The Economic Integration of Highly Skilled FSU Immigrants in Four Countries: A Comparative Analysis

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Abstract
The major objective of the present research is to compare the economic integration of high-skilled immigrants from the Former Soviet Union (FSU) in four destination countries: United States, Canada, Germany, and Israel. These four countries have been the principal destinations for immigrants since the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1989. Each receiving country represents a different immigration regime, both in terms of selection of the host country and the type and magnitude of aid and support provided to the immigrants.

The focus on the integration of immigrants from one country of origin into different countries of destination provides a unique opportunity to examine the impact of immigration policies and reception context on the economic integration of high-skilled immigrants. Our target population comprises post-1989 immigrants from FSU holding academic degrees who were between the ages of 25 and 40 upon arrival. Official census data are used in each of the four countries. Despite basic similarities in the incorporation of immigrants, the analysis reveals meaningful differences across societies that can be attributed both to selectivity processes and to economic and social policies regarding the absorption of immigrants in each of the countries.