identity in certain countries (in particular Cyprus) and what economic consequences this has for the country. When we talk about ethnic identity, it means that the environment in which they live is the majority and the minority. According to the author, ethnicity affects the labor market, affects the country's economy. The authors of the study argue that ethnic identity can be measured; this measure is called an "ethnosizer". According to the "ethnosizer", two-dimensional and one-dimensional measurement models are distinguished. In the first case, in the case of a two-dimensional model, the level of commitment in the country of origin and the level of ethnic identity with the host country are equally distributed. Or, on the contrary, the migrant has no attachment not to the homeland, not to the host country. In the second case, according to the one-dimensional model, the migrant accepts only one side, that is, he feels a connection only with the receiving side and with his homeland. According to these measurements, the migrant has four states: assimilation, integration, marginalization and separation. In general, initially migrants are more committed to their home country when moving, and less attached to the host country. However, depending on the following factors: how

long they have been living in the host country, starting a family, their employment (work) changes the indicators for the ethnosizer (Klaus, 2007).

The article examines the attitude of migrants to integration. According to the data, the unemployment rate among migrants in Europe is high. This leads to an ambiguous attitude of indigenous people towards migrants; it is believed that they are simply using the welfare of the country. However, it is important to take into account that the income of migrants is significantly lower than that of local residents. Initially, Europe used different policies towards migrants, depending on the country. In some countries, migrants had to fully assimilate with the local culture, with the local society (France and French colonies). In other countries, the process of migration was considered as a temporary phenomenon; therefore comfortable conditions were created for temporary stay, in the form of evening schools in the native language, religious institutions. (Germany and Muslims). In addition, there are countries where, in addition to simple integration, great importance was attached to cultural assimilation (Holland). Apart from all these approaches, there is an economic approach to integration. According to the author, this approach is central to social integration. That is, employment, access to education, health care and housing facilitates the integration process. The author argues that migrants who arrived from outside the EU are not in an advantageous position; it is more difficult for them to build social relations. And this is not affected by their age or marital status. Moreover, migrants with higher education do not have a narrow circle of close people. They prefer to build a wide social circle. (Domenico de Palo, *et.al* 2006)

The author of the study argues that within the framework of the concept of integration, it is important to pay attention to the security and stability of migrants. As an example, the Ager and Strangs integration model is presented, which defines 10 areas of integration: 1. Safety and stability; 2. Language and cultural knowledge; 3. Employment; 4. Housing; 5. Education; 6. Health; 7. Social bridges; 8. Social bonds; 9. Social links ('social connections'); 10. Rights and citizenship. According to the above model, security and stability are key in the integration process. The author claim that, the complexity of integrations is connected not with the fact that it is difficult for a migrant to adapt in a new society, but

that the society itself as a whole is not able to provide conditions for normal adaptation. There is an opinion that ethnic ties in the context of integration have an ambiguous perception. On the one hand, ethnic ties support the migrant, on the other hand, ethnic ties slow down the process of integration of the migrant, since to some extent they create a barrier in new conditions for learning a new culture, for establishing ties with the local society (Grzymala-Kazłowska, 2016).

Based on historical data on the migration events that took place at the beginning of the 20th century, the author of the study tries to explain what happened and identifies two concepts, such as ethnic non-mixing and ethnic affinity.

In the context of migration, ethnic non-mixing serves as a pushing factor; accordingly, ethnic proximity serves as a factor of attraction. On the example of such countries as Germany, Hungary, Israel and Russia. In contrast to Russia, the attraction factor dominated in other countries. After the collapse of the Soviet Union, ethnic minorities left Russia, as the economic situation in their home countries was comparatively better. Unfortunately, the attraction factor did not work for Russia. However, the nationalization of the receiving states played a role, and worked as a push factor. In the process of nationalization of the former USSR countries, Russians began to feel discomfort, and this led to a gradual outflow of Russian migrants. (Brubaker, 1998).

Repatriates program

Faced with various difficulties that complicate the process of socialization, migrations have the opposite effect. Return migration in context international migration, defined as: “*the movement of persons returning to their country of origin after having moved away from their place of habitual residence and crossed an international border*” (IOM Migration Glossary 2019). One of the types of return migration is voluntary migration. If we talk about repatriates as voluntary migration, then we understand that each country defines it in its own way.

The study carried out a comparative analysis of the Repatriation Policy of European countries, in order to understand what support measures are provided to repatriates and how they work. According to the author, the main four reasons for repatriation have been identified: -the demographic problem; moral obligations; attraction of investments; legislation or naturalization (Beusse, 2009).

In some countries like Estonia, a repatriate program has been launched with the aim of preserving nations and cultures. This goal is pursued by the repatriation policy of the Republic of Kazakhstan. According to the classifications presented above, naturalization is considered the cause of reverse migration. This stage is governed by law and regulations.

According to the Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan "On migration of the population" (1997), "Kandas" is an ethnic Kazakh and (or) members of his family of Kazakh nationality, who previously did not have citizenship of the Republic of Kazakhstan, who arrived in their historical homeland and received the appropriate status in the manner prescribed by the Law. In Kazakhstan, as in other countries, there are centers for adaptation and integration of repatriates, which provide services on various issues: social protection, language courses, education and health care. And also, within the framework of the program, material assistance is provided depending on the chosen region, each family member receives a one-time assistance in the amount of just over 100,000 tenge (about \$ 230). In addition, the program covers travel expenses, transportation of property, and rental housing (for 12 months). Starting from 2017 until this year, Kazakhstan has a "Concept of Migration Policy 2017-2021", the main goal is to support the permanent migration of ethnic Kazakhs on a long-term basis.

The repatriation policies of Israel and Germany are linked to historical events; therefore the program is based on moral commitment and family reunification. According to the Law on Returns, repatriates can be: a person was born to a Jewish mother and a person who converted to Judaism. Also, the repatriate's children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren can receive the status of a repatriate. According to official figures, from 2012 to 2019, 180,000 repatriates arrived, but only 14% of them are

Jews. Therefore, since 2020, changes have been made for repatriates, and these changes concerned Russian citizens. The Israel Returnees Program also provides financial assistance for the first 12 months, and various types of support for 24 months.

Germany has Returnees Program for Ethnic Germans Resettles. Initially, the program was created for repatriates who were forcibly deported from their country. Beginning in the 1990s, many former citizens of the USSR began to leave for Germany, as the largest ethnic Germans resided in the post-Soviet countries. In general, the resettlement program has undergone minor changes, for example, you may not speak German, but receive courses upon arrival in Germany.

According to the policy of supporting repatriates, Russia is also interested in returning ethnic Russians who have ended up in different parts of the world after the collapse of the Soviet Union. And also today there is another reason for supporting this policy, this is a demographic crisis and a shortage of labor. Russian program for voluntary resettlement, was signed in 2006. The program was planned for 2007-2012, with the expectation that over 400,000 compatriots will return to the country in 5 years. However, the forecasts did not coincide, only 9000 thousand returned. Therefore, it was decided to make the program unlimited in 2012. The peculiarity of this program is that it is designed not only for repatriates, but also for former citizens of the country. According to the program, a person can choose the region of residence himself, the state covers the cost of moving, pays an allowance for the first 6 months, and a lump sum for settling (Druzhnikov, A. 2013).

In the process of studying programs for repatriates, there is a general characteristic that everyone who returns to their home country left the country is forced, the reasons are various such as: war, the collapse of the country, repression. In addition to historical events, the objectives of repatriation policies may be related to the composition of the population or the size of the country (Beusse, 2009).

Return Migration Action Plan

From the above, it becomes clear that the main task of the programs for repatriates is to enable the ethnic minority to return to the country of origin. However, in the case of Latvia, the situation is different. In the course of an interview conducted with several experts, it turned out that in Latvia there is no special program for ethnic Latvians born outside the country. For this category, there is a separate column in the law, which makes it possible to obtain a residence permit, then citizenship in a simplified form.

So, on the official website of Office of Citizenship and Migration Affairs Republic of Latvia, you can get acquainted with the categories of migrants who have the right to obtain citizenship. According to the data, the first category is ethnicity, a person must have a document confirming that you are Liv or Latvian by nationality. Second category if you are a descendant of a former Latvian citizen who was a citizen before June 17, 1940. The next category is the Latvian exile. According to the law, a Latvian exile is defined as a person who: “fled from Latvia the USSR or German occupation regime or was deported during the period from 17 June 1940 to 4 May 1990”. That is, if, for the above reason, the person could not return to Latvia before the deadline established by law, before May 4, 1990. The person has to make a request for citizenship.

Historically, it has been established that ethnic minorities, including Latvians living in the territory of modern Kazakhstan, arrived in Kazakhstan after the war years, were subjected to Stalin's repression and deported from their countries.

However, in the last decades, starting from 2004, Latvia has faced new challenges. Experts identify two large periods when the country is experiencing “negative migration growth”. The first period, 2004-2008, was associated with the accession to the EU, and in this case, the pull factor worked, the citizens of Latvia began to use the possibility of free movement within the union and left the country in most cases for a short period. The second large population outflow occurred in the period from 2009-2010, when the world was gripped by the economic crisis. The emigration rate has doubled. In search of

a better life, and a decent salary to feed their families, people left the country. In this case, the push factor worked. Unfortunately, both then and today, the wage gap is so significant that even an attempt to increase the minimum wage did not equal it with countries such as Ireland and Norway (Mierina, I. 2020).

According to statistics, in the period from 2000 to 2013, more than 250 thousand people left Latvia. Because of this, today Latvia has a very large diaspora (over 20%) abroad. Therefore, the state has implemented the "Return Migration Action Plan 2013-2016" to support its citizens (Platonova, 2014). The purpose of this program is to facilitate the return of citizens, and at least partially stop the outflow of the population. The program was in operation for only three years. However, to date, this program has found its continuation in the person of the Coordinators, who are on a permanent basis in large regions of Latvia, and provide various support for the reintegration of the Latvian diaspora. Latvia attaches great importance to this issue, as it recognizes the contribution of the diaspora to the growth and development of the country's economy. Moreover, according to the latest data, in 2019 Latvia introduced a separate Law for the Diaspora, thereby indicating the importance of attracting its diaspora and maintaining communication with them wherever they are. Therefore, dual citizenship is not prohibited in Latvia.

Chapter 3

Research methodology

The research question of my study was to understand: what difficulties are faced by Latvian ethnic repatriates who arrived from Kazakhstan and how the process of socialization and adaptation of repatriates and migrants proceeds?

A number of studies on this topic were studied and 12 in-depth interviews were conducted in order to find out how integration policy works and what measures are being taken by the state. The respondents belonged to different age groups, seven of them live in Europe, some of them returned to Kazakhstan. The duration of the interview was from 40 minutes to 1.5 hours, the interview conducted online, through Zoom and WhatsApp Messenger. The questionnaires were written in two languages: Russian and English. The interview was conducted in the language preferred by the respondent.

A semi-structured interview method was used to obtain the data. Unlike other methods of qualitative analysis, in-depth interviews provide an opportunity to obtain information not only about the current moment, but also in more detail: about the past and future tense. The advantage of this method is that it takes place in the form of a casual conversation, the respondent feels at ease. During the interview, you can ask clarifying questions for completeness.

For a suitable sample, a snowball sample was used for this study. The advantage of this sample is that the first responders can be found among personal and professional contacts. Also, in this sample, the opportunities to build trust are high. As you know, trust is one of the important points when conducting an interview. Starting a study with several respondents, in the future there are chances to expand the range of the sample. In this study, the studied group of repatriates and migrants is a very narrow circle of people who know each other and can recommend acquaintances to you. Subsequently, these respondents will recommend at least one more, and sometimes more respondents for interviews. Thus, a snowball is formed, and it becomes possible to find the required number of respondents.

To ensure the diversity of the sample, three main groups of respondents were identified for the interview: a) ethnic Latvians; b) experts and specialists in the field of migration; c) students.

Due to the limited time, 12 interviews were conducted for this sample. The preparation period associated with the compilation of the questionnaire took 10 days (see Appendix 1). Later there was correspondence and calls with potential respondents to agree on a convenient time for an interview.

Due to the restrictive measures associated with the pandemic, all interviews were conducted online: two interviews in Zoom, other interviews via email and via WhatsApp messenger. Each respondent was informed that anonymity and confidentiality is guaranteed (see Appendix 2). The respondents were familiarized with the Consent form, which was also drawn up in Russian and English. To ensure anonymity, each respondent was numbered, without specifying personal data. During the online interviews through the Zoom platform, interviews were recorded with the consent of the respondents.

The total number of respondents is 12, 3 of them (about 20%) were men. The average age of the respondents is 35 years old. Out of 12 respondents: 2 respondents are experts in the field of migration, 2 respondents employees of the Latvian Embassy in Kazakhstan, 3 respondents are ethnic Latvians, and the remaining 5 respondents are citizens of Kazakhstan who, for various reasons, live in Latvia (the purpose of their stay is study and family reunification).

Chapter 4

Fieldwork analysis

This chapter includes an analysis of the responses. Also the interpretation of the answers received during the research from the respondents. The results obtained were compared with the theories discussed in the literature review.

The interview questionnaire was compiled in a semi-structured format. A list of questions was preliminarily approved, then clarifying questions were asked during the online interview. The interview questionnaire consisted of four sections: 1. general migration issues, 2. reasons for migration, 3. socialization of migrants, 4. and changes related to COVID-19.

The interview consisted of 20 questions, the questions included: general migration issues, difficulties faced by migrants, and support received from the state, etc.

Analyzing the answers of the respondents, we observing that the process of socialization does not begin after moving to a new country, but from the moment when the decision to migrate (to move) is made. In their study, Bhugra and Becker “Migration, cultural bereavement and cultural identity”, describing the process of migration and this process is divided into three stages: “...The first stage includes making a decision on migration and preliminary preparation for the move. The next stage is a complete transfer to the destination. The third stage, the author defines, as: "... the absorption of the immigrant into the social and cultural framework of the new society." This stage is described as a period where the immigrant learns to accept new social and cultural roles and adapt to them”.

This means that being in his country; the repatriate experiences a number of difficulties that have arisen with his decision to return to his historical homeland. And these difficulties accompany him constantly, right up to the departure from one country to another. For example, in order to obtain the status of a repatriate, you need to collect a supporting document about your nationality, correspond with the competent authorities, and request various archival information. And at this stage, the migrant begins to adapt to new conditions, since his decision entailed a number of changes.

Respondent 1 confirmed the fact that until 1940 my great-grandmother lived in Latvia. Since this fact is considered the basis for obtaining a residence permit in Latvia, Respondent 1 had to provide certificates confirming family ties.

Respondent 1: "I have a question ... problem, I was born in Russia. And when you are born in Russia, the Republic of Kazakhstan cannot apostille your documents. For example, a birth certificate. A birth certificate must be apostilled by the country in which it was born. I had a problem with this; I had to send my birth certificate to Russia, to the registry office of the Kemerovo region, Kuzbass, so that they put an apostille. This is a rather long procedure, I had to pay for the apostille, but I cannot do it from Kazakhstan.... Until I found a friend, sent it by mail, sent the money ... you won't believe it took me 2 months".

"It was a little difficult for us, we ourselves had to look for data in the archives. This is a straight epic. You have to pay for this. Where to pay, where to look. For example, our relatives moved from Latvia to Siberia, Tomsk region. But to which city did we not know how to look? We sent ... a request to the Kuzbass archive. Our main great-grandmother ... who lived in Latvia, there must be proof of obtaining citizenship, that our relative lives in Latvia or lived before 1940".

The next interview questions was related to the migration status in the country of residence. During the interview, questions were asked about the procedure for obtaining citizenship and a residence permit, and how the migration crisis that gripped Europe affected Latvia. In general, the procedure for obtaining a residence permit was standard, the basis for obtaining a residence permit was: family reunification or training, then employment. All information is available and there were no difficulties.

Respondent 2: "People changed their names in Russia, for various reasons ... phonetics changed. Therefore, it is difficult to prove your ethnic origin. People become hostages by circumstances. "

"There was a case with a girl, her grandfather ended up in Russia after the war years, the nationality column is not legible. It turned out that the grandfather was Russian, not Latvian. The archival documents did not match. "

Respondent 3:“Repatriation Law better opportunities, who Ethnic Latvians...when parents, one of the parents being Latvian citizens (not Ethnic Latvian) previously during first Independent years of Latvia, 1918-1940. Who was citizens during those years, they can return easily and get support (1. return expenses, traveling or moving, 2. Support to learn Latvian language, without any cost). It’s a state program....”.

“For them easy get citizenship, but need check require about level of Latvian language. Regulations different for each different group regarding language requirements. Because to get permanent residence permit, you need to pass Latvian language, for migrants. But repatriates, who have Latvian citizen’s ancestors, they get permanent residence permit at once, but for citizenship, they need pass language exam”.

The group of migrants, related to students, is no less important than the repatriates, since they have different experiences in this matter. For some, the next move, a new country is a normal process, and it is easier and faster for them to navigate. Moreover, according to statistics, the number of students leaving for Latvia is 20%.

Respondent 3:“... according to statistics about 40% those who have bought real estate, and they receive temporary residence permit which for 5 years, when they investing some kind of real estate, about 100.000 Euro buying somewhere house, flats ... get residence permit. Certain share students, about 20 % who have choosing study in university of Latvia, another share those who are working in general its ¼, about 25 %. And families issues real small share, about 8%”.

It is worth noting that some students have already had experience of living abroad. Therefore, they easily made new contacts and learned the language. Moreover, after completing their studies in Latvia, some students had the opportunity to get a job in Latvia itself, or in other European countries.

The questions of the second part of the interview concerned any support measures from the state for newly arrived migrants. There was an attempt to find out more programs from the state for each category of citizens: ethnic Latvians, students, labor migrants, etc. As it turned out, there are no special programs designed for repatriates. There is a separate category for citizenship, but an ethnic Latvian

cannot get citizenship right away. To begin with, he receives a residence permit for a year, then for four years, and only then a permanent residence permit for 10 years, and as a result, citizenship of the Republic of Latvia. For the rest, the category is standard, a residence permit for the period of stay in the country (in the case of a student for four years), with an annual extension. If a migrant worker, only for the period of a valid contract. If you change your place of work, the migrant is obliged to re-apply and re-issue a residence permit. Even in the case of family reunification, the residence permit is issued for a year, renewable annually.

Respondent 2: “The residence permit must be renewed every year, after 5 years it receives a permanent residence permit. To obtain citizenship, you must pass an exam: the state language, history and an interview. I had one case when ethnic Latvians received citizenship immediately after a couple of months after they moved to Latvia, and passed all the exams”.

Respondent 4: “Obtaining the residence permit was quite different for me. My husband is a Lithuanian citizen, who works in Latvia. When any European citizen moves within the European countries, they become protected under the European legislations, which are usually way better than the local. For example, I paid only for the plastic card and for the service, overall, around 25 EUR or maybe less, while the international wives of locals (Latvians) need to pay more than 160 EUR for the residence permit. Then, I waited a month to get the residence permit, while again the wives of locals can wait up to 6 months and even more. I collected even less documents as compared to them. I also do not need to renew my residence permit every single year as compared to them, I was automatically given for 5 years”.

Also, according to the Respondent, who is an ethnic repatriate, the work of the Embassy of Latvia in Kazakhstan is well organized and there were no difficulties. However, as soon as the documents go to the competent authorities in Latvia, the Embassy does not accompany further procedures. At this stage, the citizens of Kazakhstan are experiencing a number of difficulties. As some do not speak either English or Latvian. Sometimes it may be difficult to understand the content of letters and documents, and if a citizen is overdue, she/he may be denied a residence permit.

Respondent 5: “According to the legislative norms of the Republic of Latvia, I received permanent residence after 5 years of living here. My status is a family member, as my spouse is a citizen of the Republic of Latvia”.

As we mentioned above, many countries have programs for returnees and settlers. Some states attach a very high importance to this, since any support provided by the state helps to socialize in a new place and attract more repatriates. Different answers were received to this question. Since the assistance provided depended on the purpose of stay, visa categories and status of stay in the country. For example, repatriates can count on financial assistance for the first six months, and local authorities can help find temporary housing if there are difficulties with living.

Respondent 1: “I heard my brother told me. That is not yet certain ... I will find out ... we are entitled to compensation for tickets, for a flight, and at 300 euros we are entitled to support for half a year. The brother claims that it is so. When he moved, he received 300 euros as a repatriate ... for half a year”.

Respondent 3: “Support quite small. Those who return USA or Canada, they do not apply to this support, because is comparable small. Those who return Russia, Ukraine other post-Soviet countries apply more often, they more interested this support”.

And also in Latvia there is an institution: www.integration.lv, which also provides assistance to migrants, regardless of visa categories and country of origin. They will help with learning the local (state language) and also provide assistance with temporary shelter. They also organize additional cultural events for the cultural integration of migrants (festive evenings, courses on the history of Latvia).

Respondent 7: “Integration of third country nationals, which use all statistical, register, promoted in some extent ...integration of third country nationals has web site: integration.lv. Ministry of culture has responsible for this activity. This issue, it’s not structured, cleared, project based, there is some funding. Third country nationals is a priority. Integration.lv was created on European money, European project was done. Very active. Some smaller project, IOM (International organization of Migration) we have office in Riga, they are doing some activity”.

Respondent 6: “They are not as strong as in Estonia, government is not doing so much to attract foreigners. But there is less bureaucracy that is for sure. They have a lot of social events - touristic, professional which help to integrate. Also free Latvian language courses provided by government also very worth to mention. It is very common for Baltic countries - to provide free language courses”.

As mentioned in the literature review, two significant events that took place in Latvia between 2004 and 2013 led to a large outflow of the population. According to the study, the reasons for migrations were associated with push and pull factors. On this issue, the opinions of our respondents coincided, European countries always remain attractive for migrants, and in this case Latvia is used as a tool for further movement within the European Union.

Respondent 9: “There is a risk of obtaining a residence permit ... the ability to move within the Schengen area is often an argument for migration”.

As we know from our literature review, the main reason for human migration is the economic factor. Therefore, from our interviews, we repeatedly received answers that obtaining a residence permit in Latvia makes it possible to leave for more prosperous European countries, such as Germany, Norway.

Respondent 3: “The main reason is wage gap, really big differences in salaries, because people with their skills and work can get much more higher salary, working in UK, or Norway, Sweden, Germany. If they get a proper job...then in Latvia. This wage gap, differences ...this is huge problem, we face in Latvia as a country. 500 euros as minimal salary in Latvia. But if we look in Ireland, UK minimal salary is 1500 like, its three time big from minimal salary. You can see that wage gap quite big, really demotivating high skilled and low skilled workers. ”.

Respondent 7: “If acquire Latvian citizenship that is simple. That rather complicated process; invest a lot to get citizenship. Recently, we changes diaspora Law, dual citizenship is allow... But other side, international student...what exactly they are doing. They have residence permit. When ask them, what are you plan in future, very few plan to stay in Latvia. They want to go Europe, to Germany, to Scandinavian country; there are level of salary higher, some social benefits”.

Respondent 10: “I believe that people intended to migrate to other countries to improve their and their family’s future perspectives. Usually these people who get a job offer, possibilities to study or invest, as well as people who already have members of their family living in this country.”

The next section of questions was related to the socialization of migrants; during the interviews, questions were asked about the integration policy of the state and what difficulties migrants face and how they coped with them. As it turned out, the difficulties are different: for some it is a language barrier, for others it is employment, for others there is a problem with housing or getting medical services. Oberg, in his research, attached great importance to the study of the local language: “Language is one important tool for rapid adaptation. Having mastered the local language, there is a high probability of making friends with the same interests. The adoption of a new culture will be easier and faster.”

Respondent 11: “There is such help in finding a job, there is a special department for working with the unemployed. You need to submit an application ... send a resume and after a while, the employee will contact. They start working on finding a job that suits that person according to their resume. This period takes 1-1.5 months. And also during this period, courses are provided: programming, office work, language courses”

Respondent 4: “Not so competitive, if he/she does not know Latvian. They are quite strict in terms of that as compared to Kazakhstan. In my case, I work in sphere of education, so to teach in the local school, I need to be fluent in Latvian and pass the national test, which I have not done yet. Instead, I keep working with Kazakhstan distantly on various projects, and, maybe, in the future if we do not move back to Lithuania, I will take that national test”.

“It’s difficult ... being employed without the knowledge of the Latvian language”.

Respondent 5:“... compulsory knowledge of the Latvian language, therefore, if our compatriot, for example, a good doctor or teacher, then it will be more difficult to find a job than an IT employee, for example”.

Respondent 7: “State language agency, they are very active. Language is first thing to learn. If you have children, wife or husband coming with you, there are has been some activity, support group, but is not stable and regular... Some stories, about those who from former Soviet countries, they study language, they are professionals, very common doctors, with medical staff”.

According to migration experts, in their opinion, most often migrants have difficulties with renting housing and with medicine, since a medical policy is required. In general, medical service is provided a little differently than in Kazakhstan, since in order to receive full medical care, it is necessary to purchase medical insurance, but not every migrant can afford it.

Respondent 3: “Third countries nationals in Latvia... Regarding medical health service system, they required buy medical insurance. They can go only private medical clinic, variable. Its mean, when you came in Latvia, and have medical problem, you have to pay all services. Required health insurance covered minimal services: emergency services, no other medical treatment. This is problem, because financial issues, this not included for third countries nationals, also they not knowing language, not knowing medical system. Every country have different system. Next problem housing, especially for those, who visually different”.

Respondent 1: “I looked ..., firstly, the Latvian language is needed everywhere. And I have an education, I am a proofreader of the Russian language ... you can imagine that. Therefore, I will not find a job in my specialty in Latvia ... neither journalism, nor proofreading, nor editing. This is a sore subject for me, I will now look for what I will do. Maybe we can open a business, but to open a business ... you do not need to live here for 10 days, but much more to see what you can do. I think that only business can hardly count on hired labor, firstly, there are very low salaries, it is simply impossible to live on this money. Business only. But so far I don't see what to do”.

According to the literature review, many countries have programs for repatriates; such programs provide all kinds of support to persons who have arrived as repatriates. The importance of these programs is that this is one of the important approaches to facilitate the socialization of repatriates.

Respondent 3: “Repatriates program in Latvia ... the most similar program in a Poland. And even more similar is a Lithuania. Definitely, its not German approach ... and not Israel approach, because in is Israel support to return migration and diaspora much stronger that nor comparable. In Poland and in Lithuania both cases... its more symbolic, the support more symbolic, not so much financial or practical in terms of flats or houses for return migrants, or guarantee workplace for migrants ...that’s more symbolic. Repatriation policy was introducing 90s, for those who really want to return, who motivated the sense of belonging Latvia. After that, when Latvia join EU we got possibilities free movement around the Europe (Schengen zone), the possibilities to move for work, not always permanently, many cases temporarily.”

However, the author mentioned another program to which she was directly related.

Respondent 3: “I work in the project; my task was evaluate this Return Migration Plan. And how it was implemented and what was results. The plan was design to prepare our institutions, for instance schools, children gardens, migration boards, tax revenue agency...to prepare them that people will return and might return. We also have Latvia, we develop our diaspora...law that intense to support return migrants in different ways. And we have launched two years ago support system for Return Migration Coordinators Institutions in all regions, people who want to return or who already return may ask their questions or ask for help”.

And in the final part of our interview, questions were asked about what prompted them to migrate to Latvia and other Schengen countries, what is the main age group of migrants, as well as the reasons and circumstances that prompted them to move.

Respondent 8: “I only know two ... politics and economic situation. Somehow... something does not suit people... they cannot buy an apartment, they do not have a job, and they see opportunities in other countries, they do not see them in Kazakhstan, so they leave. But ... more for economic reasons”.

There is another opinion from Respondent 4: “As for the migration from Kazakhstan to Latvia, the answer is no. Latvia is not attractive for those who are seeking high-salary jobs. It is even unattractive among refugees from Syria, Iran, Iraq and others”.

Following the literature review, the study authors identify several reasons for migration. According to Ravenstein's law, people move to places where the economy, technology, trade and transport are developed. Despite the fact that his claims were based on the results of internal migrations, time has shown that for external migrations, these descriptions are appropriate. It was mentioned above that, according to the UN, the United States and Europe are the most attractive countries for migrants. Therefore, even Latvia, not having a strong economy, but being a part of the European Union, remains attractive to migrants, especially from post-Soviet countries.

The factors described by Everett Lee, push and pull factors are reflected in the current situation in Kazakhstan, according to the answers of our respondents, there are many unsolved social problems in Kazakhstan, and they are not satisfied with the quality of education and medicine, and low salaries.

Respondent 4: “High salary is unattractive at all, since I was disappointed with the educational system itself as I work in this sphere”

Respondent 5: “Unemployment is on the rise, poverty, rising prices, and corruption certainly do not give people the best hopes for the future, unfortunately”.

There have been significant changes regarding the current situation associated with the pandemic. According to experts, they positively assess the changes in migration that led to the pandemic in 2020. They emphasize that the outflow from the country has decreased, and moreover, Latvian citizens living outside the country began to return to their homeland due to the restrictions imposed.

Respondent 3: “All the results and effects of COVID-19, on migration will be seeing later, not now. But we can expect, migration has decreased in other action. COVID-19 many Latvians return and it was time of Brexit issues, many Latvians in UK return. Not because Brexit, most because of pandemic.

Some returning and people are not so open moving away from Latvia. Due to pandemic. Emigrant are not coming so much, we haven't big economic problem, but we still have a some sector which not operating, no actively... I guess COVID-19 has stop migrant flows, in both directions”.

Respondent 7: “Affected badly. University, who attracting international students...no one come to Latvia, because everything its close, not to travel restrictions. Due to applying and getting to the Embassy, doing all formal thing. Some students stay. Latvian emigrations its close to the zero. Return migration its on good turn. Living here in a small, rural village more positively and welcoming, than living in a big city (London). They thinking about this thing and prefer to come back. We had this repatriation flights”.

Respondent 2: “it became possible to weed out unscrupulous migrant students who planned to leave for study. Now all universities have switched to online education, and we are informed about this. However, students from Kazakhstan are trying to get a visa and fly to Latvia.”

Summary

Analyzing the answers of the respondents, we observe that despite the cultural differences and mentality, the process of socialization of migrant`s proceeds easily and does not take much time, on average 2-3 months. However, it is important to understand that this issue depends on many factors, such as gender, age, experience of staying in other countries, reason for arrival. The respondents who took part in my interview are in Latvia for family reasons or for studies. Therefore, they speak positively about the adaptation process, since they receive support not only from the state, but also from close relatives, friends, and from the place of study.

The process of obtaining a residence permit, excluding archival references, takes no more than 2 months. Despite the introduced restrictions associated with the pandemic, migrants were able to receive all services online and on time.

Knowledge of the state language is a key factor in employment; therefore, it is in the interests of migrants to learn the Latvian language as quickly and at a good level as possible. Moreover, within the framework of the Integration Policy, supported by the European Union for migrants from third countries, this service can be obtained free of charge.

I would like to emphasize the fact that in the last decades there has been a large outflow of population to Latvia, and this is due to the huge gap in wages between Latvia and other European countries. Therefore, there is a risk that citizens who have arrived from Kazakhstan will find themselves in the same situations, and will also be forced to travel to neighboring countries in search of high salaries. However, based on the answers of the respondents, some do it deliberately and purposefully, having received a residence permit in Latvia, they immediately look for an opportunity to leave for Germany, Great Britain, etc.

Also during the interview, it was mentioned that in neighboring European countries, the integration policy works better, and perhaps Latvia could take over from them and make changes in itself.

According to the results obtained, there are suggestions that the migration policy of the state has undergone minor changes. Since after gaining independence, the first years the country tried to return ethnic Latvians to the country. However, now Latvia is trying to retain citizens, and by various types of support is trying to reduce the outflow from the country.

The migration policy is aimed at the Latvian diaspora, therefore, various measures are being taken in this matter, since their number is constantly increasing. Unfortunately, the exact number of repatriates is not known, they are not included in the consular register at the Embassy. However, in general, local authorities work well, and any migrant, regardless of the purpose of his stay, can ask for help.

Chapter 5

Conclusion

The research question was to understand what difficulties ethnic Latvians (who were born in Kazakhstan) face upon arrival in Latvia. Based on the answers of our respondents, there are three main problems faced by migrants. First, confirmation of the status of the repatriate. This status requires certain certificates. Therefore, given the common historical past, it becomes necessary to request information from the former post-Soviet countries. Judging from the answers of our respondents, this process requires certain procedures established by law and finances. Secondly, we have repeatedly mentioned that knowledge of the Latvian language is compulsory. This is important not only for employment, but also for solving everyday life issues: opening a bank account, certificates for school, hospital, medical insurance, etc. If it is not difficult for students and young people, however, there is a language barrier for the adult group of migrants.

The literature review showed that there are programs for repatriates in many countries of the world, we learned about the main purpose of these programs and the assistance provided for repatriates within the framework of these programs. Unfortunately, no information was found for Latvia. Since in recent years, the state has provided support to the large diaspora living outside Latvia. That list of services provided for repatriates is minimal, and there is no specific program for repatriates.

Moreover, during the last interview, it was found that no assistance was provided for the repatriates who arrived during the pandemics. According to our respondent, she and her daughter found housing on his or her own, and were in a two-week quarantine. During this period, no one worried about their condition, and no support was received. Therefore, there is a risk that, being in such conditions, returnees may experience anxiety from uncertainty, culture shock and these difficulties will lead to complex and long-term socialization.

Based on the above, a number of recommendations have been developed to address these issues. The first recommendation is related to the search for the necessary archival references. Using the close cooperation of Kazakhstan and Russia in various fields it is possible to find it possible to quickly and in a simplified manner claim documents and legalize them. This, in turn, would speed up the process of obtaining a residence permit in Latvia.

Secondly, I recommend migrants, especially returnees, to maintain close contact with the embassy, especially regarding documentation. Since all requested certificates from Latvia are issued in the state language, in the Latvian language. In case of difficulties with translation, the embassy will be able to provide assistance. Since, according to an employee of the diplomatic corps, there was a case when a person could not find an interpreter in his city, and also missed the deadline for obtaining a residence permit. The Consul confirmed that such cases sometimes occur, so he recommends keeping in touch with the Embassy on a regular basis.

Third, based on the experience of other countries, expand the list of support provided to repatriates. Unfortunately, the assistance provided at the moment does not sufficiently cover all the needs of the repatriates. For comparison: in Kazakhstan there was a program "Nurly Kosh" designed for repatriates; Under this program, they were eligible for housing in certain regions of the country. The program was approved in 2008 and ran until 2012. This program made it possible to increase the number of ethnic Kazakhs arriving from 5,000 to 20,000 families per year (Sarbasov, 2020). Despite the fact that the program was short-lived, Kazakhstan was able to attract and provide housing for the planned number of repatriates. Moreover, children of ethnic Kazakhs can count on quotas for an educational grant. It also stimulates growth among young people who mainly come to study from Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and China.

Perhaps, if the state immediately takes care of the repatriates and migrants, there will be no need to move to other European countries. The current situation shows that this problem has been acutely felt in the country in recent years.

Finally, the interview revealed a new category of migrants - investors. Due to economic difficulties, the state launched a program to attract investors in order to restore the economy. To obtain investor status, housing is purchased for a significant amount or invested in a local company. According to experts, the number of investors is increasing every year, but the origin of the money is not verified. In this regard, in order to avoid illegal actions on the part of unscrupulous citizens, we recommend that you carefully check this category of migrants. It is also important to consider that among migrants there are those who pursue hidden goals, acquire housing in order to simply move freely within the European Union. As the investor category is new, no detailed information was found in the literature review. Therefore, because of this gap, it is possible to conduct a separate study of investors.

In general, if we talk about the current situation, during the period of COVID 19, according to the consul, the pandemic helped to identify unscrupulous and persistent violators of migration legislation, especially among students. According to the consul, despite the closed borders, students tried to fly out of the country, arguing that they entered and paid for their studies, although all educational institutions were transferred to online education. Close interaction of the diplomatic corps and universities helped to identify such cases.

Limitations in dissertations

The results of my research were influenced by a number of limitations that arose at the time of writing. First of all, the restrictions were associated with tight deadlines, since it was necessary to find the required number of respondents within the specified time. Moreover, this period coincided with the restrictions associated with the pandemic, so the interview was conducted online. For my research, an in-depth interview was chosen, however, it is difficult to conduct a high-quality in-depth interview in an online format, since technical problems arose, the interlocutors did not hear each other well, or there were delays. Second, insufficient sample size. Perhaps, if we expanded the number of respondents, namely, repatriates, the results obtained would be different from those obtained, since we could cover a wider range of topics (questions) and change the number of questions.

And in conclusion, the lack of previous scientific papers related to my topic of repatriates. The literature review showed that with the support of the state in recent years in Latvia, many studies were related to the Return Migration Action Plan, which is relevant to the large diaspora living outside Latvia. However, unfortunately, there are no exact statistics on repatriates, since no records are kept. Moreover, according to the last population census conducted in Kazakhstan in 2009, the results of which were updated in 2014, more than 1100 ethnic Latvians live on the territory of Kazakhstan (State Statistics of Kazakhstan, 2009). It is important to take these figures into account and take active steps to support ethnic Latvians for further migration to Latvia. For a country that is taking various steps to establish a relationship with the diaspora, I also recommend paying attention to repatriates.

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APPENDIX 1

Candidate registration form for Interview

PERSONAL DATA

Pseudonym						
Age group	19-25	26-32	33-39	40-46	47-53	up to 54
Gender	Male			Female		
Years abroad	1-3	4-6	7-10	10 and more		
Country where lived last time						

IN-DEPTH INTERVIEW'S QUESTIONS

Code	QUESTIONS
Q 1	How long have you received citizenship (residence permit)?
Q 2	What are the procedures for obtaining citizenship of Latvia (or other Baltic Countries)?
Q 3	Migration crisis taking place in Europe, how did these events affect Latvia?
Q 4	What support was provided by the state?
Q 5	Did you receive financial support from Latvia (or other Baltic Countries)?
Q 6	Do you feel safe in Latvia (Baltic Countries)?
Q 7	How long have you been looking for a job?
Q 8	How competitive is a migrant from Kazakhstan in the labor market of Latvia (EU)?

Q 9	How is the process of socialization (adaptation) of a migrant in Latvia going (how long does it take)?
Q 10	What difficulties do migrants face (who moves from Former Soviet countries and Kazakhstan in Latvia)?
Q 11	Do you agree that the main reason for migration is unemployment in the country? What measures is the state taking to solve this problem?
Q 12	What changes can you suggest to improve the integration policy of the state? (based on your own experience)
Q 13	To which countries do citizens of Kazakhstan migrate (general trend)?
Q 14	What can you say about the age group of the migrants?
Q 15	Immigration generates social tensions that turn into conflicts between local residents and migrants. How are things going with this issue in Latvia?
Q 16	What public and non-profit organizations help migrants in Latvia?
Q 17	Is there a risk that migrant (or repatriates) will acquire Latvian citizenship, in order to take advantage of the opportunities in the Schengen area?
Q 18	Why do you think our people migrate?
Q 19	What attracts you to other countries?
Q 20	What could prevent you from leaving the Kazakhstan?

APPENDIX 2

Interview Consent Form

Research project title: *Emigration from Kazakhstan to Europe: Latvian repatriates*

Research investigator: *Akkozhina Zhazira*

Research/Interview Participants name: _____

The interview will take 30-40 minutes. We don't anticipate that there are any risks associated with your participation, but you have the right to stop the interview or withdraw from the research at any time.

Thank you for agreeing to be interviewed as part of the above research project. Ethical procedures for academic research undertaken require that interviewees explicitly agree to being interviewed and how the information contained in their interview will be used. This consent form is necessary for us to ensure that you understand the purpose of your involvement and that you agree to the conditions of your participation. Would you therefore read the accompanying information sheet and then sign this form to certify that you approve the following:

- All or part of the content of your interview will be used ONLY for this course assignment;
- the interview will be recorded and a transcript will be produced. If you disagree the interview to be audio recorded, please, note here in a hand written form here:
.....
- any summary interview content, or direct quotations from the interview, that are made for course assignment will be anonymized so that you cannot be identified, and care will be taken to ensure that other information in the interview that could identify yourself is not revealed
- you will be sent the transcript and given the opportunity to correct any factual errors
- the transcript of the interview will be analysed by Akkozhina Zhazira , as research investigator

- access to the interview transcript will be limited to Akkozina Zhazira and academic colleagues and researchers with whom he might collaborate as part of the research process
- the actual recording will be *(kept or destroyed state what will happen)*

any variation of the conditions above will only occur with your further explicit approval

Or a quotation agreement could be incorporated into the interview agreement

Quotation Agreement

I also understand that my words may be quoted directly. With regards to being quoted, please initial next to any of the statements that you agree with:

	I wish to review the notes, transcripts, or other data collected during the research pertaining to my participation.
	I agree to be quoted directly.
	I agree to be quoted directly if my name is not published and a made-up name (pseudonym) is used.

- By signing this form I agree that;
 1. I am voluntarily taking part in this project. I understand that I don't have to take part, and I can stop the interview at any time;
 2. The transcribed interview or extracts from it may be used as described above;
 3. I have read the Information sheet;
 4. I don't expect to receive any benefit or payment for my participation;
 5. I can request a copy of the transcript of my interview and may make edits I feel necessary to ensure the effectiveness of any agreement made about confidentiality;
 6. I have been able to ask any questions I might have, and I understand that I am free to contact the researcher with any questions I may have in the future.

Printed Name

Participants Signature

Date

Researchers Signature

Date

Contact Information

Name of researcher: Akkozhina Zhazira

Full address: Nur-Sultan, Turan 42, #387

Tel: 8-701-68-525-63

E-mail: zh_akkozhina@kazguu.kz

You can also contact PhD Tanekenov Aslan,

“*Qualitative Methods in Research*” course lecturer:

Name of researcher: Tanekenov Aslan

Tel.: 8-777-547-62-25

E-mail: A_Tanekenov@kazguu.kz