Changing Paradigm in the National Migration Policy

Heinz Fassmann
University of Vienna
Introduction

− **In the core:** linkages between the internationalization strategies of Austrian Universities and the Austrian migration policy.

− **The aim:** to show that these linkages are at least under development.
Retrospect: The Guestworker migration

- 2010: Austrian population is about 8,3 million.
  - 900,000 (or 11 percent) foreign residents; in addition, around 500,000 Austrian citizens were born outside.
  - Half of the foreign citizens: citizens of the successor states of the former Yugoslavia and of Turkey (origin of guestworkers)
  - The guestworkers were seen as temporary, flexible and low qualified migrants filling the gaps in a segmented labour market.
  - With the first oil price shock 1973: the end the rotation principle.
The legacy

- legacy of the guestworker regime – ambiguous
  - Cheap labour supports the conservation of economic structures.
  - Young age structure and higher fertility are positive demographic effects.
  - But ethnic and social variables are showing the emergence of a new underclass (ethclass).
Changing paradigm

- Legal reforms aimed to privilege high qualified migrants
  (in Austria: Red-White-Red Card)
  
  ▪ skilled workers in shortage occupations
  ▪ other key workers (Schlüsselfarbeitskräfte)
  ▪ very highly qualified workers
  ▪ legal stay of graduates after graduation
  ▪ students are allowed to work legally
The role of the universities

- role of the universities in the new migration policy is undefined and factually underestimated

- University of Vienna: stock of 77,000 students (second or higher) 28% are foreign students; 14,500 students enrolled in 10/2011, 4,800 are foreigners (33%)
- in all Austrian universities: 272,000 stock and 24% foreigners; 43,000 inflow and 38% of them are foreign citizen
- enrolments compared to the influx of all migrants to Austria: every fourth migrant entering Austria came due to study reasons
Outlook

- the universities became a magnet within the whole migration system
- the Universities should be accepted as partners of the migration policy stakeholder
- and they influence the legal framework of migration