

**CZECH UNIVERSITY OF LIFE SCIENCES PRAGUE**  
**Faculty of Economics and Management**



**Department of Economics and Management**

**Diploma Thesis**

**International Labour Migration between Africa and Europe**

**Author: Sheku Kemoh Mansaray**

**Supervisor: Ing. Mansoor Maitah, Ph.D. et Ph.D.**

## **Declaration**

I declare that I have worked on my diploma thesis titled “International Labour Migration Between Africa and Europe” by myself and I have used only the sources mentioned at the end of the thesis.

April,2011.

In Prague

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Sheku Kemoh Mansaray

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Sheku Kemoh Mansaray

**TÉMA**

**Mezinárodní migraci pracovních sil mezi Afrikou a Evropou**

**International labour migration between Africa and Europe**

## **Souhrn**

Hlavním cílem této diplomové práce je zhodnotit sociálně-ekonomické přínosy i ztráty v důsledku migrace pracovních sil mezi Afrikou a Evropou. První dvě kapitoly extensivně pojednávají o modelech a dynamice migrací pracovních sil, historickém vztahu mezi oběma kontinenty a následném narůstajícím sebevědomí Afričanů, vedoucím k rozhodnutí opustit rodný kontinent v nepředstavitelném měřítku, skrze riskantní a nebezpečné cesty do Evropy, s cílem dosažení lepších životních podmínek. Třetí kapitola se snaží identifikovat následky migrace pracovních sil mezi oběma kontinenty. Nakonec, poslední kapitola udává detailní přehled celého zkoumání, možná doporučení postupů pro budoucí vývoj, jak z hlediska expertů, tak z mého osobního stanoviska, a poté závěr.

Očividně, jak si mnozí myslí, migrace pracovních sil mezi Afrikou a Evropou je relativně dobrá věc pro oba kontinenty, ale také jsou zde ti, kteří si myslí, že možné dobré přínosy pro jeden kontinent mohou představovat špatné přínosy pro ten druhý. Zatímco já si myslím, že sociálně-ekonomické důsledky takovéto migrace mají jak pozitiva tak negativa pro oba kontinenty, avšak význam takových efektů na jeden kontinent dále převažuje ty ostatní. Toto vše může být pochopeno pouze tehdy, když je vzat v úvahu historický vývoj vztahů mezi Afrikou a Evropou, ve vztahu k faktorům podílejících se na šíleném náporu Afričanů do Evropy za „zelenější pastvinou“. Tudiš zde existuje nerovný vztah mezi oběma kontinenty v rámci dopadů.

### **Klíčová slova**

migrace práce, Afričtí emigranti, domácí nebo vysílající země, hostující nebo přijímající země, odliv mozků, převod, diaspora, xenofobie

## **SUMMARY**

The main objective of this Diploma thesis is to discuss the socio-economic gains and losses of labour migration between Africa and Europe. The first two chapters extensively dealt with labour migration patterns and dynamics, the historical relationship between these two continents that consequently arose the ego for Africans to move from their continent in unimaginable proportions, through risky and dangerous routes to Europe for better living standards. The third chapter tries to identify the impacts of labour movement between these two continents with a clear objective of analysing the magnitude of such impacts on individual continent. Finally, the last chapter gives a detail summary of the whole research; possible recommendations from policy experts and from my own personal view point; and the conclusion.

It is apparently believed by many that labour migration effects between Africa and Europe is relatively good for both continents but many also opined that its benefits on one continent is as good as it is bad for the other continent. While I believed that the socio-economic impacts of such migration have its positives and negatives alike, yet the magnitude of such effects on one continent far outweighs the other. This can only be understood if one looks at the historical implications of contact between Africa and Europe in relation to the factors precipitating the mad rush of Africans to Europe for greener pastures. Thus, it represents an unequal relationship in terms of effects on both continents.

### **Key words**

labour migration, African migrants, home or sending countries, host or receiving countries, brain drain, brain gain, remittancies, diasporas, xenophobia

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## 1. Introduction

The relationship between Africa and Europe with regards to international labour migration has been a subject of social science research since the 19th century and has become a prominent debate from the 1950s. It is commonly conceived among media and migration policy experts that there is a massive exodus of Africans who are desperate to escape the claws of poverty and wars back home, thus heading for Europe.

Agreed that there has been an increasing movement of regular and irregular migrants from Africa to Europe over the past few decades, what is contestable though is the fact that available empirical facts seem to convey a contrary view about these assumptions. It should be noted however that migration from Africa to Europe is not as maiden as these experts wants us to believe and that illegal sea crossing by North Africans has been a persistent occurrence ever since the introduction of visa requirements to Italy and Spain. Perhaps, one of the main shift in migration trend has been that, since 2000, Africans from sub-Sahara have started to join and even taken over North Africans as the largest category of irregular boat migrants<sup>[1]</sup>. Based on available information, the majority of Africans enter Europe legally but is also assumed that between 2000 and 2006, the total yearly increment of Africans registered in the EU has been around 100,000 and among this number, the total number of successful irregular crossings by sub-Saharan Africans is estimated to be between 25,000 to 35,000 per year, which is only a fraction of total EU immigration of 2.6 million in 2004<sup>[2]</sup>. The other basic fact is that despite a recent increase of sub saharan Africans to EU, yet it is still smaller when compared to migrants from North Africa and Eastern Europe. There are an estimated 800,000 registered West African migrants in the main European receiving countries compared to 2,600,000 North Africans. Emmigrants from Morocco alone far outweighs the rest of all West African migrants in Europe<sup>[3]</sup>. In recent years, the issue has also

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<sup>1</sup> [www.imi.ox.ac.uk/.../Irregular%20migration%20from%20West%20Africa%20-](http://www.imi.ox.ac.uk/.../Irregular%20migration%20from%20West%20Africa%20-) (20/11/2010)

<sup>2</sup> [www.heindehaas.com/.../De%20Haas,%20Hein%20](http://www.heindehaas.com/.../De%20Haas,%20Hein%20) (20/11/2010)

<sup>3</sup> [www.crethiplethi.com](http://www.crethiplethi.com) (20/11/2010)



been put high on the policy agenda of the EU and its member states. Since the 1990s, European states have mainly responded to persistent irregular immigration by intensifying border controls. This has involved the deployment of semi-military and military forces in the prevention of migration by sea. The Spanish coast is one of the common entry points for migrants seeking to enter Europe but over the past decade, Spain has taken a massive step to seal off its borders by erecting fences at Ceuta and Melilla and installing warning radar system called the Integrated System of External Vigilance at key entry points at the Strait of Gibraltar and the Canary Islands<sup>[4]</sup>. It is important to note that most North African countries and European countries have undertaken joint border controls that have mostly resulted in material benefits for the former. Added to all these restrictive moves is the influence of Frontex in 2006. This new EU external border control agency has the mandate to patrol the routes between Senegal, Mauritania, Cape Verde, and the Canary Islands by airplane, helicopter, and patrol boat and further intends to coordinate patrols involving Italy, Greece, and Malta to monitor the area between the Italian island of Lampedusa and the Tunisian and Libyan coast<sup>[5]</sup>. It is crucial to note that North America (United States of America and Canada) also attracts a high percentage of African migrants but the focus of this research is mainly limited between Africa and Europe. An important feature of labour migration between these two continents has to do with wealth flows, mostly through remittances and the crucial roles it plays in the development of families back home. Indeed many families would have been poorer without the constant economic cushioning effects of remittances. There is also this feature of brain drain effect on African countries but this does not nullify the reality that education and remittances contribute considerably to household incomes especially in rural areas. Many will argue that international migration is seemingly more rewarding to origin areas because of the above effects, and brain drain, previously perceived as a negative factor, is now recognized for its positive contribution to economies of African countries through the

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<sup>4</sup> [siteresources.worldbank.org/.../Migration\\_Remittances\\_and\\_Development.doc](http://siteresources.worldbank.org/.../Migration_Remittances_and_Development.doc) (20/11/2010)

<sup>5</sup> [books.google.cz/books?isbn=1405190604](http://books.google.cz/books?isbn=1405190604) (20/11/2010)

<sup>6</sup> [www.codewit.com/.../307-colonialism-the-greek-gift-given-to-mama-africa](http://www.codewit.com/.../307-colonialism-the-greek-gift-given-to-mama-africa) (20/11/2010)

effects of remittances, the new diaspora and brain circulation <sup>[6]</sup>. The most recent global financial crisis do not only witness a drastic move by Europe to seal its borders in an attempt to regularised their economies but also consequently had negative impacts on the flow of development aid and remittances to Sub Saharan Africa. Contrastingly, the increasing unemployment and poverty in the sub continent, coupled with the effect of the financial crisis itself on Africa means, undoubtedly, an acceleration in irregular migration flows with accompanying security risks and xenophobia.

The Afro-European patterns of movement are largely influenced by historical links between these two continents and existing statistics clearly shows that the bulk of African migrants goes to European Union countries, mostly those with colonial ties <sup>[7]</sup>. Given the brutal and crude relationship between these continents in which Europe purely acted as the aggressor and Africa as the aggressed, many Afrocentric writers convincingly believed that, if Africa was left peacefully on its unique path of development without that rude awakening in the name of colonialization, the pace or trend of migration would have been of mutual consent or maybe the Europeans would have been the ones migrating to Africa. While there are no empirical facts to support this argument, a close look at the intrusive manner, the system of governance and the legacies left behind by those former colonial masters will rightly suggest that Africa was completely deprived and underdeveloped to the extent of having no option than moving to the same Europe that has been developed partly through the hard natural resources and blood of Africans . The most serious blow suffered by the colonised is being removed from history and from the community. The policy of colonial rule defy, not only all possibilities of any free role in either Africa's destiny but also every decision contributing to this destiny and that of the world, and all cultural and social responsibility <sup>[8]</sup>. It is a fact that the benefits of colonialism were small and were not gifts. Instead, it was the fruits of African labour and resources for the most part. The reality is that what was called African development by the colonialists was just another way to express the intensification of colonial exploitation in Africa to develop capitalist

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<sup>7</sup> [focus-migration.hwwi.de/Senegal.2636.0.html](http://focus-migration.hwwi.de/Senegal.2636.0.html) (20/11/2010)

<sup>8</sup> [books.google.cz/books?isbn=9042027649](http://books.google.cz/books?isbn=9042027649) (20/11/2010)

Europe<sup>9</sup>. All these confirmed that the primary motivator and effects of these movements were, and still are economic. The role of traditional culture in this process may be significant, but it is not comparable to the contribution of economics. What may also be of comparable proportion is the many cultural changes that migrants experience during the period of residence in destination countries. But the purpose of this paper is not to discuss the effects of culture on migration or vice versa, it is designed to present an overview of labour migration between Africa and Europe, the economic and social effects on both the home and the host countries and most importantly, propose recommendations as to how to treat the imbalance.

### **1.1. Hypothesis**

International Labour migration between Africa and Europe represents an uneven socio-economic relationship between them.

### **1.2. Methodology**

The methodology used in this work is both qualitative and quantitative research methods. Qualitative research methods such as personal interactions, internet sources including academic papers already done in this field and textbooks, thus, it's a combination of self intuitions, extracts or entire passages from records and documents supported by the relevant references. The quantitative method is used in terms of gathering empirical data to support the flow of labour, remittancies and its effect on economies of host and home countries, brain drain and brain gain, between these continents. This research places emphasis more on the social and economic aspects of migration from Africa than other fundamental political instabilities that seem to be mostly part of forced migrations.

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<sup>9</sup> [news.codewit.com/africa/colonialism](http://news.codewit.com/africa/colonialism) (20/11/2010)

### **1.3. Objectives**

The main objective of this work is to critically examine the socio-economic impacts of labour migration on Africa and Europe within a random time frame. Some of the other objectives are: to discuss the historical relationship between these two continents with special emphasis on laour migration, during and after colonial rule in Africa; to examine the existing migration policies adopted by some countries within Africa and Europe and most importantly, to recommend possible solutions to the problems of labour migration between these two continents, to provide an information base for students and intellectuals interested in migration studies now or in the future, researchers of laour migration generally who might be interested in some information provided herein, the international community and generations yet unborn. Finally, it is hoped that this work, by influence of its recommendations in this contemporary era with its associated challenges, will act as a reference to seek a more efficient global response to the rising trend of labour migration between these two continents.

### **1.4. Scope and limitation**

The period under review is extensively unlimited but will mostly cover a time period spanning from the immediate period European conquest of the African continet to the period after independence to African countries till present day. It gives a broad balance to the historical inconsistencies and distorted information with regards to migration between these continents which was purely for economic purposes. A random sampling method is also employed to identify some of those countries in both Africa and Europe whose migration information can be readily accessed. It would have been prudent enough to travel to those sample countries to collect raw data and do personal analysis but for shortage of fund and time, the information used in this research is largely from textbooks, internet sources, personal interactions and daily news media around the world.

## 1.5.Literature review

For the purpose of this writing i intend to research several textbooks, journals and newspapers but equally important is to critically look at some of these materials and identify the different opinions of the different authors, identify possible flaws or misconceptions of labour migration between Africa and Europe, and project recommendations from my personal point of view. Thus, regarding the motive of the literature review, i have therefore critic two academic writings on international labour migration generally but specifically between Africa and Europe.

1. Having read through an academic paper on African migration titled ‘Highly skilled labour migration: sharing the benefits‘ by Philip L.Martin of International Institute for Labour Studies, Geneva, 2003, i am obliged to appreciate the importance of the information provided in the document. However, there are some issues raised by the author which seem contestable to me because while some of the information are vital to labour studies, some are just incomplete that any attempt by policy planners to use them could be misleading. For instance, the position that many African countries want to send more skilled workers to reduce un- and under-employment and to obtain remittances and to increase trade seem extremely contrasting to development initiatives undertaken by African states<sup>[10]</sup>. As much as i agree with the problem of un- and underemployment as a major factor for migration from Africa, i found it equally irrational and paradoxical that African Governments can willingly afford to send their much needed skilled workers to European countries for remittances or trade increment. Looking at skilled workers from the perspective of necessity,one do not need an explanation to suggest that Africa needs these skilled workers even morethan Europe. Most African Governments spend so much on developing these skilled workers that they might actually want to retain them,what is missing is the means and infrastructure to encourage these skilled professionals to resist such pull factors like better living standards,better education for their children and wealth<sup>[11]</sup>. If indeed African Governments are encouraging their skilled personnell to leave,why then are efforts been

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<sup>10</sup> [www.migrationeducation.org](http://www.migrationeducation.org) (7/1/2011)

<sup>11</sup> [www.ilo.org/public/english/protection/migrant/](http://www.ilo.org/public/english/protection/migrant/) (7/1/2011)

made aggressively in recent years to encourage the return of these same migrants as part of most migration policies in most African countries?. Am not sure of a reasonable answer to this question if Philip's suggestion is taken onboard. He did not only contradict himself further in his writing but actually confirmed my position that African Governments need these so called highly skilled workers morethan Europe when he opined that most countries have drawn up policy documents to encourage highly skilled migrants to return, and eventually to retain them, and the best way to achieve these goals is to develop an economy that is growing and offering opportunity<sup>[12]</sup>. Few African governments operate national return of talent programs, but several international organizations operate such programs for them, including the international organization for migration, which operates return-of-qualified-african nationals programs in 10 african countries. generally, highly skilled workers who return to their countries of origin<sup>[13]</sup>. United nations development programme (UNDP) has a similar transfer of knowledge through expatriate nationals (TOKTEN) program that subsidizes the return of teachers, consultants, or researchers to assist with particular projects. in most cases, the highly skilled workers who return with assistance have an immigrant or long-term secure status abroad, and retain the right to return after their assistance stint at home<sup>[14]</sup>. These assisted return programs are expensive, and several analysts concluded even before it hardly started that they might just be expensive failures.

Moreover, Philip further suggested that receiving countries that benefit from the presence of skilled migrants should replenish the human capital they import from Africa. That the host countries in Europe should establish Human Capital Replenishment Assistance (HCRA) programs that channel funds to the basic educational systems of sending countries<sup>[15]</sup>. I think it is quite essential to recognise the importance of these skilled workers and the benefits they provide to the host countries, what is apparently unreasonable is to ask these host countries to replenish the human capital that migrate to their countries. To me, it is like asking for compensation from Europeans for the era of slavery which seem completely awful. This will not only encourage more migration

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<sup>12</sup> [www.Globalissues.com](http://www.Globalissues.com) (7/1/2011)

<sup>13</sup> [www.ilo.org/public/](http://www.ilo.org/public/) (7/1/2011)

<sup>14</sup> [www.ilo.int/public/](http://www.ilo.int/public/) (7/1/2011)

<sup>15</sup> [www.health.state.ny.us](http://www.health.state.ny.us) (7/1/2011)

of these skilled workers and transform Africa into a training ground, but it will also weaken Governmental control of African countries over their citizens and encourage massive corruption by government officials to send their relatives without meeting the necessary preconditions.

Further more,the author opined that migration from Africa to Europe may actually accelerate economic growth due to remittances,easing unemployment and can foster education<sup>[16]</sup>.This argument completely ignores health care as a major requirement for economic growth.For instance, lack of efficient health care services remain to be a recycled problem in most countries including some African states due partly to aging populations as well as diseases such as AIDS/HIV in these countries. The emigration of medical personnel has been called an undesired obstacle to improving the health care of African country residents, as increased government expenditures to train doctors and nurses often leak out of the country via emigration.Health care is unique in several senses. It requires trained doctors and nurses as well as medical facilities and equipment in places where patients live. Secondly, government expenditures affect both the supply of and the demand for health care services, including the number of doctors and nurses trained, their salaries, and the charges that patients pay for care,which in turn affects patient demand for health services. Third, both Africa and developed countries have problems keeping health care providers in rural areas and in inner cities where there are concentrations of poor residents who often need health services. For example, loans given out for health care training are are geared towards keeping the health care costs low, young graduates may be encouraged to emigrate as soon as possible in order to repay their loans. In the United Kingdom alone there were 644,000 nurses and related health care staff in 2002, 15 percent of these nurses were from South Africa alone <sup>[17]</sup>. However, a constitute medical association, the South African Medical Association (SAMA) estimated that at least 5,000 doctors had emigrated, but the government decided not to recruit replacement doctors in neighboring countries as a policy based on the reasoning that such a move would increase doctors' shortages in those neighbouring conuntries. Instead, the government recruited Cuban doctors to replace those South

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<sup>16</sup> <https://litigation-essentials.lexisnexis.com> (7/1/2011)

<sup>17</sup> [www.guidance-research.org/future-trends/](http://www.guidance-research.org/future-trends/) (7/1/2011)

African doctors going out to Europe and other places, and one estimate is that 80 per cent of the doctors in rural areas are from Cuba <sup>[18]</sup>. Philip noted two completely paradoxical ways to handle the inflow and outflow of skilled workers; that neither African nor European countries should ban the exit or entrance of skilled migrants if their goal is to prevent a brain drain; there may be some optimal level of brain drain: low enough to avoid a vicious downward spiral but high enough to inspire more residents to acquire higher skills<sup>[19]</sup>. This seems contestable to me because in empirical studies, it is hard to separate rising education levels in developing countries, skilled migration from developing to developed countries, and the portion of the increased education due to emigration. This is partly due to the fact that statistics about migration from most African countries is hard to come by and partly due to the internal policies of some countries. Moreover, in neoclassical economic models, the outflow of any labour, unskilled or skilled, slows economic growth<sup>[20]</sup>. Migration affects the economically viable and young abled body Africans more than children and the elderly, therefore taking out such portion of the population from a particular society is not only disruptive to the cultural settings of that society but it will also deprive such society of the much needed labour that will maintain sustainable economic activities like agricultural farming, mining, and so on. Economic growth models have emphasized that, with skilled human capital scarce in African countries, highly skilled migrants represent a transfer of human capital from poorer to richer countries which, under so-called endogenous growth theory, can slow economic growth<sup>[21]</sup>. The loss of human capital from one continent to another cannot be correctly measured, more so when the volume of irregular migration is presumably higher than official records available.

Equally of critical thought is Philip's suggestion that there may also be a need to examine the content of education, and the link between job requirements and education or credential requirements in both developing and industrial countries. He observed that in African countries, where highly skilled workers are often unemployed, there is often a rush for diploma qualification and not knowledge seeking because employers screen

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<sup>18</sup> [migration.ucdavis.edu/mn/](http://migration.ucdavis.edu/mn/) (7/1/2011)

<sup>19</sup> [www.ilo.int/public/english/bureau/inst/](http://www.ilo.int/public/english/bureau/inst/) (7/1/2011)

<sup>20</sup> [siteresources.worldbank.org/](http://siteresources.worldbank.org/) (7/1/2011)

<sup>21</sup> [migration.ucdavis.edu/rs/](http://migration.ucdavis.edu/rs/) (7/1/2011)



applicants by the number of credentials they have. This encourages students to compete aggressively against each other to obtain more credentials, and the result may be that graduates have good test taking skills but lack the ability to do a certain job<sup>[22]</sup>. If employers in African country provided on-the-job training, there might be less of a brain drain because the on-the-job skills acquired at work ,according to Philip, would be less transferable over borders.This is a highly subjective argument because in most of the needed fields with specialist trainings, all over the world remain the same. An IT specialist in Angola can squarely fit in the IT world in Italy,so also are medical practitioners. Therefore,providing on-the -job training with the aim of discouraging emigration from Africa because of non-transferability of skills seem largely redundant given the examples on IT specialist and Medical practitioners above.One would have expected Philip to suggest that African nations should improve on their infrastructures and working conditions inorder to retain their man power on the continent,anything less than this is seem beyond reasoning for such proffessionals to stay home.

2. Another work reviewed in my literature is ‘Irregular Migration from West Africa to the Maghreb and the European Union: An overview of recent trends‘ by Hein de Haas of IOM, Geneva 2008.This work is more empirically founded and give a quantitative understanding of the nature, scale, and recent evolution of irregular West African migration to North Africa and Europe. The author pursued an analysis of data available from official statistics as well as the emergent policy and research literature on this issue. On the basis of this analysis, the author also evaluated how policies designed to curb trans-Saharan and trans-Mediterranean migration have affected migration patterns.It is an example of an apparent indepth research on the ramifications and complexities of labour migration. The author opined that unless exceptional circumstance arise, it is likely that migration from Africa to Europe will continue. One can therefore understand that increasing border controls will consequently lead to the swift diversion of migration routes and an increase in the risks, costs, and suffering of the migrants involved rather than a decline in migration<sup>[23]</sup>. As long as no more legal channels for immigration are created to match the real demand for labour, and as long as

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<sup>22</sup> [www.lichaoping.com/wp-content/](http://www.lichaoping.com/wp-content/) (16/3/2011)

<sup>23</sup> [www.migrationinformation.org](http://www.migrationinformation.org) (16/3/2011)

large informal economies will exist, it is likely that a substantial proportion of this migration will remain irregular. He traces migration patterns from Trans-Saharan to Trans-Mediterranean Migration, migration routes and migration methods, identified main origin countries, transit countries and subsequent European destinations<sup>[24]</sup>. Like in other parts of Africa, there is evidence of a considerable degree of precolonial mobility in West Africa. Throughout known history, there has also been intensive population mobility between both sides of the Sahara through the trans-Saharan caravan trade, conquest, pilgrimage, and religious education. It was only with the advent of colonialism, which drew borders where there had been none and created modern states, that trans-Saharan mobility and trade collapsed<sup>[25]</sup>. However, in the most recent times, interrelated factors like Libya's new immigration policies, growing instability, civil wars, and the associated economic decline in several parts of West and Central Africa also contributed to increasing trans-atlantic migration from the mid-1990s onward. Moreover, the outbreak of civil war in 1990s and associated economic decline and increasing xenophobia in Côte d'Ivoire, Liberia, Sierra Leone prompted hundreds of thousands of migrants to leave their home countries for Europe<sup>[26]</sup>.

He further explained that around the year 2000, another important change in migration patterns occurred when sub-Saharan migrants started to join North Africans in their attempts to enter the Spanish enclaves of Ceuta and Melilla through irregular channels or to cross the Strait of Gibraltar to Spain or from Tunisia to Italy. Tougher visa requirements for North African workers in the early 1990s, especially by Spain and Italy have just added more spice to the desire of migrants. This increase was so strong that since that time, sub-Saharan Africans have now taken over North Africans as the largest group intercepted by European border guards. In addition, sub-Saharan migrants in Libya have increasingly tried to cross to Europe directly from the Libyan coast, transforming Libya into transit country. From southern Libya, migrants move to Tripoli and other coastal cities or to Tunisia; from the coast, migrants travel by boat to either Malta or the Italian islands of Lampedusa, Pantalleria, and Sicily. From Tamanrasset in

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<sup>24</sup> [www.migrationinformation.org](http://www.migrationinformation.org) (16/3/2011)

<sup>25</sup> [www.iss.nl/content/](http://www.iss.nl/content/) (16/3/2011)

<sup>26</sup> [www.iom.int/jahia/webdav/site/myjahiasite/](http://www.iom.int/jahia/webdav/site/myjahiasite/) (16/3/2011)

Algeria, migrants move to the northern cities or enter Morocco via the border near Oujda <sup>[27]</sup>. From Oujda in Morocco, migrants either try to enter the EU by crossing the sea from the north coast or entering the Spanish enclaves of Ceuta or Melilla .Thus,the above description of the routes used completely ignored the thousands of migrants who travel on the high sea in small boats,a situation the former UN secretary General Kofi Anan once described as an unimaginable scene. An undocumented number of African migrants clearly enter Europe by sailing directly from the Mauritanian, Cape Verdean, Senegalese, and other West African coasts to the Canary Islands on traditional wooden fishing boats. It is even estimated that each year, significant numbers die or get seriously injured while trying to enter the EU. It has been claimed by a Spanish human rights organization that at least 368 people died while crossing to Spain in 2005, although the actual number might be two or three times higher because many bodies are never found<sup>[28]</sup>. Estimates from Human rights organizations maintain that morethan three thousand dead bodies were found on the shores of the Straits of Gibraltar alone between 1997 and 2001. The actual number of drownings is significantly higher because an unknown percentage of corpses are never found. Therefore, the actual risk of dying while crossing the sea to Spain has remained fairly constant at around one per cent or has even slightly fallen over the past years<sup>[29]</sup> . I think much credence should have been given to the statistical content of Mr.Haas work if he had taken into account this huge leak.The lack of such data included in his estimation of African migrants to Europe apparently undermines the entire credibility of his analysis. Moreover,there is no conclusive figure as to the number of regular and irregular migrants from Africa to Europe, all that is provided throughout the text are estimations drawn from unreliable information sources or personal intuitions of the writer.This is dangerously misleading because immigration experts working on policies might use the wrong information available, consequently leading to undesirable effects. He further maintained that diverse techniques are employed in executing migration movement from Africa to Europe and that most of these methods are direct responses to emerging immigration policies from Europe. Although migrants are commonly depicted as passive victims of

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<sup>27</sup> [www.imi.ox.ac.uk/](http://www.imi.ox.ac.uk/) (16/3/2011)

<sup>28</sup> [www.apdha.org/index.php?option=com\\_content](http://www.apdha.org/index.php?option=com_content) (16/3/2011)

<sup>29</sup> [www.migrationinformation.org](http://www.migrationinformation.org) (16/3/2011)

unscrupulous traffickers and merciless criminal-run smuggling networks, the available empirical evidence based on research among the migrants concerned strongly suggests that trafficking is rare and that the vast majority migrate on their own initiative <sup>[30]</sup>. He believed that instead of looking at migration as a mere response to poverty and destitution, it is also an investment initiative by reasonably average households and families to enhance their future livelihood. Migrants mostly pay for one difficult leg of the journey, usually involving a border crossing, at a time. Often times, smugglers tend to be former nomads, fishermen, and immigrants who operate relatively small and loose networks and these smugglers often cooperate with local police, border officials, and intermediaries<sup>[31]</sup>. I think it is an understatement that trafficking is rare and that most migrants do so at their own consent. Eventhough he made reference to an empirical source to support his argument, there is none such data available in his piece. This do not only suggest that no accurate data can actually be available because of the irregular nature of transits but also identifies a major limitation to his research. Credible reports from international organizations and non governmental organizations constantly point to the increasing rate of child trafficking and trans atlantic teenage prostitution. Mr.Haas sounded to be completely out of touch with the reality of the situation in this respect. Moreover, there is another technique used by Migrants that is ignored in his piece of writing. While the media and Mr Haas focuses on people smuggled in boats, many African migrants use other methods such as tourist visas, false documents, or without the consent of the crew<sup>[32]</sup>.In response to increased restrictions in North Africa, border and police officials tend to charge higher bribes,forcing migrants increasingly to use secondary, often more dangerous routes through the desert .

Moreover, although he identified that swelling masses of desperate Africans fleeing poverty and war at home tried to enter Europe, he however failed to suggest a meaningful way to combat the conditions that primarily precipitate African migration; namely bad governance and poverty, instability in the labour market etc. It can therefore be assumed that the research did not fulfill its goal of working towards resolving the

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<sup>30</sup> [www.imi.ox.ac.uk/](http://www.imi.ox.ac.uk/) (16/3/2011)

<sup>31</sup> [www.apdha.org/index.php?option=com\\_content](http://www.apdha.org/index.php?option=com_content) (16/3/2011)

<sup>32</sup> [www.unodc.org/documents/](http://www.unodc.org/documents/). (18/3/2011)

problem of migration between these two continents. Finally, I think while it seems practically impossible to seal off the long Saharan borders and Mediterranean coastlines, it is also questionable whether governments are genuinely willing to do so. Irregular migration is often less unwanted than it seems. European economies are in need of cheap, irregular labour. At the same time, sub-Saharan states have little genuine interest in curbing migration because they consider migration and remittances as a source of stability and a vital development resource<sup>[33]</sup>. Ironically, migration policies aiming at solving the problem of irregular migration are a fundamental cause of the increasingly irregular character of migration. Similarly, while smuggling is commonly represented as one of the main ways of irregular migration, it is rather the result of increasingly restrictive migration policies. Policy making on this issue seem to be caught in a vicious circle. Rather than solving the problems of irregular and regular migration, increasingly restrictive immigration policies and border controls have produced more irregularity which ironically adds pressure to adopt even more restrictive policies.

## **2. Migration patterns/trends**

The patterns and trends of human migration is as old as the beginning of human history itself and it has taken diverse forms but similar trends in different times of history. It was largely intra-regional in the larger part of the 16th and 17th centuries, that is, movement of migrants was a rotational circle among African countries<sup>[34]</sup>. However, this trend completely took a different shape when Europeans realised the need for African labour, thereby commercialising humans for guns and tobacco<sup>[35]</sup>. Although the slave trade itself was declared illegal in the 19th century, domestic and other slavery patterns continued till modern times. Since the 1970s, there have been movements of highly skilled migrants to Europe and North America, attracted by relatively better living standards. The late 1980s in Africa saw such traditional labour-importing countries like

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<sup>33</sup> [www.informaworld.com/index/903071005](http://www.informaworld.com/index/903071005) (18/3/2011)

<sup>34</sup> [www.iiasa.ac.at/Publications/Documents/](http://www.iiasa.ac.at/Publications/Documents/) (18/3/2011)

<sup>35</sup> [www.ajol.info/index.php/jolte/article/](http://www.ajol.info/index.php/jolte/article/) (18/3/2011)

Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Senegal as attractive destinations for migrants in West Africa<sup>[36]</sup>. Others have experienced political and economic crises, which have resulted in the emmigration of their nationals. This same era has seen Ghana particularly, encouraging a constant flow of returning migrants facilitated by improved economic conditions and political stability. Another significant development, particularly since the 1980s has been a clear diversification of migration patterns. For instance, Ghanaians, Nigerians have constantly travelled to countries other than their respective former colonizers. Examples include African migrants found in Eastern and Central European countries, these countries have nothing to do with slavery and are predominantly Slavic speaking countries. Data from OECD, 2005 shows that Nigerians and Ghanaians for example are increasingly moving to non English-speaking European countries like the Czech Republic and its neighbouring states indicating the dynamic nature of African migration and the ability to adapt to new constraints<sup>[37]</sup>. Despite the issue of dominance of migration within Africa since the 1980s, there has been a reasonable awareness to growing trends towards Europe and women seems to be playing significantly increasing roles in the process presently. The conventional male dominated migration within and from Africa to Europe is increasingly taking the reverse. A significant share of migrants is now made up of women who move independently to fulfill their own economic needs and exploit the political jargon of gender parity. The extent to which the mobility of women may be providing opportunities for changing gender roles in Africa requires further focus, as in many cases women's mobility are still largely determined by factors such as traditional secret society initiations and an unequal gender relations that either inhibit their movement or force them to leave their homes<sup>[38]</sup>. Despite this, the gendered nature of migration drivers and processes in West Africa needs to be recognized.

Repeated studies indicate that most African migration is driven by essentially the same social, economic and political forces such as poverty, conflicts, environmental factors and other crises as in other world regions. Despite this similarity, past and present findings point to the fact that, in reality a much more complex mix of factors have

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<sup>36</sup> [www.cespi.it/CESPI-SID/Adepojou-international\\_migration\\_Africa](http://www.cespi.it/CESPI-SID/Adepojou-international_migration_Africa) (18/3/2011)

<sup>37</sup> [www.oecd.org/dataoecd/](http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/) (18/3/2011)

<sup>38</sup> [www.everyculture.com](http://www.everyculture.com) > Bo-Co (18/3/2011)

helped to shape people's movements across and beyond Africa. It is presumed that most African migrants are the economic and political instability plaguing the continent but this assumption does not necessarily hold, as it neglects the social factors that influence emmigration from the sub-region. Globalization has also played a major role in migration process. In particular, diminishing environmental resources as a result of sustained exploitation have led to violent conflicts among the citizenry which has in turn induced forced migration from many African countries in modern times <sup>[39]</sup>. Liberia, Sierra Leone, Togo and Côte d'Ivoire and now the Northern African countries of Tunisia, Egypt, Libya etc have all experienced conflicts in recent times, leading to the dispersal of nationals of these countries into other African countries and elsewhere. However, there is still light at the end of the tunnel as the role of African states and regional blocs have been important in shaping migration dynamics from continent. Although many African states do not have clear policies on mobility, the creation of regional blocks such as the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the Maghreb Union have had an impact on inter-regional mobility and by extension, intercontinental mobility particularly on the direction of labour migration flows <sup>[40]</sup>. The huge and growing economic differentials between the African sub-region and Europe will also continue, for the foreseeable future, to attract migrants inspite of tightened entry requirements and controls, including policing by the EU agency FRONTEX.

## **2.1. Historical background of Afro-European migration**

For the purpose of this research, historical account between these two continents span from the dark days of slavery till today. Many accounts have been given by different writers, purporting different view points in the scope of democracy. While many believed that labour migration between Africa and Europe is a one sided win, some still opined that its a fair relationship. However, to take a cautious approach, one would suggest that

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<sup>39</sup> [users.ox.ac.uk/~rspnet/PDFs/RSCPBI-Environment.pdf](http://users.ox.ac.uk/~rspnet/PDFs/RSCPBI-Environment.pdf) (18/3/2011)

<sup>40</sup> [www.unrisd.org/unrisd/website/document.nsf/](http://www.unrisd.org/unrisd/website/document.nsf/) (18/3/2011)

Afro-European relationship in terms of labour migration has its positives and negatives alike, what is pertinent though is the magnitude of those effects felt by each continent. Afrocentric and Eurocentric writers remain very divisive when it comes to the effects or influence of Europe on the African continent. For instance, Walter Rodney's 'How Europe underdeveloped Africa' published in 1973, is a chronological account of Europe's attempt at ravaging the African continent. While I succumb to his argument to a large extent, it is important to point out that it is apparently a biased account of history in a desperate bid to indict Europe entirely for Africa's problems and at the same time vilify Africa as that peaceful continent that has been raped apart by European intruders. His account culminated to the conclusion that Africans' desire to migrate to Europe is a craft by Europeans themselves to still subject the continent into submission and Africans on the other hand, view their desire to migrate to Europe as a compensatory move to recover in economic gains, those human and natural resources stolen from the continent<sup>[41]</sup>. Whatever the fact could be, one can easily deduce from available facts that the socio-economic effects of migration between these two continents defy every fair play. It is clear that contacts between Africa and Europe go beyond colonial rule. Colonial rule when European adventurers endeavoured to open up virgin lands for trade and civilization. In Sierra Leone for example, Pedro Da Cintra of Portugal remains the first European to have reached the shores of that country in 1462. This heralded a period of consistent contacts that subsequently led to trade in guns and tobacco in exchange for slaves who were then shipped across to Europe and the Americas for work in plantations. This turned into a huge capital investment that encouraged Europe to undertake a crusade to conquer and rule Africa, hence colonialization. Thus, the period of massive rape of resources, both human and capital from Africa. Some historians conclude that the total loss in persons removed, those who died on the arduous march to coastal slave markets and those killed in slave raids, far exceeded the 65–75 million inhabitants remaining in Sub-Saharan Africa at the end of slave trade<sup>[42]</sup>. It is a general consensus that slavers ensured their captives alive because of their vested interest; and that this, coupled with the disproportionate removal of men from African societies

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<sup>41</sup> [www.ajic.mb.ca/volumel/chapter3.html](http://www.ajic.mb.ca/volumel/chapter3.html) (18/3/2011)

<sup>42</sup> [www.gm/africa/article/2007/5/.../slavery-in-subsaharan-africa](http://www.gm/africa/article/2007/5/.../slavery-in-subsaharan-africa) (20/3/2011)



hugely limited general population decline to particular regions of Western Africa around 1760–1810, and in Mozambique and neighbouring areas half a century later<sup>[43]</sup>. There has also been speculation that within Africa, females were most often captured as brides with their male counterparts for trade in the slave markets.

The 18th century and early 19th century witnessed a demand for labour-intensive harvesting of rubber and this acted as the catalyst for frontier expansion and slavery. It followed European movements from Europe to Africa for administrative, commercial and industrial purposes <sup>[44]</sup>. This continued till colonial times and from then, another trend began. By the 1990s migration of skilled and unskilled labour from Africa to the Europe has attracted increasing attention because of the remarkable rise in the volume of irregular migration through the extremely risky routes that young men and women take in order to seek better living conditions in the Europe. The numbers and, especially, the desperation of these youths is fuelled by several factors: demographic pressures of a rapidly growing but unemployed labour force, poverty, absolute scepticism of a dismal political and economic future in several of the African states, the so called close door migration policy in Europe, fictitious and distorted information on labour market conditions in European countries and the increasing professionalism of traffickers, scams and bogus travel intermediaries <sup>[45]</sup>. Most of these migrants are aided across to convenient destinations in Spain and Italy from where some are sent to other European countries like France, Netherlands, Britain, Belgium and even Germany by networks of people smugglers. The major sources are Morocco, Tunisia and Algeria in the North and Senegal, Nigeria and Ghana in west Africa. The increasing number of sub sahra migrants on their territories compelled North African countries to address issues of being host as well as transit and origin countries of migrants, and had since joined forces with European states to develop appropriate policy responses in context of international norms as well as external political pressures. In contemporary times, African migrants to Europe pay huge amounts of money to people smugglers and traffickers. According to statistics from United Nations, migrants pay between 1000 to

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<sup>43</sup> [Wn.com/history/](http://Wn.com/history/) (20/3/2011)

<sup>44</sup> [www.interarts.net](http://www.interarts.net) (20/3/2011)

<sup>45</sup> [www.ilo.org/public/](http://www.ilo.org/public/) (20/3/2011)

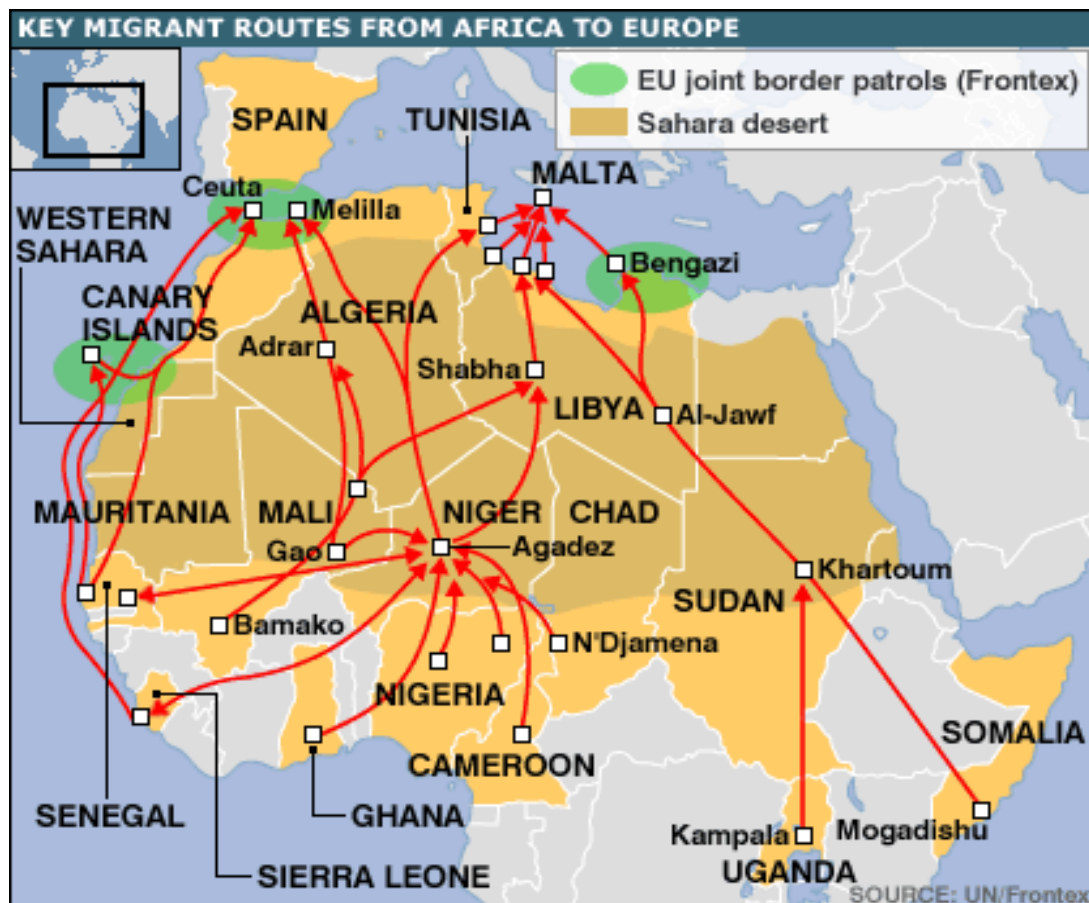
1500 Euros by sea from Africa to the Canary Islands, Libya to Italy for 2000 Euros. By land, besides the hazards of the Sahara desert, African migrants pay between 1700 to 3400 Euros from sub-Saharan Africa through Morocco to Europe. By air, it is even more expensive as a journey will cost between 9000 to 16000 Euros<sup>[46]</sup>. Key routes from the West African coast to the Canary Islands include going through Liberia, Sierra Leone, Guinea-Conakry, Guinea-Bissau, Senegal, The Gambia, Mauritania and Western Sahara to the Northern coast of Morocco. Migrants who use these routes are exposed to the dangers of sea crossing to the Canaries. Others from the Western Sahara to the Canary Islands make it through Mali, Mauritania, Southern Morocco and are constantly exposed to guerrillas in crossing the Sahara. These are mainly migrants from the Ivory Coast, Burkina Faso, Benin and even Togo. Those migrants from Central Africa often make their journey to Spain or Italy via Niger, Northern Mauritania, Western Sahara or Southern Morocco, Tunisia or Libya. These are migrants that come mostly from Nigeria and Cameroon and face the risks of sea crossing and the desert. Furthermore, migrants using the Eastern Sahara route to Lampedusa, Sicily and Malta go through Tunisia and Libya. These are mostly migrants from sub-Saharan Africa and also face the dangers of sea crossing and the desert. Finally, the route from the Horn of Africa to Libya targets Sicily and Malta in most cases as their destination and these are mainly migrants from Somalia and Ethiopia<sup>[47]</sup>. They face similar dangers of the desert and sea crossing.

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<sup>46</sup> [www.un.org/gmun/](http://www.un.org/gmun/) (20/3/2011)

<sup>47</sup> [www.icmc.net/system/.../transsaharan\\_voyages\\_of\\_vulnerability](http://www.icmc.net/system/.../transsaharan_voyages_of_vulnerability) (20/3/2011)

Figure No.1: Key migrants' routes from Africa to Europe



Source: UN/Frontex,2005.

Historical account suggests that United Kingdom alone shipped 2,532,300 Africans across the atlantic ocean<sup>[48]</sup>. This made the British empire the biggest slave traders in the world due to the magnitude of the empire. Basically, many believed that part of the reason for the successful abolition of slavery was because it was an initiative of the British. It caused a whole damage to the global trade of slaves in its entirety. It is important to note the difference here that there is a vast difference between the nature of domestic slavery and commercial slavery,as it were. African elites and traditional rulers took the leading role in both forms regrettably. In Sierra Leone for example, it was abolished in 1928 but a study found practices of domestic slavery still widespread in rural areas in the 1970s<sup>[49]</sup>. Thus, it should be borne in mind that there is no statistical

<sup>48</sup> uk.answers.yahoo.com (20/3/2011)

<sup>49</sup> www.publications.parliament.uk > (20/3/2011)

measurement of the socio-economic effects of neither kind of slavery on both continents but what is certain is that one continent was deprived of potential resources, both human and capital, in favour of another. This inevitably represents an unfair relationship.

## **2.2. Forced labour migration dynamics in the 19th century**

Nothing is exaggerated when it comes to estimating the effect slavery had on both Africa and Europe, one thing glaringly clear is that Africa has always been a passive player in its own history. Raped of both human and capital resources, Africa was subjected to brutal colonization by mostly, western European countries. Slavery basically represents the human loss while colonial rule represented the loss of natural resources and other valuable irreplaceable cultural monuments<sup>[50]</sup>. These losses cannot be measured by any degree of mathematical expression and therefore remains infinite. However, Afrocentric writers often provide an enlightened view of the impact of that contact between Africa and Europe in pre and post colonial rule. They often opined that Africa's socio-economic problems today have direct relation with slavery and colonial rule<sup>[51]</sup>. One such writer, Walter Rodney, brought bare how, through certain advantages, Europe cleverly conquered Africa and subject it to a provider of raw materials needed for the industries in Europe. The developed and underdeveloped parts of the present capitalist section of the world have been in continuous contact for four and a half centuries. The contention here is that over that period Africa helped to develop Western Europe in the same proportion as Western Europe helped to underdeveloped Africa<sup>[52]</sup>. The first significant thing about the internationalisation of trade in the 15th century was that Europeans took the initiative and went to other parts of the world. The main purpose of international trade at that time was nothing more than the extension overseas of European interests. The strategy behind international trade and the production that supported it was firmly in European hands, and specifically, in the hands of the sea going nations from the North Sea to the Mediterranean. They owned and directed the great majority of the world's sea-going vessels, and they controlled the

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<sup>50</sup> [soer.deat.gov.za/.../Human\\_Settlement\\_-\\_Background\\_Paper](http://soer.deat.gov.za/.../Human_Settlement_-_Background_Paper) (20/3/2011)

<sup>51</sup> [globalization.icaap.org/content/](http://globalization.icaap.org/content/) (20/3/2011)

<sup>52</sup> [www.wattpad.com/153508-how-europe-underdeveloped-africa](http://www.wattpad.com/153508-how-europe-underdeveloped-africa) (20/3/2011)

financing of the trade between continents<sup>[53]</sup>. Certain advantages the Europeans used were the superiority of their ships and cannon to gain control of the world's waterways, starting with the western Mediterranean and the Atlantic coast of North Africa. By the second half of the 15th century, the Portuguese controlled the Atlantic coast of Morocco and used its economic and strategic advantages to prepare for further navigations which eventually carried their ships round the Cape of Good Hope in 1495. Portuguese were in charge of most of the ivories from East African and then were marketed in India; while Indian cloth and beads were sold in East and West Africa by the Portuguese, Dutch, English, French etc. The same applied to cowry shells from the East Indies. The first logical step Europe took towards transformation of Africa into an economic satellite basin was the control of the seas. With their dominance in the 17th century trade, Spanish and Portuguese engaged in buying cotton cloth in India to exchange for slaves in Africa who were used to mine gold in Central and South America<sup>[54]</sup>. The concept of dependency automatically came into existence when parts of Africa were caught up in the web of international commerce. It's a master – servant relationship where Europe as the master decides the potential of African economy. Thus, Africa formed an extension to the European capitalist market. As far as foreign trade was concerned, Africa was and is still dependent on what Europeans were and are prepared to buy and sell to them. Exports to Africa mainly includes goods already bought and used in Europe before being dumped to Africa; Dutch linen, Spanish iron, English pewter, Portuguese wines, French brandy, Venetian glass beads, German muskets, etc. Europeans were also able to dump on the African continent goods which had become unsaleable in Europe<sup>[55]</sup>. Africans did not participate in European law making, but in many instances African people were simply the victims, for the law recognised them only as transportable merchandise. Reliable accounts have it that if an African slave was thrown overboard at sea, the only legal problem that arose was whether or not the slave-ship could claim compensation from the insurers. Above all, European decision-making power was exercised in selecting what Africa should export. The ships of the Portuguese merchants prioritised the search for gold, partly on grounds of reliable

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<sup>53</sup> [www.free-africa.net/Walter%20Rodney-Chapter03-sets.html](http://www.free-africa.net/Walter%20Rodney-Chapter03-sets.html) (20/3/2011)

<sup>54</sup> [www.digitalhistory.uh.edu/historyonline/slav\\_fact.cfm](http://www.digitalhistory.uh.edu/historyonline/slav_fact.cfm) (22/3/2011)

<sup>55</sup> [www-stat.wharton.upenn.edu/~buja/STAT-541/dict.da](http://www-stat.wharton.upenn.edu/~buja/STAT-541/dict.da) (22/3/2011)

information that gold from West Africa reached Europe and partly on guess work.. The number of forts built in the Gold Coast, for example in the 16th and 17th centuries are enough proof to that effect, and the nations involved included the Scandinavians and the Prussians (Germans) apart from other colonial stalwarts like the British, Dutch and Portuguese<sup>[56]</sup>. Pressing need for gold to be used in the European money economy urged further ego for exploitation of African resources. In very few places at given times was the export of another commodity of equal or greater importance than human beings. However, even after taking those things into account, one can say that Europe allocated to Africa the role of supplier of human captives to be used as slaves in various parts of the world. Enormous deposits of gold, silver and other tropical resources in Africa were soon realised by Europeans for economic gains and the potential could not be made a reality without adequate labour supplies. In this situation where the Indians cannot withstand a consistent toil of slave plantations and slave mines, Africa remain the only viable option. At the same time, Europe itself had a very small population and could not afford to release the labour required to tap the wealth of the Americas. Therefore, they turned to the nearest continent, Africa, which incidentally had a population accustomed to settled agriculture and disciplined labour in many spheres<sup>[57]</sup>. Its a big mistake however if one is tempted to believe that African submission to European power was only military because they failed to conquer the Africans in the early centuries of trade except in isolated situations. It should be noted that European technical superiority did not apply to all aspects of production, but the advantage which they possessed in a few key areas proved decisive<sup>[58]</sup>. African crafts in wood were of great beauty, but Europe produced pots and pans that had many practical advantages. An account of one slave, Estaban Montejo, an escapee from a slave plantation in Cuba in the 19th century, recalled that his people were enticed into slavery by a mere red colour scarlet. The Kings will urge them to go and collect the red scarlets and when they ran down to the ships like sheep flock, they were captured<sup>[59]</sup>. In a separate but comic myth, it is a common joke that an African going to church on Sunday will rush back home if he sees

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<sup>56</sup> [www.mongabay.com/reference/country.../](http://www.mongabay.com/reference/country.../) (22/3/2011)

<sup>57</sup> [unesdoc.unesco.org/images/](http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/) (22/3/2011)

<sup>58</sup> [www.free-africa.net/Walter%20-Chapter03.html](http://www.free-africa.net/Walter%20-Chapter03.html) (22/3/2011)

<sup>59</sup> [mohsenalattar.files.wordpress.com/](http://mohsenalattar.files.wordpress.com/) (22/3/2011)

an European, purporting that he has already seen God. It is worthy to note that domestic slavery which is part of forced labour continued in some parts of Africa till present date albeit in a different fashion.

### **2.3.Forced labour migration in contemporary times**

Forced labour migration from the African perspective after independence followed a resuscitation of those pre colonial times in Africa when ones freedom depended on ones bravery to win wars. However, due to the official abolition of slavery by Europeans, the pattern and manner of slavery completely took different forms and strategies. An informed report by Special Action Programme to combat Forced Labour, International Labour Office in May 2009 gave a vivid account of it all. The report noted among other things, that forced labour has tended to receive less attention in Africa than in other regions, in part because of difficulties in compiling reliable information about the extent and nature of the problem <sup>[60]</sup>. Moreover, sexual exploitation and labour are vital factors for human trafficking across Africa to Europe.

In some instances, forced labour has implicated overseas companies, particularly in conflict zones. In 2008, for instance, a UK –based company was commissioned for enquiry with regards to its role in mineral mining and child labour in war-torn regions of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Liberia and Sierra Leone<sup>[61]</sup>. Slavery-related practices in some African countries remain a contentious issue. Civil society groups in Niger maintain that slavery is widespread, but the Government is with the expressed view that there is seemingly some form of slavery though exaggerated. While another national investigation in 2008 was inconclusive, the Court of Justice of the Economic Community Of West African States (ECOWAS) recently indicted Niger for not observing international laws in protecting their citizens. Central Africa, Congo DR, Gabon and others have been equally accused by ILO to be still practicing some form of slavery. In Ghana, the situation could not be different, with young men and women in particular working in abusive conditions<sup>[62]</sup>. Many instances were reported of non payment of wages for workers is commonplace. In Kenya, a study carried out on behalf

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<sup>60</sup> [www.stoprapenow.org/uploads/advocacyresources/](http://www.stoprapenow.org/uploads/advocacyresources/) (22/3/2011)

<sup>61</sup> [africom.wordpress.com/2010/01/](http://africom.wordpress.com/2010/01/) (22/3/2011)

<sup>62</sup> [www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/](http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/) (22/3/2011)

of the U.S-based Solidarity Center in 2007 by the Kenyan Institute of Policy Analysis and Research (IPAR) identified the country as a source, transit route and destination for women, men and children trafficked for forced labour and commercial sexual exploitation. Internal trafficking involved mostly children and young women moving from rural to urban areas for domestic work and prostitution. In that same report, there was also significant evidence of cross-border movement in East Africa for both female and male domestic work, and for prostitution, with Kenyan nationals trafficked to many other countries, mostly through deceptive practices by employment agencies. The study highlighted the important role of the Kenyan labour movement in combating trafficking. There is a huge concern about trafficking of people from Nigeria to Europe that led to a joint effort involving Italy and Nigeria to combat trafficking. The programme, which is funded by the European Union and runs from 2009 to 2011, is similar to the one between Morocco and Spain that basically aims to reduce trafficking progressively through better cooperation between Nigeria and Italy to prosecute traffickers, protect and reintegrate victims and prevent trafficking<sup>[63]</sup>.

However, African governments should be given credit for their collective regional efforts to ensure the eradication of forced labour within the continent. An African regional workshop organized by the International Trade Union Confederation in Nairobi in 2008 on forced labour and trafficking found that while legislation against forced labour often was in place, it wasn't sufficiently applied. At the same time, however, a number of African countries have recently enacted tougher legal mechanisms in the fight against forced labour. Mauritania, for its part, adopted new legislation criminalizing and penalizing slavery in 2007. Mozambique, Tanzania and Zambia all followed suit. Increased focus on tackling forced labour and trafficking is also reflected in the recent growth in high profile meetings and deliberations between African countries and their European counterparts who are devoted to the issue. South African republic organized a whole week summit on human trafficking in September 2007, international organizations agreed to cooperate to provide better support to the South African region as a whole, enhancing cross-border working agreements between the

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<sup>63</sup> [www.cjimagazine.com/](http://www.cjimagazine.com/) (22/3/2011)



individual countries. Even Uganda has not been left behind as police bosses from eleven East African countries were summoned in Kampala In June 2008 in order to map a way forward and Europeans were invited as key observers in the process<sup>[64]</sup>.

In Europe the perspective of forced labour within the continent could not be much different from Africa. The spotlight has been on undocumented workers and this issue has now received closer attention from policy-makers as more evidence of its existence comes to light. It is the predominant form of trafficking in some Western European countries.

One can also state that the enlargement of the EU reflects another shift in human labour exploitation within the continent. For example, Czech Republic and Poland, originally were source countries but now represents host countries for such practices since they became members of EU. New EU member states in south-eastern Europe are countries of transit and destination for human trafficking at the same time<sup>[65]</sup>. A typical example is Ukraine's identified cases of trafficking for sexual exploitation in 2004. By 2007, the gap between slavery for labour and that for sexual exploitation seem to be widening, the number of labour exploitation cases exceeded those of sexual exploitation. She is also both a country of source and destination for this purposes. Most foreigners trafficked into or through Ukraine over the past six years came from Moldova, followed by Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan and the Russian Federation. Another main place is Moldova and it has become a country of origin for people trafficked to a range of Western European countries as well as Russia and Turkey. A survey in Moldavia in 2008 reveals the following: that 24.2 per cent of Moldovan migrants were exploited, 8 per cent were both deceived and exploited and 7.8 per cent were victims of trafficking for forced labour. Western European countries are also increasingly concerned that they are home to coercive labour practices and forced labour<sup>[66]</sup>. Unofficial agencies play a key role in the process of labour exploitation and it is assumed that it has grown over previous years. In Britain, discovery of abusive labour practices involving immigrants working in agriculture and other sectors led to the establishment of the Gangmaster Licensing

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<sup>64</sup> [www.ungift.org/docs/ungift/pdf/world](http://www.ungift.org/docs/ungift/pdf/world) (22/3/2011)

<sup>65</sup> [www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/](http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/) (22/3/2011)

<sup>66</sup> [www.ilocarib.org.tt/.../Fact%20sheet%20](http://www.ilocarib.org.tt/.../Fact%20sheet%20) (22/3/2011)

Authority<sup>[67]</sup>. The Government initiated a way to reverse this trend in UK by revoking licenses from guilty business operations, apart from the normal legal prosecutions that followed. A number of other European countries, including France and Germany, have also strengthened legal and administrative mechanisms in the fight against forced labour and human trafficking in recent years<sup>[68]</sup>.

Like in Africa, Europe has not let the idea of forced labour migration unchecked. In fact, the continent or individual countries have undertaken drastic steps to sort the problem out. The ILO is involved in a number of programmes that aim to prevent and eradicate trafficking in Europe and since 2007, a couple of projects have been implemented by ILO in collaboration with OSCE, ICMPD, all in a bid to reduce the instances of labour exploitation and trafficking. These projects which are funded by the European Commission, is embedded in National Action Plans and legal frameworks against human trafficking in the three countries of the southern Caucasus<sup>[69]</sup>. It is progressively engaging labour market institutions in trafficking prevention and promotion of safe migration, and fostering increased cooperation between stakeholders in these efforts. This work will be further strengthened in a new project, that started 1 May 2009, in which IOM is an additional partner. Regional cooperation between European countries and Africa, designed towards solving this problem should also be applauded. With many countries facing similar challenges in combating forced labour, the ILO also bolsters cooperation across regions. For example, a new EU funded programme will help Nigeria and Italy work together to fight human trafficking between the two countries as it is also helping to solve the same problem between Spain and Morocco<sup>[70]</sup>. It is important to note that a thin line exists between forced migration and some other kinds.

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<sup>67</sup> [www.gla.gov.uk/embedded\\_object.asp?id=1013266](http://www.gla.gov.uk/embedded_object.asp?id=1013266) (22/3/2011)

<sup>68</sup> [www.gla.gov.uk/embedded\\_object.asp?id=1013266](http://www.gla.gov.uk/embedded_object.asp?id=1013266) (22/3/2011)

<sup>69</sup> [www.ilo.org/sapfl/Projects/lang--en/WCMS\\_082035/index.htm](http://www.ilo.org/sapfl/Projects/lang--en/WCMS_082035/index.htm) (22/3/2011)

<sup>70</sup> [www.ungift.org/docs/ungift/pdf/vf/.../OsitaAgbu\\_1.pdf](http://www.ungift.org/docs/ungift/pdf/vf/.../OsitaAgbu_1.pdf) (22/3/2011)

## 2.4. Unforced labour migration from mid 1950s

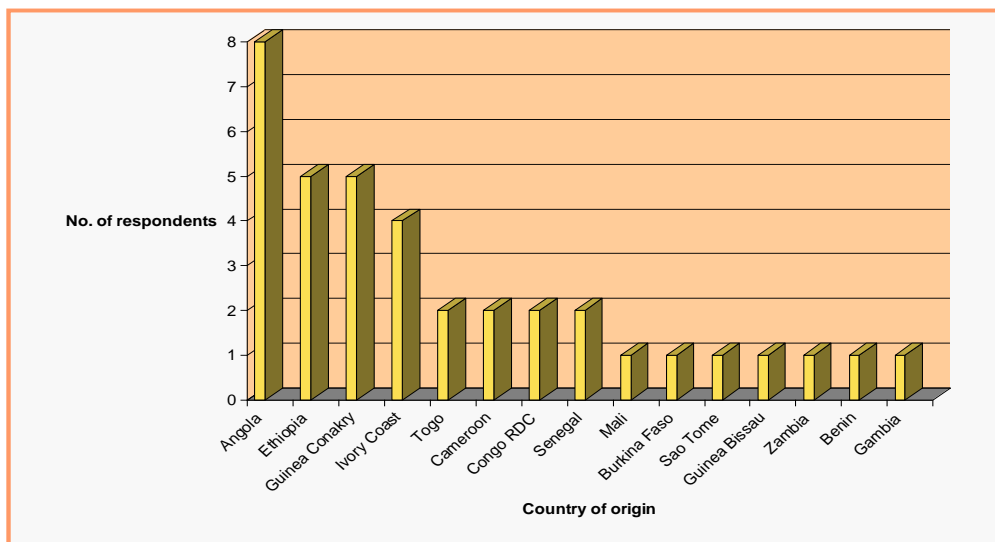
Most African countries gained independence in the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and few were delayed till the latter part of that same century. Independence to African countries was an apparent mark of expression from the Europeans that enough has been exploited and its time to quit. Some are tempted to believe that African awareness and in some cases, liberation struggles, are the main catalysts for the speedy granting of independence. That Europeans were scared and tired of revolution from a people (governed) against their governors (Europeans) was sufficient justification for independence. While it is difficult to give credence to such opinion entirely, one cannot underestimate the impact of those freedom movements that swept across the African continent, on the decisions of the colonial masters to give up their former colonies. It is relevant to understand the general nature as it were, when the Europeans left these countries because some might argue that, it has a direct relationship with the massive migration of Africans to Europe. The legacy of colonial rule in Africa is nothing to write home about, according to historical accounts. They left behind a system of governance that is completely unsuitable for Africa and infested with so much corruption that African elites at that time did nothing to regularize but to exploit the system. The politics of divide and rule as was the policy of the colonialists ensured artificial borders within Africa itself that resulted to conflicts within and amongst African states<sup>[71]</sup>. Thus, the colonial powers did not only put in motion an ineffective, redundant and corrupt infested administrative mechanism upon their departure, but also ensured that peace within and amongst Africans becomes entirely elusive. The situation is nothing different till today and to fully understand the nature of present day labour migration between these continents is to understand the dynamics and effects of the legacy of colonial rule in Africa. Significant shift in migration patterns became clear during this period as Africans started to migrate to European countries that have no colonial ties with Africa. Czech Republic provides a typical example of such European countries. In a research conducted by Andrea Gerstnerova of Charles University in 2007 aimed at identifying African immigrants in Prague, where they came from, what their

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<sup>71</sup> [www.worldhunger.org/articles/04/editorials/sankore.htm](http://www.worldhunger.org/articles/04/editorials/sankore.htm) (22/3/2011)

lives are and how they evaluate their integration into Czech society, it can be concluded that African migration to Czech Republic has been on the increase ever since. In a qualitative interview research type consisting of 37 respondents, it was discovered that most of the migrants were from former French colonies (ie, from Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea-Conakry, Burkina Faso, Senegal, Mali and Benin), the former Belgian Congo (now Democratic Republic of Congo), Ethiopia, British Gambia and Zimbabwe, Togo or countries that had at that time under the auspices of Portugal, namely in Angola, Guinea-Bissau, a country called São Tomé and Príncipe<sup>[72]</sup>.

Figure No. 2: Respondents by country of origin



Source: Andrea Gerstnerová, Charles University, Prague, 2007

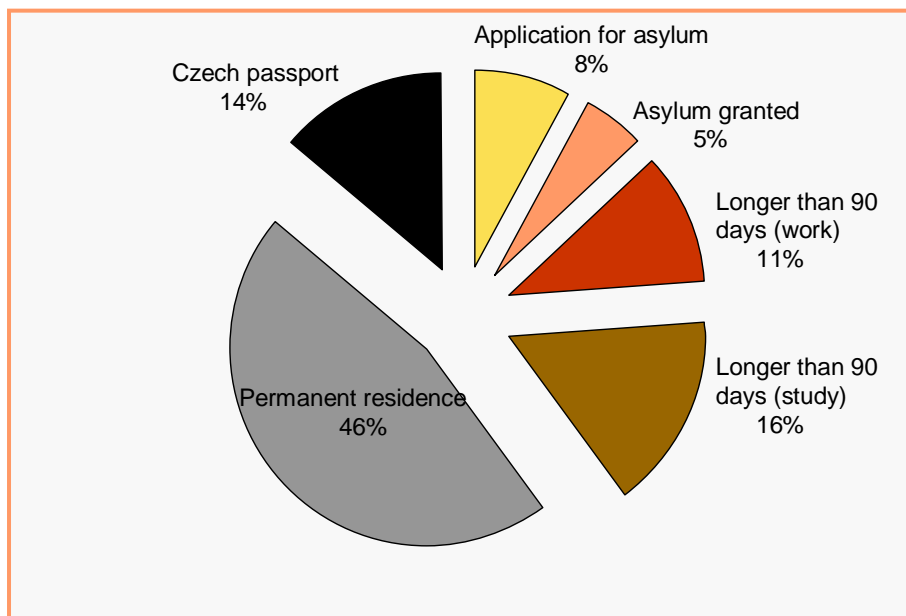
The vast majority of the 37 sub-Saharan respondents were men (from 37 persons interviewed, 34 were men) . These were mainly unmarried young immigrants (average age was 35 years old) <sup>[73]</sup>. While the youngest respondent was 26 years old and the oldest 50 years . A total of 20 of respondents were single (in particular were current students or recent graduates of Czech universities), 14 respondents were married (in all cases to Czech nationals), two respondents were divorced and one was a

<sup>72</sup> [www.diis.dk/.../African%20Conflicts.%20Background%20Factors](http://www.diis.dk/.../African%20Conflicts.%20Background%20Factors) (24/3/2011)

<sup>73</sup> [www.ethnicracialstudies.net/wp-content/uploads/](http://www.ethnicracialstudies.net/wp-content/uploads/) (24/3/2011)

widower. Most people of a sample of sub-Saharan respondents came to the Czech Republic through study visa (total of 28 persons from 37), two others got into the Czech Republic on the basis of residence permits for employment purposes and the remaining 7 persons as applicants for international protection. At the time of the research, 5 respondents from the sample already possessed Czech citizenship, 17 respondents represented holders of permanent residence, 6 persons possessed a residence permit up to 90 days for study, 4 respondents were holders of permits for over 90 days for the purpose of employment, 2 people in the Czech Republic benefited from international protection and 3 respondents were still awaiting the verdict of the Czech legal system for international protection<sup>[74]</sup>.

Figure No.3: Respondents by residence status

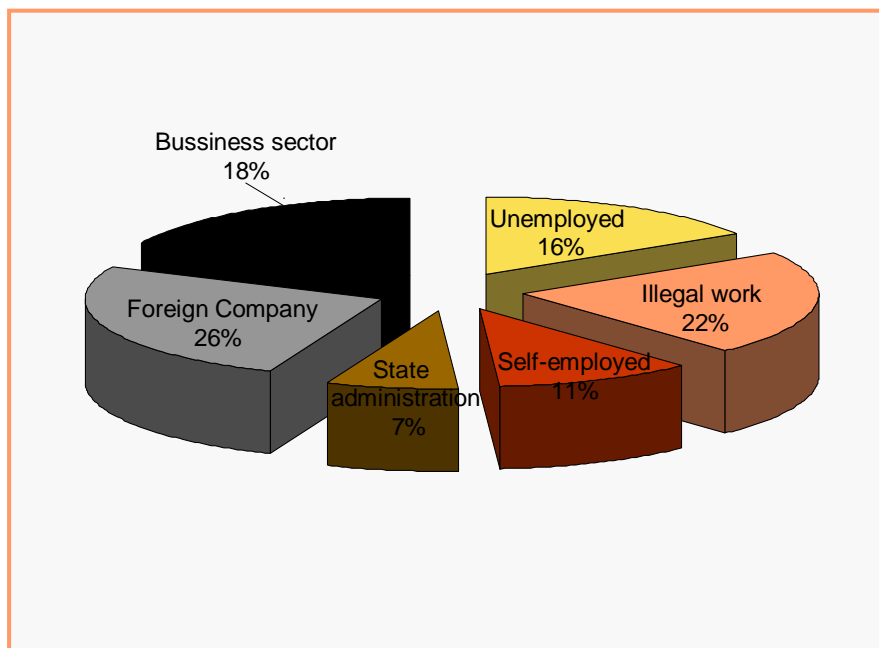


Source: (Andrea Gerstnerova, Charles University,Prague,2007), own chart

<sup>74</sup> [www.policy.hu/andrijasevic/andrijasevic\\_trafficking.html](http://www.policy.hu/andrijasevic/andrijasevic_trafficking.html) (24/3/2011)

With regards to the involvement of the migrants in the Czech Republic labour market, it's discovered from the research that a total of 23 respondents were formally employed ( this number was 15 people employed fulltime, 4 people worked part-time and 4 people were self employed), another 6 people were unemployed and the remaining 8 had done some contracted work. The latter group were alongside asylum seekers, beneficiaries of the protection of international community and college students.

Figure No. 4: Respondents by employment



**Source:** (Andrea Gerstnerova, Charles University, Prague, 2007), own chart

Accordingly, respondents argued that the working conditions were mostly agreed to by management orally and real wages oral agreement were not important in the agreements, not to mention the payment of overtime. In most cases, their works involves the manual labour. They revealed that they often always work at night and working time significantly exceeded the standard 8 hours. The service usually started around 18.00 hours and ended at 04.00 hours the following day. One reason for poor socio-economic integration of African immigrants into the Czech society is the case of

applicants for international protection . The fact that they only have access to the labour market after 12 months from filing their applications for international protection,limits their chances of integration immensely<sup>[75]</sup>. However, it is important to note here that not all African migrants in Czech society faced problems of socio-economic nature. An exception is immigrants who arrived in the Czech Republic on the basis of international scholarship from either international organizations or the Czech Government. The situation of African migrants in other European countries could not be different as the policies of most European countries,especially within the EU are harmonised towards migration from third countries. From the research on Czech Republic,one can conclude that in western European countries like France, UK etc, the figures could be much higher with much more complex problems and advantages as well.

### **3. Socio-economic impacts**

“We cannot ignore the real policy difficulties posed by migration, but neither should we lose sight of its immense potential to benefit migrants, the countries they leave and those to which they migrate.” kofi Annan, former UN sec-general, January 2006.

One often wonders what the benefits of migration are when one takes into consideration the enormous risks and expenses that migrants endured. It is however a truism that migration between Africa and Europe is not a zero-sum game where one continent entirely loses to the benefit of the other. In any case, all parties that are directly or indirectly involved in the process gain from it: the migrants, their extended families at home, the countries of origin and the receiving countries, if migration is properly managed in the overall interest. Labour migration appears to be topical in international policy circles presently. A variety of policy-makers within national and international institutions are advocating measures to facilitate the movement of African migrants to-and-fro Europe, between their homelands and foreign places of work. Their main idea is that labour migration systems could be managed in ways that can bring about an all out win for receiving countries through meeting labour market shortages, for sending

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<sup>75</sup> [www.gcim.org/attachements/RS4.pd](http://www.gcim.org/attachements/RS4.pd) (24/3/2011)

countries through guaranteeing remittances for development, and for migrants themselves through offering employment and control over the use of their wages<sup>[76]</sup>. Labour migration is also being advocated as a very likely way to solve a host of challenges facing global development. Much of the interest in migration stems from the way migration itself is now widely understood. Many are of the opinion that migration is basically cross border movements, ignoring the processes and people involved in it. These connections help migrants to direct their journey reasonably and according to their motives . While such networks have practically always functioned among migrants, modern technological advances and reduced costs surrounding transportation and communication have allowed for the intensification of transnational connections, practices and mobility<sup>[77]</sup>. While migration scholars have increasingly studied migrant transnationalism over the past fifteen years or more, recently, policy-makers too have come to recognise the ways that transnational ties condition migration processes. It has been suddenly realised that remittances have become a major contributor to developmental aspirations in Africa and this shift has alerted migration experts to identify the relationship between these two variables. The value of worldwide remittances doubled during the 1990s to well over \$105 billion annually and this represents more than twice the level of international aid. The scale of remittances has continued to soar. The United Nations in 2006 puts the annual figure of official global remittances at some \$232 billion; the amount of unofficial flows is estimated to be much higher still<sup>[78]</sup>. These huge amounts quoted is a ringing bell for concern from the part of policy planners and subsequently, the roles of national and international laws are scrutinised. A look at several of recent documents produced by international and national agencies shows not only the prominence of circular migration as a preferred, forward looking mode of migration management, but also the diversity of issues which circular migration policies might also address. The Global Commission on International Migration (GCIM), established under the supervision of former UN Secretary General Kofi Annan, published its Report after two years of extensive consultations in 2005. As part of its comprehensive overview, the GCIM noted how the old paradigm of

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<sup>76</sup> [www.agef-saar.de/Brain\\_Gain/wordpress/](http://www.agef-saar.de/Brain_Gain/wordpress/) (24/3/2011)

<sup>77</sup> [www.agef-saar.de/Brain\\_Gain/wordpress/](http://www.agef-saar.de/Brain_Gain/wordpress/) (24/3/2011)

<sup>78</sup> [www.fao.org/docrep/010/ai469e/ai469e00.htm](http://www.fao.org/docrep/010/ai469e/ai469e00.htm) (24/3/2011)



permanent migrant settlement is progressively giving way to temporary and circular migration. The Commission therefore underlined the need to grasp the developmental opportunities that this important shift in migration patterns provides for countries of origin' <sup>[79]</sup>. In order to make the most of this shift, GCIM recommends that countries of destination can promote circular migration by providing mechanisms and channels that enable migrants to move relatively easily between their country of origin and destination . In keeping with its terms of reference, the GCIM did not offer more by way of suggesting any specific measure or likely impacts. The World Bank's European and West African section did produce a working paper on the ills and benefits of international labour migration in Europe and that of Africa. It is crucial to note here that migration for labour goes beyond economic development for migrants home countries. A well managed migration might even increased trade and transfer of skills, and reduce negative social and familiar consequences associated with it<sup>[80]</sup>. Another broad area of interest in labour migration benefits is the effect of policy instruments in shaping the flow of migrants in and outside Europe. When migration becomes circular, movement is mostly taking place from the receiving country to the sending country and back.

Against this backdrop, many policy-focused agencies are promoting the creation of an efficiently managed labour migration systems. Perceived potential benefits include; the interests of migrant sending states by encouraging circulation of human capital and ensuring flow of remittances for development, with reference to the interests of migrant receiving states, plugging sectoral labour shortages, recruiting from a known and reliable pool of workers like the African continent, retaining trained and experienced people, and keeping wages low<sup>[81]</sup>. It is important to underscore the fact that labour migration represents a long historical practice, regardless of village to town or Africa to Europe patterns. Most research on labour migration patterns has examined unregulated systems, that is, migration flows that have been established by migrant themselves between homelands and places of work, as opposed to formal or regulated systems by which employers and states collaborate to recruit, transport and employ workers from

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<sup>79</sup> [www.gcim.org](http://www.gcim.org) (24/3/2011)

<sup>80</sup> [siteresources.worldbank.org/](http://siteresources.worldbank.org/) (26/3/2011)

<sup>81</sup> [www.thinkingeurope.eu/](http://www.thinkingeurope.eu/) (26/3/2011)

abroad. Based on such research, the following traits seem evident. In modern times, people involved in migration might have had first experience of moving out of their original homes. Moreover, frequency matters because it also indicates that there is an increasing probability of making repeat moves the more an individual has already moved<sup>[82]</sup>. This finding underscores that, the self-perpetuating nature of migration especially among African migrants is prevailing. Each move is vital to migrant's knowledge of the ramifications involved in the process. Such knowledge, set of social connections and experience is also referred to as migration-specific capital; the more you have of this, the less risk you face moving, the lower the costs and the better the chances of success. Furthermore, once people learn how to cross borders, or have established reliable facilitators to help them cross, they are less concerned with whether they go legally or not<sup>[83]</sup>.

Of special note with regard to the development agenda behind much emerging policies, African labour migrants tend to remit more money to their home localities. Social scientists apparently hold contrary views on the issue of mutual gains for both receiving and sending countries. Some researchers suggest that the experience and money obtained abroad does give migrants scope to get better jobs, either in the homeland or receiving context; others say that African labour migrants tend to remain stuck in low levels of employment, such as seasonal agricultural labourers. This might particularly be the case in regulated circular migration systems, which see people returning year after year to the same job rather than trying to negotiate their way into better jobs. Contemporary calls for the policy-systematization of labour migration may well address many of the various issues impeding potential gains. For migrants themselves, the rolling out of more labour migration schemes may indeed bring considerable benefits too, since any temporary migration scheme will only function if migrants indeed return after their statutory period of employment. Since circular or other temporary migrants will be required to leave after short stays, some kind of 'integration' strategies for them like language training or information about living in their host society could be vital. Consequently, the lack of integration strategies make migrants more vulnerable,

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<sup>82</sup> [onlinelibrary.wiley.com](http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com) (26/3/2011)

<sup>83</sup> [www.imi.ox.ac.uk](http://www.imi.ox.ac.uk) (26/3/2011)

socially excluded and geographically encapsulated<sup>[84]</sup>. A final issue to grasp with arises from the huge popularity of labour migration in policy circles and as such new policies are bound to be initiated because previous ones such as the German Gastarbeiter system, all been tried and dropped a long time ago. Policy-makers specifically are calling for efficiently managed labour migration now. This is as a result of recognition of the prevalence and importance of transnational practices among migrants has spurred new thinking, especially about remittances and the developmental potential of organized migrant labour schemes.

For sending countries, receiving countries and migrants themselves, mutual gains may indeed be huge if circular migration policies become manifest. Moreover, as can be imagined, labour migration have both is positives and negatives but if properly implemented, might result to world economic development,labour shortages and even public opinions. It is particularly an approach to global policy, that portends to be a kind of magic bullet but with caution<sup>[85]</sup>. The three dimensional win scenario may not be as mutual as imagined .

### **3.1.Impacts on Africa**

Its a regret that all potential benefits as presumed by migration experts are difficult to be enhanced. This is because selfish interests and other factors have impeded migration process in a huge way. Major players involved in this game, both on an individual and state level, have hitherto prevented such an optimal solution. Apparently, negative migration policies on the part of the fortress Europe for example, encourage irregular migration, smuggling, marginalization and exploitation of migrants on different levels. Bogus promises of life in Europe from the illegal traffickers tempts most Africans from their home<sup>[86]</sup>. Substantial amount of money is involve in this process,money which could otherwise been used better back home.These would-be migrants still pay these huge amounts,some even sell their ancestral land to make the trip to Europe. Africans who are better educated are more prone to the pull factors and benefit more from

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<sup>84</sup> [www.escwa.un.org](http://www.escwa.un.org) (26/3/2011)

<sup>85</sup> [aa.ecn.cz/img\\_upload/](http://aa.ecn.cz/img_upload/) (26/3/2011)

<sup>86</sup> [www.bc.edu/content/dam/files/schools/](http://www.bc.edu/content/dam/files/schools/) (26/3/2011)

migration because of their resource endowments. They are easily tempted by better living and economic conditions in host countries. This is one of the reasons of a considerable brain drain over the past thirty years and more, which has resulted in the loss of about one third of the African academic work force to highly industrialised countries<sup>[87]</sup>. Table one below shows the percentage of Africans living in EU countries per individual population.

Table No.1: Sub Sahara Africans in selected Eu countries.

Home country	Host country	% of Home country population.
Cape Verde	Portugal	7
Ghana	UK	5
Senegal	France	7
Mali	France	6
Somalia	UK	8
Nigeria	UK	5
Ghana	Italy	3
Senegal	Italy	5
Ghana	Germany	3
All Others	All EU Estimates	51

Source: (UN 2006a computations), Own table

Between 33% and 55% of Africans with higher education have consistently their home countries their home countries for a better life and employment in European countries according to UN estimates in 2006. For example, about 20,000 Nigerian and 12,000 South-African doctors migrated overseas, whereas only 33,000 remained in South Africa according to 2010 WHO statistics. Even the 926 Ghanaian doctors practising nowadays in European countries would be urgently needed at home, where they would represent about 29% of all doctors employed<sup>[88]</sup>. Again, West African countries have

<sup>87</sup> [www.africamigration.com/archive\\_02/j\\_takougang.htm](http://www.africamigration.com/archive_02/j_takougang.htm) (20/11/2011)

<sup>88</sup> [www.giga-hamburg.de/content/publikationen/](http://www.giga-hamburg.de/content/publikationen/) (26/3/2011)

been the most reliable source of this brain drain syndrome but that has been largely because of economic and political crisis in Nigeria, Liberia, Sierra Leone and Ivory Coast since the late 1980s. The drain of human capital is most pronounced in the employment sector for highly qualified personnel. Notably, island economies like Cape Verde (69%), Seychelles(59%), Mauritius (48%), Madagascar (36%), but also countries suffering from civil war, like Somalia(59%), Sierra Leone(41%) or Liberia (37%) have been affected during this period<sup>[89]</sup>. Another remarkable trend is the female ratio of the brain drain in recent years, caused by the growing number of highly skilled African women looking for employment abroad. It has become a routine phenomenon for elite African women to seek entry in Europe by all possible means. Apart from the uncertain number of those smuggled for different purposes, some travel under the disguise of studentship or even religious programmes and eventually regularized their status in Europe. The rationale behind such moves is quite understandable because going back home means facing those degrading conditions once more and having been exposed to decent living conditions amidst whatever rejection from the host country's nationals or policies is quite a good reason for them to stay in Europe. A case in mind is the recently jailed female pastor called Lucy Adeniji who was found guilty of trafficking children into UK in March this year, for use as domestic slaves. Her case is the first ever successful trial of a female child trafficker jailed and it has now prompted Authorities in UK to look closely into other related cases, so hopefully more justice will be enhanced for the many cases yet uncovered. The impact of this kind of scenario is huge for the continent. It does not only reaffirm the initial logic of brain drain from the continent but it also undermines the apparent credible relationship between Africans in UK, by extension the entire Europe, and the European continent. This obviously will prompt more restrictions on Africans travelling to Europe regardless of their genuine intents. This is just a tip of the iceberg according to the police in UK which means initiatives to unearth more of those cases and even legislate laws could be in the offering. This is an unfortunate situation but one that is completely desirable because it could lead Authorities in Europe to identify whatever group that might be involved in the trafficking with Lucy. Obviously, she would not have succeeded if it were done only by

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<sup>89</sup> [www.giga-hamburg.de/content/publikationen](http://www.giga-hamburg.de/content/publikationen) (26/3/2011)

herself without assistance from either the border agents on the entry ports or other criminal gangs within and outside Africa. In addition, the migration of highly qualified personnel is a considerable financial burden for the state budget of the countries concerned. Finally it is also worthy to note that brain drain delays the growth of much needed African middle class and civil society sustainable structural capacity, which consequently exert negative impact on African countries' economies. Moreover, available statistics clearly indicates that European countries are more receptive to highly skilled Africans than they are to lowly skilled African migrants. This clearly underlines the magnitude of brain drain effect on the African continent<sup>[90]</sup>. However, this is by no means trying to indicate that all that is derived from migration is brain drain, there are certainly the positives in the form of brain gain once migrants acquire knowledge in European countries. Perhaps, what is certainly impossible to do is to quantify both the positives and negatives incurred by both continents. Thus, it is based on the scarce information available and informed reasoning that a given hypothesis can be drawn on this topical issue. Some might as well argue that the impacts are even or better still, that Africa stands to gain more than it gives out comparatively to Europe, depending on one's position of reasoning. However, what seems to be common among the different opinions is the fact that migration from Africa to Europe carries a huge threat to world peace and development and whether the associated benefits are worthy of the risks undertaken remain to be seen. As will be shown below, migration is more favourable to educated and skilled Africans than it is to lowly skilled or the medium skilled Africans. The table below did not only show the rate of brain drain but also show that it is a growing menace in Africa.

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<sup>90</sup> [www.scribd.com/doc/31944909/](http://www.scribd.com/doc/31944909/) (26/3/2011)

Table No.2: Level of Africans in EU countries;in % of local work force

Regions	1990				2000			
	Level of skill				Level of skill			
	Low	Medium	High	All	Low	Medium	High	All
West Africa	0.3	1.1	20.7	0.5	0.3	2.8	26.7	0.8
East Africa	0.2	1.0	15.5	0.4	0.2	1.6	18.4	0.6
Central Africa	0.5	1.0	9.8	0.6	0.4	1.3	13.3	0.8
North Africa	2.2	1.8	2.8	2.4	2.3	1.5	6.2	2.5
South Africa	0.1	0.5	6.9	0.5	0.3	0.5	5.3	0.9

Key : Low skilled = primary education 0-8 years of schooling, Medium skilled = secondary education 9-12 years of schooling, High skilled = tertiary education 13+ years of school

Source: (ECA 2006: 29; Docquier/Marfouk computations),Own table.

However, there are also positive effects of the brain drain, beyond the question of remittances. Brain gain is the counteracting effect of brain drain in the form of transfer of knowledge, of innovations and the consolidation or extension of foreign trade relations. New value systems, political and spiritual orientations, acquired by migrants in Europe, and imported into their home countries often contributed significantly to the development of Africa. Migrants among the African political elite for example, mostly educated at European universities, played a decisive role in many liberation movements. African freedom fighters like Léopold Sédar Senghor, Kwame Nkrumah, Amilcar

Cabral, Dr.Milton Margai, or the many exiled politicians of the ANC, which contributed to the end of apartheid in South Africa, are vivid examples [<sup>91</sup>]. More importantly, remittances of African migrants contribute considerably not just to the wellbeing of their families at home, but to poverty reduction and development on a regional or even national level in general.Official records shows that remittances sent home amounted to 14bn. US\$ in 2004[<sup>92</sup>]. In table 3 below is a breakdown of this money per countries and depending on the individual countries,their total contribution to their GDPs. However, these official figures reflect only an incomplete image of the reality. Many Africans prefer informal channels for remittances’ transactions in view of the lack of performance of the African banking system. Moreover,the percentages requested by official channels to transfer money from Europe to Africa is just huge enough to direct migrants to unofficial ways. For instance, Western Union company takes about 30% of any amount sent to certain countries in Africa. This represents a huge amount when compared to money transfers between European countries. These informal transfers amount to two to threefold of the share of officially recorded remittances, according to estimates of the IOM. Observing the table below will impress one’s mind that the benefit of labour migration is so huge that it really deserve a cohesive approach inorder to derive a mutual benefit particularly in the two continents and for the good of the inhabitants of the entire world.

Table No.3: Remittances sent home in 2004

Total Amount of Transfers	Country	% contribution to GDP
14bn. US\$	Nigeria,Kenya	3
	Ethiopia,Senegal,Sudan	7
	Ghana	11
	Cape Verde	23
	Lesotho	39

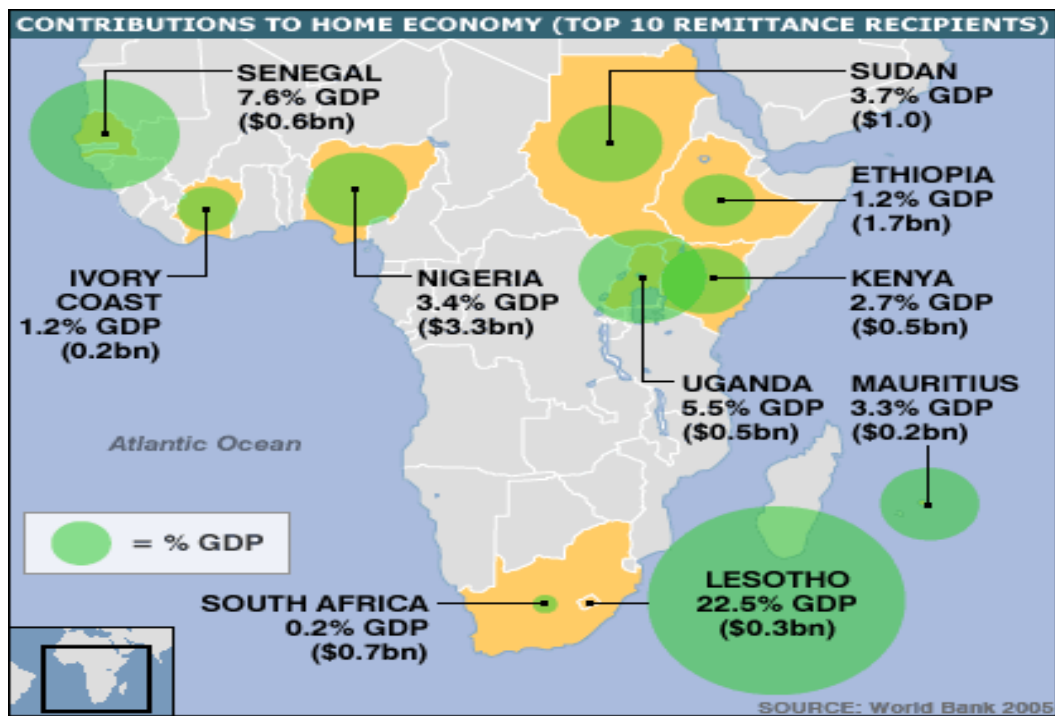
Source: (world bank and ECA estimates 2004.), Own table

<sup>91</sup> [www.peterhunziker.ch/](http://www.peterhunziker.ch/) (26/3/2011)

<sup>92</sup> [www.oecd-ilibrary.org/](http://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/) (26/3/2011)



Figure No.5: Contributions to home economy (top 10 recipients,2005)



Source:World Bank (2005)

Statistical data from the World Bank conforms with the view that private capital investments have declined but remittances have become a core factor to cushion the economic effects on Africa. In 2001 alone, remittances from African diasporas was estimated at \$ 72.3 billion, much higher than total official flows and private capital investments, thus,remittances are more stable capital flows<sup>[93]</sup>. Europe has largely failed Africa and other developing countries in honouring its pledges of Aid Money, Europe has instituted protective economic policies, so one is left to imagine that if European policies continue to inhibit the flows of such stable source of income to poor countries in Africa, the repercussions will be very negative.

<sup>93</sup> www.oecd-ilibrary.org/development. (28/3/2011)

### **3.2.Impacts on Europe**

“Together, Africans and Europeans, we have a duty to dismantle the illegal immigration networks, behind which hides an appalling and mafia-like traffic,” French President Jacques Chirac told the Franco-African Summit in Mali in December 2006. “Together, we must encourage co-development and enable Africans to enjoy decent conditions for living and working in their own countries.”

While it is important to give full credit to contemporary Europe and its leaders about their approach towards the development of Africa, it is also equally important to place maximum premium on historical development between Africa and Europe in terms of migration and its effects. One cannot easily dissociate the impact of the historical connections between Europe and Africa from the massive developmental gap between these two continents. Thus, it is pertinent to recognise Africa's contribution to the economy and beliefs of early capitalist Europe. The kinds of benefits which Europe derived from its control of world commerce are fairly well known, although it is apparent that the recognition of Africa's major contribution to European development is usually made in works devoted specifically to that subject; while European scholars often treat the European economy as if it were entirely independent. European economists of the 19th century certainly had no illusions about the inter-connections between their national economies and the world at large [<sup>94</sup>]. One of those 19th century economist J.S. Mill, one time agitator for British capitalism, believes that as far as England was concerned, ‘the trade of the West Indies is hardly to be considered as external trade, but more resembles the traffic between town and country. By the phrase ‘trade of the West Indies’ Mill meant the commerce between Africa, England and the West Indies, because without African labour the West Indies were valueless. Karl Marx, a bitter critic of the capitalist system also commented on the way that European capitalists tied Africa into the capitalist system and he went on to point out that what

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<sup>94</sup> [thebestcaribbeansite.com/smf/\(928/3/2011\)](http://thebestcaribbeansite.com/smf/(928/3/2011))

was good for Europeans was obtained at the expense of untold suffering by Africans. Attempts have been made to quantify the monetary profits made by Europeans from slave trade. While this is unattainable, many believed the profit was fabulous. An account of a slave merchant's gains, as portrayed by Walter Rodney in How Europe underdeveloped Africa (Published by: Bogle-L'Ouverture Publications, London and Tanzanian Publishing House, Dar-Es-Salaam 1973) thus..... John Hawkins made three trips to West Africa in the 1560s, and stole Africans whom he sold to the Spanish in America. On returning to England after the first trip, his profit was so handsome that Queen Elizabeth I became interested in directly participating in his next venture ; and she provided for that purpose a ship named the Jesus. Hawkins left with the Jesus to steal some more Africans, and he returned to England with such dividends that Queen Elizabeth made him a knight. Hawkins chose as his coat of arms the representation of an African in chains<sup>[95]</sup>. Few classic scholars want us believe that slave trade does not have any monetary gain and that Europeans absorbed themselves into such activity for centuries without any financial gain, that for hundreds of years they absorbed themselves in a non-profit venture. This kind of argument is worth nothing more than an example of the distortions of which Eurocentric writers view the whole scenerio with joke and unreliable facts. Besides, capital gains, Africa's labour provided the manpower requirement needed in that industrial period. Goldmines in Central and South Asia were as well ploughed by Africans, making it a double edge profit venture because African gold was also exploited significantly in that respect. For instance, gold from Africa made the Portuguese to make further inroads around the Cape of Good Hope right through Asia as way as the 15th century. It has also been the main source for Dutch gold going upto the 17th century, a period Amsterdam was proudly the financial capital of Europe. and further it was no coincidence that when the English struck a new gold coin in 1663 they called it the 'guinea' in direct memory of where the gold came from (Guinea, Conakry). It was first coined in 1663, in the reign of Charles II, from gold imported from the Guinea Coast of West Africa by a company of merchants trading

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<sup>95</sup> How Europe Underdeveloped Africa by Walter Rodney  
Published by: Bogle-L'Ouverture Publications, London and  
Tanzanian Publishing House, Dar-Es-Salaam, ISBN 0 – 88258-096-5 (PBK), 1973, Transcript from  
6th reprint, 1983;

under charter from the British crown<sup>[96]</sup>. Throughout the 17th and 18th centuries, and for most of the 19th century, the exploitation of Africa and African labour continued to be a source for the accumulation of capital to be re-invested in Western Europe. Africa's contribution to capitalist Europe need not to be underestimated. They maintained and sustained the capitalist agriculture, companies, technology and manufacturing of machinery, shipping and even insurance sectors. Eric Williams gave his thoughts on the connections between slavery and capitalism in his book capitalism and slavery (307 pp., 6.125 x 9.25 Paper ISBN 978-0-8078-4488-5 Published: October 1994). Outstanding examples of huge capital gains were established firms that owe their investment to slavery. He identified the persons of David and Alexander Barclay, who were engaged in slave trade in 1756 and who later used the gains derived to set up Barclay's bank as we know it today. Similar explanation is also given about the Lloyds, who became one of the world's largest insurance and banking powerhouse owe its financial resources not from the small coffee shop that it originally was, but from the profits of slavery<sup>[97]</sup>. The phase of modern era is accompanied by emerging needs for African migrants in the industrialised world. Europe's population growth rate is falling while the inhabitants are ageing and the pertinent question is who will produce the wealth that sustains the retired population. The UN estimates in 2009 that Europe will need an average net immigration of 1.4 million people to keep the proportion of the working-age population in the Europe stable until 2050 (bbc 2010). Whilst the population growth of Europe is slowing down gradually, that of the sub-Saharan African countries is relatively young and increasing. The natural flow of the young Africans to the Europe has led to some pundits- Xenophobes and neo-populist parties to argue that unskilled migrants do lower the wages of native workers and compete with them for works such as cleaning, child care, catering and construction<sup>[98]</sup>. Scientific base to support such assertion is unavailable and African migrants contribute to taxes without actually benefitting from the social rewards, they pay school fees for their children, etc. They do not only contribute to filling the job vacancies in the health sector but they also help keep wages

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<sup>96</sup> [thebestcaribbeansite.com/smf/](http://thebestcaribbeansite.com/smf/) (28/3/2011)

<sup>97</sup> [www.archive.org](http://www.archive.org) > ... > Universal Library (28/3/2011)

<sup>98</sup> [www.irmgard-coninx-stiftung.de/fileadmin/](http://www.irmgard-coninx-stiftung.de/fileadmin/) (28/11/2011)

and inflation down <sup>[99]</sup>. In 2006, today's EU/EEA countries had an overall positive net migration rate of 3.0 per 1,000 inhabitants and a net gain from international migration in the order of 1.5 million people. During this same period, African migrants' population in Spain was (605,000), France (91,000), UK (214,000), Czech Republic (35,000), Germany (99,000). Among the new EU Member States, the Czech Republic experienced the largest net migration inflow from Africa, followed by Hungary (21,000) <sup>[100]</sup>. In addition, Slovakia, Slovenia and EU candidate country Croatia also had a positive migration balance.

In recent years, the main countries where migrants enter EU from are Morocco, Turkey and Ukraine. There would be 356 billion dollars in global economic gains even if there is a three percent growth in the labour force of high income countries, that would be larger than gains from trade for example. It has become a key feature in meeting economic, labour market and productivity challenges in developed countries generally. In many cases, European countries hardly acknowledge migrants' contribution to development.

In UK alone, more than several thousands of highly qualified migrants from Ghana, Nigeria, Kenya, South Africa etc, are in their labour force. In return for their contribution, the UK has considered more flexible visa system for workers wishing to migrate. But amidst all these developments, African migrants are still exposed to racial discrimination <sup>[101]</sup>. Remittances sent by African migrants from European soil has its own separate effect as well. While it represents a capital transfer in economic terms, many analysts believed that it represents an illegal form of exploiting Europe. The fact that a large part of these remittances are sent through illegal channels deprives Europe of the much needed taxation that could be otherwise accrued. What is more disturbing about this effect is the fact that estimates are only speculated to be huge but not confirmed figures can be quoted. In effect, the loss to European economies is completely beyond any guess work.

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<sup>99</sup> [www.sangonet.org.za/.../work-migration-africa-good-bad-and-ugly](http://www.sangonet.org.za/.../work-migration-africa-good-bad-and-ugly) (28/3/2011)

<sup>100</sup> [www.insurance-mutuals.org/AMICE\\_Congress\\_2008\\_Muenz.pdf](http://www.insurance-mutuals.org/AMICE_Congress_2008_Muenz.pdf) (28/3/2011)

<sup>101</sup> [archive.lib.msu.edu/DMC/African%20Journals](http://archive.lib.msu.edu/DMC/African%20Journals) (28/3/2011)

#### **4. Summary**

This research outlines the dimensions and impacts of the movement of highly qualified migrants from Africa to European countries; its purpose is to assess the benefits and costs of such migration. Highly skilled workers have moved from Europe to African countries as expatriates for decades but the number of highly qualified workers moving from Africa to Europe has been on the increase since the 1990s for reasons that range from IT-related issues, economic boom to more doctors and nurses from African countries arriving to care for the elderly in European countries. Moreover, the existence of other opportunities for entry into Europe through

student visas and eventually adjusting to working permits accounts for 10 to 30 percent of African migrants with professional qualifications in Europe. Employers in European countries have become aware of the potentials of foreign trained professionals, information about job opportunities in Europe are rampant in Africa, making it possible for organised group of smugglers to make a business out of the situation. This emigration sadly represents a brain drain, a transfer of human capital from one country to another, much as trade transfers goods produced in one country to another. Those who reap the benefits are the migrants themselves, the new home where they reside, and in turn reflects on global GDP. A major question to be addressed here is to determine the real economic effect of such migration. Thus, economic theory holds that the effect of such migration is to speed up economic growth in countries where these migrants reside and inversely slow down development in their home countries, thereby increasing inequality in wealth.

To calculate the net effects is quite difficult because of the lack of adequate and reliable information on remittances, recruitment and returns in both human and capital investment. Definitely, the stock of human capital increased by the return of these professionals who might have gained skills and wealth in their foreign destinations. There is always the chance of a vicious circle where the economic gains as stated above can again result to deteriorating health systems, poorer schools, and less-productive industries that slow development as a result of the exodus of nurses, engineers etc. This will obviously increase the gap in terms of development between African and European

countries. In the circumstance, even though the migrants themselves might enjoy better standard of living, yet poverty and deprivation still continues in their home countries. This is a major problem because there is no known parameter by which we can measure these effect simultaneously or even to turn those benefits enjoyed by migrants abroad into real economic benefits back home. It should not be misconstrued that the purpose of this research is not limited only to the impacts of skilled migrants from Africa but the fact is that the more skilled a migrant is, the higher the probability of accessing information about them because most of the risky and irregular migration that goes without proper documentation affects the unskilled mostly. Some receiving countries in Africa tend to be sending countries now in some instances due to deteriorating economic conditions and this has also massively increase inter-continental migration that is mostly selective of highly skilled men and women into Europe and elsewhere. According to AU in 2005, there are an estimated 16.3 million migrants and close to 13.5 million internally displaced persons (IDPs) from the continent alone. In 2006, the UN puts African population growth at 3.5% annually and that represents the highest in the world<sup>[102]</sup>. Internal migration can be argued to be the result of inter tribal wars, environmental and economic stagnation or degradation. In addition to that, there is a growing feeling of more job facilities in urban areas than in rural areas and this spur internal migration tremendously too. Thus, it should be borne in mind that the pattern of intercontinental migration of Africans to European countries followed this same path and for similar reasons. Poor persons and families have used both internal and international movements to reduce the burden of poverty and contribute to sustainable development. Strong links between migrants and their origins manifest in remittances that support rural livelihood and help strengthen linkages between rural areas and urban markets on the one hand and between African countries and migrants in Europe on the otherhand. Similarities between internal and external migrations from Africa is reflected in the key decision to undertake the journey and this seems largely to be a collective family decision. From the ongoing analysis, it could be correct to suggest that the high educational selectivity in international migration results consequently to brain

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<sup>102</sup> [ww2.unhabitat.org/istanbul+5/globalreport.htm](http://ww2.unhabitat.org/istanbul+5/globalreport.htm) (28/3/2011)

drain and thus African States are increasingly concerned that their highly skilled workers, whom they have paid to train, are being pillaged. However, the flows of financial and knowledge based capital, which are sent back home by migrants, as well as direct investments in home countries by returning migrants are among the most important contributions of international migration to poverty alleviation and long term development of origin countries. Efforts by some African states to put international migration into perspective should be applauded. For instance, in South Africa, a national conference to draft migration policies were held in Pretoria from 18th to 23rd April, 2005. This policy paper, if accepted or copied by other African states can be a blue print for a comprehensive policy initiative. Its good that this policy document entails sensitive gender balance in a bid to protect the interests of female African migrants. However, many challenges still remained unaddressed because achieving the triple policy objectives of remittances, retention and returns is no mean feat. Yes, amendments have been made on the document to reflect the current trend of African migration for labour purposes but the real problem of inadequately unreliable data is still to contend with. If the trend and pattern continue like this, over the next decades, Africa will continue to experience large-scale population movements, especially outwards. Labour related migration will continue to provide a way to escape poverty or other forms of hardship at home. Among the highly qualified, international labour migration provides an opportunity for career expansion and wealth accumulation in a globalised economy. It is however crucial to note that migration of Africans to Europe should not only be viewed from the economic point of the microscope because that might just reduce the whole process to an employer-employee relationships, i think it goes far beyond that. Of equal sensitivity are the socio-cultural and political dimensions with regards to bad governance, conflicts, human right abuses and a host of other factors. It is no coincidence that conflict-ridden countries often experience severe economic difficulties. Ofcourse migration can be both beneficial and costly too. The main cost is the significant loss of human capital and subsequent manpower gaps in key-sectors for national development. This is where the real issue of unfairness or uneven relationship between the two continents can be identified clearly. While Africa continue to be the constant source of man power, hence, slowing development in the continent, Europe on the other hand continue to be the attractive continent for the influx



of abundant human capital, albeit the restrictions. However, migration contributes to balancing economic growth within Africa, and enhances knowledge and technology transfers from developed countries. In particular, remittances from the African diaspora contribute in major ways to the cumulative national purchasing power as well as to individual household income. Linking migration and development means building a partnership between countries of origin and host countries, and between the associations of the diaspora and local private sector initiatives. Presently, There is growing international consensus on the usefulness of constructive migration policy cooperation to address the demographic requirements of certain developed countries and the imperfect functioning of their complex labour markets, as well as the development imperatives of countries in Africa.

The migrants themselves are commonly depicted as victims recruited by traffickers and smugglers. Important to note here is the inconsistency of migration policy implementation and the lack of political will from both Africans and Europeans that continue to encourage irregular migration. There is a complete failure of some of these policies and eventually, have had a series of unintended side effects in the form of human right and multiplication of diverse crossing points. In fact, there is a growing discrepancy between restrictive migration policies and the demand for cheap migrant labour in Europe .

#### **4.1.Recommendations**

The main aim of this Diploma thesis work is to trace the relationship between Africa and Europe with regards to the socio-economic impacts of labour movements,patterns and trends at various times based on a vivid account of the historical background between these continents. Hence, the historical overview delve further on issues of forced labour within the individual continents, perpetrators and victims of forced labour when the initial contact was established between the continents. To give a contemporary dimension,current issues and trends of labour migration between Africa and Europe are also duely considered.

The recommendations herein are a mixture of personal thoughts and expert opinions on the the subject matter. Moreover, in many instances, general recommendations are made and in specific cases, recommendations are restricted to certain scenarios. It has been shown that labour migration information remains incomplete and often inaccurate especially in Africa, which incidentally happens to be the most affected continent. It is patchy and based on limited data records. In some instances, the information is neither available nor produced on a regular basis. Many of the data provided by different institutions cater for functions and roles of the respective institutions. Moreover, the issue of responsibility for designing a labour policy, the will power to implement those policies and the eventual evaluation of those policies is mostly undertaken by institutions of Government and other international bodies with little or no regard for cordinating similar initiatives. Given the potential and increasing roles in socio-economic development of migrants and migration statistics, documentation processing and analysis of labour migration levels, trends and policies remains a major challenge. Addressing institutional arrangements and cordination problems is critically important if more information and quality labour migration statistics are to be made available on time. Moreover, providing adequately reliable data to development partners and other social partners is a highly viable option. African countries require efficient migration systems that can enable various offices and exit points to share data and communicate efficiently and economically. It is highly recommended that migration departments be provided with a computerised system so that all vital information regarding passports and visas, residence and work permits are easily accessible through a digital programme. Such a system will be able to allow authorities to view files, Interpol watch list, compare personal information notices issued, including processing status of immigration documents such as visas, passport and residence and work permits through a web based interface to a centralized database. This will enable quick action to be taken against people staying or working illegally as well as those who are deemed undesirable to the well being of the country or society. More efforts should also be directed to staff training in various areas such as Computer literacy, migration labour statistics and other current issues on migration. There is an urgent need to recruit more staff dealing with migration labour issues on collecting, processing and data analysis. An effective corporation between Africa and Europe in this front is more desirable now than ever. As

much as African countries are completely incapacitated by lack of technological literacy and therefore unable to implement such agenda all by themselves, i think policy makers in Europe could establish its dominance in this area positively. This is not to underestimate efforts already undertaken in this direction but rather to add more impetus to its implementation.

Moreover, African governments through their Ministries of Finance should allocate more funds on developing infrastructure for government institutions and social partners dealing with international labour migration. This will facilitate the process of data collection and processing using the modern technology and well-trained staff. The production of valid and reliable statistics on migrant workers specifically requires planning, coordination of data collection, processing and dissemination. Given the increasing roles of globalisation and privatisation processes there is need to involve and coordinate private agencies dealing with recruitment of workers including foreign workers and African nationals who want to work abroad as well as students. Furthermore, the efforts towards the process of trying to achieve harmonization of concepts and definitions of variables of migration statistics should be enhanced.

Throughout this research,emphassy has been placed on the availability of adequate, quality and comparable statistics for international labour migration .This is quite crucial and critically important in the development of African countries within the context of a liberalized and globalized world economy. Ways should therefore be found to solve the constraints for improving statistics for international labour migration,specifically though not restricted to,African countries. These includes:the need to carry out a survey on employment and earnings in Africa so as to revive similar activities that were being done previously in these countries that might improve employment potentials; the need to raise awareness among the various institutions concerned regarding the specific kinds of data needed to assess and manage labour mobility and the potential roles of each agency on obtaining and making available such data;the need to designate the respective national ministries of Labour as a focal point for the compilation of the data specifically on labour migration and its relationship to labour market factors, in collaboration with national statistical bureaus and other concerned agencies; the need to put in place specialized unit on labour in labour Ministries;the need to develop, probably with the

assistance of ILO, databases of skills of African nationals abroad. The database can then be availed using virtual technology channels and used for enabling African countries to benefit from these skills; the ILO can probably assist to set up an efficient way of tracking records of remittances. This can be done with the joint effort of central banks in different African countries; vital also is that personal corporation between the general public and the private sector migration establishments. This is better for effective implementation of policies than an alienation of each other's capability.

Lastly, i think Europe should review its actions and inactions with regards to conflicts on the African continent so that she can maintain a clear position. Conflicts interrupt both economic and political activities which eventually lead to degrading human ills that force most Africans from their home countries to Europe. So a sincere positioning of Europe with regards to those instabilities in Africa is essential to the challenges of labour migration between these two continents. The issue of supporting rebel movements against their Governments in one situation and supporting Governments against rebel movements in the other will only reaffirm initial fears of double standards and exploitative intent of Europe towards Africa. An arm embargo on African Governments should be uniform across the continent, otherwise its counter productive. This is a difficult task to undertake but if that self enrichment view can be minimised in the interest of the whole lot, Europe will offer as much as Africa can offer Europe in a fairer way. With regards to slavery and what it represented between these two continents, one can hardly find any common suggestion to address that imbalance. It was a sacrifice in pain and blood, so to propose an alternative compensatory concept is tantamount to negotiating the price of those lives lost. However, to see Europeans show great remorse to Africans will be hugely welcomed but any attempt at distorting that unfortunate story will be viewed by Africans as not only an insult but a rude slap on the face. At the moment, much has been said, so much need to be done and now. Finally, the problems of migration between these two continent will persist to occur if the will and togetherness is not fully utilized. Migration can only be controlled by a positive corporation amongst the powers concerned.

## **4.2. Conclusion**

Labour migration from Africa to European countries is seemingly a mutual benefit phenomenon, which results in development gains for both home and host countries. The positive benefits of labour migration are often underplayed and undervalued, especially by developed countries. It is important for receiving countries to properly differentiate between the different categories of migrants and to legislate accordingly. Visions of the European continent beset by massive migration pressure from Africa depicts the prevailing view that immigration pressures have reached intolerable levels. Consequently, this sentiment has been accompanied by more restrictive legislation and the tendency to confuse the status of refugees, irregular immigrant, regular immigrants, highly skilled and unskilled, and migrant labourers. It is crucial to note that by 2000 there were an estimated 175 million migrants worldwide and about 16.3 million were Africans, down from 12 per cent in 1960, notes the Global Commission on International Migration (GCIM) in 2002. No doubt that this number has increased tremendously in the last couple of years due to the the prevailing instabilities on the African continent.

Generally, labour migration (regular or irregular), from Africa to Europe is not as new as is commonly suggested. A whopping 65,000 and 120,000 sub-Saharan Africans enter the northern enclaves of Africa every year but only 20 to 38 per cent are estimated to enter Europe, notes Hein de Haas in 2006. Currently, uprisings in Tunisia, Egypt and Libya have confirmed an unsurprising increase in displaced and refugee numbers of Africans hitherto based in those countries. Almost all of these sub-Saharan Africans might prefer to enter Europe than return to their countries of origin. This potentially poses more challenges to policy makers in Europe and a rapid response mechanism will be vital to prevent simultaneous increase in irregular influx of migrants.

Moreover, it has been observed from available statistics that the bulk of sub-Saharan Africans enter Europe through regular channels. In 2006 and according to Hein de Haas, the total annual increase of the registered African population in the EU alone has been around 100,000. It is confirmed in this same report that Africans who successfully cross the seas to Europe is between 25,000 to 35,000 per annum and that is barely a fraction of the 2.6 million immigrants in the whole EU in 2004. The majority of migrants enter

Europe legally and subsequently overstay their visas. However, it is interesting to note that despite a recent increase, the rate of West African migration is still incomparable to those from North Africa and Eastern Europe. It is estimated that the number of registered West Africans in the main EU receiving countries like Spain and Italy and this compared to the 2.600.000 North Africans is a drop in the ocean. It is presumed that Moroccan migrants far outnumber all West African migrants according to Hein de Haas in 2006. Instead of being viewed as a reaction to the poor living conditions in Africa, it is believed that migration is relatively a decision that is willingly made by medium income earners to better themselves. In a similar manner, the issue of smugglers and traffickers is overemphasised because the migrants are mostly viewed as mere victims and this is completely inconsistent with available facts that the larger part of these African migrants do so at their own will. Trafficking is relatively rare, and smugglers are usually not part of international organized crime but locally based people operating alone or in small network. The ongoing debate about labour migration movement between these two continents seem to ignore the human aspect, the social effects. Analysts have leaned towards the economic effects so much that little or no attention is paid to the huge social effects, particularly in Africa where the history of slavery and colonial relationship between these two continents led to forced labour trans-continental movements. These effects cannot be measured empirically because its mostly psychological rather than physical and are largely undocumented. It is tempting to believe that there is a relationship between these psychological effects on the mentality of Africans and their desires to migrate to Europe, presumably those with former colonial ties. Moreover, the ineffectively inherited corrupt African bureaucracies with no better labour policies than those relegated to them by former colonial masters makes a bad situation even worse. The period of forced labour movement represents Africa's worst history. Inversely, this was a period of exploitation and gains for Africa and Europe respectively, stemming from the consistently coercive force for African labour to work in plantations and industries in colonial Europe, now mostly the host countries. Thus, if historical accounts given so far are worthy to go by, the social impacts are incomparably favourable to one continent against the other and therefore represents an unequal relationship. Forced labour is a reality in in both Africa and Europe, and it is largely the result of abuse in the migration process. It is evidently clear that victims of

trafficking/forced labour and successful migrants were too broad to capture all the relevant information. This research has led to the following conclusions with regards to forced labour: that while relative deprivation is the underlying push factor for the total population of labour migrants, poverty is more relevant for the sub-population of forced labour/trafficked victims. Poverty intersects with other vulnerabilities, in particular discrimination on the grounds of gender and ethnicity. This is quite similar in both continents; that those migrants who are likely to end up in forced labour are those who are deceived right from the start of their journey but those who seek employment without intermediaries are rarely vulnerable to forced labours. Intermediaries can take on different forms and disguises. They exploit financial and informational constraints that all migrant workers, but in particular trafficked/forced labour victims face. This is mostly common in Europe than in Africa; Employers use a wide range of coercive measures to keep migrants in exploitative conditions. Mostly, forced migrants are subjected to submission by withholding their wages or their entire movements are restricted. The issue of forced labour is prevalent in societies where labour policies are either non-existent or ineffective. Migrant workers are preferred by European employers because they are disciplined and less vocal. Weak sanctions, loopholes in legislation make it easy for employers to conceal exploitation. The availability of vulnerable workers combined with impunity influence the behaviour of business. Many of them have to escape, with or without help of an organisation. A significant number of irregular migrant workers are deported after leaving the employer. Exit strategies are directly related to laws governing employment of migrant workers, their enforcement as well as existing structures of support through trade unions, NGOs, state authorities or other organisations; the complex nature of trafficking, forced labour and labour exploitation within highly flexible labour markets is also highlighted. This messy reality, exacerbated by a tacit complicity between irregular migrants, intermediaries and employers, makes it very difficult to design appropriate interventions. Trafficking and forced labour are crimes that involve real people with their hopes and fears. While some migrants have the power to resist or seek help, others submit and remain silent.

## Abbreviations

AIDS.....	Acquired immune deficiency syndrome
ANC.....	African National Congress
AU.....	African Union
EC.....	European Community
ECA.....	Economic commission for Africa
ECO.....	Economic Cooperation Organization
ECOWAS.....	Economic community Of West African States
EEA.....	European Economic Area
EU.....	European Union
GCIM.....	Global Commission on International Migration
HCRA.....	Human Capital Replenishment Assistance.
HIV.....	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
ICMPD.....	International Centre for Migration Policy Development
IDP.....	Internally Displaced Persons
ILO.....	International Labour Organization
IOM.....	International Organization for Migration
IPAR.....	Institute of Policy Analysis and Research- kenya
IT.....	Information Technology
NGO.....	Non Governmental Organization
OECD.....	Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
OSCD.....	Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe
PhD.....	Doctor of Philosophy
SADC.....	Southern Africa Development Community
SAMA.....	South Africa Medical Association
TOKTEN.....	Transfer Of Knowledge Through Expatriate Nationals
UNO.....	United Nations
UNCHS.....	United Nations Centre for Human Settlements
UNDP.....	United Nations Development Programme
WHO.....	World Health organization



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