



**ANALYSIS
OF THE MIGRATION
PROCESS FROM
CENTRAL ASIAN COUNTRIES
(Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan)
TO SOUTH KOREA:
CONDITION, STRUCTURE, STRATEGY**

Astana - 2022





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A 53 **Analysis of the migration process from Central Asian countries (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan) to South Korea: condition, structure, strategy** – Edited by Botagoz Rakisheva – Korea Foundation, Public Opinion Research Institute, 2022 – Astana – 160 p.

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This report was prepared based on the results of the international project “Analysis of the migration process from Central Asian countries (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan) to South Korea: condition, structure, strategy” conducted by the Public Opinion Research Institute with the grant support of the Korea Foundation under the program Policy-oriented Research Support Program-2021.

The report includes the results of a research conducted in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan and South Korea in 2022. The research examined the issues of ethnic, labor, undocumented, educational, marriage migration from Central Asian countries to South Korea through surveys with migrants and experts, as well as content analysis of social networks, media and desk research.

Taking into account the relevance of migration issues and its consequences for international relations, politics, economy and society as a whole, it is important to comprehensively study this area and permanently monitor its condition both in the countries from which the migration flow occurs and in the host country.

This report is recommended to specialists in the field of migration, international relations, diasporology, Korean studies.

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ACRONYMS

AUT	Ajou University in Tashkent
CA	Central Asia
CIP	Center for International Programs
CIS	Commonwealth of Independent States
EPS	Employment Permit System
EU	European Union
GDP	Gross domestic product
GKS	Global Korea Scholarship
HEI	High educational institutions
IEM	Interethnic marriages
IMF	International Monetary Fund
IOM	International Organization for Migration
IUT	Inha University in Tashkent
K-ETA	Korea Electronic Travel Authorization
KAIST	Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology
KazNU	Al-Farabi Kazakh National University
KIUF	Korea International University In Ferghana
KKC	Kyrgyz-Korean College
KUCSS	Korean University Council For Social Service
KZT	Kazakhstani tenge
MNM	Mononational marriages
NATO	North Atlantic Treaty Organization
NCIE	National Institute for International Education
NCIE	National Center for International Education
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
OKF	Overseas Koreans Foundation
PRC	People's Republic of China
RoK	Republic of Korea
SCAU	Seoul Digital Culture and Arts University
SSR	Soviet Socialist Republic
TOPIK	Test of Proficiency in Korean
UAE	United Arab Emirates
UK	United Kingdom
UN	United Nations
UNESCO	The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNIST	Ulsan National Institute of Science and Technology
USA	United States of America
USD	United States Dollar
USSR	Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
YTIT	Yejju Technical Institute in Tashkent

GLOSSARY

- Diaspora** Diaspora refers to a people or an ethnic population that leave their traditional ethnic homelands, or countries of origin, and are dispersed throughout other parts of the world. Diaspora are also broadly defined as individuals and members of networks, associations and communities who have left their country of origin but maintain social, economic and political links. This concept covers settled communities, migrant workers temporarily based abroad, people with the citizenship of the origin or destination country, dual citizens, and second-/third-generation migrants.
Source: Media-Friendly Glossary on Migration: Fair Recruitment and Forced Labour. Uzbekistan Edition. ISBN 9789220371039 Moscow, Russia, 2022 // https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_protect/---protrav/---migrant/documents/publication/wcms_844871.pdf
- Irregular migrant** Someone who, owing to illegal entry or the expiry of his or her visa, lacks legal status in a transit or host country. The term applies to migrants who infringe a country's admission rules and any other person not authorized to remain in the host country (also called clandestine/illegal/undocumented migrant or migrant in an irregular situation).
Source: Handbook on migration terminology (Russian-English), IOM, 2011 // https://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/handbook_on_migration_terminology.pdf
- Irregular migration** Movement of persons that takes place outside the laws, regulations, or international agreements governing the entry into or exit from the State of origin, transit or destination.
Source: IOM. 2019a. International Migration Law No. 34 - Glossary on Migration Geneva. - p.173 // https://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/iml_34_glossary.pdf
- Migrant worker** A person who is to be engaged, is engaged or has been engaged in a remunerated activity in a State of which he or she is not a national.
Source: International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, 1990 z. This source also defines other migrant workers as "seafarers", "migrant workers", "seasonal workers", etc. (Article 2) // <https://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/international-convention-protection-rights-all-migrant-workers>
- Refugee (recognized)** A person, who "owing to well-founded fear of persecution for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinions, is outside the country of his nationality and is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country" (Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, Art. 1A(2), 1951 as modified by the 1967 Protocol).
Source: Handbook on migration terminology (Russian-English), IOM, 2011 // https://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/handbook_on_migration_terminology.pdf

Remittances

Remittances are monies earned or acquired by migrant workers that are transferred back to their country of origin. Remittances may be sent through formal bank or quasi-bank transfer systems, often at considerable expense, or through informal money transfer systems, including hand carry or mobile money systems. The opportunity to earn high wages and send remittances home is often the primary motivation of migrant workers from poor countries.

Source: Media-Friendly Glossary on Migration: Fair Recruitment and Forced Labour. Uzbekistan Edition. ISBN 9789220371039 Moscow, Russia, 2022 // https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_protect/---protrav/---migrant/documents/publication/wcms_844871.pdf

Undocumented alien

An alien who enters or stays in a country without the appropriate documentation. This includes, among others: one (a) who has no legal documentation to enter a country but manages to enter clandestinely, (b) who enters using fraudulent documentation, (c) who, after entering using legal documentation, has stayed beyond the time authorized or otherwise violated the terms of entry and remained without authorization.

Source: Handbook on migration terminology (Russian-English), IOM, 2011 // https://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/handbook_on_migration_terminology.pdf

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WORDS OF GRATITUDE

Public Opinion Research Institute expresses gratitude to the Korea Foundation for the possibility of conducting a research project “Analysis of the migration process from Central Asian countries (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan) to South Korea: condition, structure, strategy”.

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A large international research group from South Korea, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan worked in the Project – researchers, supervisors, interviewers, transcribers, translators, designers, to whom we express our respect and gratitude!

*Sincerely,
International Research Group*

INTRODUCTION

This report was prepared by the Public Opinion Research Institute based on the results of the study “Analysis of the migration process from Central Asian countries (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan) to South Korea: condition, structure, strategy”, with grant support from the Korea Foundation under the program “Support for Policy Oriented Research Program-2021”.

2022 marks the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the countries of Central Asia and South Korea.

On January 28, 1992, diplomatic relations were established between the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Republic of Korea. In 1993, the Embassy of the Republic of Korea was opened in the Republic of Kazakhstan. In 1996, the Embassy of the Republic of Kazakhstan in the Republic of Korea was opened¹.

In January 1992, diplomatic relations were established between the Kyrgyz Republic and the Republic of Korea. In September 2007, the Embassy of the Republic of Korea in the Kyrgyz Republic was opened, and in June 2008, the Embassy of the Kyrgyz Republic in the Republic of Korea was opened².

On January 29, 1992, diplomatic relations were established between the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Republic of Korea. In December 1993, the Republic of Korea opened an embassy in Uzbekistan³, and in 1995 an embassy of Uzbekistan to the Republic of Korea was opened⁴.

An important component of bilateral relations is the establishment of human bridges through which societies get acquainted with each other's culture, values, and national characteristics. Over the past 30 years, several migration channels have been formed from the countries of Central Asia to South Korea.

Main channel: **ethnic migration**, repatriation of the Koryo-saram / ethnic Koreans living in the countries of Central Asia. Forcibly deported during the years of political repression, ethnic Koreans today have the opportunity to move to South Korea. This group constitutes the main migration group.

Closely related to **ethnic migration**, labor migration is also formed and stable. Traditionally, the main donor countries of labor migrants from Central Asia are Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan. The recipient countries in the post-Soviet space are Russia and Kazakhstan. Over the past five years, the situation has changed: Kazakhstan began to both accept migrants and send labor migrants to other countries. South Korea is a recipient country of labor migrants from Central Asia.

There also should be noted the problem of unsettled migration flows from Central Asia to South Korea as a separate block. For example, after the abolition of the visa regime with Kazakhstan, the problem of **undocumented migration** of Kazakhstan citizens to South Korea became relevant.

Another important element of the migration process is **educational migration** from the Central Asian countries to South Korea. The potential for educational migration is very high, young people are fond of Korean culture, music, dramas, cosmetics. Hallyu (Korean wave) is very popular among teenagers, many of them learn Korean, join idol fan clubs, attend events related to the culture, cuisine, and lifestyle of South Korea.

¹ Official website of the Embassy of the Republic of Kazakhstan in the Republic of Korea // <https://www.gov.kz/memleket/entities/mfa-seoul/activities/2130?lang=ru> (access date: 01.11.2022)

² Official website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic // https://mfa.gov.kg/ru/main/page?page_id=625 (access date: 01.11.2022)

³ Uzbekistan and the Republic of Korea celebrate the 30th anniversary of diplomatic relations // <https://www.gazeta.uz/ru/2022/01/29/uzbekistan-korea/> (access date: 01.11.2022)

⁴ [Friends for decades] Uzbekistan's ambassador recalls milestones of 30 year relationship with Korea // <https://koreajoongangdaily.joins.com/2022/11/08/national/diplomacy/korea-uzbekistan-relations/20221108153259052.html> (access date: 01.11.2022)

South Korea has become an attractive market for international marriages of Russian-speaking citizens of the post-Soviet space. According to the statistical materials of South Korea, in 2018, 2,425 citizens of Uzbekistan participated in **interethnic marriages**. In the Russian-speaking segment of the Internet (Facebook, YouTube, Instagram, etc.) there are a large number of blogs of foreign spouses of South Korean citizens, telling about life in Korea, about the peculiarities of marriage, traditions and customs. A relevant issue in terms of the problems of integration of migrants is the mood of the marriage migrants themselves, their ability and desire to adapt to marriage in Korea. Under these conditions, the study of the emotional and evaluative background of the perception of the surrounding reality of marriage migrants becomes the main object of research.

This report attempts to analyze the main migration flows from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan to South Korea.

METHODOLOGY OF SOCIOLOGICAL RESEARCH

Objects of study: ethnic migration, educational, marriage, labor, undocumented migration.

The main goal of the project: analysis of migration processes (ethnic migration, educational, marriage, labor, undocumented migration) from Central Asian countries to South Korea:

- to identify the factors of migration, its potential reserves, mechanisms and driving forces,
- to determine the direction and forms of migration processes,
- to study the composition of migrants and directions of migration,
- determination of the socio-demographic characteristics of migrants,
- to study the migration infrastructure: places of residence, ways of finding a job, ways of entering the country, the presence of retail chains, cafes, mosques, etc.,
- problems of adaptation and integration of migrants in the country,
- problems of adaptation and integration of marriage migrants and their children in society,
- the role of social networks in shaping the migrant environment,
- the role of social institutions (church, mosque, prayer rooms, centers for labor migrants' adaptation, Koryo-saram cultural centers, public organizations, volunteers, etc.),
- the role of Islam in the daily life of Muslim migrants,
- analysis of remittances from South Korea to countries of origin,
- finding out the main reasons and motives of young employable people in search of work outside their country, defining the structure and strategy of labor migration,
- sources of information: level of awareness, level of trust and understanding,
- the impact of the pandemic on the migration process,
- identification of the main factors influencing the expansion of undocumented migration channels,
- refugee status: motives, plans, methods of obtaining,
- attitude towards green corridors and laws regulating labor migration: problems of understanding, assessment of one's own behavior,
- identification of the Push / Pull factors of the migration process.

To achieve this goal, the following methods and approaches were used.

The following were analyzed:

1. Information from state authorities, territorial employment services, competent ministries, regional migration and border services,
2. Analysis of statistical information from government and international sources (Korea immigration service statistics, the Committee on Statistics of Central Asian Countries, etc.),
3. Reports, press releases of international organizations,
4. The results of sociological research carried out on the subject under study.

Content analysis was carried out:

1. Social networks and messengers of the countries participating in the project,
2. Mass media of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan,
3. South Korean media.

The following target audiences were **surveyed**:

1. Expert survey
2. Survey of ethnic Koreans
3. Survey of labor migrants
4. Survey of undocumented migrants
5. Survey of educational migrants
6. Survey of marriage migrants

In the course of the study, in addition to the planned methods of collecting information, additional methods were added: analysis of migrants' blogs in five areas (more than 100 blogs). This collection method made it possible to analyze different aspects of the life of ethnic, labor, undocumented, educational and marriage migrants.

DESCRIPTION OF THE SURVEY SAMPLE:

1. An expert survey with leaders and specialists involved in solving the problems of migration and employment in each country, including representatives of diplomatic departments.

General sample: 40 respondents.

Survey geography: South Korea, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan.

The survey form is mixed: face-to-face, online, telephone, e-mail, etc.

The survey method is an in-depth interview.

2. A survey of ethnic Koreans (Koryo-saram) living in South Korea.

Sample: 20 respondents from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, located in South Korea.

General sample: 60 respondents.

Geography of surveys: Seoul, Gwangju, Ansan, Incheon, etc. (cities where migrants from Central Asia are concentrated).

The survey form is mixed: face-to-face, online, telephone, e-mail, etc.

The survey method is an in-depth interview.

Generations: 1st generation (born before August 15, 1945), 2nd generation (children of the first generation), 3rd generation (grandchildren of the first generation), 4th generation (great-grandchildren of the first generation).

3. Survey of labor migrants working in South Korea.

Sample: 20 respondents from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, located in South Korea (migrants in South Korea who returned to their country, relatives of migrants were surveyed).

General sample: 60 respondents.

Geography of surveys: Seoul, Gwangju, Ansan, Incheon, etc. (cities where migrants from Central Asia are concentrated).

The survey form is mixed: face-to-face, online, telephone, e-mail, etc.

The survey method is an in-depth interview.

4. Survey of undocumented labor migrants in South Korea.

Sample: 20 respondents from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan in South Korea (migrants in South Korea who returned to their country, relatives of migrants were surveyed).

General sample: 60 respondents (undocumented migrants).

Geography of surveys: Seoul, Gwangju, Ansan, Incheon, etc. (cities where migrants from Central Asia are concentrated).

The survey form is mixed: face-to-face, online, telephone, e-mail, etc.

The survey method is an in-depth interview.

5. Survey of educational migrants studying in South Korea.

Sample: 20 respondents from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, located in South Korea (educational migrants, students in South Korea who completed their education, parents of educational migrants, applicants who chose South Korean universities were surveyed).

General sample: 60 respondents.

Geography of surveys: cities of South Korea.

The survey form is mixed: face-to-face, online, telephone, e-mail, etc.

The survey method is an in-depth interview.

6. Survey of marriage migrants.

Sample: 20 respondents from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, located in South Korea.

General sample: 60 respondents.

Geography of surveys: Seoul, Gwangju, Ansan, Incheon, etc. (cities where migrants from Central Asia are concentrated).

The survey form is mixed: face-to-face, online, telephone, e-mail, etc.

The survey method is an in-depth interview.

7. A survey of Korean and Central Asian experts in the field of migration, international relations, researchers of Central Asia, specialists in bilateral relations.

Sample: 20 respondents.

Survey geography: South Korea, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan

The survey form is mixed: face-to-face, online, telephone, e-mail, etc.

The survey method is an in-depth interview.

8. Survey of heads of cultural centers of ethnic Koreans, representatives of churches, mosques, charitable foundations, migrant support centers, etc.

Sample: 30 respondents.

Geography of the survey: settlements in South Korea, where undocumented labor resources from Central Asian countries are concentrated, settlements in Central Asian countries, where ethnic Koreans live compactly.

The survey form is mixed: face-to-face, online, telephone, e-mail, etc.

The survey method is an in-depth interview.

9. Survey of representatives of employment offices of labor migrants, labor exchanges, intermediaries, a survey of South Korean employers using foreign labor.

Sample: 30 respondents.

Survey geography: South Korea, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan.

The survey form is mixed: face-to-face, online, telephone, e-mail, etc.

The survey method is an in-depth interview.

Total: 420 respondents

CHAPTER 1. ETHNIC MIGRATION

Introduction

South Korea, which performed an economic miracle in the last third of the last century, turned at the turn of the century from a donor country of international migration to a recipient country of immigrants from around the world. However, its successful economic development may be hindered by the deterioration of the demographic situation and the shortage of workers. A declining working-age population and a growing group of retired people will cause a huge burden on social security and exacerbate the shortage of labor resources. Further economic growth requires more workers, which South Korea has begun to accept from other countries. There are two types of immigration programs in the Republic of Korea: for low-skilled labor and for high-level professionals. Foreign citizens enter the country on a variety of types of visas.

The growing influx of migrants to South Korea included not only labor immigration of foreign nationals, but also return migration and repatriation of ethnic Koreans from China, Russia, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Japan, etc.

The purpose of the study is to analyze the ethnic immigration of Koreans from the countries of Central Asia to the Republic of Korea, including repatriation, labor, study, marriage and other types of cross-border migration.

The priority in studying the immigration of Russian-speaking Koreans - Koryo Saram - to the Republic of Korea belongs to South Korean scientists: historians, anthropologists, economists, lawyers and psychologists, that is, representatives of social and humanitarian sciences. The beginning of an active study of immigrants - Koreans from Central Asia refers to the second half of the first decade of XXI century. It is important to note professors and researchers from Chonnam National University, where the Institute of Global Diaspora (글로벌디아스포라연구소) for a decade and a half under the leadership of Professor Im Chae Wang developed projects to study foreign Koreans in North America, China, Japan, the post-Soviet space and in many other countries of the world. The Korean diasporas in Central Asia and, accordingly, ethnic migrants from their midst were studied by Chonnam University professors, including Im Chae Wang⁵, Kim Kyung Hak⁶, Kim Jae Gi⁷, Saeng Bong Kyu⁸, Hong In Hwa⁹ and others. The city of Gwangju, where Chonnam University is located, initially received the largest group of ethnic immigrants from Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Russia and Kyrgyzstan. For this reason, scientists from other universities in Gwangju have focused on ethnic migrants from Central Asia and the CIS.¹⁰

There were publications about the communities of ethnic migrants - Koryoins - in other cities and regions of South Korea: including Ansan, Daegu, Incheon, Seoul, the capital province of Gyeonggi-do¹¹. South Korean historiography of the ethnic migration of Koreans in Central Asia is distinguished by a large number of publications, the count of which went not by dozens, but by hundreds. Scientists of various scientific fields, working both at university departments and in research centers, show interest in the topic. Research is conducted on a wide range of issues, but aspects related, for example, to criminal, illegal activities of immigrants from

⁵ 임채완, 선봉규. 한국 귀환이주 고려인 임금노동자의 근로환경과 직무만족 관계 분석// 재외한인연구, 2015, 제35호, pp.199-228

⁶ 김경학. 우즈베키스탄 고려인의 한국 이주와 가족유형의 성격. 광주광역시 고려인 사례를 중심으로// 디아스포라연구. 2015, 제9권 제2호, pp. 37-67

⁷ 김재기. 광주광역시 광산구 지역 귀환 고려인의 이주배경과 특성// 재외한인연구. 2014, vol., no.32, pp. 139-163

⁸ 선봉규, 파르피에브 스톨. 한국에 귀환 이주한 고려인의 정체성에 관한 연구. 인문사회 21, 2018, vol.9, no.5, 통권 30호, pp. 169-182

⁹ 홍인화. 국내거주 재외동포의 현황과 정책과제//전남대학교 글로벌디아스포라연구소 국내학술회의 학술대회자료. 2013.08, pp. 157-188

¹⁰ 김경학. 이주 고려인의 서울 정착을 위한 대책.

¹¹ 이은정. 우즈베키스탄 고려인의 귀환이주. 대구지역 고려인의 사례를 중심으로// 지방사와 지방문화 2015, 제18권 제1호, pp. 219 - 249; 최영미, 이지선. 경기도 거주 고려인 생활실태 및 정착방안// 정책보고서 2019-21.

Central Asia, conflicts between immigrants from different countries of Central Asia remain undisclosed. The issues of undocumented (semi-legal) labor activity, earnings and funds exported or transferred from Korea to the countries of origin, types and amounts of monthly expenses of migrant workers, etc. remain poorly studied.

In the study of the Korean diaspora in Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan, the legal, labor, language and everyday problems faced by ethnic migrants in their historical homeland, a significant contribution was made by professors of Hankuk University of Foreign Languages, such as Im Yong Sam, Hwang Yong Sam, Kim Sangcheol, Son Yong Hoon, Bang Il Kwon, Lee Jae Young, etc.

In the South Korean academic discourse, in the media and in everyday speech, the ethnonym Koryoins has firmly referred to Russian-speaking Koreans, which practically replaced the former ethnonym Koryo saram. South Korean researchers conducted many surveys and interviews on a wide range of issues, gave an analysis of the causes of ethnic migration, the age and gender composition of migrants, educational qualifications, and identified the main problems in adapting to sociocultural realities in their historical homeland.

The Russian-language historiography of ethnic immigration of Koreans from Central Asia to South Korea is in its infancy. In Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Russia, several publications were published in the form of scientific articles¹² and reports at conferences¹³. Of particular note is the study of Botagoz Rakisheva, devoted to the analysis of the undocumented migration of Kazakhstanis to South Korea¹⁴. This is the pioneering work, performed not by a Korean, but by a foreign scientist, on the original materials of field expeditions, interviews and sociological surveys.

The topic of undocumented immigration and undocumented labor activity of foreigners attracted the attention of both state bodies represented by the immigration service, the Ministry of Labor, local authorities, and South Korean scientists who widely used in their research the data of the National Statistics Agency, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Labor. Among the authors of ready-made reports on undocumented migration and employment in South Korea are Lee Ki Yeong, Kim Hyun Mi, Kim Cheel Hyo, Choi Sae Ri, Lee Chang Won, Jung Hyo Jin¹⁵.

It is assumed that with the end of the coronavirus pandemic, a new wave of labor migration from Central Asia to South Korea will rise, in which ethnic Koreans will find themselves. In this regard, it becomes relevant to conduct systematic and comprehensive research in the form of an international collaboration of researchers.

1.1 Number and settlement of Koreans in Central Asia and CIS countries

The history of Koreans in Central Asia began in the last third of the XIX century, with resettlement from the Korean Peninsula to the Russian Far East, where they lived until the deportation of 1937 to the Kazakh and Uzbek SSR. According to the last All-Union population census of 1989, the number of Koreans in the USSR was more than 438 thousand people¹⁶.

¹² Kim G. Migration vs. Repatriation to South Korea in the Past and Present. - Journal of Contemporary Korean Studies Vol. 4, No. 1 (March 2017): 35-6

¹³ Collection of materials of the International Scientific Forum on the Unification of the Korean Peninsula. Almaty. 19.05.2017. Treasury them. al-Farabi. - Almaty: Kazakh University, 2017. - 89 p. //황영삼. 한국 거주 해외동포들의 현황과 문제 - 고려인을 중심으로 ibidem cc. 53-64; Kim G.N. Legal Aspects of Immigration and Repatriation (on the Example of South Korea), ibid., p. 64-76; Ten M.D. Trends and problems of modern labor migration of Koreans from Uzbekistan to South Korea // ibid., p. 83-87

¹⁴ Rakisheva B.I. Illegal migration of Kazakhstanis to South Korea. - Nur-Sultan, 2020. - 53 p.

¹⁵ 이규용 □ 김현미 □ 김철효 □ 주수인. 외국인 비합법 노동시장 연구, 한국노동연구원. 2019; 이규용 외. 동포외국인력정책 발전방안 연구, 고용노동부, 2017, 이규용 외. 건설업 외국인력 실태 및 공급체계 개선방안 연구, 대한건설협회. 2018; 최서리 □ 이창원 □ 김용기 □ 정혜진. 국제비교를 통한 국내 외국인 불법체류 관리정책 개선방안 연구, 이민정책연구원. 2014

¹⁶ Kim G.N., Kim I.A. Historical and demographic portrait of Koreans of the USSR and the CIS (based on the materials of population censuses) "Kazakh University" 2020, 382 p.

According to the latest census of the Republic of Kazakhstan in 2021, the number of Koreans was 118,450 people, or 0.6% of the total population. At the same time, 94.4% of Koreans in Kazakhstan live in cities, that is, Koreans are a hyper-urbanized diaspora. In Tajikistan, the vast majority of Koreans live in the capital - Dushanbe. More than half of the Korean diaspora of Uzbekistan lives in Tashkent and its suburbs. The share of Korean citizens in Bishkek is about three-quarters of the total diaspora. In all regions (oblasts), Koreans live mainly in administrative centers.

In terms of gender proportion, the proportion of women in all Central Asian countries exceeds the male population by 3–3.5%, with a difference in the older age cohorts, but among infants and preschool children, the proportion of boys is equal to the proportion of girls. Perhaps a slight increase of no more than 1%.

The results of the Population and housing census in the Republic of Kyrgyzstan, conducted at the beginning of 2022, have not yet been published. According to current statistics, the number of Koreans in Kyrgyzstan amounted to 17,1 thousand people, that is, it showed a downward trend.

As of January 1, 2021, there are 174,200 Koreans living in Uzbekistan, although other figures are often mentioned, mostly inflated: from 200,000 to 280,000.

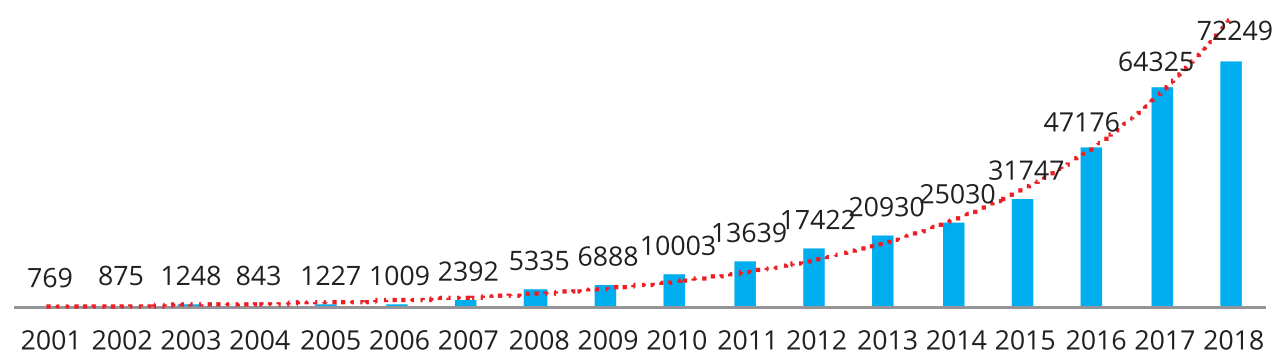
In Soviet Tajikistan, where the number of Koreans according to the 1989 census reached 13,431 people, today there are about 500 Koreans, mostly elderly, living mainly in the capital - Dushanbe.

In the Turkmen SSR, the number of Koreans was the smallest - 2,848 people, according to the 1989 census. According to eyewitnesses, the Korean diaspora of Turkmenistan is on the verge of extinction, as there are only a few dozen people who are predominantly in interethnic marriages and are children in ethnically mixed families.

Table 1. Number of ethnic Koreans and share of total population in Central Asian countries

	Number of Koreans	% of total population
Kazakhstan	107 569 ¹⁷	0.6%
Kyrgyzstan	17 094 ¹⁸	0.2%
Uzbekistan	174,2 ¹⁹	0.5%

Figure 1. Population dynamics of CIS Koreans in South Korea (2001–2018)²⁰



Source: Kim G.N., Kim I.A. *Historical and demographic portrait of the Koreans of the USSR and the CIS (based on population censuses): monograph - 2nd ed., - Almaty: Kazakh University, 2020. - 382 p.*

¹⁷ Bureau of National Statistics of the Agency for Strategic Planning and Reforms of the Republic of Kazakhstan – Population of the Republic of Kazakhstan by individual ethnic groups (at the beginning of 2022) // <https://www.stat.gov.kz/official/industry/61/statistic/5> (access date: 03.12.2022)

¹⁸ National Statistical Committee of the Kyrgyz Republic – Ethnic composition of the population (estimate at the beginning of the year, persons) // <http://www.stat.kg/ru/opendata/category/312/> (access date: 03.12.2022)

¹⁹ Official channel of the head of the press service of the State Statistics Committee – National composition of permanently residing in the Republic of Uzbekistan // https://t.me/statistika_rasmiy/1250 (access date: 03.12.2022)

²⁰ Kim G.N., Kim I.A. *Historical and demographic portrait of Koreans of the USSR and the CIS (based on the materials of population censuses): monograph – 2nd ed., - Almaty: Kazakh University, 2020. – 382 p.*

With all the difference in ethnodemographic and socio-cultural parameters, all Koreans of Central Asia are united by the following circumstances and their inherent specific features.

First of all, the Koreans of Central Asia are connected **by a common origin, historical fate, psychological trauma of deportation, acquired Russian-speaking ability and unity of ethnic identity.**

Has the former unity of Soviet Koreans been preserved today or is it a new set of co-ethnics (tribesmen) called by some researchers the “Korean meta-nation” or the “global Korean diaspora”? The real picture appears to be mirror opposite. The differences in the CIS countries that have arisen over the past three decades after the collapse of the Soviet Union have led to the fragmentation of the former single ethnic community of Soviet Koreans into several Korean diasporas. In the future, the distinctive features of the newly emerging Korean diasporas of the CIS countries will grow every year.

Under the historical homeland of Russian-speaking Koreans, the entire Korean Peninsula should be considered, since during the period of resettlement to the Russian Far East, the Kingdom of Joseon was a single country. But now, speaking of historical or ethnic homelands, South Korea is usually meant, since ties with North Korea are weak and episodic.

We can agree that for Russian-speaking Koreans of the second generation, the native land can be the Russian and Soviet Far East, and for the third generation – Kazakhstan, the republics of Central Asia, Sakhalin and other regions of the USSR. For the fourth and subsequent generations born in Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Russia and other CIS countries, the country of birth became their homeland.

The characteristic features of Korean diasporas in Central Asia include the following: modern Koreans in Central Asia are represented mainly by 3-4 generations – people of mature age, young people are 5-6 generations since the resettlement from Korea to the Russian Empire. All Koreans, regardless of generation, speak Russian as their native language, and their native language – Koryo-mal – is remembered only by a very few of the elderly Koreans whose lives were spent in the “Korean collective farms” of Soviet Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan. Koreans in Central Asia, as in all other countries, tend to live in large cities, preferably in the capitals. In terms of higher education, Koreans occupy the highest positions among the ethnic groups of their country of residence. Korean families are small and often ethnically mixed, and both men and women are equally active in marrying representatives of other nationalities. Koreans in Central Asia are represented in all areas of activity – politics, business, culture, science, education, sports, health care. The proportion of self-employed or employers is very high, and there are few people engaged in unskilled heavy physical labor. The share of those employed seasonally, periodically or permanently in rural production, farming cannot be counted, but it is assumed that it does not exceed 10% of all employed.

1.2 Legal basis for ethnic immigration and repatriation to the Republic of Korea

The immigration policy of South Korea is handled by the Ministry of Justice, which includes the Korea Immigration Service. The Ministry of Employment and Labour plays an important role in regulating immigration issues, as it distributes the influx of migrant workers and controls their employment. Another government body, the Ministry of Gender Equality and Family, deals with marriage migrants. Immigrant issues, especially ethnic Koreans, are also addressed by the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Culture, and the Overseas Koreans Foundation. This distribution of functional responsibilities among government agencies has both positive and negative sides in view of the spread of functions in different departments.

According to the immigration service of the Republic of Korea, from 1980 to 2016, the number of all foreigners legally residing in the country increased from 40,5 thousand people to 2,03 million, that is, almost 50 times. On the eve of the coronavirus pandemic, the number of immigrants in Korea continued to grow: 2017 – 2,18 million; 2018 – 2,37 million; 2019 – 2,52 million people²¹. If the influx of immigrants continued, their number in the country would

²¹ International Immigration Statistics in 2017–2019. – Electronic resource <http://kostat.go.kr/portal/eng/pressReleases/8/5/index.board> (access date: 03.12.2022)

exceed 3 million people, but the pandemic has made drastic adjustments to international migration.

Table 2. Number of legal immigrants in South Korea (2019)

Country	2019	Country	2019	Country	2019
China	1 101 782	Mongolia	48 185	Sri Lanka	25 064
Vietnam	224 518	Nepal	42 781	Hong Kong	20 018
Thailand	209 909	Indonesia	48 854	Bangladesh	18 340
United States	156 982	Kazakhstan	34 638	Australia	15 222
Uzbekistan	75 320	Japan	86 196	Malaysia	14 790
Russia	61 427	Taiwan	42 767	Pakistan	13 990
Philippines	62 398	Myanmar	29 294	India	12 929
Cambodia	47 565	Canada	26 789	Other	104 898
Total					2 524 656

Source: Korean Statistics. 2019. Electronic resource. – https://kostat.go.kr/portal/korea/kor_nw/ (access date: 03.12.2022)

Table 3. Number of registered ethnic migrants (Koryo-Saram) by year (number of people)

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Number of Koreans with foreign citizenship	411,337	441,107	459,996	464,783	475,945
Compared to the previous year (%)	11.5%	7.2%	4.3%	1.0%	2.4%

Source: Yearbook of Korea Immigration Statistics 2021

Table 4. Number of registered ethnic migrants (Koryo-Saram) at the place of residence

	2020	2021		2020	2021
Seoul	143 279	138 563	Gangwon-do	3 295	3 326
Incheon	30 190	32 214	Gyeonggi-do	192 448	203 023
Sejong	1 309	1 324	Chungcheongbuk-do	13 112	13 961
Chungcheongnam-do	24 914	26 487	Gyeongsangbuk-do	8 193	8 721
Daejeon	3 094	3 036	Daegu	4 819	4 746
Jeollabuk-do	3 502	3 512	Ulsan	6 463	6 230
Gwangju	4 305	5 026	Busan	6 398	6 309
Jeollanam-do	3 416	3 479	Gyeongsangnam-do	12 810	12 898
Jeju	3 236	3 090			

Source: Yearbook of Korea Immigration Statistics 2021

Chinese accounted for 43% of the total number of foreigners living in the country for more than 90 days, followed by Vietnamese, Thais and Americans. However, for the first time in many years, the number of foreigners in South Korea decreased by more than 15% compared to 2019, which is due to the closure of borders during the fight against the pandemic.

In 2000, the Republic of Korea adopted the The Act on the Immigration and Legal Status of Overseas Koreans, which did not fully apply to Koreans in China and the CIS. When the Act was adopted, the concept of “foreign compatriot” included persons with South Korean citizenship and permanently residing abroad, as well as former citizens of South Korea who received citizenship of any other country. According to the law, ethnic Koreans who left the country before the formation of the Republic of Korea (1948) and their descendants were not classified as foreign compatriots.

In 2004, amendments to the Act were adopted, and all ethnic Koreans who left Korea before 1948 were recognized as foreign compatriots. However, the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Labor and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Trade, Industry & Energy of the Republic of Korea delayed the implementation of this law, fearing both complications in relations with the PRC and negative changes in the country's labor market. In 2005, the Government of the Republic of Korea introduced a new program to support ethnic Koreans living in the CIS countries. As a special measure to strengthen ties with "post-Soviet" compatriots, the South Korean government has implemented programs for their visits to historical homeland.

Since March 2007, the South Korean government has introduced new rules of entry and stay in the country for ethnic Koreans from the CIS countries and China. From that moment on, they had the opportunity to receive H-2 visitor work visas, which allow them to freely enter and leave the Republic of Korea for 5 years, as well as work in the country for 3 years.

To enter Korea, 36 visas with their subtypes are used. Of these, ethnic Koreans, citizens of foreign countries usually use three types of visas: F-4 (foreign compatriots), F-5 (permanent residence) and H-2 (ethnic Koreans). There is also an F-6 visa – a marriage visa. Ethnic Koreans additionally use two types of labor visas: H-2 visa (for a period of 3 years) and the D-3 visa.

Table 5. Number of Koreans with foreign citizenship by year and residence status

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Total	841,308	878,665	878,439	811,211	778,670
Tourist/Transit (B-2)	39	38	39	36	36
Short-Term General (P-3)	37,589	25,672	19,271	5,311	3,740
Student (D-2)	351	711	1,155	937	763
Industrial trainee (D-3)	250	23	230	224	217
General trainee (D-4)	157	232	264	109	52
Religious (D-6)	2	1	1	1	1
Intra-company transfer (D-7)	11	14	15	9	8
Investment (D-8)	45	49	56	50	40
Professor (E-1)	5	5	6	3	2
Foreign Language Teaching (E-2)	1	3	2	0	0
Researcher (E-3)	4	3	3	2	3
Commercial in the Arts (E-6)	1	1	4	2	0
Special Activities (E-7)	30	30	27	13	13
Non-professional worker (E-9)	696	653	611	588	567
Family visitor (F-1)	30,328	35,421	37,001	31,517	25,871
Permanent residence (F-2)	10,733	10,488	10,959	11,454	11,771
Dependent family (F-3)	64	62	60	50	47
Overseas Korean (F-4)	415,121	444,880	464,152	466,682	478,442
Permanent residence (F-5)	89,426	92,245	100,375	107,337	113,718
Marriage migrant (F-6)	17,115	17,161	17,487	17,433	17,233
Work and Visit (Overseas Koreans) (H-2)	238,880	250,381	226,322	154,533	124,691
Miscellaneous (G-1)	286	257	235	254	248
Other	174	335	164	14,666	1,207

Source: Yearbook of Korea Immigration Statistics 2021

In the Republic of Korea, there is no separate law on repatriation, but several other laws contain a legal settlement for compatriots arriving in the country. General management of activities in the field of citizenship is carried out by the Ministry of Justice of Korea, and the main body responsible for the practical side of organizing and coordinating the process related to Korean citizenship is the Korean Immigration Service subordinate to the Ministry of Justice.

Korean Law on Citizenship of the Republic of Korea, adopted on December 13, 1997, was the main regulatory and legal document that regulated relations related to Korean citizenship, defined the grounds, conditions and procedure for its acquisition, restoration, and termination. In May 2010, it was amended to provide for dual citizenship for a certain category of persons, effective from January 1, 2011.

In accordance with the current edition of the "Citizenship Law", there are two types of naturalization: ordinary and special. First, ordinary naturalization is applied to ordinary foreign citizens. Special naturalization is applied to persons who have special merit to the Republic of Korea (including their direct ancestors and descendants) and who make a significant contribution to the development of the country, ensuring national security and protecting the national interests of South Korea. The largest group of citizens who, in accordance with the current "Citizenship Law", can apply for Korean citizenship without leaving their own are ethnic Koreans living abroad who have received proper permission from the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Korea.

To obtain citizenship of the Republic of Korea, an immigrant must first obtain permanent residence status (F-5 visa) and live with this status in Korea for two years. For people with an F-4 visa, there is a simplified procedure for obtaining Korean citizenship - it is enough to live 2 years in the country without breaking the law and be able to provide for themselves and their families. In addition, foreign compatriots (ethnic Koreans) of old age over 65 who have moved to the Republic of Korea for permanent residence can use all the privileges of dual citizenship.

According to government data, almost every fifth foreigner staying in South Korea does not have a valid visa. Korea Immigration Service reported that, as of July 2022, a total of 395,068 foreigners were in the country illegally, accounting for 19% of the total number of foreigners in the country of more than 2 million people.

This figure, 4,665 more than a year earlier, was the highest since September 2020, when the number of undocumented immigrants in the country was estimated at 396,728 people.

According to experts, the global economic downturn, combined with travel restrictions amid the COVID-19 crisis, appears to have forced many foreign nationals to stay in Korea even after their visas expire. In the local labor market, there is a steady demand for undocumented foreign workers, especially in the agricultural sector, where farmers suffer from labor shortages.

1.3 Ethnic migration of Koreans of Central Asia to the Republic of Korea

The countries of Central Asia (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Uzbekistan) are one of the donors of immigration for South Korea. Today, the number of Russian-speaking Koreans in South Korea has reached 85 thousand, and it is growing constantly. In 2-3 years, their number can reach 100 thousand, that is, equal to the number of Koreans in one of the countries of the world, for example, Kazakhstan or Vietnam.²²

The boom in the migration of Koreans from Central Asia and the CIS countries to South Korea began in 2007, when more than two thousand ethnic Koreans entered the country. Then, within five years, the number of Koryo-Saram immigrants had increased almost sevenfold to nearly 18,000 ethnic Koreans, and soon grew to 65,000. Currently, it is believed that the number of Koryoins (the term that is used in South Korea for ethnic Koreans of the CIS countries) has reached 80 thousand people, and the influx of re-emigrants, having stopped for the period of the pandemic, is beginning to increase again.

²² Kim G.N. Russian-speaking Koreans in South Korea // Goryeo saram. M.: 2020, c. 279

Table 6. Number of ethnic migrants (Koryo-Saram) by year and nationality (number of people)

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Total	841,308	878,665	878,439	811,211	778,670
China	702,932	728,539	719,269	662,845	628,491
United States	45,177	45,011	45,655	44,039	43,212
Uzbekistan	31,081	34,355	36,752	31,962	32,216
Russia	21,264	25,302	28,020	26,871	27,488
Canada	15,947	15,933	16,046	15,975	16,731
Kazakhstan	9,223	12,586	14,992	13,033	13,993
Australia	4,617	4,624	4,783	4,430	4,232
Kyrgyzstan	2,407	2,775	2,931	2,469	2,764
New Zealand	2,395	2,436	2,490	2,393	2,279
Germany	854	841	809	787	812
Japan	827	826	847	768	706
Other	4,584	5,437	5,845	5,639	5,746

Source: Yearbook of Korea Immigration Statistics 2021

What are the reasons for the departure of ethnic Koreans from Central Asian countries to South Korea? Why has labor migration of citizens of Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan acquired a shade of ethnic migration or re-emigration of representatives of the Korean diaspora? Does the labor migration of ethnic Koreans have specific circumstances that push them from their current homeland to their historical homeland?

Botagoz Rakisheva, in her study²³ on the analysis of the undocumented migration of Kazakhstan citizens to South Korea, classified in sufficient detail the main reasons for the migration of young people in Central Asia. In her opinion, these reasons that pushed migrants out of their country of residence are universal, regardless of their age, gender and ethnicity. Of course, each category of migrants has its own specific circumstances and the reasons for temporary departure from the country of residence or irreversible emigration. Such push factors are often ethnic.

The first and most significant reason for migration according to the report is the economic situation in the native country²⁴. Unemployment, low wages, the need to repay debts and loans, lack of housing, an acute shortage of finances for treatment, family maintenance, assistance to relatives, etc. forced people of working age, mainly young people, to leave the countries of Central Asia and go to South Korea in search of earnings.

1. Social-psychological factor. It affects the fact that there is nothing shameful in leaving a country in order to earn a lot of money in a foreign country quickly, performing unskilled, hard, monotonous, physical labor. Migrants often travel to foreign countries to reunite with family members.

2. Low level of higher education. Some young people go to developed countries in North America, Western Europe, South Korea or Turkey for high-quality specialized knowledge.

3. A group of political factors. They are understood as dissatisfaction of those leaving the country with the existing social-political system, especially unlimited and uncontrolled corruption; uncertainty about their future, the desire to live in another country where there is a chance to achieve success by legal means.

4. Interest to see another country, to travel.

²³ Rakisheva B. Illegal migration of Kazakhstanis to South Korea. Nur-Sultan, 2020, p. 16–18

²⁴ External youth migration in Central Asian states: risk analysis and minimization of negative consequences // International Organization for Migration (IOM) in Kazakhstan - Subregional Coordination Office for Central Asia. Kazakhstan Institute for Strategic Studies under the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan, 2019 //URL: https://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/external_youth_migration_ru.pdf (access date: 03.12.2022)

The specific pushing forces of ethnic migrants on the example of the Koreans of Central Asia include the following:

1. The psychological trauma resulting from the unjust, illegal deportation during the Stalinist regime, which was exacerbated by the openness of the archives and the freedom to speak and write about the victims and sufferings of the people expelled from their former places of residence.
2. The loss of the former status of a citizen of the USSR, which equalized all Soviet people after the collapse of the Soviet Union and the “parade of national sovereignties”.
3. The construction of sovereign states of Central Asia with titular nations, the introduction of state languages that Russian-speaking Koreans did not speak and were unable to learn in three decades.
4. The feeling of discomfort that has appeared among the diasporas due to ignorance of the state language, cases of domestic, linguistic and ethnic discrimination.
5. Anxiety and fear for personal safety, family members and relatives caused by inter-ethnic conflicts and clashes, civil war in Tajikistan, tragic events in Bishkek, Osh, Andijan.
6. Narrowing of the choice of professions and places of work due to lack of knowledge of the state language and disbelief in the possibility of obtaining a vacant place of work.
7. The influence of the South Korean media, missionary churches, NGOs that spread information about the possibility of leaving for Korea. When asked about the reasons for coming to South Korea, one of the respondents, originally from Samarkand, answers: *“Well, at that time it was all over Uzbekistan, they say that South Korea opened up for its ethnic Koreans, and there is an opportunity to go there.”*
8. The desire of some representatives of Korean youth from Central Asian countries to marry the citizens of South Korea.
9. Another pushing factor for the departure of ethnic Koreans from Central Asian countries may be the fear of losing ethnic identity. The Korean diaspora has lost its native language, losing customs and traditions. There is an increase in the share of interethnic marriages, which can lead to gradual assimilation.

The pulling factors that motivate migrants of all categories from Central Asia to come to South Korea can be divided as follows:

1. High earnings, several times higher than the average monthly salaries in the countries of Central Asia. In cases of constant overtime work, the monthly income can be converted at the official rate of 3 thousand US dollars.
2. Opportunity to enter South Korea from Kazakhstan, Russia, Kyrgyzstan on a visa-free regime.
3. Steady demand for unskilled labor that does not require special training and knowledge of the Korean language.
4. Tolerant attitude of authorities, employers and local population to foreign immigrants.
5. Safety and comfortable living conditions.
6. Inexpensive rental housing, sometimes provided by employers.
7. Availability of direct flights between the airports of South Korea and Kazakhstan.
8. The opportunity to accumulate part of the earnings or send them to their homeland.
9. Developed diaspora communication in offline, social networks and applications.
10. Compact residence of immigrants from Central Asia, ethnic migrants in the quarters of different cities.

According to statistics, by the fall of 2018, 38,014 ethnic migrants were registered in South Korea – CIS Koreans with F-4 visas, that is, just over half of all those staying in the country. This means that a large half of Russian-speaking Koreans are holders of an H-2 visa, who often move from one place to another following the emerging demand for unskilled, simple labor. For this reason, it is difficult to determine their permanent residence, moreover, they are statistically recorded as foreign residents just like as labor migrants, i.e., the current

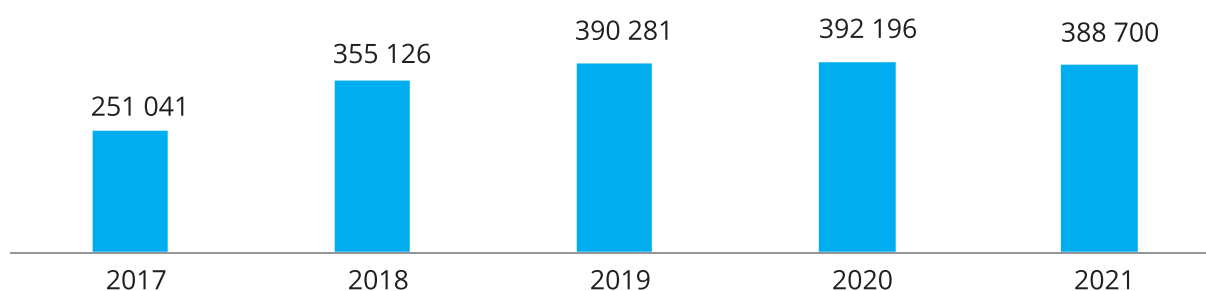
statistical rules of South Korea do not distinguish between an ethnic Korean from Uzbekistan and an Uzbek labor migrant.

This also applies to accounting for undocumented migrants, when the statistics reflect only the countries of origin, and not the ethnicity of the violator of the rules of stay in the country.

The transition of migrants from a legal state to an undocumented one, or to the undocumented part of foreigners staying in the country, occurs through two channels. In the first case, having entered South Korea under a visa-free regime, citizens of the Central Asian countries remain in the country for an extra month and, hiding from immigration services and the police, do daily work that does not require registration and personal documents. In the second case, H2 visa holders, at the end of its validity period, without renewing it, become undocumented immigrants. Applying for refugee status may extend their legal stay in Korea for up to a year until the circumstances are clarified. In most cases, the granting of refugee status to citizens of the Central Asian countries is denied for lack of good reasons²⁵.

The graph data shows a sharp jump in the number of undocumented immigrants in 2018, which has continued not only until 2020, but also to the present. The reason for this increase in numbers is the pandemic-related closure of borders and the cancellation of visas, when force majeure situations obliged people to stay in Korea after the expiration of the visa²⁶.

Figure 2. The number of undocumented migrants in South Korea in 2017-2021



Source: Ministry of Justice, Korea Immigration Service // <https://www.moj.go.kr/moj/2415/subview.do>

Table 7. Number of undocumented immigrants or persons with expired visas by country of origin (2021)

Country	Number	Percentage
Thailand	142,677	36.7
China	63,113	16.2
Vietnam	70,144	18.1
Mongolia	15,969	4.1
Philippines	13,613	3.5
Russia	9,486	2.4
Kazakhstan	9,768	2.5
Indonesia	9,142	2.4
Uzbekistan	9,167	2.4
Cambodia	8,751	2.3
Other	36,603	9.4
Total	388,700	100.0

Source: Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Korea (Statistics of Immigrants and Foreign Residents). Electronic resource// https://kosis.kr/statHtml/statHtml.do?orgId=111&tblId=DT_1B040A36 (access date: 03.12.2022)

²⁵ Rakisheva B. Illegal migration of Kazakhstanis to South Korea. – Nur-Sultan, 2020, p. 16–18

²⁶ Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Korea (Statistics of Immigrants and Foreign Residents). Electronic resource// <https://www.moj.go.kr/moj/206/subview.do> (access date: 03.12.2022)

Table 8. Current status of legal/undocumented Koreans with foreign citizenship (2021)

	Total	Legal	Undocumented
Total	778,670	768,814	9,856

Source: Yearbook of Korea Immigration Statistics 2021

The proportion of people with expired visas from the total number of foreign residents was almost 20% last year, that is, every fifth immigrant was in an undocumented status. According to experts, the global economic downturn, combined with travel restrictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic, has forced many foreign nationals to stay in Korea even after their visas have expired. "A large number of foreign nationals who received long-term residence permits did not leave despite the expiration of their visa due to joyless job prospects in their home country," said Oh Jung Eun, head of Hansung University's Center for Immigration Policy Research²⁷.

The shortage of workers, the market for unskilled labor, the easing of quarantine measures, the opening of borders and the resumption of issuance of visas, with the push factors remaining in the countries of Central Asia, will lead to an increase in all categories of migrants in South Korea, primarily with a visa allowing work. Ethnic Koreans will be in the total mass of new migrants. At the same time, the number of undocumented immigrants will decrease, but it is difficult to predict by what percentage in the total mass of foreign residents in South Korea.

1.4 Problems of adaptation and integration of ethnic Koreans in their historical homeland

To date, Koreans from the CIS have formed large settlement communities in Ansan (Gyeonggi Province) and Gwangju (Jeollanam-do Province), and others, but smaller in different cities. Such a concentration of migrants of one country of origin or one blood in an urbanized environment is a common practice, such as China towns, Korean towns, Black ghettos, etc. The choice of Ansan and Gwangju as a place for a group settlement of Russian-speaking Koreans was not accidental, based on the location of the cities, the potential labor market, the cost of rental housing, the activity of local non-governmental organizations, including Protestant churches, as well as specific individuals from among ethnic Koryoin migrants who have launched an active work to accommodate newcomers.

According to statistics, there are 13,902 Koryoins living in Gyeonggi Province. If we add unaccounted persons to this number, the total number is estimated to be about twice as large. It is believed that about 15,000 Russian-speaking Koreans were concentrated in Ansan, so the Koryoin Cultural Center, located in the Sunbu-dong quarter of Sa-dong, Sangnok-gu district, opened here in October 2016. Another place of compact settlement of Korean migrants from the CIS was formed, called "Koryoin mayl" ("Koryoin village"). Ansan is located near Seoul with its international airport in Incheon, is connected to the capital by a metro line and high-speed buses, has a developed industrial infrastructure. New arrivals settle here, as it is easier for them to adapt to a new life with the help of "old-timers" who provide services for registration in the immigration service, registration of necessary documents, search for housing, employment, learning Korean, etc.

The "Koryoin village" in the Wolgok-dong city district of Gwangju has become home to more than 2,000 Russian-speaking Koreans, according to the results of the people count, with an F 4 visa. They add about the same number of Koreans from the CIS with a labor migrant visa H-2. In total, there are about 4,000 Koryoins in the "village" along with minor children, for whom there is a training center. The central and local governments provided support to civilians and NGOs who showed interest in the Koryoins. Due to their efforts, the Joint Support Center for the Koryoin Community was established. The center helps young Koreans

²⁷ The Korean Herald, 1.09.2022. Electronic resource. <https://www.koreaherald.com/view..php?ud=20220901000580> (access date: 03.12.2022)

from Central Asia and Russia with visa issues and learning the Korean language. Koreans - immigrants from the CIS - formed their own cooperative in 2013, which they registered one year later with the Ministry of Justice as a non-profit corporation.

In addition to the above two cities with a high degree of concentration of Koryoins, the city of Gimhae (Gyeongsangnam-do Province) has now become a new center of attraction, and the number of Korean migrants from the CIS reached 1,612 at the end of 2018. We can add about that many H-2 visa holders to them, and thus the total number of Koryoins will exceed 3.2 thousand people. Gimhae and its surroundings are attracting ethnic Koreans with employment opportunities in local factories, labor demand, and proximity to Busan, South Korea's largest city after the metropolitan area.

A group of Korean migrants from the CIS living in Ansan, with the support of the Koryo-Saram organization "Nomo", established in 2018 the Association of Koryo-Saram in the Republic of Korea (Ansan), which began its activities. Similar organizations will arise over time in other cities where Koryoins are compactly settled.

Earlier, in 2011, the Association of Russian Speakers in Korea was organized - a public organization that unites people and communities of interest, all those who are connected by the Russian language and culture, regardless of nationality and religion. The association was created on the initiative of Russians living in Korea, and Russian Koreans did not show themselves in it.

The Internet has become the main area of communication for Russian-speaking migrants from the CIS in South Korea. For the rapid exchange of information that is of practical importance in the life of Russian-speaking, mostly ethnic Koreans from the CIS countries, communities have emerged in social networks that unite tens of thousands of people. The largest of them - "82 Avenue - Our people in Korea" - has more than 30.3 thousand participants²⁸. On Facebook, there are groups of Russian-speaking Koreans of local scale numbering several tens of thousands of participants in Ansan, Incheon, Gwangju, Busan and other cities.

For a quick, easy and economical solution to their everyday issues and problems with the arrangement of their new life, Russian-speaking Koreans in South Korea unite mainly online. It is expected that over time, other associations and public organizations of the Koryoins will emerge, the task of which will be significantly different from the Korean diaspora organizations in the CIS countries. Organizations of ethnic Koreans are designed to focus on the speedy adaptation and acculturation in South Korea. That is, the efforts of ethnic Koryoin migrants should be aimed at the naturalization of the fourth generation, that is, figuratively speaking, at their transformation from Koryoins to Hangug-ins.

Most Russian-speaking Koryoins are engaged in physical labor in South Korea, they work in cafes, restaurants, factories and plants, on construction sites, often performing unskilled labor and receiving low wages. The main reason for coming to South Korea is to make money, so a lot of people are looking for any job that brings the maximum possible amount of money. For this reason, they have to move from place to place, spend time on travel, and sometimes live in isolation from their families. Many people have to work overtime to collect a certain amount of money as quickly as possible. Physical fatigue, unusual heavy, monotonous work - all this often leads to injuries. Because of the busy work schedule, people do not have the opportunity to learn the Korean language, get an education, and get to know the South Korean reality better. Both central and local governments are called upon to solve these and other problems, but current practice shows that the South Korean government is more comfortable with the mediating role of NGOs that receive funds from the budget to support Koryoins, organize Korean language courses, intervene in conflicts of labor migrants and employers caused by delays or non-payment of wages, etc.

At the initial stage of their stay in their historical homeland, ethnic Koreans experience a number of problems, the main of which, according to all respondents, is their lack of knowledge of the Korean language.

²⁸ 82nd Avenue - Ours in Korea // <https://www.facebook.com/groups/82ave/> (access date: 03.12.2022)

Ethnic Koreans of the third and fourth generations have lost their native language – Koryo-Mar, which, in fact, was not a language, but a mixture of dialects interspersed with words from Russian and Turkic languages. That is, young Koreans from Central Asia do not know the modern literary language (Seoul standard). Language problems, discomfort from not knowing the Korean language, communication difficulties, inaccessibility of information and difficulties in understanding elementary information are confirmed in the results of the sociological survey. At the same time, even those who have lived in the Republic of Korea for more than 10 years do not know written Korean. Here's what respondents said during the survey:

From the interview:

"I only know spoken Korean. I don't know the written language, therefore, there is problem with the documentation, so in this regard I ask interpreters for. Here everyone asks them for help" (male, 59 years old, lives in Korea for 12 years, secondary vocational education, arrived on an H-2 visa, from Uzbekistan),

"I don't know the language. Here, many ethnic Koreans do not know the language" (male, 36 years old, living in Korea for 2 years, the third generation, higher education, came by H-2 visa, then went to Bishkek and came again by F-4 visa, from Kyrgyzstan),

"I don't know the language, I just learn it, I go to language courses" (19-year-old woman, lives in Korea for 2 months, secondary education, came by H-2 visa, from Kazakhstan).

Secondly, the majority of ethnic Koreans from Central Asia experience a kind of "culture shock" caused by ignorance of the laws and rules of the country, the mentality of South Koreans, everyday culture, Korean history, ethical rules, etc. Ethnic Koreans find themselves not only with a lack of knowledge of the Korean language, but also with habitual behavior that does not fit into the context of the South Korea society. From the responses of Koryoin respondents about the problems of adaptation:

From the interview:

"there were problems with employment. We didn't know how to get a job. Then there were problems with the indigenous population, with the indigenous Koreans who live here" (female, 19 years old, from Taraz, Kazakhstan),

"... they (ethnic Koreans of Central Asia) do not want to learn the culture, the language, they do not want to adapt, they just work, earn money. I have a wife, she works in an elementary school and teaches Korean to foreigners, specifically for Russian-speaking children, and here she also notices, because parents, they kind of don't pay attention to children at all, they just work ... And you see, they do not take care of the children, the children come in the morning hungry, in Korea it is not accepted that the child was hungry. They are hungry, they come in old dirty clothes, the parents sent them to school, and that's all, they do not pay attention at all. ... children here must be brought up, and it is necessary to educate according to the local mentality, so that the child at least adapts, but he cannot adapt ..." (male, 31 years old, from Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan),

"they are not like us: we have a different mentality, cultural difference" (male, 50 years old, from Almaty, Kazakhstan).

Thirdly, the compact residence of migrants from Central Asia and the CIS countries, including ethnic Koreans, leads to isolation in their own "world", in which they can speak only their native Russian language, eat their usual food, live "not according to Hanguk" rules. Quarters and villages of the Koryoins, on the one hand, facilitate their everyday life in Korea, on the other hand, slow down the processes of acculturation and integration in South Korean society.

Fourth, estranged relations with South Koreans, lack of friends among them, prejudice against ethnic Koreans, discontent and conflicts with local employers, etc.

To the question: "What is the relationship between ethnic Koreans and the local population - South Koreans?" the following answers were given:

From the interview:

"for the most part, you can see the difference between ethnic Koreans and South Koreans. South Koreans are a little arrogant towards us. And you can also see the difference in salaries. South Koreans in the same positions earn more than our people" (female, 25 years old, from Shymkent, Kazakhstan),

"everyone thought I was Korean and started talking to me. And at that moment I was still worried, my Korean was not yet so good. And they constantly asked again, and they looked at me and said: "You are a Korean, why don't you understand anything?" There was such discrimination. At first it was a little hard... It seemed to me that in Korea they seem to be polite everywhere, but still, as if every person only cares for themselves. So, I really wanted to go home all the time. I constantly thought that people in Kyrgyzstan are kinder and that I want to go home" (female, 21 years old, from Bishkek).

Fifth, downgrade of social status, since many of the ethnic Koreans with a university diploma, and sometimes, having graduated from two universities and having work experience, are forced to engage in low-skilled hard physical labor.

From the interview:

"... you have to work very hard. People come and have a shock because of 12 hours of hard work. And the pace, if we can work slowly, imposingly, then here we need to do everything quickly, as the Koreans say "ppali, ppali" ("hurry, hurry") And the schedule is like this, I have a schedule day, night, that is, I work one week at nights, one week – during the day light, I have to work 12 hours a day and there are no vacations" (male, 42 years old, from Bishkek, higher education).

Sixth, the weakening of family ties, the separation of married couples.

From the interview:

"and the second problem is the separation of the family, because the wife has a job in Kazakhstan, she cannot leave it or even if she can, she does not want to live and work in Korea. This is such a dilemma, you have to live in both countries, come to live here for a couple of months, then go back home" (male, 50 years old, from Almaty, Kazakhstan).

One of the respondents said that even if you live with your family, you do not have the time and energy to spend time together.

From the interview:

"the work is not hard, but it's 12-14 hours of work every day, because of it we don't have time to be home" (male, 33 years old, was born in Turkmenistan, lived in Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan).

"as for the children, I would like to say that it is hard for our children to be here, I have worked with children and teenagers for many years in my specialty, but here I see partially abandoned children. There are many children here, whose parents left, leaving them to their grandparents, then parents come back to take children back, but there are no such ties anymore. The problem is in upbringing, obedience, parents are mostly at work all day, children are left, we have a lot of such troubled children" (male, 43 years old, from Bishkek).

All respondents, regardless of country of origin, age, gender, and length of stay in the Republic of Korea, note that the main advantages of living in Korea are personal security, the low crime rate, a high level of education, health care and a developed infrastructure with high earnings.

Respondents note that there are no differences in the folk customs of the Korean diasporas and in Korea itself, but regarding modern culture, including national cuisine,

there are significant differences. Differences are also noted in traditional rites, this concerns funeral and memorial rites, which, as is known, are most firmly preserved in the diaspora environment. In South Korea, it has retained its original attributes, the rules of execution, and most importantly, the semantic meaning, while at the same time it has changed to fit the modern way of life.

At the same time, most respondents, regardless of the length of their stay, do not see their future in Korea, therefore they do not learn the Korean language, since it will not be useful to them later. They consider themselves labor migrants who came to work and call their country of origin their homeland and are going to return.

From the interview:

"initially, I had a goal that I was not here for permanent residence, and after I arrived, my goal did not change. I was impressed, of course, by the country, but not so much that I could change my mind" (male, 34 years old, from Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan),

"... I wanted to go home anyway. But if I had the opportunity, of course, I'll come back. Because it's hard to live here. It's easy to live, but it's hard to work" (male, 33 years old, born in Ashgabat, lived in Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Kazakhstan).

However, there are also those who link their future life and the future of children with Korea, where they want to stay forever.

From the interview:

"you know, our ethnic Koreans are divided into 2 types of people. Some come to earn money and go back home, and although they say that they will not return when the money runs out, as a rule, they come back. But there is a type of people like us, everything here is okay for us, we want to live here, Hanguks, that is, South Korean people, treat us very well. Therefore, we want to learn the language, but our children speak Russian and Korean. ... There are those who do not like Korea, ... there are people who are angry at the whole world ... Everything is fine here, here we work, even if it's hard for us, but where can you find an easy job? We look at our children, how they grow up, the fact that we live in abundance, everything is fine, what else is needed? We plan to stay in Korea, we want them to study here, and when they grow up, they will decide for themselves where to live" (male, 38 years old, from Bishkek).

Conclusion

The Republic of Korea has become an attractive country for immigration, this fact coincided with the emerging deficit in the South Korean labor market, especially in the sector of small and medium-sized businesses, to perform low-skilled and low-paid labor. The number of immigrants, including ethnic Koreans, in the Republic of Korea has grown steadily for two decades, with a slight decline during the pandemic. From next year, immigration, including ethnic immigration, is projected to increase. At the same time, new applicants will be added to the postponed due to coronavirus departures from the countries of Central Asia, which will affect the rapid growth in the number of immigrants in the coming years, unless there are any force majeure circumstances.

In the countries of Central Asia, except for Uzbekistan, there are no training programs for labor migrants who have chosen the Republic of Korea as their place of work and residence. Neither state bodies nor public organizations, including associations of Koreans, deal with the issues of sending those who want to work in Korea, and they do not even monitor the problems of adaptation, compliance with working conditions and wages. In the autumn of 2018, a representative office of the Agency for External Labor Migration of Uzbekistan opened in Gwangju, it became the first representative office of the agency outside Uzbekistan²⁹. In the embassies of other Central Asian states, consuls deal with the problems of labor migrants,

²⁹ The Uzbek Agency for Labor Migration has opened a branch in Korea. <https://uz.sputniknews.ru/20180913/Uzbezkoe-agentstvo-po-voprosam-trudovoy-migratsii-otkrylo-filial-v-Koree-9406905.html> (access date: 03.12.2022)

mainly related to the detention and expulsion of undocumented migrants, arrests and courts for crimes committed.

Despite the adopted laws regarding immigration, the labor activity of foreign workers, their social security, solving issues of education and integration into South Korean society, and also taking into account the policy of the South Korean government aimed at supporting ethnic Koreans, the conceptual question remains unanswered: what is more profitable for South Korea - to keep communities of ethnic Koreans abroad or give them the opportunity to return to their historical homeland and eventually acquire its citizenship.

In case of a positive answer to the second question, the question arises of developing a separate special law on the repatriation of ethnic Koreans, which does not mean that it will be completed quickly and in full. This has never happened before in world practice and is unlikely to happen in the future.

Another problem is the current status quo on the Korean Peninsula, that is, the presence of two nation-states. Pyongyang and Seoul initially, from the moment the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Republic of Korea were founded, claimed their exclusive legality, although both states eventually became UN member states. It follows from this that the adoption of a law on repatriation is not only the sovereign right of the Republic of Korea or Democratic People's Republic of Korea, but a subject of discussion at the international level.

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CHAPTER 2. LABOR MIGRATION

Introduction

South Korea's current migration policy aimed at attracting labor from other countries is based on the principles of liberal migration control for new ethnic, political, and national segments of population. Although a decade ago, the ideology largely dominated for migrants: common ethnicity and contribution to the development of the nation-state³⁰. A turning point in the history of Korea's migration policy was the emergence of the Employment Permit System in 2014. The country was one of the few Asian countries to officially recognize a labor shortage and to legislate labor protection for foreign nationals on an equal footing with Korean workers.

Thus, in the development of large-scale migration processes from Central Asian countries to South Korea, one can identify a stage related to *labor migration* based on the allocation of special quotas for such Central Asian countries as Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan, which allowed all citizens of these countries to be legally employed with insurance and medical care.

For Kazakhstan, the migration flow connected with the establishment of visa-free regime between countries up to 30 days for tourist purposes should be singled out separately. However, labor migration at this stage is undocumented.

2.1 Korean migration policy architecture

South Korea's transition from a provider of migrant labor to a group of countries with an interest in attracting foreign labor took place in the late 1980s. Since this period, the birth rate begins to decline and is set at 1.2 children per woman by 2013. The proportion of the working-age population is projected to decline from 73.1% in 2013 to 49.7% in 2060.³¹ Currently there is an outflow of highly qualified personnel. This is due to several factors: economic growth, in which a new generation of workers is not ready to work in small and medium-sized businesses, in heavy industrial conditions. There is a strong value orientation among the local population toward higher education, prestigious jobs, and high wages. Though, the labor market in Korea does not offer as many attractive jobs.

Speaking of the peculiarities of Korea's policy of attracting foreign labor, there are two main areas of focus:

- measures to attract highly qualified personnel (including scientific, pedagogical, and research staff);
(visa types E1~E7);
- program for hiring low-skilled labor;
(visa types D-3, D-4, E8~E10, H-2 (intended only for ethnic Koreans))³²;

In addition, a separate category of migrant workers should include F-4 visa holders (Visa for Compatriots), which is issued to ethnic Koreans to simplify the arrival procedure. It is designed for professional workers who are in high demand at Korean enterprises. Also, this type of visa is issued to foreign nationals who have received higher education in Korea and have worked for at least six months in their profession.

Another legal way to work in Korea is through part-time work permits for students holding D-2 and D-4 visas. There are time limits for this type of employment, namely no more than 20 hours per week for undergraduate students and students taking language courses, while postgraduate students (master's and doctoral students) can work up to

³⁰ Drought D. «South Korea's Migrant Policies and Democratic Challenges After the Candlelight Movement,» Korea Economic Institute of America (academic paper series), Oct. 17, 2019

³¹ OECD (2019) Recruiting Immigrant Workers: Korea 2019 // https://read.oecd-ilibrary.org/social-issues-migration-health/recruiting-immigrant-workers-korea-2019_9789264307872-en#page34 (access date: 25.12.2022)

³² Jung-Eun Oh, Dong Kwan Kang, Julia Jiwon Shin, Sang-lim Lee, Seung Bok Lee, Kiseon Chung. 2011. Migration Profile of the Republic of Korea. IOM MRTC Research Report Series, No. 2011-01. IOM Migration Research and Training Centre. Goyang-si, Republic of Korea. // https://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/mp_korea.pdf (access date: 25.12.2022)

30 hours. At the same time, no time limits are set for the period of vacations. To obtain a work permit an international student must get an official stamp in his/her documents after having studied for at least 6 months. In addition, to avoid the negative impact of part-time work on the educational process, there are performance criteria: grade point average - at least 2.0, attendance - at least 90%³³. Studying Korean at specialized educational centers in Korea not only opens access to the job market, but also allows holders of H-2 visas, for example, to legally change their status to F-4.

Attracting foreign highly qualified personnel

Despite the importance of the issue of migration of highly qualified personnel, we know very little about the specifics of its mechanisms. The structure of this contingent is heterogeneous due to the breadth of motives, needs and goals for finding a job, as well as at what stage of the economic cycle this specialist is required. In this regard, we cannot talk about the formation of a single target program to attract professionals.

Like the EU's Blue Card program, the Republic of Korea has had a Gold Card System since the 2000s, which makes it as easy as possible for the representatives of intellectual professions to obtain a visa³⁴. Initially, the largest group of highly qualified foreign personnel in Korea was teachers, whose number reached 23,000 (2010). As the new generation of Korean citizens educated abroad grew, the need for foreign teachers began to decline.

The following visas are available in the current structure to attract professionals:

- Professor and teaching staff (Professorship) – E-1;
- Foreign Language Instructor in accordance with the requirements of state bodies – E-2;
- Researchers (Research) – E-3;
- Science and Technology Professionals (Technical Instructor) – E-4;
- Specialists with a certificate, such as foreign lawyer, certified accountant, doctor, etc., in accordance with the laws of the Republic of Korea, who plan to engage in legal, accounting, medical and other professions in accordance with the laws of the Republic of Korea (Professional Employment) – E-5;
- Specialists in the creative professions who plan to earn a living in music, the fine arts and literature, or professional acting, or professional entertainment under the Public Performance Law (Arts and Performance) – E-6;
- Specialists in demand according to the approved list of the Ministry of Justice of Korea (Special Occupation) – E-7;
- Conspicuous figures (Special talent) – F-5-11.

Currently, a special government organization "Contact KOREA"³⁵ is targeting the search for and attraction of foreign talent. The program aims to attract highly qualified personnel with visa categories E-1, E-3, E-4, E-5, E-7, D-8 (corporate investors).

Low-skilled labor recruitment program

In the early 1990s, South Korea launched a foreign worker trainee program to help South Korean companies to improve the skills of workers recruited abroad. Recruitment for internships (Industrial Trainee (D-3)) was conducted in several streams: 1) in the second half of 1993 – 10,000 workers with up to 1 year, 2) in December 1993 – 20,000 workers with up to 2 years, 3) in August 1994 – an additional 10,000 jobs in garment manufacturing and shoe

³³ 전자민원 안내 <전자민원 <하이코리아 (hikorea.go.kr) // <https://www.hikorea.go.kr/cvlappl/CvlapplInfoPageR.pt?locale=en&m=0602&s=english> (access date: 25.12.2022)

³⁴ Review of practices of attraction and use of foreign labor in the Republic of Korea, Japan and China/ International Organization for Migration Bureau in Moscow (2021) // https://russia.iom.int/sites/g/files/tmzbd11036/files/documents/overview_korea_japan_china_2021.pdf (access date: 25.12.2022)

³⁵ Contact KOREA // <https://contactkorea.kotra.or.kr/en/index.do> (access date: 25.12.2022)

factories, in 1995 – 40,000 jobs. In fact, the internship program turned into a program of hiring low-skilled workers from abroad.³⁶

Over time, however, the Korean government changed the structure of migrants to include foreign workers employed in investment companies in the Industrial Trainee (D-3) category. This effectively eliminated the flow of industrial trainees.

By the early 2000s, a new program to attract temporary low-skilled labor in major sectors of the economy - EPS - was formed.

Employment Permit System

The EPS program, which started operating on August 17, 2014, through various transformations, subsequently became the main category for attracting foreign workers. On the one hand, the program opened up access to foreign Koreans who have no relatives in Korea, and on the other hand, the flow of foreign labor migrants was carried out within the framework of existing intergovernmental agreements. Such agreements made it possible to virtually eliminate intermediaries in the program. The State Human Resource Development Service of Korea (HRDK) is responsible for all interaction with government agencies in partner countries³⁷.

2.2 Main economic indicators of the three countries

We begin with the main economic indicators for the three countries of the Central Asian region.

According to World Bank experts in the report «The Role of Social Protection in Economic Recovery»³⁸, Kazakhstan has experienced impressive economic growth since the 2000s, the main factors of which were the availability of rich natural resources, FDI, and fairly effective initial reforms. Successful growth has significantly reduced poverty, turning the economy into an upper- middle-income economy. However, as experts note, «Kazakhstan's growth model has many vulnerabilities that have led to a significant slowdown in economic growth»³⁹. Growing inequality, poor government institutions, and elite dominance («elite capture») increase the risk that the country will fall into the so-called "middle-income trap", when the country, having reached a certain level of income, stops growing.

Over the past ten years, **Kyrgyzstan** has experienced unsustainable growth. As the report notes, the country's economy remains dependent on gold production (accounting for 10% of GDP and 35% of exports), money transfers (accounting for 25%), and foreign aid. Of all the countries under review, Kyrgyzstan's economy suffered the most from the COVID-19 pandemic – the level of GDP decreased by 8.4%. The poverty rate increased during this period from 11.7% in 2019 to 18.7% in 2020. It is expected to deteriorate further due to rising prices, falling real incomes and limited employment opportunities.

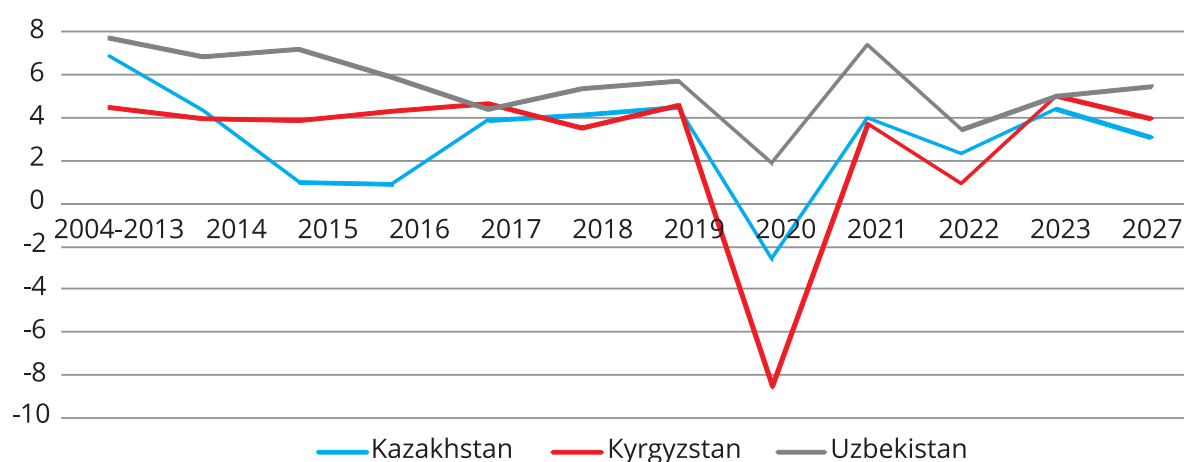
³⁶ German Kim. Labor Migration from Central Asia to South Korea | German Kim - Academia.edu // https://www.academia.edu/3458189/%D0%93%D0%B5%D1%80%D0%BC%D0%B0%D0%BD_%D0%9A%D0%B8%D0%BC_%D0%A2%D1%80%D1%83%D0%B4%D0%BE%D0%B2%D0%B0%D1%8F_%D0%BC%D0%B8%D0%B3%D1%80%D0%B0%D1%86%D0%B8%D1%8F_%D0%B8%D0%B7_%D0%A6%D0%B5%D0%BD%D1%82%D1%80%D0%B0%D0%BB%D1%8C%D0%BD%D0%BE%D0%B9_%D0%90%D0%B7%D0%B8%D0%B8_%D0%B2_%D0%AE%D0%B6%D0%BD%D1%83%D1%8E_%D0%9A%D0%BE%D1%80%D0%B5%D1%8E (access date: 25.12.2022)

³⁷ Human Resources Development Service of Korea // <https://www.hrdkorea.or.kr/ENG> (access date: 25.12.2022)

³⁸ «World Bank. 2022. Europe and Central Asia Economic Update, Fall 2022: Social Protection for Recovery. Washington, DC: World Bank. © World Bank. // <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/38098> License: CC BY 3.0 IGO.» (access date: 25.12.2022)

³⁹ "World Bank. 2022. Europe and Central Asia Economic Update, Fall 2022 : Social Protection for Recovery. Washington, DC: World Bank. © World Bank. // <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/38098> License: CC BY 3.0 IGO." (access date: 25.12.2022)

Figure 3. Dynamics of real GDP 2004-2021 with forecast values 2022-2023, 2027



Source: IMF report on World Economic Outlook: War Slows Recovery (2022)

// <https://www.imf.org/ru/Publications/WEO/Issues/2022/04/19/world-economic-outlook-april-2022#:~:text=Growth%20world%20economy%2C%20acc.to%20forecast,»Prospects%20development%20world%20economy»> (access date: 25.12.2022).

Despite significant global turmoil, **Uzbekistan's** economy has shown higher growth rates. Thanks to reforms to liberalize trade and prices, the negative impact of external factors on the economy has been significantly mitigated. According to the new poverty line, about 17% of the country's population is poor. As noted by World Bank experts, further economic growth of the country will continue on the condition of economic reforms to revitalize the private sector. Due to many factors, such as high incomes from the export of natural resources, increase of money transfers, extended social protection programs in the long-term outlook will reduce the poverty rate to 14.5% in 2023 and to 12.2% in 2024.

In general, speaking of the region's economic forecasts, it is worth noting the following key points: inflation remains the primary threat to the region's well-being, as it leads to a decrease in the real incomes of the population and undermines macroeconomic stability. Risks associated with the worsening geopolitical situation in the world may lead to a slowdown in economic growth and deteriorating financial conditions.

Table 9. Macroeconomic indicators of poverty in the three countries

	Kazakhstan			Kyrgyzstan			Uzbekistan		
	2019	2020	2021	2019	2020	2021/22	2019	2020	2021/22
Real GDP growth, at constant market prices	4.5	-2.5	4.1/3.0	4.6	-8.4	3.6/4.0	5.7	1.9	7.4/5.3
Private consumption	6.1	-3.8	5.1/3.2	0.8	-8.3	13.5/3.6	5.3	0.1	11.6/4.8
Government consumption	15.5	12.8	-1.1/1.7	0.5	0.9	0.3/0.7	5.7	1.4	3.4/8.1
Gross Fixed Capital Investment	13.8	-0.3	2.6/3.3	7.1	-16.2	-3.6/14.7	38.1	-4.4	5.2/9.4
Exports, Goods and Services	2.0	-12.1	2.0/1.4	16.2	-27.3	24.5/12.1	16.2	-20.0	12.7/18.6
Import, Goods and Services	14.9	-10.7	-2.7/3.0	6.1	-28.0	39.1/14.0	13.3	-15.0	23.1/18.3
Real GDP growth, at constant factor prices	4.5	-2.5	3.9/3.1	3.6	-8.4	3.6/3.9	5.7	1.9	7.4/5.3
Agriculture	-0.1	5.6	-2.2/2.3	2.5	0.9	-5.0/4.4	3.1	2.9	4.0/3.7
Industry	4.1	-0.4	3.6/2.1	6.6	-7.0	7.2/10.0	8.3	2.5	7.9/3.8
Services	5.2	-4.5	4.6/3.9	3.2	-16.5	10.4/0.7	5.6	0.9	9.2/7.3
Inflation(Consumer Price Index)	5.3	6.8	8.0/14.8	1.1	6.3	11.9/15.2	14.5	12.9	10.8/11.3
Current Account Balance (% of GDP)	-4.0	-3.8	-2.9/2.1	-12.1	4.8	-8.7/-12.7	-5.8	-5.0	-7.0/-3.2

continuation of Table 9

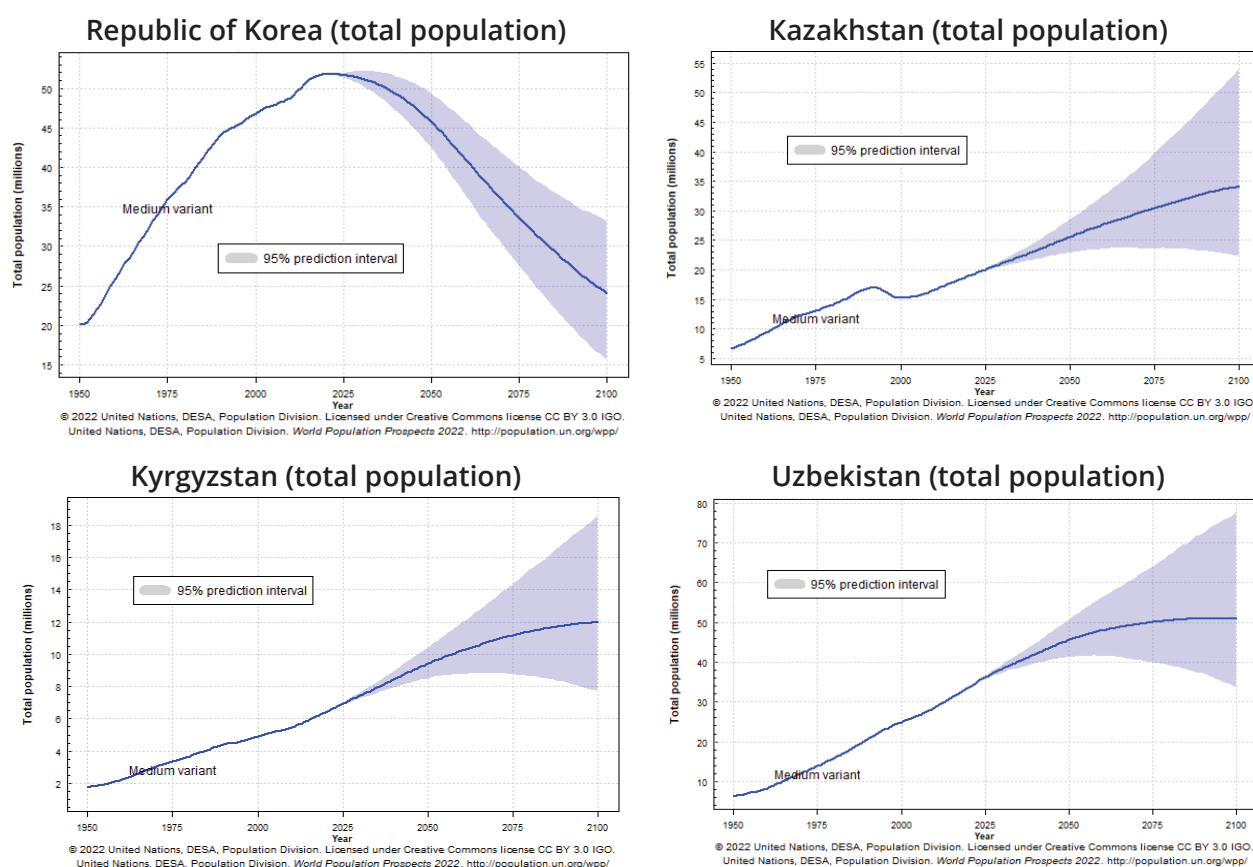
	Kazakhstan			Kyrgyzstan			Uzbekistan		
	2019	2020	2021	2019	2020	2021/22	2019	2020	2021/22
Net Foreign Direct Investment Inflow (% of GDP)	3.1	-3.4	-0.9/-2.2	3.8	-7.5	7.0/1.9	3.9	2.9	3.0/1.4
International poverty rate				0.7	1.3	1.3/1.2			
Lower middle-income poverty rate				11.7	18.7	21.8/25.5			
Upper middle-income poverty rate	12.7	25.6	16.7/15.5	63.7	67.6	67.3/67.0			
National poverty rate							22.8	-	17.0/15.7

Source: World Bank. 2022. *Europe and Central Asia Economic Update, Fall 2022: Social Protection for Recovery*. Washington, DC: © World Bank. <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/38098> License: CC BY 3.0 IGO (access date: 25.12.2022).

Demographic features of the region

According to the UN report, population growth is expected to be the main demographic trend for the Central Asian region for the next century. As experts predict, the main challenges for the region are related to growing urbanization, which requires conditions for the development of quality education and employment. Population growth with serious constraints on agricultural development will create pressure on the labor market. For the last ten years there has been an annual increase in the population.

Figure 4. Population by country, 1950-2100



Source: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2022). *World Population Prospects 2022: Data Sources*. (UN DESA/POP/2022/DC/NO. 9) // https://population.un.org/wpp/Publications/Files/WPP2022_Data_Sources.pdf (access date: 25.12.2022)

The Republic of Kazakhstan, ranked ninth in the world, remains one of the thinly populated countries. The average population density is 7 people per square kilometer. Since 2002, the country's population has been growing steadily, reaching 19.1 million people by 2022. The increase would have been even greater if not for the increasing migration decline from 0.3 thousand people in 2013 to 21.2 thousand people in 2021. Population growth is mainly due to natural increase. However, despite the low growth rate, there is a favorable birth rate. Such demographic indicator as the Billeter Index has had a positive value for the last five years and shows a stable growth from 11.5 to 14.3. In other words, the share of people aged 0-14 years exceeds the share of people aged 50 years and older in the total population. Kazakhstan's urban saturation is 59.2%, the highest in Central Asia. Since 2010, the population in urban areas has grown faster than in rural areas by about 8%. *(all data obtained from the official website of the Bureau of National Statistics of the Agency for Strategic Planning and Reforms of the Republic of Kazakhstan)*⁴⁰.

The Kyrgyz Republic remains the smallest state in Central Asia. Due to the geographical features of the country (65% of the entire national territory is occupied by mountain systems) the population is largely concentrated in the more comfortable regions for living. The highest population density is observed around two republican metropolises – Bishkek and Osh. At the same time, the total population density is 24 people per square meter. Over the past decade, the population of Kyrgyzstan has shown significant growth – more than 1 million people and reached 6.7 million by 2022. According to the national statistics of the country, the level of urbanization remains quite low - the share of urban population is – 35% of the population. *(all data are obtained from the official website of the National Statistical Committee of the Kyrgyz Republic)*⁴¹. *According to the forecasts of demographers, the population of Kyrgyzstan in the future will only increase and will reach 9 million people by 2050*⁴².

The Republic of Uzbekistan is the most densely populated country in the Central Asian region; it has the highest population density of 67 people per square meter. The high birth rate and young age structure have allowed the population to grow dynamically and reach the level of 35.2 million people by 2022⁴³. The country has a relatively low level of urbanization - 50.6%: the population of rural areas is growing faster than urban areas, and the population of small towns is growing faster than the population of large cities.

The World Bank study emphasizes, however, that official statistics reflect only a partial picture of urbanization. Uzbekistan is characterized by a concentration of the population in the suburbs around large cities, resulting in urban sprawl rather than densification. Therefore, according to the boldest estimates, the level of so-called «hidden urbanization» can reach 85%. This management of urban growth does not lead to an increase in people's well-being⁴⁴.

⁴⁰ Bureau of National Statistics of the Agency for Strategic Planning and Reforms of Kazakhstan // <https://stat.gov.kz/> (access date: 25.12.2022)

⁴¹ National Statistical Committee of the Kyrgyz Republic - Statistics of Kyrgyzstan // <http://www.stat.kg/ru/> (access date: 25.12.2022)

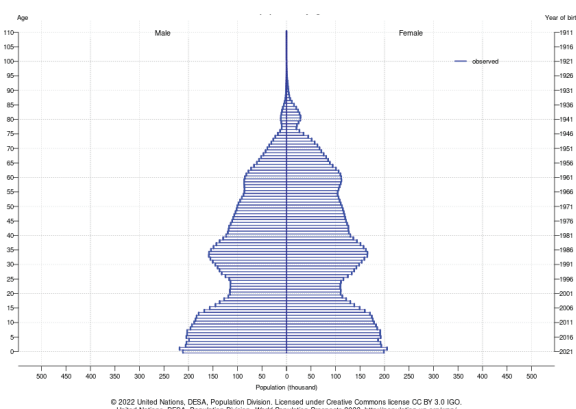
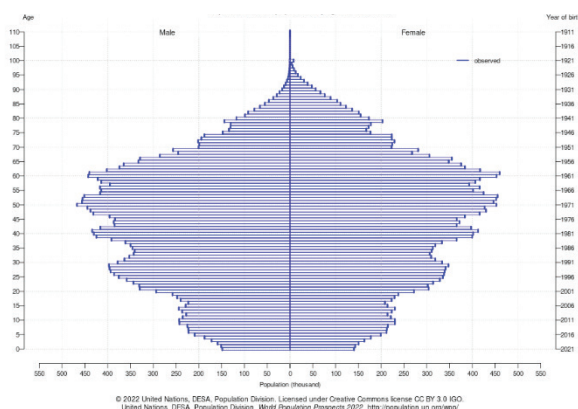
⁴² Analysis of the Demographic Situation in Kyrgyzstan: 2020 Update. UNFPA 2021 // <https://kyrgyzstan.un.org/sites/default/files/2021-06/rus.pdf> (access date: 25.12.2022)

⁴³ State Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan on Statistics // <https://stat.uz/ru/> (access date: 25.12.2022)

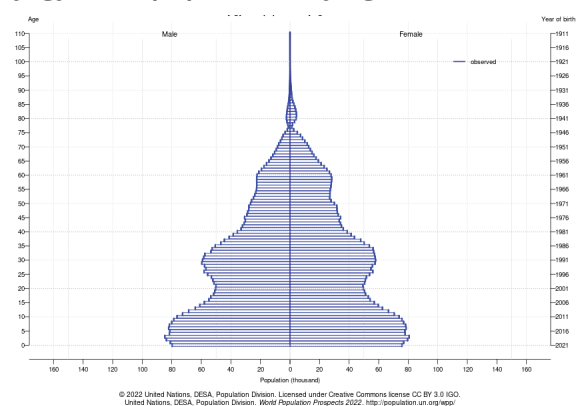
⁴⁴ Sivaev, D., Kamilov, I., Rossitti, J., Orlova, N., Vagione, P. 2022 Time has come: How can Uzbekistan use urbanization as an engine of sustainable development? Washington, DC. World Bank. License: Creative Commons Attribution CC BY 3.0 IGO

Figure 5. Age pyramid, by countries, 1911-2021

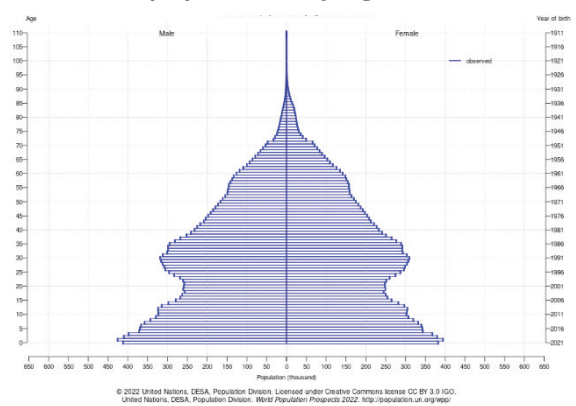
Republic of Korea population by age and sex: 2022 Kazakhstan population by age and sex: 2022



Kyrgyzstan population by age and sex: 2022



Uzbekistan population by age and sex: 2022



Source: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2022). *World Population Prospects 2022, Data Sources*. UN DESA/POP/2022/DC/NO. 9. // https://population.un.org/wpp/Publications/Files/WPP2022_Data_Sources.pdf (access date: 25.12.2022)

The age pyramid of Central Asian countries has in general a progressive type according to A. Sundberg's classical classification, when the population is characterized by a high proportion of children and a low proportion of people aged 50 and older. The widest base of the triangular pyramid is characteristic of Uzbekistan and demonstrates the highest fertility rate in the region.

The peculiarities of the pyramids of the three countries are «failures» for the age group of 15-20 years. This phenomenon is explained by historical events, in particular, a sharp decline in the birth rate in the first years of independence. This period also accounts for the most intense migration outflow of population in the countries. The highest migration losses in this period were felt in Kazakhstan - about 19 people per thousand inhabitants⁴⁵, in Uzbekistan this indicator was 3 people⁴⁶.

It is predicted that the wave-like nature of the pyramids of Central Asian countries will persist over the next 50 years, and the length of the waves may vary under the influence of the dynamics of reproductive behavior. According to experts' estimates, by 2050 there may be a gradual decline in the total fertility rate and the countries may face a slowdown in population growth.

This assessment of the size of the demographic burden is an important aspect in the construction of future population projections. As noted earlier, all CA countries are

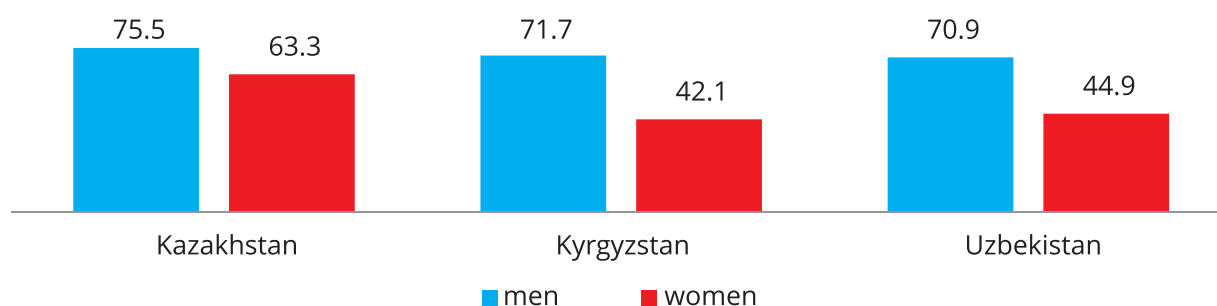
⁴⁵ Bureau of National Statistics of the Agency for Strategic Planning and Reforms of Kazakhstan // <https://stat.gov.kz/> (access date: 25.12.2022)

⁴⁶ State Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan on Statistics // <https://stat.uz/ru/> (access date: 25.12.2022)

characterized by a favorable quantitative ratio of producing and consuming populations. The countries are currently experiencing an early demographic dividend. But Uzbekistan has the most favorable conditions in terms of demography for economic growth and increasing the welfare of the population. According to experts, the country has enough human resources to repeat the path of Korea's "economic miracle"⁴⁷. The degree of success depends on improving the education sector, creating favorable conditions for the development of human capital, and prioritizing gender equality issues. An important point at the national level remains the issue of creating the optimal number of jobs, corresponding to the rate of replenishment of the labor force in the country.

Let's move on to the issue of gender differences in labor market participation. The figure shows the indicator of economic activity of the population separately for men and women in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan. We can see that men are most active in Kazakhstan, but the differences in this indicator for all of these countries are not great. The situation is different with economic activity among women: here the most active are residents of Kazakhstan (63.3%), and the least active are representatives of Kyrgyzstan (42.1%), the difference reaching almost 20 percentage points. These results demonstrate a gender shift in the behavior of households in the labor market and family sphere, which may reflect cultural differences in the gender attitudes of the population.

Figure 6. Level of economic activity of men and women in 2021 (%)



Source: World Development Indicators Data Bank/ <https://databank.worldbank.org/reports.aspx?source=2&series=SL.TLF.CACT.MA.ZS&country=> (access date: 25.12.2022)

Let us take a closer look at the analysis of such an important indicator of the labor market as unemployment. According to the International Labor Organization the highest unemployment rate of the analyzed countries has been registered in Kyrgyzstan at 9.1% (2021) and in Uzbekistan at 7.2% (2021). Kazakhstan has a more favorable situation according to this indicator: here the level of unemployment is stable and does not exceed the threshold of 5%.

Table 10. Unemployment rate in 2018-2021, %

Country	2018	2019	2020	2021
Kazakhstan	4.8	4.8	4.9	4.9
Kyrgyz Republic	6.9	6.9	8.7	9.1
Uzbekistan	5.8	5.8	7.0	7.2

Source: International Labor Organization, ILOSTAT database. Data as of June 2022 // <https://ilostat.ilo.org/> (access date: 25.12.2022)

⁴⁷ A. Akmatallyeva. Central Asia and South Korea: In Search of Opportunities to Increase Cooperation - CABAR. asia // <https://cabar.asia/ru/tsentralnaya-aziya-i-yuzhnaya-koreya-v-poiskah-vozmoghnostej-dlya-narashhivaniya-sotrudnichestva> (access date: 25.12.2022)

The flow of labor migration

Since the independence of the Central Asian countries and until 2022, the main destination of labor migration flows (both official and unofficial) from these countries has been the Russian Federation. The main factors attracting migrants to Russia include Russian language, visa-free entry, mutually recognized university degrees and diplomas, relatively high wages, sociocultural proximity, and familiar administrative mechanisms. In addition, migrants are offered more diverse employment opportunities than other destinations. These factors encouraged migrants to choose Russia as their country of residence and work. Other major centers of attraction for labor migrants from Central Asia include Turkey, the Persian Gulf countries, and South Korea.

Kazakhstan is both a receiving and sending country. According to the Eurasian Economic Commission⁴⁸, more than 136,000 Kazakhstanis came to Russia in 2019 to work. Agreements with Turkey, the UAE, the USA, Great Britain, Korea, Israel, and Germany are planned to be signed as part of the new draft of the Migration Policy Concept⁴⁹.

Kyrgyz Republic. According to experts⁵⁰ about 80% of all labor resources of the country are sent to Russia, the second main destination is Kazakhstan (10%). The number of migrant workers in Russia during the pandemic decreased to a minimum – below 200 thousand people. The peak value could be observed in 2015. - Other destination countries are Turkey, Korea (2007) and the UAE. An agreement has been signed with Saudi Arabia and six Gulf countries⁵¹. It is planned to send migrant workers to Germany and Italy.

Uzbekistan. According to estimates of the Agency for External Migration, the number of migrant workers in 2019 was more than 2.6 million people, of which 1.6 million worked in Russia and 531,000 in Kazakhstan⁵². During the COVID-19 pandemic the number of migrant workers decreased to 1.7 million people. In 2021 there was a record number of migrants in Russia - more than 3 million people⁵³. To diversify the geography of labor migration agreements were signed with South Korea (2006), Japan (2019), and Israel (2022). The government of the country has signed a number of memorandums and is negotiating with the following countries - Turkey, the UAE, the USA, Poland, and Saudi Arabia.

Migration legislation

Kazakhstan. The current migration policy concept was developed in 2017⁵⁴. At the time of writing this report, Kazakhstan is in the process of finalizing a new Migration Policy Concept for 2023-2027. According to the draft document⁵⁵, in terms of external migration it is planned to identify special consuls for labor issues, whose task will be to protect the labor rights of compatriots working abroad. In addition, assistance will be provided in the functioning of public organizations for mutual assistance through Kazakh communities and authorized organizations. One of the key indicators is the development of bilateral agreements to ensure

⁴⁸ Department of Statistics of the Eurasian Economic Commission // https://eec.eaeunion.org/comission/departament/dep_stat/?ysclid=langne0xpp671086248 (access date: 25.12.2022)

⁴⁹ Open NPAs // <https://legalacts.egov.kz/npa/view?id=14220514> (access date: 25.12.2022)

⁵⁰ Countries - Kyrgyz Republic - The Prague Process // <https://www.pragueprocess.eu/ru/countries/420> (access date: 25.12.2022)

⁵¹ The UAE and 6 other Persian Gulf countries will hire Kyrgyz nationals - Ministry of Labor - MIGRANTS.org // <https://migranty.org/novosti/oaje-i-eshhe-6-stran-persidskogo-zaliva-budut-prinimat-na-rabotu-grazhdan-kyrgyzstana-mintruda/?ysclid=langcyzwh811222018> (access date: 25.12.2022)

⁵² Home | Ministry of Employment and Labor Relations of the Republic of Uzbekistan // <https://mehnat.uz/ru> (access date: 25.12.2022)

⁵³ Countries - Republic of Uzbekistan - The Prague Process // <https://www.pragueprocess.eu/ru/countries/426> (access date: 25.12.2022)

⁵⁴ On Approval of the Migration Policy Concept of the Republic of Kazakhstan for 2017-2021 and the Action Plan for the Implementation of the Migration Policy Concept of the Republic of Kazakhstan for 2017 - 2021 - ILS "Adilet" // <https://adilet.zan.kz/rus/docs/P1700000602> (access date: 25.12.2022)

⁵⁵ Open RLAs // <https://legalacts.egov.kz/npa/view?id=14220514> (access date: 25.12.2022)

the labor and social rights of migrant workers with countries that attract a significant number of Kazakh citizens, including the Republic of Korea. In addition, it is planned to develop information materials for the training of citizens going abroad for employment. Also, changes will be made in the regulation of private employment agencies.

Kyrgyz Republic. In 2018, the National Development Strategy of the Kyrgyz Republic for 2018-2040 was adopted, which reflects the need to diversify the geography of labor migration, not limited to the labor markets of Russia and Kazakhstan⁵⁶. In 2021 a new Migration Policy Concept of the Kyrgyz Republic for 2021-2030 was approved⁵⁷. The country's main priority for the coming years is the creation of a special assistance program to ensure the return and sustainable reintegration of returning migrants, especially women and children. The concept will be implemented in two stages, each with a five-year implementation plan. In 2021 the state structures were reformed, now the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the country is responsible for the direction of external migration and support of Kyrgyz migrants abroad.

Uzbekistan. In December 2019, the Draft Law "On External Labor Migration"⁵⁸ was developed (the document is being finalized) and efforts to protect migrants were intensified. The leading role in migration management has been taken by the Agency for External Migration, which has opened regional offices throughout the country and abroad. The last Migration Policy concept was developed in 2013⁵⁹ and is now outdated and does not comply with current international and local legislation. With adoption in 2018 of the Law on Private Employment Agencies⁶⁰, the state employment of citizens abroad was demonopolized in the country.

2.3 Volume and Dynamics of Labor Migration to South Korea from Central Asia

In recent years, the flow of migrants from Central Asia has been subject to serious fluctuations. Uzbekistan forms the largest group of labor migrants among all countries in the region. Before the pandemic, there was a high rate of growth in the figures. However, the results of 2020 show a sharp decline in the number of Central Asian citizens – almost 3-4 times. After economic tremors and severe travel restrictions in 2020 due to COVID-19, it is expected that in 2021 there is a high surge of applicants for visas to South Korea. Although the total number of citizens of the three countries has not yet reached pre-pandemic levels, the available data is consistent with the idea that migration is trending upward in the coming years.

⁵⁶ Decree of the President of the Kyrgyz Republic, October 31, 2018 UP № 221 On the National Development Strategy of the Kyrgyz Republic for 2018-2040 // <http://www.stat.kg/ru/ukaz-prezidenta-kyrgyzskoj-respubliki-ot-nacionalnoj-strategii-razvitiya-kyrgyzskoj-respubliki-na-2018-2040-gody/> (access date: 25.12.2022)

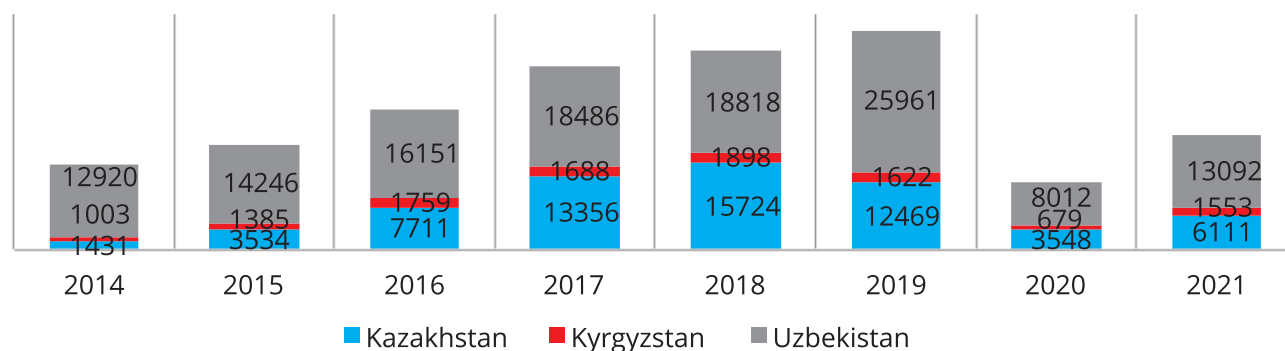
⁵⁷ The Migration Policy Concept of the Kyrgyz Republic for 2021-2030 // 06.04.21.ru_koncepcija-migracionnoj-politiki-kr-na-2021-2030-gg (access date: 25.12.2022)

⁵⁸ 1641-IV-son 13.12.2021. On the Draft Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. PZ-855 «On External Labor Migration» // <https://lex.uz/ru/docs/5817363> (access date: 25.12.2022)

⁵⁹ Draft Migration Policy Concept of the Republic of Uzbekistan Preamble // <https://uz.denemetr.com/doc/694/index-15353-2.html> (access date: 25.12.2022)

⁶⁰ ZRU-501-son 16.10.2018. About private employment agencies // <https://lex.uz/ru/docs/3992894> (access date: 25.12.2022)

Figure 7. Number of citizens of the three Central Asian countries in South Korea, 2014-2021



Source: Commission for Statistics of Korea // <http://kostat.go.kr/portal/eng/index.action> (access date: 25.12.2022)

According to the Ministry of Justice, in 2021 only, the Republic of Korea issued a total of more than 20,000 visas to citizens of the three Central Asian countries, of which H-2 (Visiting and Employment) visas accounted for the largest share. They are followed by the F-4 (Compatriots) group and the Visiting/Family Joining group – F-1. In fourth place are D-2 educational visa holders. Rounding out the top five is the EPS (E-9) visa for low-skilled aliens, for Kazakhstan it is the D-4 specialized language courses.

Table 11. Number of visas issued to citizens of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Uzbekistan, by type, 2021

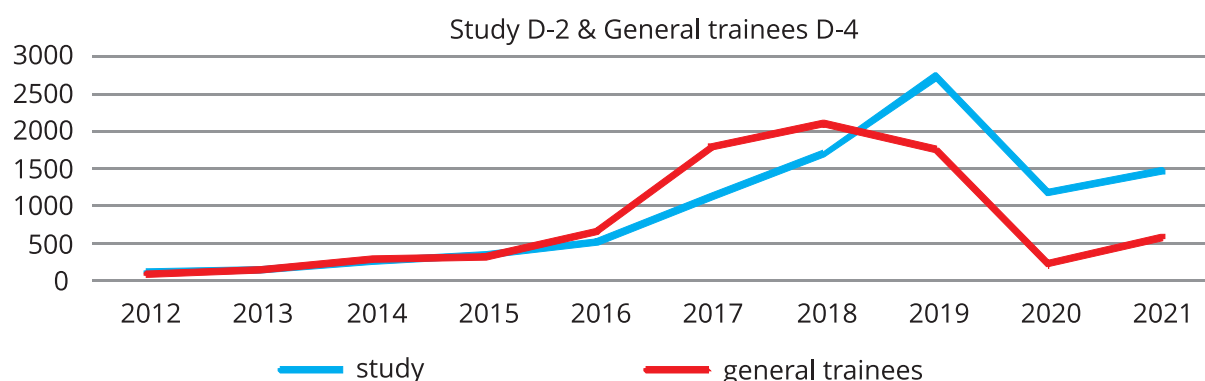
Qualification for Stay	Kazakhstan		Kyrgyzstan		Uzbekistan	
	2022.04	2021	2022.04	2021	2022.04	2021
Total	490	6,111	272	1553	1166	13092
Public Affairs	-	13	-	3	-	3
Visa Waiver	187	-	-	-	-	-
Short-term Visitors	7	133	26	210	31	292
Culture and Arts	-	2	-	-	-	2
Job Seeking	-	3	-	-	7	39
Study	14	399	12	147	55	1465
Industrial Trainee	-	-	-	-	-	26
General Trainees	4	223	12	96	-	590
Trade and Business	-	1	-	1	-	8
Intracompany Transferees	-	-	-	-	-	2
Investors	-	-	-	8	1	13
Research	-	3	-	-	-	-
Art and Entertainment	-	3	-	-	-	-
Unskilled Employment	-	-	22	135	469	992
Seasonal work	-	-	-	-	-	404
Particular Occupation	1	5	-	1	34	64
Visiting and Joining Families	81	1730	22	298	82	1367
Residence	1	4	1	8	8	105
Dependent Family	3	29	15	51	24	408
Overseas Koreans	102	1316	27	277	233	2260
Permanent Residence	1	3	2	8	8	96
Marriage Immigration	10	66	1	29	24	304
Others	-	-	-	-	4	4
Visiting & Employment	79	2178	19	394	176	4634

Source: Survey on Immigrants' Living Conditions and Labour Force | Statistics Korea // <http://kostat.go.kr/portal/eng/surveyOutline/4/2/index.static> (access date: 25.12.2022)

Looking at the dynamics of the number of issued visas in the D-2, D-4 category, we can note the greatest growth in Uzbekistan. Professor of the University of Tsukuba, Timur Dadabaev, explains this trend by the following factors:

- First, corruption and the limited number of employment opportunities force Uzbeks to use education as an informal channel for labor migration;
- Second, the channel of academic mobility between countries, which was previously characteristic of East Asian countries, is intensifying⁶¹.

Figure 8. Dynamics of the number of issued visas for the category D-2, D-4 (Uzbekistan)



Source: Number of incoming foreigners by type of visa and citizenship // https://kosis.kr/statHtml/statHtml.do?orgId=101&tblId=DT_1B28025&vw_cd=MT_ETITLE&list_id=A_2&scrId=&language=en&seqNo=&lang_mode=en&obj_var_id=&itm_id=&conn_path=MT_ETITLE&path=%252FstatisticsList%252FstatisticsListIndex.do (access date: 25.12.2022)

Another category worth paying attention to are citizens leaving for seasonal work. According to statistics, this type of visa is available only to citizens of Uzbekistan; in 2021, 404 people received permission to leave. Prior to that, Central Asian citizens were not attracted to South Korea for seasonal work.

Central Asians from Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan together make up a small share of all total migrants working under the EPS program. Most of all migrants come from Uzbekistan. Thus, while their share increased from 2,355 to 3,359 in 2018-2019, in 2020 it dropped sharply from 3,359 to 748. The COVID-19 pandemic certainly made its adjustments and primarily affected vulnerable populations – migrants.

Table 12. Number of visas issued under the EPS program

	2018	2019	2020	2021
Kyrgyz Republic	388	162	53	22
Uzbekistan	2355	3359	748	992

Source: Number of incoming foreigners by type of visa and citizenship // https://kosis.kr/statHtml/statHtml.do?orgId=101&tblId=DT_1B28025&vw_cd=MT_ETITLE&list_id=A_2&scrId=&language=en&seqNo=&lang_mode=en&obj_var_id=&itm_id=&conn_path=MT_ETITLE&path=%252FstatisticsList%252FstatisticsListIndex.do (access date: 25.12.2022 z.)

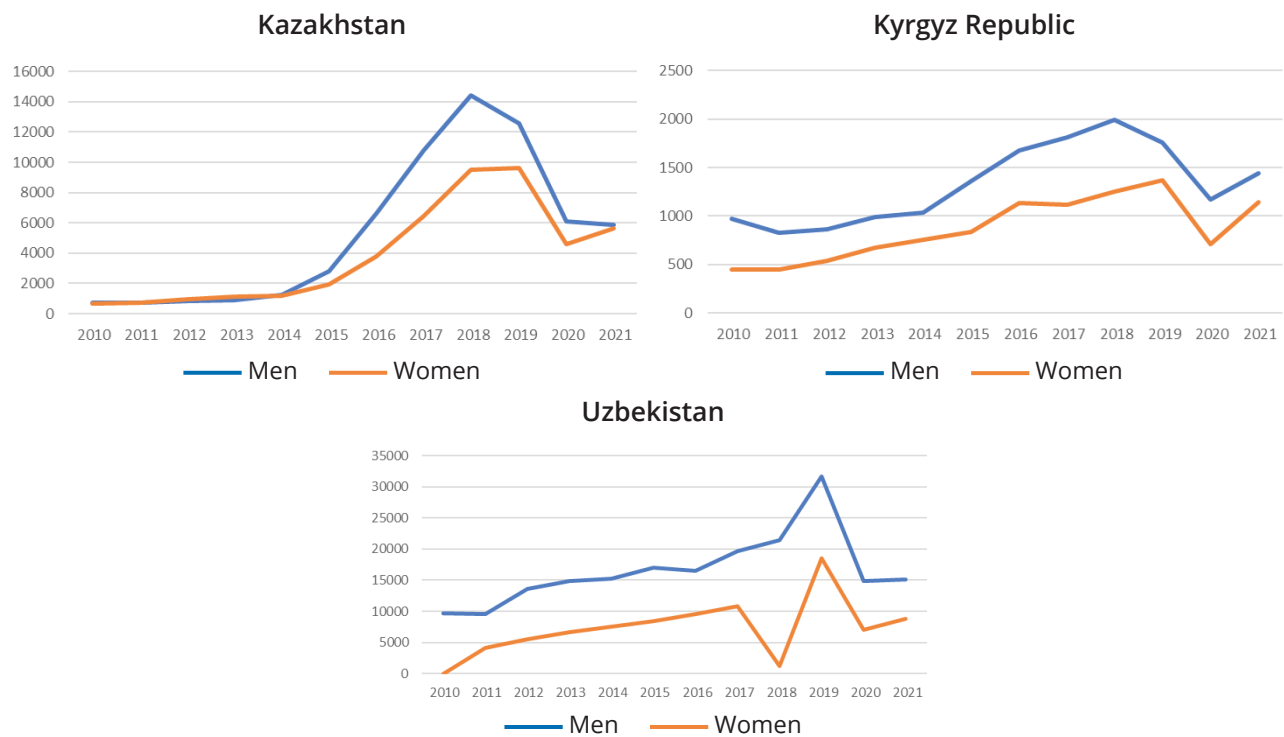
According to the data, the number of highly skilled labor migrants from Central Asia is insignificant, as low-skilled workers remain the bulk of labor migrants in South Korea. However, it is worth noting that an increasing number of educational visa recipients are potential professional personnel who can stay and work in Korea. In addition, among F-4 visa holders there is a share of migrants educated in South Korea who have changed their status to work.

⁶¹ (PDF) 2020, Timur Dadabaev (co-authored with Jasur Soipov) «Craving Jobs? Revisiting Labor and Educational Migration from Uzbekistan to Japan and South Korea,» ACTA VIA SERICA Vol. 5, No. 2, December 2020: 111–140, doi: 10.22679/avs.2020.5.2.005 // https://www.researchgate.net/publication/347409985_2020_Timur_Dadabaev_co-authored_with_Jasur_Soipov_Craving_Jobs_Revisiting_Labor_and_Educational_Migration_from_Uzbekistan_to_Japan_and_South_Korea_ACTA_VIA_SERICA_Vol_5_No_2_December_2020_111-140_doi_ (access date: 25.12.2022)

Gender differences

Traditional gender roles in Korea affect the distribution of visas among foreign work permit recipients. The lack of an agreement between Korea and Kazakhstan regarding labor recruitment demonstrates a gender bias in the visa system. In countries where EPS recruitment of migrant workers is present, male migrants significantly predominate. In this example, we observe an established pattern: the larger the quota allocated per country, the greater the gap in gender differences.

Figure 9. Number of Migrants in South Korea by Country by Gender, 2010-2021



Source: International migration of foreign by gender and citizenship // https://kosis.kr/statHtml/statHtml.do?orgId=101&tblId=DT_1B28025&vw_cd=MT_ETITLE&list_id=A_2&scrId=&language=en&seqNo=&lang_mode=en&obj_var_id=&itm_id=&conn_path=MT_ETITLE&path=%252Feng%252FstatisticsList%252FstatisticsListIndex.do (access date: 25.12.2022)

2.4 Factors that encourage labor migration

The driving force behind labor migration is the individual migrant's decision to move. But this decision is conditioned by different types of factors that in one way or another stimulate/induce migrants to search for a new place of application of their own labor. Using E. Lee's classical migration theory (Push Pull factors), let us consider the factors that facilitate, or hinder migration flows from Central Asia (Lee 1966). According to the model, the impact of the same factors may be different for different people. It is assumed that highly skilled people are influenced to a greater extent by **pull factors**, such as a high level of economic development, security, income level, degree of development of social infrastructure, etc.). In turn, **push factors** (high unemployment, low incomes, underdeveloped social sector of the economy, lack of freedom of election and the right to religion, unfavorable environmental situation, etc.) serve as an impetus to labor migration for low- skilled cadres.

Demographic factor

Migration flows largely compensate for South Korea's declining population as a result of an intensely aging population and other depopulation factors. Korea, as a host country, has a need for labor in some sectors of the economy that do not require high skills and low

wages. As noted earlier, the population of Central Asian countries is projected to grow in the medium term. Even with the accelerated growth of these economies, the entire working-age population cannot be employed. This multidirectional movement of demographic trends shapes migration flows between Korea as the host country and Central Asia as the donor of labor resources. Therefore, the increase in the working-age population in CA is characterized as a **push** factor for migration to South Korea.

Historical factor

In the context of ethnic return policies, it can be argued that this factor is one of **the poles of attraction** in shaping migration flows. Among the economic factors, we will touch upon the difference in wages between sending and receiving states. But, as noted by a number of authors, considering only the economic benefits of labor migration is too simplistic approach in presenting ethnic migrants. For example, researcher Albina Yun notes that ethnicity for the Koryo-saram⁶² is still an important aspect of the decision to migrate, even as a low-skilled, hard-working laborer⁶³.

From the interview:

"...this is the homeland of our ancestors. I think every Korean who is in the CIS would like to visit his historical homeland»...My husband doesn't want to go back at all. He plans to get an F-5, like a residence permit" (female, 36, ethnic Korean (Uzbekistan), F-4).

Cultural factor

The active popularization of national culture since the early 2000s is one of the tools of "soft power" in the foreign policy of the Republic of Korea. The Korean wave (Hallyu) has manifested itself in Central Asian countries through the popularity of "soap operas" (dramas) and musical performers (K-pop). In addition, Korean-made goods are increasingly seen in stores, and Korean food restaurants are found in many cities. Under the influence of cultural images, a positive image of the state and its inhabitants is created, which influences the choice of the country to migrate to. Thus, Korean mass culture and the Korean language have become very popular among young people, and we are now seeing an increased interest in educational programs in the country.

From the interview:

"I've been interested in South Korea since I was 15. I went to different clubs, watched different TV series, dramas. Also, we have a lot of Korean cafes and restaurants in Bishkek. So you could say that I'm already familiar with the culture of South Korea" (female, 18, Kyrgyzstan, plans to go to Korea),

"I guess it's the influence of the dramas I watched as a kid. The same Gu Jun Pe, Lee Min Ho, I found out later. And I like Korean food very much... it's a different culture, Korean - interesting by the way... I've watched a lot of dramas, I know through them. And we also have a lot of Korean restaurants in Bishkek. I'm quite familiar with Korean cuisine. It seems to me that it won't be very difficult there" (female, 28, Kyrgyzstan, plans to go to Korea).

Economic factor

Economic incentives should be identified as the main motives for migration. The **pushing incentives** include the lack of earnings or its low level, which does not allow supporting a family, the lack of opportunity to find employment in their home country. In turn, the **pulling incentives** determine the country of destination. Central Asian migrants are attracted not only by the competitive wages in South Korea, but also by the so-called additional bonuses

⁶² Koryo Saram - Koreans born in the former Soviet Union

⁶³ Koryo Saram Ethnic Labor Migration to South Korea Through the Prism of Foucault Biopolitics - Central Asia Analytical Network // <https://www.caa-network.org/archives/23235/etnicheskaya-trudovaya-migratsiya-koryo-saram-v-yuzhnuyu-koreyu-cherez-prizmu-biopolitiki-fuko> (access date: 25.12.2022)

in the form of housing, transportation costs, and overtime. In addition, the pulling incentive for migrants is the possibility of accumulating start-up capital to start their own businesses after their return. However, as specialists at the Asian Development Bank point out, migration dynamics can change significantly if workers see more prospects within their own country: "When we see countries reach middle-income levels, the growth curves go down. In this case, many people begin to think twice about taking the risk of working abroad"⁶⁴. These predictions are supported by the results of in-depth interviews with some participants, who cited opportunities for high, stable incomes that covered family expenses and what they perceived as desirable employment as reasons to return to the country of origin.

From the interview:

"...fast growth opportunity, perspective and salary" (male, 22, Kyrgyzstan, E-9),

"I try to go to Korea to earn money...It's good to be a guest, it's better to be home. If I earn money, I'll come...If I like it, I can stay there for a long time. Back to Kyrgyzstan as soon as I have money, I think" (male, 36, Kyrgyzstan, plans to go to Korea).

Social Factor

To a large extent, so-called migrant networks influence the size and direction of migration flows from the region of origin, as well as the results of migrants' adaptation at their destination. The formation of informal migrant networks between areas in the sending and receiving countries facilitates the subsequent migration of Central Asian citizens to South Korea and, accordingly, is a **pulling incentive** in choosing a country to work in. Migrants who arrived earlier and have successfully settled in help their arriving compatriots in such matters as finding housing and employment; choosing schools, kindergartens, and hospitals; looking for intermediaries to transfer money and belongings; and assisting with translation and in difficult situations.

In-depth interviews revealed that the experiences of relatives and friends played a crucial role in the labor migration decision.

From the interview:

"I have a close friend who works there. She's been working there for quite a long time. In general, she earns good money. And I would also like to make some extra money, accumulate some capital. That's why I'm going to South Korea" (female, 30, Kyrgyzstan, plans to go to Korea),

"...a lot of people went to South Korea. I had a few friends here. So, I decided to visit my friends" (female, 44, ethnic Korean (Uzbekistan), F-5).

A migrant (male, 25, Uzbekistan) says that his brother's experience in South Korea gave him the opportunity to leave and adapt to the new conditions: find a job and a place to live. His brother also helped him with the money to process the documents. A migrant (male, 25, Kyrgyzstan) had his father working in Korea, thanks to whose stories he decided to participate in the EPS program. According to the respondent, his knowledge of the nuances of working in Korean society helped him to be ready for employers' requirements and difficult working conditions.

From the interview:

"at first I had a friend who helped me a lot. It was the first time I went at random. I didn't have much in the way of family or friends. So, I went. The first time I came, I came to my friend. She found me a job with a place to live in the factory. And that's it, they took me there, and I lived and worked there [...] By the way, here, we live in the city of I., our Russian-speaking population opens up a community. We have, for example, in I., the moms that get together - just moms. And so they stick together. You can go to them, they will help" (female, 36, ethnic Korean (Uzbekistan), F-4).

⁶⁴ International Organization for Migration (IOM), 2021. Spotlight on Labor Migration in Asia. IOM. Geneva // chrome-extension://efaidnbnmnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://impact.economist.com/perspectives/sites/default/files/spotlight_o_n_labour_migration_in_asia_7th_december_1.pdf (access date: 25.12.2022)

Political factor

Government support for the state policy of international labor migration in the context of global trade, where stakeholders negotiate market access to reap the benefits of such migration. On the one hand, external migration supports the socio-economic development of countries through money transfer flows; on the other hand, the growing interest of migrants themselves in Korean labor earnings encourages CA governments to promote labor migration to that country and create conditions for their citizens in terms of safety and well-being in the destination country.

Legislative factor

Korea's legal sphere is generally accessible and understandable to Central Asian migrants. The country has well-established migration legislation: the rules for registration and work permits are constantly in force, and information on the legal aspects of stay is available. Publicly voiced norms of migration policy are expressed in the Migration Development Concept. All these aspects of the legal factor can be called a **pulling incentive** for labor migration from Central Asia.

Describing their experience of labor migration in South Korea, informants note that they have no difficulties in understanding the country's migration legislation. Some of them, having the experience of labor migration in Russia, note a significant difference in obtaining documents and in the practice of staying in Korea. An E-9 visa holder, is quite positive in his assessment of obtaining permission of documents for work. Like other survey participants with a similar work permit, he notes that the courses for migrants in Korea were useful and provided an opportunity to become familiar with the rules of stay in the country. Migrants understand the advantages of being in the country legally and often compare their "privileges" with the situation of undocumented migrants.

From the interview:

"look, there are visas. You need a visa to Korea. It depends what kind of visa you have. If you have, for example, a business visa, then you'll work arbeit, as a part-time job. And, if you have documents like ours, it's easy to find a job. There is migration services here called... (in Korean), anyone who works in Korea knows. You go there if you want to change jobs. You take a waiver from the factory - you say, give me the waiver documents, I want to change. If your factory, your director agrees, he gives you your documents, and you go to the migration service and give your documents. And they give you a factory contract two or three times a week. You go there, check it. If it suits you, you register. It's pretty easy. The main thing is that you are satisfied with the salary and all the conditions" (male, 22, Kyrgyzstan, E-9).

Key thoughts

In general, labor migrants from Central Asia assess the channels of entry into various spheres of the country rather highly. Most of them have the right to social assistance and counseling, and the rules of arranging necessary social assistance are clear and accessible to them. Even though medicine is relatively expensive, thanks to insurance policies migrants have the opportunity to seek help immediately.

From the interview:

"insurance is paid every month; each person pays about \$100 - \$150 - \$200. That is, every month you need this money steadily... you don't even have to write it off anywhere, it's automatically deducted from your card to the state. But this insurance gives you the opportunity to receive treatment or buy medicine at stores and hospitals at a big discount" (female, 26, Uzbekistan, worked as a DJ in a restaurant),

"there were little things like that when you were working. For example, I was welding once, I was working without a mask, I was all teary-eyed, I couldn't sleep at night. And the Koreans - they had a very good attitude to me and my friend. They took me to the hospital. And they paid for

everything. You can cut your arm and something else - they pay for everything. There is insurance there" (male, 22, Kyrgyzstan, E-9),

"the medicine there is at the highest level - the qualifications there are excellent. It's not like here - you don't stand in line. There you get a number and get through quickly. In the reception area especially, very much. And I like the fact that they have medications, all this - no need to run anywhere, as we have to, to different pharmacies, to look for drugs. Hospitals provide everything there: the medications and everything in general. And then you go and pay for it. I liked it very much" (female, 55, ethnic Korean (Uzbekistan), worked in a mini-hotel).

When migrants find themselves in various life situations, not only related to health, they most often turn to relatives and acquaintances. It is common for migrants who have good relationships with their employers to turn to them for help. There is a practice of making up for the employer's expenses through deductions from wages, migrants cite in interviews the amount of 15% monthly. Many migrants are familiar with the services of migration services. For example, they know that there are Russian-speaking counselors there. Also, according to migrants, there are call centers in Korea (e.g., 1305) that advise in many languages of the world, including Russian. Some prefer to use the services of intermediaries, which are present in sufficient numbers in Korea. There is a practice of going to Russian-speaking churches, where, according to migrants, they help with the language and give a free interpreter.

Migrants have access to the opportunity to observe and perform cultural and religious traditions. Many respondents note that they have free access to churches, mosques, although, according to the survey participants, there are not that many of them in their places of residence. The only limitation is time, the lack of which does not allow them to visit religious institutions on a weekly basis and, as a rule, they visit them from time to time.

Most migrants describe South Korea as a country with a "high level of security", "comfortable for living", "developed technology", "clean and orderly", and "developed infrastructure". For example, one study participant, an ethnic migrant from Uzbekistan who had worked for many years as a teacher in her native country, was pleasantly surprised by the respectful attitude of the local population toward her former profession and the polite address of "professor" to her. Characterizing the local population, migrants note their "punctuality", "industriousness", and "readiness to help". It is important for migrants that they do not feel prejudiced by the local population in Korea.

From the interview:

"there's no problem when you work there legally. You have a contract and no problems. It's easy to go to work. There are no minuses. In Korea they respect people's rights [...] You get everything you're supposed to get there on time according to the law [...]. I learned to respect human rights. [...] In Russia it is common that migrants from Central Asian countries are called «churks» to their faces [...] in Korea you won't hear such insults" (male, 35, Kyrgyzstan, E-9).

The key problem for all labor migrants in South Korea becomes ignorance of the language in general or insufficiently high language level. Knowledge of the language, according to the participants of the in-depth interviews, gives certain advantages and an opportunity to earn more.

From the interview:

"...the most important thing is when you don't know the language, you don't know the laws, your rights. And so, in principle, our rights were not violated, we just did not know them. We didn't know how to do what. And when you do know, they explain to you: there were a lot of our Koreans there, who had already worked there as interpreters in the government, they helped our people and explained what to do. When you're alone, when you don't know anyone, it's hard to find the address, to get there. But everything is very fast, if you know how to do it, where to go. [...] In general, South Koreans are, in principle, friendly people. They are very respectful of people who know their language" (female, 37, ethnic Korean (Uzbekistan),

“...there are complications. The language barrier is very much felt. Even Koreans who know English still, if they have not lived in America, it is still difficult to understand their English or they have difficulty understanding others. The most important thing, as a difficulty, is the language barrier, I would say. And then there’s another point. And if Koreans don’t understand something, they won’t say they don’t understand. They’ll say, «Yeah, we got it,» and they go away. [...] again with the language barrier - the documentation, execution of documents, basically everything is in Korean. Very little information for foreigners, but we solved it by hiring a firm that did all the paperwork for us. Even including finding a place to live” (male, 42, Uzbekistan, works as a financial director at a large company),

“there are no problems. The only problem is the language. If you know the language, you will have a better job” (female, 68, ethnic Korean (Uzbekistan), F-1).

The “ppali ppali”⁶⁵ encountered by almost every foreigner in Korea is part and parcel of Korean culture, as is **the intense work schedule with overtime**, which migrant workers are not always prepared for. Interviewees emphasize that they took quite a long time to get used to working conditions and that their entire life in Korea was spent at work. Therefore, many of them do not associate their children’s future with this country, considering working and training conditions too harsh. At the same time, many of them point out that they admire hard work as a national trait of the Korean people and that it fosters an appreciation of time and respect for work.

From the interview:

“I know they are workaholics. I wouldn’t want my kids to study there. Because they study there until 3 or 4, then they have an hour of rest. And then you have to be in class until 9 or 10. There’s a high competition. There are a lot of suicides, because people can’t stand the pressure, the competition. It’s a very difficult situation for Koreans there, even though from the outside it seems like a developed country, everything is good there, but it’s very difficult to survive in this competition. I would prefer it to be in moderation” (male, 42, Uzbekistan, works as a financial director at a large company),

“the only plus is earning money. And so, no pluses - hell of a job.... for me personally - although I went there, as they say, the homeland of my ancestors, and I think at least to see how it is there... The dirtiest, the worst job, where South Koreans themselves will rarely go...All my expectations, like a soap bubble, collapsed. You can only go to Korea as a tourist. I wouldn’t want to live there permanently” (female, 68, ethnic Korean (Uzbekistan), F-1),

“...minuses are that the money is not given easily here, I think... Because many people work here and if a person get sick, and medicine is very expensive here. And they spend a lot on that. And they practically invest their savings there. And then they have to work again from scratch. That is also the problem” (male, 23, ethnic Korean (Uzbekistan), F-4).

Speaking about the life experience that interviewees gained in Korea, they noted: «learning the work process and bringing these skills home», «the ability to earn and appreciate every penny», and «the breadth of outlook changes». Living in a multicultural environment promotes migrants’ skills in «learning about other peoples’ cultures and their preferences».

From the interview:

“...save your time...my time is worth good money. It’s time to use to the limit, to the last minute. And a commercial attitude. Because here your time is worth some money, but you have to work hard to be useful to the person you work for” (male, 42, ethnic Korean (Kazakhstan), H-2).

It is evident from migrants’ stories that the main motive for labor migration is to improve one’s financial situation. Most of our respondents-visa holders for ethnic Koreans under the age of 35 choose permanent stay in Korea as a labor migrant as their life trajectory, some are ready to go this way until their old age. They also see working in Korea as a kind of

⁶⁵ «Ppali-ppali» - literally from the Kor. «fast, fast.»

“springboard” for further labor migration to other developed countries. The older generation does not consider Korea as a permanent place of residence.

Professor German Kim, Director of the Institute of Asian Studies at Al-Farabi Kazakh National University, during an interview for our study, notes the following trend in the migration practices of ethnic Koreans: at the initial stage of migration, almost none of them intend to stay in South Korea forever, but consider their stay as temporary - to earn money and learn the culture of their ancestors. They feel a significant difference with the local society and are not always prepared for the difficulties of being a low-skilled worker. However, after a certain period of stay, they change their attitudes and are no longer inclined to return to their countries of origin.

As for E-9 visa holders, most of them intend to stop labor migration as soon as they have accumulated seed money for further material development in the country of origin. Many of them are also ready to return home if they find a job that pays enough to match their monthly savings in Korea. As a rule, migrants feel the need to be in a familiar environment that is not alien to their mentality.

Authors Timur Dadabaev (professor at the University of Tsukuba) and Zhasur Soipov in their study on Uzbek migrants in Japan and South Korea look at the incentives of their migration behavior. They note that the economic incentive for migration is not only financial gain, but also an attempt to adopt the best production practices and technologies and apply them in one’s own country⁶⁶.

There is no consensus among highly skilled visa holders about plans to stay in the country for a long time. Participants for whom working in Korea is not their only experience do not see the country as their long-term destination. While others are motivated to stay long term by the opportunity to work and stay in a well-organized, fair system where they say “personal boundaries” are respected.

Stories from the life of migrant workers in Korea

Gwanghuidong Street in Seoul’s famous Dongdaemun district is popularly known as a Central Asian street with cafes, restaurants, ticket offices, and stores with colorful, telling names like Star Samarkand and Soul Kazakhstan. Such neighborhoods have appeared near industrial zones in the suburbs of most major Korean cities. According to Jan Matusiewicz, a graduate student at the Center for Research at the City University of New York, the “heterogeneous contingent of migrants” forms a peculiar system of social relations with its own hierarchy⁶⁷. The researcher counted at least 12 restaurants with Central Asian cuisine in Ansan, a suburb of Seoul. Such migrant neighborhoods are places where migrant workers find companionship, the opportunity to feel a “piece of home” in a foreign country, and create their own collective spaces with their own subculture - cafes, stores with familiar foods, and cabs.

⁶⁶ (PDF) 2020, Timur Dadabaev (co-authored with Jasur Soipov) «Craving Jobs? Revisiting Labor and Educational Migration from Uzbekistan to Japan and South Korea,» ACTA VIA SERICA Vol. 5, No. 2, December 2020: 111-140, doi: 10.22679/avs.2020.5.2.005 // https://www.researchgate.net/publication/347409985_2020_Timur_Dadabaev_co-authored_with_Jasur_Soipov_Craving_Jobs_Revisiting_Labor_and_Educational_Migration_from_Uzbekistan_to_Japan_and_South_Korea_ACTA_VIA_SERICA_Vol_5_No_2_December_2020_111-140_doi (access date: 25.12.2022)

⁶⁷ Seminar «Migration Studies,» 2022 - Institute for Social Policy - National Research University Higher School of Economics // <https://isp.hse.ru/migrissled> (access date: 25.12.2022)

Figure 10. South Korea, Seoul (Dongdaemun District)



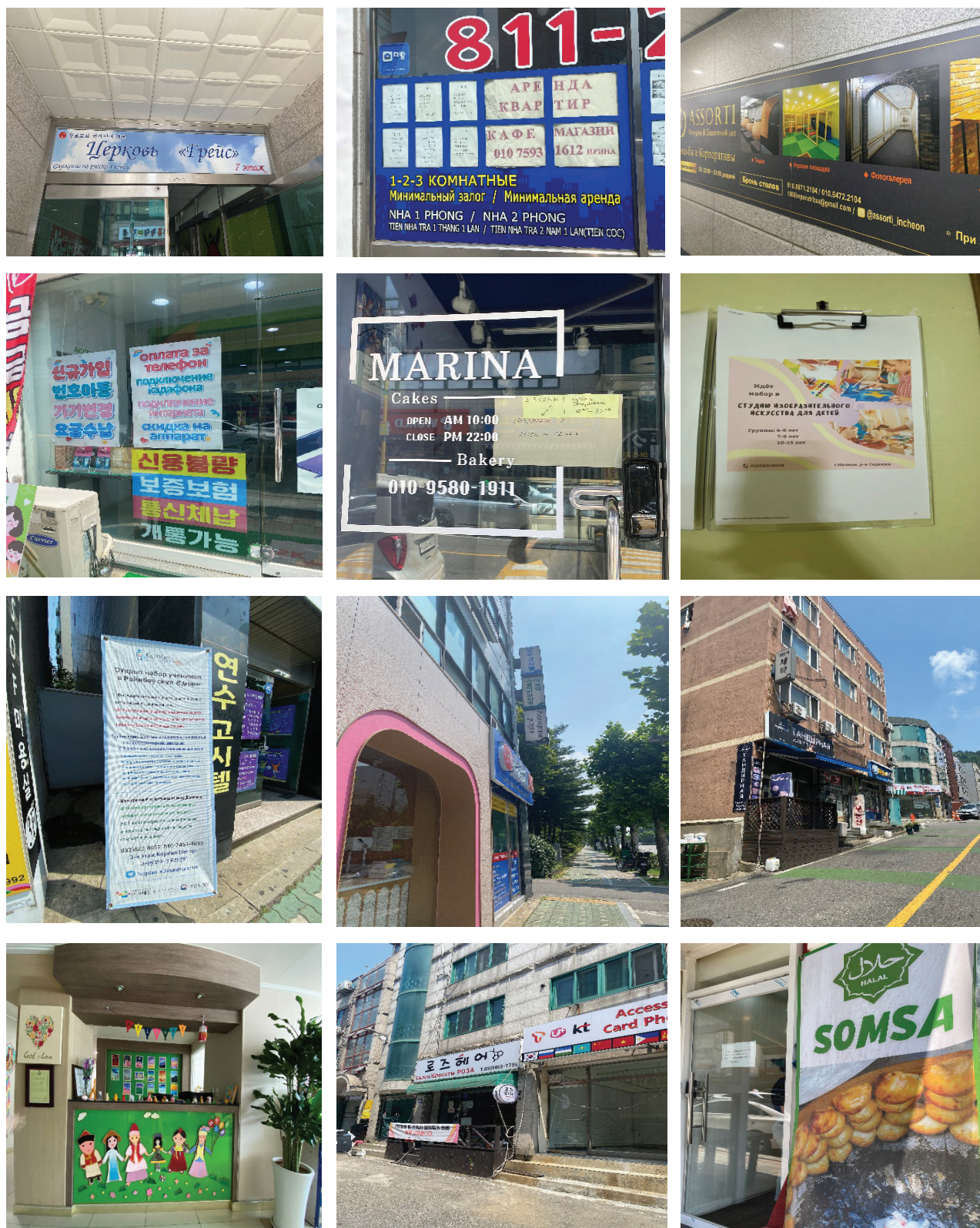
Source: photographs collected during field work (July 2022)

Figure 11. South Korea, Ansan



Source: photographs collected during field work (July 2022)

Figure 12. South Korea, Incheon



Source: photographs collected during field work (July 2022)

Figure 13. South Korea, Busan



Source: photographs collected during field work (July 2022)

Figure 14. South Korea, Gimpo



Source: photographs collected during field work (July 2022)

Another form of making up for the lack of social capital of those coming to work in Korea are social networking groups. Virtual communities are largely based on the following principles:

- compatriots (Facebook groups “Kazakhstanis in Korea” (6,000 people); “Kyrgyzstan~ours in Korea” (1,800); “Uzbekistanis in Korea” (1,100);
- solidarity in common problems (Facebook groups “Together in Korea” (123,000), “Korea for Everyone” (28,000), and “Living and Raising Children in Korea” (3,700).

People share useful information on how to find housing and employment, give each other advice, and provide guidance. Most requests get a response. Often commercial ads for employment services are promoted in these groups.

Figure 15. Job advertisements (original text retained – translated from Russian)

<p>WE NEED MEN ON A PERMANENT BASIS! EUMSEONG! (Work on the CAR, without palli palli, the authorities are good) Age: UP TO 53 years old! VISA: F2 F4 F5 F6 and H2 Korean: at the level of understanding Work with plastic (night shift - day shift)- 2/2, 08:30-20:30/20:30-08:30 Salary 3.300.000 +bonuses Job on the FACTORY (day shift)- 08:30-20:30 Salary 2.800.000 + bonuses THERE ARE BONUSSES! Weekly, Annual bonuses, weekends and salary! Dormitory Delivery service from Jincheon, Daeso, Cheongpyeong, Geumsan, Pyeongtaek (Anjeong, Osong), Wonju</p>	<p>City.Ansan-Shiva (Car) Required men up to 50 years old with a car (As there is no delivery) Position at the CNC Machine Visa: F4, 5, 6 Opening Work schedule: night shift / day shift 08:00~20:00 Salary every 5th day about 3.400~3.500 Per hour 9.200 won (closed at Saturday as a short day, even if you do not work, there is a double weekly bonus) + weekly, monthly bonuses, paid holidays (If you work on weekends or holidays, we pay DOUBLE salary for work on weekends) Subsequent official employment</p>	<p>FACTORY in Chungju (충주시) Hyundai Automobile Factory men for permanent work are required Visa H-2, F1-2-4-5-6, G-1 Work is easy, everything is automatic; Work schedule: Mon-Sat day shift 8.00-20.00, night shift 20.00-8.00 Lunch 1 hour, dinner 30 min Salary 3,500,000 WON Every month on the 10th day the 13th salary Bonuses weekly, monthly Accommodation in the city: Apartments Delivery Service is free</p>
<p>Ansan 10 min walk from Ansan-yok. Men under 40 years of age are required on a permanent basis. Type of work: turning of small parts. 08:00 ~17:00 ~ 19:30 overtime 2 hours 9500/h + weekly and monthly bonuses. 104,500 won for 1 day Salary on the 11th day! 2,500 ~ 2,600 per month... VISA H2; F2, 4, 5, 6 Delivery is not available.</p>	<p>Factory in Gimcheon is recruiting men up to 50 years old. Production of fiberglass thread. The work is not complicated, but fast. Gimcheon City: H2, F2,4,5,6, E9, G1 Day and night shifts. 6/1. Overtime, work on weekends. Schedule from 6:00 to 18:00 from 18:00 to 6:00 The rate is 9.500 Weekly bonus. Annual bonus. Holidays. Accommodation («one-room») Salary 4.000.000~4.300.000 on hand Service is free. For more information, please call</p>	<p>Busan (강서구) A paper box factory requires 2 men under 50 years old. The work is not complicated (pruning, laying, packing paper boxes and blanks) Visa H2 F4,5,6 Korean language proficiency at the level of understanding Working hours: day shift 8:00-17:00 + overtime 2-3 hours Salary (2.700.000 - 3.000.000) + weekly bonus / holiday 15 days Dormitory is provided No delivery</p>
<p>Ulsan Requires 2 men under 45 years old with an F4, F5 visa Mineral cotton factory (gathering, cutting (machine cut), packaging). Day shift only: 8:00-17:30 + overtime 2-4 hours (Tue, Wed, Thu) Hourly rate: 9.700 Salary: 2.600.000-2.900.000, holiday 20 days Weekly bonus The service is free There is no official employment (work through outsourcing)</p>	<p>Yongin (양지면) 경기 용인시 처인구 죽양대로 2136 Coffee bean warehouse. Work in the refrigerator The essence of the work: Packaging Requires women up to 50 years old who live in the city of Yongin or near the Visa only F2, F4, F5, F6, H2 Opening hours: 13:00-22:00. Five working days. No overtime and work on weekends Payment 100,000 Lunch – 1 hour, breaks – 10 minutes Salary weekly (Monday)</p>	<p>GWANGMYEONG CITY Requires men and women on a permanent basis. Sorting of paper waste. Payment: 9,660 for hour; overtime - 14,490 Working day: 7:00 ~ 16:00 ~ 18:00 (2 hours overtime) 106,000 won. There is a weekly bonus (77,280) Per month, an average of 2,700,000~ Payment at the end of the working day, the next day or once a week with a weekly bonus. There is no delivery service. Travel expenses 3000 per day. Visa H2, F2, 4, 5, 6 Age does not matter. The service is free of charge</p>

Source: Social media networks

Table 13. Social media channels/blogs about work in South Korea

Channel/blog name	Number of subscribers	Link	Country
koreyadagy_mekendeshter	78,8k	https://www.instagram.com/koreyadagy_mekendeshter/	Kyrgyzstan
kim.yena	73,6k	https://www.instagram.com/kim.yena/	Uzbekistan
tsoymarkus	64,9k	https://www.instagram.com/tsoymarkus/	Kazakhstan
mb.korea	41,6k	https://www.instagram.com/mb_korea/	Uzbekistan
guzal_vely	165k	https://www.youtube.com/c/%EA%B5%AC%EC%9E%98TV	Uzbekistan
lyazkinn	34,7k	https://www.tiktok.com/@lyazkinn	Kazakhstan
eleonoraji	29,5k	https://www.instagram.com/eleonoraji/	Uzbekistan
unitoks	20,2k	https://www.tiktok.com/@unitoks	Uzbekistan
sarvinoz_in_korea	16,4k	https://www.instagram.com/sarvinoz_in_korea/	Uzbekistan
ulan_urgeshov	4 925k	https://www.tiktok.com/@ulan_ergeshov	Kyrgyzstan

The normal work schedule for a migrant worker in small businesses in Korea is 10-12 hours a day, but can go up to 14-15 hours with a 30-minute lunch and two smoke breaks. On weekends, holidays, as a rule, higher wages are paid. The harder and more dangerous the work, the higher the pay⁶⁸.

There is an informal list of terms among migrants: “arbeit” (temporary part-time job with cash payment), “chugan” (day shift), “yagan” (night shift), “samushil” (office of a job broker), “vanrum” (small studio).

Speaking of highly qualified specialists from the Central Asian region, in most cases their work histories begin with their education in Korea.

Gulmira, from Kazakhstan, works as a Business Development Manager for an aesthetic drug company⁶⁹. She chose Korea for its “advanced technology”, knows four languages, and has a diploma from a prestigious Seoul University.

Azamatbek was the winner of numerous Olympiads and competitions, thanks to which the young Kyrgyzstani won a full scholarship to the National Institute of Science and Technology. He is currently working as a programmer at Korea’s largest company, Samsung Electronics⁷⁰.

Mansur’s history in Korea began with a scholarship to Seoul University⁷¹. Currently, the young man is working as a Marketing Manager for a company that runs a digital platform to provide services to foreigners. In addition, the Uzbekistani is a co-founder of an experience-sharing project among his compatriots in Korea.

⁶⁸ What awaits a Kazakh in South Korea - 04.01.2020 - Kursiv Media Kazakhstan // <https://kz.kursiv.media/2020-01-04/chtto-ozhidaet-kazakhstanca-v-yuzhnoy-koree/?ysclid=la1i1ollgu128399664> (access date: 25.12.2022)

⁶⁹ «Everything is made for people here.»Kazakhstanis in South Korea - The Village Kazakhstan // <https://www.the-village-kz.com/village/people/people/1667-kazakhs-in-south-korea?ysclid=la1hrel14o315349916> (access date: 25.12.2022)

⁷⁰ 29 inspiring success stories of guys from Osh who achieved everything on their own // <https://limon.kg/ru/news:75545> (access date: 25.12.2022)

⁷¹ 3 stories of young and successful Uzbeks who are building a career in South Korea - articles, stories, publications | WEproject // <https://weproject.media/articles/detail/3-istorii-molodykh-i-ushpeshnykh-uzbekistantsev-kotorye-stroyat-kareru-v-yuzhnoy-koree/> (access date: 25.12.2022)

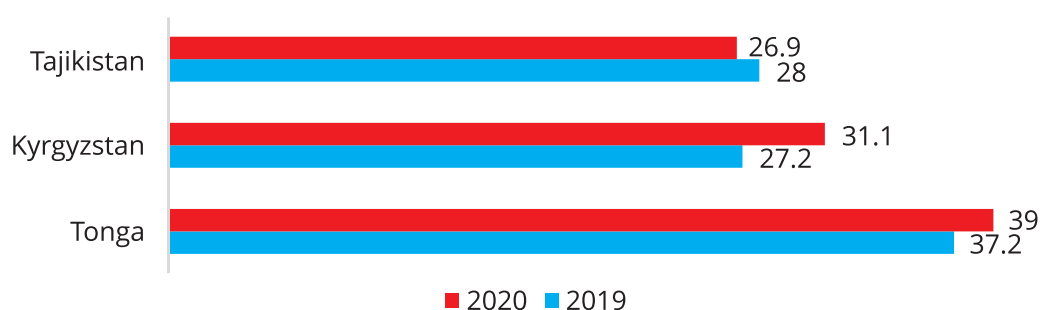
2.5 Money Transfers and their Importance for Central Asian Economies

Trends in the dynamics of external migration and money transfers in some countries are closely correlated with indicators of economic growth. The main flow of migrant money transfers goes from developed to developing countries.

Personal Money transfers is used as a measure of money transfers and includes three levels of aggregate indicators: personal money transfers, total money transfers, and total amount of money transfers, including transfers to nonprofit institutions serving households (according to the Balance of Payments and International Investment Position Manual, 6th edition (BPM6))⁷².

In terms of the share of money transfers in the country's GDP, Kyrgyzstan is a leader not only in the region, but also in the world.

Figure 16. Top three countries with the highest relative volume of received migrant money transfers (% of GDP of respective countries)



Source: World Bank staff estimates based on IMF balance of payments data, and World Bank and OECD GDP estimates

The share of money transfers sent by migrants to Uzbekistan in GDP was 14.3% (2019) and 11.7% (2020). As we can see, migrant money transfers have a significant impact on the GDP of Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan. However, it should be noted that money transfers from Russia constitute the main share. The volume of money transfers from South Korea is in 4th place after Kazakhstan and Turkey. According to estimates in Kyrgyzstan, money transfers have contributed to the reduction of poverty in the country by 6-7%.⁷³

The World Bank predicts that sanctions due to the Russia-Ukraine conflict will severely weaken economic activity in Russia, which is likely to reduce migrant workers' incomes as well as their ability to send money transfers back home. In addition, the weakening of the ruble against the U.S. dollar will significantly reduce the nominal value of money transfers. For example, in the Kyrgyz Republic, where 83 percent of money transfers were sent from Russia in 2021, money transfers are likely to decline by 33 percent in 2022 instead of the initially projected growth rate of 3 percent. Uzbekistan is also likely to experience a significant decline in money transfer flows in 2022.

⁷² https://unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/stats/documents/ece/ces/ge.20/2017/mtg2/Money_transfers_theoretical_concept_BPM6_RU.pdf (access date: 25.12.2022)

⁷³ World Migration Report 2020 / International Organization for Migration // https://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/final-wmr_2020-ru. access date: 25.12.2022)

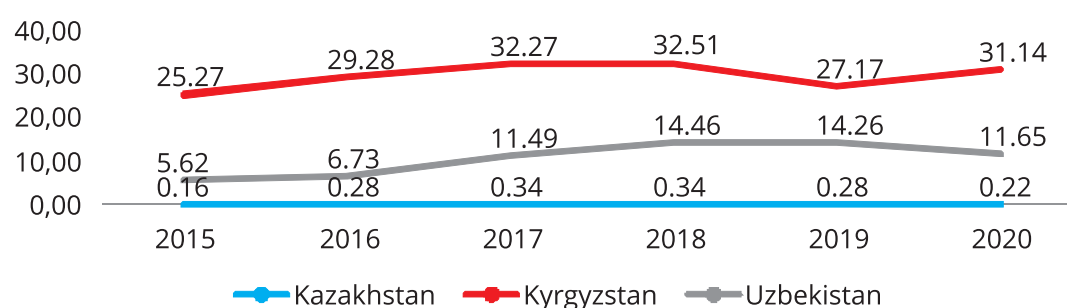
Table 14. Impact of the Russian-Ukrainian conflict on money transfers (remittances) in Central Asia

	Remittances % of inflows 2020 (USD million) Revised Growth Forecast for 2022*	% of GDP 2020	% of exports and services	Share of remittances from Russia Q1-Q3 2021	Initial Growth Forecast, 2022	Revised growth forecast for 2022*
Armenia	1 327	10.5%	35.3%	59%	11%	-19%
Azerbaijan	1 403	3.3%	9.2%	62%	3%	-23%
Belarus	1 014	1.7%	2.7%	42%	15%	-8%
Georgia	2 110	13.3%	35.6%	18%**	2%	-5%
Kazakhstan	374	0.2%	0.7%	51%	7%	-17%
Republic of Kyrgyzstan	2 423	31.3%	99.5%	83%	3%	-33%
Moldova	1 877	15.7%	58.2%	14%	6%	0%
Tajikistan	2 187	26.7%	155.2%	58%	2%	-22%
Ukraine	15 213	9.8%	25.1%	5%	2%	8%
Uzbekistan	6 980	11.6%	48.0%	55%	3%	-21%

Source: Russia-Ukraine Conflict: Implications for Remittance flows to Ukraine and Central Asia. Dilip Ratha Eung, Ju Kim // <https://blogs.worldbank.org/peoplemove/russia-ukraine-conflict-implications-remittance-flows-ukraine-and-central-asia> (access date: 25.12.2022)

Based on the above, it is fair to assume that there will be structural changes in migration flows from the Kyrgyz Republic and Uzbekistan due to world events. Thus, looking at the dynamics of money transfers, we can note a decrease in this indicator in 2020, primarily due to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. A year earlier, Kyrgyzstan was negatively affected by the restriction introduced by Russia on the amount of money transfers (for one person - no more than 100,000 rubles per month). In addition, in 2022 the Republic of Korea increased the number of quota places from 1,000 to 1,800 for employment of citizens of Kyrgyzstan⁷⁴. In this regard, it is likely that there will be an increase in the share of money transfers received from Korea in the structure of the countries' GDP.

Figure 17. Dynamics of money transfers received by countries (in % of GDP)



Source: World Bank staff estimates based on IMF balance of payments data, and World Bank and OECD GDP estimates

Migrant workers from Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan earn an average of \$1500-2000 per month in South Korea⁷⁵. Based on the social portrait of a migrant worker from these countries, they come from poor families (taking into account their income before money transfers).

⁷⁴ South Korea increased quotas for employment of citizens of Kyrgyzstan // <https://kyrtag.kg/ru/news/yuzhnaya-koreya-velichila-kvoty-dlya-trudoustroystva-grazhdan-kyrgyzstana> (access date: 25.12.2022)

⁷⁵ Kyrgyzstanis receive \$2,000 from us - conversation with Korean Ambassador to the Kyrgyz Republic // <https://ru.sputnik.kg/20190404/southern-korea-posol-intervyu-1043860739.html> (access date: 25.12.2022)

However, the transfers sent by migrants allow their families to live at a moderate level of income. Money transfers are mostly used for consumption. In surveys, most migrants indicate that they left because their families needed money or because they lacked employment opportunities in their home country. Migrants and their families rarely see money transfers as motivation for savings and investment. On the contrary, all money transfers received are used for consumption, family holidays, and rarely for the purchase of real estate⁷⁶.

These facts indicate the need for migrants to have access to various financial services (not only money transfers) and to understand how to use them, as well as the need of migrant family members to use the funds efficiently and rationally in terms of household management.

Table 15. Money transfers in Kazakhstan received from abroad by country, million KZT

Country	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August
Republic of Korea	2 094,40 (2nd place)	2 446,70 (3rd place)	3 585,70 (4th place)	5 941,80 (3rd place)	2 935,70 (4th place)	3 357,70 (5th place)	3 357,70 (5th place)	3 438,40 (5th place)
Russian Federation	1 623,5	2 224,7	4 562,2	18 311,2	45 569,1	66 858,9	66 858,9	33 226,3
Uzbekistan	2 510,8	3 518,5	4 320,9	3 291,2	2 623,3	3 917,4	3 917,4	4 661,9
USA	1 926,8	2 467,9	3 734,2	8 316,1	3 331,6	3 467,6	3 467,6	3 986,5
Kyrgyzstan	1 413,5	2 222,2	2 415,0	4 981,1	8 072,1	6 498,1	6 498,1	17 746,0
Germany	955,0	1 229,9	1 856,7	3 268,0	1 407,3	1 470,7	1 470,7	1 514,1
Turkey	723,7	938,8	1 065,9	1 941,3	1 110,0	1 315,7	1 315,7	1 789,7
Georgia	229,8	275,3	344,0	452,5	358,1	499,2	499,2	542,1
Israel	203,3	237,7	372,3	-	-	-	-	364,6
France	182,2	-	313,1	478,3	502,4	629,1	629,1	-
UAE	-	267,1	-	475,1	395,9	592,7	592,7	-
Other	1 731,7	2 145,0	3 013,6	5 011,4	2 871,9	3 328,8	3 328,8	3 414,2
Overall result	13 594,7	17 973,7	25 583,6	52 467,0	69 177,5	91 936,0	91 936,0	71 393,6

Source: National Bank of the Republic of Kazakhstan⁷⁷

Table 16. Money transfers in Kyrgyzstan received from abroad by country, million USD

Country	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August
Far Abroad countries	4,7	5,0	13,3	12,4	10,9	12,8	11,0	13,2
Russian Federation	171,9	182,6	140,1	242,7	246,2	304,4	259,5	288,4
USA	3,8	3,6	3,9	5,2	5,2	4,1	4,8	5,4
Kazakhstan	0,4	0,3	0,3	0,3	0,2	0,3	0,1	0,2
Other	3,8	3,9	4,2	5,4	5,3	4,4	4,8	5,6
Overall result	177,0	187,6	153,4	255,2	257,2	317,2	270,6	301,6

Source: Central Bank of the Kyrgyz Republic⁷⁸

⁷⁶ Kyrgyz Republic: A sustainable recovery... in the face of existing shortcomings. In the area of special attention: Labor migration // <https://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/987271517230056742/pdf/Economic-update-with-a-special-focus-on-labor-migration>. (access date: 25.12.2022)

⁷⁷ Official website of the National Bank of the Republic of Kazakhstan //URL: <https://www.nationalbank.kz/ru> (access date: 02.11.2022)

⁷⁸ Official website of the National Bank of the Kyrgyz Republic //URL: <https://www.nbkr.kg/index.jsp?lang=RUS> (access date: 02.11.2022)

Table 17. Money transfers received from abroad by countries in RU, million USD

Country	Q1 2020	Q1 2021	Q1 2022
Republic of Korea	49,8 (3rd place)	69,6 (4th place)	66,5 (4th place)
Russian Federation	766,1	967,2	969,4
USA	49,5	104,6	116,7
Kazakhstan	54,8	88,3	93,7
Turkey	46,5	53,1	48,7
Israel	23,7	35,9	40,3
UAE	10,3	11,2	9,7
Kyrgyzstan	7,8	10,3	9,8
Sweden	8,1	10,7	10,2
Ukraine	3,7	4,1	3,5
Switzerland	1,5	1,4	34,0
Other	59,6	60,9	63,2
Overall result	1,081,4	1,417,3	1,465,7

Source: Central Bank of the Republic of Uzbekistan⁷⁹

Use of Financial Services by Migrants in Korea

In May 2022, Korean online bank Toss Bank launched a bank account opening service for foreign residents with a registration card. At the same time, transaction fees and spending limits on debit cards, as well as deposit rates, are the same for both foreigners and locals. The difference is that there is no possibility of getting a unsecured loan for foreigners. The only problem for foreigners may be that while the app is released in Korean⁸⁰.

2.6 Expert opinion and public discussion on existing regulations

Kazakhstan. The issue of streamlining labor migration between the two countries is becoming a constant topic of discussion in wide circles. From the interview of the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Kazakhstan in the Republic of Korea B. Dyusenbayev (19.07.2021): "In the late 90's and early 2000's there was a program called "Industrial Trainings", in which Kazakhstan also participated. According to available data, at that time up to 40% of the quota allocated to our country, was not used". According to the ambassador, with the introduction of the EPS program, Kazakhstan did not sign a quota agreement, most likely due to lack of demand for the previous one. If you look at the statistics, the largest number of undocumented aliens are in those countries with which agreements on labor permits have been signed. Negotiations were held between Kazakhstan and Korea to attract our citizens for seasonal work up to 3 months (labor in the fields, fishing). But, according to the official representative: "Korean government prefers to invite migrants from Southeast Asia because of their experience in these spheres"⁸¹. There are still no clear agreements between the countries on the recruitment of migrant workers under the EPS program. The Kazakh side notes that in the opinion of the Korean government the EPS program requires updating and does not solve the problem of undocumented migration⁸².

⁷⁹ Official website of the Central Bank of the Republic of Uzbekistan // URL: <https://cbu.uz/ru/> (access date: 02.11.2022)

⁸⁰ Korea launches first digital lender that allows foreigners to open accounts // <https://vseokoree.com/news/toss> (access date: 02.11.2022)

⁸¹ The Land of the Morning Arbeit: Life of Kazakhstani Illegals | Special Report - YouTube https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9ihc9f_vZ44 (access date: 02.11.2022)

⁸² Labor Migration from Kazakhstan to South Korea: Rumors and Facts - Liter.kz // <https://liter.kz/136217-2/> (access date: 02.11.2022)

Kyrgyzstan. The main problem for Kyrgyzstan was the low interest of South Korean employers in migrant workers from Kyrgyzstan. The problem was discussed at a meeting of representatives of diplomatic services of the two states in 2018⁸³.

Currently, according to N. Bazarbayev, Deputy Minister of Labor, Social Welfare and Migration of the Kyrgyz Republic, Kyrgyzstan managed to significantly increase the quota size from 500 people in 2018 to 1,800 people in 2022. For 15 years more than 5 thousand labor contracts have been obtained by citizens of the Kyrgyz Republic⁸⁴.

Uzbekistan. Migration cooperation with Korea has a relatively long and successful history of organized labor recruitment. Currently, Uzbeks are the fifth largest national group in Korea. At the same time, expert reports note that despite the objective benefits of the EPS labor recruitment program, it has not always gone smoothly⁸⁵. The recruitment procedure encouraged bribery and corruption as the supply of labor greatly exceeded the number of visas envisioned⁸⁶. In addition, public organizations and NGOs actively discussed the working conditions under which Uzbek migrants work and how their rights are protected. In this regard, the two governments have sought to expand organized forms of recruitment through increased quotas, as well as offering additional modes of recruitment, such as seasonal work. For example, Uzbekistan is the only Central Asian country with which the Republic of Korea has signed an agreement to recruit seasonal workers in 2021⁸⁷.

Conclusion

As the working-age population of the CA region increases, the issue of quality education and the acquisition of skills that are readily applicable in the labor market remain important. The demographic dividend in the form of the age structure of the population must be fully combined with new technologies, digitalization, and increased skill requirements. In the existing development systems of CA countries with poor institutions, low incomes, and high levels of unemployment and poverty, the processes of migration outflow are inevitable.

On the one hand, external labor migration makes up for the lack of jobs in the country. However, the other side of this process is the human capital wash out from the country, the aggravation of the problem of migrants' vulnerability abroad, and the dependence of their money transfers on economic and political processes in the world. Settlement of administrative issues of state policy of CA countries on the issues of external labor migration remains an important area of activity for the coming years.

Living abroad, migrants have a real opportunity to become a powerful development factor for their countries of origin. Their contribution is not limited to money transfers, but has the potential to transfer skills, knowledge, technological innovation, and business culture. All this contributes significantly to trade, investment, research and innovation. It is proposed to create a special program for migrants wishing to do business in their countries, which will promote the development of technology and the creation of new additional jobs. To provide advisory, administrative, and legal assistance for doing business as part of the program.

As the study has shown, informal structures such as migrant networks are more effective in organizing migration and employment in host countries. Formally organized diasporas,

⁸³ Labor migrants from the KR are not in demand in South Korea - they will be advertised (akchabar.kg) // <https://www.akchabar.kg/ru/news/trudovye-migranty-iz-kr-ne-vostrebovany-v-yuzhnoj-koree-ih-budut-reklamirovat/?ysclid=lanjut059h484702598> (access date: 02.11.2022)

⁸⁴ Labor Ministry: Migrant workers can earn up to \$200 million in South Korea - VESTI.KG - News in Kyrgyzstan // <https://vesti.kg/obshchestvo/item/100691-mintruda-kr-trudovye-migranty-mogut-zarabotat-v-yuzhnoj-koree-do-200-mln-dollarov.html> (access date: 02.11.2022)

⁸⁵ Assessing the Future of Uzbek Labor Migration – Prague Process // https://www.icmpd.org/file/download/48108/file/Prague%2520Process%2520Policy%2520Brief_Evaluating%2520the%2520ofuture%2520of%2520Uzbek%2520Labour%2520migration%2520RU.pdf (access date: 02.11.2022)

⁸⁶ Uzbek officials suspected of taking \$20 million in bribes to hire migrants in South Korea (currenttime.tv) // <https://www.currenttime.tv/a/uzbekistan-vzyatka-migrant-job/29625705.html> (access date: 02.11.2022)

⁸⁷ «Glad to send home \$1150 a month» - Uzbek migrant workers return to Korea - Spot // <https://www.spot.uz/ru/2021/07/08/korea/> (access date: 02.11.2022)

migrant communities can cooperate with local and central government agencies in order to transmit more correct data, to identify acute problems of communities. Better public policy requires more qualitative data on the dynamics of migrant labor activity and the problems encountered in their adaptation.

The creation of a specialized ministry dealing with diasporas, citizens living and working abroad will make it possible to use the knowledge and resources of migrant communities for economic growth and social development in their countries of origin.

In addition, the gender aspect of migration deserves special attention. A high gap is observed in countries where there is EPS system of recruitment of labor migrants. The size of the quota determines the size of the gender gap. There is a need to create favorable conditions for the arrival of migrant family members and the opportunity to stay for the duration of their labor stay and to work together in Korea.

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CHAPTER 3. UNDOCUMENTED MIGRATION

Introduction

The Korean government estimates that one in five foreigners in South Korea has undocumented migrant status. More than 2 million foreigners live in the country, the share of undocumented migrants was 15.5% in 2019, and exceeded 20% in 2022. The Korean immigration system allows for an influx of migrants, and long-term measures are needed to regulate and effectively manage the migrant population while respecting their fundamental rights⁸⁸.

The process of labor migration in Korea is not always safe and fair. Potential migrants from Central Asia rely on unverified information about job opportunities, on “inspirational” stories of friends, family members, bloggers, private agencies providing intermediary services. Most often, these people are not well informed and do not know about the existence or absence of legal channels for organized and orderly labor migration. In addition, they often face falsification of documents, false promises regarding the nature and conditions of work. The social status and level of education of the majority of migrants often limit their access to the legal and institutional environment.

Any problems associated with the employer can lead not only to the loss of a job, but also to the loss of migration status (if any) and immediate deportation. If non-work aspects of a migrant’s life (such as accommodation, mobility, social and financial services) are also the responsibility of employers or intermediaries, then workers have no control over them and are even more vulnerable to unethical recruitment practices.

Thus, workers without a work permit suffer the worst of all workers, as they are not covered by labor laws and do not have access to social benefits. Their activity is considered as an element of the informal economy.

The core of the empirical base of this study is in-depth interviews with labor migrants from Central Asia with undocumented status. All interviewed migrants at some stage of their migration had an unregistered status, but not in all cases at the time of the study. Access to the interviewed migrants was carried out in various ways: by the “snowball” method, through public associations and organizations, through relatives, family members, etc.

3.1 Undocumented or illegal migration: attitude of the Korean government

It is essential to begin by clarifying the term “illegality” in the context of migration policy. Most international institutions reject the term “illegal” for several reasons. First of all, it is impossible to consider all migrants who carry out their activities unofficially as criminals. Secondly, respect for the rights of migrants, regardless of their status, remains an important point. Thirdly, in the case of asylum-seekers, their status may be in an irregular situation, which generally threatens the legitimacy of their application.⁸⁹

Official documents in Korea use the concept of “undocumented” migration. In turn, the entire system of migration legislation is based on the principle of regulating unregistered migration on the basis that foreign workers without documents are also people.⁹⁰

Political discussions around the topic of whether South Korea should be more open to foreign labor are heavily covered in the media. A survey conducted by the East Asian Institute, a think tank in Seoul, shows that South Koreans are less enthusiastic about accepting foreigners. In 2010, about 60% said they would like the country to become more multicultural.

⁸⁸ 1 out of 5 foreign nationals in Korea are undocumented residents // https://www.koreatimes.co.kr/www/nation/2022/09/281_335432.html (access date: 02.11.2022)

⁸⁹ Krenn, Manfred and Bettina Haidinger. “Un(der)documented migrant labour - characteristics, conditions and labour market impacts Thematic report prepared under the theme ‘Migration flows and labour market impacts’.” (2009).

⁹⁰ 1 out of 5 foreign nationals in Korea are undocumented residents // https://www.koreatimes.co.kr/www/nation/2022/09/281_335432.html (access date: 02.11.2022)

By 2020, that number had fallen to just under 50%, largely due to economic instability. South Korea intends to create an immigration bureau responsible for the affairs of migrants — a role currently shared by 12 different ministries — which will facilitate the development of a unified policy. But its focus is still on highly skilled workers. Officials also note that the country's currency is significantly weak against the dollar, leaving migrants with nothing to send home. They also lack the main attraction that other rich countries have: the existing large migrant communities. Integration is more difficult than in many other places. Learning Korean requires more effort and offers fewer opportunities than learning English. To such barriers is added the feeling that migrants are not needed in society.⁹¹

Figure 18. Screenshot of news regarding the discussion of the South Korean parliaments on the problem of undocumented migrants



Source: (114) Why S. Korea has almost 400,000 undocumented foreign workers // https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VJQO3LHBH_M (access date: 02.11.2022)

3.2 Methods of entry

The lack of a visa does not seem to potential labor migrants a serious obstacle. Most, using legal methods of entry - tourist, visitor visas. At the end of the validity period of the visa, migrants go into an illegal situation. It is not difficult to prepare the documents necessary for entry. There is an extensive network of commercial structures that help in obtaining fictitious invitations for study, treatment, and tourism. To achieve the goal, many resorts to the services of fraudulent organizations, the cost can reach tens of thousands of dollars.

⁹¹ Japan and South Korea are allowing in some foreign workers // <https://www.economist.com/asia/2022/11/03/japan-and-south-korea-are-allowing-in-some-foreign-workers> (access date: 02.11.2022)

Table 18. Structure of undocumented labor migration

Legal entry		Illegal entry	
<i>Legal stay</i>	<i>Illegal stay</i>	Through border control points (with forged or defective documents)	Bypassing border control points
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • change of residence status • conclusion of a fictitious marriage • obtaining the status of "refugee" 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> violation of the rules of stay violation of the terms of stay 		
UNDOCUMENTED LABOR ACTIVITY			

Legal entry and violation of the terms and rules of stay

The main legal ways to South Korea: tourism, training, employment contracts, treatment, business trips, personal trips (visit to relatives). Then a significant proportion of migrants become undocumented migrants, as they lose their status, violating the terms of stay or the rules of stay. Many migrant workers who have worked under formal employment contracts do not leave Korea after the end of the terms of the contract.

From the interview:

"I have a relative there, my cousin brother, he has been there for 10 years already. In the beginning, he worked legally. But it turns out that the contract can be extended only twice. Then as the contract ends, they have to leave and wait for the return invitation. It turns out that the brother married an illegal girl there and remained there as an illegal migrant" (male, 37).

Visa-free entry

In recent years, many citizens of **Kazakhstan** have been massively going to South Korea to work illegally. They are not afraid of hard physical work, nor the threat of deportation, nor difficulties in adaptation since many of them do not know the Korean language. The existence of a visa-free regime, the agreement on which was signed between the Republic of Korea and Kazakhstan in 2014, Provides as follows: "Citizens of the state of one Party who are in possession of valid travel documents and do not intend to carry out work or missionary activities, study in educational institutions or reside in the territory of the state of the other Party shall be exempt from the requirements for obtaining visas for entry, stay, exit or transit through the territory of the state of the other Party. The duration of each such stay may not exceed **thirty (30)** calendar days"⁹².

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Korea suspended the visa-free regime. However, from April 1, 2022, entry was resumed, but the list of mandatory requirements included the presence of permission from the electronic system for authorizing the entry of foreign citizens "K-ETA"⁹³.

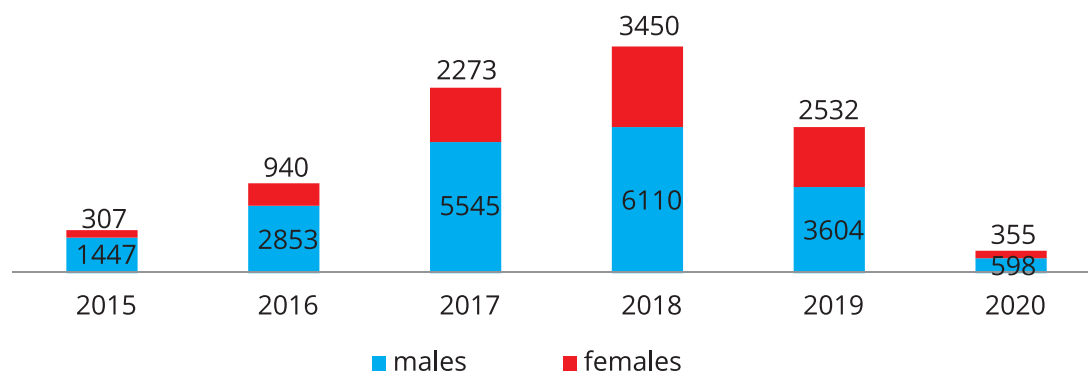
According to the Statistical Office of South Korea, since mid-2016, the number of Kazakhstan citizens arriving in Korea on a tourist visa has increased dramatically. These figures increased significantly by 2018, during the Winter Olympic Games. However, by 2019, there is a sharp decrease in the number of men arriving under the visa-free regime from Kazakhstan to Korea. It is significant that during this period more than a thousand people returned to Kazakhstan, taking advantage of the "green corridor" announced by the Korean authorities.

⁹² On approval of the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Government of the Republic of Korea on the mutual abolition of visa requirements - IPS «Adilet» // <https://adilet.zan.kz/rus/docs/P1400001083> (access date: 02.11.2022)

⁹³ Welcome - K-ETA // <https://www.k-eta.go.kr/portal/apply/index.do> (access date: 02.11.2022)

The number of deported Kazakhstan citizens, according to the representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan, significantly exceeds this figure⁹⁴.

Figure 19. Dynamics of the number of Kazakhstan citizens under the visa-free regime (Visa Waiver) 2015-2020



Source: Commission for Statistics of Korea // <http://kostat.go.kr/portal/eng/index.action> (access date: 02.11.2022)

From the interview:

“in general, I learned about the opportunity to work in Korea in my village. I found out that there is a visa-free regime for up to 30 days. After that, you will become an illegal immigrant. At first, I worked legally for 1 month, then, I continued to work illegally” (male, 28),

they asked the purpose of the visit, I said that I am tourist. They asked what your profession is, where you work in ... I said that I am a maternity nurse, a doctor, showed my beautiful photos and what I have. They were surprised and excited, they said “welcome”. It turns out that after teachers, doctors get the highest salaries in Korea. So, they thought I was sent on a trip, I could afford it. How could they have known I was going to stay in Korea?” (female, 32).

In the case of **Kyrgyzstan** and **Uzbekistan**, the countries do not have visa-free entry agreements with the Korean government. Very often, labor migrants from these countries who have received citizenship of the Russian Federation or Kazakhstan use the bilateral agreements of these two states on a visa-free regime to enter Korea. Thus, according to experts, a third of Kyrgyzstan migrants working in Russia are already citizens of the Russian Federation. Countries do not officially recognize dual citizenship, but in practice, most migrants can have passports of two states⁹⁵. Working in Russia as labor migrants, many natives of Central Asia received citizenship not only to facilitate the employment process, but also to solve everyday issues: enrolling children in kindergartens, schools, obtaining privileges in social security (“maternity capital”⁹⁶, benefits, pensions). With the serious deterioration of the geopolitical and economic situation in Russia, many have chosen to take advantage of visa-free entry to Korea for employment. The visa-free regime for Russians does not exceed 60 calendar days. Many migrants prefer to get to the Korean Peninsula by ferry, which departs from the port city of Vladivostok and arrives in the bay of the city of Donghae. It is believed that it is much easier to pass border control at the port. Crossing the border of the state under the guise of tourists, once in Korea, migrants illegally get a job.

⁹⁴ A thousand Kazakhstanis returned from Korea to their homeland on the initiative of the «green corridor» | informburo.kz // <https://informburo.kz/novosti/tysyacha-kazahstancev-vernulas-iz-korei-na-rodinu-po-iniciative-zelyonyy-koridor.html?ysclid=lawl44mkkkr770416267> (access date: 02.11.2022)

⁹⁵ Dual citizenship. What does a person who has two passports need to know - | 24.KG // https://24.kg/obschestvo/78753_dvoynoe_grajdanstvo_chno_nujno_znat_cheloveku_imeyuschemu_dva_pasporta/?ysclid=law3jvqc0623159814 (access date: 02.11.2022)

⁹⁶ «Maternity (family) capital» is one of the measures of state support in the Russian Federation. In 2021, for families at the birth of 1 child, the amount of cash assistance is 483,881.83 ₸ (~8064\$), at birth of 2 children - 639 431,83 ₸ (~10657\$) // https://www.gosuslugi.ru/situation/birth/child_payments_and_benefits/family_capital_management (access date: 02.11.2022)

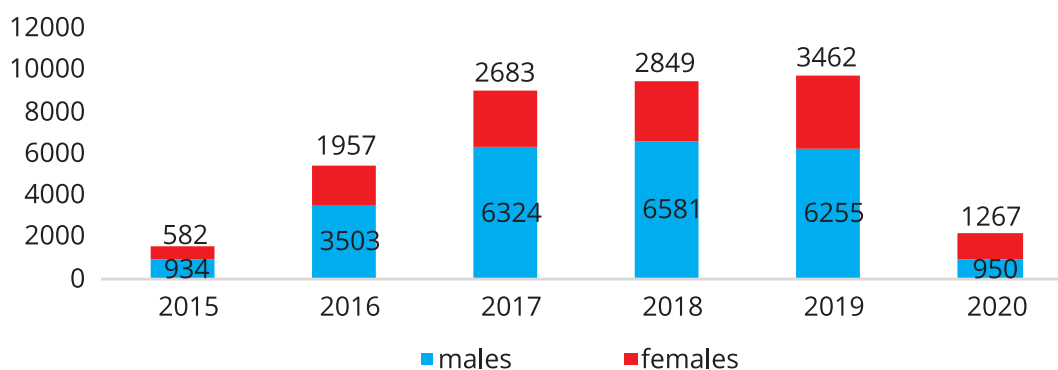
Figure 20. Ferry to South Korea from Vladivostok



Source: Ferry Tickets to South Korea - FregatAero - <https://www.fregataero.ru/tury/aziya/yuzhnaya-koreya/852-prodazha-biletov-na-parom-v-yaponiyu-i-yu-koreyu> (access date: 02.11.2022)

Based on the data presented, a significant gender gap from 2016 to 2019 suggests that many applicants for a tourist visa go to Korea to work and, as a rule, they are men.

Figure 21. Dynamics of tourists with a Russian passport (Visa Waiver) 2015-2020



Source: Commission for Statistics of Korea // <http://kostat.go.kr/portal/eng/index.action> (access date: 02.11.2022)

Forgery of documents, fictitious marriages

The practice of changing nationality and the use of fictitious data on parents have become widespread. In 2015, during a raid in Korea, Kyrgyzstanis were detained who illegally obtained H-2 work visas. They changed the data in the passports, and also provided forged documents, indicating that their grandparents are ethnic Koreans⁹⁷.

Most violators obtain forged documents using fictitious marriages with ethnic Koreans. In 2017, more than a dozen Kyrgyzstan citizens, using the services of an intermediary company, concluded fictitious marriages with ethnic Koreans and changed passport data. Having paid more than \$ 6,000 for services, Kyrgyzstan citizens, who became ethnic Koreans, could not go to work in South Korea, having received a refusal at the Embassy. According to the victims, the firm to which they turned for services had close contacts with the state authorities of the country. In accordance with the legislation of Kyrgyzstan, every citizen has the right to change his name, but this requires an important reason, for example, to take the surname of the spouse⁹⁸.

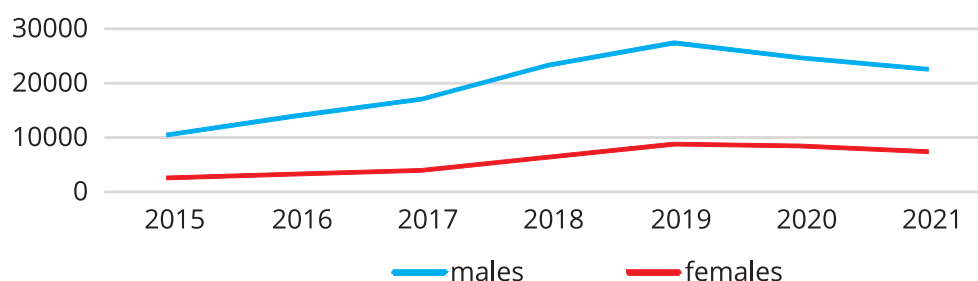
⁹⁷ Kyrgyzstanis who entered the country on fake visas are on trial in South Korea, | 24.KG // https://24.kg/obschestvo/48980_vyujnoy_koree_sudyat_kyirgyzstantsev_vyehavshih_vstranu_popoddelynim_vizam/?ysclid=lb1mjtogls957143875 (access date: 02.11.2022)

⁹⁸ How did Kyrgyz become Koreans? (azattyk.org) // https://www.azattyk.org/a/kyrgyz_korey_labour_migrants/28297791.html (access date: 02.11.2022)

G-1 visa, or “refugee” status

One of the ways to legalize status in South Korea is to obtain the status of a «refugee», which is assigned in cases where there is evidence that a person was persecuted in their homeland for national, religious or political reasons. Asylum seekers are not allowed to work for the first six months from the date of application. Employment is possible with a permit.

Figure 22. Dynamics of obtaining a G-1 visa, by gender, 2015-2021



Source: Commission for Statistics of Korea, <http://kostat.go.kr/portal/eng/index.action> (access date: 02.11.2022)

The G-1 visa is divided into different categories. For example: treatment for an accident at work and a family member (G-1-1) undergoing treatment because of an illness or accident, or the guardian of such a person. (G-1-2), trial participation (G-1-3), refugee status (G-1-5), victim of prostitution, etc. (G-1-11), treatment and recovery visa/patient (G-1-10).

The Republic of Korea acceded to the international Convention relating to the Status of Refugees in December 1992 and became the first country in East Asia to adopt its own refugee law in 2012⁹⁹. The number of applications is increasing every year and in 2019 a total of 15452 people applied for asylum.

Between 1994 and 2021, the number of applications for refugee status was 73,383. Kazakhstan is in second place in terms of the number of asylum applications submitted – 7,181 (9.8%). Most applicants were citizens of China – 7452 (10.2%), Russia – 6 923 (9.4%), Pakistan – 6 613 (9.0%) and Egypt – 5 063 (6.9%). As of the end of 2021, 2,341 applications were submitted, among which the most frequently applied were citizens of China – 301 (12.9%), Bangladesh – 233 (10.0%), Nigeria – 164 (7.0%), India – 148 (6.3%) and Pakistan – 131 (5.6%)¹⁰⁰.

The procedure for obtaining a visa for refugees is quite complicated. Refugee status is granted only if there is convincing evidence that a person has been persecuted in his homeland. The story of a Kyrgyz man who claimed threats from the mafia in his homeland ended with a refusal to obtain refugee status. The man entered South Korea on a tourist visa, and after the expiration of the visa, he applied under the UN International Convention. However, the court ruled that the case did not fall within the scope of the convention and protection should be carried out by the law enforcement agencies of his home country¹⁰¹. Discrimination against sexual minorities is becoming a common story of migrants from Central Asia.

In addition, migrants often turn to various kinds of intermediaries to help in obtaining refugee status. So, in 2020, a Kazakhstan citizen who provides such services for foreigners was convicted. Criminals recruited migrants through mobile messengers, by sending out ads about assistance in obtaining refugee status in South Korea. For the registration of false documents,

⁹⁹ UNHCR Korea Fact Sheet - March 2020 // <https://reporting.unhcr.org/sites/default/files/UNHCR%20Korea%20Fact%20Sheet%20-%20March%202020.pdf> (access date: 02.11.2022)

¹⁰⁰ Refugee data finder - UNHCR // <https://www.unhcr.org/refugee-statistics/> (access date: 02.11.2022)

¹⁰¹ «Threatened by the Mafia». The Kyrgyz man asked to be granted refugee status in Korea. He was denied. // https://kaktus.media/.doc/431679_ygrojaet_mafiia._kyrgyzstanec_poprosil_.dat_emy_statys_bejenca_v_koree._emy_otkazali..html?ysclid=lazzvsrwcg693162397 (access date: 02.11.2022)

migrants paid from 1 to 1.5 million won. Among the participants in the criminal scheme were citizens of Kazakhstan, Russia and Uzbekistan¹⁰².

From the interview:

“you can legalize. Many of our people from Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, also Russia, they all apply for a visa G. While you have a valid visa, you come up with some reason why you do not want to return. You must come up with a story of why you can't go back to ... They will check. Of course, it's not free, I don't know how much it costs. I didn't apply. There are special lawyers who deal with this - Russian-speaking. So, they have to extend the visa every six months” (male, 37).

3.3 Factors of growth of undocumented migration

The process of deciding to travel to work in Korea begins with economic motives, the difference in wages between countries is significantly different. The desire to solve accumulated money problems is supported by a wide variety of success stories of friends, relatives, acquaintances, observation of the history of their successful change in the quality of life. Next, we will look at how labor migrants become part of the shadow labor market and what kind of elements of the migration infrastructure increase the flow of people who are ready to work in an informal status.

Broad migrant networks

Informal networks were an important and main channel for migrant workers to access to irregular work. These networks can take many forms: ethnic or religious communities, (former) employers, colleagues, friends, relatives, and neighbors.

However, of these, the most common sources of work in our survey were through contacts related to ethnic networks. These were the most successful paths to irregular and permanent work, and for most respondents, served as a starting point for entering the labor market in Korea.

From the interview:

“we came to a place where there were many Kazakhs who were already working and had learned everything. So, we didn't have any difficulties. Some people said they were starving, there was no job, there was nowhere to sleep. But we had everything ready. Because we came with money, we had an account, we booked a return ticket, a hotel, we had acquaintances. Together with friends, we found an apartment and prepared it. The next day, we were taken to work, I can say it wasn't too difficult for us. We have been taught everything, and slowly you begin to learn yourself» (female, 32),

“firstly, there are Kazakhs, and everyone helps each other. You can find them through the Internet, social networks” (male, 27),

“our citizens marry Koreans and have been living there for a long time. They already know the language and have citizenship. In any case, they are Kyrgyz people, and they will help Kyrgyz people. Of course, it's not free either, but they already know everything and can help. I haven't seen her, but mostly call her to ask for advice and she helps. Not only her, but there are also some people who are dealing with this issue. Well, as I remember they do it illegally.

I was just lucky that the people around me went through everything and they live there and mostly I asked them for help. They knew everything” (male, 37),

“when I lived in Moscow, my relative studied here, she told me about studying in Korea. I came from Moscow and began to study the Korean language, in three months I studied it, passed the exams” (male, 24),

“illegal immigrants often turn to those who have residence permits. For example, if you get sick or steal things, illegal immigrants are afraid to apply because of the risk that they will

¹⁰² Kazakhstani who helped illegal immigrants obtain refugee status detained in South Korea https://baigenews.kz/pomogavshiy_nelegalam_poluchit_status_bezhentsa_kazakhstanets_zaderzhan_v_yuzhnoy_koree_88552/ (access date: 02.11.2022)

be transferred to the migration police. If there are problems, they contact their friends, and take medicines through them" (male, 33),

"we have an Instagram page, which was opened by our Kazakhstan people. There you can find where to go for help if you do not know Korean, which hospital to go to, if you need medicines, where to open a bank account for illegal immigrants, where to go if your new passport has expired, and so on. I basically get all the information from there. Then if someone is in the hospital because of work, you can write it there. There are people who offer jobs. Basically, everyone writes there" (female, 32).

It is also possible to find job advertisements in social media pages. Among them, there are advertisements stating that employers can hire undocumented migrants.

Figure 23. Job advertisements for undocumented migrants (original text retained – translated from Russian)

<p>Paran (Choam) from Posyn 7 km car factory requires men and women up to 55 years old You can work without a visa; work is not hard. Accommodation and official registration are provided if you have a visa Schedule 6-1 For males. Day/night shifts from 08-00 to 20-00 women dayshift from 8-00 to 17-10 + overtime Work on weekends+ weekly bonus + monthly bonus Delivery from Choam terminal and Posyna Road 50.000 Salary: male 3.300- 3.800 female 2.700-3.000</p>	<p>City of Dangjin. men under 55 are required Assembly of excavators. Bolts and cable routing. Work with special equipment. After 6 months official employment (optional). Visa doesn't matter. Only Korean language speakers. Working hours: 08:00 ~ 17:00 ~ 22:00 (Weekends 4.5 hours) 9,160/hour + week + month bonuses There are always work on Saturdays and Sundays! (Optional) Salary on the 10th day. Monthly Average 3,800~4,500 Sanyeonggeum (bonus): 200% is paid monthly.</p>	<p>Gwangju For farming Accepted 5 men from 130 000₩ per day If work at sea Pays ₩160~180,000 per day The hostel is provided free of charge Meals provided Without VISA Service fee you can contact via Imo Whatsapp Telegram</p>
<p>City: Asan 아산시 Auto parts workshop needs family couples under 50 for long term, men and women, without visas Housing and food for free Day shift 07:30-18:10 (including 2 hours overtime) night shift Schedule: 18:20~05:00 (including 2 hours overtime) 05:00~07:00 (extended by 2 hours) Saturday - work day Sunday is a day off 2600.000~3000.000₩ maybe more depends on overtime work Payment once a month without weekends Week - day shift, week - night shift</p>	<p>ANSAN. Shiva. Need a permanent man. Foundry. time: 07:00 ~ 15:30 ~ 19:00 (overtime work - 3 hours) Payment at the end of working day: Short 90,000; with overtime work-140,000 Work on weekends - until 15:30 (135,000); until 17:00 (160,000); until 19:00 (183,000) Weekly and monthly bonuses of 90,000. Approximately 3,500,000~4,000,000 per month Visa doesn't matter. There is no delivery. The road is not paid.</p>	<p>City: Seosan 서산 Tofu factory. 2 men are needed. Age does not matter. Salary: 2700-3300 Payment day: 15-20 Opening hours: 08:00 ~ 19:00 Meals: lunch, breakfast and dinner Dormitory: free. Factory 3rd floor. Special offer: old-age pension, 4 basic insurances. If you have a visa. without a visa is also possible. There is a 13th salary. Call, write only whatsapp</p>

<p>Busan automotive parts work is not difficult 1 person Visa: not required Chugan from 08:00-20:00 Mon-Sat. Sunday - day off language is not required Salary 3000000 Out 21 Accommodation – “one-rooms”</p>	<p>Required girls, guys for the work in Mokpo (Shrimp factory). Working hours 8:00-17:30, 18:00. Daily payment M-130.000 w; F-100.000 w. After 18:00 there are overtime work, 1 hour 20.000 w Lunch is provided at work. We deliver around the city of Mokpo, from 5 or more people it is possible to deliver from Debul, Samo. Visa doesn't matter. Not an agent.</p>	<p>Incheon Namdong Kondan Woman required for permanent job 5/2, racking (suspension parts + blowing) 8:00-17:00 overtime work rarely Hour 9.160 + overtime work 13.740 Weekly and yearly bonus Visa does not matter, knowledge of the language at the level of understanding You can take an advance payment.</p>
<p>Looking for a full time male or female (work is not hard) Type of work: sorting plastic waste. Location: Hwaseong (30 minutes from Ansan) Payment: hour - 9,660; overtime work hour - 14,490 Weekday: 7:00 AM - 6:00 PM (2 hours overtime work) 106,000 won Saturday work day: 7:00 AM ~ 12:00 PM (5 hours) 72,000 won Have a weekly bonus (77,280) Monthly average 2,700,000~ Visa and age does not matter</p>	<p>Uiryeong city not far from Haman South Korea (경남 의령군) Elektra cable sorting and processing plant requires a 3 men under 60 years old Visa does not matter Housing provided per day 110.000 from 8:00-17: 30 payment once a week on Mondays the service is free</p>	<p>Yongin(용인) From the 13th, we need 4 men for a permanent position (20-40 years old) The essence of the work: Loading and unloading furniture Schedule: 08:00 - 17:00 (1 hour of overtime work guaranteed) 12,500 won per hour Overtime work - 18,750 won Bonuses VISA IS NOT IMPORTANT!</p>

Source: Social media networks

Role of intermediaries

In view of the rather complex passage of customs control in South Korea, potential labor migrants often turn to intermediaries who «help» in employment, provide services for the unimpeded passage of the border, form a fake tourist package. Intermediaries are paid for document preparation and consultation services, and they themselves generate profits through commission fees from employers for recruitment. Thus, they benefit from each employee hired and are motivated to create false advertising, spread false information about employment opportunities, thereby pushing them to decide to leave for earnings. The great demand for their services creates employment opportunities for a large number of agents and other third parties who facilitate recruitment. Future labor migrants incur large costs, many of them borrow money to pay the commissions required of them.

Sixty Kazakhstan citizens were deceived by a travel company in Almaty, which promised them assistance in obtaining an electronic permit to enter South Korea. The victims say that they are now in a desperate situation, as they took a loan of one and a half million tenge to pay for the services of intermediaries and they were deceived. People found advertising of the company's services through the on one of the Internet services¹⁰³.

¹⁰³ 60 Kazakhstanis became victims of fraudsters in South Korea // <https://khabar.kz/ru/news/obshchestvo/item/142103-60-kazakhstantsev-stali-zhertvami-moshennikov-v-yuzhnoj-koree> (access date: 02.11.2022)

Figure 24. Announcements of intermediaries about services

Виза G1 от 300 т.
 Анкета с описанием 300 т.
 Медосмотр с пропиской 400 т.
 Сопровождение адвоката 400 т.
 КОНФИДЕНЦИАЛЬНОСТЬ И КАЧЕСТВО ГАРАНТИРУЕМ.

ОФОРМЛЕНИЕ
К-ETA KOREA ELECTRONIC TRAVEL AUTHORIZATION

- Заполним К-ETA
- Забронируем гостиницу
- Оформление МЕДИЦИНСКОГО ПРИГЛАШЕНИЯ НА ОБСЛЕДОВАНИЕ в клинике Кореи
- Большая вероятность ОДОБРЕНИЯ!
- Пакет документов для прохождения корейской таможни

Гуманитарная виза G-1
СТОИМОСТЬ: 800.000 ₩

- ЛЕГАЛЬНАЯ ПРОПИСКА И ПРОЖИВАНИЕ
- МЕДИЦИНСКИЕ АНАЛИЗЫ
- ИСТОРИЯ
- ПОМОЩЬ В ЗАПОЛНЕНИИ АНКЕТЫ
- КОНСУЛЬТАЦИИ ПО ВСЕМ ВОПРОСАМ
- ЕСТЬ ГРУППА ОТЗЫВОВ В WHATSAPP

Translation:
 Visa G1 from 300 tenge
 Questionnaire with description – 300 tenge
 medical examination with registration – 400 tenge
 lawyer services – 400 tenge
 confidentiality and quality guaranteed

Translation:
 K-ETA Application

- filling out a K-ETA
- hotel reservation
- issuance of a medical invitation for an examination at a clinic in Korea
- higher chance of approval
- a package of documents for passing the Korean customs

Translation:
 Humanitarian visa G-1
 Cost: 800,000 won

- legal registration and residence
- medical tests
- history
- assistance in filling out the questionnaire
- advice on all matters
- WhatsApp group with reviews

Source: Telegram channel “Koreadagy QAZAQSTANDIKTAR”

Most intermediaries are hiding under the guise of travel companies, they are not difficult to find on social networks, through search engines. They have tempting offers with a salary of at least \$100 per day, emphasize that knowledge of the language and the availability of a visa are not mandatory, and the only condition is the presence of a passport. Intermediaries enter into a contract, which usually has no legal force. They provide plane or ferry tickets, instruct how to pass border control under the guise of a tourist, ask not to take working things, provide fake return tickets. In case of successful passage of customs control, a Russian-speaking agent meets migrants and delivers them to the place of work. As a rule, this is where the assistance and the provision of intermediary services ends. Foreigners working illegally in Korea may choose limited activities with low salaries and poor conditions.

For many migrants, a trip to Korea ends upon arrival at Incheon Airport. In 2019, Korea's immigration service did not let 5,000 Kazakhstanis into the country¹⁰⁴. According to officials, all the detained immigrants could not explain the purpose of their visit and, most likely, under the guise of tourists they wanted to get into the country for work.

Commercial Labor Exchanges

The practice of hiring through “arbeit” (temporary labor exchange), “samushil” (a firm for hire) is the most common employment among migrants working illegally. From an institutional point of view, the widespread use of commercial labor exchanges in Korea relieves entrepreneurs of the recruitment process by supplying them with unregistered migrants. This practice is observed in many areas, it is especially widespread in construction, agriculture, and services. As noted by migrants when settling through exchanges, there is no certain stability in employment. The hiring procedure was discriminatory for some of them. However, migrants who have shown themselves quite well in a particular activity build a long trusting relationship with both “samushil” and “sah jang” (manager at work) and receive certain privileges.

¹⁰⁴ Labor migration from Kazakhstan to South Korea: rumors and facts - Liter.kz // <https://liter.kz/136217-2/> (access date: 02.11.2022)

From the interview:

"we worked in one place for a long time, we were permanent employees. We had a problem - we didn't have a home to live. We came from another city, then we told the manager that we were tired on the road, we needed an apartment, but we did not have the opportunity to pay the deposit for the apartment. We do not have 1 million tenge. I said we would quit our jobs or buy an apartment. Then Sah jang asked, "Are you going to leave right away or you will work for a year?" He took a promise from us that we would not leave, we would not return to ... , and paid the deposit and rented us an apartment, which is near the job" (female, 32),

"when migrants are checked, if the authorities want to leave us at work, they warn us. If they (migration police) want to take us away, we do not go to work that day" (male, 27),

"they take you from home to work. All costs are payed by the employer. It's food, during the day, in the morning, at lunch, in the afternoon, drinks, well, these all are fully provided to you, the main thing is that you should work. At work, if an emergency situation will occur, they will fully compensate your treatment, sick leave. If you are injured by an employer's mistake, then you can stay at home and you will be paid fully as for working day. That's a big plus.

If they (migration police) come, employers themselves are interested in ensuring that such situations do not happen. Someone warns them in advance that tomorrow an inspection will come. Then employer warns us that tomorrow you cannot go to work, because there will be a check. If they see that employer giving us work illegally, employer can be fined a large amount.

My boss is that kind of person, if you have money problems, he can pay salary in advance. He takes care of us. If we are sick, he will take us to the hospital. We went to the sea there a couple of times. He provides all conditions" (male, 37).

Access to legal and social assistance

Korea's social protection strategy, which aims to ensure access to basic social and health services, is an important incentive to promote employment. The following areas are also of extreme relevance: the legal status of the individual, access to justice.¹⁰⁵

From the interview:

"there are special offices: if suddenly the salary was not paid to you, you can apply there. They do not look at whether you are illegal or legal, they will treat you the same way as legal citizens. They do not have the right to ask you for visa status. You just show your passport, you will have to prove that you really worked for this person and they will help you. You pay them a certain percentage of salary. Well, it's better than nothing" (male, 37),

"At work they provided us with masks, every week we took a test for coronavirus. We are illegal immigrants, although we do not have insurance, nor visas we had all this for free. One time we got sick with the coronavirus with one girl. I inform all citizens of ... who do not have a visa that if you get sick with coronavirus, do not run, no one will detain you in the immigration police. We stayed at home for three days, after which we were picked up by an ambulance and taken to a hospital in another city. We were met by an interpreter, X-rays were taken. We spent 11 days there. We were provided with new packaging bedding, clothes, clean water, a comb, hand cream, lotion, even slippers. We were like in a hotel. In each ward there is a tonometer, a device for measuring saturation, a thermometer, a telephone, they connected us to a chat where we wrote what our temperature, saturation, and pulse were. Four meals a day were left near the door (there were also fruits, milk). For 11 days we were isolated, did not violate the regime. We were there for free, and moreover they paid us compensation of 150 000 - 180 000 tenge. If someone had cards, they send money to the cards. Whoever didn't have a card, they were given cash. Everyone could go to the polyclinic near the place where you live and get it" (female, 32).

¹⁰⁵ Lopez-Calva, L., & Bussolo, M. (2016). Towards shared prosperity in Europe and Central Asia.

Opportunity to acquire skills

Labor migration helps to gain new knowledge, adopt production technologies, the culture of doing business mainly to unskilled foreign workers from Central Asia, who mainly come from rural areas.¹⁰⁶

From the interview:

“if you don't know anything, you'll be taught to be a carpenter. For example, I worked in a furniture factory as a carpenter. Now, for example, having arrived in ..., I know how to do this, I can construct furniture. It is said that your eyes will open if you see new places. Attitudes are changing” (male, 27),

“you gain very good experience. You see different kinds of productions. What Koreans make money on. You can see all this with your own eyes: how they do it all, how they do this work... I know all the technologies, at least 15% of what Koreans themselves earn on, how they raised their economy. I see factories, how to manage the work right, how people work here correctly and how much they can work” (male, 50),

“the production technology that I saw in Korea, we do not have such examples. I heard they have subsidies from the state at a small percentage. This is very good for beginners in this sphere” (male, 33).

3.4 Features of undocumented migration behavior of workers from Central Asia

Among the migrants from Central Asia, living and working in South Korea not officially, there are many people with higher education and qualifications.

From the interview:

“I heard a story from a man who had a child with infantile cerebral paralysis that he was standing in line for housing, but could not get it, he needed 20%. He decided to go to Korea and for 8 months earned 15 million tenge, paid off all debts and was going to buy a house. I asked my classmate, he worked in Korea, is it really possible to earn so much money there. He said that it is possible” (female, 32).

Migrants from Central Asian countries at the departure stage do not make clear decisions about the length of stay in South Korea. Initially, they plan to stay legally for the duration of their visa. Next, they plan the terms depending on the goals that they have set for themselves: to pay off the debt, buy a house, help parents, accumulate start-up capital to open a business, help children. The great opportunities that open up for migrants change their long-term plans:

From the interview:

“my plan is to build a house. All people who earn money will pour their money into Kazakhstan. In Kazakhstan, everyone buys and builds houses, I also save money for an apartment in Astana. At first, I thought that if I collected 20 percent, then I would have enough, but I changed my mind when I found out that there were many opportunities here. First, I came for 1 year, then I thought that if I don't take advantage of this opportunity now, then when? It is better that I visit once, create all the conditions for myself and then I will probably come back home” (female, 32),

“here is my plan for the future. When I first arrived, I thought that if I earn 20% of the money, I would come back in a year. Earn some money is not difficult. I got rid of my \$1.5 million loan. Now over the past 3 years I have about 20 million of money, 10 million is for the house, 10 million helped me to get rid of the new debt, I think I helped my parents” (female, 32),

“I thought I would come for 1-2 years, but I have been working for 5 years. My wife was with me. It's been eight months since I went back. I'll come back soon, too. It will be 1 year, maybe 2 years. I can't be there anymore. It's getting hard, I miss home” (male, 31),

¹⁰⁶ Mamytbek Uulu T. Aibashev M.J. Labor Migration and Human Resource Development in Kyrgyzstan <https://cyberleninka.ru/article/n/trudovaya-migratsiya-i-razvitie-chelovecheskih-resursov-kyrgyzstana> (access date: 30.11.2022).

“when my children grow up in the country, they can take care for themselves, I will immediately return to my country” (male, 50).

Many do not perceive their status of undocumented stay and the attendant difficulties as an obstacle to the continuation of the process of hired labor in Korea. Migrants emphasize that they do not see a difference in status, except for the lack of health insurance and the threat of deportation in case if the migration police will check them.

From the interview:

“first of all, it is easy to go there. Secondly, a good salary. If you compare Europe and Korea, in Korea the salary is higher. My brother is in Europe now. It is difficult for him to find a job; he does not know the language. And in Korea, there are places that are called exchanges. You go there, if you don't know the language there, if you're not an expert, you'll be hired for a dirty work. For example, they pay about \$100 a day. On average, they pay more than \$ 2,000 per month. Even if you do not know the language, you are not a specialist, you can earn money anyway” (male, 27),

“if you don't break the law, no one will come to you, no one will touch you, no one will check you. No one will come to you in the subway, there are a lot of policemen in the subway, cameras everywhere, it's a developed country. No one will touch you here when you walk at night. For example, if you forget your handbag or wallet when you get out of the subway, if you come back in an hour, it will still be there. I was very surprised no one would take anything from you...” (female, 32),

“I didn't notice the theft. No one picks up a wallet lying on the ground. Once, when I was sitting at the train station, a man put his empty wallet on the table, he sat next to me, then he left, took his belongings and money. There were no seats around, only two next to me were empty. Because of this purse, many Koreans do not come up and sit on this chair, believe that the this is someone else's place. It surprised me. I've heard Koreans say they don't know what a lock is. They were brought up this way from a young age. Therefore, hatred of each other does not mean taking away other people's property, I understood this” (male, 33),

“my opinion of Koreans over these 3 years is positive. Because we haven't met any people who give us problems. People treated me with warmth and hospitality everywhere” (female, 32).

During their stay in Korea, migrants retrain their qualities, the ability to bring large incomes becomes more valuable.

3.5 Response measures and results

Law enforcement agencies of South Korea are working to identify undocumented foreigners. Some of them were detained and deported. Brokers helping foreign nationals to enter the country illegally are also prosecuted, as are employers who hire undocumented immigrants¹⁰⁷. Often, foreigners who stay in the country for the purpose of tourism then go missing, and accordingly can go into hiding. In view of the fact that the undocumented labor market is developing and attracting more and more foreigners, the Minister of Justice of South Korea noted the need to create a special Agency: “The main prerequisite for the creation of an agency that controls the systematization of immigration policy is the establishment of the order of stay and the prevention of undocumented entry”.¹⁰⁸

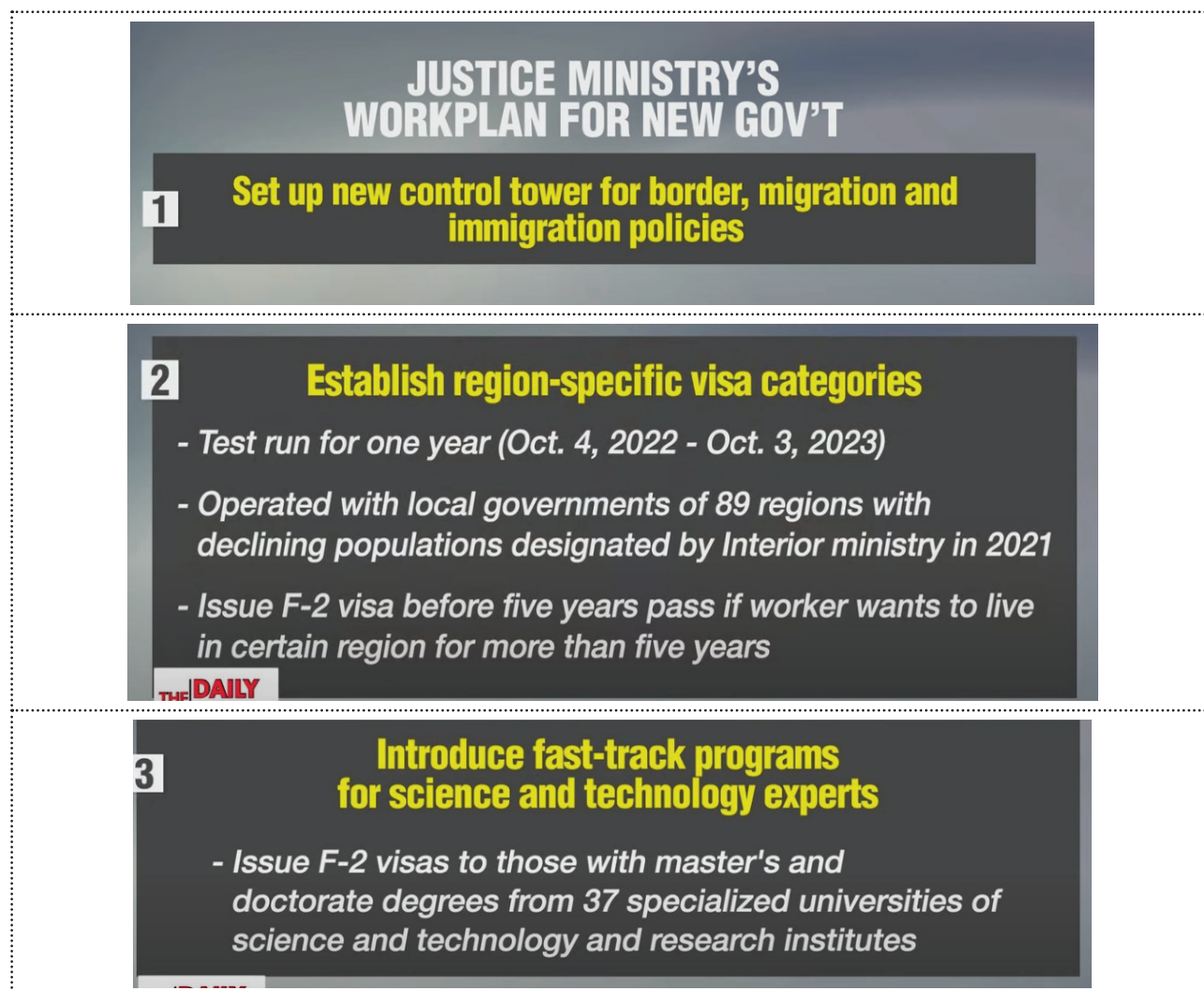
However, Korea planned to attract foreign migrants to rural areas where there was a shortage of labour. In addition, a F-2 regional visa will be issued to foreigners to work in the industries designated by local authorities. After five years, they will be given the opportunity to invite their spouse and children. But there are minimum requirements - knowledge of the Korean language and the availability of higher education, not lower than the bachelor's level.

¹⁰⁷ 887 undocumented foreign workers, brokers, employers caught in crackdown https://www.koreatimes.co.kr/www/nation/2022/08/113_334730.html (access date: 02.11.2022)

¹⁰⁸ 887 undocumented foreign workers, brokers, employers caught in crackdown https://www.koreatimes.co.kr/www/nation/2022/08/113_334730.html (access date: 02.11.2022)

It is planned to launch this project in the period from October 2022 to October 2023. In case of success, the project will be continued¹⁰⁹.

Figure 25. Justice Ministry's Workplan for new Gov't – plan to address the issue of undocumented migrants in South Korea



Source: (114) Why S. Korea has almost 400,000 undocumented foreign workers – YouTube // https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VJQO3LHBH_M (access date: 02.11.2022)

At the same time, the Korean government has introduced the responsibility of employers for the safety of workers, including foreign ones. In addition, special assistance programmes for foreigners had been introduced. For example, the “Village Lawyers for Foreigners Program”¹¹⁰ provides free legal advice to all foreigners who do not have access to legal services due to language barriers or lack of information. The program includes assistance for undocumented migrants.

There is also the “The Seasonal Worker Program”¹¹¹, which involves the legal hiring of foreign workers for a short period to fill the chronic shortage of labor in agriculture and fishing.

¹⁰⁹ Korea to attract immigrants to depopulated rural areas // https://www.koreatimes.co.kr/www/nation/2022/07/113_333535.html (access date: 02.11.2022)

¹¹⁰ Information>Our Policies>Village Lawyers for Foreigners Program https://www.immigration.go.kr/immigration_eng/1858/subview.do (access date: 02.11.2022)

¹¹¹ Information>Our Policies>The Seasonal Worker Program (SWP) https://www.immigration.go.kr/immigration_eng/1860/subview.do (access date: 02.11.2022)

The South Korean government has repeatedly noted that the weakening of control over undocumented migrants occurred during the pandemic, when all the country's means and forces were directed to the fight against coronavirus.

As the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Kazakhstan to Republic of Korea **Bakyt Dyusenbayev** noted: "For the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Embassy of Kazakhstan in the Republic of Korea, the protection of the interests and rights of citizens of our country is a key priority. The Consular Section of the Embassy works almost around the clock seven days a week, being in constant contact with compatriots, including those illegally staying in the country. The Embassy does not ignore any appeals, they go to the airport, to the provinces, police stations, prisons, clinics, etc. It should be noted that on the territory of South Korea currently resides more than 30 thousand citizens of Kazakhstan, including undocumented entrants, which implies a high level of consular action with limited human resources".¹¹²

According to experts, labor migrants are an important source of foreign exchange earnings in the economies of Central Asian countries. In this regard, it is important to take into account what political and legal support the state provides to its citizens. As Uzbek expert **Temur Umarov** notes: "We see how the leadership of Uzbekistan has revised its approach to migrants. The rhetoric has changed, a number of steps have been taken to facilitate the departure of citizens from the country and other measures have been taken. Centers for the training of migrants within the country were opened, where everyone could come, get all the necessary information, conclude some kind of contract with the host party. Steps have been taken to ensure that migratory flows are not interrupted. In addition, the government of Uzbekistan began to negotiate with other countries in order to diversify these flows, first of all, these are neighboring countries such as Kazakhstan, but also other countries such as South Korea, the countries of the Middle East, Japan, European Union, Israel, etc. If five years ago it was difficult to leave legally, today they have such tools".¹¹³

Nurbyubyu Kerimova, head of the Public Council of the State Migration Service of the Government of Kyrgyzstan, believes that "the state should predict and be ready to come to the aid of its citizens – labor migrants who find themselves in a difficult life situation". At the same time, the economies and labor markets of Central Asian countries are not able to accept labor migrants – "the state does not know what to do with these migrants, because the domestic market is oversaturated," **Kerimova** said. Pressure on migrants is exerted in connection with the situation in Russia. Presumably, in the coming years, Russia will cease to be a popular destination for labor migration.

Conclusion

Currently, 395,068 foreigners live without documents in Korea. As of September 2020, this is the highest rate that continues to grow. The impetus for the dynamics of migration processes was given by the introduction of a visa-free regime for visiting the Republic of Korea. Many citizens of Central Asia, taking advantage of this opportunity, neglected the restriction of stay and joined the ranks of undocumented immigrants. The reasons for undocumented migration and the search for ways to apply for asylum without reason are the simplest – the opportunity to earn money, high living standards and the degree of social protection in Korea.

The Government of the Republic of Korea is making efforts to control the flow of irregular migration on the one hand and, on the other hand, to adhere to the principles of respect for the fundamental rights of migrants.

¹¹² Labor migration from Kazakhstan to South Korea: rumors and facts // <https://liter.kz/136217-2/> (access date: 02.11.2022)

¹¹³ Labor Migration from Central Asia: Constantly Count on Russia – flawed strategy // <https://cabar.asia/ru/trudovaya-migratsiya-iz-tsentralnoj-azii-postoyanno-rasschityvat-na-rossiyu-oshibochnaya-strategiya> (access date: 02.11.2022)

Figure 26. Rules of Special Voluntary Departure of the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Korea for Illegally Residing Foreigners

The Ministry of Justice has entered into force the rule of special voluntary departure for illegally residing foreigners		
Illegally visiting foreigners who voluntarily leave from November 7, 2022 till February 28, 2023, are exempt from a fine and a ban on entry		
Content		
<p>- Illegally residing foreigners leaving before February 28 2023, are exempt from a fine and a ban on entry</p> <p>* except for foreigners who became illegally residing after November 7, 2022, illegal immigrants, foreigners who used false passports, criminal offenders, foreigners, those who violated the quarantine rules, failed to comply with the departure order, etc.</p> <p>Documents for a voluntary application - Passport, Application for voluntary departure, exit ticket</p> <p>Illegally residing foreigners can leave, freed from a fine and a ban on entry by submitting an application for voluntary departure online, or by personally visiting the Immigration Office, based on the existing "Rule on voluntary departure"</p> <p>The application must be submitted 3 days (except weekends) before the deadline for voluntary departure.</p> <p>For more information, please contact the Information Center for Foreigners, Ministry of Justice (1345), Hi Korea (http://www.hikorea.go.kr) and the website of the Immigration Service (http://www.immigration.go.kr)</p>		
Phone number	Time (work days)	Available languages for consultation and translation
1345 Information Center for Foreigners	09:00~22:00	English, Chinese
	09:00~18:00	Japanese, Vietnamese, Thai, Indonesian, Russian, Mongolian, Bangladeshi, Pakistani, Nepali, Cambodian, Burmese, French, German, Spanish, Filipino, Arabic, Sinhalese

The role of migration infrastructure (agents, labor exchanges, migration networks) in overcoming barriers in the trajectory of labor migration of an undocumented worker plays a key role. It is necessary to work out the issues of regulation of each element of this infrastructure. As long as the entire system of relations between migrants and interested persons exists, "favorable" conditions for the development of the phenomenon of irregular migration remain. The use of the "power" of these forms of informal associations and organizations directly interacting with migrants should become a key direction of state policy to regulate unregistered migration.

The practice of using the social networks of migrants to adapt the integration of migrants in society shows that Central Asian migrants quickly enter into collective ways of organizing. Cultural and religious associations are undoubtedly one of the main forms of self-organization adopted by migrants. Various counselling and volunteer centers have also played a crucial role in supporting migrants, especially in providing legal and practical advice on organizing life in the country of destination. Such informal forms of association are effective against unscrupulous employers.

The relevance of the issue of resolving the status of undocumented migrants working in South Korea is the subject of sharp criticism from the public. This issue is regularly raised

by the Parliament of the Republic of Kazakhstan, public figures and the media. Articles with headlines about the death of Kazakhstanis in Korea appear with frequent frequency. The question of granting Kazakhstan a quota in the employment program or other ways of employing Kazakhstani citizens in Korea remains open.

Taking into account a comprehensive consideration of the issue, it can be concluded that the difference in the potentials of South Korea and the countries of Central Asia underlies the pull and push factors of undocumented migration. The dominant factors characteristic of the Central Asian region includes the following:

Push factors

The high birth rate and, in the future, the rapid growth of the working-age population create conditions for additional pressure on the labor markets of Central Asia. The outpacing of the growth of labor resources over the dynamics of the growth of jobs leads to an increase in the growth of unemployment, especially in rural areas. Such **demographic** factors are accompanied by **environmental** problems in several regions (deficiency of land and water resources) and contribute to high rates of external mobility of the population. **Economic** factors are certainly the main incentive to leave their native places. Low income, socio-economic inequality, limited access to resources, low social security are the most common causes of external labor migration. In addition, the unstable macroeconomic situation in the region, low rates of industrialization, and the lack of a system of social lifts do not allow Central Asian residents, especially young people, to expand their life opportunities, improve their status, accelerate the ascent of social mobility and self-realization.

Pull Factors

Pull factors define South Korea as a popular destination for migration flows from Central Asian countries. An important **administrative** factor is the existence of a visa-free regime with the South Caucasus in Kazakhstan and Russia. The channel of entry through the Russian Federation is common among migrants from Central Asia who have received Russian citizenship. As **economic** factors, we note a significant difference in income and the availability of free access to vacancies despite the lack of qualifications and knowledge of the language. Since the inhabitants of Central Asia have a collectivist mentality, the presence of relatives and acquaintances in the host country plays a special role in choosing a country. For many young people, Korea's **cultural** appeal becomes an incentive to migrate. In addition, South Korea attracts with a high level of security, a developed system of medical services and education. The country is known for its diverse cultural scene, including music, theatre, films and television, and many people migrate to the country to see and participate in its contemporary culture. The choice of Korea as a destination country is influenced by the peculiarities of its **policy** towards specific groups of migrants. For asylum seekers, regular amnesties for undocumented migrants. The formation of **information** networks provides wide access to information related to employment, residence, location features and opens unprecedented opportunities for operational communication between countries.

There are many factors that can **deter** people from migrating to Korea. One of the most common is ignorance of the language. Other factors that may include concerns about cultural differences, lifestyle, food preferences. It is also worth considering the financial costs associated with moving, which largely exceed the costs of traveling to other countries for employment.

Thus, the main reasons for the increase in migration flows between the Central Asian countries and South Korea are and will remain economic for a long time to come. At the same time, during the development of these processes, the importance of social factors in the dynamics of international migration associated with the formation and expansion of various network structures increases.

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CHAPTER 4. EDUCATIONAL MIGRATION

Introduction

Educational (training) migration is commonly referred to as migration flows, the purpose and condition of movement of which is training, obtaining knowledge both inside and outside the country. The main driver of international educational migration is the desire of young people to get a quality education abroad, to be competitive in the labor market of their country. Therefore, this type of social migration is mostly of return nature. But sometimes educational migration turns into labor migration, when highly qualified specialists after getting their diploma stay to work in the country where they got their diploma, so some researchers consider it as a “brain drain”.

But in general, educational migration flows have positive aspects and benefits for both the host country and the country of origin of educational migrants.

Educational migration has a positive impact on inter-state relations and cooperation between countries, and with a well-designed mechanism has good potential to become an instrument of «soft power,» and therein lies its *political effect*. Therefore, many countries pay attention to «capturing» new markets for education.

The national system of education-exporting countries receives direct monetary revenues from tuition fees paid by foreign students. In many developed countries, exporting education is a notable item of income. Not to mention the creation of jobs in the field of education, the expenditure of foreign students not only to pay for education, but also for food, clothing, transportation, entertainment, and tourism also stimulates the economy of the host country. All this has *an economic benefit*.

In developed countries, as the population ages, higher education institutions will experience a shortage of students, and the economy will experience a shortage of highly qualified personnel, so educational migration can become a resource that compensates for these negative aspects. The best graduates of their universities can be regarded as a potential resource to replenish human capital for the needs of the economy, since the most motivated young people, who by the time they finish their studies, know the language of the host country, are already familiar with its laws and customs, as well as the rules and conditions of work, go abroad to study. This is the social and demographic effect of educational migration. It is impossible not to mention the negative side of this effect for the country of origin of educational migrants.

4.1 Main directions of educational migration flows from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan

It should be noted that there is no systematic, aggregated, and complete data on educational migration from Central Asia. In addition, the agencies concerned, as a rule, record the volume and directions of migration of persons studying abroad at the expense of the state budget. At the same time, students who study abroad at their own expense, international scholarships, scholarships of foreign foundations and universities are not considered, which, accordingly, is not reflected in the state statistics of these countries.

Therefore, to determine the approximate number of citizens of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan studying abroad, it is advisable to use not only the aggregate data of the ministries and departments of these countries, but it is important to rely on the statistics of the countries where the volume of educational migration from these countries is most significant.

The data provided by UNESCO, although not entirely accurate, give an idea of the main flows and directions of educational migration in the world. According to these data, the Russian Federation is the main direction of educational migration **in all three countries studied**. For example, the Russian Federation¹¹⁴ accounts for the lion's share of all educational migrants in Kazakhstan. The Republic of Korea takes 8th place; the flow of educational migration from

¹¹⁴ Global Flow of Tertiary-Level Students <http://uis.unesco.org/en/uis-student-flow> (access date: 30.10.2022)

Kazakhstan to the Russian Federation in terms of the number of students is almost 100 times higher than educational migration to the Republic of Korea.

Table 19. Global flow of tertiary-level students according to UNESCO data (Kazakhstan)

	Country	Quantity
1	Russian Federation	71,368
2	Turkey	2,191
3	Kyrgyzstan	2,083
4	Czech Republic	1,751
5	UK	1,272
6	Germany	963
7	Poland	759
8	Korea	749
9	Canada	576
10	Hungary	463

Source: *Global Flow of Tertiary-Level Students* <http://uis.unesco.org/en/uis-student-flow> (access date: 29.10.2022)

Table 20. Global flow of tertiary-level students according to UNESCO (Kazakhstan)

Total number of mobile students abroad	89,292
(% of the total number of mobile students)	1,5
Outgoing mobility coefficient	13,0

Source: *Global Flow of Tertiary-Level Students* <http://uis.unesco.org/en/uis-student-flow> (access date: 29.10.2022)

Students studying in the Russian Federation also make up the bulk of educational migrants in Kyrgyzstan. Their number is also many times higher than the number of Kyrgyz students studying in the Republic of Korea.

Table 21. Global flow of tertiary-level students according to UNESCO data (Kyrgyzstan)

	Country	Quantity
1	Russian Federation	7,291
2	Turkey	1,937
3	Kazakhstan	1,161
4	Germany	483
5	Korea	239
6	Saudi Arabia	210
7	Czech Republic	139
8	Japan	107
9	Yordan	98
10	Poland	88

Source: *Global Flow of Tertiary-Level Students* <http://uis.unesco.org/en/uis-student-flow> (access date: 29.10.2022)

Table 22. Global flow of tertiary-level students according to UNESCO (Kyrgyzstan)

Total number of mobile students abroad	12,999
(% of the total number of mobile students)	0,2
Outgoing mobility coefficient	5,9

Source: *Global Flow of Tertiary-Level Students* <http://uis.unesco.org/en/uis-student-flow> (access date: 29.10.2022)

If we compare the volume of educational migration to the Republic of Korea of the three countries studied, the flow from Uzbekistan is the largest, exceeding several times the volume of educational migration to Korea from Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan. But also, in Uzbekistan the main flows of educational migration are directed not to Korea, but to the Russian Federation and Kazakhstan. The Republic of Korea as a direction of educational migration from Uzbekistan ranks 4th.

Table 23. Global flow of tertiary-level students according to UNESCO data (Uzbekistan)

	Country	Quantity
1	Russian Federation	27,397
2	Kazakhstan	26,130
3	Kyrgyzstan	14,538
4	Korea	5,215
5	Ukraine	1,473
6	Latvia	1,243
7	Turkey	1,075
8	Japan	693
9	Germany	653
10	Belarus	432

Source: Global Flow of Tertiary-Level Students <http://uis.unesco.org/en/uis-student-flow> (access date: 29.10.2022)

Table 24. Global flow of tertiary-level students according to UNESCO (Uzbekistan)

Total number of mobile students abroad	52,952
(% of the total number of mobile students)	0,9
Outgoing mobility rate	14,6

Source: Global Flow of Tertiary-Level Students <http://uis.unesco.org/en/uis-student-flow> (access date: 29.10.2022)

The exceptional popularity of the Russian direction is due to the following factors:

- geographic factor,
- no visa barriers,
- historical factor (the Russian language, the similarity of the system of secondary education inherited from the USSR),
- mutual recognition of diplomas of higher education,
- relatively easy cultural adaptation (understandable mentality),
- financial factor (cheapness),
- the possibility of subsequent employment and residence in the Russian Federation
- **Russian Federation government programs to attract students from the CIS to solve demographic and economic problems,**
- the widespread opinion about the good quality of Russian education.

In light of recent actions by several countries to isolate the Russian Federation internationally (the military invasion of Ukraine that began in February 2022), we predict that the flow of educational migration in this direction will decrease significantly, but it is still difficult to speculate by how much. Perhaps the main flow of educational migration from Central Asia will be redistributed to other countries.

4.2 Contractual- Legal Framework for Cooperation in Education

The Republic of Korea's relations with Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Uzbekistan were established shortly after the collapse of the Soviet Union and have remained friendly ever since. This year, 2022, these relations crossed the thirty-year mark.

Cooperation in the field of education between Kazakhstan and Korea is based on the Agreement between the Government of Kazakhstan and the Government of the Republic of Korea on cultural cooperation (Seoul, May 16, 1995)¹¹⁵, and the Program between the Ministry of Education and Science of Kazakhstan and the Ministry of Education and Human Resource Development of Korea on cooperation in the field of education (Decree of the Government of Kazakhstan dated November 29, 2003 N 1203)¹¹⁶. In addition, several higher education institutions in Kazakhstan have established ties with Korean higher education institutions, but many of them remain only on paper¹¹⁷. The Center for International Programs (CIP) also recommends some Korean universities for scholarship applicants. During the visit of a Korean delegation to Kyzylorda, Kazakhstan, in November 2022, the parties decided to open a branch of the Seoul National University of Science and Technology; it will function at the Korkyt Ata Kyzylorda University¹¹⁸.

Contractual-legal framework for cooperation between Uzbekistan and the Republic of Korea is the most developed and weighty among the three countries studied. The cooperation between the two countries is comprehensive and close; cooperation in the field of education occupies an important place in it. «Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Government of the Republic of Korea» was signed in February 1995¹¹⁹. This document contains a section on cooperation in the field of education. As the cooperation between the two countries has developed, the contractual-legal framework of cooperation has been supplemented by documents regulating this area. The most significant of them are the documents concerning the functioning of branches of Korean universities in Uzbekistan, such as Inha University in Tashkent (IUT)¹²⁰, Yeoju University in Tashkent (YTIT)¹²¹, Puchon University in Tashkent¹²², Ajou University in Tashkent (AUT)¹²³, Korean International University in Fergana (KIUF)¹²⁴, Kimyo International University in Tashkent¹²⁵. The close cooperation between the two countries' universities and the establishment of branches and campuses of Korean universities in Uzbekistan also stimulates and spurs educational migration, as graduates of bachelor's degrees from these branches often intend to continue their studies in master's or doctoral programs in the Republic of Korea. Studying in Uzbekistan at a Korean branch of a university prepares them to adapt to the Korean educational system.

¹¹⁵ Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Government of the Republic of Korea on cultural cooperation (Seoul, May 16, 1995) // https://online.zakon.kz/Document/?doc_id=1021551 (access date: 24.10.2022)

¹¹⁶ On the signing of the Program between the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Ministry of Education and Human Resources Development of the Republic of Korea on cooperation in the field of education. Decree of the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan dated November 29, 2003 No. 1203 // https://adilet.zan.kz/rus/docs/P030001203_ (access date: 29.10.2022)

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¹¹⁸ Branch of Seoul National University of Science and Technology to open in Kyzylorda // https://el.kz/ru/filial-seulskogo-natsionalnogo-universiteta-nauki-i-tehnologiy-otkroyut-v-kyzylode_55031/ (access date: 07.11.2022)

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¹²² Bucheon University in Tashkent // <https://bucheon.uz/ru/p/regulatory-documents> (access date: 30.10.2022)

¹²³ Ajou University in Tashkent // <http://www.ajou.uz/en> (access date: 30.10.2022)

¹²⁴ Korea International University in Fergana // <https://kiuf.uz/?clang=uz> (access date: 30.10.2022)

¹²⁵ Kimyo International University in Tashkent // <https://kiut.uz/ru/> (access date: 30.10.2022)

As for Kyrgyzstan, the signing of an interstate cooperation agreement between the two countries is planned in the near future. In March 2022, Kyrgyzstan and the Republic of Korea agreed to expand bilateral cooperation and sign an agreement between the Cabinet of Ministers of the Kyrgyz Republic and the Government of the Republic of Korea on cooperation in education and science¹²⁶. Cooperation in the field of education is carried out between these countries through various interagency agreements. There are two private Korean-Kyrgyz educational institutions in Kyrgyzstan: the Kyrgyz-Korean College (KKC)¹²⁷ - a legally independent educational institution, which was established in May 2012, the Korean Institute of Central Asia (Bishkek)¹²⁸. The websites of both institutions do not contain contact information or addresses. The college website states that the institution trains students for admission to Seoul Culture and Arts University (SCAU), Howon University, Sangmyung University, Hanyang Women's University, and the Korean Universities Council for Social Service (KUCSS). However, the information on both websites has not been updated for a long time. Information about the location of institutions can only be found on aggregator sites that accumulate information about courses.

4.3 Statistics on the number of educational migrants from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan in the Republic of Korea

As we noted above, the statistics on educational migration from the three countries under study are not systematized and are quite scattered. Therefore, it is most appropriate to refer to the statistics of the Republic of Korea, which considers educational migration, based on visa statistics.

Types of Study Visas to Enter the Republic of Korea for Study Purposes¹²⁹:

- D2-01: Associate Degree
- D2-02: Bachelor's Degree
- D2-03: Master's Degree
- D2-04: Doctoral Degree
- D2-05: Research Study
- D2-06: Exchange Student
- D2-07: Student Invited by the Korean Government
- D2-08: Short Term Study
- D4-01: Korean Language Trainee; a person with at least high school diploma or the equivalent, or a current student of high school or below, who plans to study Korean language at an academic institution affiliated with a foreign academic institution in RoK
 - D4-02: General Trainee (Others)
 - D4-03: Elementary/Middle/High School Student
 - D4-06: General Trainee (Private Institute); who plans to receive training at private academic institute with an outstanding performance
 - D4-07: Foreign Language Trainee

In our study, we consider only educational migrants receiving two-year specialized university education/Associate Degree (D2-01), Bachelor's Degree (D2-02), Master's Degree (D2-03), and Doctoral Degree (D2-04). The column "total" reflects the total number of educational migrants, which includes students of language courses at universities, exchange students, students of short-term study, etc.

¹²⁶ Kyrgyzstan and Korea agree to expand bilateral cooperation in education and science // <https://edu.gov.kg/posts/394/> (access date: 30.10.2022)

¹²⁷ Kyrgyz- Korean College // <http://kkc.kg/> (access date: 30.10.2022)

¹²⁸ Korean Institute of Central Asia (Bishkek) <http://kica.kg> (access date: 30.10.2022)

¹²⁹ Korea Visa Portal | Visa by Categories https://www.visa.go.kr/openPage.do?MENU_ID=10102&LANG_TYPE=EN (access date: 30.10.2022)

Statistics for 2021 show that the most numerous among the three countries studied is migration with educational purposes from Uzbekistan. It is more than 10 times greater than migration from Kazakhstan, and about 20 times greater than the flow of educational migration from Kyrgyzstan.

Table 25. Foreign Students in Korea

	Total	Subtotal	D2-01 (for Associate degree) (University for 2 years)	D2-02 (for Bachelor's degree) (University for 4 years)	D2-03 (for Master's degree)	D2-04 (for Ph.D. degree)
Uzbekistan (2021)						
Total	9,504	7,566	1,056	5,090	1,130	208
Men	8,426	6,586	988	4,399	968	168
Women	1,078	980	68	691	162	40
Kazakhstan (2021)						
Total	853	645	15	426	122	37
Men	255	214	5	161	27	15
Women	598	431	10	265	95	22
Kyrgyzstan (2021)						
Total	425	302	29	169	50	10
Men	157	111	12	71	16	2
Women	268	191	17	98	34	8

Source: Korea immigration statistics

Analysis of educational migration statistics since 2012 shows that initially the volume of educational migration from Uzbekistan to Korea was greater than that from Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan. While before 2016 the flow from Uzbekistan was twice as much as the flow from Kazakhstan, since 2017 the educational migration from Uzbekistan has increased many times and progressively, overtaking Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan in the aggregate by several times. In our opinion, the efforts of the Uzbek and Korean sides in the field of educational cooperation and the opening of branches of Korean universities in Uzbekistan have contributed to this increase. The flow from Uzbekistan did not decrease much even during the years of the coronavirus pandemic, but students from language courses at universities began to make up a significant portion of this flow.

It can also be noted that educational migration from Uzbekistan to Korea has a «male character,» as the vast majority of students are men. Whereas women prevail in the structure of educational migration from Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan. This is due to the cultural peculiarities of these countries: in Uzbekistan a more traditionalist attitude towards women is preserved, in particular, to the departure of women to foreign countries unaccompanied by close men.

Table 26. International students in Korea (on D2-01, D2-02, D2-03, D2-04 visas) 2012-2021

Countries	Gender	Total (D2-01, D2-02, D2-03, D2-04)	D2-01 (for Associate degree) (University for 2 years)	D2-02 (for Bachelor's degree) (University for 4 years)	D2-03 (for Master's degree)	D2-04 (for Ph.D. degree)
2012						
Uzbekistan	male	292	24	105	135	28
	female	89	4	43	32	10
Kyrgyzstan	male	31	2	18	10	1
	female	40	1	13	23	3
Kazakhstan	male	101	3	70	28	0
	female	100	11	48	37	4
2013						
Uzbekistan	male	326	20	120	158	28
	female	111	4	57	38	12
Kyrgyzstan	male	115	0	87	27	1
	female	125	3	75	41	6
Kazakhstan	male	33	1	24	8	0
	female	57	2	25	28	2
2014						
Uzbekistan	male	449	18	209	185	37
	female	144	4	90	40	10
Kyrgyzstan	male	150	2	122	22	4
	female	180	1	117	53	9
Kazakhstan	male	55	0	40	13	2
	female	73	2	38	31	2
2015						
Uzbekistan	male	638	12	356	236	34
	female	234	2	146	69	17
Kyrgyzstan	male	198	4	165	23	6
	female	290	1	204	76	9
Kazakhstan	male	58	0	46	10	2
	female	86	3	43	38	2
2016						
Uzbekistan	male	1 000	34	605	319	42
	female	340	7	226	85	22
Kyrgyzstan	male	235	4	191	32	8
	female	366	1	268	86	11
Kazakhstan	male	72	0	49	21	2
	female	94	3	42	49	0
2017						
Uzbekistan	male	1 805	64	1 125	566	50
	female	500	11	351	111	27
Kyrgyzstan	male	238	3	187	41	7
	female	381	5	295	68	13
Kazakhstan	male	83	2	53	26	2
	female	112	7	53	52	0

continuation of Table 26

Countries	Gender	Total (D2-01, D2-02, D2-03, D2-04)	D2-01 (for Associate degree) (University for 2 years)	D2-02 (for Bachelor's degree) (University for 4 years)	D2-03 (for Master's degree)	D2-04 (for Ph.D. degree)
2018						
Uzbekistan	male	3 505	194	2 168	1 067	76
	female	754	11	517	196	30
Kyrgyzstan	male	255	5	200	40	10
	female	430	9	326	81	14
Kazakhstan	male	90	2	62	24	2
	female	109	8	60	40	1
2019						
Uzbekistan	male	5 788	439	3 793	1 454	102
	female	1 016	33	710	237	36
Kyrgyzstan	male	255	6	205	33	11
	female	473	15	340	97	21
Kazakhstan	male	95	1	69	24	1
	female	119	14	67	37	1
2020						
Uzbekistan	male	5 743	725	3 794	1 120	104
	female	895	55	637	170	33
Kyrgyzstan	male	156	6	121	20	9
	female	337	12	231	76	18
Kazakhstan	male	70	4	52	13	1
	female	114	14	67	30	3
2021						
Uzbekistan	male	6 523	988	4 399	968	168
	female	961	68	691	162	40
Kyrgyzstan	male	208	5	161	27	15
	female	392	10	265	95	22
Kazakhstan	male	101	12	71	16	2
	female	157	17	98	34	8

Source: Number of Foreign Students in Higher Education in South Korea <https://www.statista.com/statistics/876030/number-of-foreign-students-in-south-korea/> (access date: 30.10.2022)

4.4 Recruiting Students in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Uzbekistan to Korea

Educational migrants from Central Asia (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Uzbekistan) enter higher education institutions in the Republic of Korea through several channels:

1. Through secondary and higher education institutions in their country.
2. Career and guidance centers of secondary and higher education institutions offer various scholarship programs for students, including programs of South Korean public and private foundations. As a rule, institutions have Cooperation Agreements with Korean universities, and they provide assistance in the form of consultations on the application process.

3. Bolashak State Scholarship (Kazakhstan) covers tuition, accommodation and meals for the master's program and residency students (385 scholarships in 2022 only)¹³⁰.

4. Under Agreements between governments and city administrations.

5. Through private centers for sending students to foreign universities. The centers provide information, consulting support to applicants on a fee basis, and provide Korean language courses. These centers have profiles in social networks, through which they advertise their services, as well as Korean universities.

From the interview:

"as we noticed, Korea's higher education institutions themselves do not have the in- country managers in Central Asia that many European universities have. Such managers are engaged in targeted recruiting of students locally, advising and guiding students. The most popular destination for migrant students in Central Asia, as we noted above, is Russia, and their recruiting methods include attracting talented students through international subject competitions and early field admissions committees in Central Asian countries".

The Republic of Korea universities are not a priority and popular destination for applicants from Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan. The exception is Uzbekistan, from where the greatest flow of educational migration to South Korea comes, due to the good awareness of applicants about education in the Republic of Korea through the branches of Korean universities in Uzbekistan. But even in this country, the main flows of educational migration are directed to other countries.

Factors hindering educational migration to the Republic of Korea are:

- geographic-financial factor (remoteness, high cost of air tickets),
- lack of information about Korean universities,
- low awareness of the environment, the need to adapt in a foreign cultural, foreign-language environment,
- low number of English-speaking departments and universities,
- difference in university culture, the need for cultural adaptation in the academic environment,
- unclear competitiveness of diplomas in the labor market of their country (Kazakhstan), the lack of reputation of diplomas of Korean universities,
- financial factor (high cost of living in Korea),
- political factor: some students and their parents point to the potential for military conflict between the South and the North,
- need for nostrification of diplomas.

Among the factors listed above, the flow of student recruitment is influenced by the level of awareness about the educational system of the country, the availability of information about universities, their place in the ranking, the reputation of universities, and their advantages. *A comparative analysis of the flows of educational migration from the three countries under study shows that the level of awareness is important.* In Uzbekistan, which has the closest cooperation with the Republic of Korea in various spheres, including education, the level of awareness of Korean universities is higher, it is facilitated both by the activity of representative offices of Korean educational institutions and foundations in the country, and the presence of branches of Korean universities in major cities of Uzbekistan.

Also of importance in the structure of awareness is the recommendation of the university by its graduates. According to the results of our study, this important mechanism for attracting foreign students is hardly used by Korean universities and little elaborated in Central Asian countries. This conclusion is based on the study of social networks, mass media, media, and sociological interviews. During the interviews, respondents

¹³⁰ Grants to study in Korea for Kazakhstani citizens <https://www.nur.kz/family/school/1666902-granty-na-obuchenie-v-koree-dlya-kazakhst/> (access date: 28.09.2022)

from all three countries answering the question «How did you learn about your university, why did you choose Korea?» never mentioned that they learned about the university from the university graduate, from acquaintances of the university graduate, or from interviews of the university graduate. **Meanwhile, the use of their graduates as ambassadors is one of the most effective tools for attracting potential students.**

Positive reviews include “How Korea’s UNIST University Helped Central Asian Graduates in Life and Work”¹³¹, “Kazakhstani Students in Asia: What It’s Like to Study in China and South Korea”¹³².

Among the private recruitment agencies there are those that were founded by Korean graduates, but they promote not only the universities they studied at, but also ways to enter Korean universities and advise on how to get grants and scholarships (GKS, POSCO, OKF, etc.).

There is a widespread belief that Korea’s attractiveness as a country of study is influenced by the so-called “Korean wave” (hallyu) and the image of the country, society, which is created by the mass culture media. However, this assertion is only partially confirmed. Informants from among engineering students and graduates said that they had no idea about hallyu, Korean pop culture, and TV series before they came to Korea. They either had no idea about the country or were attracted by the country’s advanced technology, industry, and university science centers.

From the interview:

“I’ll tell you right away that before coming to Korea I didn’t even know what k-pop or TV series. That’s not why I chose Korea. I’m not interested even now. I wanted to study abroad, at an advanced university, and after researching school offers and information on the Internet, I chose KAIST”;

“Hallyu and k-pop? Not interested. I wanted to go to an English-speaking technical university. Korea is a technologically advanced country”.

Those informants who were into Korean popular culture before coming to Korea stressed during sociological interviews that Korean realities and serial realities were strikingly different, as advice for future Korean university applicants.

From the interview:

«well, yes, of course I knew, I watched and listened. I wouldn’t say that I was really into it. But I’ll tell you right away, Korea in doramas and the real Korea are different countries”;

«yes, I was a fan, influenced somewhere. But you know, TV series are one thing, but reality is completely different. They don’t intersect, so you could say, it’s not worth navigating. Korea is definitely not a country of Korean TV series» (Kyrgyzstan),

“Hallyu? I think it’s something that girls who come for language courses are into. If you take it seriously, undergraduate students, master’s students, those who came to defend their doctorate, they don’t take it as a basis. It’s expensive to live here, there’s a high level of competition in studies. No, no” (Kazakhstan),

“to begin with, be mentally prepared what is shown in the TV series is far from being true. Well, like not being afraid to believe in yourself” (Kyrgyzstan).

But a certain influence of Korean mass culture could be seen in the interviews of those who were going to study in Korea. When asked what they knew about the country, they either said they knew almost nothing or cited Korean TV series as a source about the country.

¹³¹ «How Korea’s UNIST University Helped Central Asian Graduates in Life and Work». <https://weproject.media/articles/detail/kak-koreyskiy-vuz-unist-pomog-vypuschnikam-iz-tsentralnoy-azii-v-zhizni-i-rabote/> (access date: 28.10.2022)

¹³² «Kazakhstani Students in Asia: What It’s Like to Study in China and South Korea» <https://the-steppe.com/lyudi/kazahstanskije-studenty-v-azii-kakovo-uchitsya-v-kitae-i-yuzhnoy-koree> (access date: 28.10.2022)

From the interview:

"I watch a lot of Korean TV series. So I can say that I have an idea of culture and cuisine" (Kazakhstan),

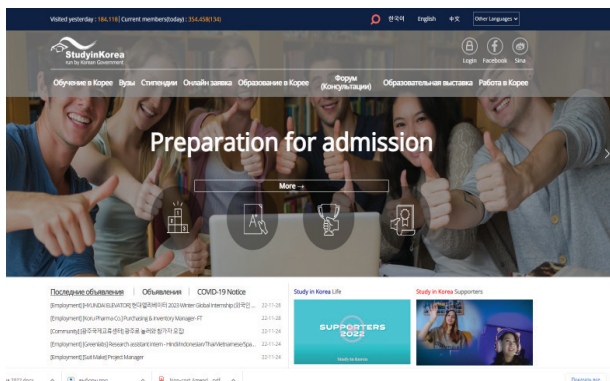
"I guess a lot of people, when they imagine Korea, a lot of people come immediately to k-pop. But lately, I think Korean TV series have become popular. And thanks to them, I've gotten to know a lot about Korean culture. I know that the laws there are very strict. In 10th grade, I wanted to study in Korea. But not because of k-pop, but because of quality higher education. And because I was attracted to Korea in general by its culture, probably people and infrastructure. And I started to find out about programs, how you can study, etc. And I found out about the program. But now, of course, plans have changed. I plan to study there for my master's degree" (Kazakhstan).

4.5 Information about Studying in Korea on the Internet

At present, the main channel of information for young people and for parents is the Internet. Therefore, informing, attracting through specialized sites, through social networks is the key to the success of attracting applicants to higher education institutions.

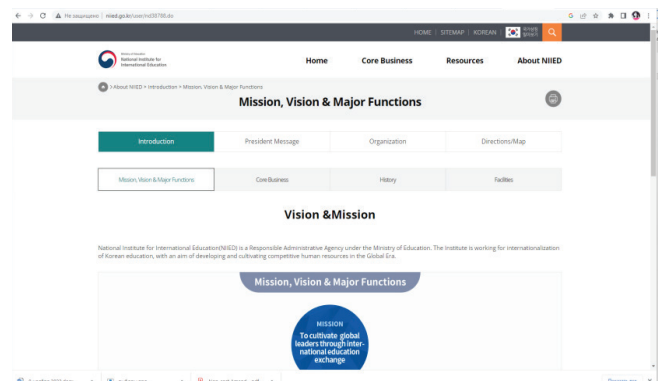
The main official government websites that inform about studying in Korea and scholarship programs are Study in Korea run by Korean Government¹³³ and National Institute for International Education (NIIED)¹³⁴.

Figure 27.
Homepage of the Study in Korea



Source: <https://www.studyinkorea.go.kr/ru/main.do>

Figure 28.
Homepage of the National Institute for International Education



Source: <http://www.niied.go.kr/user/nd38788.do>

The first of them has an interface in 12 languages, including Russian, but when you click on some tabs, the information is presented only in Korean or partly in English. The second site is bilingual in Korean and English. The mission of the institute is to «internationalize Korean education for the development and advancement of competitive human resources in a global era.

On the website of the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Korea in the list of foreign portals of Korean education there are 38 links, only one of them is a link to the Education Center of the Embassy of the Republic of Korea in Uzbekistan¹³⁵. The site is available in three languages (Korean, Uzbek and Russian). Although it is updated, the site is extremely uninformative in Russian and Uzbek languages, such tabs as "Question – Answer", "Learning Materials", "Registration for Language Courses", "History of the Center", "Study in Korea" are empty. Information about some events and announcements on the home page is mostly

¹³³ Study in Korea run by Korean Government // <https://www.studyinkorea.go.kr/ru/main.do> (access date: 23.11.2022)

¹³⁴ National Institute for International Education (NIIED) // <http://www.niied.go.kr/user/nd38788.do> (access date: 23.11.2022)

¹³⁵ Education Center of the Embassy of the Republic of Korea in Uzbekistan // <https://tashkec.uz/> (access date: 23.11.2022)

in Korean only. Thus, the site as a source of information about studying in South Korea is insufficiently informative. There is rather weak communication with interested parties through social networks of this Center, information is submitted one way, questions remain unanswered, there is no dialogue under the posts, the response is slow. The Center has 3 674 followers on Instagram¹³⁶, 299 followers on YouTube¹³⁷, 4 600 followers on Facebook¹³⁸.

Table 27. Internet resources of the Education Center of the Embassy of the Republic of Korea in Uzbekistan









Social network/ website	Address	Languages used	Number of followers
	https://tashkec.uz/ (accessed on November 23, 2022)	Russian, Uzbek, Korean	-
@	kectash@gmail.com / 2918182@mail.ru		
	https://www.instagram.com/tashkec/ (accessed on November 23, 2022)	Russian, Korean	3,674
	https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCYbHYhOpc0uCer9tpxSRAfA (accessed on November 23, 2022)	Russian, Korean	299
	https://www.facebook.com/tashkec.uz/ (accessed on November 23, 2022)	Russian, Uzbek, Korean	4,600

Table 28. Internet resources of the Education Center of the Embassy of the Republic of Korea in Kazakhstan (Almaty)

Social network/ website	Address	Languages used	Number of followers
	http://koreacenter.or.kr (accessed on November 23, 2022)	Russian, Korean	-
@	koreacenter.kz@gmail.com		
	https://www.instagram.com/koreacenter.kz/?hl=ru (accessed on November 23, 2022)	Russian, Korean, English	12,7
	https://vk.com/almatykorean (accessed on November 23, 2022)	Russian, Korean	8,925
	https://www.facebook.com/koreacenter.kz/ (accessed on November 23, 2022)	Russian, Korean	374

¹³⁶ Instagram profile of the Education Center of the Embassy of the Republic of Korea in Uzbekistan // <https://www.instagram.com/tashkec/> (access date: 23.11.2022)





¹³⁷ YouTube channel of the Education Center of the Embassy of the Republic of Korea in Uzbekistan // <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCYbHYhOpc0uCer9tpxSRAfA> (access date: 23.11.2022)

¹³⁸ Facebook profile of the Education Center of the Embassy of the Republic of Korea in Uzbekistan // <https://www.facebook.com/tashkec.uz/> (access date: 23.11.2022)

The website of the Education Center of the Embassy of the Republic of Korea (Almaty) is quite informative, the information is updated in a timely manner¹³⁹. The Center has accounts on Vk. com with 8925 followers¹⁴⁰, the account is updated quickly enough, informative, however, also characterized by low activity of communication with followers. Almaty Center's Facebook account was last updated on January 28, 2022 and has 374 followers¹⁴¹. In Instagram the Center has 12.7 thousand followers, the account is updated in a timely manner, has a one-way informative nature¹⁴².

It is possible to find comprehensive information about studying in Korea, admission, and language courses at the website of the Korean Education Center in Bishkek's¹⁴³. There is a directory of Korean universities with links to their websites. Some of the news on the site is in Korean only. Despite timely updates and the desire for completeness of information, the language of the site is not sufficiently structured.

Table 29. Internet resources of the Education Center at the Embassy of the Republic of Korea in the Kyrgyz Republic (Bishkek)

Social network/ website	Address	Languages used	Number of followers
	https://kecb.kg/?page_id=1182 (accessed on November 23, 2022)	Russian, Korean	-
	kecb2001@gmail.com		
	https://www.instagram.com/kecb.kg/?hl=en (accessed on November 23, 2022)	Russian, Korean	3,464
	https://www.facebook.com/edubis.kg/ (accessed on November 23, 2022)	Russian, Korean	23

In addition to official websites and accounts of institutions affiliated with government agencies, information about studying in Korea is also broadcast by private agencies that send students to study in foreign countries. Their services are paid, and they usually specialize in more than just sending students to Korea. First, those interested in higher education in Korea from Central Asian countries are looking for information in Russian.

A search on www.google.com gives approximately 1,200,000 results in Russian in 0.59 seconds for the query "study in Korea". The query "training in Korea for Kazakhstanis 2022" gives 15600 results, the query "training in Korea for Uzbekistan citizens - 2022" gives 242 000 references, "training in Korea for Kyrgyzstanis 2022" gives 111,000 references (accessed on: November 23, 2022).

On the first page of [Google.com](http://www.google.com) and [Yandex.ru](http://www.yandex.ru) search results, there is the website of National Center for International Education (NCIE)¹⁴⁴, according to the information on the site, it is the official representative of more than 20 higher educational institutions of the Republic of Korea. The list of 41 higher educational institutions of Korea is included in the tab "higher

¹³⁹ Education Center of the Embassy of the Republic of Korea in Kazakhstan (Almaty) // <http://koreacenter.or.kr> (access date: 23.11.2022)

¹⁴⁰ Vk. com profile of the Education Center of the Embassy of the Republic of Korea in Kazakhstan (Almaty) // <https://vk.com/almatykorean> (access date: 23.11.2022)

¹⁴¹ Facebook profile of the Education Center of the Embassy of the Republic of Korea in Kazakhstan (Almaty) // <https://www.facebook.com/koreancenter.kz/> (access date: 23.11.2022)

¹⁴² Instagram profile of the Education Center of the Embassy of the Republic of Korea in Kazakhstan (Almaty) // <https://www.instagram.com/koreacenter.kz/?hl=ru> (access date: 23.11.2022)

¹⁴³ Website of the Korean Education Center in Bishkek // https://kecb.kg/?page_id=1182 (access date: 23.11.2022)

¹⁴⁴ Website of the National Center for International Education (NCIE) // <http://www.korea-education.kz/> (access date: 23.11.2022)

education institutions of Korea”, among them Seoul National University, Korea University, Aju University, Yonsei University, Sangmyung University, Kookmin University, Sejong University, Solbridge University, and others. The NCIE has direct agreements to represent the interests of several dozen educational institutions in Korea and sends students to language courses at Korean universities. The Center supervises the whole process of students’ enrollment maintains contacts with the selected universities, monitors the terms of collecting and submitting documents, sends documents to the university, accompanies getting visas, and provides information support. The website is informative and has a chat-bot and business messenger to communicate with clients.

The websites of Korean universities in Uzbekistan and the websites of foreign education consulting agencies can also be mentioned in this series.

Kazakhstani and Korean diplomats and heads of Education Centers have begun to use electronic media to inform about the opportunities and details of studying in South Korea. Examples include various interviews¹⁴⁵, such as «How to Study in Korea for Free. In September 2022, a detailed and rich material «Study in Korea for Kazakhstanis: Features and Important Details» was presented¹⁴⁶.

Many private agencies have pages on Instagram, among the active ones and those who maximumally use of social networking opportunities are the account of the consulting agency for training in Korea Dreamway to Korea (18,8 thousand followers)¹⁴⁷, the account “Study in Korea/Koreyada o’qish” (3795 followers)¹⁴⁸, All about study in Korea (25,6 thousand followers)¹⁴⁹. In general, the hashtags #studyinkorea #Koreyadao’qish on Instagram provide a variety of information. Also, on Instagram there are pages of bloggers who study or have studied in South Korea.

Extensive and varied information about the pros and cons of studying in Korea, the adaptation, the educational process, the admission process and the paperwork, and room tours of Korean university dormitories by educational migrants themselves can be found on YouTube¹⁵⁰.

Table 30. Blogger pages in social networks related to education, Korean language courses

Blog Title	Number of subscribers	Link	Country
ianmugalim	95,3k	https://www.tiktok.com/@ianmugalim	Kyrgyzstan
shukhratkorea	66,1k	https://www.instagram.com/shukhratkorea/	Uzbekistan
jikorean	27,5k	https://www.instagram.com/jikorean/	Uzbekistan
_korean_language	9 342	https://www.instagram.com/_korean_language/	Kazakhstan

¹⁴⁵ «How to Study for Free in Korea. Interview with Lee Young-hoon, Director of the Korean Education Center in Bishkek, <https://rus.azattyk.org/a/27079465.html> (access date: 23.11.2022)

¹⁴⁶ «Studying in Korea for Kazakhstanis: peculiarities and important details. <https://www.nur.kz/family/school/1666902-granty-na-obuchenie-v-koree-dlya-kazakhst/> (access date: 23.11.2022)

¹⁴⁷ Instagram profile of «Dreamway to Korea», a consulting training agency in Korea // https://www.instagram.com/dreamway_to_korea/ (access date: 23.11.2022)

¹⁴⁸ Instagram profile «Study in Korea/Koreyada o’qish» <https://www.instagram.com/p/CkajodXtXwi/> (access date: 23.11.2022)

¹⁴⁹ Instagram profile «All about studying in Korea» // <https://www.instagram.com/allaboutstudyinkorea/> (access date: 23.11.2022)

¹⁵⁰ YouTube search for «study in Korea» // https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=%D0%BE%D0%B1%D1%83%D1%87%D0%D0%B5%D0%BD%D0%B8%D0%B5+%D0%B2+%D0%BA%D0BE%D1%80%D0%B5%D0%B5 (access date: 23.11.2022)

Table 31. Social media blogger pages related to studying in South Korea

Blog Title	Number of subscribers	Link	Country
danekamun	102k	https://www.instagram.com/danekamun/	Kazakhstan
itsflymoon	88,3k	https://www.instagram.com/itsflymoon/	Kazakhstan
mokhinur_barista	42k	https://www.instagram.com/mokhinur_barista/	Uzbekistan
withlovenurzada	16,8k	https://www.tiktok.com/@withlovenurzada	Kyrgyzstan
togzhanxxv	12,9k	https://www.tiktok.com/@togzhanxxv	Kazakhstan
erjan.mj	10,2k	https://www.instagram.com/erjan.mj/	Kyrgyzstan
nikaakz	8 190	https://www.instagram.com/nikaakz/	Kazakhstan
abdikarimovabb	6 550	https://www.instagram.com/abdikarimovabb/	Kazakhstan
satarov__	4 180	https://www.instagram.com/satarov__/	Kyrgyzstan
yournurzada	3 463	https://www.instagram.com/yournurzada/	Kyrgyzstan

4.6 Socio-Cultural Adaptation of Students in Korea (interviews, social media)

The first difficulty educational migrants face in the Republic of Korea is **language adaptation, regardless of the language of instruction chosen by the student**. Depending on the level of language proficiency, the language barrier is overcome at different speeds.

Undergraduate students who went to study in English have a particularly acute period of language adaptation. Once they arrive, they are faced with the need to speak Korean with staff, university personnel, and in public places. Almost all respondents who entered directly without taking language courses, as well as those who entered English-language departments of universities, technical universities like KAIST and UNIST, noted the painful period of language adaptation. In interviews, students and graduates of English-speaking technical universities said that they did not expect to encounter language problems. For English-speaking undergraduate students, language adaptation at the initial stage of their stay in the country in Korea was a serious challenge. Respondents from English-speaking departments said that the process of language adaptation in Korea would have been less stressful if they had taken a Korean language course at least at the elementary level beforehand.

From the interview:

"I was jealous of the students from other universities who came with Korean language skills. At first it was difficult; I didn't understand anyone except professors and student workers until I started to learn Korean. The campus staff did not speak English. So I rarely went outside the Daejeon campus during study, and when I graduated I just started to get to know Korea" (student, a KAIST graduate who works at a technology company in Seoul),

"when I came to study at UNIST, I was faced with the fact that apart from the teachers at the university and our mentors, tutors, no one spoke English. At university there were lessons in Korean, but until you reach a certain level, you also want to understand and communicate. Anyway, I went through that period. Sometimes there weren't enough classes at the university, some people took private or extra classes" (student, UNIST alumnus),

"we have students who successfully passed all the exams in their major, but could not pass the Korean language. For this reason, they could not get their diploma. So, they stayed for a second year to learn only Korean. They took Korean lessons at their own expense. It's not for everybody" (student, UNIST graduate).

Some respondents noted that, having chosen English as the language of instruction, they found that some subjects were taught in Korean. Also, in some cases, respondents noted what they considered to be the lack of fluency in English of some professors.

From the interview:

"I got into the English department. It was surprising and unexpected for me that some classes were in Korean. We were not warned".

The language adaptation of students who already had a certain level of proficiency in Korean and those who were students of Korean language departments was less painful, but they also noted it as a difficulty during the period of initial adaptation.

Along with language adaptation, which is also a component of socio-cultural adaptation, respondents named several features that they noticed and got used to during their studies. In this row, in particular students from Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan named such features as the indisputability of the authority of the faculty, the features of discussion with professors, often the inadmissibility of objecting to the professor.

From the interview:

"The argument with the professor is perceived negatively. Attempts to clarify the situation, too. You have to get used to it".

The culture of drinking with professors was also a new cultural experience for Central Asian students. For Central Asians with Islamic backgrounds, drinking alcohol with their professors, especially when the drinks are served by the professor, is unfamiliar and, for most, unacceptable. Individual educational migrants noted in their interviews that their professors, unaware of it, often insisted on it. Respondents said that some knowledge of cultural specificities of countries by professors and university staff would help to avoid such awkward and uncomfortable moments in the future.

From the interview:

"it's Korean culture, the eldest pours the youngest, you have to drink, you can't object. It's politeness. But we don't do it that way, it's very uncomfortable, it's a strange situation. I'd like to avoid such situations. I don't want to be in that situation, not many people wanted to be" (student, studied at Yonsei University),

"may be we could have a short course on multiculturalism for university professors? I don't want to drink alcohol with a professor; it would be very awkward and uncomfortable",

"and then the third thing is that they make you drink, well, not that they make you drink... It's a culture. Some circle or group gathers in the evening and starts drinking. If you don't drink with them, that's it, you're a black sheep. The next day, it's like you're no longer in the company, and you have to drink to be in the group. And I don't feel comfortable with that. I can't drink much on my own. Drinking to maintain ... my health is more important to me. And Koreans themselves they are super shy, and they can't make friends if they don't get drunk. So, they need to get drunk, figure out who they are, make friends. That's why that doesn't work for me. So, there's a lot of factors. In general, the country as a place to live is very cool, but these are the factors that discourage".

Speaking about their experience of socio-cultural adaptation, the respondents did not skip the topic of food culture. In general, they found Korean food interesting and new to them. But respondents stressed that eating spicy and spicy foods on a daily basis was new to them. Many respondents said that they sometimes went to Uzbek or Turkish cafes for the usual food and meat. But in general, such trips were not common and every day. It should be noted that most students from Central Asia prefer to avoid pork in their meals. Not all universities take this cultural aspect into account. Some informants said that they tried to adjust to pork.

From the interview:

"what advice would I give to an applicant who has chosen a Korean university? Prepare in terms of nutrition. Decide for yourself if he/she will eat pork. I did'.

Informants also noted, among other things, problems with acclimatization, as some educational migrants went through acclimatization quite difficult.

While emphasizing that Koreans always try to help within the framework of their professional duties and always demonstrate attentiveness and politeness, respondents talked about the emotional closeness of the host country and the low possibility of making close friendships with Koreans.

From the interview:

"what are the minuses? Koreans are not very sociable. There were a lot of pluses. In terms of the fact that different nationalities gathered together. We had a lot of foreigners in our dormitory. The first month we got to know all the foreigners and the Koreans gradually, there were few of them",

"what I already said about the minuses is that Koreans are a bit closed people",

"Koreans are very shy. Therefore, communication is difficult",

"this is not a minus, but a feature of this country. Let's say the Japanese are very closed to foreigners. But the Koreans compared to the Japanese are more open, but still not as open as we, the Kazakhs. We are a very open people. And in this respect it was also a little bit difficult with the Koreans. But also in our interests, in the clubs that we went to, we still found Korean friends".

Respondents learned with interest the degree and peculiarities of hierarchy in their interactions with Koreans. While for students from Uzbekistan the observance of hierarchy (age, course, etc.) was not something new, many educational migrants from Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan, had to adapt to a manner of communication that was not very typical for them.

From the interview:

"and the second, a very great distance. For example, between a student and a professor. I had a moment when a professor was proposing a toast and I was looking at him, I was told, 'Lower your eyes, you can't look at the professor. I was like what? A little uncomfortable, too much distance. That is, I am comfortable, if I can approach. It was also so, for example, sometimes there were such professors who did not communicate directly with students, they spoke through someone, because, they have a high position, and we are lower in position, we were passed through the middle. In general, don't raise your eyes directly, don't look!"

Educational migrants also noted the existing mistrust of foreigners outside of college campuses as a feature of Korean society, which students were not always comfortable with and sometimes perceived as episodes of xenophobia.

From the interview:

"I am not Asian, because my mother is Ukrainian, so I am Kazakh, but my appearance is not Asian, so it is immediately obvious that I am a foreigner. And to foreigners a little prejudiced attitude, because ... well ... distrust - foreigners, danger, all that ...",

"I realized, rather being a foreigner, it's very easy to be an outcast",

"It's hard to adapt in Korea in the sense that they can discriminate against people in terms of race, physical appearance, and so on".

In general, students noted the positive aspects of studying in Korea. Among them were the opportunity to live in a multicultural student environment, learning a new culture, gaining life experience, new skills, respect for a foreign culture, and tolerance. A number of informants also named learning to do things quickly (ppali-ppali) and psychological readiness to compete.

4.7 Adapting to the learning process

Describing the educational process, students spoke of their satisfaction with the condition and quality of the library collection of their universities, the provision of the university with educational equipment, laboratories, and in general the infrastructure of universities. As many informants noted, this turned out to be a big plus. But these pluses vary depending on the level of the university.

All interviewees noted a high degree of academic competition, and they also noted cultural peculiarities that they had to get used to. While appreciating the desire for academic honesty, interviewees tended to describe these characteristics as *“suspicious”, “negative attitude toward those who ask for help with their studies”, and “treating by Korean classmates as a competitor”*.

Students noted a different cultural approach to learning. For many, the method practiced in Confucian countries, rote learning, memorizing texts and tasks, was unusual. It was not always perceived positively.

From the interview:

“second, it’s like they don’t teach you to think, but they teach some kind of ready-made system. How to explain? For example, they don’t teach thinking and imaging, something new to create, creative thinking, creative solution. They just memorize the solution. For example, in Korean exams, what do they do? They memorize the solution, sometimes even down to the numbers. Memorizing is very bad, because if you change the task a little bit, and there’s nothing, they can’t solve it. It’s terrible”,

“they learn everything by heart by pattern, can you imagine? It’s kind of weird», «Koreans are cool, they do everything in a rehearsed script, in patterns. But they get stressed when something goes wrong, they have to memorize it exactly, to the comma”.

Some informants also expressed dissatisfaction not only with the quality of their studies, but also with the grading system.

From the interview:

“I’ll be honest, I wasn’t completely satisfied with my university in Daejeon specifically, because it was weak. On the plus side, I’ll probably say that I liked the scheduling system. Because unlike other universities, we were able to schedule ourselves: we could choose which teacher we wanted, at what time. Also from the pluses, probably the attitude of the teachers to education, they tried very hard. And also that the biggest plus is the absence of corruption. But the biggest downside to the Korean system is that you get a grade not because of how well you do, but because of how others do. For example, only 30% can get an A. And no matter how well you write, the only thing you have to hope is that others write a little worse”,

“Korean universities are designed to educate Koreans, not foreigners. They may write in the advertising brochures that there are English-speaking departments, but in reality, they are not. You just find out that half of the courses are read in Korean. I wouldn’t say that all teachers speak English well, sometimes because of a strong specific accent you don’t understand speech right away”,

“there was a problem with studying at first. We didn’t have some lessons in English”,

“I majored in political science at Yonsei. I was disappointed. I would recommend Korean technical universities, that’s their strong point. IT, chips, semiconductors, automotive industry... I would recommend universities that give knowledge in the field of show business, cultural management, they have shown their worth. But I could not find anything new and theoretical in my field of study. I do not recommend it, no. Moreover, some professors lectured on our region, and they did not know our region well. They even confuse the names of countries in the region”.

While noting the high and unquestioned authority of the professor in academic culture, informants also commented positively on the fact that university faculty clearly respect the personal boundaries of students.

Also, several informants said that international students do not have access to the professors' grading system, do not have the opportunity to read other students' reviews of professors, which both makes it difficult to choose professors and lecturers and their subject courses, and encourages international students to feel like strangers at the university.

From the interview:

"we learned that there was a website with reviews and ratings of professors. But we didn't have access to that site, unfortunately. I don't know, only Korean students could go there. It could have helped us to choose a professor, to know about the reviews in advance. We were cut off from that possibility".

Students at prestigious universities noted the good level of tutoring and mentoring at Korean universities. The level of tutoring and mentoring itself depended on the university.

From the interview:

"it's a different country, a different culture; it's a new worldview, new people, a lot of super-class programs. For example, tutoring programs, mentoring, it's all free, which means you get some mentor, and you can explore all of Korea with that mentor. It's very cool, and these mentors are people who work at our university, so they can help you there on any problems. For example, I'm in my second year, I was given a tutor who already had a subject in his fourth year, he can explain everything cool, and it's all for free, too. That is, the university sponsors it. It pays the tutors. Then there's the buddy. Buddy is given for the first time when you're in your 1st year and you don't know what, where, how, how to make a card in the bank. Buddy gets paid for that too, you don't pay anything, and he/she just helps you with everything there. You can get a Korean license, so there's a lot of benefits in principle".

Satisfaction with the university, as we see, often depended on the level of the university, on its characteristics. Students of technical universities were more satisfied with their university than students of humanities.

As we noted above, the first and main difficulty in adaptation for all informants who are currently studying and have completed their studies was a language adaptation. As the informants noted, they studied Korean through English, using textbooks oriented toward speakers of European languages. Most of them noticed the similarity of the Korean language structure with Turkic languages later when they had already accumulated some knowledge of the Korean language. Therefore, many of them pointed out that it would be much more effective to teach Korean to Central Asian students through Kazakh, Kyrgyz, and Uzbek. This could speed up the process of learning Korean. In general, many informants said that combining their main course of study with Korean language learning was an additional stressor. Despite the points outlined, most educational migrants adapted well to the learning process.

Conclusion

Based on the above material, the following features of the process of educational migration from **Kazakhstan** to South Korea can be identified:

1. Korea is not a priority country for educational migration from Kazakhstan, and the flow of educational migration is low,
2. Lack of awareness of the country, its culture and language, and HEIs,
3. Despite some difficulties, Kazakhstani students are generally adapting well in Korea.
4. Kazakhstanis are more willing to study in Korea with grants.

Based on the above material, we can identify the following features of the process of educational migration from **Kyrgyzstan** to South Korea

1. Korea is not a priority country for educational migration from Kyrgyzstan, the flow of educational migration to Kyrgyzstan is quite low.
2. Lack of awareness of the country, its culture and language, and HEIs.
3. Despite some difficulties, Kyrgyz students are generally adapting well in Korea.
4. Kyrgyz are willing to study in Korea with grants.

Based on the above material, we can identify the following features of the process of educational migration from **Uzbekistan** to South Korea

1. Korea is not the highest priority country for educational migration from Uzbekistan, but it is in the top five countries to which educational migration is directed. The flow of educational migration from Uzbekistan is the highest in Central Asia and tends to grow under certain conditions.
2. A good level of awareness about the country, its life and language, about HEIs through HEI representations, as well as through migrant networks.
3. Uzbek students are generally adapting well in Korea. Uzbek migrant workers have established their own cultural and economic communities during their years in Korea: residential districts, cafes and restaurants, established logistics between Korea and Uzbekistan. Under such conditions, Uzbek students have a painless period of adaptation to the country.
4. Studying in higher education is often used as a chance to stay in Korea and conduct business based on bilateral cooperation.

Pull factors of the educational migration process

1. The image of an economically and technologically advanced country.
2. To some extent, the image of the country created by Korean mass culture,
3. Good and benevolent political relations between Korea and Central Asian countries.
4. The variety of scholarships available.
5. Opportunity to work in Korea.

Push factors in the educational migration process

1. Desire to study abroad, not necessarily in Korea.
2. Desire to have the opportunity to live and work abroad, including Korea.
3. The desire to get a quality education.

Restraining factors in the migration process

1. The high cost of living in Korea.
2. Insufficient depth of trade and economic relations (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan).
3. Geographical remoteness of the country, high travel costs.
4. Dual linguistic load for English-speaking students (Korean, English).
5. Low awareness of the country and universities. Perhaps the reason for low awareness is the lack of information work of the party interested in attracting Central Asian students.
6. Some parents of students raised concerns about the possibility of a military clash between North and South Korea, a nuclear threat.

Educational migration from Central Asia, especially from Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan, is an open, highly adaptable contingent. On the one hand, the depth and strength of trade and economic relations, benevolent political relations, and common interests contribute to the establishment and strengthening of cooperation in education, but on the other hand, educational migrants who graduated from HEIs in another country can also have a positive impact on the strengthening and deepening of trade and economic relations between their country and the country of study. Their presence and activities in various areas of cooperation can help mutual understanding and intensify relations. South Korea can build its soft power

in the region through education, and educational migrants can bring new experience and knowledge to the economies and sciences of their countries.

Experts specializing in educational migration from Central Asian countries say that Korea is not yet a priority country for educational migration from Central Asia; while parents of students are willing to pay money out of their own pockets to study at universities in the United States and Europe, Korea raises questions (information about the country's universities, the price of the diploma, the possibility of subsequent migration). *For this reason, experts recommend expanding grant programs for Central Asian countries at the initial stage and accompanying them with active information support. Also, it is recommended to:*

1. Strengthen and diversify information work on grant programs. Activate interactive forms of maintaining accounts of Education Centers. Pay attention to the clarity and accessibility of information and pay attention to the rapid response to questions through social networks. Monitoring of official sites and accounts shows that their potential is not used enough.
2. Pay attention to the provision of information about universities in the country. Update university ranking tables (the place of the university in Korea, in the region, in the world).
3. Korean universities interested in students from Central Asia might consider hiring in- country student recruitment managers whose responsibilities would include information support, assistance in collecting and completing documents, and selection of universities.
4. Using mass media to raise awareness of higher education in Korea: interviews with Korean graduates, success stories, and materials on university science, the library collection, famous scientists, and scientific developments.
5. Promotion of universities via the ambassadors - successful graduates. Through mass media and social networks.
6. Consider the possibility of cooperating with Central Asian television to broadcast or co-produce a series about South Korea: history, achievements, prominent personalities, connections between Korea and Central Asian countries, and Korean language lessons. Television, despite the development and penetration of the Internet, remains one of the main channels for receiving information in Central Asia.
7. Organization of subject olympiads in English for students, the main prizes of which are grants to study in Korean universities.
8. Korean language and literature competitions, the main prize of which is a grant to study at a liberal arts university.
9. Mandatory short-term (semester) or long-term (academic year) Korean language and culture course for educational migrants.
10. Create a textbook of the Korean language in Kazakh, Kyrgyz, and Uzbek. It is necessary to use the similarity of the grammatical mechanism of the Korean language and the languages of the Turkic group.
11. Since English as the language of instruction is important to most educational migrants, one might consider increasing English-language departments for international students.
12. Students and graduates of English-speaking universities and departments spoke of the double linguistic burden, the need to pass the Korean language at the TOPIK-4 level, sometimes making it impossible to obtain a diploma of graduation. Perhaps, following the model of Eastern European universities, it is necessary to reduce the qualification requirements in the language of the country of study for students of English-speaking departments and universities.
13. Expanding the list of specialties in which students from Central Asia can study, for example, adding to this list medical and pharmacological specialties, which require long-term training. In order to avoid competition in the labor market, a condition for training could be the obligation to return to the country of origin or another country.

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CHAPTER 5. MARRIAGE MIGRATION

Introduction

In modern literature, the understanding of “mixed marriage” is based on theoretical approaches identified in the study of interpersonal relations in various states and communities. The most established opinion is the fact that mixed marriages include the concept of interreligious, interracial and interethnic marriages. However, theorists called such marriages by the common word “intermarriage”. The term intermarriage is usually applied to married persons whose religious, racial or ethnic origins differ from each other. Even if the partners in a marriage differ from each other in only one of these three categories, such marriages are intermarriage¹⁵¹.

Thus, mixed marriages as the concept of “intermarriage” are understood as opposed to the concept of “intramarriage” (within one group). In this regard, mixed marriages are divided into several categories. Interracial marriages are marriages between members of different races. Interreligious marriages are marriages between people of different religions. Marriages between different confessions within one religion (inter-confessional marriages) can also be distinguished here. Interethnic marriages serve as a logical continuation, as marriages between a man and a woman of different ethnicity. These categories remain the most common and studied in modern social science.

According to the difference principle, the so-called “cross-border marriage” or “international marriage” may seem legitimate. In recent decades, in the context of growing globalization, the intensification of the movement of people and capital, the acceleration and compaction of time, the “compression” of space due to the rapid spread of electronic forms of communication and the mobility of vehicles around the planet, as a result of the transformation of the structure of the family organization and the functions of the family institution, the formation of “global space”, marriages between citizens of different states have ceased to be an exception to the rule of ethnic endogamy, having become a common and fairly common phenomenon¹⁵².

The concept of “cross-border marriages” or “international marriages”» refers to marriages between citizens of different states. These are marriages with a foreign partner, which provide for interpersonal relationships between a man and a woman of different national and cultural communities and go beyond territorial limits, i.e. appear at the international level. In the sociocultural sense, this is a form of interpersonal relationships between a man and a woman who civilly belonged to different national communities that historically developed within the boundaries of two different territorial-state entities. It imposes a certain set of obligations and prescriptions on spouses, taking into account ethnicity, based on the common culture, religion and traditions of the social group with which each of the spouses is aware of himself from the moment of birth and has its identity, which subsequently serves as a social basis for action in marriage¹⁵³. In this regard, interethnic marriage can be considered one of the varieties of exogamy, which involves the choice of a marriage partner from a foreign group.

The difference in territorial and state integrity to which marriage partners belong makes international marriage a more complex phenomenon. First, from the standpoint of legal norms, international marriage provides for the conditionality of crossing the state border, citizenship, and residence permit. Secondly, taking into account the social and personal characteristics, the participants in an international marriage are characterized by dependence on the place of origin, which forms the psychological, cultural, moral characteristics of the individual within the society of a particular state. The territorial-state extent of international

¹⁵¹ Gordon A. Intermarriage: Interfaith, interracial, interethnic. – 1964. - Boston: Beacon Press. – 425p.

¹⁵² Pochagina O. Cross-border marriages: China and South Korea // Problems of the Far East. - 2008. - No. 2. – P.125-137

¹⁵³ Korneeva S.V. The social nature of interethnic marriages in Russian society in the context of socio-cultural transformations // www. Lib.socio.msu.ru//library/_ (access date: 26.12.2022)

marriages does not have clear boundaries and depends on objective circumstances, together with the specific marital activity of individuals and their personal freedom of choice.

5.1 Socio-demographic analysis of the institution of international marriage in South Korea

Dynamics and ethno-demographic characteristics of marriages with migrants since the beginning of the XXI century

In 2005, South Korea saw the largest increase in the number of inter-ethnic marriages (42,356), accounting for 13.5 per cent. In general, the share of interethnic marriages has increased since 2000 - 3.5%, reaching a peak in 2005, the share of interethnic marriages over the following years steadily retained a position of 9% -11%. The increase or decrease in this trend was traced in tables.

Table 32. Dynamics and gender structure of marriages with migrants in 2000-2011¹⁵⁴

Years	Total	%	MNM*	%	IEM**	%	Korean husband	%	Korean wife	%
2000	332 090	100	320 485	96.5	11 605	3.5	6 945	59.8	4 660	40.2
2001	318 407	100	303 884	95.4	14 523	4.6	9 684	66.7	4 839	33.3
2002	304 877	100	289 675	95.0	15 202	5.0	10 698	70.4	4 504	29.6
2003	302 503	100	277 727	91.8	24 776	8.2	18 751	75.7	6 025	24.3
2004	308 598	100	273 958	88.8	34 640	11.2	25 105	72.5	9 535	27.5
2005	314 304	100	271 948	86.6	42 356	13.5	30 719	72.5	11 637	27.5
2006	330 634	100	291 875	88.3	38 759	11.7	29 665	76.5	9 094	23.5
2007	343 559	100	305 999	89.1	37 560	10.9	28 580	76.1	8 980	23.9
2008	327 715	100	291 511	89.0	36 204	11.0	28 163	77.8	8 041	22.2
2009	309 759	100	276 459	89.2	33 300	10.8	25 142	75.5	8 158	24.5
2010	326 104	100	291 869	89.5	34 235	10.5	26 274	76.7	7 961	23.3
2011	329 087	100	299 325	91.0	29 762	9.0	22 265	74.8	7 497	25.2

Note: *MNM – mononational marriages, **IEM – interethnic marriages

Table 33. Dynamics and gender structure of marriages with migrants in 2018-2020¹⁵⁵

Years	Total	%	MNM*	%	IEM**	%	Korean husband	%	Korean wife	%
2018	257 622	100	233 849	90.8	23 773	9.2	17 696	74.4	6 140	25.8
2019	239 159	100	214 438	89.7	24 721	10.3	18 761	75.8	5 885	23.8
2020	213 502	100	197 325	92.4	16 177	7.6	11 953	73.8	4 240	26.2

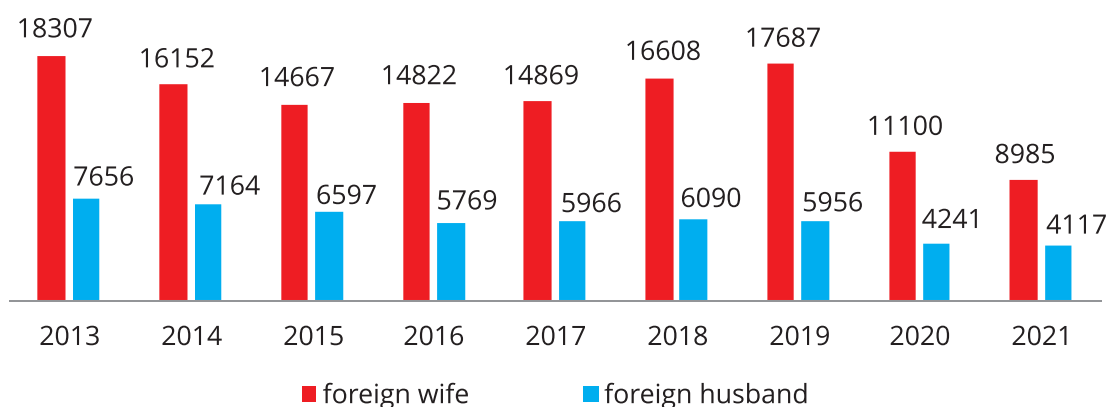
Note: *MNM – mononational marriages, **IEM – interethnic marriages

As a rule, in marriages with migrants, the main part is made up of marriages of Korean men and foreign women. In 2000 and 2001, women accounted for 59.8% and 66.7% respectively in-migrant marriages. Since 2002, the proportion of women married to Korean men has been over 70%. The highest percentage of foreign women in marriages with migrants was in 2008 (77.8%). Foreign men in 2000 had the highest percentage rate in marriages with migrants (40.2%). while, since 2002, their share has averaged no more than 30% per year.

¹⁵⁴ International marriages http://www.index.go.kr/egams/stts/jsp/potal/stts/PO_STTS_idxMain.jsp?idx_cd=2430 (access date 28.11.2022)

¹⁵⁵ Statistics of the dynamics of the multicultural population in 2020, as of March, 2020 <http://kostat.go.kr> (access date 28.11.2022)

Figure 29. Number of interethnic marriages (number of people)



Source: Ministry of Gender Equality and Family of the Republic of Korea. Number of interethnic marriages by country // https://www.index.go.kr/potal/main/EachDtlPageDetail.do?idx_cd=2430 (access date 28.11.2022)

In the total composition of married migrants by gender, the advantage remains for women, the proportion of which is determined by 73.8%. At the same time, men accounted for 26.2% in 2020. If we consider the total composition of marriage migrants by nationality, the largest number of marriages of foreign couples was concluded with citizens of China (35.4%), Vietnam (24.6%), Japan (8.9%) and the Philippines (7.1%).

Table 34. Status of married immigrants by nationality, region and gender as of December 31, 2021 (number of people, %)

Country	Total	%	Men	%	Women	%
Total	168,611	100.0	31,943	18.9	136,668	81.1
China	59,770	35.4	13,951	43.7	45,819	33.5
Vietnam	41,447	24.6	3,560	11.1	37,887	27.7
Japan	15,074	8.9	1,272	4.0	13,802	10.1
Philippines	12,041	7.1	528	1.7	11,513	8.4
Thailand	6,558	3.9	122	0.4	6,436	4.7
Cambodia	4,565	2.7	546	1.7	4,019	2.9
United States	4,538	2.7	3,200	10.0	1,338	1.0
Uzbekistan	2,709	1.6	182	0.6	2,527	1.8
Mongolia	2,502	1.5	191	0.6	2,311	1.7
Russia	2,041	1.2	145	0.5	1,896	1.4
Taiwan	1,596	0.9	142	0.4	1,454	1.1
Canada	1,426	0.8	1,154	3.6	272	0.2
United Kingdom	1,200	0.7	1,032	3.2	168	0.1
Other	13,144	7.8	5,918	18.5	7,226	5.3

Table 35. Status of married immigrants by nationality (region) and year as of December 31, 2021 (number of people)

Years	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
China	63 035	62 400	60 663	58 788	56 930	57 644	58 706	60 324	60 072	59 770
Vietnam	39 352	39 854	39 725	40 847	41 803	42 205	42 460	44 172	44 058	41 447
Japan	11 746	12 220	12 603	12 861	13 110	13 400	13 738	14 184	14 595	15 074
Philippines	9 611	10 383	11 052	11 367	11 606	11 783	11 836	12 030	12 002	12 041
Cambodia	4 541	4 650	4 618	4 555	4 473	4 459	4 496	4 641	4 638	4 565
United States	2 653	2 845	3 006	3 192	3 354	3 471	3 658	3 883	4 312	4 538
Thailand	2 618	2 643	2 675	2 821	3 182	3 671	4 411	5 130	5 929	6 558
Mongolia	2 395	2 368	2 394	2 384	2 381	2 396	2 438	2 497	2 486	2 502
Uzbekistan	2 017	2 141	2 219	2 244	2 302	2 367	2 425	2 688	2 625	2 709
Russia	1 328	1 305	1 308	1 305	1 182	1 367	1 494	1 668	1 800	2 041
Canada	1 240	1 268	1 300	1 295	1 318	1 345	1 320	1 334	1 397	1 426
Nepal	1 027	1 112	1 138	1 081	1 032	974	901	884	841	834
Pakistan	787	874	889	915	936	-	-	-	-	-
Other	6 148	6 802	7 404	7 953	8 765	9 303	10 110	11 196	12 367	13 510

Source: Korea Immigration Statistics Yearbook 2021

Table 36. Status of married immigrants by nationality (region) and gender (as of December 31, 2021) (number of people, %)

Division	Total	Composition ratio, %	Men	Ratio of men, %	Woman	Ratio of women, %
Total	168,611	100.0	31,943	18.9	136,668	81.1
China	59,770	35.4	13,951	43.7	45,819	33.5
Vietnam	41,447	24.6	3,560	11.1	37,887	27.7
Japan	15,074	8.9	1,272	4.0	13,802	10.1
Philippines	12,041	7.1	528	1.7	11,513	8.4
Thailand	6,558	3.9	122	0.4	6,436	4.7
Cambodia	4,565	2.7	546	1.7	4,019	2.9
United States	4,538	2.7	3,200	10.0	1,338	1.0
Uzbekistan	2,709	1.6	182	0.6	2,527	1.8
Mongolia	2,502	1.5	191	0.6	2,311	1.7
Russian Federation	2,041	1.2	145	0.5	1,896	1.4
Taiwan	1,596	0.9	142	0.4	1,454	1.1
Canada	1,426	0.8	1,154	3.6	272	0.2
United Kingdom	1,200	0.7	1,032	3.2	168	0.1
Other	13,144	7.8	5,918	18.5	7,226	5.3

Source: Korea Immigration Statistics Yearbook 2021

According to the data for 2012-2021, data on marriage migrants from Uzbekistan and Russia were found in the statistics of marriages by nationality. On average, more than two thousand married couples for Uzbekistan (1.8%) and one thousand for Russia (1.4%) were recorded in the data of the Ministry of Justice as marriages of women from countries with the largest presence of foreigners. If you look at the number of marriage migrants **in 2021** by nationality, the largest share is in China with 35.4%, followed by Vietnam with 24.6%, Japan with

8.9% and the Philippines with 7.1%. Most of them are about 7.1%. The percentage of married immigrants from seven countries eligible to participate in the International Marriage Guidance Program, was 76.9%, which is 3.2% more than in 2017. Although it has decreased, it still accounts for the majority of all marriage migrants. There were 136,668 women, representing 81.1 per cent of the total. The male population was 31,943 males, which represented 18.9%.

According to the Yearbook of Korea Immigration Statistics 2021, it was revealed that even after the tightening of the requirements for issuing a marriage immigrant visa (F-6) (2014), which was introduced to establish a “healthy international marriage culture”, citizenship could be changed. Statistics recorded more new marriage immigrants than married immigrants who came or left the country. Accordingly, by 2019, the number of married immigrants increased by more than 2% compared to last year. However, as movement between countries has been restricted due to COVID-19, the number of married migrants entering Korea after 2020 has decreased. In this work, a sample of data for the last 5 years was also prepared.

Table 37. Status of married immigrants by year (number of people, %)

Category	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Status	155 457	159 206	166 025	168 594	168 611
%	102.0%	102.4%	104.3%	101.5%	100.0%

Source: Yearbook of Korea Immigration Statistics 2021

Since 2000, the most active in marriage migration are citizens of China (3,566) and the Philippines (1,174) - among women; and citizens of Japan (2,630) and the United States (1,084) are among men. In general, for all years of the study period, migrant women from China and Vietnam make up the main part in the number of marriage partners for Korean men. The predominance of women from China is associated with a large number of ethnic Korean women, as the most “sought-after partners” who speak Korean and have similar features in appearance, culture and building family relationships. Since 2009, it is possible to distinguish ethnic Koreans as a separate group. They amounted to 32,566 (6,807 men, 25,759 women) in 2009, 31,664 (7,605 men, 24,059 women) in 2010, 29,184 (7,558 women, 21,626 men) in 2011. Chinese men initially accounted for no more than 300 annually since 2003; their number began to grow gradually, reaching its peak in 2005 (5,037). Then every fourth marriage of a Korean woman was with a Chinese partner every year. (24.9% in 2011). The number of Vietnamese women has more than tripled since 2003 (474 in 2002 and 1402 in 2003). After 2003, their number growth remained stable, by 2011 their share in marriage migration (34.3% in 2011) exceeded the share of Chinese women (33.9% in 2011), which had consistently led all previous years. Filipino and Japanese women increasingly married Korean men, it was 9.3% and 5.0%, respectively, in 2011. And between 2013 and 2021, we can see a gradual decline of number of women from China, the Philippines and Japan, and stable number of women from Vietnam.

Still the main preference for marriage with South Korean partners is given by marriage migrants from China. However, since 2016, the advantage in the quantitative and proportionate composition has passed to the marriage partners from Vietnam. In 2017, there were 28.6% of Vietnamese marriage migrants. Foreign partners from China – 25.9%. The popularity of Vietnamese girls among Korean men has been confirmed by sociological surveys as well as academic papers. The most obedient, family-oriented, with a more patriarchal way of life in the rural community, they are more attractive when choosing a wife. At the same time, the influx of Vietnamese brides into the Korean marriage market is also one of the most numerous. Then U.S. citizens follow in popularity in marriage with foreigners (9.3%). Japan (5.5%), the Philippines (4.0%), Thailand (4.9%), Cambodia (2.3%), Canada (2.0%) and others. In 2021, the share of foreign partners from China was 24.4%, followed by Vietnamese marriage partners with a share of 13.4%, and then partners from the United States with a share of 13.2%. In turn, the proportion of divorced multicultural families reflects the dynamics of divorces by year.

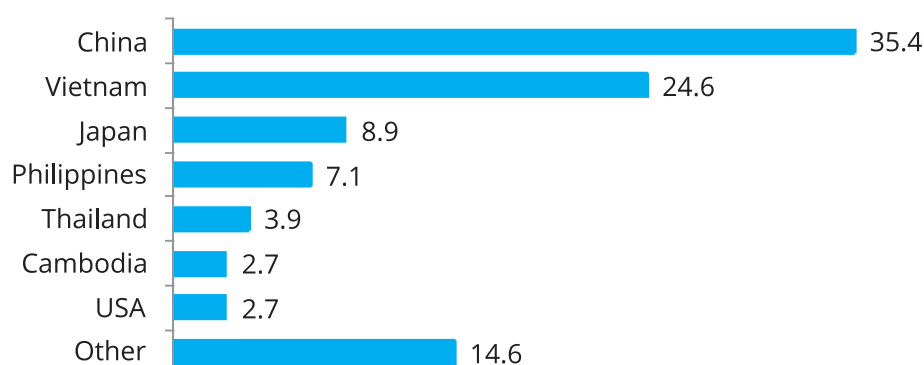
Table 38. Number of interethnic marriages by country

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Total number of interethnic marriages	25 963	23 316	21 274	20 591	20 835	22 698	23 643	15 341	13 102
Korean Man+foreigner	18 307	16 152	14 677	14 822	14 869	16 608	17 687	11 100	8 985
China	6 058	5 485	4 545	4 198	3 880	3 671	3 649	2 524	2 426
Thailand	291	439	543	720	1,017	1,560	2,050	1,735	1,589
Vietnam	5 770	4 743	4 651	5 377	5 364	6 338	6 712	3 136	1 319
Japan	1 218	1 345	1 030	838	843	987	903	758	723
United States	637	636	577	570	541	567	597	432	457
Russia	90	94	110	125	171	234	305	275	356
Philippines	1 692	1 130	1 006	864	842	852	816	367	260
Other	2 551	2 280	2 215	2 130	2 211	2 399	2 655	1 873	1 855
Korean Girl+foreigner	7 656	7 164	6 597	5 769	5 966	6 090	5 956	4 241	4 117
United States	1 755	1 748	1 612	1 377	1 392	1 439	1 468	1 101	1 276
China	1 727	1 579	1 434	1 463	1 523	1 489	1 407	942	777
Vietnam	279	283	432	565	586	587	639	501	440
Canada	475	481	465	398	436	402	363	257	223
Japan	1 366	1 176	808	381	311	313	265	135	140
United Kingdom	197	207	196	186	185	184	190	146	112
Other	1 857	1 690	1 650	1 399	1 533	1 676	1 624	1 159	1 149

Source: Ministry of Gender Equality and Family of the Republic of Korea. Number of interethnic marriages by country // https://www.index.go.kr/potal/main/EachDtlPageDetail.do?idx_cd=2430 (access date 28.11.2022)

In general, there is great diversity in the characteristics of citizenship among marriage partners in the marriage migration of South Koreans. In the general list, partners were represented by more than 130 countries. However, it should be noted that Korean men are married to women from developing Asian countries, and Korean women choose men from developed Western countries such as the United States, China, Vietnam, and Canada as their marriage partners.

Figure 30. Status of married immigrants by nationality (region), %



Source: Statistics of multicultural families by year 2018 // <http://kostat.go.kr> (access date 28.11.2022)

There has been evidence in the academic literature that while women from China and other East Asian countries marry urban Koreans, most Vietnamese women marry men from rural areas. This preference is due to the fact that they share the traditions of agricultural society and the extended family system. The socio-cultural similarities of the agriculture sectors

of the two countries allow Vietnamese women to adapt more easily and quickly to Korean rural farming communities. In addition, Vietnamese citizens have a low level of religiosity, which, according to the researchers, also makes it easy to adapt to Korean rural communities, which are predominantly atheistic. For similar reasons, the number of international marriages to Cambodian women is also growing rapidly¹⁵⁶.

5.2 Naturalization and acquisition of citizenship

According to statistics, international marriage leads to increase in naturalized citizens. The dynamics of the growth of multicultural families demonstrates a steady increase in the number of new Koreans in the new millennium. After the passage of the Citizenship Law in 1948 and through the end of 2021, 282,611 people obtained Korean citizenship by obtaining permission to naturalize or restore citizenship. In 2011, the number of people regaining citizenship began to rise due to the enactment of the revised Citizenship Act. Their number is stable at the level of 2,300 to 2,800 people per year (Yearbook of Korea Immigration Statistics 2021).

Statistics on marriage migrants provide expanded information on the number of marriages and the number of migrants naturalized in marriage. It is clear that marriage migrants sought to obtain the citizenship of their foreign spouse. Difficulties in the naturalization process can be traced from data on the number of married migrants in naturalized status compared to the total number of international marriages (Yearbook of Korea Immigration Statistics 2021).

Table 39. Status of marital immigrants and persons acquiring citizenship by year (2007 - 2016)

	Total			Married immigrants			Naturalized in marriage			Other state of nationality in marriage		
	Total	Husband	Wife	Total	Husband	Wife	Total	Husband	Wife	Total	Husband	Wife
2016	318 948	61 544	257 404	159 501	28 728	130 773	159 447	32 816		126 631		
2015	294 663	56 652	238 011	144 912	25 263	119 649	93 249	10 308	82 941	56 502	21 081	35 421
2014	295 842	48 787	247 055	149 764	21 953	127 811	90 439	4 261	86 178	55 639	22 573	33 066
2013	281 295	45 348	235 947	147 591	20 887	126 704	83 929	4 264	79 665	49 775	20 197	29 578
2012	267 727	42 459	225 268	144 214	19 630	124 584	76 473	4 268	72 205	47 040	18 561	28 479
2011	252 764	39 825	212 939	141 654	18 561	123 093	69 804	4 317	65 487	41 306	16 947	24 359
2010	221 548	34 144	187 404	125 087	15 876	109 211	56 584	3 796	52 788	39 877	14 472	25 405
2009	199 398	30 988	168 410	125 673	15 190	110 483	41 417	2 047	39 370	32 308	13 751	18 557
2008	168 224	26 339	141 885	102 713	13 711	89 002	41 672	2 991	38 681	23 839	9 637	14 202
2007	142 015	21 905	120 110	87 964	12 497	75 467	38 991	2 624	36 367	15 060	6 784	8 276

Source: Review of the state of foreign citizens, Ministry of Public Administration and Security for 2016 // Immigration and Foreign Policy. Statistical Yearbook 2016 // Statistics of the Immigration Service of Korea, 2016

In total, in 2021, citizenship was naturalized and restored among 13,637 people, which is 12.9% less than in 2020, 15,649 people. The number of naturalized persons decreased by 21.5% to 10,895 people in 2021 from 13,885 people in the previous year, and the number of naturalized persons increased by 55.4% to 2,742 people in 2021 compared to 1,764 people

¹⁵⁶ Kim, Soon-yang; Shin, Yeong-gyun. Multicultural Families in Korean Rural Farming Communities: Social Exclusion and Policy Response. Paper presented at the Fourth Annual East Asian Social Policy research network (EASP) International Conference, 20-21 October 2007, The University of Tokyo, Japan // <http://www.welfareasia.org> (access date 28.11.2022)

in the previous year. The decrease in the number of naturalized people in 2021 is due to an increase in the number of applicants for naturalization ahead of the entry into force of the revised Citizenship Law, which includes a requirement for permanent residence in 2018. This is due to the rapid increase in the number of naturalized persons in 2020 compared to the previous year, due to the naturalization exam. In 2021, the 10,000 level was maintained through the introduction of a certificate of citizenship ceremony, although the COVID-19 situation still persisted.

As for the countries of origin of 10,895 naturalized persons in 2021, China was the majority with 47.2% (5,145 people), followed by Vietnam with 38.8% (4,225 people). The reason why the proportion of naturalized Chinese and Vietnamese citizens is high is the high proportion of simple naturalization through marriage to a Korean citizen. Meanwhile, with regard to the countries of origin of 2,742 people who restored citizenship, the majority are from the United States – 62.8% (1,722 people), Canada 12.9% (354 people), China 6.7% (185 people), etc. Under the influence of permission for citizenship, Koreans with foreign citizenship in America have a noticeable tendency to restore their citizenship. By age, naturalized persons aged 30 years accounted for the largest – 28.8% (3,142 people), followed by persons aged 20 years – 28.6% (3,116 people), followed by persons aged 60 and 70 years (Yearbook of Korea Immigration Statistics 2021). In table below, we can trace the main trends of recent years in the acquisition and restoration of citizenship by country.

Table 40. Citizenship status by citizenship (region) and type (number of people)

	2017		2018		2019		2020		2021	
Total	*	10 086	*	11 556	*	9 914	*	13 885	*	10 895
	**	2 775	**	2 698	**	2 443	**	1 764	**	2 742
China	*	4 781	*	4 838	*	4 371	*	7 932	*	5 145
	**	245	**		**		**		**	
Vietnam	*	3 743	*	4 849	*	3 867	*	4 076	*	4 225
	**	57	**	45	**	39	**	29	**	14
Philippines	*	359	*	597	*	423	*	375	*	241
	**	7	**	7	**	11	**	7	**	25
Mongolia	*	93	*	99	*	102	*	145	*	103
	**	17	**	14	**	6	**	10	**	3
Uzbekistan	*	48	*	72	*	78	*	138	*	97
	**	27	**	12	**	6	**	8	**	12
Japan	*	29	*	17	*	14	*	15	*	20
	**	38	**	53	**	41	**	54	**	86
Thailand	*	52	*	58	*	52	*	68	*	78
	**	4	**	5	**	3	**	7	**	6
Pakistan	*	51	*	42	*	48	*	26	*	34
	**	0	**	2	**	0	**	0	**	0
Other	*	930	*	984	*	959	*	1 110	*	952
	**	2 380	**	2 416	**	2 156	**	1 529	**	2 411

Note: *naturalized, **restored

Source: Yearbook of Korea Immigration Statistics 2021

Among the 10,895 naturalized individuals in 2021, 58.2% (6,345 people) got simplified naturalization through marriage to Koreans (married naturalized persons). By country of origin, 3,850 people from Vietnam (60.7%), 1,550 people from China (24.4%), 254 people from Cambodia (4%), 213 people from the Philippines (3.4%).

Table 41. Status of naturalized marriages by year (number of people)

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Total	6 438	7 689	6 027	6 717	6 345
Vietnam	3 549	4 618	3 651	3 622	3 850
China	1 769	1 601	1 174	1 924	1 550
Cambodia	386	424	332	291	254
Philippines	328	563	404	341	213
Mongolia	68	63	66	88	66
Uzbekistan	30	43	42	52	46
Thailand	42	51	43	56	65
Pakistan	11	6	17	9	14
Other	255	320	298	334	287

Source: Yearbook of Korea Immigration Statistics 2021

Table 42. Status of marital immigrants and persons acquiring citizenship by nationality

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Total	142 015	168 224	199 398	221 548	252 764	267 727	281 295	295 842	294 663	318 948
Koreans of China	59 902	70 901	77 853	87 565	88 922	97 796	100 524	103 194	103 171	110 619
China	33 577	39 434	53 864	60 183	69 671	65 832	67 944	71 661	59 813	64 524
Vietnam	16 305	21 306	31 080	34 913	42 159	47 754	52 323	56 332	62 072	66 554
Philippines	7 146	8 033	10 150	10 868	12 428	13 829	15 256	16 473	17 576	18 247
Japan	6 742	6 653	5 742	5 594	11 070	11 705	12 338	12 875	11 391	11 278
Cambodia	-	-	-	3 354	4 422	5 316	5 684	6 184	6 902	7 221
Mongolia	1 605	2 121	2 591	2 665	2 959	3 068	3 186	3 257	3 308	3 394
Thailand	1 566	1 896	2 291	2 350	2 914	2 918	2 975	3 088	3 069	3 328
United States	1 436	1 750	1 911	1 890	2 598	2 747	3 081	3 350	5 368	7 377
Russia	997	1 854	1 162	1 279	1 827	1 943	2 025	1 976	1 937	1 895
Taiwan	5 696	4 336	1 211	1 856	1 836	2 390	2 661	2 953	4 298	4 552
Other	7 043	9 940	11 543	9 031	11 958	12 429	13 298	14 499	15 758	19 959

Source: Review of the state of foreign citizens, Ministry of Public Administration and Security for 2016 // Immigration and Foreign Policy. Statistical yearbook 2016 // Statistics Immigration Service Korea, 2016

5.3 Analysis of International Marriage in South Korea

According to the National Survey of Multicultural Families of South Korea, in 2009 the average age of women married to South Korean men was 22.3, the average age of men was 43.2 years¹⁵⁷. Let's consider some characteristics of marital partners.

Age difference between marital partners

In the choice of a marriage partner, a significant place is occupied by the correspondence of partners by age. Despite the official statistics of a slight difference in the average age of the marriage partners, we traced the average age difference in inter-ethnic marriage (separately for foreign women and for men) and compared with the data characteristic of a Korean marriage couple. Statistics showed a significant age difference in the couple type "Korean

¹⁵⁷ Lee, Hyunok. Political Economy of Cross-Border Marriage: Economic Development and Social Reproduction in Korea // Feminist Economics. – 2012. - №18(2). – P.177–200

man and foreign woman". For example, in 2001 it was 7.5 years, in 2003 - 8.3 years; in 2006 - 11.6 years; in 2009 - 11.1 years. Moreover, within 10 years, the age difference with such a partner gradually doubled to 6.9 years in 2000 and reached 12.1 years in 2010.

In the married couple "Korean woman and foreign man" in 2000, there was also age gap of 6.6 years. However, since 2001, it has been reduced to 6.5 years; 2003 - 4.0 years; in 2006 - 4.1 years; in 2009 - 3.7 years. Thus, within ten years, on the contrary, there was a reduction in the age difference between Korean woman and her a foreign husband by half, it was only 3.4 years in 2010. We determined the average age gap in a married couple "Korean man and Korean woman". Although there is a gradual reduction in its indicator, the average difference remains at the level of 2011 - 2.2 years. For example, in 2000 it was 2.7 years; in 2003 - 2.6 years; in 2006 - 2.4 years, in 2009 - 2.2 years.

In general, however, international marriages in Korea remain characterized by a large age gap between spouses, which hindered mutual understanding between partners of different cultures at the interpersonal level. Thus, according to the results of the study of Lee Sang Sik, Choi Hyo Jin, Pak Song Jae "Impact of Multi-cultural Family on Quantity and Quality of Population in Korea",¹⁵⁸ the age difference for 2004-2008 was revealed.

Table 43. Age difference of international couples, 2004-2008¹⁵⁹

	Korean Men - Foreign Women		Foreign men - Korean women	
	quantity	%	quantity	%
Total	143 182	100.0	47 909	100.0
Partners who have had more than one marriage	9 368	6.5	14 618	30.5
0-4 years	25 149	17.6	14 936	31.2
5-9 years	31 837	22.2	8 789	18.3
10-14 years	33 265	23.2	4 724	9.9
15-19 years	25 592	17.9	2 599	5.4
20-24 years	12 844	9.0	1 364	2.8
25 and up	5 127	3.6	879	1.8
Average difference		11.8		4.1

The difference in the age of marriage among Korean men and women in 2008 was 2.3 years. The table shows the age difference among married couples over five years (2004-2008). Thus, 17.6% of Korean men and women indicated an age difference between 0 and 4 years. The other group of 22.2% indicated a difference from 5 to 9 years. Further, 23.2% were couples with age difference from 10 to 14 years. The age difference from 15 to 19 years was indicated by 17.9% of respondents. Looking at general background, the group of women with an age difference of more than 20 years remained significant in terms of number, it amounted to 12.6%. On the other hand, in the case of foreign married couples, 30.5% of women are older than men, 31.2% of them are 5 years younger and 18.3% of them are from 5 to 9 years younger. According to the study, 18.9% of respondents said the age difference in a couple is 10 years or older. The average age difference among international marriage partners in 2008 was 11.8 years for Korean men and 4.1 years for women. Given that the average age difference between Korean married couples is 2.3 years, the average age difference between foreign men and women in Korea is quite large.

According to the researchers, this meant that Korean men were relatively old. This fact leads to two important consequences. One of them is that "the foreign partner must have

¹⁵⁸ Lee, S.S., Choi, H.J., Pak, S.J. Song, J. (2008) "Impact of Multi-cultural Family on Quantity and Quality of Population in Korea". Korea Institute for Health and Social Affairs

¹⁵⁹ Lee, Sang Sik; Choi, Hyo Jin, Pak; Song, Jae. Impact of Multi-cultural Family on Quantity and Quality of Population in Korea. - Korea Institute for Health and Social Affairs. - 2008. - 498p.

a stable job to raise and educate a child after her husband's retirement, and if not, then she becomes a indigent". Another point is that international married couples may provoke reduction of the birth rate because they must care for elderly parents¹⁶⁰.

Given that the average age of Korean husbands of migrant women is 43.2, the husband's parents are probably over 60 years old. Therefore, migrant women, who tend to live with husband's parents, are responsible for caring for them along with caring for the house and children. Statistics from 2010 reported that 27.5% of migrant women live with husband's parents, while only 4.36% of Korean families live in their parents' home. For some groups, the figure is even higher. Thus, 53.9% of Cambodian and 45.5% of Vietnamese women care for parents, as well as family members with disabilities. According to the survey, the percentage of registered disabled people living in a multicultural family is 17.9%. Among registered disabled family members, 42.5% are husbands themselves, 32.1% are the husband's parents, and 15.5% are brothers and sisters of husbands (2010)¹⁶¹. Given that the family plays an important role in caring for the elderly and the sick family members, these women provide care by acting as medical nurses.

Frequency of interethnic marriage in South Korea in urban and rural areas

According to the National Survey of Multicultural Families, these couples lived in rural areas (29.7%) as well as in urban areas (70.3%). The data showed the greatest presence of such marriages in the urban environment, in contrast to the early trends of numerical superiority of marriages with rural bachelors.

Traditionally, it is believed that the meeting place of likely partners in interethnic marriage is the urban environment. Based on statistical data for 2021, we tracked the frequency of marriages with migrants in all regions. Separately, the work studied marriages in the city, which included 16 large cities and provinces of urban type: Seoul, Busan, Daegu, Incheon, Gwangju, Daejeon, Ulsan, Gyeonggi, Gangwon, Chungbuk, Jeonnam, Jeonbuk, Jeongnam, Gyeongnam, Jeju. The settlements "dong" and "eup myeon" were considered as rural areas. The place of residence of Korean partners in marriage with migrants is closely related to the socio-economic status of the "host" party. Since most marriages are between migrant women and Korean men, their social status can be characterized by place of residence depending on the economic status of a particular city. In 2021, it was noted that in Seoul the number of men married to foreign women is 24.3%. In turn, the number of women married to foreign men is 14.5%. Other major cities have shown about the same proportion of international marriages. For example, in Busan, the figure was 4.1% for men; 4.4% for women. For the city of Daegu, the proportion of marriages with foreign women was 3.4%, and with foreign men – 2.8%. It is significant that cities that are not so large in terms of socio-economic development, such as Gangwon (1.1% and 2.6%), Jeonnam, Jeongbuk, Jeongnam Jeju (1.4% and 1.8%) showed a higher share of inter-ethnic marriages with foreigners.

It is noteworthy that the regions of rural areas, which include the so-called administrative units "ypmenbu", showed the largest share of interethnic marriages of Koreans with foreign partners: 1.7% – for men; 2.1% – for women¹⁶².

According to the statistical agency of the Republic of Korea in 2021, the following trends in the placement of interethnic families in the cities of Korea were traced.

¹⁶⁰ Lee, Sang Sik; Choi, Hyo Jin, Pak; Song, Jae. Impact of Multi-cultural Family on Quantity and Quality of Population in Korea. - Korea Institute for Health and Social Affairs. - 2008. - 498p.

¹⁶¹ Lee, Hyunok. Political Economy of Cross-Border Marriage: Economic Development and Social Reproduction in Korea // Feminist Economics. - 2012. - №18(2). - P.177-200

¹⁶² International marriages// http://www.index.go.kr/egams/stts/jsp/potal/stts/PO_STTS_idxMain.jsp?idx_cd=2430/ (access date: 28.11.2022)

Table 44. Immigrant Marriage Status, December 31, 2021 (number of people)

	Total	%	Men	%	Women	%
Total	166,771	100.0%	31,752	19.0%	135,019	81.0%
Gyeonggi-do	51,316	30.8%	11,100	35.0%	40,216	29.8%
Seoul	27,327	16.9%	7,719	24.3%	19,608	14.5%
Gyeongsan-nambu	10,705	6.4%	1,808	5.7%	8,897	6.6%
Incheon	11,568	6.9%	2,570	8.1%	8,998	6.7%
Chuncheong -namdo	8,933	5.4%	1,132	3.6%	7,801	5.8%
Gyeongsangbuk-do	7,958	4.8%	977	3.1%	6,981	5.2%
Busan	7,321	4.4%	1,313	4.1%	6,008	4.4%
Jeollanam-do	6,649	4.0%	456	1.4%	6,193	4.6%
Jeollabuk-do	5,988	3.6%	539	1.7%	5,449	4.0%
Daegu	5,457	3.3%	897	2.8%	4,560	3.4%
Chungchongbuk-do	5,599	3.4%	733	2.3%	4,866	3.6%
Gangwon-do	3,831	2.3%	357	1.1%	3,474	2.6%
Daejeon	3,404	2.2%	562	1.8%	3,142	2.3%
Gwangju	3,704	2.0%	469	1.5%	2,935	2.2%
Ulsan	3,346	2.0%	531	1.7%	2,815	2.1%
Jeju	2,850	1.7%	448	1.4%	2,402	1.8%
Sejong	815	0.5%	141	0.4%	674	0.5%

Source: Korea Immigration Statistics Yearbook 2021

Table 45. Foreigners registered as marriage immigrants, by region and year as of 2021 (number of people)

	2012	2015	2016	2018	2019	2020	2021
Total	147,591	149,872	150,605	257,622	150,605	150,605	150,605
Gyeonggi-do	40,208	41,403	41,828	41,828	41,828	41,828	41,828
Seoul	30,775	28,240	27,473	27,473	27,473	27,473	27,473
Gyeongsangnam-do	9,288	9,826	10,003	10,003	10,003	10,003	10,003
Incheon	8,486	9,126	9,294	9,294	9,294	9,294	9,294
Chuncheong-namdo	7,570	7,896	7,965	7,965	7,965	7,965	7,965
Gyeongsangbuk-do	7,470	7,648	7,689	7,689	7,689	7,689	7,689
Busan	6,619	6,931	7,041	7,041	7,041	7,041	7,041
Jeollanam-do	6,861	6,737	6,809	6,809	6,809	6,809	6,809
Jeollabuk-do	5,795	5,955	5,957	5,957	5,957	5,957	5,957
Daegu	4,514	4,895	5,010	5,010	5,010	5,010	5,010
Chungchongbuk-do	4,696	4,784	4,817	4,817	4,817	4,817	4,817
Gangwon-do	3,865	3,684	3,619	3,619	3,619	3,619	3,619
Daejeon	3,440	3,501	3,429	3,429	3,429	3,429	3,429
Gwangju	3,089	3,309	3,379	3,379	3,379	3,379	3,379
Ulsan	2,751	3,242	3,358	3,358	3,358	3,358	3,358
Jeju	1,803	2,171	2,330	2,330	2,330	2,330	2,330
Sejong	361	524	604	604	604	604	604

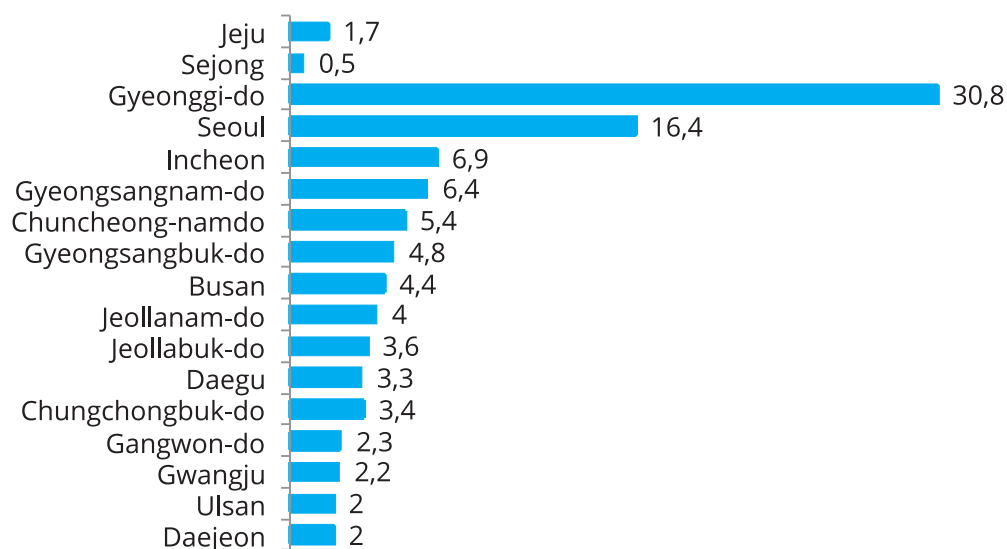
Source: Statistics of multicultural families by year. 2021 // <http://kostat.go.kr> (access date: 28.11.2022)

If we compare these regions by the level of socio-economic development, then these cities can be attributed to regions with a relatively low level of GDP per capita. The position about the prevailing trend of international marriages in rural areas can be confirmed taking into account the status of cities where multicultural families were located.

5.4 Status of registered marriage migrants at the place of residence (2021)

If we consider marriage immigrants by region, then residents of megacities, such as Gyeonggi-do (30.8%), Seoul (16.4%) and Incheon (6.9%), make up more than half with 54.1%.

Figure 31. Distribution of registered married foreign immigrants by area of residence (%)



Source: Korea Immigration Statistics Yearbook 2021

Table 46. Status of registered foreign citizens as married immigrants by region and gender (as of December 31, 2021, number of people)

	General	Composition ratio	Men	Ratio of men	Women	Ratio of women
Total	166,771	100.0%	31,752	19.0%	135,019	81.0%
Gyeonggi-do	51,316	30.8%	11,100	35.0%	40,216	29.8%
Seoul	27,327	16.4%	7,719	24.3%	19,608	14.5%
Incheon	11,568	6.9%	2,570	8.1%	8,998	6.7%
Gyeongsangnam-do	10,705	6.4%	1,808	5.7%	8,897	6.6%
Chungcheongnam-do	8,933	5.4%	1,132	3.6%	7,801	5.8%
Gyeongsangbuk-do	7,958	4.8%	977	3.1%	6,981	5.2%
Busan	7,321	4.4%	1,313	4.1%	6,008	4.4%
Jeollanam-do	6,649	4.0%	456	1.4%	6,193	4.6%
Jeollabuk-do	5,988	3.6%	539	1.7%	5,449	4.0%
Daegu	5,457	3.3%	897	2.8%	4,560	3.4%
Chungcheongbuk-do	5,599	3.4%	733	2.3%	4,866	3.6%
Gangwon-do	3,831	2.3%	357	1.1%	3,474	2.6%
Gwangju	3,704	2.2%	562	1.8%	3,142	2.3%
Daejeon	3,404	2.0%	469	1.5%	2,935	2.2%
Ulsan	3,346	2.0%	531	1.7%	2,815	2.1%
Jeju	2,850	1.7%	448	1.4%	2,402	1.8%
Sejong	815	0.5%	141	0.4%	674	0.5%

Source: Korea Immigration Statistics Yearbook 2021

Table 47. Number of registered marriage immigrant by region and year (number of people)

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Total	153,649	157,418	164,059	166,612	166,771
Gyeonggi-do	43,306	45,182	48,227	50,182	51,316
Seoul	27,491	27,561	28,100	27,883	27,327
Gyeongsangnam-do	10,190	10,280	10,670	10,865	10,705
Incheon	9,773	10,272	10,977	11,286	11,568
Chungcheongnam-do	8,109	8,384	8,819	8,854	8,933
Gyeongsangbuk-do	7,773	7,989	8,094	8,057	7,958
Busan	7,215	7,279	7,455	7,409	7,321
Jeollanam-do	6,657	6,606	6,713	6,774	6,649
Jeollabuk-do	5,975	6,020	6,019	6,085	5,988
Daegu	5,177	5,379	5,628	5,546	5,457
Chungcheongbuk-do	4,954	5,198	5,426	5,543	5,599
Gangwon-do	3,602	3,640	3,800	3,863	3,831
Daejeon	3,415	3,386	3,459	3,459	3,404
Gwangju	3,454	3,511	3,656	3,732	3,704
Ulsan	3,358	3,372	3,476	3,431	3,346
Jeju	2,516	2,617	2,741	2,814	2,850
Sejong	684	742	799	829	815

Source: Korea Immigration Statistics Yearbook 2021

The share of divorces in interethnic marriages in South Korea in 2000-2021

The success of a marriage is measured by the level of its stability. The author could not find this indicator in the statistical data on marriages with foreigners for the period under study. As a rule, it should be calculated by the number of divorces after marriages concluded in a particular year during the subsequent period. In order to assess the overall level of stability of marriages with foreigners in Korea in the 2000s, we tracked the share of divorces of international couples in the total composition of divorces by year for the period 2000-2010. According to statistics, the share of divorces of international married couples for this period increased by 7 times. If in 2000 it was 1.3% of the total composition of divorces in the country, then in 2004 - 2.4%, in 2010 - 9.5%, and in 2021 - 6.1%.

The Ministry of Gender Equality and Family noted in 2007 that the total number of divorces in international marriages of Korean men and women in 2006 was 4,010, which is much more than in the previous year (2,444 divorces in 2005). At the same time, 90.6% of divorces in 2006 occurred before reaching a four-year period of marriage. Divorced couples lived an average of 3.2 years in marriage, compared to 11.8 years in the average cohabitation of a divorced Korean couple nationwide.

If we compare this indicator with the share of international marriages concluded in the period 2009-2021, it turns out that on average 8.5% of marriages are concluded with foreigners. At the same time, during the same period, there was 4.6% of divorces of international married couples. Moreover, the dynamics of growth in the number of divorces in international marriage, where the husband is Korean and the wife is foreigner, is much higher. The increase occurred in general for the years: in 2000 - by 24.7%; in 2001 - by 56.7%; in 2004 - by 86.5%; in 2006 - by 65.1%. However, since 2009, there has been a slight decrease in the divorce rate. The increase compared to the previous year in 2009 was only 4.2%, and in 2010 the number of divorces in international married couples decreased by 4.8% compared to the previous year. Thus, there is a slight trend towards the stability of interethnic marriage couples. Statistics, taking into account the latest data, allows us to analyze the situation with marriages and divorces, both quantitatively and qualitatively.

Table 48. Statistics of marriage with foreigners (marriage, divorce statistics, National statistical office, as of March, 2021) (number of cases, %)

	2009	2010	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Total number of marriages	309759	326104	302828	281635	264455	257622	239159	213502	192500
Marriage with a foreigner	33 300	34 235	21 274	20 591	20 835	23 773	24 721	16 177	13 100
Proportion of international marriage	(10,8)	(10,5)	(7,0)	(7,3)	(7,9)	(9,2)	(10,3)	(7,6)	(6,2)
Korean men + foreign women	25 142	26 274	14 677	14 822	14 869	16 809	18 018	11 436	9 000
Korean women + foreign men	8 158	7 961	6 597	5 769	5 966	4 473	4 379	3 114	4 100

Source: Statistics on marriage and divorce with foreigners (marriage, divorce statistics, National Statistical Office, as of March, 2021 // <http://kostat.go.kr> (access date 28.11.2022)

Despite the large number of marriages with foreigners, the trend in the number of marriages is decreasing. So, if in 2009 their share of the total number of marriages was 10.8%, then in 2021 it decreased to 6.2%. However, there is a noticeable increase in 2018 and 2019, the total number of marriages was 9.2% and 10.3%, respectively. In 2020, the number of marriages once again declined, the share was 7.6%. Marriages with foreign women continue to prevail over marriages with foreign men, exceeding them by almost three times.

Table 49. Divorce trend (marriage, divorce statistics, National statistical office) (number, %)

	2009	2010	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Total number of divorces	123999	116858	109153	107328	106032	108684	110831	106500	102000
Divorces in marriages with foreigner	11 473	11 088	8 237	7 665	7 130	10 254	9 868	8 685	6 200
Proportion of international marriage	(9,3)	(9,5)	(7,5)	(7,1)	(6,7)	(9,4)	(8,9)	(8,2)	(6,1)
Korean men + foreign women	8 246	7 852	5 743	5 610	5 206	4 919	4 648	4 176	4 300
Korean women + foreign men	3 227	3 236	2 494	2 055	1 924	1 489	1 538	1 321	1 900

Source: Statistics on marriage and divorce with foreigners (marriage, divorce statistics, National Statistical Office, as of March, 2021 // <http://kostat.go.kr> (access date 28.11.2022)

It should be noted that against the background of a general reduction in divorces in Korea, divorces in a multicultural family are also gradually decreasing. The divorce rate is also positively correlated with the level of marriages. On average, in 2021, every sixth multicultural couple broke up, which is significant on the scale of the number of marriages concluded. From 2012 to 2017, there was a downward trend in divorces with each subsequent year; this figure increased markedly in 2018, but then again it was a downward trend in the number of divorces. The level of family preservation, namely multicultural family, would testify to the correctness of a multicultural policy, reduce the risks of the process of entering into a multicultural marriage, increase the degree of satisfaction with family life by foreign marriage migrants.

Table 50. Divorce in marriage with foreigners by nationality according to data for 2007 – 2017

	2007	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	%
Total	8 294	11 088	11 495	10 887	10 480	9 754	8 237	7 665	7 130	100
China	4 301	5 730	5 922	5 255	4 877	4 427	3 822	3 622	3 194	44,8
Vietnam	904	1 570	1 948	2 010	2 076	1 846	1 516	1 632	1 636	22,9
Japan	1 744	1 897	1 758	1 650	1 455	1 398	1 128	691	614	8,6
United States	328	384	325	338	363	367	337	341	351	4,9
Philippines	213	299	328	395	435	449	366	298	242	3,4
Cambodia	99	167	192	180	152	155	137	157	134	1,9
Uzbekistan	112	174	133	141	158	169	102	113	-	-
Canada	24	43	32	52	48	54	32	49	47	0,7
Pakistan	35	38	51	49	55	54	54	33	49	0,7
Other	534	786	806	817	861	835	743	729	863	12,1

Source: International marriages// http://www.index.go.kr/egams/stts/jsp/potal/stts/PO_STTS_idxMain.jsp?idx_cd=2430/ (access date: 28.11.2022)

Table 51. Divorce in marriages with foreigners by nationality as of 2018 – 2021

	2018	2019	2020	2021	%
Total	7 140	6 899	6 176	6 173	100
China	3 091	2 918	2 416	2 322	37,6
Vietnam	1 621	1 560	1 649	1 495	24,2
Japan	670	641	479	447	7,2
United States	343	373	328	382	6,1
Philippines	257	231	229	216	3,5
Thailand	143	169	229	276	4,4
Cambodia	157	139	120	119	1,9
Canada	49	97	37	52	0,8
Pakistan	43	40	46	32	0,5
Other	716	771	765	812	13,1

Source: Korea Immigration Statistics Yearbook 2021

It should be noted that the number of divorces in multicultural families has decreased by several points, but remains high, which raises concerns on the part of ministries and departments in charge of family issues. The government's concern about the growing number of divorced multicultural families is reflected in various government programs aimed at preserving families with foreign partners.

5.5 Socio-economic characteristics of international marriages

The level of education of foreign men and women in international marriage

The level of education of multicultural families has a significant impact on the quality of life of the general population. The level of education of multicultural families can be considered as the education of migrants, spouses and their children. Our work analyzes the level of education of international marriage migrants.

According to Korean studies, the age of foreign partners in an international marriage between 2004 and 2008 ranged from 20 to 30 years. Let's compare the level of education of Koreans and foreign partners aged 20 to 30 years. In five years, the number of foreign spouses

in international marriages is 29.1% who have graduated from college, 46.5% from high school and 24.4% from lower secondary school. This level is below the secondary level of education of Koreans according to the Population and Housing Census in 2005. Particularly, 60.8% of them aged 20 to 30 years have higher education, and 36.5% obtained only school education. Thus, the stereotype regarding “low-educated foreign partners in an international marriage” is confirmed for the age cohort of 20-30 years.

The level of education of foreign spouses shows a clear difference in gender and country of origin (region). Only 23.2% of foreign women compare to 62.6% of foreign men graduated from college. At the same time, if we compare with the number of Korean women in a mono-national marriage, the share of college graduates among them was 57.0%. If we correlate the level of education of international partners by country of origin, the share of partners with university education is as follows: non-Asian countries – 70.8%, East Asia – 24.7% and others – 14.1%. Thus, the educational status of foreigners in an international marriage varies greatly depending on the country of origin.

Table 52. Level of education of foreign men and women in international marriage (2004-2008), 20-30) (% , thousand people)

	No education	Higher school	Primary school	High school	Postgraduate education	Total (person)
All IEM*	0.2	2.7	21.5	46.5	29.1	100.0 (73)
Foreign men	0.1	0.8	5.2	31.3	62.6	100.0 (11)
Eastern Asia	0.0	1.8	11.5	41.6	45.1	100.0 (4)
Other Asia	0.5	0.5	4.4	43.3	51.4	100.0 (1)
Everything except Asia	0.0	0.1	0.3	20.6	79.0	100.0 (5)
Foreign women	0.3	3.0	24.4	49.1	23.2	100.0 (62)
Eastern Asia	0.2	2.9	21.4	50.7	24.7	100.0 (33)
Other Asia	0.3	3.5	31.6	50.5	14.1	100.0 (26)
Everything except Asia	0.1	0.4	1.7	27.1	70.8	100.0 (4)
All MNM**	0.2	0.5	2.0	36.5	60.8	100.0 (15 543)
Men	0.2	0.4	2.0	32.8	64.6	100.0 (7 900)
Women	0.2	0.5	2.1	40.3	57.0	100.0 (7 643)

Note. The level of education of Koreans is indicated according to the 2005 Population and Housing Census.

Note: * IEM – interethnic marriages, ** MNM – mononational marriages

Source: Statistics of multicultural families by year. 2018 // <http://kostat.go.kr> (access date: 28.11.2022)

Professional status of foreign men and women in international marriage

The economic activity of married immigrants after entering Korea is limited due to problems such as the language barrier, so the current state of economic activity is determined by their skills. Let's consider the state of economic activity and the profession of marriage migrants at the time of marriage. On the one hand, not all married couples stay in Korea. Nevertheless, these data will provide a certain degree of representativeness, especially in the sense that in most marriages with foreign women, couples remain in Korea.

First, let's consider the state of economic activity of men and women in South Korea aged 20-30 years. According to the results of the 2005 Population and Housing Census, only 29.5% of men are unemployed (including students), 18.3% are managers and professionals (with a profession requiring special knowledge – lawyer, judge, professor, teacher, doctor, etc.), 14.2% of Koreans are office workers, 26.9% work in services and sales, and the remaining 5.3% are engaged in agriculture, forestry, and fisheries. In the case of Korean women, 46.5%

are unemployed and 15.2% are managers and professionals, 13.7% are office workers, 11.8% are service and sales workers, and 6.0% are employed in agriculture, forestry, and fisheries.

The status of economic activity of foreign men at the time of marriage is as follows: 24.6% of them are managers and professionals, 25.0% are office workers, 12.6% are service and sales workers, 8.6% are rural, forestry and simple workers, i.e., 85.7% of foreign men are employed, and the remaining 14.3% are unemployed. Looking at the state of unemployment by country, 16.9% of unemployed are East Asian men, 15.3% are men from other Asian countries, and only 11.9% are from non-Asian countries. On the other hand, representatives of non-Asian countries occupy the highest share in the management and professional spheres (36.6%), while people from East Asia – 13.3% and from other Asian countries – 13.2%.

In the case of immigrant women in international marriages, 26.6% are employed: 2.4% are managers and professionals, 5.6% are office workers, 4.0% are service and sales workers, 2.7% are agricultural and forestry workers, and 73.4% are unemployed. These results suggest that immigrant women (especially young women) are more likely to come to Korea without having work experience in their home countries. The share by region shows that 76.4% of the unemployed are immigrants from East Asia, 72.4% from other Asian countries, and only 61.0% from non-Asian countries. 11.8% and 8.4% are managerial and professional workers and office workers who are immigrants from non-Asian countries, while managers, professionals and office workers from East Asia are 2.3% and 7.6%, while other Asian workers – 1.1% and 2.7%, respectively.

Thus, foreign women married to Korean men mainly represented Asian countries and did not have professional skills to work in their countries.

Table 53. Economic status of Korean men and women (20 and 30 years old) in international marriages (2004-2008), (% , thousand people)

	International marriages of foreign men				International marriages of foreign women				Korean men and women (20-30 years)		
	all	East Asia	Other Asian countries	everything except Asia	all	East Asia	Other Asian countries	everything except Asia	all	Husband	Wife
Managers	1.1	1.1	1.2	1.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.4	1.0	1.7	0.3
Experts	23.5	12.2	12.0	35.5	2.3	2.2	1.0	11.4	15.7	16.6	14.9
Office work	25.0	32.7	30.4	17.4	5.6	7.6	2.7	8.4	14.0	14.2	13.7
Service & Sales	12.6	15.9	14.2	9.4	4.0	4.8	2.9	4.9	11.7	11.5	11.8
Agriculture	1.3	2.8	1.4	0.1	3.8	1.0	7.8	0.0	1.1	1.5	0.8
Functional	3.8	4.8	9.7	1.7	0.7	0.8	0.6	0.6	5.7	10.4	1.3
Equipment	1.2	1.5	3.9	0.5	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	6.6	10.8	2.7
Simple work	2.3	3.4	6.7	0.3	0.6	0.7	0.6	0.3	2.7	4.2	1.2
Unemployed (students)	14.3	16.9	15.3	11.9	73.4	72.4	76.4	61.0	41.8	29.5	53.5
Soldiers	14.5	8.4	5.2	21.6	6.8	7.2	6.5	5.9	0.6	1.2	0.2
Total, %	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Quantity	11421	4712	1146	5563	65619	34414	27086	4119	8762	5190	3571

Source: Statistics of multicultural families by year. 2018 // <http://kostat.go.kr> (access date: 28.11.2022)

Thus, foreign men in an international marriage have relatively longer work experience and similar career experience than Korean men (20-30 years). Foreign married women have relatively low employment rates, relatively low professional careers, and relatively low quality and stability compared to Korean women between the ages of 20 and 30. As a result, the

professional abilities of married immigrant men are similar to those of Korean men, while the professional abilities of immigrant women are not much higher than those of Korean women. According to a thematic analysis conducted in this study, most international migrant women surveyed want to work in Korea but are unable to do it due to lack of Korean language skills, the parenting responsibilities and a lack of specialized skills. Occupations related to manual labor, service and sales will have the greatest demand, but their professional skills are likely to fall further.

Income level of a multicultural family

Most of the studies conducted so far have shown that a significant proportion of multicultural families face economic difficulties due to low incomes. Taking into account the employment level and professional characteristics of married migrants mentioned above, the income level of a multicultural family is estimated to be low. According to a survey conducted by the Korea Institute of Health and Social Affairs, since 2008, 9.8% of multicultural families have had an average monthly income less than one million won. 44.7% of families with incomes between 100 and 2 million won belonged to an income class of less than 2 million won. Given that the national average monthly household income in 2009 was 3,432,021 won, international families are likely to be classified as low-income families.

Table 54. Income level of migrant women's families in marriage (multicultural families), (% , number of people)

	Less than 1 million won	Less than 100~2 million won	Less than 200~3 million won	Over 3 million won	Total (person)
Region (total)	9.8	44.7	31.2	14.3	100.0 (892)
Urban	7.0	41.1	35.6	16.3	100.0 (559)
Rural	14.4	50.8	23.7	11.1	100.0 (333)
Number of family members					
2 people	7.3	40.0	36.4	16.4	100.0 (110)
3 people	9.4	44.7	34.9	11.0	100.0 (255)
4 people and more	10.4	45.1	28.7	15.7	100.0 (567)

Note. The average monthly household income (2 or more) across the country was 3,369,673 won in 2008.

Source: Yoo Kyung Kim et al. (2008). *Study on Welfare Policy in a Multicultural Period*

The income level of multicultural families does not just demonstrate low household incomes. Poor married immigrants want to earn money, but participation in the labor market will be difficult due to language problems, cultural differences, and low work skills. As a result, immigrants in marriage feel lack of social adaptation and experience problems of social inequality. The low economic level of multicultural families has a negative impact on the upbringing of children. In particular, multicultural families are unable to provide a decent education for their children due to lack of income.

The level of education of children in multicultural families

As the number of international marriages increases, the number of children born to foreign mothers, children of multicultural families, is growing rapidly.

Table 55. Members of multicultural families with children by age groups, (number of people)

	Total	0-6	7-12	13-15	16-17
2016	201,333	113,506	56,768	17,453	13,606
2015	197,550	116,068	61,625	12,567	7,290
2014	204,204	121,310	49,929	19,499	13,466
2013	191,328	116,696	45,156	18,395	11,081
2012	168,583	104,694	40,235	15,038	8,616
2011	151,154	93,537	37,590	12,392	7,635
2010	121,935	75,776	30,587	8,688	6,884
2009	107,689	64,040	28,922	8,082	6,645
2008	58,007	33,140	18,691	3,672	2,504
2007	44,258	26,445	14,392	2,080	1,341

Source: Review of the state of foreign citizens, Ministry of Public Administration and Security, November 2016 // Statistics of the Immigration Service of Korea, 2016. – P.34

As noted by experts, the quality of home and school education of children in multicultural families ultimately affects the quality of the entire population of Korea. In their opinion, the level of education of children from multicultural families leaves much to be desired. First of all, children in multicultural families in early childhood have a delay in language development, as well as difficulties in understanding culture due to the mother's language problems. There is a big difference between women in the ability to speak Korean. For example, Chinese (Korean, Han) women speak Korean more fluently, but still have difficulties in understanding. In the case of women from Southeast Asian countries, such as the Philippines and Vietnam, there is a big difference in the ability to speak Korean depending on the length of residence in Korea. Statistics of the immigration service of Korea records more than 200 thousand children in international families according to data for 2016.

Table 56. Number of children in multinational families by nationality (number of people)

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Total	44258	58007	107689	121935	151154	168583	191328	204204	197550	201333
Koreans of China	14201	16681	18669	31404	33186	39278	42294	43890	35439	36610
China	7716	10889	35932	29800	34852	33231	37084	38824	40351	37963
Vietnam	5062	8194	22491	27517	34256	41238	49458	54737	57464	56468
Philippines	6013	6378	10687	11926	13937	15820	18020	19568	19918	20146
Japan	6016	6508	6838	5734	14510	16237	17806	18185	7773	9485
Cambodia				2554	3565	4690	5961	6777	7016	6909
Mongolia	405	816	1681	1807	2250	2468	2802	2952	2771	2719
Thailand	799	870	1563	1711	2082	2427	2663	2767	2254	2543
United States	852	2406	683	821	1207	1422	1697	1855	6140	5874
Russia	263	303	736	766	1090	1139	1289	1319	1017	1058
Taiwan	878	1515	770	1129	1191	1615	1758	1892	2877	2522
Other	2,053	3447	7639	6766	9028	9018	10496	11348	14530	19036

Source: Review of the state of foreign citizens, Ministry of Security and Public Administration, November 2016 // Statistics of the Immigration Service of Korea, 2016. – P.39

Most women in international marriages believe that their children's desire for education is the same as that of Koreans, and the difficulties in raising their children are the same as those of Koreans. However, although there is no specific information about the upbringing of children, obviously there is a difference in the methods of upbringing, which manifests itself in the form of a cultural conflict. Some international marriage migrants noted that the upbringing and education of children had been the subject of disagreement with their husbands.

Table 57. Number of children in multicultural families by province (number of people)

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Total	44258	58007	107689	121935	151154	168583	191328	204204	197550	201333
Seoul	5305	7500	16772	19014	24084	26008	29285	30226	30447	30761
Busan	2269	3057	5091	5698	6837	7375	8311	9022	9157	8852
Daegu	2019	2254	3656	3904	4475	5125	5829	6305	6423	6388
Incheon	2313	3054	6662	7805	8868	9552	11082	11964	11845	12440
Gwangju	1231	1608	2420	2752	3403	3926	4519	4997	5090	4881
Daejeon	824	985	2441	2881	3439	3847	4365	4666	4561	4594
Ulsan	884	1068	2489	2798	3233	3582	4092	4437	4376	4400
Sejong	-	-	-	-	-	-	563	660	729	829
Gyeonggi	6617	11131	25648	29953	37519	42365	48138	51960	50313	52446
Gangwon	2366	2590	4017	3900	5161	5780	6498	6917	6042	6046
Chungbuk	2288	2584	3748	4710	5675	6445	7272	7718	7089	7424
Chungnam	3432	3421	6399	6953	9119	10023	11010	11863	10908	11574
Jeonbuk	3275	4283	5474	5849	7755	8766	9989	10316	9744	9751
Jongnam	4153	4902	7279	7453	9764	10763	12149	12832	11524	11590
Gyeongnbuk	3289	4235	6353	7715	9246	10251	11574	12578	11775	11755
Gyeongnam	3599	4601	8060	9260	10996	12762	14294	15143	14476	14388
Jeju	394	734	1180	1290	1580	2013	2358	2600	3051	3214

Source: Review of the state of foreign citizens, Ministry of Public Administration and Security, November 2016 // Statistics of the Immigration Service of Korea, 2016. - P.40

Table 58. Number of children in multicultural families by province (number of people)

	2018	2019	2020
Total	326 822	302 676	272 337
Seoul	58 074	53 673	47 445
Busan	19 152	17 049	15 058
Daegu	14 400	13 233	11 193
Incheon	20 087	18 522	16 040
Gwangju	9 105	8 364	7 318
Daejeon	9 337	8 410	7 481
Ulsan	8 149	7 539	6 617
Sejong	3 703	3 819	3 468
Gyeonggi	88 175	83 198	77 737
Gangwon	8 351	8 283	7 839
Chungbuk	10 586	9 333	8 607
Chungnam	14 380	13 228	11 950
Jeonbuk	10 001	8 971	8 165

continuation of Table 58

	2018	2019	2020
Jongnam	11 238	10 832	9 738
Gyeongbuk	16 079	14 472	12 873
Gyeongnam	21 224	19 250	16 823
Jeju	4 781	4 500	3 989

Source: Statistics of the dynamics of the multicultural population in 2020, as of March, 2020 <http://kostat.go.kr> (access date: 28.11.2022)

In addition, there are frequent cases of humiliation of children by classmates at school, which negatively affected the performance of children and the desire to study. The reasons for the bullying were the foreign origin of their mothers (34.1%), as well as different appearance from Koreans (14.6%) (Jung, Soon-Song, 2007). The overall level of satisfaction of secondary school students was 48.4%, 44.4% and 7.2%, respectively, which indicated an unsatisfactory norm (Statistics Korea, 2008). However, in the case of children from multicultural families, the level of satisfaction is much lower (39.7%, 42.2% and 18.1%). Failure at school causes anxiety, as a result, academic performance decreases and children lose interest in school life.

Thus, children from multicultural families lack basic education due to their mother's lack of ability to speak Korean, an economically difficult family situation, as well as bullying by friends and low satisfaction with school life. In addition, it was recorded that the lower the level of language proficiency, the higher the child's level of academic failure, which worsens as the transition from grade to grade. All this is reflected in the process of personality formation, in the formation of identity and interpersonal relations.

5.6 Characteristics of the international marriage of Russian-speaking wives in Korea (according to sociological research)

In the domestic literature, individual works devoted to the marriages of citizens of the CIS countries with citizens of South Korea could not be found. The following information was presented as interim results of studies of the situation of ethnic Korean women in the CIS countries according to the data for the period of 2013, where the statistics of international marriages separately for ethnic Koreans was traced only for ethnic Koreans in Russia.

Table 59. Marriage migrants of the CIS countries in South Korea in 2009-2012

Country	2009		2010		2011		2012	
	Total	including wives	Total	including wives	Total	including wives	Total	including wives
Total	125 087	109 211	141 654	123 093	144 681	125 031	148 498	127 540
Uzbekistan	1 437	1 389	1 725	1 678	1 840	1 788	2 017	1 962
Kyrgyzstan	253	251	321	319	452	447	513	509
Kazakhstan	147	142	195	187	213	205	221	213
Tajikistan	7	7	6	6	7	7	8	8
Turkmenistan	4	4	5	5	3	3	3	3
Russia	835	790	1 161	1 102	1 174	1 109	1 179	1 107
Koreans of Russia	93	90	119	116	145	140	149	143
Ukraine	33	28	48	40	55	46	56	48
Belarus	15	13	15	13	18	16	19	16
Moldova	5	3	7	4	7	4	7	4
Armenia	2	1	4	3	6	5	8	7
Georgia	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	2

continuation of Table 59

Country	2009		2010		2011		2012	
	Total	including wives	Total	including wives	Total	including wives	Total	including wives
Latvia	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	2
Azerbaijan	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0

Source: Statistics to Marriage Immigrants // http://www.index.go.kr/egams/stts/jsp/potal/stts/PO_STTS_idxMain.jsp?idx_cd=2430 (access date: 28.11.2022)

Table 60. Number of married migrants - gender aspect (2018)

Country	Migrants for marriage		Men		Women	
	Total population	%	Total population	%	Total population	%
Total population	159 206	100	26 815	16,8	132 391	83,2
China	58 706	36.9	12 710	21.7	45 996	78.3
Vietnam	42 460	26.7	2 182	5.1	40 278	94.9
Japan	13 738	8.6	1 231	9.0	12 507	91.0
Philippines	11 836	7.4	419	3.5	11 417	96.5
Cambodia	4 496	2.8	217	4.8	4 279	95.2
Thailand	4 411	2.8	96	2.2	4 315	97.8
United States	3 658	2.3	2 683	73.3	975	26.7
Mongolia	2 438	1.5	147	6.0	2 291	94.0
Uzbekistan	2 425	1.5	114	4.7	2 311	95.3
Russia	1 494	0.9	109	7.3	1 385	92.7
Canada	1 320	0.8	218	16.5	1 102	83.5
Taiwan	1 213	0.8	94	7.7	1 119	92.3
Nepal	901	0.6	172	19.1	729	80.9
Other	10 110	6.4	6423	63.5	3687	36.5

Source: Korea immigration service statistics. Ministry of Justice, 2018

At the same time, statistical data on interethnic marriages of citizens of the Republic of Korea demonstrate the emergence of the column Uzbekistan (separately), as well as the countries of Central Asia, as representatives of the post-Soviet space, which includes citizens of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. According to the statistical agencies of the Republic of Korea, in 2011 the status of migration marriage was acquired by women from Uzbekistan - 1788 people, Kyrgyzstan - 455, Kazakhstan - 213¹⁶³.

Among the general characteristics for the period 2000-2011. of the central Asian countries of the post-Soviet space, only Uzbekistan is represented. In 2000, 43 women from Uzbekistan married Koreans, the number of them in marriage was noted in 2001 - 66, 2002 - 183, 2003 - 328, 2004 - 247, 2005 - 332, 2006 - 314, 2007 - 351, 2008 - 492, 2009 - 365, 2010 - 317, 2011 - 324 marriages.

The total number of married migrants in South Korea as of 2016 amounted to 152,374 people, among them citizens of the post-Soviet countries numbered 4,510 people, which was 2.95%. Of the Russian-speaking countries, representatives of all 15 republics of the former Soviet Union have the status of marriage migrants. Among them: men - 23,856, women - 128,518 people. The numerical superiority in marriage of women was justified in the previous sections, women accounted for 84.3% of international marriages in Korea. Marriage migration

¹⁶³ Statistics to Marriage Immigrants // http://www.index.go.kr/egams/stts/jsp/potal/stts/PO_STTS_idxMain.jsp?idx_cd=2430 (access date 28.11.2022)

of citizens of the countries of the former USSR can definitely be called «female marriage migration».

Table 61. Status of marital immigrants by nationality and region.
Immigration and Foreign Policy

State/Residence Status	Gender	Total	National spouse F-2-1	National spouse F-5-2	National spouse F-6-1	Childcare F-6-2	Dissolution of Marriage F-6-3
All countries	Total	152,374	3,503	27,539	116,238	2,216	2,878
	husband	23,856	209	3,708	19,465	192	282
	Wives	128,518	3,294	23,831	96,773	2,024	2,596
Total CIS	Total	4510	35	1419	2891	103	59
	husband	229	1	46	181	1	0
	wives	4281	34	1373	2710	102	59
Uzbekistan	husband	87	0	13	73	1	0
	wives	2,215	24	699	1,416	51	25
Kazakhstan	husband	13	0	1	12	0	0
	wives	232	0	80	149	1	2
Kyrgyzstan	husband	10	0	0	10	0	0
	wives	470	4	108	340	11	7
Tajikistan	husband	1	0	0	1	0	0
	wives	9	0	0	8	0	1
Turkmenistan	husband	0	0	0	0	0	0
	wives	6	0	0	6	0	0
Russia	husband	84	1	23	60	0	0
	wives	1,098	5	422	610	36	25
Koreans of Russia	husband	9	0	1	8	0	0
	wives	130	1	37	89	1	2
Ukraine	husband	15	0	4	11	0	0
	wives	75	0	16	57	2	0
Belarus	husband	5	0	2	3	0	0
	wives	29	0	6	23	0	0
Azerbaijan	husband	0	0	0	0	0	0
	wives	2	0	0	2	0	0
Lithuania	husband	0	0	0	0	0	0
	wives	3	0	1	2	0	0
Armenia	husband	1	0	0	1	0	0
	wives	3	0	0	3	0	0
Latvia	husband	1	0	0	1	0	0
	wives	5	0	2	3	0	0
Moldova	husband	2	0	2	0	0	0
	wives	3	0	1	2	0	0
Estonia	husband	1	0	0	1	0	0
	wives	0	0	0	0	0	0
Georgia	husband	0	0	0	0	0	0
	wives	1	0	1	0	0	0

Source: Review of the state of foreign citizens, Ministry of Public Administration and Security, November 2016 // Statistics of the Immigration Service of Korea, 2016. – P.40

Next, the features of marital activity in South Korea among these countries will be considered. The first positions are occupied by citizens of Russia. Thus, 84 men (1.9%) and 1098 women (24.3%) were registered in the status of marriage migrants among marriage migrants of the CIS. The column "Koreans of Russia" is separated from other indicator – 9 men (0.2%) and 130 women (2.9%) of Korean nationality are among the marriage migrants. The most notable in the lists of international marriages of general statistics of Korea are citizens of Uzbekistan. Among them, 2,215 women (49.1%) and 87 men (1.9%). Admittedly, the presence of men married to South Korean women has become more visible than before. Then the third place is occupied by citizens of Kyrgyzstan. They began to take part in marriage migration a little later than all representatives of the post-Soviet community, but their number has increased dramatically over the past 5 years, for women – 470 cases of marriage (10.4%), and men are represented as foreign husbands in 10 cases (0.2%). The fourth position is occupied by citizens of Kazakhstan, women – 232 (5.1%), and men – 13 people (0.3%). Gradually, the experience of marriage migration increased among citizens of Ukraine (men – 15 (0.3%), women – 75 (1.7%) in the total composition of marriages with Koreans. The experience of marriage migration has become new for citizens of Belarus since the early 2000s. It covered 29 women (0.6%) and 5 men (0.1%) who married in South Korea. Tajikistan clearly holds the advantage of women's marriages – 9 (0.2%), only one man was a marriage migrant (0.02%).

It is characteristic that the rest of the post-Soviet countries have no more than 5-6 cases of international marriage with Koreans. Turkmenistan – 6 women (0.1%), Azerbaijan – 2 women (0.04%) and Armenia – 3 women (0.06%), 1 man (0.02%), due to their traditional foundations, as well as the peculiarities of the domestic political situation, are still not familiar with the experience of globalization and multicultural traditions of the modern world. At the same time, Lithuania (3), Latvia (6), Moldova (5), Estonia (1) and Georgia (1) are gradually appearing in the lists of married migrants, getting acquainted with South Korean culture at the family level. Thus, as of the beginning of 2017, according to the statistics of the Korean Immigration Service, representatives of all fifteen countries of the former Soviet Union participate in international marriage in South Korea.

Table 62. Status of married immigrants and persons acquiring citizenship by nationality, 2007-2015 (number of people)

	2007	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Total	142015	221548	252764	267727	281295	295842	294663
Koreans of China	59902	87565	88922	97796	100524	103194	103171
China	33577	60183	69671	65832	67944	71661	59813
Vietnam	16305	34913	42159	47754	52323	56332	62072
Philippines	7146	10868	12428	13829	15256	16473	17576
Japan	6742	5594	11070	11705	12338	12875	11391
Cambodia	-	3354	4422	5316	5684	6184	6902
Mongolia	1605	2665	2959	3068	3186	3257	3308
Thailand	1566	2350	2914	2918	2975	3088	3069
United States	1436	1890	2598	2747	3081	3350	5368
Russia	997	1279	1827	1943	2025	1976	1937
Taiwan	5696	1856	1836	2390	2661	2953	4298
Other	7043	9031	11958	12429	13298	14499	15758

Source: Review of the status of foreign citizens, Ministry of Public Administration and Security, November 2021 // Statistics of the Immigration Service of Korea, 2021

We cannot trace the dynamics of international marriages of CIS citizens by year since statistics on the CIS countries appeared quite recently. As of 2016, representatives of 148 countries take part in marriages with foreigners, covering all continents of the world.

It is known that in the data of the Statistical Agency the column "Russia", "Koreans of Russia" appeared, and since the mid-2000s, due to a significant increase in the number of marriages, the column "Uzbekistan" began to appear. However, in the general statistics of summary data on marriages with foreigners, only Russia is mentioned. Thus, the status of citizenship of South Korea was acquired by immigrants from Russia – 1895 people in 2016.

Table 63. Status of married immigrants and persons acquiring citizenship by nationality, 2016-2021 (number of people)

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Total	318948	155457	159206	166025	168594	168611
Koreans of China	110619	-	-	-	-	-
China	64524	57644	58706	60324	60072	59770
Vietnam	66554	42205	42460	44172	44058	41447
Philippines	18247	11783	11836	12030	12002	12041
Japan	11278	13400	13738	14184	14595	15074
Cambodia	7221	4459	4496	4641	4638	4565
Mongolia	3394	2396	2438	2497	2486	2502
Thailand	3328	3671	4411	5130	5929	6558
United States	7377	3471	3658	3883	4312	4538
Russia	1895	1367	1494	1668	1800	2041
Taiwan	4552	1072	1213	1394	1472	1596
Other	19959	9303	10110	11196	12367	13510

Source: Review of the status of foreign citizens, Ministry of Public Administration and Security, November 2021 // Statistics of the Immigration Service of Korea, 2021

Marriages between a Korean groom (by marital status) and a foreign bride (by nationality)¹⁶⁴. The largest number of marriages are between citizens of South Korea and citizens of Uzbekistan, in second place is Kazakhstan, in third place - Kyrgyzstan.

Table 64. Marriages between a Korean groom (by marital status) and a foreign bride (by nationality)

By nationality of foreign wife	By marriage type of Korean husband	2019	2020	2021
Australia	Total	80	47	27
	First marriage	73	39	25
	Remarriage	7	8	2
	Unknown	0	0	0
Cambodia	Total	432	275	137
	First marriage	312	182	89
	Remarriage	120	93	48
	Unknown	0	0	0
Canada	Total	185	159	154
	First marriage	163	138	138
	Remarriage	22	21	16
	Unknown	0	0	0

¹⁶⁴ Marriages of between Korean Bridegroom (by Marital Status) and Foreign Bride (by Nationality)/ Korean Statistical Information Service (KOSIS) // https://kosis.kr/statHtml/statHtml.do?orgId=101&tblId=DT_1B83A31&vw_cd=MT_ETITLE&list_id=A23&scrId=&seqNo=&language=en&obj_var_id=&itm_id=&conn_path=A6&path=%252Feng%252Fsearch%252FsearchList.do (access date 28.11.2022)

continuation of Table 64

By nationality of foreign wife	By marriage type of Korean husband	2019	2020	2021
China	Total	3,649	2,524	2,426
	First marriage	2,104	1,380	1,329
	Remarriage	1,545	1,144	1,097
	Unknown	0	0	0
Indonesia	Total	97	51	70
	First marriage	76	41	56
	Remarriage	21	10	14
	Unknown	0	0	0
Japan	Total	903	758	723
	First marriage	832	687	669
	Remarriage	71	71	54
	Unknown	0	0	0
Kazakhstan	Total	92	79	109
	First marriage	52	48	63
	Remarriage	40	31	46
	Unknown	0	0	0
Kyrgyzstan	Total	54	24	35
	First marriage	34	15	17
	Remarriage	20	9	18
	Unknown	0	0	0
Laos	Total	116	65	48
	First marriage	78	42	31
	Remarriage	38	23	17
	Unknown	0	0	0
Malaysia	Total	38	35	26
	First marriage	34	31	20
	Remarriage	4	4	6
	Unknown	0	0	0
Mongolia	Total	195	154	0
	First marriage	106	91	0
	Remarriage	89	63	0
	Unknown	0	0	0
Nepal	Total	50	22	27
	First marriage	39	12	15
	Remarriage	11	10	12
	Unknown	0	0	0
New Zealand	Total	29	22	17
	First marriage	22	20	14
	Remarriage	7	2	3
	Unknown	0	0	0
Others and unknown	Total	716	611	786
	First marriage	600	522	628
	Remarriage	116	89	157
	Unknown	0	0	1
Philippines	Total	816	367	260
	First marriage	553	246	165
	Remarriage	263	121	95
	Unknown	0	0	0

continuation of Table 64

By nationality of foreign wife	By marriage type of Korean husband	2019	2020	2021
Russia	Total	305	275	356
	First marriage	222	204	255
	Remarriage	83	71	101
	Unknown	0	0	0
Taiwan	Total	286	196	254
	First marriage	258	174	234
	Remarriage	28	22	20
	Unknown	0	0	0
Thailand	Total	2,050	1,735	1,589
	First marriage	1,279	1,102	1,031
	Remarriage	771	633	557
	Unknown	0	0	1
Total	Total	17,687	11,100	8,985
	First marriage	12,219	7,602	6,059
	Remarriage	5,468	3,498	2,924
	Unknown	0	0	2
USA	Total	597	432	457
	First marriage	485	366	383
	Remarriage	112	66	74
	Unknown	0	0	0
Uzbekistan	Total	285	133	165
	First marriage	174	82	99
	Remarriage	111	51	66
	Unknown	0	0	0
Vietnam	Total	6,712	3,136	1,319
	First marriage	4,723	2,180	798
	Remarriage	1,989	956	521
	Unknown	0	0	0

Source: Marriages of between Korean Bridegroom (by Marital Status) and Foreign Bride (by Nationality)/ Korean Statistical Information Service (KOSIS) // https://kosis.kr/statHtml/statHtml.do?orgId=101&tblId=DT_1B83A31&vw_cd=MT_ETITLE&list_id=A23&scrId=&seqNo=&language=en&obj_var_id=&itm_id=&conn_path=A6&path=%252Feng%252Fsearch%252FsearchList.do (access date 28.11.2022)

Over the past three years (2019, 2020, 2021), there have been no marriages concluded between women citizens of South Korea and men citizens from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan.

Table 65. Marriages between a Korean bride (by marital status) and a foreign groom (by nationality)

By nationality of foreign husband	By marriage type of Korean wife	2019	2020	2021
Total	Total	5,956	4,241	4,117
	First marriage	3,841	2,681	2,670
	Remarriage	2,114	1,560	1,447
	Unknown	1	0	0
Taiwan	Total	117	104	69
	First marriage	103	96	62
	Remarriage	14	8	7
	Unknown	0	0	0

continuation of Table 65

By nationality of foreign husband	By marriage type of Korean wife	2019	2020	2021
Philippines	Total	64	46	49
	First marriage	18	8	15
	Remarriage	46	38	34
	Unknown	0	0	0
Vietnam	Total	639	501	440
	First marriage	24	15	20
	Remarriage	615	486	420
	Unknown	0	0	0
Nepal	Total	27	9	21
	First marriage	7	1	5
	Remarriage	20	8	16
	Unknown	0	0	0
Pakistan	Total	54	38	52
	First marriage	25	16	16
	Remarriage	29	22	36
	Unknown	0	0	0
India	Total	29	12	18
	First marriage	23	10	17
	Remarriage	6	2	1
	Unknown	0	0	0
Sri Lanka	Total	35	30	24
	First marriage	11	6	7
	Remarriage	24	24	17
	Unknown	0	0	0
Bangladesh	Total	13	10	7
	First marriage	2	4	4
	Remarriage	11	6	3
	Unknown	0	0	0
China	Total	1,407	942	777
	First marriage	677	426	316
	Remarriage	730	516	461
	Unknown	0	0	0
Japan	Total	265	135	140
	First marriage	169	84	94
	Remarriage	96	51	46
	Unknown	0	0	0
France	Total	123	93	86
	First marriage	110	89	76
	Remarriage	13	4	10
	Unknown	0	0	0
Italy	Total	34	22	16
	First marriage	32	21	15
	Remarriage	2	1	1
	Unknown	0	0	0
Germany	Total	95	54	65
	First marriage	93	48	58
	Remarriage	2	6	7
	Unknown	0	0	0

continuation of Table 65

By nationality of foreign husband	By marriage type of Korean wife	2019	2020	2021
Netherlands	Total	24	19	17
	First marriage	23	19	16
	Remarriage	1	0	1
	Unknown	0	0	0
UK	Total	190	146	112
	First marriage	183	137	102
	Remarriage	7	9	10
	Unknown	0	0	0
Switzerland	Total	13	15	11
	First marriage	13	13	10
	Remarriage	0	2	1
	Unknown	0	0	0
Canada	Total	363	257	223
	First marriage	342	233	211
	Remarriage	21	24	12
	Unknown	0	0	0
USA	Total	1,468	1,101	1,276
	First marriage	1,320	983	1,133
	Remarriage	148	118	143
	Unknown	0	0	0
Australia	Total	178	82	77
	First marriage	164	73	65
	Remarriage	14	9	12
	Unknown	0	0	0
New Zealand	Total	59	48	52
	First marriage	56	48	49
	Remarriage	3	0	3
	Unknown	0	0	0
Others and unknown	Total	759	577	585
	First marriage	446	351	379
	Remarriage	312	226	206
	Unknown	1	0	0

Source: Marriages of between Korean Bridegroom (by Marital Status) and Foreign Bride (by Nationality)/ Korean Statistical Information Service (KOSIS) // https://kosis.kr/statHtml/statHtml.do?orgId=101&tblId=DT_1B83A31&vw_cd=MT_ETITLE&list_id=A23&scrId=&seqNo=&language=en&obj_var_id=&itm_id=&conn_path=A6&path=%252Feng%252Fsearch%252FsearchList.do (access date 28.11.2022)

The quality of marriage was assessed by the level of divorce in interethnic marriages. Statistics showed that with the growth of interethnic marriages, the number of divorces remains alarmingly high. Marriage migrants from Uzbekistan are mentioned in the summary data of the least stable marriages with foreigners, showing a high divorce rate, according to the National Statistical Office of the Republic of Korea for the period 2007-2021.

Table 66. Divorces in international marriages in South Korea by nationality. Statistics of divorce with foreigners as of March 2017

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	%
Total	8294	10980	11473	11088	11495	10887	10480	9754	8237	7665	7130	100
China	4301	6439	6626	5730	5922	5255	4877	4427	3822	3622	3194	44.8
Vietnam	904	1083	1308	1570	1948	2010	2076	1846	1516	1632	1636	22.9
Japan	1744	1761	1855	1897	1758	1650	1455	1398	1128	691	614	8.6
United States	328	333	357	384	325	338	363	367	337	341	351	4.9
Philippines	213	268	285	299	328	395	435	449	366	298	242	3.4
Cambodia	99	178	109	167	192	180	152	155	137	157	134	1.9
Uzbekistan	112	160	174	174	133	141	158	169	102	113	-	-
Canada	24	34	29	43	32	52	48	54	32	49	47	0.7
Pakistan	35	32	35	38	51	49	55	54	54	33	49	0.7
Other	534	692	695	786	806	817	861	835	743	729	863	12.1

Source: Statistics of marriage and divorce with foreigners // National Statistical Office of Korea, 2017

Table 67. Divorce from foreigners by region of arrival. Statistics of divorce with foreigners as of March 2021

	2018	2019	2020	2021	%
Total	7140	6899	6176	6173	100
China	3091	2918	2416	2322	37.6
Vietnam	1621	1560	1649	1495	24.2
Japan	670	641	479	447	7.2
United States	343	373	328	382	6.1
Philippines	257	231	229	216	3.5
Thailand	143	169	229	276	4.4
Uzbekistan	-	-	-	-	-
Cambodia	157	139	120	119	1.9
Canada	49	97	37	52	0.8
Pakistan	43	40	46	32	0.5
Other	716	771	765	812	13.1

Source: Statistics of marriage and divorce with foreigners // National Statistical Office of Korea, 2021

Since the late 1990s, South Korean citizens have also begun to appear in the civil status records of Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan as marriage partners of Central Asian women. Initially, they were, as a rule, ethnic Korean women, subconsciously “reaching out” to the image of “men in the best Korean traditions”. Statistics on international marriages of Korean women in Central Asia have not been conducted in these countries. There are only some mentions of such cases becoming more frequent. In Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan as a whole, international marriages are not considered separately either in statistical data or in academic studies. Such cases were quite rare, they only require an explanatory situation about the procedure for registering a marriage with citizens of another country. For example, according to the data of the Department of Internal Affairs of the Zhetysu district of Almaty, in the Registry Office of the Department of Justice for the statistics of registration of marriages of citizens of the Republic of Kazakhstan with foreign citizens for 9 months of 2011, a total of 987 records of marriage

were registered, of which 70 - with foreign citizens, 14 - with citizens of non-CIS countries, 56 - with citizens of neighboring countries¹⁶⁵.

5.7 Ways to adapt and integrate foreign wives in South Korea

The study collected the results of sixty structured interviews collected between May and November 2022 in South Korea. Respondents were notified of the purpose of this interview and gave their verbal consent to the audio recording of the conversation. Each interview lasted about 30 minutes. The content of the questions included the socio-demographic characteristics of the respondents, as well as questions on the specifics of interethnic marriage with a South Korean citizen.

The authors collected all the information about the respondents who took part in the survey. Names were encoded, and each of the survey participants was assigned a pseudonym. Despite the large number of women from Uzbekistan married to South Korean men, the interviewers managed to conduct a few interviews, completely anonymous. One of the reasons according to the interviewers is the “closeness” in communication of women married to South Korean men.

One of the important issues we were interested in was the location of marriage migrants. Living in urban and rural areas can affect marriage satisfaction to a certain extent. So, among the cities were named: Changyu, Yangju, Seoul, Gyeongju, Ansan, Seongnam, Bundang-gu, Jeonju, Andong. Among them, the large city, as well as the capital is the city of Seoul, the rest of the cities are medium-sized cities, as well as small satellite cities. Most likely, this correlates with the data that the main partners of the married women were middle-class South Korean men living in rural areas. For them, special programs were created to support “international marriages for farmers and fishermen”. Such programs often included subsidizing the attraction of foreign spouses to South Korea.

It would be interesting to compare where female marriage migrants came from. Despite the dominant number of women from rural areas, it is worth pointing out that female respondents were also from cities and Almaty. Thus, small towns and rural settlements, such as the village of Karakemer, Kyrgyzstan; Kaskelen, Kazakhstan; Chelpek village, Kyrgyzstan; Balykchi, Kazakhstan and other settlements were represented as the place of birth.

The opinion that older women marry foreigners can be confirmed by calculating the average age difference between our respondents. On average, 36-year-old women participated in the survey. The youngest of them was 25, the oldest was 45 years old. They have been married to a South Korean man for 4 to 20 years. The experience of long marriage in South Korea shows that the institution of international marriage of women from Central Asia retains its characteristics in the period of the second decade of the XXI century. At the same time, the practice of dating South Korean men changes its forms. In the first years of the emergence of international marriages in Central Asia, special brokers, intermediaries or “grooms” themselves traveled to the countries of Central Asia in order to get acquainted, to bring girls who wanted to find a husband in South Korea. The couple’s later practice of getting to know each other personally was transferred territorially to South Korea. This was also due to the fact that a visa-free regime was established between Kazakhstan and South Korea, which simplified the short time entry of more women. In addition, migration processes among Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan citizens have intensified as a result of an increase in the proportion of labor migrants to South Korea. And, if earlier among labor migrants there were young men seeking for temporarily go to work in South Korean factories; now the number of women leaving to work in factories has increased markedly, as noted by respondents.

On average, each woman has at least one child born in South Korea. The second and third children tended to be from their first marriage. Among our respondents was a woman who “brought two children and then gave birth to two more”. It is obvious that for Korean

¹⁶⁵ Registration of marriage of citizens of the Republic of Kazakhstan with foreign citizens and stateless persons // <http://www.adilet.gov.kz/ru/node/30716> (access date: 28.11.2022)

men, the priority was not so much the birth of children as the maintenance of a joint family life, as well as caring for elderly parents.

The examples of women our interviewers were able to meet show that the vast majority of women got a college education. Often, the state diploma of their country remained unclaimed, and they had to retrain. Some of them had to apply ingenuity and creative approaches to business development in the host country. It was interesting to find out that women mostly found their vocation in Korea as teachers in multicultural schools for Russian-speaking citizens. Thus, the policy of the South Korean government in the desire to support marriage migrants is once again confirmed. Women taught English and Korean, the history of Kazakhstan, as well as such a subject as "World studies". In addition, women tried to work in medical tourism, insurance companies, and even in Russian karaoke. At the same time, women confirmed that often the main consumers of their "services", in particular education, were citizens from Central Asia, as well as other Russian-speaking post-Soviet countries.

However, the main problem of retraining and adaptation in general was language competence in the Korean language. Here is the answers to the question "Do you know Korean?"

From the interview:

"yes, but I'm not studying the course, that's the problem. There is no time to study the course. I study both in practice and on YouTube",

"80-90 percent",

"60%",

"I still learn Korean because it remains a foreign language for me",

"there was such a thing that I worked here as a translator",

"of course, I know everything, I know Korean",

"maybe 70-80%",

"I know the language well enough; I will not praise myself, there are a lot of directions that need to be learned, words",

"Korean... of course, I do not write books, but I understand the speech, 80% completely, and I also speak in the same way",

"about the language I would say 70%, I know Korean language particularly connected with my field of architecture in construction, but there are other areas I may not understand".

Thus, the levels of language competence of women in marriage with foreign men were demonstrated to be different. In the early 2000s, the Korean government began to analyze the problems of the increasing divorce of international married couples. One of the main reasons was called the "level of language proficiency". So, gradually, for marriage migrants in the embassies of other countries began to introduce a knowledge test of the Korean language before obtaining a visa, or respondents had to present a certificate of knowledge of the Korean language of the international sample TOPIK.

In general, the results of the survey demonstrated a sufficient level of competence for living in a Korean family. Knowledge of the language was sufficient to enable marriage migrants to meet the basic communication needs of everyday life. Moreover, women's confidence in their "high level of Korean language" correlates with satisfaction with marriage with a Korean man in general. The reason for the "increase in Korean language proficiency" is also that married migrants mostly encountered the Korean language before marriage (either by studying in their specialty or in Korean language courses initiated by Korean education centers in Central Asian countries at the embassies of the Republic of Korea). In the survey, we asked respondents to highlight the "pros and cons of marrying a South Korean man". This formulation of the question, in our opinion, could assess the level of satisfaction with marriage. Speaking about the advantages of South Korea in terms of socio-economic and technological development, women noted the conditions of residence as an advantage of "the country, not marriage".

Among the positive aspects of marriage with a South Korean man, respondents noted “diligence”, “kindness”, “responsibility for the family”. The responses contained the following wording:

From the interview:

“stay home like a woman”,

“this is complete freedom of choice, security, availability of work”,

“husband helps with the housework, hardworking, kind character”,

“Koreans are more of a family man – everything for the house, everything for the family.

On weekends with family, with children. It's probably a very big plus”,

“if a person is really your person, he loves you, and you love him in general of course everything is pros. ... I can't do anything... I didn't even know how to cook in the beginning. I learned a lot from my mother-in-law, which is certainly a big plus”,

“it is good that I have a family, we have healthy children, wages are higher, although everything is becoming more expensive, the economy is better here”,

“Korean husband means stability, they have a status...”,

“my husband is very hardworking... and loves the world very much, gets along with people. I like that they think very deeply, well-mannered and literate”,

“... I met my husband and saw in him the responsibility for the family, he is educated. I liked the fact that he is educated, he paid for my education so that we could grow up together”.

Often, difficulties in marriage associated with the language barrier, differences in cultural traditions and mentality became the basis of negative aspects in marriage with a South Korean man.

From the interview:

“... a different culture. For example, raising a child in the Kazakh language and raising a child in Korean are different things”,

“language, mentality”,

“the difference in culture, mentality, Koreans do not know how to rest, they always stressed, have thoughts about suicide”,

“our mentality is different. ... also I don't speak Korean well”,

“it's that they live by stereotypes. Here are the stereotypes of Korean men, they have something in their heads and that's it”,

“minus, of course, in the food. Theuk food is spice, after I gave birth, I started eating spicy well. ... A big minus to live together (with parents). Also, as in Kazakhstan, adults cannot be contradicted. First you need to ask adults. We do not live our own life, but watch how they say. We lived together with him and his parents and you have to “step” on your opinion all the time”,

“ignorance of the language, there was no information, nothing could be found”,

“far from relatives, then far from parents, then far from food”,

“the biggest disadvantage is that you have different traditions, and the language barrier”,

“the difference in mentality”,

“I miss my relatives, my mother died in 2020 from COVID-19, I could not fly home, there were no flights. I called the Embassy, I had Korean citizenship, I asked them for permission to fly from Korea, they did not allow me. Moments like that, and that's... for the first time in my life, I regretted marrying a foreigner”.

It should be noted that the level of satisfaction with marriage was higher for women who lived a long period of married life in Korea. The “cons” of marrying a Korean gradually have a chance to be translated into positive aspects, when women “over the years have understood the culture and traditions of Korea”.

From the interview:

"The first time it took to understand that this person is different, from a different culture, from a different mentality. Therefore, he may think differently. We both didn't want to understand, and it took some time. And when we already perceived each other as from another nation, another culture, then it became easier. We began to perceive: and, it turns out, it's possible. We have started to look at this problem and situation differently, and it turns out that there may be such an opinion. And we began to look for a compromise. Therefore, in the beginning, this minus was probably the most painful for me. And now, having lived in Korea for 21 years, there are already more pros than cons for me. Because we have passed this whole stage, we have come to a common understanding. And now we're kind of trying not to touch each other, not to injure each other. And we try to just understand".

The difficulties of the adaptation period each of the respondents went through in their own way:

From the interview:

"well, my husband works for a large company, and there constantly, it's like ... After working the whole company, they have to "go out". That's stressful for me too. And he often doesn't even want to, but he has to go out with them",

"yes, it seems to me that every family has financial problems. Ours is no exception. Because the more money, the more desire",

"it was impossible to say, of course, that my husband was so rich, at the same time I can not say that he was poor, he had average income. The biggest problem in my family was the death of my husband",

"the language barrier, and so the traditions, though similar, are not the same",

"in my family, in general, I came here, the older children were in their homeland",

"I had no difficulties in my financial situation, because my husband is a hard worker",

"my husband also had such moments at first that he humiliated me",

"Koreans, they are such a slightly patient people, endure. The first time, when I quarreled, I was psychotic, I could take the dishes, throw them, break it against the wall. And now... over time, I also become older",

"there are a lot of similarities with the same Kyrgyz mentality. Here, in the same way, the elderly is honored everywhere, respect for the most part, for the older family, this hierarchy is still present",

"the minus I had was not a cultural mentality, but within the family, probably, when I began to get acquainted with relatives, until I learned the language well, everything seemed to be fine, and when I began to understand the language more and more I saw disputes between the sisters, he has four sisters, I understood why Korean women do not want many children, in the beginning everyone was against me, when he and I met, because I was a foreigner...".

The stories of "getting used to and understanding of life in marriage in Korea" are colored by difficulties with language communication, differences in mentality, stereotypical attitudes towards marriage migrants on the part of family members. Approximately similar answers interviewers managed to get in the answers to the question about the problems of adaptation of other migrants who married a Korean.

From the interview:

"language, mentality, finances",

"the language barrier, other food and lots of spicy food, the perception of their culture, their mentality",

"I saw other girls who live with their mother-in-law, who live with their father-in-law, who live in villages. And they had a little bit of these misunderstandings with husband's parents. They are still old people, but time is changing, generations are different",

"I'm a foreigner. You can see it by my face. I'm still even now... I get stressed because people look at me a lot. And also I have difficulties with Korean language",

"when you don't know the language. That is, Kazakhs and Koreans may be similar, but the language is the most important difference. Language barrier",

"the big global problem with adaptation is language",

"concerning the language - it was hard, the climate in the summer is hot, humid, we have dry weather in Kyrgyzstan, and here the climate is humid because of the sea",

"there were problems with the language, also they work very hard and quickly",

"it was difficult only in terms of language",

"the most important thing is food",

"for me there was a food, it was very difficult for me to adapt. At first, it was very difficult to adapt".

Respondents chose ways to solve problems in the family in their own way. Among respondents there were no women with stories of desperate actions during the period of difficulties and conflicts in families in Korea. On the one hand, women began to find a common language between the family and the environment, on the other hand, they became more selective in obtaining assistance from state bodies, including legal assistance.

From the interview:

"him and I try to talk a lot",

"we keep a family budget together. At the end of the month, we calculate it. In Korea, there is even a special application, with all your cards, i.e. in the application all transactions are reflected, and at the end of the month we can see who spends more, who spends less",

"for married girls or men, in the beginning I also went to the center to learn Korean",

"if there are problems in some sphere or somewhere, if something happens, I always trust only one person - my husband",

"10 years now, it's all gone. I even forgot. Everyone minds their own business in their own way, lives. You just live in the same house and communicate",

"when such questions or problems are raised, our women who have been living there very long time, who know the local area, people, they can help".

However, the issues of marriage migrants still remain in the focus of attention of the Government of the Republic of Korea, both at the state and local levels. Multicultural centers throughout the country have become centers of consultation, assistance to marriage migrants in the processes of adaptation, and still – a place of "shelter" from the problems of domestic violence.

From the interview:

"now there is a migration center there. At that time, in case of problems, they hire a lawyer for free, for example, if there was a beating recently, there are special places, there are new special rooms, you can go there and spend the night or stay in such houses. For such oppressed women, it is specially allocated by the government, and if there is such a problem, then you can go to such a place and hide or spend the night",

"we already know what to do in this case – where to go and who can help us. And we inform each other",

"It's good in Korea – you can contact the help center in Russian language. There are psychological centers",

"I go to the Tomuna Center. It is the center for a multicultural family. Sometimes I listen to very useful lectures every month",

"before I came here, there were such cases when you foreigner and you live with husband, he protects you. And when he's gone, you can be left with nothing. Depending on what your husband's relatives would turn out to be, it was a big problem, I could have stayed on the street, or dependent

on others, then I ask to a familiar deputy for help, and she advised me a good lawyer. This is the biggest problem when you live here and your husband is not there”,

“yes, there is also a cultural center. Not only cultural issues can be solved, but also legal. People can go there”,

“this has not happened to me, but such centers exist. ... many ethnic Koreans, migrants cannot go to this center”,

“there are international centers where all the women learn the language, adaptation and they also have different courses”,

“for example, if I break up with my husband, I can go there and ask them for help. In such a situation, they say that I am being tortured, or there is a lot of help for foreigners. You can go to those places and ask for help”,

“there are special centers for foreigners, but these centers are most often for people who married South Koreans. These centers help as much as possible to preserve the family, if there are any family issues, a large amount of money is allocated from the state”,

“there are many such family organizations, separate adaptation centers for foreign wives, there are courses, they teach them to cook and explain the culture. I've never been to such places ... no I've been once or twice, but I basically didn't learn anything new there”.

However, in general, the respondents who participated in the research were characterized by solving problems peacefully, without involving legal assistance in multicultural centers.

Despite the positive vision of their family life, responsibility for the family, in the respondents' answers there was a tendency of “homesickness”, “the desire to come back home someday ...”. To the question “Would you like to stay in South Korea? Or are you planning to return home to your country of residence?” the women shared their plans:

From the interview:

“I think to come back in 10 years”,

“well, yes. I think about it, but so far I do not want to go to Kyrgyzstan. My daughter is about to enter adulthood. As a mom, I have to finish this mission, I think. Education of my daughter. Moreover, this is her homeland...”

“no, of course not... I want to live in Korea, with my family”,

“how can I come back to Kazakhstan if I already have a family here”,

“I would say this if in 2010, if I could change my whole life, maybe I wouldn't get married. I would marry a man who lives in Kazakhstan. Because longing is a very strong feeling. Every time you look back, if I didn't have a husband, I could have left... but your son is already holding you here... I am not able to leave Korea anymore”,

“I always want to come back to Kyrgyzstan; I even built a house there. For some reason, not in Korea, but at home. Maybe I start thinking about my homeland when I became older”,

“In general, I do not want to stay here, I want to open some kind of business so as not to work at the plant, I did not particularly work at the plant. But here you can earn money, I plan to leave”.

The situation when “the husband would agree to move” to the homeland of the wives was perceived as a positive situation, but it was given a low probability estimate. Thus, the respondents said:

From the interview:

“well, the husband agrees ins such cases. If he will get a stable job in Kazakhstan, which will bring him the same stable income as in Korea, then the husbands agree. But my husband, unfortunately, does not know either Russian or Kazakh. So he will not go to Kazakhstan yet, while he has a job here”,

“if we assume, for example, that some kind of business will be opened in Kazakhstan. Would you like to return to Kazakhstan? “Oh, of course. Why not? That is, Kazakhstan is my homeland. It’s going to be 10 times easier for me there. I like it here, but it will be good there too”,

“look, the biggest downside is melancholy. The biggest plus I married a person with whom I was happy to live. That’s a big plus”.

A positive attitude towards life in South Korea with a tinge of sadness and homesickness characterized fluctuations in the migration mood of women married to a South Korean men.

From the interview:

“I thought about it, and my husband thought, but now I can’t answer whether I will stay here forever or if I will come back to my homeland. I don’t know what will happen tomorrow so now I can’t answer”,

“to be honest, we are no going to live permanently in Korea or in Kyrgyzstan, we will live, constantly moving, both in Kyrgyzstan and in South Korea”,

“I’ve been here for seventeen years, to be honest, during all seventeen years I’ve never thought in my head that I, for example, would stay here completely, until I die”.

The experience of women from Central Asia living together in marriage with a South Korean man involves communication not only within the family, but also everyday communication with members of Korean society, and a complete immersion in the peculiarities of the mentality of the Korean people. Significant differences were noted by respondents in everyday life, but in general, women told about a positive attitude of Koreans towards them.

From the interview:

“I think they’re very kind people. They always smile. Even if they get stressed, they always smile. And good-natured. And no matter what they are not conflict. It happens, of course, but not in the same way as in Kazakhstan”,

“we communicate, but not in the same way as with our Kazakhs.... In Kazakhstan, we are still somehow... close to each other. Even if we will meet for the first time, we already talk like we have known each other for 100 years. And in Korea, although you know, for example, a friend for several years, they still somehow keep a distance. You can’t have a heart-to-heart talk with them”.

Communication with the husband’s relatives and their attitude to marriage are also components of a successful marriage of our respondents. Women noted the peculiarities of family relationships in Korean families, they miss the specifics of “homeland” communication.

In some cases, they shared about situations of prejudice from relatives. Thus, the following examples were noted:

From the interview:

“relations with relatives, at least in our family, in my husband’s family, we greeted each other on holidays once and that’s it. Basically, we communicate only with parents...”,

“yes, because I’m foreigner. They don’t like it”,

“I don’t know about the Kazakh parent, but in Korea they prefer their children to marry girl with same ethnicity”,

“there are such conservative parents who prefer their nation after all. But there are also modern young parents who let their sons and daughters from childhood to study abroad so that they can see the world. And then they are not even surprised that the daughter brings a foreign son-in-law or the son brings home a foreign daughter-in-law. Well, that’s for nowadays. But before, it was such a tragedy”.

As noted above, the high level of marriage satisfaction in South Korea has often been the reason for the high standard of living in Korea, especially in comparison with the country

of arrival of marriage migrants. Noting the advantages of life in Korea, the participants of research shared their opinion:

From the interview:

"now Korea is among the ten developed countries in the world. That's why this service is so good. They developed rapidly, as new ones, and then, following the entire developed nation, the country developed, technologies developed. So, I think that's a good thing",

"here you are a foreigner or a local – it doesn't matter. They treat everyone the same, and there was no such thing as dividing. That's what I liked. And I like their prices. Everywhere you go, you are well received, well served in shops, in cafes",

"there is very good service in Korea. Delicious and healthy food. The air is clean. There are no gases from cars like in our countries",

"medicine is developed, and there is also insurance for medicine in Korea. And that's a very good thing. Not only is medicine at a high level, but also state insurance is almost free. Security in Korea has a very high level - everywhere there are round-the-clock cameras, video surveillance. Every 10-20 meters, I would say, even in our area, I don't know why there are so many cameras. But apparently although there is a residential quarter here. But apparently it should. Security has a very high level. Then the infrastructure is very well developed. The roads here are good, transport here is well developed. You can safely get to any point in Korea by any train, by any subway",

"roads, plus the subway, very convenient, I can go to any place quickly, or by bus, so everything is fast. The transport system is well established, plus medicine, we have medical insurance",

"in Korea, the service of serving the people is in the first place",

"it is safe there, no one steals anything, for example, if I leave my laptop there and go elsewhere, no one will take it. Secondly, I will deliver the necessary goods by phone. There are special sites called collective and others",

"the only thing, there the laws work. The legislature is not subordinate to the government in any way".

There're only small disadvantages of living in Korea, rather reflecting the level of involvement of women married to a Korean in social problems in Korean society.

From the interview:

"disadvantages are people and how they can speak Russian and have fun. We have people who love weddings, they don't know how to sit at a party, and then they don't like guests, but our people are hospitable",

"the cons are traffic jams, in Seoul, for example. There is no empty place. Parking is a constant problem. Now the goods are much more expensive. It seems all over the world, the goods are very expensive. Unrealistically expensive. Meat especially, beef",

"the general minus, as in Kazakhstan, the salary is small, especially for women. There's discrimination here, by the way. By the way, I don't understand why this is so. Korea seems to be a developed country, but even in Kazakhstan there is no such discrimination. At least that wasn't the case when I was working. And here there are announcements – male candidates will be paid such a salary, women candidates will be paid another a salary. The difference will be 300-400 dollars for sure",

"I don't like medicine; I don't like how doctors treat here. And life is a bit boring here".

Significant emotions were received in answers for the question: "What life experience did you get while living in South Korea?":

From the interview:

"I've learned to value time. For example, if someone asks me to do something, I try to do it on the same day. Finish work quickly, move quickly, use time efficiently, spend the day fruitfully. All the goods here are expensive. And charity for the elderly, for example, we go to a nursing home and give a concert, we go to an orphanage and give a concert. They are very attentive to the elderly.

I learned that too. We also respect and appreciate the elders. But today's youth don't seem to know that",

"strive for everything. That man can do anything, in reality",

"dedication, punctuality, hard work. Therefore, I think if I had stayed in my country, I would never have acquired this character, but because there was freedom on the part of my husband and his family, no matter what I did, I could do it",

"I learned mostly good things. I learned to love nature, people... I used to be able to pick flowers in Kazakhstan, now for some reason I can't. I cannot even tear off a leaf from a tree. In Korea, it's like this. Somehow, I became kinder. I'm used to people are not conflicted here. You will go into the store, you will try on 10 clothes, they will thank you, they will bow. It was such a shock for the first time. Good shock",

"yes, I'm already using: appreciate every minute",

"I got life experience that in our country people are more selfish than here. Here they are collective, they think not only about themselves. It's a big plus to think about others",

"Hard work, they highly appreciate family values, my environment, respect. Patience",

"good-nature, helping people, they are looking for ways to make everything easier, the same thing I had when raising children",

"in Korea, everything changed my whole life, my ability to think",

"I like this education system, culture, I want our people study so competently, become hardworking, love our country. Koreans are such patriots»,

"learned to endure, learned to respect every person".

Conclusion

In conclusion, we note that the level of education of multicultural families has a significant impact on the quality of life. Multiculturalism policies provided migrant women with various types of educational opportunities. The system of "social integration of multicultural families" included teaching the Korean language and culture.

The economic activities of married migrants after entering Korea are limited due to problems such as the language barrier, so the current state of economic activity is determined by their skills. Married immigrant women are more likely not to participate in the labor market, due to difficulties in communicating with the Korean language, cultural differences, and the burden of raising children. Once married, a woman could still face human rights violations. Before they become citizens, they are deprived of the opportunity to receive social security benefits. Limited communication skills and limited access to information aggravate the situation of social exclusion.

The Government of the Republic of Korea has deliberately pursued a policy of attracting foreign wives in order to address its demographic and social problems in the country. At the same time, the state spends huge sums of money on the development of multicultural families. Among the main items of expenditure: Korean language training programs, retraining for the employment of married migrants, awareness-raising among migrants, support during pregnancy and childbirth, programs for the education of children from multicultural families. As a result, the Government was doing its utmost to facilitate the adaptation of marriage migrants to Korean society. In this matter, the country has its own difficulties, including the admission of foreign wives to Korean society as full members. But it looks at the society of marriage migrants from its side, seeking to dissolve foreign women in Korean society, to adapt to the needs of the modern Korean family.

Most migrant women seek to obtain Citizenship of the Republic of Korea to secure residency status but obtaining citizenship through international marriage has not always lived up to their expectations. International marriage migrants could acquire citizenship after two years of residence and only with the consent of the spouse, but even so, not all received citizenship. However, this type of naturalization is inherent only in female marriage migration, in contrast to men who are labor migrants. Moreover, women, even in the case of an unsuccessful marriage, are ready to stay in Korea, while retaining Korean citizenship.

The economic hardship and social upheavals in the post-Soviet countries cause migrants to come to terms with the new social status in South Korea, as the standard of living in Korea generally compensated for the living standard of the particular family, where was the average bride, including from Central Asian countries

According to official statistics, the main participants in international marriage are women from China, Vietnam, the Philippines, Cambodia, Thailand, and the United States. Foreign men are represented from Japan, China, USA, Canada and Australia. Until the 1990s, the number of Japanese women who entered the country through religious organizations was a large majority. However, since the early 2000s, the number of Chinese and Filipino marriage migrants has increased, and representatives from Vietnam, Cambodia, Mongolia, and Thailand have become regular marriage partners.

The structure of marriages is significantly different from the previous period. Since 2002, the proportion of women married to Korean men has been over 70%. The highest rate of participation of foreign women in marriages was noted in 2008 (77.8%)¹⁶⁶.

Thus, if earlier international marriages were characterized by the structure "foreign husband - Korean wife", and the foreign partner was represented by men from the USA, Japan, Germany, then marriages since the late 1990s had the structure "Korean husband and foreign wife". In the latter case, women were represented from "countries less developed than Korea" such as China, the Philippines, Vietnam, Thailand. Since the beginning of the 2000s, marriages with women from the countries of the post-Soviet space (Russia, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan) began to arise here.

Along with the "pull" factors, the "push" factors also work according to the "push and pull" theory. International marriage migration depends on the availability of foreign partners who are ready to marry. As a rule, economic motives were the main reason for marriage abroad. This was evidenced by the results of the National Survey of Foreign Wives in South Korea, conducted in 2009. The study involved 945 respondents, 45% reported economic motives for marriage¹⁶⁷.

Social factors that contribute: the influx of foreign labor, the rapid aging of the population, the low birth rate, the shortage of potential brides due to the policy of preference for the birth of sons.

Women in migrant marriages – causes of migration: "push" – poverty, high unemployment, lack of economic opportunities, low standard of living; "pull" – the best employment conditions (according to the results of the study, the majority would like to work, and initially they planned so), high wages, urbanization. Also, as a result of "diversification of the distribution of household resources", the demand for cheap labor, as well as a consequence of economic globalization. In addition, migration is a process of feminization (women migrate from economically poor countries and are on the lower floors of the social employment elevator, only as cheap domestic workers).

For women in Central Asia, it is assumed that migration began in the late 1990s. This is the time of the collapse of the USSR, a political factor, the explosion of the "epoch of national revival" in the period of sovereignties of the countries of the post-Soviet space. The gender ratio of men and women was stable in Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan and supported the advantage of women. Thus, the marriage market in these countries remained highly competitive, as a result of which the way out was seen in the search for a South Korean. The economic component of the push factor is much lower than for Vietnam, the Philippines, Taiwan, and others. It is assumed that the level of education among women from Central Asia is high. The women who migrated in marriage to South Korea came from urban backgrounds.

¹⁶⁶ Annual report on population dynamics http://www.index.go.kr/potal/main/EachDtlPageDetail.do?idx_cd=2430

¹⁶⁷ Lee, Bun Song; Klein, Jennifer L. Changing Trends in International Marriages between Korean Men and Southeast Asian Women, 1993–2013 // *Asian Population Studies*. – 2017. - №13(3). - 226-249

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CONCLUSION

This report is an overview of five migration routes from three Central Asian countries - Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan to South Korea. Ethnic, labor, undocumented, educational and marriage migration were analyzed. It was difficult to clearly separate each migration channel, as the boundaries between them are blurred: married migrants became labor migrants, ethnic migrants make up a significant part of labor migration, students work during their studies, a labor migrant becomes undocumented after the visa expires, etc.

Ethnic migration is a formed migration channel that has clear formats for interaction between a migrant and society. This type of migration is accompanied not only by economic changes in the life of a migrant, but also awakens questions of identity, self-identification, and belonging. The identity structure is changing - to the main identifiers - Koryo-Saram, Koryoin, ethnic Korean, soviet person, Uzbekistan citizen / Kazakhstan citizen / Kyrgyzstan citizen, new ones are added - South Korean, resident of Ansan / Kwangju, etc.

Today, Koreans in Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan have formed a certain intra-ethnic identity and have been adapted and integrated into the local community of these countries and have various ethno-cultural associations to study the language, culture and traditions.

German Kim, Doctor of History, Professor, Director of the Institute of Asian Studies Al Farabi Kazakh National University in his book "Koreans: People, Nation, Immigrants and Diasporas" notes a number of topical problems of the Korean diasporas of the post-Soviet period. These problems can be grouped or classified according to a number of parameters. But two pairs of main problems should be singled out in particular. **The first pair:** the problem of comprehensive intra-ethnic consolidation and the problem of further inter-ethnic integration in the new political and socio-economic conditions. **The second pair:** the problem of ethnic revival and ethno-cultural survival as a small ethnic group that does not have any form of autonomy. He also notes that the collapse of the Soviet Union and the different paths of political and socio-economic development that the leaderships of the new states have chosen lead to the fragmentation of a single ethnic community of Soviet Koreans. The problem of interethnic integration lies in the balanced employment of Koreans in all spheres of public activity in a multinational environment, as was the case in the Soviet period. There is a reduction in the number of Korean students, creative, scientific and technical intelligentsia. There was an outflow of young Korean specialists from science, education, culture, healthcare, construction, etc. into entrepreneurship¹⁶⁸.

Adaptation in the country has been going on softer and faster in recent years, since the established infrastructure (government organizations that help to adapt, Korean centers, churches, etc.), the compactness of living (in a number of cities quarters have been formed in which migrants live (Gwangju, Ansan, Dongdaemun, etc.), close surroundings (relatives, friends), availability of work, employment, opportunities to spend leisure time, familiar foodstuffs that can be bought in specialized stores, cafes help to avoid culture shock.

Ethnic Koreans, being carriers of the cultures of the countries of origin, maintaining ties with the country of origin, are a kind of humanitarian bridge that has formed bilateral relations, cultural conductors. Of course, this depends on the age of the migrant, the more he lived in the country of origin, the more connections, relationships, contacts. Age also affects the process of adaptation - children born in Korea, of course, seamlessly integrate into society. This process is more difficult for the one and a half generation, for those who were born and socialized in the country of origin (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan) and moved to South Korea at a young age.

¹⁶⁸ Kim G.N. Koreans: people, nation, immigrants and diasporas. Moscow - 2020, Korea Saram. 2nd edition // https://www.academia.edu/43684505/%D0%9A%D0%B8%D0%BC_%D0%93_%D0%9D_%D0%A%D0%BE%D1%80%D0%B5%D0%B9%D1%86%D1%8B_%D0%BD%D0%B0%D1%80%D0%BE%D0%B4_%D0%BD%D0%B0%D1%86%D0%B8%D1%8F_%D0%B8%D0%BC%D0%BC%D0%B8%D0%B3%D1%80%D0%B0%D0%BD%D1%82%D1%8B_%D0%B8_%D0%B4%D0%B8%D0%B0%D1%81%D0%BF%D0%BE%D1%80%D1%8B (access date: 12.14.2022)

Difficulties with adaptation arise when the Koryo-saram do not know the Korean language, modern Korean culture and society, and often the respondents noted that upon arrival in the country they felt a cultural shock.

Many migrants have little or no knowledge of the Korean language. Added to this is the fact that the dialects of different areas of Korea also have their own specifics, and the study of the Korean language in places of settlement cannot take into account all these aspects. Koryo-Saram with a low level of knowledge of the Korean language experience communication difficulties, in particular, they cannot defend their rights at work and in society. Often problems arise simply because of the lack of objective information.

This problem is also confirmed by the results of a sociological survey - they showed that ethnic Koreans from the Central Asian countries have the same problems in adapting. This is a language barrier. At the same time, even those who have lived in the Republic of Korea for more than 10 years do not know written Korean. To solve problems with documentation, laws and other problems, they are all assisted by translators, regardless of the country of origin of the migrant.

In the public opinion of Korean society, there is a rejection or even a dismissive attitude towards Koryo-Saram in Korea. This problem is also present in relation to ethnic Kazakh repatriates in Kazakhstan and to other repatriates in other countries. But despite this, according to the results of a sociological survey in the Republic of Korea, respondents describe their relationship with local Koreans as positive. As such, there are no conflicts. At the same time, they note that local Koreans may be arrogant and consider ethnic Koreans as not pure Koreans. This is due to the fact that ethnic Koreans also adopt the culture, way of life, and economy of the countries of origin. Also, a distinctive feature of local Koreans is their diligence (they work 12-14 hours a day, 6-7 days a week), discipline, respect for elders, culture and etiquette in communication. At the same time, it should be noted that the attitude of local Koreans towards ethnic Koreans changes if ethnic Koreans show interest in learning the Korean language and try to adopt the culture of local residents.

All respondents from the three countries, regardless of age, gender and length of stay in the Republic of Korea, note that the main advantages of living in Korea are security (there are lights and cameras everywhere, you can leave things and no one will take them away, you may not close the doors), high the level of education, medicine and developed infrastructure with high earnings. And these reasons are the main reasons for moving to the Republic of Korea.

It should be noted that men arrive earlier than women. Or parents come without children. They bring their children and family only after they settle down. And this can take a very long time. Often, they wait until the children finish primary school. At the same time, Koryo Saram often live in two countries: the country of origin and Korea. This fact also does not differ from the country of origin. Thus, ethnic migrants from the Central Asian countries equally live in two countries and there are no distinctive features either in terms of length of residence or by country. Women who have come for their husbands often do not work; they do housework. Women do not have special communication with local Koreans, which further complicates the processes of adaptation and integration.

Respondents note that there is no difference between the traditions of the Korean diasporas and in Korea itself, the same applies to culture, the cuisine also has great similarities. Therefore, traditions are not a factor that hinders the integration and adaptation of migrants. The only distinguishing point is the holding of mourning and weddings. Here, as noted by respondents from all countries under consideration, there are slight differences. This is due to the fact that mourning and memorial events for the dead in the exit countries are celebrated up to 10 years, and in Korea – for life. That is, the level of respect for the elders and the deceased in Korea is higher. The youth does not argue with the elders, the words of the elders are law, that is, there is a clear social stratification of society.

Opportunities for high earnings without special education in factories and other industrial places, and agriculture are also one of the attractive factors for coming to the Republic of Korea. At the same time, hard physical labor has a very negative impact on the

health status of migrants. Heavy physical labor is mostly done by men. Since these activities do not require knowledge of the Korean language as such.

In addition to the language barrier as an impediment to integration, respondents note the fasting of food and the humid climate. Small and expensive housing is also one of the disadvantages of living in Korea. The next disadvantage of living in Korea was noted by the respondents as intermittent earnings and there are facts of non-payment of wages. When such problems arise, they turn to the authorized body for labor and migrant support centers, and they help.

At the same time, some respondents, regardless of the length of stay and the country of origin, do not see their future in Korea, they do not really try to learn the language. Rather, this migration is perceived as labor migration, and they consider the countries of origin to be their homeland and are going to return someday. At the same time, life in Korea is noted as comfortable, stable and safe.

As a sociological survey shows, many female migrants in Korea are carrying out their reproductive plans, also many young women are on maternity leave.

An important factor is the presence in the country of not only representatives of the Koryo-saram, but also citizens of those countries from where the migrants arrived - Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Uzbekistan. The Russian language, as a general migrant language, allows to not become isolated in one environment and be able to communicate with many people.

Labour migration, which is the locomotive of migration, is largely related to ethnicity, is regulated by intercountry laws and is the most regulated migration. With the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Republic of Kyrgyzstan, under the terms of intergovernmental agreements, labor migrants have the right to work in South Korea.

Migration flows are very active in the countries of Central Asia. The youth of Central Asia (14-29 years old) make up from 20% to 45% of their societies and there is a tendency to increase the youth cohort, migratory mobile. Today in South Korea, mostly young people from 25 to 45 years old work, and this trend has continued for many years. When the economic situation changes, migration routes and channels will change, and there are forecasts of an increase in the flow to Asian countries, in particular to South Korea.

Closely related to labor migration is undocumented migration, which in turn is close to obtaining a refugee visa. The study showed that there are problems in the field of undocumented migration from Kazakhstan to South Korea. In this direction, Kazakhstan in the **new Concept of the Migration Policy of the Republic of Kazakhstan for 2023-2027**¹⁶⁹ provided for the issue of protecting the rights of Kazakhstan citizens working abroad. Thus, according to the provisions of the document, Kazakhstanis will be provided with legal and advisory assistance.

Working and living conditions for labor migrants in South Korea are attractive due to the tolerant attitude of the population towards migrants, the similarity of mentality and appearance, and the absence of stable stereotypes regarding foreigners. An important aspect is economic, the opportunity to make good money, open business upon returning to home country. In this regard, it can be noted that interest in employment opportunities in South Korea will be constant and will grow. The only aspect that Prof. German Kim mentioned is "In the long term, the unification of Korea will be of decisive importance in attracting foreign labor migrants. For the presence of a reserve of low-skilled North Korean workers will remove the need to import foreign workers"¹⁷⁰.

¹⁶⁹ On approval of the Concept of the Migration Policy of the Republic of Kazakhstan for 2017-2021 and the Action Plan for the implementation of the Concept of the Migration Policy of the Republic of Kazakhstan for 2017-2021 Decree of the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan dated September 29, 2017 No. 602 // <https://adilet.zan.kz/rus/docs/P1700000602> (access date: 12/14/2022)

¹⁷⁰ Kim G.N. Selected Works in Korean Studies . Almaty, 2013.-775 p. // https://www.academia.edu/37613981/%D0%9A%D0%B8%D0%BC_%D0%93_%D0%9D_%D0%93%D0%B5%D1%80%D0%BC%D0%B0%D0%BD_%D0%9A%D0%B8%D0%BC_%D0%98%D0%B7%D0%B1%D1%80%D0%B0%D0%BD%D0%BD%D1%8B%D0%B5_%D1%82%D1%80%D1%83%D0%B4%D1%8B_%D0%BF%D0%BE_%D0%BA%D0%BE%D1%80%D0%B5%D0%B2%D0%B5%D0%B4%D0%B5%D0%BD%D0%B8%D1%8E_%D0%90%D0%BB%D0%BC%D0%B0%D1%82%D1%8B_2013_775_%D1%81_.pdf (access date: 14.12.2022)

Educational migration from the countries of Central Asia is an open, highly adaptive contingent. On the one hand, the depth and strength of trade and economic relations, benevolent political relations, the presence of common interests contribute to the establishment and strengthening of cooperation in the field of education, but on the other hand, educational migrants who graduated from universities in another country can also positively influence the strengthening and deepening of trade and economic ties between their country and the country of study. Their presence and activities in various areas of cooperation can help mutual understanding and intensify relations. With the help of education, South Korea can build up its “soft power” in the region, and educational migrants can bring new experience and knowledge to the economy and science of their countries. Higher education institutions play an important role in this matter. A successful example is Uzbekistan, where a number of South Korean branches of universities operate. There are also branches of South Korean universities in Kyrgyzstan. In Kazakhstan, in 2022, university ties began to form more actively. One of the first is the opening of a branch of the Seoul Technical University in Kyzylorda.

It is important to note the higher educational institutions of South Korea, which conduct programs on the study of Central Asia, the departments of Turkic studies, etc. – Hankuk University of Foreign Studies, Busan University of Foreign Studies¹⁷¹. The Center for Central Asian Studies at Hankuk University is one of the leading research centers.

Marriage migration – International marriages in South Korea are on the rise. An important role is given to international marriage agencies, social networks and the Internet in the formation of multi-ethnic families.

Of the countries of Central Asia, the most common marriages are between citizens of Uzbekistan and citizens of South Korea. In addition to marriages with Koryo-Saram, in recent years, marriages between South Koreans and ethnic Uzbeks, Kyrgyz, Kazakhs are common. The proximity of traditions, customs, mentality allows you to quickly adapt in Korean society. However, there are problems associated with the identity of children, the socialization of children from previous marriages, linguistic, cultural, religious adaptation. It is important to study the problems of identity of the Central Asian KOSLIM in Korea. KOSLIM is a representative of the 1.5 and 2 generations of a Muslim family living in Korea - this definition is given by Korean researchers¹⁷² working under the guidance of prof. Chong Jin Oh. KOSLIM is the term most often applied to children from mixed marriages between Korean and Asian Muslim migrants and refers to a multicultural family that mixed Korean and other Asian cultures.

Multi-confessional families are not uncommon among marriage migrants - various directions of Christianity, Buddhism, Islam, etc. The younger generation considers themselves to be atheists. These multi-confessional families are interesting for further study, for understanding the process of formation of the identity of family members of different generations.

Ethnic / international families are formed among migrants. A multi-ethnic family is a family whose members have different nationality or ethnicity. Here, such socio-demographic parameters as the number of family members, the difference in the ages of the spouses, the number of remarriages, the strategy of adaptation and integration are of interest.

In a number of cases, in multi-ethnic and multi-confessional families, stereotypes of behavior, values, standards differ from those generally accepted, and it is important to find compromises in this matter. It is important to preserve a positive ethnic identity, which ensures the preservation and transmission of the culture of the ethnic group, which is necessary for the peaceful coexistence of ethnic groups in multi-ethnic societies.

Women who are married to South Koreans experience problems with knowledge of the Korean language. The similarity of family traditions, relationships between generations are a

¹⁷¹ Chong jin Oh . Symbat Zholomanova . Socio-economic relations of Korea and Kazakhstan: the role of the Korean diaspora and interaction in the motherland.

¹⁷² Chong Jin Oh. Research on the Identity and Social Environment Issues of the Central Asian KOSLIM (1.5 and 2nd generation Muslim immigrant of Korea) in Korea Dept. Turkish - Azerbaijani , HUFU

factor in rapid adaptation. Often, Russian-speaking wives from Central Asian countries who speak Korean become economic intermediaries between South Korea and their country of origin. This is how intermediaries / translators in the medical industry, guides, sellers (buyers) of cosmetics, clothes, medicines, cars, etc. appeared. The intermediary industry actively developed during the pandemic, when borders were closed and access to foreign retail chains was mainly through buyers, people from Central Asian countries.

Connection with the family is a distinctive feature of Central Asian marriage migrants. Women maintain contact with their relatives in the countries of origin, often visit the country in which they were born, during the holidays of their children, etc.

The study identified new aspects of the project that could not be covered:

- children in interethnic marriages (children from previous marriages, how they feel in society),
- children born in marriages in which parents belong to different religious denominations,
- adaptation of marriage migrants in the city/village,
- adaptation of marriage migrants depending on age, education, profession, etc.,
- strategy divorced women.

* * *

An important aspect of the study is the study of the process of **adaptation of migrants**, both ethnic Koreans (Koryo-Saram), and Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, and Kyrgyzstan citizens arriving in Korea for study, work, marriage. An analysis of migration flows shows that migrants from Central Asia are successfully adapting to Korean society, having some problems related most of all to not knowing the language, getting used to local cuisine, traditions, customs, etc.

In the studied countries, the image of South Korea is positive, formed on the basis of attitudes towards Koryo-Saram, Hallyu, dramas, cuisine, etc. Every home has Korean appliances, the population of countries is familiar with economic achievements, etc. Unfortunately, Korean society **does not have a well-formed image of the countries of Central Asia**, which is also important for the successful adaptation of migrants. The governments of the Central Asian countries need to work on improving their national image in the Korean community, for example, to intensify and update public diplomacy for ordinary Korean citizens through offline and online channels. It is necessary to expand the interests and understanding of each other in countries and societies at the level of ordinary citizens. It is necessary to increase humanitarian ties between peoples. Expand cultural exchange between countries, which will help improve the image and better understand each other.

An important key to successful adaptation is knowledge **of the Korean language**. And this is especially important for those who plan to stay in the country. In this regard, one of the recommendations of both experts and migrants themselves is to study the Korean language before arriving in Korea. This will speed up adaptation and increase the chances for a prosperous life in the country.

As noted by Korean researchers¹⁷³, the number of foreigners, international marriages, and children of multicultural marriages is increasing in the country. This gives rise to the need

¹⁷³ Jiyun Camilla Nam. Islam, Itaewon, Muslims and Koslims: Inter-cultural Dynamics in the Muslim Neighborhood of Seoul // Situations Vol. 6(Winter 2012) © 2012 by Yonsei University – p.46-55.
Oh, C., Zholanamova, S. Socio-economic relationship of Korea and Kazakhstan: The role of the Korean diaspora and homeland engagement. Cappadocia Journal of Area Studies 3 (2021). – p. 3-21.
Yang Min A. Multiculturalism and the South Korean society // Bulletin of St. Petersburg University. Sociology. 2012. No. 1. URL: <https://cyberleninka.ru/article/n/multikulturalizm-i-yuzhnikoreyskoe-obschestvo> (access date: 23.12.2022).
Chong Jin Oh. Research on the Identity and Social Environment Issues of the Central Asian KOSLIM (1.5 and 2nd generation Muslim immigrant of Korea) in Korea // 中東研究 2010년 제29권 1호.
Yem Nataliya. Patterns of Survival: Marriage Migration of Women from CIS Countries to South Korea. - / PRZEGLĄD WSCHODNIOEUROPEJSKI IX/1 - 2018. 143–152.
Kim G.N. Selected works on Korean studies. - Taraz-Almaty: ZhITs "Senim", 2013. - 776 p. ISBN 978-601-7246-55-6.

to define the concept of building intercultural relations. Scientists are actively discussing the strategy of multiculturalism as a new trend in society.

Multiculturalism, which originated in European countries, assumes that each ethnic group, the diaspora, has the right to preserve its culture, traditions, and language. In recent years, in European countries, where multiculturalism has been formed since the early 2000s, criticism of this approach has arisen. In scientific and expert circles, there is still a discussion about changing the paradigm of multiculturalism to interculturalism as a more effective strategy for integrating Muslims into European society.

As you know, **Islam** in Korea originated in ancient times, during the formation of trade relations with the East. Later, during the war period, another wave of Islam developed in the form of Turkish imams who arrived as part of NATO troops and formed a Muslim ummah in Seoul. Business contacts, including construction contacts with the Middle East, also played a role in the expansion of Islam in the country. One of the modern contacts with the Muslim world is migrants from the countries of Central Asia and other Muslim countries. The presence of mosques or prayer rooms, halal products, an extensive migrant infrastructure (insurance companies, exchange offices, shops, cafes, translators, lawyers, etc.) enable newly arrived Muslims to quickly adapt to Korean society.

Today in Korea, mosques or prayer rooms function in large cities, believers observe the canons of Islam. In Seoul, the Cathedral Mosque, located on the territory of Itaewon, plays the role of a religious and cultural center. The Korean Muslim Federation (<https://www.youtube.com/@koreamuslimfederation/featured> , <https://www.koreaislam.org/>) was formed in 1966 and the main activity of the organization is the management of religious and community affairs of Korean Muslims, participation in charitable and missionary activities. The organization is working to establish mission centers in major cities, develop existing mosques, and train imams. There is also **Islamophobia** in society - one example of Islamophobia is the situation in the city of Daegu, where local residents opposed the construction of a mosque.

An important role in the adaptation of migrants is assigned to the non-profit sector - cultural centers, adaptation centers, associations, etc. There are also churches, mosques, prayer rooms to this list. In some cases, these organizations help migrants in difficult life situations, including legal advice, health problems, etc.

Russian language will remain the language of communication for a long time among Central Asian migrants, however, in the countries of origin (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan), the sphere of functioning of the Russian language is declining, mainly among young people, and in the future the position of the Russian language as the language of interethnic communication will change. Language priorities will be changed.

Social networks play an important role in migration processes: they can find work, housing, solve problems, and find the necessary information. In some cases, the participation of intermediaries is eliminated, this function is taken over by the Internet. During the study, more than 100 blogs, web-sites, social network pages were analyzed.

Table 68. Blogs – Central Asia in South Korea

Name of the blog	Number of subscribers	Link
Вместе в Корее (Together in Korea)	123,2k	https://www.facebook.com/groups/vmestevkoree
Вся Корея (All Korea)	68 234	https://t.me/vsya_korea
Работа в Южной Корее (Work in South Korea)	59,9k.	https://www.facebook.com/groups/wiskworld/
Живая Корея / Работа в Корее (Living Korea / Work in Korea)	46,4k	https://www.facebook.com/groups/1538339686409396
Работа в Корее без визы (Work in Korea without a visa)	39,7k	https://www.facebook.com/groups/415844468873389

continuation of Table 68

Name of the blog	Number of subscribers	Link
Работа в Корее Южная Корея Объявления Вакансии Недвижимость Бизнес Учеба (Work in Korea / South Korea advertisements, vacancies real estate, business, study)	30,5k	https://www.facebook.com/groups/rukorea
82 авеню - Наши в Корее (82 avenue - Ours in Korea)	29,4k	https://www.facebook.com/groups/82ave/
Мы в Кванджу (We are in Gwangju)	28,1k	https://www.facebook.com/groups/780693765385025/?hoisted_section_header_type=recently_seen&multi-permalinks=5348328455288177
KOREANLIFE	23,9k	https://www.facebook.com/groups/koreanlife.ru/
Работа. Вся Корея (Work. All Korea)	21 042	https://t.me/rabota_vsya_korea
Работа и отдых в Корее (Work and leisure in Korea)	19,6k	https://www.facebook.com/groups/koreyci
Работа Южная Корея. Официальное трудоустройство (Work South Korea. Official employment)	17,3k	https://www.facebook.com/groups/3434535179972318
Срочно. Бесплатно. Работа по всей Корее (Urgently. Free. Work throughout Korea)	10,8k	https://www.facebook.com/groups/2075064109243208
КОРЕЯ: Обучение курсы корейского языка (KOREA: Education Korean courses)	6 116	https://vk.com/koreastudy1
rabota_v_koree_kz (Work in Korea)	656k	https://www.instagram.com/rabota_v_koree_kz/
kangnamedu	177k	https://www.instagram.com/kangnamedu/
qazaq.alliance.in_korea	79,9k	https://www.instagram.com/qazaq.alliance.in_korea/
Казахстанцы в Южной Корее (Kazakhstanis in South Korea)	6,3k	https://www.facebook.com/groups/247273915627879
korea_rabota_kz	13,7k	https://www.instagram.com/korea_rabota_kz/
samushel_kz	10k	https://www.instagram.com/samushel_kz/
Perspective_korea	26,5k	https://www.instagram.com/perspective_korea/
korean_language_club.kg	11,4k	https://www.instagram.com/korean_language_club.kg/
cica.osh	11,2k	https://www.instagram.com/cica.osh/
kecb.kg	3 329	https://www.instagram.com/kecb.kg/
Кыргызстан. Наши в Корее (Kyrgyzstan. Ours in Korea)	1,9k	https://www.facebook.com/groups/159217157749267/
Koreyadagi ozbeklar (Uzbeks in Korea)	999	https://t.me/work_korea
Узбекистанцы в Корее (Uzbekistanis in Korea)	807	https://www.facebook.com/groups/196531007520238

continuation of Table 68

Name of the blog	Number of subscribers	Link
КОРЁ-САРАМ 60 + ШЕСТЬДЕСЯТ ПЛЮС В КОРЕЕ! (KORYO-SARAM 60 + SIXTY PLUS IN KOREA!)	3,7k	https://www.facebook.com/groups/237450285032253/
Тэгу. Провинция Кёнсан-Пукто Центр интегрированной поддержки корёинов (Daegu, Gyeongsangbuk-do Province, Koryoin Integrated Support Center)	4,5k	https://www.facebook.com/groups/1878131312400346/
"Кёнджу City" ("Gyeongju City")	10,4k	https://www.facebook.com/groups/132706360651356/
Корё-сарам или корейцы СНГ (koresaram) (Koryo-saram or Koreans of the CIS (koresaram))	24,9k	https://www.facebook.com/groups/108681204241/
АКРК 대한고려인협회 Ассоциация Корё-сарам в Республике Корея (Association of Koryo-saram in the Republic of Korea)	5,9k	https://www.facebook.com/koresaraminkorea
Южная Корея. Явки, пароли (South Korea. Turnouts, passwords)	9 020	https://www.facebook.com/skoreatut/
Корея близко	7,2k	https://www.facebook.com/koreanear
Новости Южной Кореи	23k	https://www.facebook.com/novostikorei
Паспортный Стол Кёнджу	2,4k	https://www.facebook.com/groups/132706360651356/user/100054834910069/
Южная Корея. Явки, пароли (South Korea. Information)	4 949	https://t.me/skoreatut?fbclid=IwAR1WLgmklmvtlY5nJC_epasDxjVtAUrDpwcnc3jhGjUNQwW-KB1NLKp_TA
Журнал КИМ (KIM journal)	7,2k	https://www.facebook.com/zhurnal.kim
Группа журнала "КИМ" (KIM journal group)	408	https://www.facebook.com/groups/2450573081667369/
АНСАН (ТЭКОЛЬ, ХАНЬЯН, САДОН, СОНБУДОН, САНРОКСУ) (ANSAN (TEKOL, HANYANG, SADON, SONBUDON, SANROKSU))	14k	https://www.facebook.com/groups/317427639798359/?hoisted_section_header_type=recently_seen&multi_permlinks=718642053010247

Central Asian bloggers play an important role in introducing their followers from countries of origin primarily to life in South Korea. For many subscribers, these channels are the main sources of information for making a decision to visit the country as tourists, to travel to medical facilities, study, etc.

Summarizing, it should be noted that in South Korea a "Central Asian diaspora" has formed, based not on a single ethnic group, but on the basis of a common country of origin. There is a process of diasporization, the main markers are the compactness of living (quarters in large cities), infrastructure (intermediaries, translators, lawyers, insurance organizations, cafes, shops, currency exchange, mobile communications, etc.), common language (Russian), social communications (mosques, churches), opinion leaders, etc.

Recommendations

- It is necessary to consider the possibility of creating **cultural centers in Central Asia** for the wide acquaintance of South Koreans with the culture of the countries of Central Asia. Determine common cultural features, similarity of traditions, customs, etc.
- The trend of increasing foreigners in South Korea is pushing **the training of specialists** in the study of interethnic relations, ethnic psychology, ethnic sociology, Central Asia, etc. The study revealed that in the countries under study there is a shortage of specialists in migration, specialists in international relations (bilateral relations between Kazakhstan and South Korea, Kyrgyzstan and South Korea, Uzbekistan and South Korea). During the study, it was difficult to find experts who could evaluate migration processes and give professional expertise. Also faced with the fact that there is little literature on the topic under study.
- To form channels of interaction, it is necessary to expand **humanitarian contacts**. One of the bridges can be **migrants** who live in South Korea, have a successful integration experience, are adaptable in the Korean environment and are law-abiding citizens. It is necessary to popularize successful cases and successful experience of integration of migrants, to acquaint the societies of Central Asia and South Korea.
- Consider the possibility of introducing **mediation tools** for the prevention, resolution, regulation of conflicts in multi-ethnic and multi-confessional families by training mediators from the Koryo-saram environment.
- Of all the countries studied – South Korea, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan – Kazakhstan **is a polyethnic and polyconfessional country**, in which more than 120 ethnic groups and 18 confessions live. Just like South Korea, Kazakhstan is pursuing a policy of ethnic repatriation; over the 30 years of this policy, more than a million ethnic Kazakhs have migrated to Kazakhstan from around the world (from Uzbekistan, China, Turkmenistan, Russia, and other countries). Kazakhstan is also a country that accepts labor migrants and refugees. The country has formed an infrastructure for the prevention and resolution of conflicts, introduced the institution of mediation, there are special research structures that study various aspects of a multi-ethnic society, and studies of interethnic relations have been initiated. The Assembly of the People of Kazakhstan has been created and is functioning, which includes, among 367 ethno-cultural associations, the Association of Koreans of Kazakhstan¹⁷⁴. In this regard, we propose to consider the experience of Kazakhstan in the issue of integration of various ethnic groups.
- Due to the fact that the number of foreigners will grow in South Korea, consider the possibility **of conducting regular sociological research**, including longitudinal research:

In South Korea:

- Attitude of South Korean society towards Central Asian migrants (survey in South Korea),
- Image of Central Asian countries in South Korea (survey in South Korea),
- Survey of residents (South Koreans) of neighborhoods where Central Asian shops, cafes, etc. are located. (Itaewon, Dandaemun, Wolgukton, etc.) how do you rate living in these neighborhoods,
- Longitudinal studies of children of international families,
- Longitudinal studies of multi-ethnic and multi-confessional families,

¹⁷⁴ Republican IVF - Assembly of the people of Kazakhstan // <https://assembly.kz/ru/struktury-ank/etnokulturnye-obedineniya/respublikanskije-eko/> (access date: 14.12.2022)

- Sociological panels «Social well-being of labor migrants, marriage migrants, educational migrants»,
- Islamophobia and migrant phobia in Korean society,
- Evolution of Islam in South Korea (20th-21st century): religious identity, trends, neophytes,
- Mongolian citizens in South Korea: migration strategy, identity, position,
- Russian citizens in South Korea: migration strategy, identity, position,
- Undocumented migrants in South Korea: situation, problems, motivation (survey of undocumented immigrants from various countries).

In countries Central Asia:

- Attitude of Kazakhstanis/ Kyrgyzstanis /Uzbekistanis towards South Korea (surveys in Central Asian countries),
- The opinion of applicants and parents in the countries of Central Asia when choosing a future university (to understand the motivation for choosing a university, drawing attention to South Korea as a country of study),
- Expert survey in Central Asian countries on future migration flows,
- Potential of labor migration of Central Asian countries.

The issues of adaptation, integration of migrants in the host society affect all spheres of society's life from healthcare, education to security. The main attracting factors for migration to South Korea are economic (good wages), a high standard of living, and security. During the pandemic (2020-2022), the migration inflow decreased, but at the moment, based on surveys, an increase in the number of migrants is expected. The analysis of social networks showed a high interest in job opportunities in South Korea among people of working age. The number of intermediaries, intermediary firms is expanding, helping to fill out the necessary documents (K-ETA), prepare for passport control, collect the necessary documents, and find a job. These and other factors influence the growth of migration from the countries of Central Asia to South Korea and the process of formation of the Central Asian diaspora will continue.

**ANALYSIS OF THE MIGRATION PROCESS FROM CENTRAL ASIAN COUNTRIES
(KAZAKHSTAN, KYRGYZSTAN, UZBEKISTAN) TO SOUTH KOREA:
CONDITION, STRUCTURE, STRATEGY**



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