

Syllabus of Record

Program: CET Prague

Course Code / Title: (PR/ECON 330) Migration and Remittances: Global Principles and the EU

Total Hours: 45

Recommended Credits: 3

Primary Discipline / Suggested Cross Listings: Economics / International Business, Finance, Global Studies

Language of Instruction: English

Prerequisites/Requirements: Intermediate microeconomics, intermediate macroeconomics, and statistics

Description

The course focuses on current challenges in defining migration and remittances as well as in compiling and collecting reliable statistics. Economic analysis of migration is included to address the question of the impact of migration on the domestic labor market. Furthermore, sustainability and development aspects are discussed, both of which are strongly related to the concepts of migration and remittances. The course also emphasizes the specifics of the European Union (EU) area, both in terms of migration and remittances. From a methodological standpoint, students learn to look for primary data in databases (Eurostat, World Bank), to download the data, conduct data wrangling, and apply statistical analysis on their own datasets. Of particular focus is identifying data issues and interpreting the data which are especially relevant for migration and remittance statistics.

Objectives

By the end of this course, students will learn to:

- recognize and distinguish between formal definitions of migration and remittances
- describe and practically apply terminology relevant to the course topic
- interpret persistent issues linked to migration, such as conflict-driven and environmental migration
- analyze datasets related to migration, remittances, and the labor market
- compare the significance of dataset analysis
- prepare relevant statistics to assess policies that impact migration and remittances
- identify the risks of over-reliance on inward remittances
- understand the specifics of the EU in terms of migration and remittances

Course Requirements

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Active participation is essential in this course. Students are expected to attend each class and field study course component, as outlined in the CET Attendance Policy. Students are expected to read all assigned materials before the relevant class session and come prepared to participate thoughtfully in class discussions.

Graded assignments include:

- Individual assignments: Students will identify and analyze datasets relating to international migration, remittances, and the labor market. They will also compare the significance of this criteria and engage in a discussion of the findings.
- Group assignments: Students will work with peers to analyze and discuss various policies that impact migration issues and outcomes in the EU, including preparing relevant statistics in a comparative perspective.
- Term paper: Students write a 12-page term paper, which consists of a case study on the topic in a selected EU country.
- Mid-term exam: Content covers the material in the first part of the course.
- Final exam: Content covered is comprehensive from Parts 1 and 2 of the course.

Grading

Participation	10%
Individual assignments (2 @ 5% each)	10%
Group assignments (4 @ 2.5% each)	10%
Term paper	20%
Mid-term exam	20%
Final exam	30%

Readings

Bakker, Matt, 2015, Migrating into financial markets, how remittances became a development tool (book, selected chapters)

Borjas, J. George, 2003, "The Labor Demand Curve is Downward Sloping: Reexamining the Impact of Immigration on the Labor Market," Quarterly Journal of Economics, November 2003.

Buencamino, Leonides; Gorbunov, Sergei, 2002, Informal Money Transfer Systems: Opportunities and Challenges for Development Finance, UN DESA Discussion Paper Series, available at <https://www.un.org/esa/desa/papers/2002/esa02dp26.pdf>

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- Freund, Caroline; Spatafora, Nikola, 2008, Remittances, transaction costs, and informality. *Journal of Development Economics*, Volume 86, issue 2, pp. 356-366, DOI doi.org/10.1016/j.jdeveco.2007.09.002
- IDMC, 2021, Internal displacement in a changing climate, available at https://www.internal-displacement.org/sites/default/files/publications/documents/grid2021_idmc.pdf
- IMF Balance of Payments manuals (editions 5 and 6)
Edition 5: https://www.imf.org/-/media/Websites/IMF/imported-full-text-pdf/external/pubs/ft/bopman/_bopman.ashx
Edition 6: <https://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/bop/2007/pdf/bpm6.pdf>
- Kelman, Ilan; Orlowska, Justyna; Upadhyay, Himani; Stojanov, Robert; Webersik, Christian; Simonelli, Andrea C.; Procházka, David; Němec, Daniel, 2019, Does climate change influence people's migration decisions in Maldives? *Climatic Change*, issue 153, pp. 285–299, <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10584-019-02376-y>, available at <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10584-019-02376-y>
- Kakhkharov, Jakhongir; Akimov, Alexandr; Rohde, Nicholas, 2017, Transaction costs and recorded remittances in the post-Soviet economies: Evidence from a new dataset on bilateral flows, *Economic Modelling*, Volume 60, pp. 98-107, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.econmod.2016.09.011>.
- Leontiyeva, Yana; Tollarová, Blanka, 2010, Results from a Survey of Foreigners' Incomes, Expenditures and Remittances Main Findings Concerning Remittances, Institute of Sociology, Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic, available at <https://www.soc.cas.cz/publikace/results-survey-foreigners-incomes-expenditures-and-remittances-main-findings-concerning>
- Mijiyawa, Abdoul' Ganiou; Oloufade, Djoulassi K., 2023, Effect of Remittance Inflows on External Debt in Developing Countries, *Open Economies Review*, Volume 34, pp. 437–470, <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11079-022-09675-5>
- Orozco, Manuel, 2004, The Remittance Marketplace: Prices, Policy and Financial Institutions, Institute for the Study of International Migration Georgetown University Washington, DC, available at <https://www.pewresearch.org/hispanic/2004/06/07/the-remittance-marketplace-prices-policy-and-financial-institutions/>
- UN Handbook on Measuring International Migration through Population Censuses (2017) <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic-social/Standards-and-Methods/files/Handbooks/international-migration/2017-draft-E.pdf>
- UN Recommendations on Statistics of International Migration (1998, Revision 1) https://unstats.un.org/unsd/publication/seriesm/seriesm_58rev1e.pdf
- World Bank, 2002, An analysis of trends in costs of remittance services – Remittance prices worldwide quarterly, Issue 43, September 2022, available at <https://remittanceprices.worldbank.org/resources>

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Outline of Course Content

Part 1: Migration

Topic 1 - Introduction to migration and main historical trends of international migration

- Migration policies – general overview and the case of the EU countries
- Distinction between intra-EU migration and migration from non-EU countries
- The Schengen area

Topic 2 - Defining international migration and distinguishing between statistical definitions and policy/research-oriented definitions

- How international migration is defined for statistical purposes
- Alternative definitions of international migration of academic/policy interest
- The advantages and disadvantages of various data sources (population censuses, surveys, national registers etc.) for migration data

Topic 3 - Economic analysis of migration

- Basic model
- Model with skill groups
- Model with shift in demand for labor

Topic 4 - Migration and sustainability

- Brain drain
- Environmental migration
- Conflict-related migration
- Population ageing
- Migration

Topic 5 - Migration in Eastern and Central Europe

- Evolution after the fall of the Iron Curtain
- Reaction to the migration crises (2015-2016 and 2022-2023)

Part 2: Remittances

Topic 6 - Remittances in the Balance of Payments

- Evolution of definition of remittances in the IMF Balance of Payments (BoP) framework
- Persisting issues with the BoP definition

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- Recent changes in how remittances are defined
- Ongoing issues associated with the current definition

Topic 7 - The challenge of collecting and compiling data on remittances

- Remittance data sources and remittance channels, including remtechs
- Issues with bilateral remittance dataset published by the World Bank

Topic 8 - The most common methodology to collect remittance data – the case of the Czech Republic

- Context: The Czech Republic is presently engaged in the process of redesigning its data collection methodology. The readings will aid in comprehending the current data collection design, class discussion will help to identify primary issues, and endeavor to suggest improvements for the existing methodology.

Topic 9 - The cost of remitting

Topic 10 - Remittances and the development nexus

- The benefits and risks in recipient countries
- Remittance and development policies