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The Criminality of Foreign Nationals in Switzerland as a Security Threat in the Context of Swiss Migration Policy

Abstract: Objective: The purpose of the research was to investigate the scale of crime by foreign nationals in Switzerland in the context of the effectiveness of the assumptions of the migration policy of that state in the area of security. **Materials and methods:** The research uses literature sources and statistical data on the crime of foreign nationals in Switzerland and its migration policy. The author used qualitative research methods, including the query of literature and strategic documents (using the content analysis technique) and the analysis of statistical data (using the desk research technique). **Results:** In the context of the three analysed factors, the following trends can be observed: steadily declining crime in Switzerland; the relatively constant level of crime by foreign nationals, especially since 2018; constant, although relatively mildly growing, percentage of foreign nationals' crime in the overall crime scale. **Conclusions:** In the context of the assessment of the effectiveness of the implementation of the assumptions of Switzerland's migration policy in the area of security, it should be noted that the relatively constant level of the crime rate of foreign nationals, despite their constantly growing population, proves the optimality of these assumptions and their highly effective implementation.

Keywords: *Switzerland, foreign nationals, migrants, crime, migration policy, security*

Introduction

The history of Switzerland's statehood dates back to 1291 when the cantons of Uri, Schwyz, and Unterwalden formed a Confederation to jointly resist external military threats. This event was confirmed by the signing of the Federal Letter, the first constitutional document of the Swiss Confederation (Matyja, 2019). The French occupation began in 1798 and resulted in the enactment of the Constitution of the so-called Helvetic Republic, whose system was based on the French model, i.e., that of a unitary state. It ceased to exist in 1803 when France

withdrew from Switzerland. As a result, a new Constitution, known as the Act of Mediation, was adopted. The most important assumption of the document was the restoration of the principle of federalism (making political decisions in the closest possible consultations with local communities).

Since Vienna Congress (1815), Switzerland declared its neutrality in international relations, which applies to the present day. Further changes that remain in force until the present day were introduced in 1848 when the Constitution of the Swiss Confederation was signed. Under this document, the state's system was based on the principles of direct democracy (with decisions related to local matters being entrusted almost exclusively to self-governments) and proportionality in the exercise of power in central organs of representatives from all regions (cantons). At that time, Switzerland also established bodies of the central government: the parliament, the government, and the federal court.

In later years, the Swiss Constitution was modified three more times. In 1874, Switzerland introduced the possibility of conducting the so-called non-mandatory referendum, which is especially important in the context of local authorities. In the 1891 amendments, the possibility of amending the Constitution was supplemented by the so-called people's petition, which henceforth not only adopted a new Constitution but could also add additional amendments to it (Matyja, 2019). The current Constitution was enacted in 1999, and its provisions constitute an adaptation of the solutions of the three previous amendments to modern times.

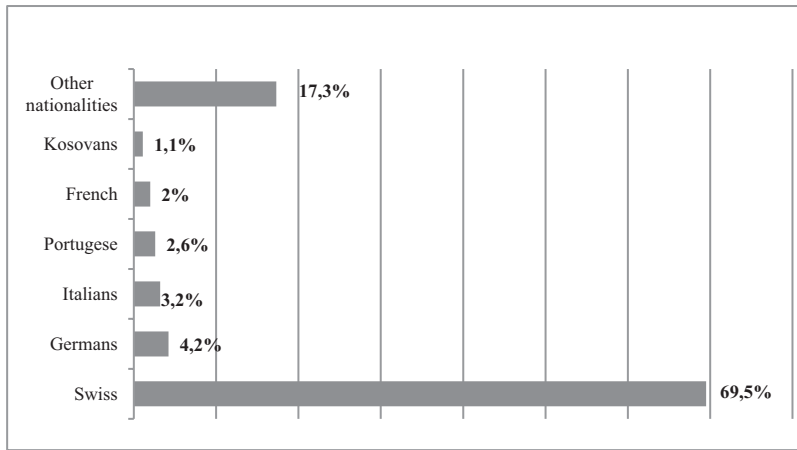
When considering Switzerland, an interesting topic on a global scale is its society, which can be described as multinational.

As indicated in Figure 1, foreign nationals (as defined by the United Nations, people whose citizenship or legal nationality is different from that of the country where they live) (Toolkit of International Migration, 2012) currently (as of July 2022) constitute nearly 30% of the Swiss population, among 8,292,809 residents (CIA website). For comparison, in 1850, they constituted 3% of the Swiss population, while in 1910, the percentage increased to 14.7% (Turek, 2013).

As indicated by the results of research (Häberlein, 2013; Perkowska, 2015; Ruedin et al., 2015), the main reason for such a significant percentage of foreign nationals in Swiss society are the assumptions of the country's migration policy (according to Meyers (2007), determinant of the interaction between socio-economic factors/foreign policy and the type of migration, e.g. temporary labour migration, permanent migration, etc.) in which the necessity for foreign nationals to participate in the economic development of Switzerland and the need for the state to provide humanitarian aid to foreign nationals in need have been indicated since the 19th century.

In the context of the community context in terms of shaping the migration policy by the state, The Global Migration Pact, adopted by the UN in 2018, emphasises that each member state of the UN has a sovereign right to shape its own migration policy correlated with the provisions of the international law, including legal acts adopted by the UN, which includes

Figure 1. Nationality of foreign nationals in Switzerland



Source: <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/resources/the-world-factbook/geos/lu.html>

the right to independently determine the status of its legality/illegality (Global Compact For Safe, Orderly And Regular Migration Final Draft, 2018).

On the other hand, Osterloh and Frey (2019) criticise the migration policies conducted by the Western countries, emphasising their ineffectiveness in battling the phenomenon of international human trafficking and providing aid to those seeking shelter from the effects of military actions taking place in their home countries.

Freeman (1995) believes that the economic factor dominates migration policy, wherein policymakers are defined as brokers interested in creating policies that appease (influential) organised interests.

Boswell (2007) criticised his opinion, arguing that such an approach to migration policy is too simplistic, stating that a maximally effective migration policy should include four factors: accumulation of functioning, honesty, institutional legitimation, and security.

Identifying with the opinion presented by Boswell, for the purposes of this article, it was decided to assess the effectiveness of migration policy assumptions in one of the areas indicated by the researcher, i.e., security, based on the example of the Swiss case study.

As security is too broad an issue to be studied for a single publication, the research has focused on the threat to security, which is a crime.

The statistics on foreign nationals in Switzerland determine the question: – for example, on the scale of crime?

Based on the analysis of literature sources, we can observe that studies on the criminality of foreign nationals in Switzerland have been present in the Swiss and international scholarly discourse for many years.

Clinard (1978) conducted an extensive comparative study of crime in Switzerland to investigate the relationship between crime rates and high levels of urbanisation and industrialisation in relation to this phenomenon in the United States, Sweden, and West Germany. The research showed that crime – both global and committed by foreign nationals – is much lower in Switzerland than in other surveyed countries.

Contemporary research on the analysed issues by Baier (2020) shows that the crime tendency of foreign nationals in Switzerland is increasing, especially among minors. The researcher emphasises, however, that the cited upward trend results from the growing percentage of foreign nationals in Swiss society.

Birrer and Ribaux (2008) showed new possibilities in their research in the context of improving criminal intelligence with regard to battling crime in Switzerland, among others, in the scope of reporting the scale of foreign nationals' crime. Previously, opportunities for innovation in forensic technology in Switzerland (highlighting their high level of innovation on a global scale) were also explored by Eisner and Kiliyas (2004).

Koller and Fink (2013) researched the criminality of foreign nationals in particular cantons, pointing to the Canton of Geneva as the canton with the highest crime rate of foreign nationals.

Schwarzenegger and Studer (2013), in their research (in the context of exploring statistics concerning rulings of Swiss courts given in 1984–2011, with particular focus on the socio-demographic characteristics of the defendants), indicate that the greatest crime risk in Switzerland from foreign nationals comes from asylum seekers.

Kozlova (2015), by examining the most important aspects and legal conditions of current migration movements in Switzerland, indicates that the fear of crime among foreign minorities in Switzerland is not directly related to the criminal situation and trends.

An increasing tendency in the percentage of foreign nationals' crimes in Switzerland, in this case in the context of the growing scale of prisoners in prisons, is noted in his research by Tonry (2013).

A similar phenomenon (increase in the crime rate of foreign nationals in Switzerland) in the context of 2009–2015 is also noted by Perkowska (2019).

As can be seen, in all – both retrospective (research by Clinard from 1978) and contemporary – cited publications, researchers have observed a steady increase in the crime rate of foreign nationals in Switzerland.

In the context of deepening the exploration (and thus filling the research gap) of the crime of foreign nationals in Switzerland, two actions were justified: updating the research results based on the latest available statistical data (at the time of publishing: 2009–2021) and referring them to the assumptions of Swiss policy migration in the context of examining its effectiveness in the area of security, according to the previously mentioned opinion of Boswell (2007).

Methods

The criminality of foreign nationals in Switzerland in the context of the assumptions of the migration policy constitutes the research subject.

The purpose of the research was to investigate the scale of crime by foreign nationals in Switzerland in the context of the effectiveness of the assumptions of the migration policy of that state in the area of security. When formulating the research purpose, Boswell's (2007) theory about establishing one of the areas of migration policy by security was adopted.

To achieve the research objective, the author formulated the following research problem: "What is the level of threat related to crime by foreign nationals in Switzerland in the context of the migration policy conducted by the Swiss government?". Due to the use of qualitative research only, no hypothesis was formulated.

Two limitations were adopted in the research process. The first is the focus in Swiss security in the context of migration policy on its threat, which is a crime. Separate studies are needed to investigate the impact of other security threats. The second limitation is the focus solely on the general scale of foreign nationals' crime in Switzerland. Due to the breadth of the issue, investigating the crime types, the perpetrators' socio-demographic characteristics, etc., requires separate studies.

The research process was carried out in three stages:

1. Analysis of the state of research on the issue of the crime of foreign nationals in Switzerland in the context of the migration policy of that country. As part of this stage, a collection and analysis of Swiss and international literature sources and statistical data concerning the criminality of foreign nationals in Switzerland and its migration policy were made. The following databases were searched to investigate the current state of research concerning studies on the criminality of foreign nationals in Switzerland in the context of that country's migration policy: Web of Science, Scopus, EBSCO, Researchgate, Google Books, Google Scholar, Wiley Online Library, as well as the library database of the Center for Criminological Research of the Faculty of Law at the University of Neuchatel. The following keywords were used: Swiss migration policy, migrants in Switzerland, and foreign nationals' crime in Switzerland. The criterion for source collection consisted primarily of the papers (results) published by Swiss researchers, followed by researchers from other countries. A query of the sources showed that the previous research had little reference to the crime of foreign nationals in Switzerland in the context of this country's migration policy assumptions. The next stages of the study stemmed from this observation.
2. Analysis of the model and assumptions of migration policy in Switzerland and statistical data concerning criminality of foreign nationals in this country.
3. Synthesis of the research results and development of conclusions.

Results

Model and Assumptions of Swiss Migration Policy – Retrospection and Contemporaneity

Before exploring the scale of foreign nationals' crime in Switzerland in the context of assessing the effectiveness of the security sector of that country's migration policy, it was reasonable to first present its main assumptions and structure.

In the case of Switzerland, the first needs for a significant increase in the number of foreign nationals were related to the intensive economic development of the country that occurred at the turn of the 19th and 20th century (Häberlein, 2013).

Even then, as in modern times, the Swiss labour market preferred highly-skilled workers (Ruedin et al., 2015). Migrants travelling to Switzerland, however, were not solely workers but also persons seeking to open their own businesses there. To attract such migrants, Swiss authorities introduced incentives, such as tax and tariff concessions. Many companies established at the turn of the 19th and 20th century by foreign migrants in Switzerland have achieved global success and operate till the present day, for example, Patek Philippe – a brand offering luxurious watches, founded by a Pole, Antoni Patek.

After the end of World War I, the number of foreign nationals in Switzerland kept growing. It primarily concerned citizens of neighbouring countries: France, Germany, and Italy (also due to the bilateral agreements signed at the governmental level). At that time, the rights of migrants and native Swiss citizens were virtually equalised – in addition to the right to participate in elections and the possibility to apply for Swiss citizenship after only two years of residence – which constituted an additional “pull” factor (according to the *push-pull* migration theory by Everett S. Lee, assuming the existence of “pull” and “push” factors that determine migration-related decisions (Lee, 1966; Turek, 2013)). Despite the country's economic development, concerns that the Swiss (as well as their culture) would be marginalised in their own country began to emerge in the society. The view was referred to as *Überfremdung* (German: excess migration).

The Swiss government also noticed the concerns resulting in the 1931 enactment of the Act on Residence and Settlement of Foreigners (ANAG) (Sina & Vasjari, 2013). Under this Act, the requirements concerning the possibility of obtaining Swiss citizenship were tightened, and the central authorities established a mechanism regulating the scale of migration, which would depend on the needs of the labour market.

The migration-related situation in Switzerland changed after the end of World War II. Despite its neutrality, which prevented Switzerland from suffering losses similar to those suffered by other European countries, the economy of Switzerland slowed down, also because approx. 70 thousand migrants left the country (Turek, 2013). The main change in the Swiss migration policy of that period concerned the introduction of an obligatory seasonal nature of migration – for nine months in a year, after which the migrant had to return to his or her home country. The possibility of a one-year-long stay was also introduced, but its

extension was strictly dependent on the needs of the labour market, and the members of the migrant could only be joined by the members of his or her family after three years of his or her stay. It should be mentioned that after World War II, the main group of foreign workers in Switzerland were Italians, which was reflected by the fact that it was easier for them to obtain resident status than foreign nationals of other nationalities (Turek, 2013). In the context of migration problems, at the beginning of the 1990s, Switzerland faced a new challenge – people from the former Yugoslavia seeking international protection due to the war taking place in the country.

In 2001, Switzerland signed a bilateral agreement with the European Union (Ruedin et al., 2015), under which citizens of EU member states were treated equally to native citizens in the Swiss market and vice versa. This principle also concerned citizens of countries associated alongside Switzerland in the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) – Iceland, Lichtenstein and Norway. In 2004, the Swiss authorities enacted the *Foreign Nationals Act*, under which the decisive criteria for the admission of migrants were their skills and nationality. Nationals of EU and EFTA member states were preferred, while nationals of other countries could only be granted permission to stay in Switzerland if it was not possible to hire a national of an EFTA or EU member state for a given position. As a result of these changes, a significant portion of competencies related to integrating migrants with the new environment and their naturalisation was transferred to local authorities. The tendency to make Swiss migration policy more restrictive after 2004 is also noticeable in the introduction of quantitative restrictions on issuing residence permits for persons from Central and Eastern Europe countries in 2012. In the 2014 referendum, the Swiss voted to limit the scale of migration into their country (Initiative populaire fédérale «Contre l’immigration de masse», 2014; Ackermann & Freitag, 2015) while in 2016, the government implemented a law under which entrepreneurs in regions with the highest unemployment rates are obliged to favour Swiss workers. Other restrictions for foreign nationals that have been introduced in Switzerland in recent years also include the issuance of permits for work and stay for EU citizens from 3 to 6 months and work permits only in the case of permanent residence (Lampka, 2017), availability of real property rental only to persons holding a residence permit, or restrictive conditions of granting international protection (Botschaft zur Änderung des Asylgesetzes (Neustrukturierung des Asylbereichs), 2014).

Currently (as of July 2022), within the framework of a procedure initiated in January 2018, signatures supporting the initiative of the Swiss People’s Party to hold a referendum on introducing further restrictions on migration into Switzerland are being collected (Porębski, 2020).

Thus, as we can observe, migration policy in Switzerland can be described as restrictive, which is confirmed by the 0.7 rating of the control of the flow of foreign nationals (on a scale of 0.1 – most restrictive to 1.0 – least restrictive) on the Migration Data Portal of the UN International Organization for Migration (IOM) (Migrationdataportal.org. website).

In the institutional context, the State Secretariat for Migration (SEM) is the main body of the Swiss public administration responsible for implementing migration policy and reports

directly to the Federal Council. The body was established on January 1, 2015, replacing the Federal Organization for Migration (FOM). It creates guidelines concerning the entry of foreign nationals into Switzerland to live and work and decides on granting protection to foreign nationals escaping persecution. To this end, SEM collaborates with canton authorities to organise accommodation for these people or their return to their country of origin if protection is not deemed necessary. It also coordinates the integration of foreign nationals in Switzerland, is responsible for their naturalisation and represents Switzerland internationally in discussions concerning global control of migration flows (State Secretariat for Migration SEM website).

Currently (as of July 2022), with regard to the conducted migration policy, the Swiss authorities are declaring three main assumptions that define good practices in the analysed area (State Secretariat for Migration SEM website):

1. “Good migration policy ensures that protection is granted to those who are truly persecuted, as befits the Swiss humanitarian tradition”. In the context of entering Switzerland and staying in its territory, every person who wants to stay in this country for a longer time must carry a valid travel document and a permit for stay. It should be noted that being a citizen of UE member states or EFTA makes it much easier to obtain such a permit. However, it does not concern foreign nationals seeking international protection from the Swiss authorities, for example, due to a threat to their health and life stemming from an ongoing armed conflict in their home country or due to persecution (under the provisions of the most important international law – the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees of 28 July 1951). Such persons are subject to the asylum procedure, during which it is established whether they are eligible for refugee status. Illegal migrants and persons seeking international protection whose application has been rejected must leave Switzerland and may be forcibly removed from the country.
2. “Good migration policy aims at creating a situation where natives and migrants feel safe in Switzerland”. The Swiss authorities emphasise that foreign nationals living in the country for a long time should be integrated with the native Swiss to the greatest extent possible. To this end, it is a condition *sine qua non* that they accept basic principles of social life, which means they must also renounce criminal activity. Foreign nationals who are well integrated into the cantonal and municipal authorities can apply for naturalisation, the criteria of which are established by the central authorities (Wanner & Piguet, 2000).
3. “Good migration policy protects and advances the prosperity of the country”. As can be observed, this statement constitutes a reference to the complementary model of migration policy implemented by the Swiss authorities. They also stress that foreign workers are necessary for developing the domestic economy, although their presence is currently needed only in specific sectors, such as construction, tourism and health care, and the number of permits issued is limited by quotas. It also applies to persons

seeking asylum from the Swiss authorities, for example, due to being persecuted in their home country. Such persons cannot take up employment in the first three months following the submission of their asylum application. Citizens of EU and EFTA member states who want to work in Switzerland may do so under the bilateral Switzerland-EU agreement on the free movement of persons.

Based on the analysis of the assumptions of the Swiss migration policy, referring to the theory of migration policy models, we can conclude that the solutions applied in Switzerland combine the complementary and residual models. The first one refers to the labour market and assumes the admission of the minimum number of migrants who are then employed in specific sectors with a demand for workers; the process is strictly regulated by public authorities (Kaczmarczyk & Okólski, 2008). This assumption is visible in the cited point 3. The second one refers to intangible factors, especially cultural ones, i.e., the requirement that the newcomers accept the system of norms and values followed in the country of their destination, in this case – Switzerland. This assumption is visible in the cited point 2. It should be mentioned that the cited assumptions concerning strict control of the state of foreign national-migrant admission have remained virtually the same for 90 years – since the adoption of the ANAG Act in 1931.

Based on the considerations concerning the assumptions of the Swiss migration policy and its implementation by the authorities, the next stage of the research explored foreign nationals' criminality in this country. It made it possible to answer the question of whether the described restrictive conditions governing the admission of migrants are effective with regard to the scale of foreign nationals' crime as a threat to security.

Impact of Foreign Nationals on the Security Level of Switzerland on the Example of Foreign Nationals' Crime

After analysing the assumptions of Switzerland's migration policy, the next stage of the research was the reference to the effectiveness of its assumptions in the context of the threat to security, which is a crime – including crime generated by foreign nationals.

The latest available statistical data from the Swiss Federal Statistical Office for 2009–2021 were used to assess the scale of crime by foreign nationals in Switzerland in the context of security as a sector of migration policy. Three indicators were adopted for the study: the total number of accused, the scale of foreign nationals' crimes, and the percentage of foreign nationals' crimes in relation to all recorded cases. Data are presented in Table 1.

As can be seen, the trend in the context of the total accused scale in Switzerland in 2009–2021 was variable. In 2009–2011 and then in 2012–2015, it decreased, while in 2018–2020, it increased. This scale also increased between the years: 2011 and 2012, 2015 and 2016, and 2017 and 2018, while it decreased in 2021 compared to 2020. When assessing the differences in recorded crime cases in Switzerland in individual years, it should be noted that they are not significant. Hence, it can be concluded that this scale remains relatively equal.

Table 1. Statistics on the crime of foreign nationals in Switzerland in 2009–2021

Year	Total accused	The number of all crimes committed by foreign nationals	Percentage of all crimes committed by foreign nationals (~)
2009	80 481	38 431	47.76%
2010	79 357	38 714	48.78%
2011	77 836	39 439	50.67%
2012	81 862	43 521	53.16%
2013	81 400	43 758	53.76%
2014	79 237	41 583	52.48%
2015	77 248	40 316	52.19%
2016	78 399	41 172	52.52%
2017	78 394	40 768	52.00%
2018	80 560	41 749	51.82%
2019	81 956	41 806	51.01%
2020	83 866	41 725	49.75%
2021	82 796	41 474	50.09%
Total	1 043 392	534 456	51.22%

Source: <https://www.bfs.admin.ch/bfs/en/home/statistics/crime-criminal-justice/police/accused-persons.assetdetail.21324233.html>

In the case of crimes against foreign nationals, the scale of recorded cases also remains relatively equal, with even smaller differences in the number of recorded cases compared to the total number of accused people.

In the case of crimes against foreign nationals, the scale of recorded cases also remains relatively equal, with even smaller differences in the number of recorded cases compared to the total number of accused persons. The only longer-term growth trend of the analysed scale can be observed only in 2009–2013. The trend of stability is visible, especially in 2018–2021.

The difference (range of reported cases) in the overall crime tendency and the criminality of foreign nationals can be observed in Figure 2.

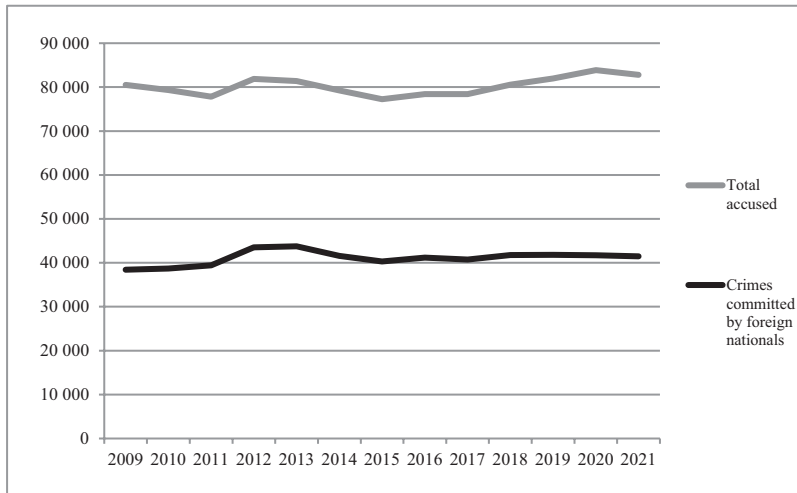
The figure shows a relatively constant trend of foreign nationals' criminality and overall crime in Switzerland. As can be seen, in the scale of foreign nationals' crime, less diversification was recorded in individual years than in total accused cases.

In the context of the considerations, the third analysed statistic is interesting, namely the percentage of foreign nationals' crime in all recorded cases.

In the context of the three analysed factors, the following trends can be observed:

- the relatively constant level of crime by foreign nationals, especially since 2018;
- the relatively constant percentage of foreign nationals' crime in the overall crime scale maintained at an average level of slightly exceeding 50%. This factor confirms the earlier results of Eisner and Killias (2004), Birrer and Ribaux (2008), Kozlova (2015), and Koller and Fink (2013).

Figure 2. Comparison of trends in overall crime (total accused) and the crime of foreign nationals in Switzerland in 2009–2021



Source: <https://www.bfs.admin.ch/bfs/en/home/statistics/crime-criminal-justice/police/accused-persons.assetdetail.21324233.html>

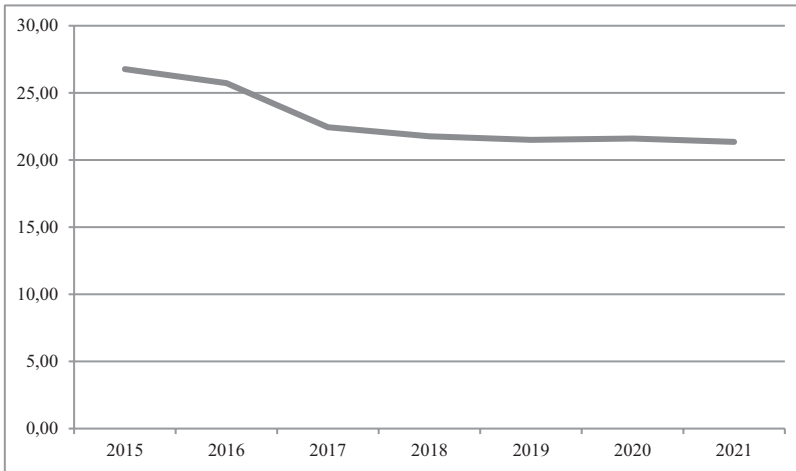
Given the observed trends, it is reasonable to answer the question: why is foreign nationals’ crime in Switzerland more than half of the total accused?

The reason for such a phenomenon is the constantly growing population of foreign nationals in Swiss society, which causes a directly proportional increase in crime with their participation, which was also observed in their research by, inter alia, Schwarzenegger and Studer (2013), Baier (2020), and Perkowska (2019). The researcher also indicates that this trend is most visible in the constantly growing percentage of foreign nationals among prisoners in Swiss prisons, which is over 70%.

In the context of the assessment of the effectiveness of the implementation of the assumptions of Switzerland’s migration policy in the area of security, it should be noted that the relatively constant level of the crime rate of foreign nationals, despite their constantly growing population, proves the optimality of these assumptions and their highly effective implementation.

For a deeper exploration, Figure 3 presents the crime rate in Switzerland per 100 thousand residents between 2015 and 2021. This rate is a more meaningful indicator of this threat than an analysis of the total number of crimes which could be unreliable because countries with larger populations are more likely to have more crimes than those with smaller populations (which is confirmed by, among others, Baier (2020)). This value is the result of dividing the total number of reported crimes of any type by the total population

Figure 3. Crime rate in Switzerland per 100 thousand residents between 2015 and 2021



Source: <https://worldpopulationreview.com/country-rankings/crime-rate-by-country>

and then multiplying the resulting value by 100,000 (since the crime rate is usually reported as X crimes per 100,000 people) (Worldpopulationreview.com).

As can be noted, this indicator, as with the overall crime statistics in Switzerland, had a downward trend in the analysed period, which indicates a gradual decrease in the scale of crime in Switzerland and, at the same time, an increase in the security level. In 2021, this index ranked Switzerland sixth out of 147 classified countries in the world (Worldpopulationreview.com).

In order to extend the exploration of the criminality of foreign nationals in Switzerland as a security threat in the context of Swiss migration policy, it was reasonable to compare this situation with that of other selected countries with a high (exceeding, as in the case of Switzerland, 30%) percentage of foreign nationals in the population. For this purpose, using World Bank and OECD statistics, the cases of the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, and Kuwait were analysed. According to statistical data, these countries were selected for comparison due to the world's highest percentage of foreign nationals. As in the case of data from Figure 3, it was decided to compare the crime rate per 100 thousand residents because countries with larger populations are more likely to have more crimes than those with smaller populations, which include the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, and Kuwait.

Values for the percentage of foreign nationals in these countries and the crime rate per 100,000 inhabitants are shown in Table 2.

Table 2. Crime rate per 100,000 inhabitants in selected countries of the world along with the percentage of foreign nationals in their societies

Country	Crime rate per 100,000 inhabitants	Percentage of foreign nationals (according to CIA Factbook)
Switzerland	21.62	30%
United Arab Emirates	15.23	88.4%
Qatar	12.13	75.5%
Kuwait	33.42	73.6%

Source: World Bank and OECD. <https://data.oecd.org/migration/foreign-population.htm#indicator-chart> and <https://worldpopulationreview.com/country-rankings/crime-rate-by-country>

As can be observed in Table 2, despite the relatively high percentage of foreign nationals in Swiss society, the value of this indicator is over twice as large in three countries of the world: the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, and Kuwait.

These countries have been selected for comparison due to the similarity of the assumptions of their national migration policies to the Swiss policy. The mentioned countries, like Switzerland, are implementing a complementary model of migration policy, strictly oriented towards the needs of the labour market and accepting only those foreign nationals (even on a large scale) who, due to their qualifications (specified by the authorities), will constitute some kind of positive value for the economy. Another similarity between these countries and Switzerland in migration policy is devoting special attention to the foreign nationals' respect for the local culture. It can be observed particularly in those of the selected countries, which, according to Huntington's (1993) nomenclature (about the "clash" of civilisation), originated from the Islamic civilisation (the United Arab Emirates, Qatar and Kuwait).

Based on the analysis of the statistical data presented in Table 2, it is also possible to notice that another factor connecting these countries is the low (in the case of Qatar and the United Arab Emirates) or relatively low (in the case of Kuwait) percentage of crimes.

Another similarity is the existence of migration traditions in these countries. In these societies, the presence of foreign migrants is a common phenomenon accepted by the local community. The reason for this state of affairs may also be that, as can be seen based on analysis of statistical data from the field of economy, the presence of foreign nationals in these countries positively affects their economic growth, and therefore their presence there is somewhat necessary.

Given the fact of selecting foreign workers according to their competencies, it is important to remember that a significant part of migrants in those countries are representatives of the elite, including, among others, managerial staff (e.g., of multinational corporations), which, due to the socio-demographic feature of education, theoretically should not determine the propensity for pathological behaviour, including criminal activity, the renunciation of which by migrants is, as mentioned, one of the postulates of the Swiss migration policy.

Therefore, these proportions prove that many foreign nationals do not impact the crime rate, and consequently, it has no negative impact on security. The examples (including Switzerland) demonstrate that, in the context of the national migration policy, it is possible to reconcile a high percentage of foreign nationals in the country with the absence of any significant security threat from them, such as increased crime rate, which is facilitated by the implementation of the complementary model of migration policy. In the case of Switzerland, despite the increase in the number of foreign nationals, the percentage of crimes involving them has been relatively stable for years, and as can be seen in Table 1, it has even decreased since 2012 (compared to the latest data from 2021). It is also confirmed by the relatively low crime rate per 100,000 inhabitants. It is also confirmed by the result of the 2015 study by Kozlova that there is no real threat to Switzerland's security due to the crime of foreign nationals.

Conclusions

Crime constitutes one of the most widespread threats to security in every country. The effectiveness of the battle against foreign nationals' crime is undoubtedly one of the elements that demonstrate the effectiveness of a country's migration policy. Since Switzerland constitutes an example of such a state, it is necessary to explore the phenomenon of foreign nationals' crime in this country in the context of its citizens' security.

As can be observed from the analysis of the Swiss migration policy assumptions, the labour market in this country is oriented towards the participation of highly skilled foreign workers, which confirms the complementary model of the Swiss migration policy. Indeed, the assumptions of Switzerland's policy towards migrants are not aimed at providing them with the possibility of free citizenship attainment, unlike those in many other countries, especially of the European Union.

Currently, both in Switzerland and many other countries (e.g., the quoted cases of the United Arab Emirates and Qatar), it is impossible to develop the economy without the increasing share of foreign nationals in the labour market, which is caused, among other things, by the complex demographic situation resulting in an un-optimal number of people of working age. Switzerland's situation is thus identical to that of other developed countries (e.g., Western European countries), and it constantly requires some of the labour market vacancies to be filled by foreign nationals, which leads to an inevitable increase in the scale of migration. Recognising these challenges, the Swiss authorities must adopt a migration policy that allows them to balance economic benefits with a certain level of security. As can be observed from the analysis carried out (maintaining a relatively stable crime rate of foreign nationals despite their constantly growing population), the participation of foreign nationals in Swiss society not only does not pose a threat to the country's security but, in the economic context (labour market), it is necessary for the development of the country.

Due to their positive nature, the results of the analysis related to foreign nationals' crime in Switzerland in the context of its security lead to the conclusion that the authorities of the Swiss public administration should continue implementing the current strategy, i.e., the current assumptions of the migration policy, aimed at imposing high admission requirements on foreign nationals, based on the needs of the local labour market.

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