

International migration in the context of financial and economic security: The role of public administration in the development of national economy, education, and human capital

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Abstract: The article outlines trends in today global migration and its consequences for economic growth and security. Both positive and negative sides of ongoing processes are analyzed, in particular the effect of remittances on the one side and money laundering and terrorism financing due to activities of criminal organizations involved in migrant smuggling on the other side. Accordingly, challenges and goals for national public administrations are indicted.

Keywords: *Economic security, Financial security, International migration, Remittance, Development, Terrorism, Money laundering.*

1. Introduction

Given the continuing refugee crisis in the Middle East, North Africa, Afghanistan, and Ukraine, international migration has become a critical problem for both source and receiving nations. Since the 1960s, the number of foreign migrants has tripled, making up more over 3% of the world's population (Hudson and Atak, 2023). The distribution of the locations where the majority of individuals who wish to travel overseas reside is concerning, according to a Gallup World Poll that was taken almost 10 years ago (2015) (see Figure 1).

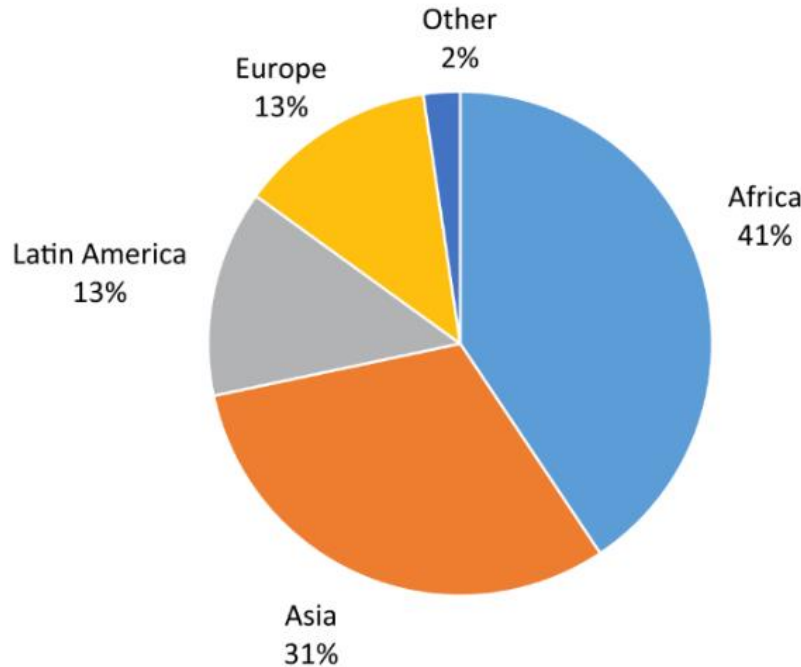


Figure 1.
In which regions live the most adults who want to migrate abroad? (in %), 2010-2015, Gallup World Poll, 2010-2015 (Gallagher and Carling, 2017).

The World Migration Report 2024 uses facts and analysis based on empirical evidence to help demystify the complexities of human migration. Knowledge of migration dynamics is crucial for wise decision-making and successful policy responses in an unpredictable environment. The World Migration Report contributes to this knowledge by illuminating both established trends and recently identified issues. The study shows that worldwide migration continues to be a major factor in economic growth and human development, as seen by the more than 650 percent rise in international remittances from USD 128 billion to USD 831 billion between 2000 and 2022. Many observers had predicted that COVID-19 would result in a significant decline in remittances; nonetheless, the rise persisted (*World Migration Report 2024 Reveals Latest Global Trends and Challenges in Human Mobility*, 2024).

The amount of 647 billion of the 831 billion remittances were sent to low- and middle-income nations by migrants. Globally, these remittances currently outpace foreign direct investment in those countries, and they can account for a sizeable amount of the GDPs of those nations (*World Migration Report 2024 Reveals Latest Global Trends and Challenges in Human Mobility*, 2024).

However, other academics (Mulska et al., 2023) contend that migration - whether intellectual, educational, labor-related, or stationary - exacerbates sociodemographic issues (such as settlement depopulation, declining labor force participation, capitalization of factors influencing human development, and middle-class extinction). Additionally, migration poses a threat to economic security by displacing human and intellectual capital, innovation, and technological resources.

Some believe that the number of migrants is outpacing governments' financial resources, making it difficult for them to absorb the newcomers. This leads to temporary tax burdens due to high social expenses and poor employment rates (Hudson and Atak, 2023). On the other hand, it is also possible to argue that by joining the labor force and bolstering the national coffers of nations capable of constructing capital infrastructure to handle the influx of workers, migrants may positively impact fiscal advantages (Steiner, 2023).

Additionally, there are serious risks that are more security-related. Particularly, the need for better possibilities and a higher standard of living, as well as escapes from political unrest, bloodshed, and war, contribute to the worldwide struggle that gives birth to migrant smuggling (Kryshchanovych et al., 2022). Smugglers capitalize on this desire by using migrants as a source of income; the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) estimates that this illicit activity makes over \$10 billion in profits annually. Citizens of Ukraine have been compelled to evacuate and seek safety in neighboring countries because to the devastating violence that has been occurring there more lately.

Even if the number of migrant smugglers has increased recently, the danger of money laundering and related prosecutions receives less attention than other financial crime types (Kussainov et al., 2023). This is brought on by a deficiency of resources and poor internal coordination. Securing witness testimony is frequently problematic, and migrants are reluctant to testify against traffickers. Because of the delicate nature of their circumstances, migrants depend on smugglers to help them to safety, but this exposes them to abuse and exploitation. This may also make it harder to distinguish between human trafficking and migrant smuggling (Ostapenko et al., 2023). As a result, there is a lack of coordination and communication between the government and the migrants, which allows money to continue flowing through criminal means.

When money is physically transported across jurisdictions or moved through money mules, it becomes difficult for authorities to conduct investigations (Skovronska et al., 2023). These payments are usually made in cash or through *hawala* transactions to avoid being noticed (Hawala is an unofficial way to transfer money without any actual money changing hands. A “money transfer without money movement” is how it is defined (*Hawala: The Bankers of Irregular Migration*, 2023); hawala money dealers play a crucial role as intermediaries between migrants and smugglers, enabling payments to be made without creating a trace that law enforcement and security could follow). Here, migrants travel to paid hawala offices and keep the money until the effectiveness of the smuggling is confirmed (Yermachenko et al., 2023). The money cannot be released to the smugglers until after that. Since social media and encryption services are often used for communication, it is more difficult to track down currency transactions (Proctor, 2022).

Furthermore, traffickers in migrants may partake in trade-based money laundering, whereby they use reputable businesses to hide and invest their illicit gains as legitimate income. Even seasoned money launderers might be hired by them as independent contractors (Monzini, 2016).

According to the FATF, there is evidence of terrorists getting money from smugglers along some of the well-known migratory routes, but there is not enough data to draw a definitive connection between migrant smuggling and terrorist funding. Furthermore, there is a chance that foreign terrorists would reintegrate into networks used to smuggle migrants and return to the nations they were previously forced to flee.

Terrorist groups may also be able to supplement their revenue through migrant smuggling. The FATF brought attention to terrorist organizations that were making money by smuggling migrants into Turkey and other nearby territories, including Syria and Iraq. The possibility of terrorist organizations abusing migratory movements has been brought up by the UN Security Council (Helbling and Meierrieks, 2020).

Therefore, the financial and economic effects of migration are intimately linked to the security effects, and the entire impact of migration generates an integrative environment that influences the affected nation-state’s national security profile and poses unique problems for public administration.

2. Literature Review

International migration has become more complex and has complex security implications for governments of sending, receiving, and transiting countries as well as for multilateral organizations. Since the early 1980s, it has transcended humanitarian, economic development, labor market, and societal integration concerns.

The research highlights the significance of international migration as a means of achieving material advancement for both people and their progeny (Cochrane, 2015). People moving across national boundaries, particularly from less developed to more developed nations, has a significant influence on many different levels (Shamne et al., 2019). First, it benefits the migrants directly by enabling them to earn more money in the destination nation due to their increased productivity. Additionally, it raises the anticipated income of their progeny. Second, it has an influence on labor markets, productivity, innovation, demographics, fiscal balance, and crime in the destination nation (Kalyayev et al., 2019). This is mostly because immigrants are distinct from indigenous as well as within their own group. Thirdly, it may significantly affect the nations of origin. Migration can result in a loss of human capital, which is exacerbated by the “chain” or “network effect” that leads to more migration in the future. However, migration also generates remittances and strengthens international ties through trade, foreign direct investment, and technology transfers (Afen-Okhai, 2023).

Transnational terrorism is seen as a result of migration, according to Helbling and Meierrieks (2020). These writers use a rational-choice model of terrorism to conceptually explore how migration may affect terrorism. This model serves as the theoretical foundation for several social science studies on terrorism (Gavkalova et al., 2022). To put it briefly, it makes the assumption that terrorists are logical individuals who balance the advantages of terrorism - such as attaining certain political objectives - against its disadvantages, including capture, and its opportunity costs, like the money lost by abstaining from nonviolence while committing acts of terrorism. When the rewards of terrorism outweigh the drawbacks, potential terrorists choose violence over non-violence.

According to Helbling and Meierrieks (2020), migration might have two effects on this terrorist calculation. First, it may lower the price of terrorism. For example, foreign terrorist groups can get terrorist operatives (such as “sleeper cells”) at a reduced cost by using the existing migratory networks and routes, increasing the likelihood that these operatives would carry out more terrorist acts in the future. Similarly, so-called diasporas - current immigrant populations in destination nations - may be a source of support for international terrorist groups. Diasporas may be thought of as social networks that give its members social linkages that foster reciprocal emotional and social support as well as the reinforcement of shared identities (Kubiniy et al., 2021). These pre-existing networks can be used by terrorist groups associated with these diasporas (for instance, as a result of a common religious or ethnic origin) for radicalization, recruiting, funding, intelligence collecting, and safe haven purposes. *Ceteris paribus*, this should reduce the operational expenses of terrorist groups and increase the likelihood of terrorism. Second, the migrants’ place of origin could also be significant (Kulikov et al., 2022). Migration out of nations experiencing war can have a significant role in the spread of terrorism. Given that terrorist groups and their members of the diaspora share a common national, ethnic, or religious background, migration flows from countries where terrorism is a problem contribute to the spread of terrorism in the host country by offering a complex web of previous, trustworthy relationships among the migrants that terrorist organizations can use for recruitment and radicalization.

3. Methods

The study was conducted in a structuralist-constructivist context. The methodological basis of the study is social construction, theoretical provisions of macroeconomic theory and global security issues, within the framework of the interpretive paradigm. Traditional research methods of scientific analysis were applied (movement from the general to the particular, from the abstract to the concrete, from the simple to the complex). Elements of the case study method and the comparative method were also used.

4. Results

When discussing the economic effects of migration, it is important to remember that, in 2022, about 3.5 million individuals entered the EU as refugees with valid asylum claims, according to official data. In addition, following Russia’s full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, some 4.2 million Ukrainians have been granted temporary asylum in EU member states (Rizvi, 2024). According to the

European Union Agency for Asylum, Syrians and Afghans maintained their annual record as the biggest categories of asylum-seekers in the bloc, with around 100,000 applications filed in 2023. According to data from the International Organization for Migration, 213,896 migrants arrived in Europe overall in 2022. There have also been reports of migrants seeking safety in Europe from a number of African nations, including Algeria and Libya (Rizvi, 2024).

It is interesting to note that several European nations are reviewing their immigration policies in light of political pressure and possible disputes with their own population, given the inflow of migrants that occurs every year (Arivazhagan et al., 2023). On the other hand, most European nations view immigrants as long-term contributors to the country's economic stability when it comes to boosting the production of fiscal domain. Specifically, analysts predict that Germany would require 1.5 million immigrants annually to sustain its labor force due to a shortage of trained workers (North, 2022).

While in other countries a paradigm change has happened in the past ten years regarding immigrants as assets to national labor markets and the welfare system, aiding economic growth, others still view immigration as a danger to social cohesiveness and national identity (Kondur et al. 2024). Incorporating migrants into industries including healthcare, construction, agriculture, and logistics can result in profitable output while lessening economic stress and hardship. In exchange for the benefits they get, immigrants may be able to pay taxes and contribute to public coffers.

Nonetheless, there are clear difficulties that must be disregarded. Government resources may be particularly strained by immigrant integration initiatives like cultural orientation and language instruction classes, as the host nation bears the initial financial burden (Nekhai et al., 2024). Furthermore, a strong demand for houses in the building industry due to increased migration may raise rents and property values. In addition to having an impact on the migrant's life, this cause and effect will seriously harm the locals.

Remittances, as Sohst (2024) accurately notes, are a lifeline for millions of migrants and their communities throughout the world, providing a crucial source of income and helping to meet basic necessities like housing, health care, and education. Fig. 2 below lists the top remittance recipients among low- and middle-income nations in 2022.

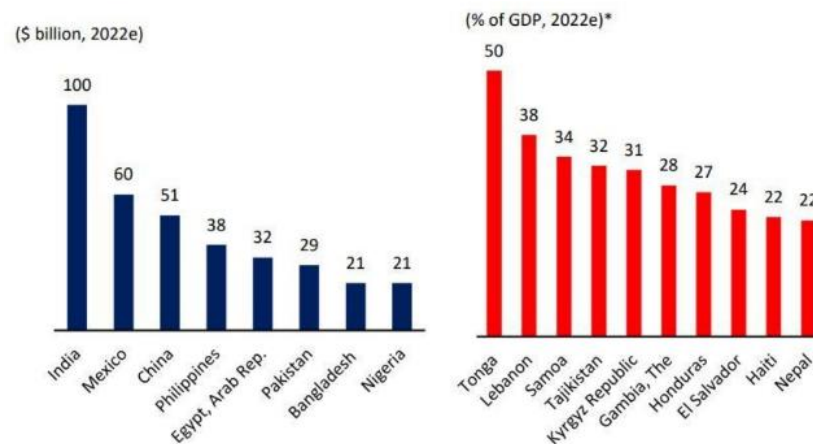


Figure 2. Top recipients of remittances among low- and middle-income countries in 2022 (Broom, 2023).

Remittances accounted up a significant portion of the gross domestic product of several low- and middle-income countries in 2023, with an estimated 860 billion USD being sent home by migrants, according to World Bank estimates. It should come as no surprise that remittances are acknowledged by sending and receiving nations as crucial instruments for promoting economic growth (Ortina et al., 2023). Sending remittances has always been too expensive, and the remittance business is too

restrictive, to realize the full potential of these private cash flows for development reasons (Popovych et al., 2023). Because remittance inflows constitute a vital source of foreign cash, particularly during times of crisis, governments in a number of low- and middle-income nations are becoming more receptive to innovation and experimenting with digital technologies (Tsybaliuk et al., 2023). As a result, government-backed digital currencies and other fintech alternatives are gaining popularity. Thus, migration abroad seems to be a source of financial innovations and the fintech industry's quick expansion.

Specifically, Nigeria receives significantly more remittances than any other country in sub-Saharan Africa; on average, almost one-third of all remittance inflows into the area are sent to Nigeria (Mishchuk et al., 2020). In 2023, it was projected that the nation will receive USD 20 billion in remittance inflows, which would significantly augment the total government budget and surpass official development funding (Zayats et al., 2024). Parallel to this, Nigeria has become the hub of Africa's fintech industry, driven by a youthful, tech-savvy populace, a government receptive to digital financial solutions, and a sizable unbanked population that offers a market for businesses looking to expand (Novak et al., 2022). The Central Bank of Nigeria declared in June 2023 that its digital currency, the eNaira, would become a payment option for incoming remittances in an effort to improve official remittance inflows and promote the adoption of digital solutions (Panasiuk et al., 2020). Furthermore, the government is investigating ways to link remittances to vital services by using the eNaira to provide welfare benefits to citizens (Sohst, 2024).

Furthermore, decisions about education and migration are in fact entwined in a variety of ways. Learning and developing new skills are crucial during several phases of a person's journey (Zilinska et al., 2022). Migration is primarily driven by differences in skill returns between the country of origin and the country of destination (Dustmann and Gritz, 2011).

In light of this, migration has the potential to significantly enhance both national and individual educational results (Saik et al., 2023). There are several ways in which decisions about education are influenced by migration, and migration has a wide range of effects on the education sector. Migration has the potential to alter the skill mix in both the destination and the source nations (Solomitsky et al., 2020). Remittances can ease financial restrictions in homes and enable them to fund their kids' education. However, decisions about emigration and return, remittance trends, and immigrant integration may also be influenced by educational programs. Key findings on the relationship between migration and education are displayed in Table 1 below.

Table 1.
Migration and education: Key findings (OECD, 2017).

What impact does migration have on education?	How do migration and education policy interact?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Human capital can suffer from highly educated individuals leaving the country, at least initially • Even though they only provide a small portion of the highly skilled return, they increase the human capital pool in the countries of origin • Households who receive remittances frequently make more educational investments and raise the demand for high-quality education • In certain instances, young people may be encouraged to drop out of school by low-skilled emigration • Compared to native-born children, immigrant children are less likely to attend school 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The majority of educational initiatives don't appear to have much of an effect on migration outcomes • When circumstances are met, cash-based educational initiatives help prevent emigration • Programs for conditional cash transfers are correlated with the likelihood of getting remittances, not with the quantity received • Increasing educational opportunities helps immigrants integrate and develop their human capital

Research indicates that there are several ways in which migration and remittances might impact schooling (Afen-Okhai, 2023). The primary pathways that result in consequences at the individual/household level as well as structural implications at the national level are:

- The quantity and makeup of human capital that is accessible in both the country of origin and the country of destination can be altered by immigration and emigration
- Return migration can help the nation of origin acquire new skills and knowledge
- If returns to education are greater or lower elsewhere, migration may have an incentive effect on education
- Remittances have the potential to reduce credit restrictions and increase educational spending
- The well-being of children and the makeup of households can be impacted by migration, which can lower the attendance of children who are left behind in school.

The dynamics of return migration, human capital accumulation, and wage assimilation were studied by Adda et al. (2021). Their research proposes and estimates a dynamic model to assess the factors influencing the progression of immigrants' careers in tandem with their aspirations to remigrate, where people differ in ability and site choice (Semenenko et al., 2020). The study reveals a new type of selective return migration in which immigrants who want to stay longer make more investments in developing their skill sets. This has significant ramifications for evaluating immigrants' career pathways and estimating their earnings profiles (Melyk et al., 2022). The analysis by these authors also explains why immigrants are prepared to take positions at pay that local find undesirable. Last but not least, the model offers crucial guidance for the creation of immigration policies by demonstrating how initial residency restrictions or residency requirements based on performance affect not only the selection of arrivals and departures but also the career profiles of immigrants by influencing human capital investment.

Additionally, Adda et al. (2021) significantly advance our knowledge of immigrant behavior in a number of ways. Their research offers a fresh take on the meaning of selective outmigration, arguing that individuals with longer-term plans tend to make more skill investments and hence follow more challenging career pathways (Borodina et al., 2022). Alongside selection based on unobserved productivity (also known as "ability selection"), which has been examined in previous research, this "behavioral selection" influences the makeup of the immigrant community and has the potential to reinforce or offset such ability-based selection (Lelyk et al., 2022). The authors find that ability selection is non-monotonic during the migration cycle, whereas behavioral selection produces a positive association between earnings increase and migration length (Litvinova et al., 2020). These results have significant ramifications for selection biases in the assessment of immigrant earnings profiles, which are used to assess immigrant contributions to the host nation and economic integration (Vinichuk et al., 2023). It draws attention to a type of selection that was previously underappreciated, in which immigrants with poor productivity who want to stay longer may engage in higher levels of human capital investment rather than leaving the nation, leading to negative selection.

Thus, in fact, the matrix of migration influence on financial, economic, and educational security is extremely multi-vector, volatile, and complex.

5. Discussion

Through its tools against money laundering and the funding of terrorism, the UN has a significant influence on the financial exclusion of migrants even as it promotes financial inclusion (Khomiuk et al., 2020). When it comes to implementing the right of access to a payment account for migrants, as recognized in Directive 2014/92, the European Union echoes this duality. Directive 2015/849 also requires banks to take steps to combat money laundering. This duality leads to discriminatory, disproportionate, and unjust policies and behaviors in the real world (Lange and Guild, 2021).

Many nations struggle to comprehend the hazards of money laundering and terrorism that come with transporting migrants (Klymenko et al., 2016). While some nations have access to case studies and

qualitative data, many nations were unable to offer comprehensive statistics on any part of their AML/CFT systems' performance in connection with migrant smuggling.

Despite an increase in migrant smuggling in recent years, there have been very few arrests of traffickers (Zalyubovskii et al., 2024). Few investigations or prosecutions are launched or brought to a conclusion with migrant smuggling since it is not regarded by many nations as a "high risk" crime for money laundering (Gupta et al., 2024). This is caused by a number of things, such as insufficient funding and attention to enable a "follow the money" strategy, as well as ineffective international collaboration.

In the meantime, social media and encrypted digital communication platforms have become increasingly popular among smugglers in recent years as a means of coordination and recruiting (Zharovska et al., 2023). This gives traffickers the chance to increase their productivity while also giving law enforcement the chance to identify and track smugglers' activities, including cash transfers (Becucci, 2024).

Additionally, it seems that professional laundering networks are increasingly being used by migrant smuggling gangs to handle their money laundering needs.

Everyone agrees that smuggling networks operate like a large number of flexible, smaller crime organizations or individual criminals that collaborate when needed, according to an "enterprise" model (FATF, 2022). In areas where anti-smuggling law enforcement tactics are very strong, more advanced networks conduct migrant smuggling (Bourbeau, 2017). With a few notable exceptions, migrant smuggling groups do not often engage in other significant international organized criminal operations on a regular basis (Kovaliv et al., 2023). However, members of highly skilled and frequently dishonest groups that stand to gain greatly from smuggling, extortion, and the exploitation of migrants may engage in migrant smuggling (Vorobei et al., 2021). All along the road, these organized entities may offer the complete spectrum of migrant smuggling services. As part of intricate fraud schemes, they arrange fictitious weddings, for instance, in order to get fake justification for unauthorized admission (Panasiuk et al., 2021). There have been instances where smugglers of migrants have used their position to perpetrate additional crimes that are closely connected to but not necessarily indicated by smuggling migrants, such as forgery and corruption of border authorities and other governmental institutions to aid in transit (Alagna, 2024).

Clearly, these actions jeopardize the impacted governments' financial and economic stability. Vital monies that are needed for social, health, and other development requirements are diverted by criminal financial firms and illegal financial flows (Gupta et al., 2021). In addition, nations of origin bear the negative consequences of illegal money transfers to overseas safe havens in the event of migrant smuggling (Arbunies, 2019).

People smuggling networks, like any other successful company in the world involving many types of collaboration and contact, offer a broad range of services and pricing to best meet the needs and financial capacities of its potential clientele (Isaieva et al., 2020). In actuality, these networks function as cartels with centralized planning and administrative structures. These networks require a highly structured financial branch to handle the massive sums of money involved in the process (Deyneha et al., 2016). This branch must be able to handle payments, launder money collected, and reinvest it in either legitimate or illicit operations.

There are estimates that the global migrant smuggling trade is worth about 4 billion euros annually. Frontex claims that the majority of these funds are utilized to support other illicit operations like drug trafficking or the purchase of firearms to increase the network's strength (Gaievska et al., 2023). However, a sizable sum of money is also laundered in order to be transported to tax havens or invested in lawful ventures. Illicit Financial Flows (IFFs), which we may describe as illicit movements of money or capital from one nation to another, or those in which the funds have been obtained, transferred, or utilized illegally, are the monies moved by these networks that carry out illegal operations (Avedyan et al., 2023). IFFs are thought to be extremely detrimental to emerging economies, such those in Africa, as they typically result in foreign financial aid departing the nation for tax havens rather than being used for the purposes for which it was intended (Alagna, 2024).

Smugglers have made over EUR 330 million from their illegal operations on the Western and Central Mediterranean migration routes in the last three years (2015-2018). Criminal networks that smuggled migrants into Italy by boat made around EUR 135 million in revenue in 2017 alone. In 2017, they charged EUR 1 300 per person, and in 2018, they charged EUR 1 800. Smuggling networks in Morocco made around 35 million euros in revenue in 2017 and 105 million euros in revenue in 2018.46 Smugglers charge between USD 5,000 and USD 20,000 per person in Syria and Iraq, depending on the technique, route, and specific destination country (UNODC, 2023).

Like all other OCGs worldwide, the most intricate networks feature what can be called accounting branches for the purpose of money laundering (Bazaluk et al., 2023). These accounting departments hunt for stable economies with dependable banking systems and lax anti-money laundering laws, and they try to conceal the money outside of their home nations in order to evade inspection (Byrkovych et al., 2023). They may spread the risk and diversify their investment portfolios there without running a serious danger of being discovered by Financial Intelligence Units (FIUs). OCGs aim to invest in goods that move very fast in the market, such food items, which makes it even more difficult to monitor the money.

The Pink Panthers are a group of criminals from Serbia that were created during the Yugoslavian conflict and are currently using money laundering as a strategy, only reinvesting their gains in the towns where they were originally from (Cherniaiev et al., 2024). This is an intriguing instance of money laundering in Europe. Local economies benefited greatly from these investments, which also assisted the nation in fending off the war's catastrophic effects (Shavarskyi et al., 2022). Similarly, IFFs started by people smugglers may benefit the receiving countries in part, but in practice, only a small portion of the network's income is reinvested in Africa, resulting in a significant financial loss to the continent as a whole in favor of tax havens and funding other illicit activities (d'Orsi, 2021).

In these circumstances, it is imperative that public administrations in all impacted nations effectively address international bribery, tax evasion, and the recovery of stolen assets in addition to money laundering (Gaman et al., 2022). This is a crucial step towards achieving the financial stability needed for long-term economic growth. Restitution of flight capital should also be given priority as it would contribute to more sustainable growth independent of outside borrowing and development funding.

6. Conclusions

The conducted research shows that the impact of international migration on national economies' financial and economic security has extremely diverse, mixed, ambiguous nature, closely intertwined with overall global landscape of security. It puts public administrations in the face of severe challenges, requiring attraction of expert knowledge in multidisciplinary fields, in order to assess the situation, take into account all the drivers and stakeholders' interests, make forecast from short-term to long term prospect and make optimal policy decision. Legal and illegal migration, while being in fact the elements of one system, yet represent different phenomena, with different causes and security consequences, which need to be addressed accordingly in differential ways but within a convergent approach, with possible profiling of migrant's categories based on the principle similar to McKinsey matrix, allowing taking into account all important factors and constituents, for development of appropriate differential policies.

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