Dve
domovini

Two
homelands

CURRENT MIGRATION TRENDS AND SOCIOECONOMIC CHALLENGES IN CENTRAL ASIA: A FOCUS ON 2021–2024

Ainura ASKAROVA,[I] Darygul ZHOLBOLDUEVA,[II] Chynygul OROZOVA,[III]
Gulbara ZHAMASHEVA, [IV] Gulchehra ABDYRAKHMANOVA[V]

ABSTRACT
**Current Migration Trends and Socioeconomic Challenges in Central Asia:
A Focus on 2021–2024**
This study aims to examine migration dynamics and the socioeconomic factors influencing migration in Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, and Uzbekistan. In Kyrgyzstan, internal migration from rural areas to cities is prevalent, while in Kazakhstan, the ongoing war has led to an increase in Russian migrants. Uzbekistan, on the other hand, has experienced a decline in external labor migration in recent years. The research analyzes migration policies, including Kyrgyzstan's 2021–2030 migration policy concept, Kazakhstan's 2023–2027 migration policy concept, and Uzbekistan's 2030 strategy. The study recommends improving socioeconomic conditions, enhancing infrastructure, and reducing bureaucratic barriers to address migration challenges and human trafficking risks.
KEYWORDS: labor migration, internal mobility, migration policy, labor markets, social protection

IZVLEČEK
Migracijski trendi in družbeno-ekonomski izzivi v Srednji Aziji v obdobju 2021–2024
Avtorice v študiji preučujejo dinamiko migracij in družbeno-ekonomske dejavnike, ki vplivajo na migracije v Kirgizistanu, Kazahstanu in Uzbekistanu. V Kirgizistanu prevladujejo notranje migracije s podeželja v mesta, medtem ko se v Kazahstanu

---

[I]   PhD in economics; Jalal-Abad State University named after B. Osmonov, Department of Economics, Accounting and Finance, Jalal-Abad, Kyrgyz Republic; askarovaainura32@gmail.com; ORCID https://orcid.org/0009-0008-1688-8071

[II]   PhD in economics; Jalal-Abad State University named after B. Osmonov, Department of Economics, Accounting and Finance, Jalal-Abad, Kyrgyz Republic; d.zholboldueva@outlook.com; ORCID https://orcid.org/0009-0004-9663-133X

[III] MSc in economics; Jalal-Abad State University named after B. Osmonov, Department of Economics, Accounting and Finance, Jalal-Abad, Kyrgyz Republic; c-orozova@outlook.com; ORCID https://orcid.org/0009-0000-6201-2494

[IV]   PhD in economics; Jalal-Abad State University named after B. Osmonov, Department of Economics, Accounting and Finance, Jalal-Abad, Kyrgyz Republic; g_zhamasheva@hotmail.com; ORCID https://orcid.org/0009-0006-7074-2378

[V]   PhD in economics; Jalal-Abad State University named after B. Osmonov, Department of Economics, Accounting and Finance, Jalal-Abad, Kyrgyz Republic; dbdyrakhmanovagul@hotmail.com; ORCID https://orcid.org/0009-0005-9116-6173

soočajo s priseljevanjem Rusov kot posledico trenutne vojne. Na drugi strani je v Uzbekistanu v zadnjih letih prišlo do upada delovnih migracij v tujino. Avtorice analizirajo migracijske politike, vključno z migracijsko politiko Kirgizistana za obdobje 2021–2030, kazahstansko migracijsko politiko za obdobje 2023–2027 ter uzbekistansko strategijo do leta 2030, pri čemer za spopadanje z migracijskimi izzivi in tveganji trgovine z ljudmi priporočajo izboljšanje družbeno-ekonomskih razmer, okrepitev infrastrukture ter zmanjšanje birokratskih ovir.

KLJUČNE BESEDE: delovne migracije, notranja mobilnost, migracijska politika, trgi dela, socialna zaščita

INTRODUCTION

Population migration is one of the world's most significant socioeconomic issues, affecting both migrants' home countries and destination countries. As globalization and political instability in many places deteriorate, migration dynamics are growing, becoming more unstable and complex. The Syrian civil war and Russia's full-scale war against Ukraine have pushed millions of people to flee to safer countries, making this topic relevant.

The research topic is relevant because of global crises such as climate change, armed conflicts, rising terrorism, economic inequality, and other social difficulties. These factors drive migration. Migration increases with government international and local policy changes and global tensions. Migration impacts individuals, communities, the economy, and society. High-outmigration economies suffer demographic losses, labor-market imbalances, and dependence on the social safety net. Governments that admit migrants face other challenges, such as integrating large, culturally diverse populations, maintaining employment competitiveness, and addressing social disputes. However, migration can also bring benefits, including attracting qualified workers, fostering social connections, and promoting cultural diversity.

As migration grows, international and national laws and policies on migrants change. Governments must balance rights and security amid current threats. Understanding and enhancing migration management systems for national objectives requires studying migration dynamics. Central Asian migration also exhibits distinct characteristics. Since the breakup of the USSR, socioeconomic situations of the five republics have changed, affecting migration within and outside the region. Economic disparity and political instability in the region's governments drive some to seek refuge in China or the EU.

Adamson & Tsourapas (2020) introduced the "migration state," a crucial paradigm for studying migration policies. How countries restrict migration affects their political, economic, and social systems. Several models can examine the "migration state" according to the authors. The neoliberal model shows how governments use migrant labor to boost economic growth. However, the development model highlights the role of emigration in economic growth, particularly through remittances

and the transfer of human capital. These models, based on the "migration state," offer unique insights into the use of migration for national development. Researchers Kaczan & Orgill-Meyer (2020) wrote about how climate change intensifies migration processes. In particular, their empirical research showed that migration levels vary with the severity of climate events, the ability of individual families to migrate, and other factors. However, the authors Niva et al. (2023) came to slightly different conclusions than Kaczan & Orgill-Meyer (2020). In particular, they noted that socioeconomic factors are more closely related to migration processes than climatic factors.

In addition, Della Puppa et al. (2021) conducted a thorough evaluation of empirical migration studies, revealing the varied motivations of movement across contexts. Their findings demonstrate the complexity of migratory dynamics and the influence of individual and institutional factors. This provides a framework for understanding Central Asian migration trends and compares them with those of Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, and Uzbekistan. Vollset et al. (2020) predicted future population, fertility, and migration and noted that liberal immigration and social programs will help some nations retain their populations despite the general fall. Cantat et al. (2023) found that political, economic, and environmental crises generally boost migration as individuals seek safety, stability, and better chances. Their work is crucial to understanding regional migration trends, especially given Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine and other regional challenges.

Rakhimov & Yokubov (2022) studied migration trends in Uzbekistan, focusing on labor and educational migration to Russia, South Korea, and Turkey. High population growth, insufficient labor demand, visa-free travel, and greater wages abroad drive migration, according to the authors. Akmatova (2020) discussed how both internal and external migration hinder Kyrgyz nation-building. The breakdown of the socialist economy and the privatization of most enterprises and facilities caused a labor vacuum, forcing the adult population to work overseas. Due to this, many youngsters were neglected, did not read, and became street kids. According to Usenova (2020), Kyrgyzstan established the Ministry of Labor, Youth, and Migration in 2010 to prevent youth from leaving the country. Migration is also threatened by climate change. This was covered by McMichael et al. (2020). In particular, sea-level rise and the acceleration of migratory processes were linked, and Hauer et al. (2024) stated that climate migrants might increase migration by tenfold.

Based on the above, this study aimed to examine the migration indicators in the Central Asian region and identify socioeconomic incentives to address migration. The objectives of the study were to examine migration challenges and related decisions taken by the governments of Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, and Uzbekistan.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Content analysis was used to study legislative documents, reports, and mass media. This method allowed a thorough analysis of how migration policies are articulated in public discourse and how they affect migration attitudes. Content analysis also revealed socio-political themes and challenges associated with migration in the region. Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, and Uzbekistan's migration policies were compared using comparative analysis. This comparison examined labor migration laws, internal migration controls, migrant rights, and socioeconomic integration. The cross-country comparisons revealed similarities and differences in policy frameworks, revealing their effectiveness and impact on migration management.

Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, and Uzbekistan were chosen for this study because of their importance in Central Asian migration. Migration trends differ among the three countries due to socioeconomic, political, and demographic reasons. Kyrgyzstan has significant internal migration, mainly from rural to urban areas, while Kazakhstan has a large geopolitical influx of migrants, mostly from Russia. Uzbekistan has seen a decline in international labor migration, in contrast to regional migration trends. These countries enable a comprehensive investigation of internal and external migration patterns and reveal the different effects of Central Asia's migration policies.

For data processing, descriptive statistics were used to detect migration trends, including internal and international migration patterns, migration destinations, and migrant demographics. The study's conclusions relied on this statistical analysis of migration's breadth and magnitude. The qualitative content analysis data were coded to identify migration problems, public attitudes, and government reactions. Coding revealed each country's social and political context and the efficacy of its migration policy. Integrating qualitative and quantitative methodologies enabled a comprehensive investigation of migration across the three nations and yielded conclusions and recommendations.

In the study, we analyzed regional office publications by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) (2019; 2024; McAuliffe & Oucho, 2024). We also reviewed national legislation, statistical publications, and selected media reporting to contextualize policy measures and public discourse.

For Kyrgyzstan, we reviewed Law No. 61 "On Foreign Migration" (Ministry of Justice of the Kyrgyz Republic, 2023), Law No. 133 "On Internal Migration" (Ministry of Justice of the Kyrgyz Republic, 2024a), and Decision of the Cabinet of Ministers No. 191-r (Ministry of Justice of the Kyrgyz Republic, 2022). We used population data from statistical publications of the National Statistical Committee of the Kyrgyz Republic (2023a; 2023b; 2024). We also reviewed legislative changes affecting entry and stay in Kyrgyzstan in Decision of the Cabinet of Ministers No. 437 "On Issues of Stay of Foreign Citizens and Stateless Persons on the Territory of the Kyrgyz Republic" (Ministry of Justice of the Kyrgyz Republic, 2024b). To better understand public discourse on immigration issues in the country, we analyzed media coverage from

Radio Azattyk (Aibashov, 2024; Radio Azattyk, 2024; Rickelton, 2024) and Deutsche Welle (Hwang, 2024). We also used data on average monthly salaries from the National Statistical Committee of the Kyrgyz Republic (2023a).

For Kazakhstan, we reviewed the Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan No. 477-IV "On Migration" (Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Kazakhstan, 2012) and the Resolution of the Government of Kazakhstan No. 961 "On Approval of the Concept of Migration Policy of the Republic of Kazakhstan for 2023–2027 years" (Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan, 2022). We used population-movement data from the Bureau of National Statistics' Agency for Strategic Planning and Reforms of Kazakhstan (Bureau of National Statistics, 2023; 2024a; 2024b). We also reviewed an Asia-Plus media report (Asia-Plus, 2022). We examined legal and regulatory reforms (Committee of Migration Service, 2023) and policy measures implemented in Resolution No. 82 "On signing the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Government of the State of Qatar on regulation of employment of workers from the Republic of Kazakhstan in the State of Qatar" (Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan, 2024) and the Ata Zholy card (Ministry of Labor and Social Protection of Population of the Republic of Kazakhstan, 2022). We used data from an international survey of Kazakhstani migrant workers conducted by the International Organization for Migration (2024).

For Uzbekistan, we consulted the Prague Process (2024) website, Kursiv's recent migration figures, and a study of migration indicators conducted by the Statistics Agency under the President of Uzbekistan (2024). We examined other migratory issues in publications from the Development Strategy Center (2023) and used data from the Global Organized Crime Index (Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime, 2023). We also examined policy measures in the Decree of the President of Uzbekistan No. UP-158 "On the Strategy 'Uzbekistan – 2030'" (President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, 2023). We consulted the *Xorijda ish* web portal on working abroad, as well as the official statistics sources of relevant bodies, including data on average monthly salaries (National Statistics Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan, 2024).

RESULTS

A statistical study by the International Organization for Migration (2019) on the situation in Kyrgyzstan found that internal migrants account for almost 20% of the country's population. At the same time, internal migration in Kyrgyzstan remains insufficiently regulated by the government. Internal migrants primarily move from rural areas to the country's northern regions, especially to the Chuy region and its capital, Bishkek (Figure 1).
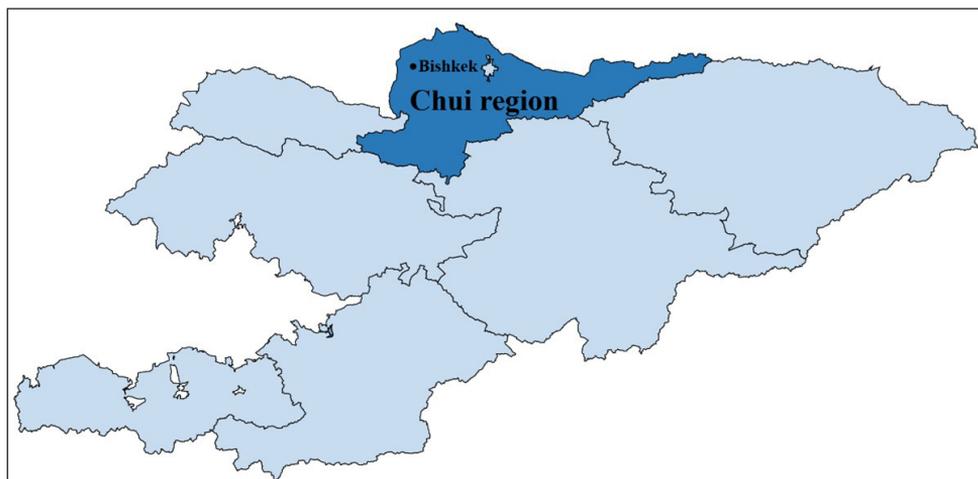
Figure 1: Location of the regions studied on the map of Kyrgyzstan. Source: compiled by the authors.

Kyrgyz Republic Law No. 133 "On Internal Migration" (Ministry of Justice of the Kyrgyz Republic, 2024a) governs internal migration. It defines internal migration, internal migrant, forced migration, and environmental migrant. This law also covers internal migration regulation, protection against involuntary displacement, and support for internal migrants. Law No. 61 of the Kyrgyz Republic "On Foreign Migration" (Ministry of Justice of the Kyrgyz Republic, 2023) governs the rights and responsibilities of Kyrgyz nationals regarding external migration. In 2024, the National Statistical Committee of the Kyrgyz Republic reported 625,918 internal migrants. These include 235,216 men and 390,702 women. Bishkek and Chuy are popular destinations for internal migration. The International Organization for Migration (2019) showed Bishkek and Chuy as destinations, suggesting minimal change in internal migratory geography. The latest Kyrgyzstani committee statistics show 132,556 residents relocated to Bishkek and 176,828 to Chuy (Figure 2).

In Issyk-Kul, Jalal-Abad, and a number of other regions, nearly half of the population relocated only within the same region. The population of the Batken region also moved partly to the Chuy region and Bishkek, 33% of the population of the Naryn region also migrated to the Chuy region, and 27% to Bishkek. Given that the population of Kyrgyzstan, according to the National Statistical Committee of the Kyrgyz Republic (2023b), was 7,037,590 as of 2023, the number of internal migrants accounted for almost 9% of the country's total population.
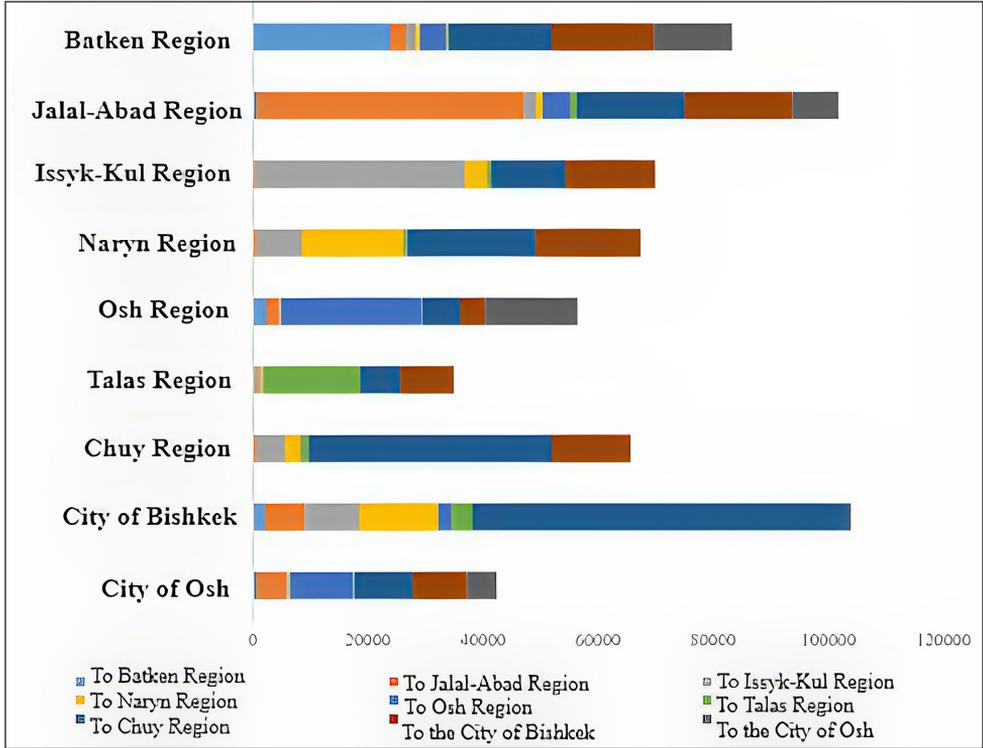
Figure 2: Internal migration of population by place of departure. Source: National Statistical Committee of the Kyrgyz Republic, 2024.

The solution to the migration problem was outlined in Resolution of the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic No. 191 "On Approval of the Concept of Migration Policy of the Kyrgyz Republic for 2021–2030 years" (Government of the Kyrgyz Republic, 2021). The Concept aims to normalize migration processes, in particular by mitigating and minimizing the factors that drive and accompany migration, while accounting for socioeconomic challenges. The goal's realization involves four stages. The first is to improve the country's educational, working, professional, and cultural potential.

This requires modernizing higher and specialized secondary education to meet labor market needs, creating quality jobs (including for people with disabilities) and decent wages, and informing citizens about domestic labor market vacancies, especially for women and youth. The first stage minimizes risks of climate change and natural resource degradation and forecasts potential dangers. The education system should also help foster a comprehensive understanding of these challenges and build a set of ideas and interests that align with the realization of chances for all young people in the country. The second stage focuses on using the country's migration potential for state development. This includes extending pension-system

coverage to citizens who work abroad, supporting the reintegration of migrants—especially those who had a difficult migration experience—and helping migrants plan their return to Kyrgyzstan. It also involves providing job information for citizens, stateless people, and foreign nationals.

The third paragraph discusses the framework for safeguarding the rights of Kyrgyz people working abroad and immigrants in Kyrgyzstan. Increasing state-to-state employment programs, including those with private organizations, is proposed. Increasing migrant legal literacy, Kyrgyz consular protection, and non-discriminatory access to social resources for immigrants and their families. Fourth, create a safe migration environment. Human trafficking, a major issue in Central Asia, must be eliminated. Adapting the population to climate change, preventing violent extremism and religious radicalization, improving the migration control system and legislative framework, using predictive and analytical approaches to study migration, and introducing an effective migration data recording system are also part of it. The foregoing efforts will be implemented in two phases: 2021–2025 and 2026–2030 (Ministry of Justice of the Kyrgyz Republic, 2022).

For example, one of the most recent decisions as of October 2024 was the Decision of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Kyrgyz Republic No. 437 "On Issues of Stay of Foreign Citizens and Stateless Persons on the Territory of the Kyrgyz Republic" (Ministry of Justice of the Kyrgyz Republic, 2024b). According to the Decision, changes were made to the registration procedure for citizens of several countries, namely Russia, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Armenia, Belarus, Georgia, Azerbaijan, and Moldova. The changes are that citizens of the above countries can now extend their registration only with a residence permit, a stateless person's certificate, a "Kayrylman" certificate, or by using a "Meken card." The "Kayrylman" certificate is issued to individuals of Kyrgyz ethnic origin who have lived abroad and wish to return to Kyrgyzstan. This certificate grants the holder the right to reside and work in Kyrgyzstan, facilitating their repatriation and reintegration into the country. The "Meken card" is a special identification card provided to Kyrgyz citizens living abroad. It serves as a tool for strengthening ties with the diaspora, offering access to social services, healthcare, employment, and legal assistance.

Azimbaev, an international lawyer, explained that the main change in the order of document submission was the obligation to provide a certificate or another document confirming the existence of a legal source of income (Hwang, 2024). The new rules for registering foreign nationals are aimed at streamlining migration rather than tightening the legislation. This is because the Kyrgyz authorities seem to want to create a barrier to better control over migration processes. Azimbaev also noted that such a decision is related to the intentions of the Kyrgyz government to increase the amount of tax revenues, as in highly developed countries, foreign citizens have long been not just staying on the territory of other countries, but also paying taxes, conducting legitimate business activities, and simply not being "in the shadows."

While there is a labor shortage in Kyrgyzstan, where high qualifications are not always required, especially in the construction and garment industries, the government continues to take action to attract foreign labor. This is primarily manifested in the increase in quotas for foreign workers (Figure 3).
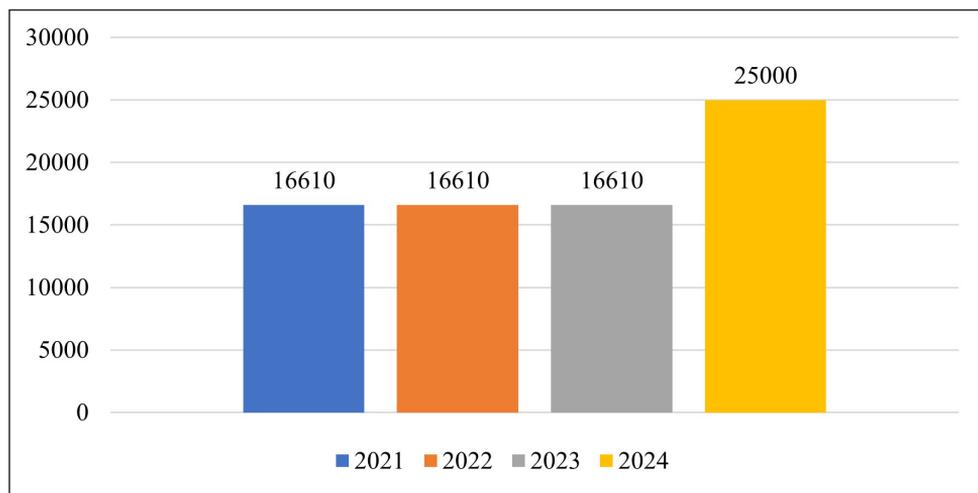

Figure 3: Changes in quotas for foreign labor in Kyrgyzstan. Source: compiled by the authors based on Aibashov (2024).

In Kyrgyzstan, however, there was resentment among the local population due to the large number of foreign nationals in the country. The outbreak of violence in Bishkek in May 2024 (Radio Azattyk, 2024) directed at international students and migrants may be a consequence of all of the above, along with corruption and insufficient regulation of the labor market. In this regard, the government officials' response remains unclear. In particular, the head of Kyrgyzstan's National Security Committee, Tashiev, stated that the measures taken against foreigners are partly correct (Rickelton, 2024). However, the very decisions at the government level have led to many foreign workers living and working in the country.

One of the main legal acts regulating social relations in the sphere of population migration and establishing the legal and socioeconomic basis of migration processes in Kazakhstan is the Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan No. 477-IV "On Migration" (Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Kazakhstan, 2012). In addition to similar provisions in Kyrgyzstan's legislation, this law also defines the term *kandas* as an ethnic Kazakh who has not previously been a citizen of the Republic of Kazakhstan. The bulk of people with whom migration exchange takes place in Kazakhstan are from the Commonwealth of Independent States. Among them, the share of arrivals is 78.2%, and the share of departures is 77% (Figure 4).
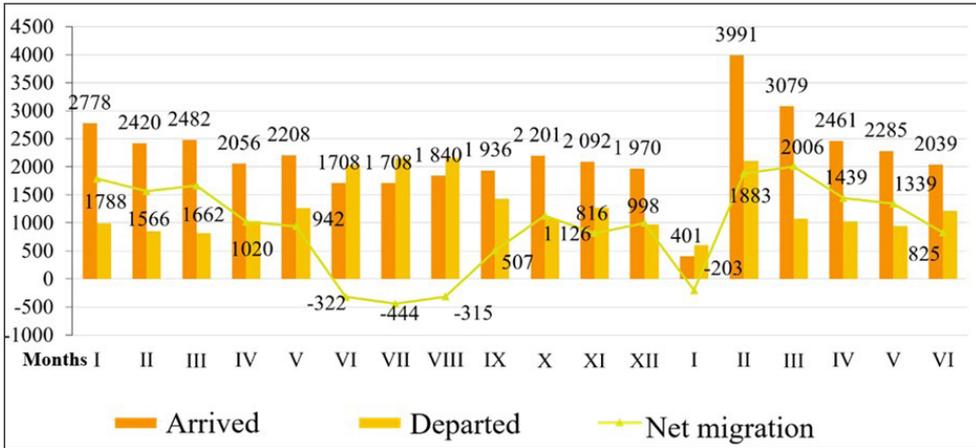
Figure 4: Population migration in Kazakhstan (2015–2024). Source: Bureau of National Statistics, 2024b.

The quantitative composition of migration by ethnic group has remained unchanged for at least the last few years. In 2022, over 40% of those arriving in the country were Kazakhs, and another 25% were Russians. Those who left the country in the same period were predominantly Russian at 66.4%. In 2023, similarly, more than two-thirds of arrivals in Kazakhstan were Kazakh and Russian, and departures were more than two-thirds Russian. Data for the partial period of 2024 confirm the trends of recent years: slightly more than 70% of arrivals were Kazakhs and Russians, and more than two-thirds of departures were Russians.

Russian migration to Central Asian countries is due to the current geopolitical scenario and the start of the full-scale war against Ukraine. According to the International Organization for Migration (McAuliffe & Oucho, 2024), the 2022 draft related to the invasion of Ukraine caused a historic Russian exodus to Central Asia. As of October 2022, over 200,000 Russians have entered Kazakhstan (Asia-Plus, 2022). The countries have a lengthy border and many checkpoints. In early 2023, Kazakhstan changed its immigrant entry and stay laws (Committee of Migration Service, 2023). Under the revised rules, visitors without visas may stay for 30 days. The total stay should not exceed 90 days in 180 days. Previous versions of the laws did not address this issue; upon leaving Kazakhstan at the conclusion of their stay, visitors could return and renew their stay (Ilyassova et al., 2025). According to the Migration Service Committee of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Kazakhstan's website, this is frequent in international interactions. Kazakhs can stay in Georgia for 90 days in 180 days.

Migration concerns in Kazakhstan were addressed by the Resolution of the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan No. 961 "On Approval of the Concept of Migration Policy of the Republic of Kazakhstan for 2023–2027 years" in autumn 2022 (Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan, 2022). The Concept seeks to attract qualified workers to Kazakhstan, protect Kazakhstanis abroad, and reduce demographic

imbalances between regions, according to Minister of Labor and Social Protection of Population Duisenova (Ministry of Labor and Social Protection of Population of the Republic of Kazakhstan, 2022). The Concept highlighted spontaneous migration from rural to industrial, technologically advanced cities as a problem. Rural areas lack jobs, while cities struggle with housing, infrastructure, social services, and environmental safety. In the past decade, Kazakhstan's higher education enrollment has nearly halved. Young people aspire to study, travel, learn languages, and work abroad. More than 800,000 Russians may go to Kazakhstan if the situation worsens, according to the Concept. Thus, an IT specialist visa is suggested. Local entrepreneurs benefit from these people's considerable incomes, which they spend on rent, services, recreation, food, and other necessities.

The Resolution of the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan No. 961 "On Approval of the Concept of Migration Policy of the Republic of Kazakhstan for 2023–2027 years" (Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan, 2022) sets 26 proposals for implementation. They include labor mobility centers that will forecast short-, medium-, and long-term possibilities. Young specialists will receive bonuses on top of their pay to address rural staff shortages. In addition, a certificate will cover up to half the cost of new housing developments, whether purchased or built. Signing bilateral agreements to protect Kazakhstani workers overseas. Plans call for a ranking of valuable skills, an intelligent labor migrant registration system, repatriation insurance, Ata Zholy cards, and other alternatives.

As of autumn 2024, some initiatives are already underway. For instance, in February 2024, the Resolution of the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan No. 82 "On Signing the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Government of the State of Qatar on the Regulation of Employment of Workers from the Republic of Kazakhstan in the State of Qatar" (Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan, 2024) was published. The provisions of the Agreement regulate the procedures for arrival and departure from Qatar, the reimbursement of travel expenses, and the establishment of a Joint Committee to coordinate the Agreement's implementation. Additionally, since July 2023, the Ata Zholy card has been available. Its purpose is to strengthen ties with the historical homeland and attract professionals and business owners to Kazakhstan to realize their potential. Holders of the Ata Zholy card are entitled to social benefits and services in medical centers, employment opportunities in Kazakhstan, the ability to carry out entrepreneurial activities, and access to legal assistance (Ministry of Labor and Social Protection of Population of the Republic of Kazakhstan, 2023).

In 2024, the International Organization for Migration conducted interviews with individual migrant workers. 36% of respondents cited increased income as the key reason for labor migration to Kazakhstan. Geographic proximity was essential for 29% of migrants, and Kazakhstani friends for 24%. Also, 21% and 19% cited the presence of a migrant community from the country of origin, as well as language and cultural traits. Easy access to jobs, social protection, excellent treatment of migrants,

family ties in Kazakhstan, ease of paperwork, acceptable labor conditions, and a commitment to human rights were other major reasons respondents migrated to Kazakhstan. The poll also found issues with paid yearly leave. More than 70% of the approximately 1,700 migrants surveyed said they did not receive annual leave, while 18% said they did.

According to the Prague Process migration discussion (Prague Process, 2024), Uzbekistan is a major migrant source. Emigration was a major part of Uzbekistan's development from 1980 to 1990, but foreign labor migration and internal migration replaced it from 1990 to 2000. In 2010–2014, 3–4 million Uzbek residents worked overseas, depending on the season, but now 2–3 million (Norqobilov, 2024). In the "Migration" section of the data compiled by the Statistics Agency under the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, arrivals and departures show a similar trend across locations (Figure 5).
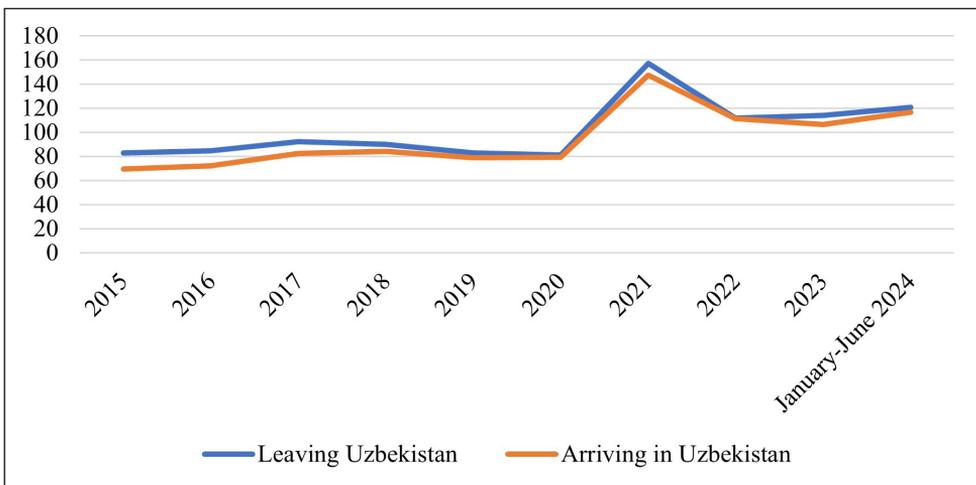

Figure 5: Internal migration indicators in Uzbekistan. Source: compiled by the authors based on the Statistics Agency under the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan (2024).

In the first half of 2024, 87,000 people arrived in metropolitan regions and almost 30,000 in rural areas, according to the data. At the same time, roughly 84 thousand people left metropolitan areas, and 36,700 left rural areas. Russia, Kazakhstan, and Tajikistan were the top countries of origin for permanent residence immigrants to Uzbekistan, with 1,080 persons. Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, and others were less common. At the same time, 5166 Uzbek citizens wanted to move abroad. Over 4,000 individuals went to Kazakhstan, 760 to the Russian Federation, 85 to Kyrgyzstan, the Republic of Korea, and Turkmenistan, and 93 to other nations.

The Development Strategy Center (2023) reports various challenges in labor migration. Uzbekistan is stabilizing and enhancing the home labor market as a "donor" of low- and medium-skilled labor to reduce unemployment, safeguard

workers' rights, and protect its citizens overseas, especially in Russia. Providing legal workers is difficult for the Agency for External Labor Migration, which safeguards the rights of Uzbek citizens abroad. Many Uzbeks risk their safety by traveling to Russia or Kazakhstan alone, where they may be trafficked. Uzbekistan has significant human trafficking, according to the Global Organized Crime Index (Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime, 2023). The publication reported that over half of Uzbek migrant workers skip rigorous bureaucratic hurdles to obtain proper documentation, leaving them vulnerable. In addition, high work permit fees render the RF debt vulnerable.

Presidential Decree UP-158 "On the Strategy 'Uzbekistan – 2030'" (2023) outlined the migration solution. This strategy has 95 goals to improve external labor mobility and help expatriates. Reintegrating labor migrants and improving their professional skills, fighting human trafficking, and increasing agreements with foreign governments to 30 are planned. Additionally, some Strategy objectives will indirectly affect medium- and long-term internal and external migration. Computer literacy from preschool, better 'driver' sectors, better medical services, and higher farm profits. Digitalization is relevant to the Agency for External Labor Migration's Xorijdai website for finding work overseas. The website lists hundreds of jobs, information on Uzbek people's rights and obligations abroad and on migrating to a new country, and free foreign-language training.

Several key migration challenges faced by Central Asian governments were highlighted. These include internal migration from rural to urban regions, a shortage of local labor and higher foreign worker quotas, and inadequate governance, which can lead to human trafficking. Several steps are needed to fix these issues. We must boost the economy and improve rural living standards and quality of life. This can be done by actively expanding infrastructure (hospitals, schools, roads) and supporting small and medium-sized firms with public subsidies. Effective training and requalification programs could help people in rural areas compete in agricultural modernization rather than move to a big metropolis. To reduce population migration to big cities, regions and small towns must develop and stimulate job creation, such as in green energy, to boost regional economies and reduce migration.

Due to Central Asia's socioeconomic vulnerabilities, human trafficking and foreign labor exploitation are serious challenges. Poverty, unemployment, and underdevelopment in specific locations allow traffickers to exploit vulnerable individuals, especially migrant laborers from Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, and Tajikistan (Askarov et al., 2024). The economic turmoil in these nations has forced many to work abroad without legal protection or knowledge of their rights. The weak rule of law, corruption, and unregulated labor markets in Central Asia have allowed traffickers to operate unchecked. Thus, laborers, especially in low-skilled industries such as construction, domestic services, and agriculture, are vulnerable to forced labor, underpayment, and dangerous working conditions.

Lack of regional collaboration and harmonized legal frameworks for migrant labor rights exacerbates foreign worker abuse. Bureaucratic inefficiency and corruption in the labor ministries of Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan hinder labor mobility programs. Migrants are more vulnerable because vital industries rely on informal labor to save money (Kopytko et al., 2024). Many foreign workers arrive on temporary, seasonal contracts or without proper documentation, making them vulnerable to abuse by companies that take advantage of their poverty. The informal sector is unregulated, so workers fear deportation or blacklisting if they report abuse. These conditions perpetuate exploitation that is difficult to break without political will and regional cooperation to improve labor rights, close legislative loopholes, and safeguard migrants.

Since people who move to big cities are unlikely to return to rural areas, a complete migration solution is becoming more important. That is, urban infrastructure must be developed to address current and future threats to important infrastructure. Examples include social housing, transportation, and medical and educational facilities. Reducing employment registration bureaucracy will help remove most migrants from the shadow economy. Reducing dependence on foreign labor is a priority for improving population well-being. It is most relevant for Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan, as remittances and earnings abroad account for a large share of expenditures. Over the past four to five years, tremendous progress has been made. The average monthly salary in Kyrgyzstan rose from 17,000 KGS in 2019 to 31,000 KGS in 2023 (National Statistical Committee of the Kyrgyz Republic, 2023a), and in Uzbekistan from 2.5 million UZS in 2020 to approximately 5 million UZS in 2024 (Statistics Agency under the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, 2024).

Summarizing the above, the elimination of problems related to internal and external migration in the region is possible through a comprehensive approach to their solution, taking into account several political, economic, and social aspects. Moreover, each of the countries studied has already introduced relevant development strategies in 2022–2023 that emphasize the role of integrated public administration and social protection in addressing migration challenges.

DISCUSSION

National specificities are crucial to migration management, according to the research. Thus, kandas and environmental migrants are essential in Central Asian laws. Federico and Pannia (2021) found that migration management involves various players with often hazy, uncoordinated roles, which has complicated the institutional environment. Kandas assists Kazakhstan in managing population challenges by facilitating the repatriation of ethnic Kazakhs. This is congruent with Agarwal (2022), who claims that state laws reflect society's beliefs, conventions, and priorities at a given time. In Kyrgyzstan, the term "environmental migrant" reflects the state's

understanding of climate hazards, which is consistent with Nabong et al. (2023), who stated that climate variables are increasingly driving migration.

The study found that Kyrgyzstan's rural population migrates to cities for economic reasons. This is supported by Wu et al. (2020), who found a similar pattern in China, where migration is driven by economic opportunity. The study also found that economic and environmental variables may encourage migration in Kyrgyzstan. Critelli et al. (2021) found that Kyrgyz families commonly relocate collectively for economic reasons, and our data confirm this. Irudaya Rajan et al. (2020) found that 62% of Indian internal migrants are short-distance migrants and 12% are long-distance migrants. These results are peculiar to India because of its size. For internal migration in Kyrgyzstan, most people choose the most developed regions or the capital, regardless of their actual residence.

After Russia invaded Ukraine, a significant share of migration movements passed through Kazakhstan, a factor the study also highlighted geopolitically. Efe and Arici (2023) also found that Russian migrants to Kazakhstan increased dramatically after 2022 for the same reasons. Kazakhstan's migration-driven legal changes align with international rules, which is crucial in today's interconnected world. Kienast et al. (2023) established that Europe's amended visa legislation, like Kazakhstan's, is internationally recognized. Economic factors, such as government housing subsidies for selected individuals, have also stabilized migration movement in Kazakhstan. Hatton (2020) noted the impact of language, history, and culture on migration, but this study found that economic factors are more relevant in the long run.

Urbanization is another factor in Central Asian migration. Garriga et al. (2023) also noted that urbanization might rapidly raise house costs in the country. Thus, governments must support the population, especially in rural areas. Lagakos (2020) noted that the lack of a government insurance system keeps many villagers in the area. In response, the Kazakh government has created support programs that include public assistance for purchasing or building homes to stabilize the housing situation. In European countries, migratory patterns are governed by economic incentives, as seen in Adamowicz and Zwolińska-Ligaj's (2020) work on smart villages aimed at controlling rural population growth. Kazakhstan has signed a deal with Qatar to control Kazakh employment under the Concept. This is crucial because irregular migration can lead to human trafficking or unpaid wages. Researchers Rahmania et al. (2023) and Boskovic & Jankovic (2023) agree. The authors also warned that unauthorized migrants risk inhumane working conditions. Yang & Zhang (2023) concur that thoroughly addressing the difficulties is crucial.

In addition, the study pointed out the importance of social ties in migration processes. Blumenstock et al. (2023) emphasized that social ties significantly influence the choice of migration destination. This was confirmed in the study, especially for migrants from post-Soviet countries. In this context, Kazakhstan remains a popular destination because of its shared historical background and the widespread use of the Russian language, consistent with the work of Bite et al. (2020), who noted

that former Soviet republics face similar challenges due to a shared history. What is also important is the long-term planning of migration management in Kazakhstan, with the introduction of scenario forecasting. The importance of these aspects was recognized by scholars such as Schewel et al. (2024), Hellwagner et al., (2023), and Qi & Bircan (2023), but they also noted that not all forecasting methods are qualitative and effective depending on the objective, and that they cannot foresee the dynamics of migration.

All countries surveyed have economic incentives for migration. The study found that economic incentives, such as raising rural wages, could stabilize internal migration by motivating the people through the introduced Concepts. Rakhshani et al. (2023) validated this. González-Leonardo et al. (2022) noted that a reversal in urban-rural movement during the epidemic suggests that financial incentives alone may not be enough to stabilize migration. The above suggests balancing rural and urban wages and developing infrastructure equally in megacities, regional cities, and rural areas. The study also found that urbanization and economic development can affect migration. However, they must be considered with climate dangers and social support, which are intrinsically tied to migration. DeLuca & Jang-Trettien (2020) found that short-term economic benefits are rarely sufficient to determine a long-term migration destination.

As a result, the findings of several European and American authors have helped clarify the characterization of migration processes. It has also highlighted the relevance of developing comprehensive approaches to migration issues.

CONCLUSIONS

The study found that migration in Kyrgyzstan reflects severe socioeconomic problems for both internal and external migrants. Almost 9% of the country's population seeks to move from rural areas and some regions to the Chuy region or the capital Bishkek, and this process remains uncontrolled by the government. The migration problems have been addressed in the Migration Policy Concept for the period 2021–2030, but its implementation requires both considerable financial and time resources. Moreover, the growing number of foreign workers causes anxiety among the local population, which spills over into conflicts.

Migration movements shape Kazakhstan's demographics and economy, according to studies. Kazakhs and Russians are major migrants. Geopolitics, particularly Russia's conflict against Ukraine, has influenced this. The Migration Policy Concept for 2023–2027 focuses on controlling migration movements to improve the conditions of labor migrants, negotiating interstate labor agreements, and forecasting migration possibilities. An agreement with Qatar on Kazakh employment and the Ata Zholy card program is among the activities implemented.

In recent decades, Uzbekistan's migration status has changed. Labor migration dominated in 2024, while emigration dominated in 1980–1990. The Uzbek government has also sought to restrict migration and improve the conditions of labor migrants. The institutional weakness of governmental bodies causes many labor migrants to illegally migrate abroad. This puts them at risk of human trafficking. In the medium term, the strategy "Uzbekistan – 2030" can improve conditions for external labor migration and significantly develop the national economy and social conditions, thereby reducing external labor migration and improving Uzbekistan's quality of life.

To reduce spontaneous movement from rural to urban and industrialized areas, rural development is the major solution to migration concerns. Given the rise in urbanization, a holistic solution requires high-quality urban infrastructure development. Additionally, lowering bureaucratic expenditures in employment paperwork processing is crucial.

This study was limited by the large number of irregular migrations in Central Asia, which made calculating the migration rate challenging. The results of implementing the concept-based plan migration policy could inform future research. The research may also need to predict migration due to Afghanistan's poor socioeconomic status.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

REFERENCES

Adamowicz, M., & Zwolińska-Ligaj, M. (2020). The "smart village" as a way to achieve sustainable development in rural areas of Poland. *Sustainability*, *12*(16), 6503. https://doi.org/10.3390/su12166503

Adamson, F. B., & Tsourapas, G. (2020). The migration state in the global south: Nationalizing, developmental, and neoliberal models of migration management. *International Migration Review*, *54*(3), 853–882. https://doi.org/10.1177/0197918319879057

Agarwal, C. (2022). Exploring the government legislation and societal values. In R. R. Saini, M. Saini & V. Jain (Eds.), *Human Resources Planning and Development* (pp. 68–75). Books Arcade. https://www.booksarcade.co.in/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/Human-Resource-Planning-and-Development.pdf

Aibashov, K. (2024, May 8). *"Many were brought in by fraud." Will Kyrgyzstan be able to combat illegal migration?* Radio Azattyk. https://rus.azattyk.org/a/32937697.html

Akmatova, Ch. (2020). Methods of forming ethnocultural and language communicative competences in students on the subject of "Literary reading". *Izvestiya Vysshih Uchebnyh Zavedeniy Kyrgyzstana*, *6*, 251–256. http://195.38.183.38/media/Papers/ivk/2020/6/%D0%98%D0%92%D0%9A-6_2020%D0%B3._251-256.pdf

Asia-Plus. (2022, October 17). *More than 200,000 Russian citizens enter Central Asia's nations after Russia's invasion of Ukraine.* ASIA-Plus. https://asiaplustj.info/ru/node/317631

Askarov, U., Sultanova, M., Akbar kyzy, E., Salieva, D., & Dzheenbaeva, K.-M. (2024). Legal factors influencing social integration of labour migrants from Central Asia. *Social and Legal Studios, 7*(3), 44–54. https://doi.org/10.32518/sals3.2024.44

Bite, P., Szombathelyi, M. K., & Vasa, L. (2020). The concept of labor migration from the perspective of Central and Eastern Europe. *Economics & Sociology*, *13*(1), 197–216. https://doi.org/10.14254/2071-789X.2020/13-1/13

Blumenstock, J. E., Chi, G., & Tan, X. (2023). Migration and the value of social networks. *Review of Economic Studies, 92*(1), 97–128. https://doi.org/10.1093/restud/rdad113

Boskovic, M., & Jankovic, B. (2023). Forced migrations and the risk of human trafficking. In E. Alaverdov & M. W. Bari (Eds.), *Handbook of Research on the Regulation of the Modern Global Migration and Economic Crisis* (pp. 18–36). IGI Global. https://doi.org/10.4018/978-1-6684-6334-5.ch002

Bureau of National Statistics – Agency for Strategic Planning and Reforms of the Republic of Kazakhstan. (2023). *Migration of the population of the Republic of Kazakhstan (2022).* Stat.gov.kz. https://stat.gov.kz/ru/industries/social-statistics/demography/publications/6356

Bureau of National Statistics – Agency for Strategic Planning and Reforms of the Republic of Kazakhstan. (2024a). *Migration of the population of the Republic of Kazakhstan (January–June 2024).* Stat.gov.kz. https://stat.gov.kz/ru/industries/social-statistics/demography/publications/183449

Bureau of National Statistics – Agency for Strategic Planning and Reforms of the Republic of Kazakhstan. (2024b). *Migration of the population of the Republic of Kazakhstan (2023)*. Stat.gov.kz. https://stat.gov.kz/ru/industries/social-statistics/demography/publications/157454

Cantat, C., Pécoud, A., & Thiollet, H. (2023). Migration as crisis. *American Behavioral Scientist, 69*(6). https://doi.org/10.1177/00027642231182889

Committee of Migration Service of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan. (2023, January 25). *The Ministry of Internal Affairs told about changes in the Rules of Entry and Stay of Immigrants in Kazakhstan.* Gov.kz. https://www.gov.kz/memleket/entities/migration/press/news/details/494569?lang=ru

Critelli, F. M., Lewis, L. A., Yalim, A. C., & Ibraeva, J. (2021). Labor migration and its impact on families in Kyrgyzstan: A qualitative study. *Journal of International Migration and Integration*, *22*, 907–928. https://doi.org/10.1007/s12134-020-00781-2

Della Puppa, F., Montagna, N., & Kofman, E. (2021). Onward migration and intra-European mobilities: A critical and theoretical overview. *International Migration*, *59*(6), 16–28. https://doi.org/10.1111/imig.12815

DeLuca, S., & Jang-Trettien, C. (2020). "Not just a lateral move": Residential decisions and the reproduction of urban inequality. *City & Community*, *19*(3), 451–488. https://doi.org/10.1111/cico.12515

Development Strategy Center. (2023, October 9). *Migration processes, problems and opportunities for regulating labor migration.* Strategy.uz. https://strategy.uz/index.php?news=1813&lang=ru

Efe, H., & Arici, N. (2023). A general evaluation on migration movements in Kazakhstan from the past to the present. *Adam Alemi*, *98*(4), 125–135. https://doi.org/10.48010/2023.4/1999-5849.12

Federico, V., & Pannia, P. (2021). The ever-changing picture of the legal framework of migration: A comparative analysis of common trends in Europe and beyond. In S. Barthoma (Ed.), *Responding to Migration: A Holistic Perspective on Migration Governance* (pp. 15–43). Uppsala University. https://air.unimi.it/handle/2434/1002591

Garriga, C., Hedlund, A., Tang, Y., & Wang, P. (2023). Rural-urban migration, structural transformation, and housing markets in China. *American Economic Journal: Macroeconomics*, *15*(2), 413–440. https://doi.org/10.1257/mac.20160142

Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime. (2023). *Uzbekistan.* Global Organized Crime Index. https://ocindex.net/country/uzbekistan

González-Leonardo, M., Rowe, F., & Fresolone-Caparrós, A. (2022). Rural revival? The rise in internal migration to rural areas during the COVID-19 pandemic. Who moved and where? *Journal of Rural Studies*, *96*, 332–342. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jrurstud.2022.11.006

Government of the Kyrgyz Republic. (2021). *On Approval of the Concept of Migration Policy of the Kyrgyz Republic for 2021–2030 years* (Resolution No. 191). PRG.kz. https://prg.kz/document/?doc_id=38444299&show_di=1&pos=2;67

Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan. (2022, November 30). *On Approval of the Concept of Migration Policy of the Republic of Kazakhstan for 2023–2027 years* (Resolution No. 961). Adilet.zan.kz. https://adilet.zan.kz/rus/docs/P2200000961#z12

Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan. (2024, February 14). *On signing the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Government of the State of Qatar on regulation of employment of workers from the Republic of Kazakhstan in the State of Qatar* (Resolution No. 82). Adilet.zan.kz. https://adilet.zan.kz/rus/docs/P2400000082#z10

Hatton, T. J. (2020). Asylum migration to the developed world: Persecution, incentives, and policy. *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, *34*(1), 75–93. https://doi.org/10.1257/jep.34.1.75

Hauer, M. E., Jacobs, S. A., & Kulp, S. A. (2024). Climate migration amplifies demographic change and population aging. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, *121*(3), e2206192119. https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.2206192119

Hellwagner, T., Söhnlein, D., & Weber, E. (2023). *Modeling migration dynamics in stochastic labor supply forecasting.* Institute for Employment Research. https://doi.org/10.48720/IAB.DP.2305

Hwang, C. (2024, September 5). *New registration rules in Kyrgyzstan alarm relocants.* DW. https://www.dw.com/ru/novye-pravila-registracii-inostrancev-v-kyrgyzstane-vstrevozili-relokantov-a-70142751

Ilyassova, S., Khamzin, A., Buribayev, Y., Khamzina, Zh., & Zhetpisov, S. (2025). Irregular migration in Kazakhstan: Challenges, consequences, and approaches to improving state regulation. *Social and Legal Studios, 8*(1), 195–210. https://doi.org/10.32518/sals1.2025.195

International Organization for Migration. (2019). *Internal migration in Kyrgyzstan: Barriers and paths of social mobility*. USAID, IOM, M-Vector, El-Pikir. https://kyrgyzstan.iom.int/sites/g/files/tmzbdl1321/files/documents/%25D0%2592%25D0%259C%2520%25D0%25B2%25D0%25B5%25D1%2580%25D1%2581%25D1%2582%25D0%25BA%25D0%25B0%25202019.pdf

International Organization for Migration. (2024). *International migrant workers survey*. https://dtm.iom.int/sites/g/files/tmzbdl1461/files/reports/KAZ_Migration%20Survey_Round3_v3%20-%20RUS.pdf

Irudaya Rajan, S., Sivakumar, P., & Srinivasan, A. (2020). The COVID-19 pandemic and internal labor migration in India: A "crisis of mobility". *Indian Journal of Labor Economics*, *63*(4), 1021–1039. https://doi.org/10.1007/s41027-020-00293-8

Kaczan, D. J., & Orgill-Meyer, J. (2020). The impact of climate change on migration: A synthesis of recent empirical insights. *Climatic Change*, *158*(3), 281–300. https://doi.org/10.1007/s10584-019-02560-0

Kienast, J., Tan, N. F., & Vedsted-Hansen, J. (2023). Preferential, differential or discriminatory? EU protection arrangements for persons displaced from Ukraine. In S. Carrera & M. Ineli-Ciger (Eds.), *EU responses to the large-scale refugee*

displacement from Ukraine: An analysis on the temporary protection directive and its implications for the future EU asylum policy (pp. 383–399). Robert Schuman Centre. https://cadmus.eui.eu/bitstream/handle/1814/75377/ASILE%20E-Book.pdf

Kopytko, M., Panchenko, V., Levchenko, A., Kapinos, H., & Hrytsan, V. (2024). Forced labour migration as a threat to social and economic human rights and a factor of influence on the national labour market and business entities. *Social and Legal Studies, 7*(2), 140–148. https://doi.org/10.32518/sals2.2024.140

Lagakos, D. (2020). Urban-rural gaps in the developing world: Does internal migration offer opportunities? *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, *34*(3), 174–192. https://doi.org/10.1257/jep.34.3.174

McAuliffe, M., & Oucho, L. A. (2024). *World migration report 2024.* International Organization for Migration. https://publications.iom.int/books/world-migration-report-2024

McMichael, C., Dasgupta, S., Ayeb-Karlsson, S., & Kelman, I. (2020). A review of estimating population exposure to sea-level rise and the relevance for migration. *Environmental Research Letters*, *15*(12), 123005. https://doi.org/10.1088/1748-9326/abb398

Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Kazakhstan. (2012). *Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan No. 477-IV "On Migration"*. https://adilet.zan.kz/rus/docs/Z1100000477#z1

Ministry of Justice of the Kyrgyz Republic. (2022). *Decision of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Kyrgyz Republic No. 191-r.* https://cbd.minjust.gov.kg/57-18372/edition/1168791/ru

Ministry of Justice of the Kyrgyz Republic. (2023). *Law of the Kyrgyz Republic No. 61 "On Foreign Migration"*. https://cbd.minjust.gov.kg/350/edition/1273106/ru

Ministry of Justice of the Kyrgyz Republic. (2024a). *Law of the Kyrgyz Republic No. 133 "On Internal Migration"*. https://cbd.minjust.gov.kg/1090/edition/3290/ru

Ministry of Justice of the Kyrgyz Republic. (2024b, July 24). *Decision of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Kyrgyz Republic No. 437 "On Issues of Stay of Foreign Citizens and Stateless Persons on the Territory of the Kyrgyz Republic".* https://cbd.minjust.gov.kg/7-30592/edition/13806/ru

Ministry of Labor and Social Protection of Population of the Republic of Kazakhstan. (2022, November 29). *T. Duisenova spoke about the new Concept of Migration Policy of Kazakhstan*. Gov.kz. https://www.gov.kz/memleket/entities/enbek/press/news/details/467563?lang=ru

Ministry of Labor and Social Protection of Population of the Republic of Kazakhstan. (2023, June 6). *Ata Zholy card will be available from July 2023*. Gov.kz. https://www.gov.kz/memleket/entities/enbek/press/news/details/568500?lang=ru

Nabong, E. C., Hocking, L., Opdyke, A., & Walters, J. P. (2023). Decision-making factor interactions influencing climate migration: A systems-based systematic review. *Wiley Interdisciplinary Reviews: Climate Change*, *14*(4), e828. https://doi.org/10.1002/wcc.828

National Statistical Committee of the Kyrgyz Republic. (2023a). *Average monthly salary.* Stat.gov.kg. https://stat.gov.kg/ru/opendata/category/112

National Statistical Committee of the Kyrgyz Republic. (2023b). *Total population by nationality.* Stat.gov.kg. https://www.stat.gov.kg/ru/opendata/category/312

National Statistical Committee of the Kyrgyz Republic. (2024). *Population and housing census of the Kyrgyz Republic 2022: Population migration of the Kyrgyz Republic.* Stat.gov.kg.   https://www.stat.gov.kg/media/publicationarchive/d029839d-b662-42f1-bf1a-3eaa751331d6.pdf

National Statistics Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan. (2024). *Average Nominal Wages.* Siat.stat.uz. https://api.siat.stat.uz/media/uploads/sdmx/sdmx_data_522.pdf

Niva, V., Horton, A., Virkki, V., Heino, M., Kosonen, M., Kallio, M., Kinnunen, P., Abel, G. J., Muttarak, R., Taka, M., Varis, O., & Kummu, M. (2023). World's human migration patterns in 2000–2019 unveiled by high-resolution data. *Nature Human Behaviour, 7*(11), 2023–2037. https://doi.org/10.1038/s41562-023-01689-4

Norqobilov, M. (2024, April 15). *The number of Uzbek labor migrants working abroad was reported.* Kurziv. https://uz.kursiv.media/uz/2024-04-15/xorijda-ishlayotgan-ozbekistonlik-mehnat-migrantlarining-soni-malum-qilindi

Prague Process. (2024). *Republic of Uzbekistan.* https://www.pragueprocess.eu/ru/countries/925-respublika-uzbekistan

President of the Republic of Uzbekistan. (2023, September 11). *Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. UP-158 "On the Strategy 'Uzbekistan – 2030'".* Ai.lex.uz. https://lelexx.uz/ru/docs/6600404

Qi, H., & Bircan, T. (2023). Modelling and predicting forced migration. *PloS ONE, 18*(4), e0284416. https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0284416

Radio Azattyk. (2024, May 18). *"The situation is bad." Dozens injured in anti-foreigner riots in Bishkek.* https://rus.azattyq.org/a/mob-violence-targeting-foreigners-in-bishkek-leaves-dozens-injured/32952722.html

Rahmania, N., Nirmala, A. Z., Taufik, Z., Almau Dudy, A., & Ashady, S. (2023). Patterns and the role of the government in preventing human trafficking. *Dialogia Iuridica, 15*(1), 128–155. https://doi.org/10.28932/di.v15i1.7564

Rakhimov, M., & Yokubov, F. (2022). Uzbekistan external migration: key trends and directions. *Eurasian Research Journal, 4*(1), 27–47. https://doi.org/10.53277/2519-2442-2022.1-02

Rakhshani, T., Fararouei, M., Kianizadeh, T., Kamyab, A., & Jeihooni, A. K. (2023). Investigating the factors affecting health care workers' intention to remain in villages. *Heliyon, 9*(4), e15542. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.heliyon.2023.e15542

Rickelton, C. (2024, May 22). *Why Kyrgyzstan, a labor exporter, fears migrant workers at home.* Radio Azattyk. https://rus.azattyq.org/a/mass-labor-kyrgyzstan-migrant-worker-fear/32958760.html

Schewel, K., Dickerson, S., Madson, B., & Nagle Alverio, G. (2024). How well can we predict climate migration? A review of forecasting models. *Frontiers in Climate, 5*, 1189125. https://doi.org/10.3389/fclim.2023.1189125

Statistics Agency under the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan. (2024). *Demographic situation in the Republic of Uzbekistan.* https://stat.uz/img/demografiya-press-reliz-22_07_2024-english-_p27562.pdf

Usenova, A. (2020). Tasks of the modern state youth policy of Kyrgyzstan. *Izvestiya Vysshih Uchebnyh Zavedeniy Kyrgyzstana*, *5*, 146–149. http://science-journal.kg/media/Papers/ivk/2020/5/%D0%98%D0%92%D0%9A__-_5_2020_%D0%B3%D0%BE%D0%B4_146-149.pdf

Vollset, S. E., Goren, E., Yuan, C.-W., Cao, J., Smith, A. E., Hsiao, T., Bisignano, C., Azhar, G. S., Castro, E., Chalek, J., Dolgert, A.J., Frank, T., Fukutaki, K., Hay, S. I., Lozano, R., Mokdad, A. H., Nandakumar, V., Pierce, M., Pletcher, M., Robalik, T., Steuben, K. M., Wunrow, H. Y., Zlavog, B .S., & Murray, C. J. L. (2020). Fertility, mortality, migration, and population scenarios for 195 countries and territories from 2017 to 2100: A forecasting analysis for the Global Burden of Disease Study. *Lancet*, *396*(10258), 1285–1306. https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(20)30677-2

Wu, Y., Zhou, Y., & Liu, Y. (2020). Exploring the outflow of population from poor areas and its main influencing factors. *Habitat International*, *99*, 102161. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.habitatint.2020.102161

Yang, Q., & Zhang, C. (2023). How does the renewal of urban villages affect the resettled villagers' subjective well-being? A case study in Wuhan, China. *Land*, *12*(8), 1547. https://doi.org/10.3390/land12081547

POVZETEK

MIGRACIJSKI TRENDI IN DRUŽBENO-EKONOMSKI IZZIVI V SREDNJI AZIJI V OBDOBJU 2021–2024
Ainura Askarova, Darygul Zholboldueva, Chynygul Orozova, Gulbara Zhamasheva, Gulchehra Abdyrakhmanova

Avtorice v prispevku proučujejo migracijske vzorce in družbenoekonomska vprašanja v Kirgizistanu, Kazahstanu in Uzbekistanu med letoma 2021 in 2024. Analizirajo notranje in zunanje migracijske trende ter družbeno-ekonomske determinante v navedenih državah. V Kirgizistanu prevladujejo notranje migracije s podeželja na urbana območja, pri čemer sta najpogostejša cilja mesti Biškek in Čuj. Študija kaže na slabo upravljanje notranjih migracij, brezposelnost na podeželju ter pomanjkljivo infrastrukturo. Cilj migracijske strategije Kirgizistana za obdobje 2021–2030 je izboljšati družbenoekonomsko stanje, zlasti na podeželju, ter kakovost življenja prebivalstva. Vlada je posodobila pravila za registracijo tujih državljanov, da bi izboljšala nadzor migracij.

V Kazahstanu se zaradi konflikta v Ukrajini soočajo z obsežnim priseljevanjem ruskih migrantov, zaradi česar so spremenili migracijske politike, vključno z vizumskimi predpisi in sporazumi s Katarjem o zaposlovanju kazahstanskih državljanov. V konceptu migracijske politike za obdobje 2023–2027 si prizadevajo privabiti kvalificirano delovno silo, izboljšati mobilnost delovne sile ter odpraviti demografska neravnovesja, ki jih povzročajo notranje migracije s podeželja v mesta.

V Uzbekistanu je po izsledkih poročila v 1990ih letih prišlo do upada delovnih migracij v tujino. Cilj njihove strategije na področju migracij do leta 2030 je izboljšati delovne pogoje, krepiti pravice delavcev migrantov ter odpraviti trgovino z ljudmi. Po podatkih iz poročila so uzbekistanski migranti zaradi šibkega institucionalnega okvira izpostavljeni izkoriščanju.

Kot kaže študija, preučevane države za uspešno spopadanje z migracijskimi izzivi potrebujejo celovite družbeno-ekonomske reforme, vključno z izboljšanjem infrastrukture na podeželju, večjimi zaposlitvenimi možnostmi in odpravo birokratskih ovir za migrante.

Avtorice izpostavljajo potrebo po izboljšanju zakonodaje in okrepitvi mednarodnega sodelovanja za zaščito delavcev migrantov pred trgovino z ljudmi. V prispevku primerjajo migracijske politike treh srednjeazijskih držav, predstavijo njihove družbeno-ekonomske in politične razmere ter predlagajo načine za izboljšanje upravljanja migracij.

DVE DOMOVINI • TWO HOMELANDS
63 • 2026

TEMATSKI SKLOP / THEMATIC SECTION
SODOBNE MIGRACIJE V SREDNJI AZIJI / CONTEMPORARY MIGRATION IN CENTRAL ASIA

ČLANKI / ARTICLES