The Impact of Migration-Related Threats on the Security of European Countries

Abstract. The article is a reflection on the impact of European migration processes on the level of socio-political security of the state and its citizens. This problem stirs strong emotions, because for one part of society the presence of immigrants raises concerns about the fate of their families, security and national identity. The article explains the threats posed by migration, describes the scale of the influx of foreigners to EU countries and identifies the main migration routes into Europe. The following categories of migration-related threats are discussed: social, economic, military and terrorist threats.

Keywords: migration, migrants, threats, Islam

Introduction

As a result of phenomena such as globalisation, military conflicts, environmental degradation, hunger etc., humanity is experiencing a particularly turbulent and dynamic period in history. From a historical perspective, periods of this kind, known as transition periods, have always been characterised by a wide range of challenges for the security of societies, nations and the stability of international relations. The present transition period is the result of violent cultural changes transforming the entire human race. Rapid changes affecting modern civilisation, the volatile international situation and the political and economic co-dependence of states all contribute to making the world an unusually dynamic and complex
environment. There is no single, definitive initiative reflecting one trend of utmost importance for the existence and development of humanity, such as globalisation, the war against terrorism, unipolarity or multipolarity, or the doctrine of the legal state (Rechtsstaat). The lack of a single definitive answer to the question about the dominant future trend does not imply that one should not look for and analyse the so-called megatrends, or changes concerning the key aspects of the global environment, which affect the modern world. One of such megatrends today is, no doubt, human migration.

The term “migration,” derived from the Latin word “migratio,” meaning “a change of dwelling,” refers to the movement of people; “an element and the basic (in addition to circulation) form of spatial mobility; denotes territorial relocation associated with a relatively permanent change of residence” [PWN Encyclopaedia].

Migration involves a permanent or temporary (periodical) departure by individuals or larger groups of people or even entire societies from places of permanent (previous) residence and relocating to another place [Kraszewski 2003: 11]. According to another definition, migration is a relatively permanent relocation of a group of people, known as migrants, from one place of geographical space to another one, preceded by migrants making decisions based on a hierarchical system of values and goals [Mach 1998: 14]. Determinants of migration can be divided into three categories.

The first one includes economic factors, such as poverty, unemployment, low wages and globalisation. The second category comprises social factors including high rate of natural increase, lack of appropriate social care programmes, lack of basic health care and shortages in the education system, discrimination based on ethnicity, religion, national origin or race. The last category includes political factors, such as the disintegration of multinational states, ethnic and religious conflicts. As a result of the influx of a large number of emigrants, countries face new threats associated with national security and the security of their citizens.

The main purpose of this article is to identify the key migration-related threats to Europe’s security. In order to reach this goal, it was necessary to undertake a number of various research steps. The main part of the study consisted of theoretical research (analysis, synthesis, comparison and generalisation). Information obtained from fragmentary empirical research (solicitation of expert opinion) and participation in scientific meetings was used to verify the theoretical findings.

1. Migration threats – the underlying theory

In order to identify and interpret phenomena in the surrounding reality, it is necessary to define basic terms, one of which is the concept of “threat.” The con-
cept of “threat” refers to a confluence of undesirable phenomena which can even lead to annihilation. B. Zdrodowski defines “threat” as “an antithesis of security, which results from a certain development of a situation, a coincidence of events or adverse phenomena that have given rise to that situation, which are perceived subjectively as a threat” [Zdrodowski 1996: 39]. According to the lexicon of military knowledge, “threat” is defined as a “situation in which there is a higher likelihood of the loss of life, health, freedom or material goods. A threat induces anxiety and fear of varying intensity, ranging from fright or petrification to an impulse or action to counteract. A threat can arise from natural causes (e.g. natural hazards) or be posed by another person (e.g. an enemy)” [Laprus 1979: 510]. Most commonly, however, a threat is understood to refer to a situation associated with a probability of a state of danger to the surrounding environment [Radomyski & Dobija 2010: 57]. It is defined as an indirect or direct destructive impact on the subject [Huzarski 2009: 12]. In fact, identification of threats involves answering the following questions:

- What can possibly “be or go wrong” in a given situation?
- What are the possible causes of such a development?
- What things may prevent us from reaching our goals or performing planned tasks?
- What specific situations, decisions, events etc. can disrupt the functioning of the state?
- What potential irregularities or losses can happen as a result?

Security threats are largely determined by the modern security environment and are consequences of challenges and unused political, economic, military, social, ecological cultural and ideological opportunities. A general description of security threats facing EU member states and interests of the European Union is provided in the European security strategy entitled “A secure Europe in a better world,” adopted in December 2003 [A secure Europe 2003]. Among the key security threats to the EU, the document mentions terrorism, the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, regional conflicts, state failure and organised crime. However, nowadays it is also recognised that the influx of population, including economic migrants and refugees, is posing a new threat to the security of individual EU countries. This is particularly relevant considering the fact that, in addition to legal migration, there is a dangerous upward trend in people smuggling into EU, controlled by organised crime groups and terrorist organisations. According to statistics, only in the first quarter of 2016 as many as 284,000 migrants entered the European Union (see Table 1). It is over five times the number of new arrivals in 2015. Over 60% of immigrants to the EU are refugees from war-torn regions of Syria, Eritrea and Afghanistan. Others come from Libya, Sudan, Pakistan, Nigeria, Somalia or Iraq.
There are six major entry routes for migrants (see Figure 1). The first one, through Murmansk, is used mainly by Syrians travelling to Norway via Russia. The second, East-European one, crosses the Eastern border of the UE (mainly via Poland) and is used by the Vietnamese, Afghans and Syrians. The third one is the Western Balkans route, leading via Balkans to Croatia, Slovenia and Hungary, most frequently chosen by immigrants from Syria and Afghanistan. The Eastern Mediterranean route, by sea to the Greek islands, is used by Syrians, Afghans and Iraqis. The Central Mediterranean route, leading across the sea to Italy, is used by Eritreans and Nigerians. The Western African route, across the sea to the Canary Islands, is used by Guineans, Ivorians and Gambians. The last route, the Western Mediterranean route, taken by Syrians, Guineans and Algerians to the Spanish enclaves of Ceuta and Melilla or by sea to Spain. For inhabitants of the Middle East – Syrians, Iraqis and Iranians – the meeting point is Istanbul in Turkey. From there they go by land to Bulgaria or Greece, or by sea to Greece. Sometimes they travel by air to Cairo (Egypt), Tripoli (Libya) or Khartoum (Sudan). Migrants and refugees from Sub-Saharan Africa (mainly Eritreans) and Asia (mainly Afghans) use the sea route through Libya, where all the migration routes from the Eastern and Western part of the continent meet. In addition, increasingly many Afghans can choose the route via Turkey, using a dense network of flight connections in Africa to join migrants travelling along the route through Greece and the Balkans.
Figure 1. Migration routes into Europe

Social threats refer to all situations that pose a life or health hazard or threaten cultural, national or ethnic identity, social and public security. In 1993 Samuel P. Huntington put forward a hypothesis that in the modern world it is not ideologies or the economy that will be the primary sources of conflict but rather people’s cultural and religious identities. Conflicts will occur between nations and groups representing different civilisations. Many civilisations are showing symptoms of a cultural identity crisis, which can manifest itself in socio-political relations between civilisations [Konstanty 2007: 417-418].

The phenomenon of migration results in a weakening of tradition, local customs and a weaker sense of independence of particular countries. This situation poses threats to national cultures resulting from a clash of different cultures and identities. For instance, it will be hard for Catholics to accept Sharia law\(^1\), honour killings, same-sex partnerships, etc. There is also the problem of cultural integration of immigrants and the need for governments to pursue a policy of equal rights, which necessitates changes in the cultural identity of a host society. The influx of a large number of immigrants generates strong social tension, frequently finding an outlet in protests and outbursts of unrest, causing serious disruption to public order. Such cases have happened many times in multi-ethnic, multi-religious and multinational countries.

Large and unlimited migration increases the possibility of infection with diseases, especially infectious diseases imported from pandemic or epidemic hotspots. Uncontrolled outbreaks of diseases and failure to follow safety procedures can have a negative direct impact on a country’s inhabitants, and indirectly, on its economy and other areas of life. Migration gives rise to ethnic ghettos or enclaves, which causes tension and decreases the sense of security in the native population within their own country. The present rise in the number of offenses in Europe, including cases of rape, sexual and physical harassment, robberies, burglaries and illegal drug trade coincided with a record influx of refugees from Africa, Asia, the Middle East, and the Western Balkans. There are more and more clashes involving large numbers of immigrants that take place in the streets and refugee centres. In some EU countries many immigrants are involved in illegal activities, such as drug trafficking, human trafficking, money laundering and other international offenses. In some cities, Arab crime clans control the activity of organised

\(^1\) Sharia law regulates religious duties and everyday etiquette, modesty and morality, private and trade contracts, marriage and divorce, family, inheritance, politics, economy, rights of individuals. Sharia does not recognise the separation of religion and state and regulates all activities of everyday life, e.g. ways of preparing food or dressing source (in Polish): www.se.pl/wiadomosci/ciekawostki/szariat-co-jest-szariat [access: 18.09.2016].
crime; they get involved in illegal drug trade, break into shopping centres, while at the same time, introducing a “parallel system of justice” and resolving conflicts through mediators from other crime families. When the country’s authorities get involved, the clans bribe or threaten witnesses to change their testimonies.

Another consequence for host countries is connected with the demographic problem. Since 1997, when the population of today’s EU countries reached its highest level, the number of Europeans has been declining. According to the current UN projections, the population of Europe is going to decrease by 30 million by 2050. It is generally assumed that the replacement level fertility is 2.1, which is the minimum required to ensure that the subsequent generation is large enough to ensure social and economic stability. At present, the mean fertility rate is 1.6 children per woman; in France it is at the level of 2.1 children. This increased fertility rate is due to a large number of immigrants, particularly from Islamic countries, where women have very high fertility.

According to estimates of Pew Research Center, an American fact tank, European countries are currently inhabited by 44.1 million Muslims. Most Muslims live in Germany (4 million out of the population of 80.7 million), in France (3.5 million out of 65.5 million) and in the UK (1.6 million out of 63 million). In the European Union the total fertility rate of Muslim women is higher than that of European women. Muslim families are bigger, frequently living in extended households, and usually with a strong sense of entitlement. The current fertility rate of Muslim women is 2.2, while the mean fertility rate of European women – 1.6. At this rate, given the continued mass influx of Muslims into Europe, there is a risk of a fundamental change in Europe’s population structure. According to projections for 2030, in some countries the Muslim share will exceed 10% of the total population (see Table 2). However, these changes will be local and mostly associated with large urban agglomerations, since this is where Muslim enclaves are currently most numerous. Even today Muslims Against Crusades, a UK-based radical Islamist group, demands that English towns of Bradford and Dewsbury and some districts of London should be designated as Sharia zones and be governed by rules of “intercultural integration,” which is not a unique case – similar demands have been voiced by imams (spiritual leaders) in other countries. These tendencies pose a threat because it is big cities that set cultural and political trends in a country.

Migration-related problems have divided the European Union, especially when it comes to the obligatory programme of relocation of illegal Islamic immigrants. The idea is supposed to be a remedy aimed at stopping alleged refugees from leaving poor host countries, where they have no hope of obtaining a flat or social benefits, which are many times lower than those in Germany or Sweden.

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In response to immigrants’ reluctance to move to less affluent EU countries, EU politicians are planning to introducing obligatory migrant quota for these member states. The fact is, however, that over half of EU member states is against the quota programme, arguing that the idea of the European Commission undermines their sovereignty. Resistance from nationally homogeneous countries of Eastern Europe, which refuse to accept Muslim migrants, is a source of internal tension and division within the EU.

### 3. Economic threats

The impact of immigration on the tax system and the system of social benefits, coupled with the overall consequences for the state budget are the most important economic problem in the context of migration-related threats. The influx of a large number of people into a country or a region causes economic problems, such as deteriorating standards of living for the native population, a rise in unemployment

### Table 2. The growth of the Muslim population in selected European countries

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Countries</th>
<th>Estimated muslim population</th>
<th>Estimated percentage of population that is muslim</th>
<th>Projected muslim population</th>
<th>Projected percentage of population that is muslim</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2010</td>
<td>2030</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Austria</td>
<td>475,000</td>
<td>5.7</td>
<td>799,000</td>
<td>9.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belgium</td>
<td>638,000</td>
<td>6.0</td>
<td>1,149,000</td>
<td>10.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Denmark</td>
<td>226,000</td>
<td>4.1</td>
<td>317,000</td>
<td>5.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finland</td>
<td>42,000</td>
<td>0.8</td>
<td>105,000</td>
<td>1.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>4,704,000</td>
<td>7.5</td>
<td>6,860,000</td>
<td>10.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>4,119,000</td>
<td>5.0</td>
<td>5,545,000</td>
<td>7.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greece</td>
<td>527,000</td>
<td>4.7</td>
<td>772,000</td>
<td>6.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ireland</td>
<td>43,000</td>
<td>0.9</td>
<td>125,000</td>
<td>2.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>1,583,000</td>
<td>2.6</td>
<td>3,199,000</td>
<td>5.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Luxembourg</td>
<td>11,000</td>
<td>2.3</td>
<td>14,000</td>
<td>2.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Netherlands</td>
<td>914,000</td>
<td>5.5</td>
<td>1,365,000</td>
<td>7.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Norway</td>
<td>144,000</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>359,000</td>
<td>6.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portugal</td>
<td>65,000</td>
<td>0.6</td>
<td>65,000</td>
<td>0.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spain</td>
<td>1,021,000</td>
<td>2.3</td>
<td>1,859,000</td>
<td>3.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sweden</td>
<td>451,000</td>
<td>4.9</td>
<td>993,000</td>
<td>9.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Switzerland</td>
<td>433,000</td>
<td>5.7</td>
<td>663,000</td>
<td>8.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
<td>2,869,000</td>
<td>4.6</td>
<td>5,567,000</td>
<td>8.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total for these countries</strong></td>
<td><strong>18,267,000</strong></td>
<td><strong>4.5</strong></td>
<td><strong>29,759,000</strong></td>
<td><strong>7.1</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Pew Research Centre.
and high inflation. Immigrants find it difficult to find employment in the local labour market. Every second one is unemployed, not only because of the language barrier, but mainly because of the lack of elementary occupational training. For this reason most immigrants rely on the system of social benefits. Migration motivated only by the desire to profit from social benefits is particularly popular in the rich countries of the European Union. It should be noted that current regulations in some countries actually encourage immigrants to depend exclusively on this form of financial support. Recently, for example, in the UK, in spite of the legal ban on polygamy, Muslim men in polygamous marriages have been granted the right to claim social benefits for all their wives. In Germany every foreigner who has been seeking a job for longer than 6 months is entitled to receive social assistance. The burden placed on the state budget is increased by expenditures associated with supporting migrant centres, anti-migration measures, which results in higher spending on health care, public security and environmental protection, etc. Countries, such as Hungary, Greece and Austria, spend millions of euros to secure their borders and verify immigrants entering the EU. Moreover, the migration crisis has increased the costs of transport throughout Europe, as a result of the situation at the borders. Controversies surrounding immigrants discourage potential tourists, which generates losses for the tourist industry and local governments, while terrorist attacks in Brussels and Paris have shown that the EU needs additional funds for anti-terrorist operations and the protection of public buildings. An additional 1.5 billion euro in the EU budget for 2016 was allocated (by mobilising the Flexibility Instrument) to finance some migration-related measures. This made it possible to support the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund and the Internal Security Fund, and increase the funds for Frontex, the European Asylum Support Office (EASO) and Europol. The scale of the migration and refugee crisis leads one to expect additional needs that will need to be addressed in the coming years, with considerable consequences for the EU budget. Additional funds may also be required to counteract internal security threats and terrorism.

4. Terrorist threats

Wacław Kopaliński in his dictionary of foreign words and phrases defines terrorism as organising assassinations (by armed assassins or using explosives) of government members or people in positions of power, political opponents, people of different religion or race, foreigners or passers-by, kidnappings, hijackings in order to take over power, spread fear, chaos, instigate social unrest, derive benefits for groups or cabals, including acts of violence without clear motivation [Kopaliński 2014: 78]. Terrorism is also defined as an act or a threat of violence committed by non-state actors and intended to cause fear in a wider group beyond
the one immediately targeted in an attempt to achieve specific political goals, e.g. the overthrow of the current political order [Oleksiewicz 2011: 633-634].

In the EU security strategy the threat of terrorism is treated as a global threat of strategic importance to the whole of Europe. It is estimated that terrorist organisations have enough resources to conduct global activities and are ready to use violence to inflict massive property damage and civilian casualties. In the EU security strategy terrorist organisations are identified with radical movements motivated by religious extremism, social, cultural and political crises, and the alienation of the young generation living in culturally foreign societies.

In view of the fact that a number of terrorist organisations are operating in the EU countries, the strategic assessments formulated in 2003 perceive terrorism as an external and internal threat to the security of the EU.

In the Report on the Implementation of the European Security Strategy – Providing Security in a Changing World, published in 2008, terrorism is still assessed as a major threat to societies of the EU. However, the document focuses on the internal dimension of terrorism, which manifests itself in activities of home-grown groups involved in recruiting new members among EU citizens born in EU member states.

The document emphasizes threats associated with the growing scale of terrorism as a result of radicalisation, extremist ideology and discrimination [Report on the Implementation... 2008: 4]. Extremism and Islamic terrorism constitute a new factor which is emerging as a threat to the security and stability of EU member states. The radical vision of Islam, with an openly anti-Western rhetoric promoted by extremist Sunni Muslim groups, which resort to terrorism as their main method of struggle. It is a relatively new threat, which does not have a typical military character and cannot be easily grasped in terms of classic geopolitics, since it is posed by non-state actors that operate independently of activities of particular countries. More importantly, the threat comes not only from outside the EU (mainly from the Middle East, South Asia or North Africa), but also from within: in the form of increasingly active and aggressive communities of Muslim immigrants and their descendants (especially in Western Europe). In 2015 there were reports about the growth of Daesh (the Arabic acronym of the Islamic State) in Bosnia and Herzegovina, which is where most Muslim terrorists are recruited to fight in the Middle East. The progressive radicalization of Muslims in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Kosovo and in other countries is a problem which will have to be addressed, as much as gradual state failure. According to Magdalena Adamczuk, the current problem of Islamic terrorism in Europe comprises:

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3 According to the strategy, logistical bases for Al Qaeda cells have been uncovered in the UK, Italy, Germany, Spain and Belgium.
– Islamic terrorist groups with headquarters and training camps located in Muslim countries and committing acts of terrorism in European countries;
– The “export” of European Islamists who commit terrorist attacks in such countries as the USA, Israel or Afghanistan (people born and raised in Western countries get involved in jihad and commit terrorist acts in non-European countries);
– Radicalisation of European Islamists who took part in conflicts in Afghanistan, Bosnia or Iraq and are returning from conflict zones to commit terrorist acts in the name of Al-Qaeda – the phenomenon is known as blowback and is particularly dangerous since terrorist fighters looking for new targets in their countries of residence can rely on their experience of using weapons and explosives;
– Radicalised European Muslims, born and raised in Europe, enjoying their rights as citizens of the world, who commit terrorist acts in their countries of origin [Adamczyk 2011: 63].

All the above categories of Islamic terrorists are involved in migration processes. In the first case, we deal with the movement of terrorists between countries in order to carry out terrorist plans (using instruments of temporary migration – student, business or tourist visas). The other cases are mainly associated with activities of immigrants or descendants of immigrants in the second or third generation.

5. Military threats

Immigrants arriving in Europe bring along their social conflicts. In addition to the ethnic conflict between Turks and Kurds, Europe is witnessing the division between Sunnis and Shiites, which is the underlying cause of many present conflicts in that region. However, it is not the conflicts occurring in Muslim countries that pose a threat to Europe but rather the clash of two civilisations: Islam and the Western world. These conflicts have existed for centuries, and the last one in the Balkans demonstrated that religious wars can arise again in the future. It is noteworthy to quote an opinion expressed by one of the most known contemporary politologists, Samuel P. Huntington: “The fundamental problem for the West is not Islamic fundamentalism. It is Islam, a different civilization whose people are convinced of the superiority of their culture and are obsessed with the inferiority of their power. The problem for Islam is [...] is the West, a different civilisation whose people are convinced of the universality of their culture and believe that their superior, if declining, power imposes on them the obligation to extend that culture throughout the world. These are the basic ingredients that fuel conflict between Islam and the West” [Huntington 1996: 217]. According to Huntington, cultural contrasts determine the course of future events and global politics. At
a local level cross-border wars, mainly between Muslims and non-Muslims, can easily escalate. The quasi war triggered by the revival of Islam was initiated by Islamic extremists. Their main goal is to subordinate all religions to Islam, destroy America and enable Islam and Muslims to take control over societies of the world. Islamic extremists believe that the Western civilisation is waging a war on the civilisation of Islam in order to destroy its culture, customs and religion. According to the spiritual leader of Iran, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei (aged 73), a big conflict will soon break out, which will be perceived as a war of two worlds – the world of Islam and “the world of Western culture”. In his opinion, this is how the war will unfold: it will start with a war between Islam and the West, which will be followed by the coming of the Imam Mahdi, who will save the world and establish the eternal Islamic rule and destroy the culture of unbelievers.

The disconcerting fact is that more and more people with an immigrant background are joining the ranks of different uniformed services. In countries like the UK, Belgium or the Netherlands immigrants are encouraged to join police forces in order to improve public security and counteract crime in areas inhabited mainly by immigrants. In some European armies the ethnic background of army candidates is not taken into account: for example it is enough to have a German passport to serve in the Bundeswehr. This is why the ranks of the German army, numbering about 167,000 soldiers, are joined by increasingly many immigrants. While most of them are privates (26% of all soldiers), some are high ranking officers, from a major upwards, who account for 7% of the armed forces. It is hard to assess if all those who decide to pursue the career of a police officer, soldier or a border guard, are interested in a good wage or perhaps are motivated by other patriotic or ideological reasons. The fact remains that such people become familiar with the security systems of military bases, receive general and specialist professional military training and get access to weapons, all of which enables them to practise skills that can be used not only by crime organisations but also by terrorist groups or help them commit individual terrorist acts as servants of Allah.

Migration also has a negative effect on defence budgets of European countries. In Belgium it is expected that the rate of defence spending as a percentage of GDP may decline by 0.5%. In Germany expenditure on migrants of 50 billion euro already exceeds the budget of the Ministry of Defence, which in 2016 amounted to 35 billion euro. A decision to no longer maintain particular defence capabilities entails a risk in the event of an unexpected threat.

**Summary**

Migration movements can pose both indirect and direct threats to many security aspects of particular countries or entire regions. As can be seen from numerous
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historical examples, migrations often triggered major social, cultural, economic and political transformations, paving the way for new or bringing down existing forms of social organisation, such as states, nations or societies. In the past migrations sometimes took the form of military conquests and led to the extermination of entire nations. In the context of contemporary migration flows, among the major threats facing European countries are: terrorism, organised crime, political extremism, crises that can lead to the weakening or destruction of social bonds, and illegal migration. Terrorist attacks, unrest and mounting social tensions between native inhabitants of Europe and Muslims, fuelled by nationalist sentiments, lead to a growing social resistance to further immigration. Europeans are becoming increasingly concerned about the strategy of peaceful coexistence with largely Muslim immigrants, believing that it is not realistic, which is why many simply reject it. There are growing concerns about the security and future of Europe and nothing will change it, at least in the short term. For this reason, migration cannot be treated as a marginal problem, even if its effects do not resemble those known from the past.

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Wpływ zagrożeń migracyjnych na bezpieczeństwo państw europejskich

Streszczenie. Niniejszy artykuł zawiera rozważania na temat wpływu procesów migracyjnych w Europie na poziom bezpieczeństwa społeczno-politycznego państw i jego obywateli. Jest to pro-
blem, który budzi wiele emocji, ponieważ wśród części społeczeństwa obecność imigrantów wywo-
luje niepokój i obawy o dalsze losy ich rodzin, bezpieczeństwo i tożsamość narodową. W artykule
wyjaśniono istotę zagrożeń migracyjnych, zidentyfikowano skalę napływu cudzoziemców do krajów
Unii oraz wskazano główne ich drogi przemieszczania. Następnie odniesiono się do poszczególnych
zagrożeń związanych z procesami migracyjnymi. Zaliczono do nich: zagrożenia społeczne, ekono-
miczne, terrorystyczne oraz militarne.

Słowa kluczowe: migracja, emigranci, zagrożenia, islam