SUMMARY

Migration problems are amongst the most urgent problems of the world. Though it can be said that everyone is familiar with migration politicians recognize that it is extremely difficult to manage it while scientists, Russian as well as Western researchers, note that there is neither unanimity in understanding of its essence nor common approaches to its examination exists.

Post-Soviet countries like the whole world do not stand apart of migration study. Despite the fact that for more than 70 years Russia was excluded from global migration processes the internal migration caused by urbanization and differentials of regional development had a considerable breadth and propelled examination of population mobility. That facilitated formation of inquiry avenues and research schools.

Following disintegration of the USSR and involvement of Russia and other CIS countries in the system of free movements these countries ran into types of migration and migrants (i.e. ethnic migrants, repatriates, forced migrants and refugees, environmental and illegal migrants) that were absolutely new for them. Examination of these phenomena required development of new theoretical approaches and research methods. That resulted in upsurge of interest in migration problems. Scientists of various fields vigorously stepped in the process. Migration studies are developing rapidly in all post-Soviet countries. In the years that followed disintegration of the Soviet Union a great deal has been made in the migration studies field. A number of scientific schools has been emerged and developed. Intensive studies are carried on a broad range of problems. A great number of works has been published. About 2000 publications appeared only in the first 8 years after collapse of the USSR and the interest to the topic does not abate. Migration processes management has ceased to be the exclusive right of the state. More and more participants are getting to be involved in the system: employers, trade unions, recruiting agencies, tourist and other companies providing services in organization of movements.

Nevertheless there is a great shortage of skilled officials who are aware of the problem’s multi-facet nature and of approaches to solution of emerging tasks, understand specific character of work with migrants and are able to shape migration policy. Training of new specialists as well as advanced vocational training for people already engaged in these activities (first of all, faculty and staff of higher education institutions) is a must. Not only scientific publications but also
training and educational materials that may be used by students as well as by teachers are required to meet the purpose.

Needs in specialists are exceptionally acute. That was demonstrated by ‘Migration sciences: theory, methods, practices of migration processes regulation’, program of three year workshop-school organized by ‘Open Society’ Institute (Budapest) and Centre of migration studies (Moscow). Long-term partnership and cooperation which developed between faculty and staff and workshop participants in the course of several years of training laid foundation for establishment of programs of lectures on migration in higher education institutions of CIS countries. Such programs are introduced in 20 higher education institutions. ‘Population migration in the context of social sciences’ (Smolensk, 2005), a collection of migration programs prepared by the workshop participants was published with the UNHCR sponsorship.

Peculiarity of the book is that focus of migration is shifted from conventional examination of migration as a separate research avenue or a field of management decisions development and making to the sphere of instruction and learning of disciplines, i.e. to interdisciplinary approach which is widely used in the international practice.

The book is conceived as a textbook for students, post-graduates and lecturers of liberal arts higher education institutions. The book is a collection of articles that examine migration processes from different viewpoints: those of general theory, typology, interdisciplinary and disciplinary positions.

The book consists of two parts. The first, theoretical part contains articles by renowned researchers of migration, the workshop lecturers and articles by Western specialists. Inclusion of articles by Western specialists is determined by a desire to demonstrate theoretical approaches to examination of scientists’ migration. These approaches represent the American (C. Brettell and J. F. Hollyfield) and the West European (F. Duvel) schools.

Articles included in the first part of the book are examples of application of interdisciplinary approach to migration study. I. Molodikova in the introductory article presents a comparative analysis of West European and Russian approaches exemplified with works by the collection authors and other Russian and foreign researchers. J. Zaionchkovskaya in her article provides the rationale for the ‘open doors’ migration policy’s necessity for Russia. She shows demographic backgrounds of migration, provides an assessment of possible migration scale and analyzes
scenario models of Russia’s development in case of migration on one hand and in case of no migration on the other hand. This approach brings together the author’s methods with demographic studies but examination of Russia’s possible migration donors based not only on statistics but also on results of sociological studies opens the way for more broad generalizations. Article by E. Tyuryukanova on interdependence of global and regional migration processes demonstrated on the Russian example has much in common with article by Zaionchkovskaya. Article by V. Mukomel on methodological and practical aspects of investigation of migrants’ integration in the post-Soviet space is instructive in respect of great variety of interdisciplinary approaches employed in migration studies. V. Mukomel notes the necessity to turn away from the principle of the single and only variant of migrants’ integration and to opt for possibility of multiple variants that depend on a country and migrants’ composition. Referring to impossibility of the single standardized approach to policy and to different types of migrants even within European Union framework A. Yastrebova maintains and confirms the same principle. Article by N. Mkrtchyan is devoted to analysis of statistical basis for migration studies.

In the second part of the book where articles written by the workshop students are published migration is examined from positions of various disciplines. Article by E. Volosenkova, E. Tarasova and P. Kabachenko deserves a particular attention. The authors examine the political dimension of migration processes, specific character of this dimension, targets, and tasks of migration policy. The authors pay a particular attention to issue of data and to methodology of research, use of primary and secondary data, selection of research subject (family, household, individual) and difficulties that may arise in connection with that. Article by E. Nagaitseva and S. Blanter represents a brief compendium of sociological studies’ methods application to studies of migration processes. It should be emphasized that the authors examine the Russian as well as the Western literature. A series of articles reveals peculiarities of studies and the principal migration problems within framework of such disciplines as geography (E. Avdeev, R. Masliev, A. Panin, I. Solov’ev), demography (L. Karachurina), economics (L. Allakhverdova, V. Gabzalilova and also V. Krainov, E. Maslenkova, N. Chelidze).

Naturally, not all disciplines are covered in the collection. However the disciplines that most often examine migration are presented in the book. Thus it is possible to consider this textbook as a good support for students, post-graduates and lecturers who learn and study migration.