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**A QUALITATIVE ANALYSIS OF THE ATTITUDES TO THE  
MIGRATION CRISIS**

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***Abstract***

The current migration crisis is a significant Europe-wide issue. The analysis of the attitudes towards this issue is a new relevant research topic in the Czech Republic. The aim of this study is to analyse the attitudes of Czech citizens towards the current migration crisis. We are interested in what attitudes are dominant because the attitudes have substantial explanatory strength in explaining the causes of behaviour of individuals and entire social groups. The data are obtained by means of a questionnaire. Within data processing both qualitative and quantitative methodologies are used, where qualitative data analysis is perceived as dominant and quantitative analysis has a rather supplementary function. The primary method is qualitative analysis of open statements which is based on the procedures analogical to open axial coding in grounded theory. The analysis of open statements of 169 respondents points out the following categories: expression of concerns; statement on accepting / non-accepting migrants; statement on current political situation; subjective experience with contact with migrants; unclassified. Most of the statements through all categories are filled with future concerns. Only 9 respondents (5%) do not express any concerns. Although it is a well-known fact that the immigration can have a positive impact on various areas in accepting countries, it is the negative aspects that mostly surface. Likewise within our research sample, where the negative attitudes prevail.

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**Keywords:** Migration crisis, migrants, attitudes, grounded theory.



## 1. Introduction

The issue of attitudes is dealt with by a number of scientific disciplines. The main cause of great interest is the explanatory power of this concept in clarifying the causes of behaviour of individuals and social groups. Understanding attitudes allows the formulation of valid assumptions about future behaviour of individuals, which is desirable in the context of the current migration crisis. The theoretical part of the paper focuses on theoretical background of the concept of attitudes and their link to the issue of migration, specifically the current migration crisis. The practical part presents the results of an analysis of open-ended responses concerning the migration crisis.

### 1.1. Attitudes and their formation

The definition of attitudes in scientific literature is marked by a degree of inconsistency. The original definitions were broad and included cognitive, affective, motivational and behavioural components (Schwarz, Bohner, 2001). Currently, there are three models of attitudes: three-component model (cognitive, affective, behavioural), two-component model (cognitive, affective) and one-component model, which claims that attitudes are purely emotional (Fischben, Ajzen, 1974). Most current theories define attitudes as a general evaluation of a specific object. The evaluation tendencies cannot be directly observed although they are involved in processes between certain stimuli (objects of attitudes) and reactions. It is assumed that they are based on experience and manifested in various ways. More distinct attitudes are formed in case of objects or events that occur more frequently or those that are more significant for some reason (Krech, Crutchfield, Ballachey, 1968).

One of the main reasons for investigating attitudes is the belief that *attitudes are the cause of behaviour*. However, this relationship it is not so simple. The original study that investigated this assumption was published by LaPiere already in 1934 (LaPiere, 1934). Using the *LaPiere paradox*, Wicker (1969) concluded that a man does not always behave in the context of one's own attitude (if I do not see a person, I have no personal contact, it is easy to refuse). The behavioural component is the least reliable in terms of the attitude's persistence. However, the relationship between attitudes and behaviour is one of many topics of scientific research. Many studies focus on *the formation of attitudes*. Some studies are based on the proposition that attitudes are formed in the process of socialization and are linked to satisfying our needs (Krech, Crutchfield, Ballachey, 1968), others emphasized the effect of information on the process of formation, which is of a cognitive quality, but is rarely neutral (Výrost, Slaměník, 2008). There are studies that focus on public attitudes towards migrants (e.g. Havlík, 2007; Leontiyeva, Vávra, 2009; Vecchione et al., 2012; Murray, Marx, 2013). In the broadest sense the study of attitudes is significant because attitudes are important for our social life. If we know each other's attitudes, the world becomes more predictable; attitudes can be used to shape our thinking and behaviour (Bohner, Dickel, 2011).

## 1.2. Attitudes towards migrants

In the Czech Republic (referred to as CR) the numbers of immigrants until early 1990s were relatively low. After 1989 the situation changed dramatically, both in terms of numbers and structure of foreigners living in the CR. The CR became an increasingly popular destination not only for temporary, but also permanent immigration (Baršová, Barša 2005); the benefits of immigration were perceived rather negatively by most citizens (Prudký, 2004). In the CR, foreigners are publicly considered a problem on a nationwide level (58% of respondents), but much less so in the place of the respondents' residence (26% of respondents). This might suggest general prejudices against foreigners (Rákoczyová, Trbola et al. 2009). Similar results were formulated by Sniderman, Hagendoorn (2009) and Sniderman, Hagendoorn, Prior (2004), who refer to extensive studies (e.g. European Social Survey, ESS) examining the attitudes of EU citizens to immigration in general.

These studies also focused on potential threats related to immigration. According to the results, these threats were essentially divided into two categories: *threats to individuals and threats to the nation* (group, country, unity). Potential threats to the nation have a much more significant effect on the attitude to immigration compared with threats to individuals. Czech citizens perceive the current migration crisis a potential threat to the nation. As suggested by the latest CVVM (Public opinion research center) survey in 2016, this current situation is perceived by Czech citizens as a significant security threat not only for the CR and Europe, but also in a global context. It is therefore not surprising that 79% of citizens are against accepting refugees (CCVM, 2009). In the event of acceptance of migrants, public expectations are that foreigners will as much as possible adapt to Czech cultural habits, that they will socially integrate, which usually means engagement of all parties involved in social life, including conferment of rights, acquisition of language skills, participation in the education system and labour market, and emotional identification with the host country (e.g. Esser, 2001). However, social inclusion of immigrants is not a uniform process. It is influenced not only by the immigrants' and their families' motivation and abilities, but also by the conditions that the host society sets (Rákoczyová, Trbola et al., 2009). There are various theories trying to explain the determinants of the attitudes to immigration. For the purposes of simplification, these theories will be divided into two groups – *individual and collective*. The collective theories focus on a set of variables, such as the number of immigrants in the country, unemployment rate, unemployment growth, GDP, amount of foreign investment (collective economic theories), etc. (Paas, Halapuu, 2012). The individual theories concerning attitudes to migrants work with variables such as demographic factors, income, personality variables, perceived cultural differences, political affiliation, interpersonal trust and sense of security. In addition to the variables above, the development of the attitudes to migrants also depends on their political, cultural or religious background (variables on the part of migrants). For this reason, the attitudes to migrants coming from different countries may vary. According to Rokeach et al. (1960), if respondents assume that the beliefs and values of migrants (incoming groups) differ from their own, it is more likely that they will approach these groups with a higher degree of prejudice.

## 2. Problem Statement

The current migration crisis is an important Europe-wide issue. Investigating citizens' attitudes to this issue is a new research focus in the CR. Regarding the fact that attitudes have considerable explanatory power in clarifying the causes of individual's or group's behaviour, the objective of the present study was their analysis in the context of the CR.

## 3. Research Questions

- a) What categories of responses will appear in the analysis of open-ended responses?
- b) What are the attitudes of Czech citizens to the migration crisis in terms of the content of open-ended responses?

## 4. Purpose of the Study

Public attitudes to migration and migrants represent one of the major factors that can affect not only social integration of migrants in the host society, but also the overall public life. The aim of the present research was to investigate the attitudes of Czech citizens to the migration crisis by means of an analysis of open-ended questions.<sup>1</sup> The analysis focused on data excerpts and core statements that we believe contain regularities and statement patterns.

## 5. Research Methods

Research data were obtained by means of an online questionnaire<sup>2</sup>, which was divided into three parts; the first part focused on individual attitudes to the current migration crisis, the second part focused on personality structure, the third part focused on selected personality characteristics. *The final part* of the questionnaire offered space for open-ended written statements, where each respondent had an opportunity to comment on the issue of migration. The paper focuses on processing the data based on *open-ended responses*. The data collection was performed from March to September 2016.

The research design was the *concurrent nested (embedded) strategy*. Data are collected concurrently in terms of quality and quantity; however, during their analysis one set of data is given priority. In our case, the dominant data were the qualitative data (obtained by means of a deep analysis of written statements), while the quantitative data (numbers) were of a complementary nature (Cresswell, 2003). The qualitative analysis of the data was based on open axial coding in the embedded theory (Strauss, Corbin, 1999).

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<sup>1</sup> The analysis of open-ended responses is part of a broader research study aimed at investigating the attitudes of Czech citizens to the current migration crisis.

<sup>2</sup> The online questionnaire 'Mapping the attitudes to the current migration crisis' was distributed online (by means of e-mail, social networks, discussion fora, etc.) in order to obtain an extensive body of data and information from various socio-professional and socio-economic groups of citizens. The aim of the authors was to cover all age categories (18 and older), educational and opinion groups.

### 5.1. Research sample

Of the whole sample of 1.025 respondents a total of 204 respondents (21%) used their opportunity to add written comments in the final part of the questionnaire. This subgroup included 97 women (47%) and 107 men (53%). The youngest respondent was 18 and the oldest 89 years of age. The average age of the entire sample was 42.78 years.

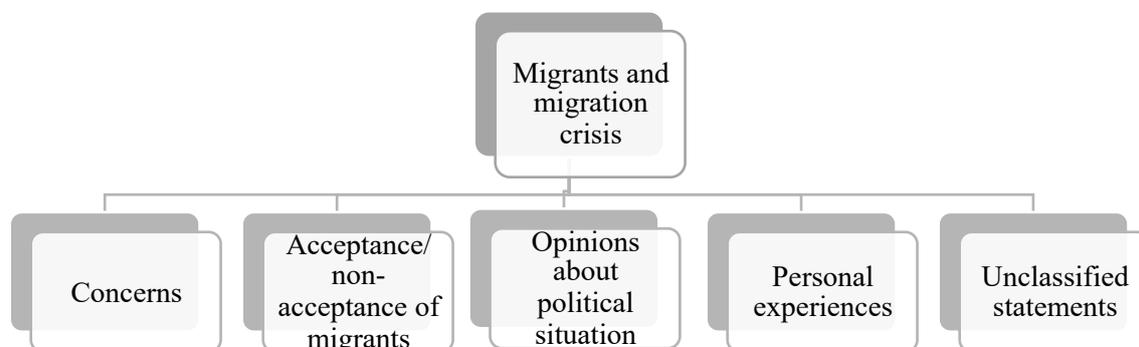
## 6. Findings

The analysis of open-ended statements suggested two basic areas that the respondents commented on: *questionnaire and migrants or migration crisis*. The analysis included the statement of 169 respondents, who had commented on the migration crisis.

### 6.1. Analysis of the area of migrants and migration crisis – definition of basic categories

During the coding procedure it was revealed that the responses concerning migrants and migration crisis related to five basic categories<sup>3</sup> (see Graph 01):

- Category *Concerns*: concerns about Islam; worries about homeland and the EU; fears of radicalization of the society; worries about loved ones.
- Category *Acceptance/non-acceptance of migrants*: acceptance yes; acceptance yes but; acceptance no.
- Category *Political situation* (analysis of political situation, opinions about political situation and policy).
- Category *Personal experiences with migrants* (respondents who report their own personal contact with migrants).
- Category *Unclassified statements* (statements not included in any of the categories above due to possible misinterpretations).



**Graph 01.** Migrants and migration crisis – categories

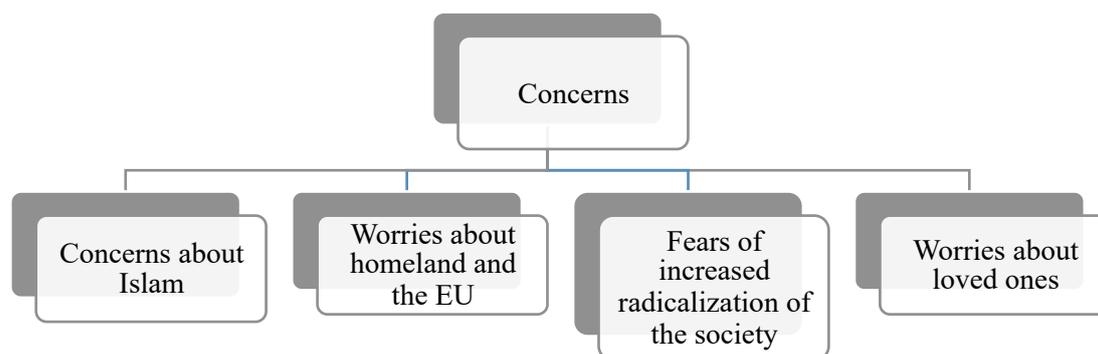
<sup>3</sup> The results of the analysis are arranged in an order starting with general research levels, followed by individual categories and ending with specific subcategories. Authentic statements of the respondents are marked in inverted commas and are in italics.

## 6.2. Analysis of open-ended statements by categories

The following part presents the analyses of open-ended responses by categories.

### 6.2.1. Category Concerns

In the *Category Concerns* a total of 87 (51%)<sup>4</sup> respondents expressed concerns about the current migration crisis. In this category, the following categories were observed (see Graph 02).



**Graph 02.** Subcategories in the category ‘Concerns’

The respondents express their *concerns about Islam; worries about homeland and the EU; fears of increased radicalization of the society; worries about loved ones*. A female respondent (38 years) expressed her concerns in a few words: “*God help us.*” A total of 48 (55%)<sup>5</sup> respondents expressed their *concerns about Islam*. The respondents expressed concerns about religious fanaticism and religious intolerance, in this context also about cultural intolerance and cultural differences of migrants. “*Islam as practised by radicals is the greatest of threats not only for Europe but for the whole world*” (male, 68 years). Fears of Islamic ideology is also expressed by a male respondent (47 years): “*...I don’t mind refugees but I’m very afraid of Islam. There might be a million refugees, but not Muslims.*” An overall feeling of helplessness and fear (without a specific explanation) was mentioned by 2 respondents: “*... I feel the helplessness and hopelessness in this situation*” (female, 32 years). The respondents believe it is impossible to link migrants’ cultural norms with ours, they are convinced that migrants will not adapt to our culture. “*These people have no interest in the culture and laws of the country they are migrating to...*” (male, 26 years). All responses contained worries about losing something that has been built for generations and taken from the ancestors. The respondents are convinced that acculturation of migrants in Europe and in our country is impossible and that Islam<sup>6</sup> is incompatible with European life.

In the category Concerns, 15 respondents (17.4%) indicated *worries about the future of the CR and EU*. “*Protection of the CR is strongly underestimated, still I believe that WE, the Czechs – patriots*

<sup>4</sup> % of the total of 169 respondents (who commented on migrants)

<sup>5</sup> For other percentages see the category ‘Concerns’.

<sup>6</sup> We are aware of the fact that the term ‘Islam’ is very broad and can be viewed from many different perspectives. These perspectives include cultural, political or religious Islam, or its offshoots. Regarding the fact that most of the respondents did not specify their statements about Islam, the present paper includes the term ‘Islam’ without any detailed specification.

*will not leave our country at the mercy of anyone...*” (male, 37 years). A similar opinion was given by a male respondent (38 years): *“It is hard to understand that our ancestors built this country and fought for this country (for which many of them gave their lives), and, just as they did, we want to keep the country for the next generations...”* The following opinion was given by a female respondent (33 years): *“... I am worried about my children because a lot of people are flowing to Europe and we know nothing about them. And mostly they are men ... Europe is playing with its own in security.”* A male respondent (26 years) asked himself a question: *“Is the future of Europe a matter of indifference to everyone...?”* All statements included patriotism, and also determination to protect the country if necessary. An apt opinion was given by a male respondent (46 years): *“Let us protect and develop our nation...”*

In the category Concerns, 14 respondents (16%) expressed their *fear of radicalization of the society*. The respondents expressed their concerns about possible extremist activities, terrorist attacks not only in the EU but also specifically in the Czech Republic: *“I am afraid of extremism such as the Islamic State”* (female respondent, 51 years). *“Among the refugees there may be a lot of ‘sleeping’ ISIL or Al-Qaeda operatives”* (male, 57 years). The following opinion was given by a male respondent (28 years): *“...currently it is impossible to verify the origin or the identity of all refugees to save Europe from terrorist attacks and dying of our loved ones.”* The respondents indicated increasing concerns about possible hostility and hatred among Czech citizens, and hatred for everything foreign and unknown, which is currently represented by migrants: *“...I have a fear of growing right-wing extremism of Czech citizens and increasing xenophobia and racism in the society”* (female, 25 years). *“I am afraid of the increasing extremism of both left-wing and right-wing, I am worried that the whole beautiful Europe is heading for disaster. And I don’t like the idea that we hate each other because of different opinions...”* (female, 29 years). All respondents in this subcategory expressed their concerns about increased aggression and violence in the society, and growing xenophobia.

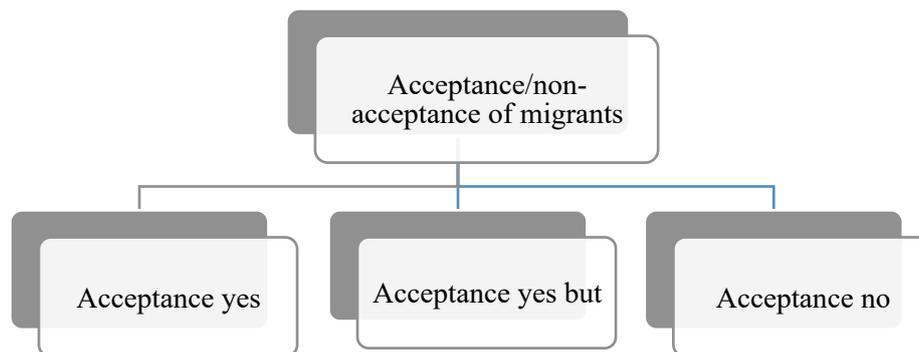
*Worries about loved ones* were directly expressed by 9 (10%) respondents (female). *“I have a small girl and I want her to grow up in safety”* (female, 33 years). *“To put it simply... I am worried about the future of my children and future generations* (female, 40 years). The oldest female respondent (77 years) gave the following opinion: *“... although I’m old, I am worried about the future of my children, grandchildren and great grandchildren.”* In this subcategory the respondents expressed their worries about specific people, family and future generations.

### **6.2.2. Category Acceptance/non-acceptance of migrants**

The second category was *Acceptance/non-acceptance of migrants*, which was commented on by 66 respondents (39%)<sup>7</sup>. This category was further differentiated (see Graph 03).

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<sup>7</sup> % of the total of 169 respondents (who commented on migrants)



**Graph 03.** Subcategories in the category ‘Acceptance/non-acceptance of migrants’

Agreement with potential acceptance of migrants was expressed by 5 (7.6%)<sup>8</sup> respondents. An empathetic attitude to offering a helping hand was expressed by a female respondent (26 years): *“The issue of refugees is a complex one, whether in terms of economy, policy or ethnicity. There is a variety of opinions but I still believe it is necessary to empathize with them and approach them individually. How many people have already died. Is it possible to live with the fact that we ignored that somebody was running away from hell with a vision of a better life and we didn’t help? I would invite children of refugees to my place and I would take care of them.”* A female respondent (22 years) gave an emotional opinion: *“I am offended by the inability of Czech people to face the responsibly to accept people who suffer and are impoverished. ... I don’t like (I am disgusted by) the idea of patriotism and standing against different cultures...”* At the end of her statement the respondent concluded: *“...we are all people, the world needs to be multicultural.”* A male respondent (21 years) gave the following statement: *“We must help the refugees, it is our duty...I hate people who refuse to help and care just for themselves...”* These respondents expressed their indignation at the negative attitudes of some Czech citizens. Their statements suggest their conviction that each of us should help people in need, in this case migrants.

In terms of the dilemma of acceptance or non-acceptance of refugees, 39 respondents (59%) indicated *acceptance yes but*. These respondents believe that we should help all migrants who need help provided that they will be able to integrate into society and to adapt at least to some extent to our culture. These respondents also believe that refugees should be helped in their own country. A female respondent (50 years) thought all refugees should be helped: *... “but only in their own country, because their culture is hardly compatible with our habits and way of life.”* The following opinion was given by a male respondent (26 years): *“I don’t have anything against refugees themselves if they are decent people, we should definitely help them...”* The ambivalence of the emotional component of the attitudes, which is apparent in all responses in this subcategory, was aptly expressed by a female respondent (51 years): *“I’m split in this issue, on the one hand as a woman and mother I understand the difficult situation of refugees – families with children (cold, hunger) and on the other hand I can’t understand why economic refugees – all young men on the pictures were not stopped.* A similar opinion was given by a female respondent (48 years): *“Yes, let’s help those poor people who are affected by the war...but I am convinced that a majority of them (approximately 90-95%) are economic migrants, who will not be able to and will not have the*

<sup>8</sup> % in the subcategories derived from the numbers of respondents in category ‘Acceptance/non-acceptance of migrants’

*motivation to integrate in the European society.*” The respondents in this subcategory have one thing in common. They are willing to help, either in the Czech Republic, Europe or in the countries of migrants, but only those people who are affected by the hardship of war and who lost their home. An important precondition is that migrants integrate into our society.

*Disagreement* with potential acceptance of migrants was expressed by 22 respondents (33%). These responses were brief (one to three sentences), resolute and clear. As if the respondents did not have an urge to explain or detail their attitude. The following opinion was given by a male respondent (40 years): *“They shouldn’t be here at all! In terms of culture, religion or history.”* The following opinion was given by a female respondent (42 years): *“...as a matter of principle, I refuse Islamic immigration (non-integrability as a result of religious orders of Islam) and economic migrants.”* A brief comment was given by a young male respondent (21 years): *“I don’t want refugees in the Czech Republic!”* These opinions suggest uncompromising attitudes and implacability concerning the current migration crisis.

### **6.2.3. Category ‘Opinions about political situation’**

Some respondents commented on the present political situation in our country and in the world, some also commented on specific politicians. In this category (22 respondents, 13%<sup>9</sup>) the statements were negative and included frequent criticism of the fact that our current politicians failed to protect Europe. *“Those should be punished who despite the Schengen area allowed people without visa to come, in addition to war refugees, EU was flooded by as much as 80% of economic migrants (male, 57 years).* The following question was asked by a male respondent (35 years): *“...don’t you think that politicians should first think of their own people and then the others????...each politician should protect the country where he/she was elected. I very much like the view of President Zeman...”* Some statements included emotional assessment of other countries’ influence on the current situation.<sup>10</sup> The following opinion was given by a male respondent (60 years): *“If the Americans didn’t poke their f... nose in other countries governance and didn’t induce war conflicts...there would be peace and order in the world.”* A male respondent (65) criticized the Government: *“...what is currently going on is the incompetence of the Government and the whole Europe.”* Some respondents proposed specific solutions: *“...withdrawal from NATO and the EU (male, 70 years).* Some respondents referred to specific politicians: *“Merkel invited them, she should take them with her. Change the policy and remove the politicians. This would never happen under the communist regime. I am for withdrawal from the EU, it brought me nothing” (male, 40 years).* *“I feel let down by the Government, political parties,”* said a disappointed female respondent (29 years). All of these statements were critical, emotional and with a sign of indignation.

### **6.2.4. Category ‘Personal experiences with migrants’**

In this category the respondents (10; 5%)<sup>11</sup> commented on their personal experiences with migrant from the Middle East. These were subjective experiences with predominant negative connotations. *“I*

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<sup>9</sup> % of the total of 169 respondents (who commented on migrants)

<sup>10</sup> This category included statements with vulgar expressions.

<sup>11</sup> % of the total of 169 respondents (who commented on migrants)

studied abroad for a few years and unfortunately my personal experiences with refugees from the Middle East and some African countries, that is Islam believers, are generally very bad... I would like to say different things but this is based on my own experiences” (male, 24 years). The following statement was given by a 50-year-old female respondent: “My critical attitude to Islamic migration is based not only on theoretical knowledge but also personal experiences with a broad range of different people from the Middle East.” A female respondent, who had lived with a man of Muslim religion, expressed similar concerns: “... and I can positively confirm that they are radicalizing. Especially as their children grow, they get tougher with educating according to Koran... (female, 41 years). A male respondent (43 years), who had been an immigrant himself, expressed concerns about the current situation: “If this crisis is not managed in a competent and smart way, it will have a big effect on the way of our lives... I come from a country that had suffered from Islamic barbarism for centuries. These people will never assimilate...” Based on their personal experiences, the respondents are convinced that the integration of migrants into our culture is not possible.

#### **6.2.5. Category ‘Unclassified statements’**

Some respondents (4; 2.5%)<sup>12</sup> added one sentence in the final part of the questionnaire, which can be assessed in various ways. A female respondent (35 years) gave the following opinion about the migration crisis: “I don’t like the crisis as a whole, I think it’s a media bubble.” She pointed out the negative role of the media informing about the migration crisis frequently and with intensity, which has an effect on the attitudes of the citizens. Another female respondent (50 years) pointed out the necessity to balance emotions and wisdom in approaching migrants: “Wisdom and sensibility at the same time.” The following statement was given by a male respondent (35 years): “I LIKE PEOPLE.” Another male respondent (61 years) suggested that things may be different than we expected them to be: “Nothing is as we expect it to be.” These statements can be interpreted from various perspectives and in different ways. For this reason, they were not included in any of the previous categories.

## **7. Conclusion**

Migration has affected the history of mankind from the very beginning. Migration is not a new phenomenon, but the current migration wave that Europe faces raises a high degree of solidarity among people but also great worries and concerns. It seems that those respondents who spent a considerable amount of time completing the questionnaire and added some extra comments consider the migration crisis an important issue and that their opinions are more distinct.

### **7.1. Categories of statements**

A total of 87 (51%) respondents expressed their *concerns* about the current migration crisis. Most of these concerns relate to *Islamic ideology*. The respondents indirectly pointed to the influence of the culture of the society on human personality, which is an issue that has attracted researchers since 1930s (Výrost, Slaměník, 1998). Research studies confirm that each personality is imbued with the culture. This

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<sup>12</sup> % of the total of 169 respondents (who commented on migrants)

results in different behaviours of the members of different cultures. A typical personality of a society is called *basal personality*. The perception of principal differences between cultures influences the respondents' attitudes to accepting migrants. The importance of subjective perception of cultural differences is also highlighted by Rokeach et al. (1960). If citizens assume that the beliefs and values of migrants (incoming groups) differ from their own, it is more likely that they will approach these groups with a higher degree of prejudice. Also in the case of our respondents the perception of disparate values probably supports antagonism towards migrants and strengthens concerns. Although the CR is still of secondary interest of migrants flowing to Western Europe, the respondents expressed their *worries about the CR and EU and fear of increasing radicalism of the society*. In these subcategories the respondents indicated fears of increasing aggression and violence. An interesting fact is that these concerns are related to several topics: fears of increased aggression on the part of migrants towards the original citizens, fears of increased aggression on the part of the original citizens towards migrants, and fears of increased aggression among the original citizens because of different opinions concerning the issue. *Worries about loved ones* (family, children) were mentioned by 9 female respondents.

In the category *Acceptance/non-acceptance of migrants*, a total of 66 respondents (39%) commented on the issue<sup>13</sup>. 39 (59%) of them selected the option *acceptance yes but*. These respondents believe that those who integrate in the society should be helped. They think that we should accept those migrants who are affected by the hardship of war, especially women and children. A *strictly radical and refusing attitude* was expressed by 22 respondents (13%). Only 5 respondents (3%) expressed *agreement with acceptance* of migrants in the sense of helping those who need it.

A strong emotional subtext is obvious in the statements of 22 (13%)<sup>14</sup> of the respondents who had the urge to comment on the *current political situation and politicians*. All statements in the category are negative and criticize the political representation and the fact that our current politicians failed to protect Europe. The longest statement by a male respondent (60 years) contained 817 words, by means of which he gave an emotional opinion (with a large number of grammatical errors) about the current political situation in our country and in the world. His statement ended with the following: “...our country, our rules, our borders, our homeland. Without the EU or USA!” The respondents criticize the current policies and search for quick and easy solutions. Similar opinions are seen in various discussion fora on the Internet, but also in the context of usual interpersonal communication.

Only 10 (5%)<sup>15</sup> respondents were included in the category *Personal experiences*. They were all in personal contact with migrants, their experiences are negative and they have concerns about the migration crisis and its possible consequences for their life.

## 7.2. Summary

Although it is known that immigration might have a positive effect on economic performance and growth in the accepting countries, most attention is attracted by negative aspects. Accordingly, a majority

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<sup>13</sup> % of the total of 169 respondents (who commented on migrants)

<sup>14</sup> % of the total of 169 respondents (who commented on migrants)

<sup>15</sup> % of the total of 169 respondents (who commented on migrants)

of the respondents in the present study showed negative attitudes to migrants and the migration crisis. These negative attitudes were presented in various ways across all categories. Only 9 respondents (5%) did not report any negative aspects. Similarly, other research studies confirm the dominance of negative attitudes to migration and concerns (Card, Dustmann, Preston 2005; Hainmueller, Hopkins 2014).

The analysis of the statements suggests that the issue is perceived with strong emotions, most of which are negative. These emotions apparently play a significant role in the formation of the attitudes, which supports the theory of the single-component attitude model, according to which attitudes are purely emotional (Fischben, Ajzen, 1975). Regarding the fact that those objects or events that we encounter more frequently or that are more important to us for some reason shape our attitudes more strongly (Krech, Crutchfield, Ballachey, 1968). Attitudes to the migration crisis, which are presented by the media on a daily basis, are shaped very strongly. The information that is received is not emotionally neutral and affects the formation of individual attitudes (Výrost, 2008). It is apparent that the process of assessing a situation (object of the attitude, in our case the migration crisis) according to certain assessment criteria of the respondents subsequently conditions their emotional response (Scherer, 2006). The results of the study imply that the issue of the migration crisis is significant for the respondents and that the information received with respect to the issue is rarely emotionally neutral.

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