

## **Summary of doctoral thesis**

# **SOCIAL-EKONOMICS OUTCOMES OF SWEDISH POLICY TOWARDS FORCED MIGRANTS**

Migrations, in the meaning of relocation of people, have always been part of the history of mankind. They may be caused by different internal and external factors, differ in scale, and generate all kinds of short-term and long-term outcomes. At the same time, the magnitude, intensity, and nature of the migrations will all affect the evolution of a migration policy. Key foundations of the Swedish migration policy go back to the mid-70s, originating in the stance that migrants should be integrated with all aspects of societal life and enjoy equal opportunities regardless of ethnical or cultural background. The detailed outlines of this policy were introduced in the times, when labour immigration was the predominant type of migration to Sweden, and the migrants had a greater employment rate than the native population. Today, not only the nature of migration has changed, but also the participation of migrants in the labour market. The labour migrants have been largely replaced by forced migrants which greatly affected the functioning of the Swedish migration policy.

The choice of the research area was motivated by a couple of factors. Firstly, for many years the author regarded the area of research as interesting. Secondly, the author is herself immigrant living in Sweden for 20 years, which hopefully enriches the research perspective when compared to authors for whom migration is solely a theoretical problem. Moreover, interactions with the natives and migrants (forced as well as others) over the years, observation of the changing living conditions together with thorough knowledge of economics, have let her study the subject from perspectives not yet encountered, which should deliver valuable insight for shaping future long-term universal solutions in the area of research.

The subject of the doctoral thesis raises issues of economical and social outcomes of migration policy towards forced migrants, with emphasis on the importance of the incompatibility of the instruments of the migration policy with the problems of forced migration, with resulting labour market integration problems of people who resettled to Sweden as forced

migrants. With such formulated research problem, the main objective of the thesis is the identification of social-economic outcomes of Swedish migration policy towards forced migrants.

To achieve the main objective, the thesis aims to achieve a series of interim objectives of theoretical, empiric, and applicational character. The theoretical objective of the thesis is to find which role the migration policy plays in determining the levels of migration, with the main focus on forced migration. The empirical objective is to identify and evaluate the Swedish migration policy, with emphasis on its actions directed towards forced migrants, together with their economical and social or societal consequences. The application-oriented objective is to make recommendations on improvements within the field of Swedish migration policy.

The main hypothesis of this dissertation (H0) is the following: The reason for the low efficiency of Swedish migration policy is its incompatibility with the specifics of forced migration, which generates higher than anticipated economical costs as well as unforeseen social outcomes.

To verify the main hypothesis, the following interim hypotheses were addressed. H1: The outcome of the Swedish migration policy is labour market problems concerning the relatively low employment rate of forced migrants when compared to other migrants and the native population. H2: As a result of Swedish migration policy, forced migrants are overrepresented among beneficiaries of social welfare benefits as well as guaranteed benefits for people who reached the pension age. H3: The incompatibility of actions of the migration policy with the specifics of forced migration leads to an increase in undesired social phenomena.

The thesis has been written in a descriptive-analytical manner and consists of an introduction, six chapters, and a conclusion. In the introduction, the research area, the research problem, objectives, questions to be answered as well as research methods are outlined.

In the theoretical part of the dissertation, the nature, and types of migration as well as economical and social theories of migration are discussed. This part also includes a terminology in the field and shows complexity and research difficulties caused by the ambiguity of the definition of migration. Moreover, theoretical assumptions of evaluation and meta-evaluation are included together with the research area innovative tetraeder graph.

In the second and third chapters, the character of migration to Sweden has been addressed, together with the ethos of Swedish migration policy. A brief history of Swedish statehood concerning migrants is presented, all the way from the first migration provisions of the 15th century, through the social-democratic doctrine of *Folkhemmet* („people's home”), all the way to the late years of the 2010s. Foundations of the Swedish philosophy of multiculturalism and objectives of the migration policies are outlined as well. In this part of the dissertation, the

reader will also find characteristics of the forced migrants with respect to ethnicity and geographical distribution.

The fourth chapter focuses on the nature of the Swedish labour market, the migration policy assumptions within this field, and the meta-evaluation of the labour market policy instruments. The fifth chapter consists of the evaluation of the impact of Swedish migration policy on the public finances. In the sixth chapter, the social outcomes of Sweden's migration policy are presented. The chapter also presents Sweden together with the main countries of origin of the forced migrants on the Hofstede Insights cultural compass and describes the socioeconomic and ethnical segregation in Sweden, the so-called *socialt utsatta områden* (socially vulnerable neighborhoods), and crime.

The conducted research proves that the mismatch of the Swedish migration policy instruments with the specifics of forced migration generates higher than anticipated economical costs and unforeseen, undesired social costs. The results constitute positive verification of all interim hypotheses as well as the main hypothesis of the dissertation.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Magdalena Jönsson', with a stylized flourish at the end.

