

## Environmental aspects of circular migration study impact on “back up zones” development in the Russian Arctic macroregion

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### ABSTRACT

*This paper deals with circular migration processes peculiar traits analysis in the Russian Arctic Zone. It is highlighted that both negative migration saldo as well as circular migration are prevailing at the macroregion. Such results are proved with Rosstat data, All-Russian Census data as well as Arctic regions' migration offices reports. It became obvious that migrants from neighboring regions as well as Russian Southern regions are mostly coming to the Russian Arctic Zone, what is proving the fact of both interregional and circular migration. The article also provides highly detailed migration processes analysis, in particular, State Programme's target indicators on compatriots' resettlement are evaluated. Humanitarian migration from the Ukraine into Russian Arctic Zone is also presented. Some specific traits on circular migration within the Russian Arctic Zone are outlined.*

**Keywords:** Circular migration, Russian Arctic Zone, “back up zones”, human capital, conflict of interests, opportunities and threats

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**Computing Classification System:** I.4

**Journal of Economic Literature :** F22, F16

### 1. INTRODUCTION

Circular migration, on one hand, is economically beneficial since provides high production performance. At the same time, it results in conflict of interests, indigenous people personal and professional underdevelopment (limited abilities to build effective career path), doesn't provide both incentives and material resources for human capital development in the Arctic regions.

It is believed that the key approach to the Russian Arctic Zone development is presented with "back up zones" creation which are based on urban agglomerations with facilities. In this very context, Russian Arctic territories are unique and have rather huge potential - 92% of population live in the Arctic cities. It is planned to develop eight "back up zones" in the Russian Arctic macro region: Kolskaya, Arkhangelskaya, Nenetskaya, Vorkutinskaya, Yamalo-Nenetskaya, Norilskaya, Severo-Yakutskaya, Chukotskaya.

The aim of this article is circular migration analysis in the Russian Arctic zone that includes foreign, inter-regional, intra-regional migration flows analysis as well as migration saldo within the Arctic zone regions. A separate interest is presented with indigenous people migration as well as the issue of humanitarian migration from the Ukraine into Russian Arctic zone is being also outlined.

### 2. LITERATURE REVIEW

Russian Arctic zone occupies a quarter of the whole Russian territory with the population of 2.5 million people, including indigenous people (250 000). Russian Arctic zone embraces 8 regions - 4 Russian regions enter the Arctic zone fully (Nenetsky Autonomous Region, Murmanskaya oblast, Yamalo-Nenetsky Autonomous Region, Chukotsky Autonomous Region) and other 4 regions enter Russian Arctic Zone only partly (Arkhangelskaya oblast, Republic of Sakha (Yakutia), Vorkuta (Republic of Komi), Norilsk (Krasnoyarsky kray) (Gosudarstvennaja programma Rossijskoj Federacii "Social'no-jekonomicheskoe razvitie Arkticheskoy zony Rossijskoj Federacii na period do 2020 goda", 2014). There are 41 types of indigenous people living in the Arctic zone of the Russian Federation. The top-10 indigenous people are presented with Yakuts (478,085), Komis (228235), Nenets (44640) Evenkis (38396), Huntys (30943) Evenys (21830), Chukchi (15908) Shory (12888), Mansi (12269), Nanaisy (12003) (All-Russian census, 2010). Traditionally, the majority of indigenous people live a nomadic life, so there has always been a serious migration background in the Russian Arctic. Nowadays the State Duma Committee on Regional Policy, the High-North and the Far East is preparing a draft of the federal law "On state support of indigenous people of the High North, Siberia and the Far East living a nomadic way of life".

Nowadays circular migration is often considered as one of the most economical and efficient methods of providing with human resources geographically remote areas. Circular migration in terms of Russian reality implies "migrant's continuous engagement in both home and adopted regions; it usually involves both return and repetition" (Newland, et al. 2008). Circular migration is known as a form of inter-regional labour migration that amounts to 15-20% for Russian Arctic territories, while international labour migration amounts to 2-3% only. According to professor E.Cherepanov calculations from Russian economic University of Plekhanov, circular migration economic effect is 1.8 times higher than of reservoirs' traditional development and exploitation (Cherepanov, 2016).

"Back up zones" development will be based on urban settlements which are centres for circular migration in the Russian Arctic. Robert Orttung from George Washington University, USA is

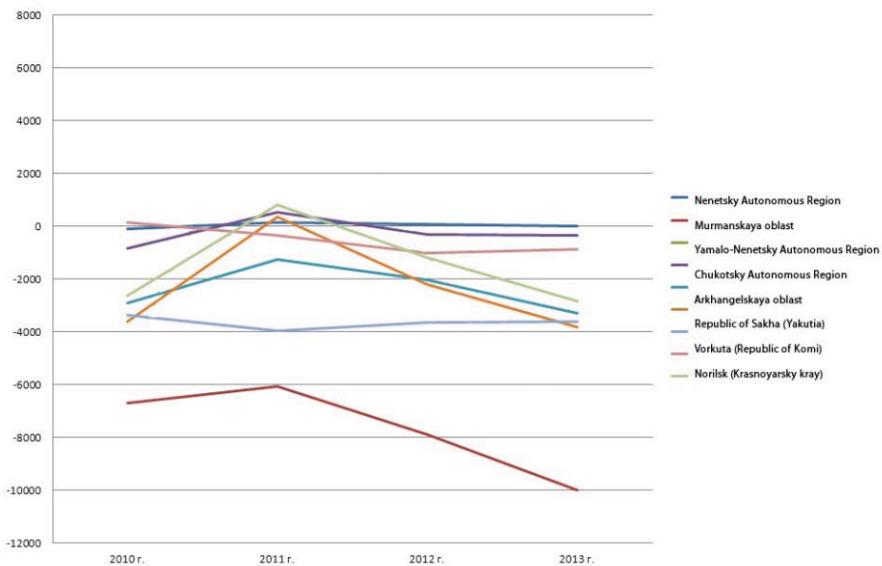
calculating Arctic Urban Sustainability Index for the entire Arctic region - Russia, US, Canada, Norway, etc. (Orttung, 2016).

In order to improve life standards, both living and working conditions in the Russian Arctic as it was highlighted in the Strategy on the Arctic Zone Development there should be developed a differentiated mechanism of migration regulation aimed at migrants' age, qualifications and skills (Strategy on the Arctic Zone Development, 2013).

### 3. KEY RESULTS

#### 3.1. Impact of circular migration for the development of the Russian Arctic Zone

Russian Arctic zone has a huge migration intensity. The Rosstat data for the period 2010-2013 shows rather negative migration saldo for all 8 regions of the Russian Arctic what is proved with a diagram (Figure 1) (State Statistics Committee data base, 2010-2013).



**Figure 1.** Migration saldo in the Russian Arctic Zone within Arctic regions in dynamics, 2010-2013

The high entrance rate and a negative migration balance are indicating that migration outflow exceeds migration inflow (Ushakov & Kozlova, 2016). The Figure 1 based upon Rosstat data shows that the most significant migration outflow is taking place in the Yamalo-Nenets Autonomous District, possessing huge oil reservoirs. Huge negative migration balance is also presented at the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia). Other regions of the Russian Federation are balancing near zero (Pitukhina, 2015). The Figure 1 is proving the fact that circular migration is dominating in the Arctic region.

Other data types- regional migration offices' reports and national census data (2010) help to outline top-5 donor states and top-5 donor regions for the Russian Arctic zone (All-Russian Census, 2010).

Table 1. Migration flow detalization in the Russian Arctic Zone

<b>Russian Arctic Zone</b>	<b>Top-5 donor states of foreign labour migration (Census data 2010)</b>	<b>Top-5 donor regions of inter-regional migration (Census data 2010)</b>	<b>Temporary asylum (regional migration offices' reports)</b>
Republic of Sakha (Yakutia)	<i>Ukraine</i> Kyrgyzstan Armenia Tajikistan Uzbekistan	Zabaykalsky kray Irkutskaya oblast Krasnoyarsky kray Novosibirskaya oblast Krasnodarsky kray	1189
Arkhangelskaya oblast	<i>Ukraine</i> Azerbaijan Uzbekistan Tajikistan	Kirovskaya oblast Sverdlovskaya oblast Yamalo-Nenetsky Autonomous Region Reoublic of Tatarstan Primorsky kray	1682
Norilsk	Tajikistan Uzbekistan China Kyrgyzstan <i>Ukraine</i>	Republic of Bashkortostan Krasnodarsky kray Republic of Dagestan Kemerovskaya oblast Altaysky kray	---
Vorkuta	Countries are not specified in the report	Kirovskaya oblast Republic of Bashkortostan Vologodskaya oblast Tulskaya oblast Nizhegorodskaya oblast	Countries are not specified in the report
Nentsky Autonomous Region	Uzbekistan Azerbaijan <i>Ukraine</i> Tajikistan Молдова	Arkhangelskaya oblast Republic of Komi Krasnodarsky kray Vologodskaya oblast Kirovskaya oblast	0
Chukotsky Autonomous Region	Countries are not specified in the report	Arkhangelskaya oblast Magadanskaya oblast Khabarovskiy kray Primorsky kray Krasnodarsky kray	0
Yamalo-Nenetsky Autonomous Region	<i>Ukraine</i> Uzbekistan Tajikistan Kyrgyzstan Belorussia	Tumenskaya oblast Republic of Bashkortostan Sverdlovskaya oblast Krasnoyarsky kray	2412

Murmanskaya oblast	Ukraine Armenia Kazakhstan Kyrgyzstan Uzbekistan	Vologodskaya oblast Republic of Karelia Krasnodarsky kray Leningradskaya oblast St.Petersburg	3375
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Source: (All Russian Census, 2010, //http://www.gks.ru/free\_doc/new\_site/perepis2010/croc/perepis\_itogi1612.htm and 8 regional migration offices' reports)

The following conclusions can be outlined from the Table 1:

1. Internal labour migration, including both intra-regional and inter-regional migration, highly predominates over foreign labour migration (proved with migration registration data of Russian citizens and foreign nationals coming to the Russian Arctic).
2. Foreign labour migration is mainly oriented at the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia) and Yamalo-Nenetsky Autonomous District, the volume of such migration is several times higher than the volume of foreign labour migration into other Russian Arctic regions (proved with a number of patents and work permits issued by regional migration offices).
3. The Ukraine is leading the top-5 donor countries in terms of migration resources for the Russian Arctic. Exceptions are presented with 2 regions - Chukotka and Nenetsky Autonomous District (due to data absence on migrants origins' in regional migration offices reports);
4. Circular migration is prevailing in the Russian Arctic zone (proved with a number of patents and work permits issued by regional migration offices for only 1 or 3 months as well as by high migration intensity).

### 3.2. Determination of the levels of factors combinations leading to a null predictive value

It should be noted that within the research it was revealed, as follows:

1. Vorkuta city is the centre for qualified foreign migrants' attraction in the Russian Arctic zone since according to the regional office report at the Republic of Komi the territory captures the largest concentration of foreign nationals (Statistics of the Federal Migration Service of the Republic of Komi, 2014). The report does not indicate a breakdown by country of foreign labour migration, however, the large influx of migrants and patents / work permits, respectively outlined.
2. Federal Migration Service of the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia) proposes to analyse the detailed breakdown of foreign labour migration flows in all 37 municipalities of the Republic (Analytical report of the Federal Migration Service of the Republic of Sakha, 2014).
3. The Federal Migration Service of Arkhangelskaya oblast presents its migration reports starting from 2010. Other regional migration offices of the Arctic Zone of the Russian Federation provide only their

last reports at the websites (Statistical Report on the activity of the Federal Migration Service of the Russian Federation in Arkhangelskaya oblast, 2014).

4. Murmanskaya oblast is a good example of how the information component of regional migration policy can be represented at the highest level. Information is presented in terms of both invalid patents and invalid temporary residence permits indicating migrants' name. A special focus is made upon cooperation with 23 national-cultural autonomies in the region representing labour migrants interests from all over the world. There was also developed a course on migrants' legal education titled "School of migrants" (Statistical Report on the activities of the Federal Migration Service in the Murmanskaya oblast, 2014).

5. Yamalo-Nenetsky Autonomous District attracts the largest number of foreign labour migrants from all over the world. Thus, according to the report of regional migration service, the largest number of work permits were issued to citizens of Serbia - 55.7%, Bulgaria - 18.3%, and Turkey - 17.5% (Information on migration situation in Yamal-Nenetsky Autonomous District, 2014). It should be also noted that the majority of migrants are involved in construction as a type of economic activity.

6. In Nenetsky Autonomous District there has been a stable dynamic for underutilization of migration quota for all qualification groups. Thus, the migration outflow greatly exceeds the migrant inflow in the region (Report of regional migration service of Nenetsky Autonomous District, 2013).

7. In migration report of Chukotksky Autonomous District (Chukotka) it is outlined that the largest migration influx comes mostly from Russian neighbouring regions (see the Table 1). Moreover, it is emphasized that patents and work permits are mainly issued for the period of 1 or 3 months, which confirms the findings of the authors of the article on the advantage of circular migration in the Russian Arctic. Foreign labour migration in the region is not found (Report of regional migration service of Chukotka, 2014).

8. Regional report of migration service of Krasnoyarsky kray, unfortunately, doesn't provide origins of foreign labour migration inflow into the region. Obviously, the region attracts the greatest migration flows because of its industrial nature. Among all Russian Arctic regions (Norilsk) takes the greatest part in the State programme on compatriots' living abroad voluntary resettlement.

#### **4. CONCLUSION**

- In the Russian Arctic zone both negative migration and circular migration are prevailing. The most typical migration flows in the Russian Arctic are inter-regional migration flows, rather than foreign labour migration flows.
- For each of the 8 Russian Arctic regions there were identified special migration features (the highest circular migration rate in Yamalo-Nentsky Autonomous District, high detalization of migration flows within municipalities in the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia), transparent information and friendly-oriented system for migrants in Murmanskaya oblast, highly skilled migration attraction

to the Komi Republic, etc.). Understanding these features helps to adjust migration flows in the Russian Arctic that would definitely have a positive impact on decision-making.

- Indigenous people in the Russian Arctic (about 250 000 people) has always been nomadic, and nowadays they still significantly influence the migration background in the macroregion;
- Almost all regions of the Russian Arctic area are experiencing a large influx of migration from the Ukraine.

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