

## Round Table - Migration and demography

*Chairman:*

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*Panellists:*

**Rickard SANDELL**, *Departamento de Ciencias Sociales, Universidad Carlos III de Madrid*

**Tamás MOLNÁR**, *Corvinus University of Budapest, Institute of International Studies*

**David COLEMAN**, *Oxford University*

**Dušan DRBOHLAV**, *Head of Geographic Migration Centre*

- majority of current migrants to Europe are illiterate and will have problems integrating
- 3/4 of migrants are young men while media focus on women and children, there is unknown number of children without parents
- fences are built to ensure official border crossings
- no word in media on Greece and hardly on human trafficking networks while the focus is on Hungary
- there is aggressive behaviour of migrants themselves including violence and sexual abuse against women in Germany
- EU vs Arab world have differences in living rich vs poor, and centre vs periphery results in unequal spatial distribution of power and wealth
- Africa will double twice in 35 years and African labour market will grow by 20 million per year and later even 40 million per year
- Europe has peaked and its labour market will shrink by 1 million per year
- psychologically most people in the world want to stay where they are and not migrate
- according to UN 2013 data when people do move but nearby, nor far away
- if migrant population over 5% of hosting population then they tend to form own social reality and do not mix with hosting population
- global population will start declining after 2050 and aging problem will not be only in rich countries and global race for talent and skills will increase, Asia will compete with Europe, receiving countries will get people ready to work while sending countries will get remittances e.g. Moldova
- it is important to create domestic alternatives for international migration
- migrants are agents of change in receiving countries, and it is important to explore the cycle of migration, how to attract them and address root causes at the same time
- main challenge how to include all policies in migrant management
- redefining population ageing based on education - an ambitious and optimistic model
- social integration lags behind economic integration
- large scale immigration and high fertility rate leads to ethnic replacement (replacement migration concept)
- shortage of workers may force employers to improve capital investment, pay higher wages, increase productivity, reduce inequality
- jobs at all levels now at risk from rapid improvements in automatisisation and artificial intelligence, future economies may need fewer people

- migrant influx is not a bonus, we cannot combat ageing of societies through international migrants, much discussion of population aging and responses needed is misguided
- need for humankind to cooperate - conflicts, ecological threats, crisis
- demographic development is importantly tied to social movement, migration is not about numbers
- difference between refugees (based on the definition of Geneva convention) and economic migrants as they are mixed up
- migrants go to countries where relatives and friends are
- asylum seekers and refugees are the most problematic and expensive migrant category to integrate into labour market and society in destination countries
- forced migrants who did not want to leave vs economic migrants but their forced vs voluntary movements is difficult to distinguish because it takes too long to check conditions in migrants' place of origin
- if a migrant is forced to leave then it mostly does not want to integrate
- natural concept of migrants is desire to stay with their ethnic compatriots
- mandatory relocation of migrants out of their natural centres of concentration does not work, after some time migrants move back closer to their compatriots (against the wind concept)