



Factors related to emigration self-efficacy among university students in Slovakia



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Background: Emigration self-efficacy (ESE) as the confidence in one's ability to successfully handle migration is an important characteristic of a migrant. Gajdošová (2017) found that higher self-efficacy was significant for both genders in predicting emigration plans of Slovak university students. Also, people without migration experience have been found to be less willing to migrate again, compared to those with migration experience (Kupiszewski, 1996). The influence of personality characteristics in the process of migration was confirmed by Canache et al. (2013) who found openness to experience as well as extraversion to be positively related to emigration intentions.

Main goal: to explore whether factor migration experience and also personality factors (extraversion, agreeableness, conscientiousness, neuroticism, openness to experience) are relevant in explaining ESE of university students in Slovakia.

Methods: The sample consisted of 474 students from Slovakia (76.8% women, M=22.4, SD=2.13) The data were collected in 2016 via an online questionnaire. All respondents participated in the Student Life Cohort Study (SLiCE) which focuses on risk behaviour, health-related behaviour and migration intentions of university students.

ESE was measured by three items: "If I wanted, I could easily leave abroad", "I am convinced that I would manage the process of leaving abroad" and "I am convinced that I would manage my stay abroad". Respondents rated their answers on 5-point Likert type scale. A higher overall score indicates higher ESE.

Emigration experience was measured with one question: "How would you now assess your experience with living abroad?" regarding the absent, negative, neutral or positive experience with emigration (from 1 – very bad to 5 – very good).

Big Five personality factors (extraversion, agreeableness, conscientiousness, neuroticism, openness to experience) were measured by the shortened version of the Trapnell and Wiggins' method (IA SR-B5, Trapnell & Wiggins, 1990) verified by Janovská (2012). The Cronbach alphas for separate dimensions are: extraversion $\alpha = 0.849$; neuroticism $\alpha = 0.872$; agreeableness $\alpha = 0.814$; conscientiousness $\alpha = 0.850$; openness to experience $\alpha = 0.523$. Higher score with each of these factors means a higher accuracy with that factor. Standard multiple regression was performed using IBM SPSS Statistics 21.

Results: The mean score for ESE was M=11.66 (SD=2.63). Our model explained 23.1% of the variance in ESE. Migration experience was found to make the largest unique contribution in explaining ESE. Regarding personality factors, only neuroticism was found to be significantly related to ESE. The main effect of gender was also significant with males scoring higher in ESE although the moderation effect of gender in the relationship between the independent variables and ESE was not significant. Results are presented in Table 1.



References:

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Table 1. The results of linear regression analysis for each independent variable in relation to emigration self-efficacy.

	B	Std. Error	Beta	t	Sig
Gender	1.11	0.26	0.18	4.28	<0.001
Emigration experience	0.37	0.05	0.32	7.53	<0.001
Extraversion	0.05	0.03	0.11	1.83	0.07
Agreeableness	0.03	0.03	0.05	0.81	0.42
Conscientiousness	-0.02	0.02	-0.04	-0.87	0.38
Neuroticism	-0.05	0.02	-0.16	-3.5	0.001
Openness to experience	0.05	0.03	0.08	1.68	0.09

Conclusions:

A more positive migration experience and lower level of neuroticism are related to emigration self-efficacy.

Emigration self-efficacy encourages young people to migrate and explore the world.



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