The impact of migration on growth and decline

Migration as a driver of regional population change in Austria

Introduction

• Background
  • PhD Thesis
    • Age-selective Migration in Austria (Retirement Migration)
  • Project work on demographic development & economic performance in Austria (Demographie-Check®)
    • Demographic change and regional development
  • Migration as a driver of regional economic development & a factor that cause regional differences

• Overview
  • Presentation should give an insight on regional disparities in Austria...
    • as well as an overview on how migration drives regional development on the example of Austria

Regional Disparities

In Austria

Regional Disparities in Austria

• Austria generally a country with relatively stable economy
  • Services (bank sector, tourism); production
    • Rising level of unemployment since 2008
  • Population growth and immigration
    • +77,140 (0,91%)
    • total pop. 2014: 8,527,785; 2015: 8,584,926
  • High regional development support for regions lagging behind
    • Dates back on the 1960s (prosperous economy)
  • Still regional disparities with permanent characteristic
Geographic Patterns of Regional Disparities

- Regional Disparities according to economic development and population development
  - East – West, North – South, Urban – Rural
  - Wage level, price level, population growth
- Growing/prosperous regions
  - Cities & suburbs
  - University cities
  - Tourism hot spots (Western Austria, Tirol)
- Structural Disadvantaged Regions
  - Low accessibility
  - Border regions
  - Iron curtain
  - Old industrial centers
  - Rural areas

Gross Regional Product

Population Development

Degree of urbanization
The impact of migration on regional disparities

Selective Migration effecting regional development

Migration as a driver of regional development

- Migration (internal migration, international migration) is the main driver of demographic development in Austria
- Natural balance plays a minor role
- Migration patterns follow the patterns of economic development
- Regional disparities are intensified by migration
- Migration is influenced by & influencing economic development
  - Job opportunities
  - Innovation, market sizes
- Furthermore demographic development (and thus migration) in Austria has direct influence on the allocation of taxes
  - "Länderfinanzausgleich"
- Migration patterns is thus having great influence on regional disparities
  - It is worth to take a closer look on migration patterns

Migration by degree of urbanization
Migration Patterns in Austria

- **International migration**
  - Between 2010 and 2014: 222,185 people migrated to Austria
    - 52% into an urban area
    - 20% to a suburban/intermediate area
    - 28% into a rural area

- **Internal Migration**
  - Internal Migration between 2010 and 2014 was negative for rural areas and positive for urban & suburban areas (Definition EC)
    - Total rural population: 3.5 Mio; Intermediate: 2.45; Urban: 2.64
    - In total also rural areas win population due to international migration, still the patterns of migration for rural/urban areas is very different

Migration is highly selective

- Most people migrate in their younger years (between 20 and 29)
  - Age is presenting a life course stage
    - education, family foundation, retirement
  - Migration schedules by age are relatively stable over the years
    - Peaks of mobility around 0-4, 20-29, 30-39 & 60+

- Migration is also selective by sex and education

Net Migration by age and type of region, 2010-2014 (Austria)

Net Migration yearly average: +54,456

Urban areas

- High immigration of young adults
  - From other parts of Austria as well as from foreign countries
  - Negative „family migration“ (children 0-4 & 30+)

Mobility during the life course (own illustration after KILLISCH 1979, S.65)
Suburban/intermediate areas

- Net Migration yearly average: +24,977
- Show also a high international in-migration
- And family in-migration (0-4 & 30+)
- Youth Outmigration

Rural areas

- Net Migration yearly average: +9,440
- Experience immigration from families
- Family formation phase (30+) and children
- Positive foreign immigration
- Total negative youth outmigration

Internal Migration 18 to 26 years

Explaining migration patterns

- Reasons for Migration (internal migration) are to a high extent economic ones, but also other factors play a role
  - „Work & Love“
- Besides economic decisions often (higher) education, housing preferences and also lifestyle decisions play a role
- Vacancies in outmigration area are a phenomena in Austria
  - Monostructure economies (tourism, industry)
  - „Demographie-check“ Eisenstraße
Consequences of migration patterns

- Low economic performance of regions is mostly the starting point for outmigration/slowing down in-migration
  - mono-structured economies in regions, certain economic sectors
- Migration as the main driver for population development
  - outmigration is furthermore leading to a sustainable loss of population
- Population outmigrating is to a high percentage young population
  - Feedback effects: missing mothers & fathers
  - Innovation leaving
  - Brain drain (migration for education)
- Outmigration is leading to a further decrease of living quality and additional challenges for the region
  - tax revenue, missing critical mass, vacancies, shrinking

Conclusion

- Demographic development is result but also driver of growth and decline
  - Internal & international migration steering development
- Population development (migration patterns) show sustainable concentration processes
  - Negative migration balance of young people (for rural areas, whereas not all rural areas in Austria are structural disadvantaged areas)
  - Feedback effects for natural population balance
- Migration patterns serve as multiplier effect of regional disparities

Can regional development steer future population development?

- Economic development can have effect on positive population development
- How to make attractive living places besides economy?
  - lifestyle, society, education, housing
- What are future trends that have influence on living preferences?
  - Rural vs. Urban Lifestyle?
  - Suburbia vs. Reurbanization?
  - Mobility
  - Climate
- Countersteer decay – support growth?

Sources

- MAUNDER, Ramon, GRUBER, Elisabeth, BÄHR, Michaela, Nick, OSBALDISTON (Ed.) (2014): Understanding Lifestyle Migration. Theoretical Approaches to Migration
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