

## **Abstract:**

### **Geographical Aspects of Football: Migration of Professional Football Players**

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The aim of the thesis is to provide an integrated view on the international football migration, in particular within the European region. The first part therein summarizes some of the key writings on the subject matter. Furthermore, it provides an overview on the general and even some more particular theories concerning football migration and tries to sort out factors affecting migration into basic categories. The second part aims to introduce the history of football migration patterns from the time of diffusion from England to continental Europe till recent decades. The history introduction represents a fundamental part for further understanding of present migration flows. The main topic of the pivotal exploratory chapter deals with the migration flows and their progress. At the centre thereof have been included series of analysis concerning migration flows, their changes in space and time during last two decades, anomalies and some important economical-geographic questions arising among the expert communities and from time to time even within the public's discussions.

The whole analysis is based on a Transfermarkt portal database registering over 80,000 transfers since beginning of nineties. The particular aim of the thesis is an evaluation of potential stability or variability of geographical figures of football migration in the course of last decades and an attempt to predict some future progress. Furthermore, the thesis is attempting to map emigration and immigration centers and subsequently to find out whether they might be deemed as a stable in time, decreasing, increasing or moving. The analysis is ought to provide a comparison of the estimated impacts on the donor/host regions with respective results revealing who actually does profit and lose by football migration. Partial analysis are concerned on issues including age structure of migrating players, deepening of differences between advanced football countries and the rest of the world, dependence of migration on sport achievements or economic power as the decisive factor of football strength.

Last but not least, the executed elaboration therein is finally aimed to determine whether migration's restriction, constraints and foreigners' quotas constantly demanded by some institutions are worth to be reinstalled.