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LABOR AND EDUCATIONAL MIGRATION FROM UZBEKISTAN TO TURKEY**F. K. Yokubov**

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Abstract. At present Uzbekistan is a largest Central Asian exporter of labor and education migration. Remittances play important role in the national economy. The article examines the emergence and main factors of migration in contemporary Uzbekistan. Based on study diversity research literature and source, it was used comparative study of key trends, dynamics and transformation of labor and educational migration from Uzbekistan to Turkey.

Keywords: migration; Uzbekistan; Turkey; mobility.

After the collapse of the Soviet Union, labor migrants from CIS began to visit Turkish Republic. In 1991, Turkey was among first who recognized the independence of Uzbekistan. During this period, relations between two countries in the economic, political and cultural spheres have been developing by different scale. Today, Turkey is one of the largest partners of Central Asian republics in the Middle East.

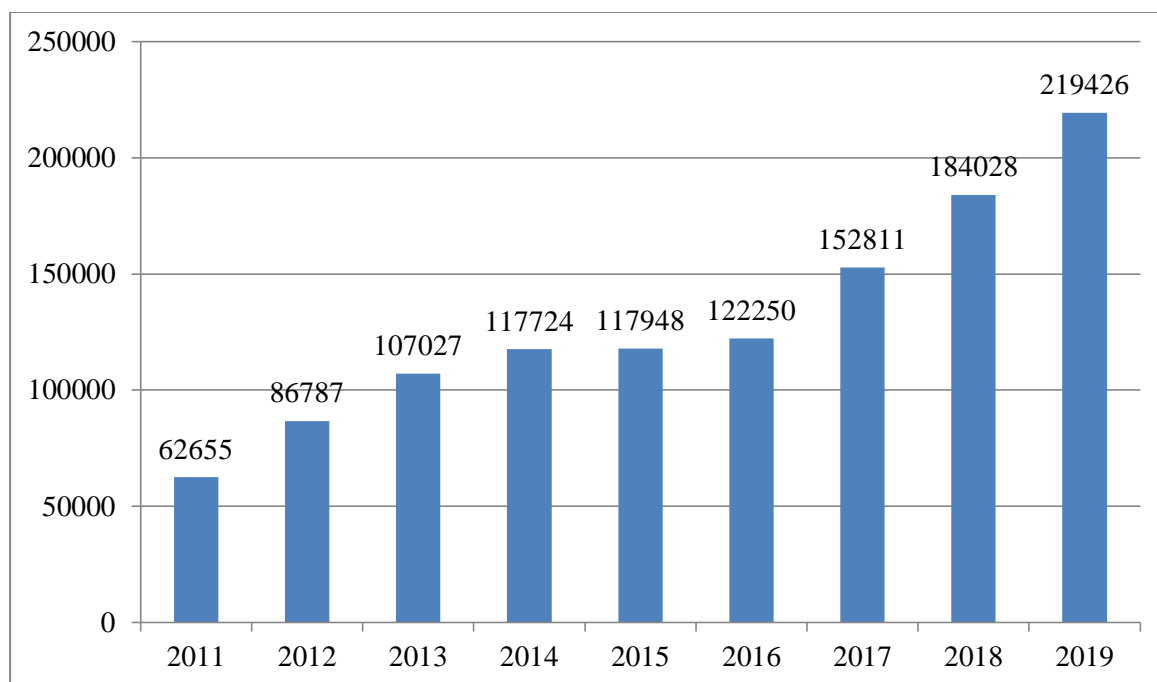
During 1990s, the number of traders from the CIS countries to Turkey began to increase. They visited Turkey as tourists and bought food, clothes and other products for the citizens of their country from the Turkish markets. Furthermore, the inflow of these entrepreneurs into the country amounted to more than 1 million people a year [2, p. 6].

Since 2000, the growth of the Turkish economy, the reluctance of the local population to work in low-paid jobs, and expansion of migration flows of able-bodied Turks to Western Europe such as Germany, France and Austria have contributed to an increase the number of immigrants from different countries to Turkey.

Foreigners wishing to work in Turkey need a special work permit. In this case, the foreigner submits his passport, visa applica-

tion and a letter from the employer to the Turkish embassy in his homeland. These documents will be sent to the Turkish Ministry of Labor and Social Security. The application will be considered by the Ministry within 10 working days from the date of submission. Migrants will also be required to pay fees such as entry into the country, a work permit and residency in the country in order to obtain a work visa [4]. Citizens of CIS and Eastern European countries visit Turkey as tourists and work informally in the country in local homes, construction, light industry, restaurants and shops [2, p. 24].

In last decade, the volume of visits of Uzbek citizens to Turkey has grown significantly. A visa-free regime between Turkey and Uzbekistan, an affinity of language, customs and culture of Turks and Uzbeks and other common features contribute to the development of migration relations between two countries. In 2011, 62,655 Uzbeks visited Turkey, and by 2016 this figure doubled. The main reasons for this are the economic instability in Russia in 2014 and changes in the legal framework for migrants in 2015 (Graph 1). It is known that Uzbeks visit Turkey not only for work or study, but also for business and travel.



Graph 1. The number of travel of citizens of Uzbekistan to Turkey [6]

The strengthening of Turkish-Uzbek relation in recent years played an important role in increasing the volume of migration. In particular, during the visit of Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan to Uzbekistan on April-May 2018, Uzbekistan and Turkey signed an agreement on the protection of the rights of migrant workers and members of their families. According to the agreement, it provides a legal protection of the rights of migrant workers from Uzbekistan and Turkey and their families.

Furthermore, according to the decree of the President of Turkey on 10 November, 2018, citizens of Uzbekistan have the opportunity to stay in Turkey for 90 days without a visa. Before the decree, Uzbek nationals had to the right to stay in the country for 30 days without visa. If they want to extend their stay in the country, they will need to apply for a residence permit. The residence permit includes 25 dollars for the first month, 5 dollars for the following months and 80 dollars per year [3].

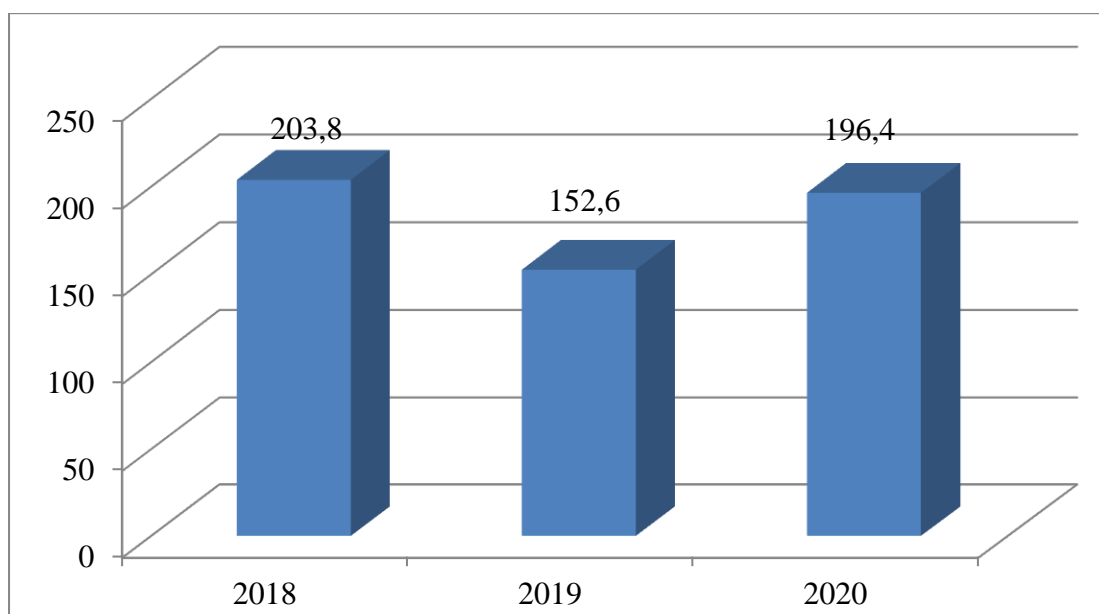
Uzbek labor migrants work mainly in the field of hospital, restaurant and household services in Turkey. But female migrants usually work as nurses for the elderly or children in Turkish homes in various developed cities of Turkey. The main reasons for great demand for Uzbek migrants are that their salaries are much cheaper than local workers, the presence of ability to learn quickly Turkish because of similarity of languages.

According Turkish scholar surveys of female migrants from Uzbekistan, Bulgaria and other former Soviet republics in the Turkish cities of Antalya and Marmaris show that most of them have higher education and a certain specialization. In most cases, they become Turkish citizenship by marrying Turks. Furthermore, they work as massage therapists, translators, tour operators, guides, and hotel receptionists in tourist areas of Turkey [5, p. 63]. In addition, the influx of Russian tourists visiting tourist area of Turkey is more than other nationalities. There is a great demand for Russian-speaking migrants to provide Russian tourists with a high

level of service. For that reason, many Uzbek labor migrants who know the Russian language work in these regions of Turkey.

Uzbeks often transfer their savings to the family from acquaintances returning to Uzbekistan, or they bring themselves after a certain period of time. Also, migrants use various international remittances from Turkey to Uzbekistan. According to the Central Bank of

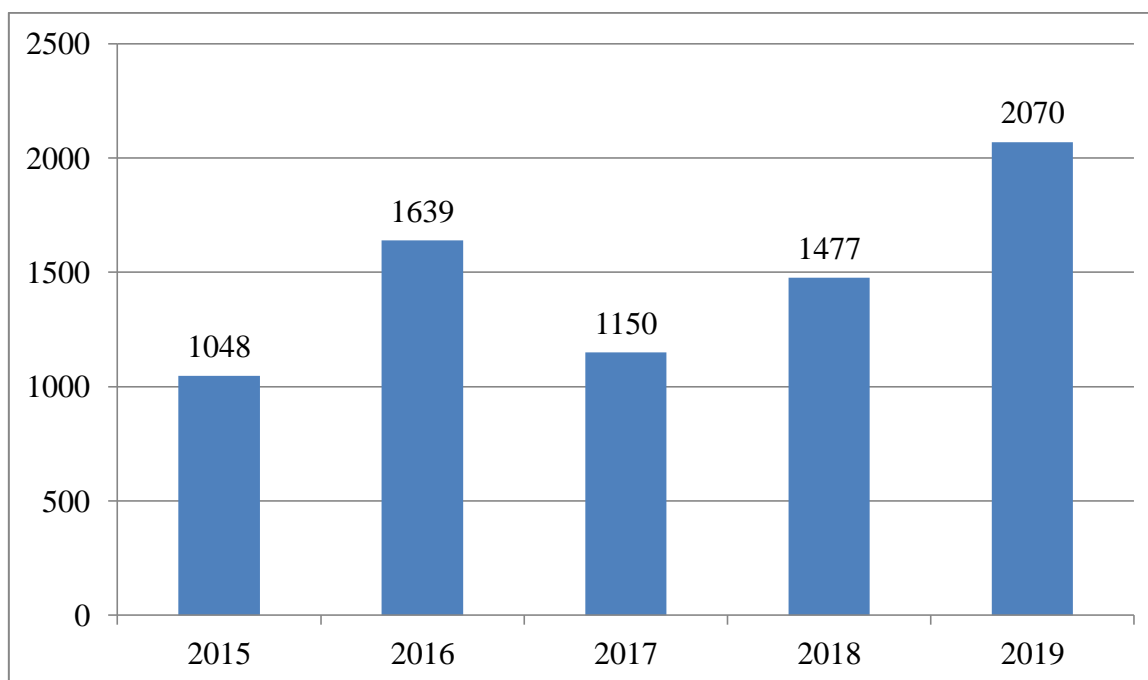
Uzbekistan, the volume of cross-border remittances from Turkey to Uzbekistan amounted to \$ 203.8 million in 2018, while its volume decreased by 25.1 % to \$ 152.6 million in 2019 [1]. However, the spread of the COVID-19 virus around the world in 2020 contributed to rise in cross-border remittances from Turkey to Uzbekistan (Graph 2).



Graph. 2. The volume of cross-border remittances of individuals from Turkey to Uzbekistan (Million USD) [7]

It should note that Turkish universities are popular among Central Asia students, especially from Uzbekistan (Graph 3). Due improving bilateral political, economic and educational relation it is grove number of Uzbek students since 2017 to study at different universities in Turkey in order to get good knowledge and increase international mobility, including to study master program in EU in general and Germany in particular. To sum

up, a visa-free regime between Turkey and Uzbekistan, an affinity of language, customs and culture of Turks and Uzbeks and other common features contribute to the development of migration relations between two countries, which include work, study, business and tourism. It should note that Turkish universities are popular among students from Uzbekistan.



Graph. 3. Educational migration from Uzbekistan to Turkey (person) [6]

Conclusion

In post-Soviet period Uzbekistan has remained maintain high level migration. The main reasons for this are high population growth in the country, a lack of demand for labor, the presence of a visa-free regime with a high demand for labor migrant countries, high wages outside the country. This, in turn, encourages many workers to work in foreign countries.

Currently, Turkey is one of the most popular destinations for migrants from Uzbekistan. At the same time, they also face various problems in this country. In particular, Turkey is distinguished by the availability of jobs for labor migrants in all its regions, appropriate wages and other advantages. However, there are also disadvantages, such as the lack of organization of workplaces, and a large number of conclusions of a verbal rather than a written employment contract between the employer and the workforce.

It should be noted Turkish universities are likewise attractive to students from Uz-

bekistan and other Central Asia republics due their good quality of education and academic potential. In this regard, Uzbekistan should further develop relations with these countries not only in the field of labor migration, but also in the field of academic migration and mobility.

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