

SOARING LIKE EAGLES OR  
FLOCKING WITH CHICKENS:  
CARIBBEAN POLICIES ON  
MIGRATION, AND

Guido Rojer, Jr.



# My background (with migration)

- Training: Public Policy, specialized in Globalization, Trade and International Economics
- Research project on Migration, Maastricht University (2008)
- (Migrant) Entrepreneurship in the Caribbean Integration strategy (2015-present)
- Diaspora Management, Italian International Chamber of Commerce (2016-present)
- Member of the Executive Council Caribbean Studies Association (2016-present)
  - *Bahamas (2016)*
  - *Venezuela (2017)*
- Creative Industries & Migration (2018-present)

# Benefits of Migration (OECD) 1/2

## ■ Labor markets

- *Migrants accounted for 47% of the increase in the workforce in the United States and 70% in Europe over the past ten years.*
- *Migrants fill important niches both in fast-growing and declining sectors of the economy.*
- *Like the native-born, young migrants are better educated than those nearing retirement.*
- *Migrants contribute significantly to labor-market flexibility, notably in Europe.*

## ■ Economic growth

- *Migration boosts the working-age population.*
- *Migrants arrive with skills and contribute to human capital development of receiving countries.*
- *Migrants also contribute to technological progress.*

# Benefits of Migration (OECD) 2/2

- The public purse
  - *Migrants contribute more in taxes and social contributions than they receive in benefits.*
  - *Labor migrants have the most positive impact on the public purse.*
  - *Employment is the single biggest determinant of migrants' net fiscal contribution.*

# Migration in SIDS: the case of Curaçao

- Cultural Distinction and Strong cohesion
- Promulgation of national identity
  - *Promoting Papiamentu*
    - One of two recognized creole languages
- Mediating Multiculturalism, the case of Jewish minority in Curaçao: Roitman J.V. (2018)

FAILURES?



# Dominican Republic (2013)

- 5<sup>th</sup> Economic Pillar: Remittances (“Economía de la mamá”)
- Not particularly an issue of migration at
- They can turn to the Dominican Republic, which revoked citizenship status from an estimated 200,000 Dominicans of Haitian descent in 2013 amid international outcry, creating the largest stateless population in the Western Hemisphere. That ongoing crisis is an example of the consequences of taking the racist ideology underlying birthright debates (which often frame the usually dark-skinned descendants of immigrants as unworthy of full rights) to the extreme.

# Bahamas (2016)

- Referendum on citizenship rights
  - *Motivated by racial/colorist/anti feminist ideals toward*
- Revealed attitudes and opinions of the public toward identity and nationalism.
- Bahamians were very weary as to how migrants, and their children integrated into Bahamian Society aimed particularly at Haitian migrants and their descendants



SUCCESS STORIES?



# Citizenship by Investment Programs

## St. Lucia

- A donation of at least \$100,000 to the Saint Lucia National Economic Fund (depending on number of dependents), or;
- Investment of at least \$300,000 in an approved real estate development, or;
- Investment of \$3.5 million in an approved enterprise project.

## Dominica

- A donation to the National Transformation Fund of \$100,000 for a single applicant, or \$200,000 for a family of four, or;
- A real estate investment of \$200,000.

# Citizenship by Investment

- Grenada
- St. Kitts & Nevis
- Malta
- Israel
- Montenegro
- Vanuatu

INSPIRATION?



# Trinidad & Tobago

## A mixed welcome for Trinidad and Tobago's plan to regularise Venezuelan migrants · Global Voices

Posted 3 May 2019

Security minister: "It's not a 'get out of jail card'"

As Venezuela continues to grapple with its [political](#) and socioeconomic crisis, the twin-island nation of Trinidad and Tobago is also struggling to [manage](#) the resulting influx of Venezuelan migrants.

## Registration confusion SEEKING ASYLUM IN T&T



By unofficial estimates, there approximately 40,000 Venezuelans currently living in T&T and they will be able to register with the National Security Ministry through the Immigration Division to work here for a period of one year under a new amnesty arrangement.

## News

# Cabinet approves Venezuelan amnesty policy Two week window to register

by [Shaliza Hassanali](#) 26 days ago Thu Apr 11 2019



# The ‘Diaspora option’

- Migration and the changing political economy of development
  - *“the emerging Diaspora option should be approached more critically because the current celebration of these strategies obscures the selective and narrow neoliberal orientation; the assumptions that they make about the nature of diasporic engagement, and their increasing reliance on migrant populations to shoulder the investment risks associated with social transformation.”*
- Pellerin, H. & Mullings, B. (2013)

# Middle Eastern examples of the Diaspora approach

## Israel

- Ministry of Diaspora Affairs
- The Law of return
  - *"every Jew has the right to come to this country as an oleh [immigrant]."*

## Lebanon

- Diaspora is a critical source of:
  - *Tourism*
  - *Investment*
  - *New Immigrants*
- Lebanon DiasporaID
- Miss Lebanon Emigrant Pageant

# A NEW CHALLENGE: TECHNOLOGY





# Estonia (e-Stonia) & co.

09 APR 2019 DATA POLITICS TECHNOLOGY

## Inside e-Estonia: How a small Baltic nation became the benchmark for a digital society

By Dan Robinson

The e-Estonia portal enables residents to file taxes in three minutes, open a business in 18 minutes and vote for a new government

Forbes

2,020 views | Apr 25, 2019, 1:18 pm

## Estonia's E-Residency Contributed €14M To Its Economy -- 'E-Residency 2.0 Will Be A True Forerunner'

Nina Angelovska Contributor


Retail

*I write about e-commerce, marketing, entrepreneurship and lifestyle*

TWEET THIS

Today, the direct economic impact of e-Residency is 14 million euros.

E-Residency 2.0 will go further and aims to be a true forerunner in terms of digital transformation.



www.news.cn 新华网 news www.xinhuanet.com EUROPE

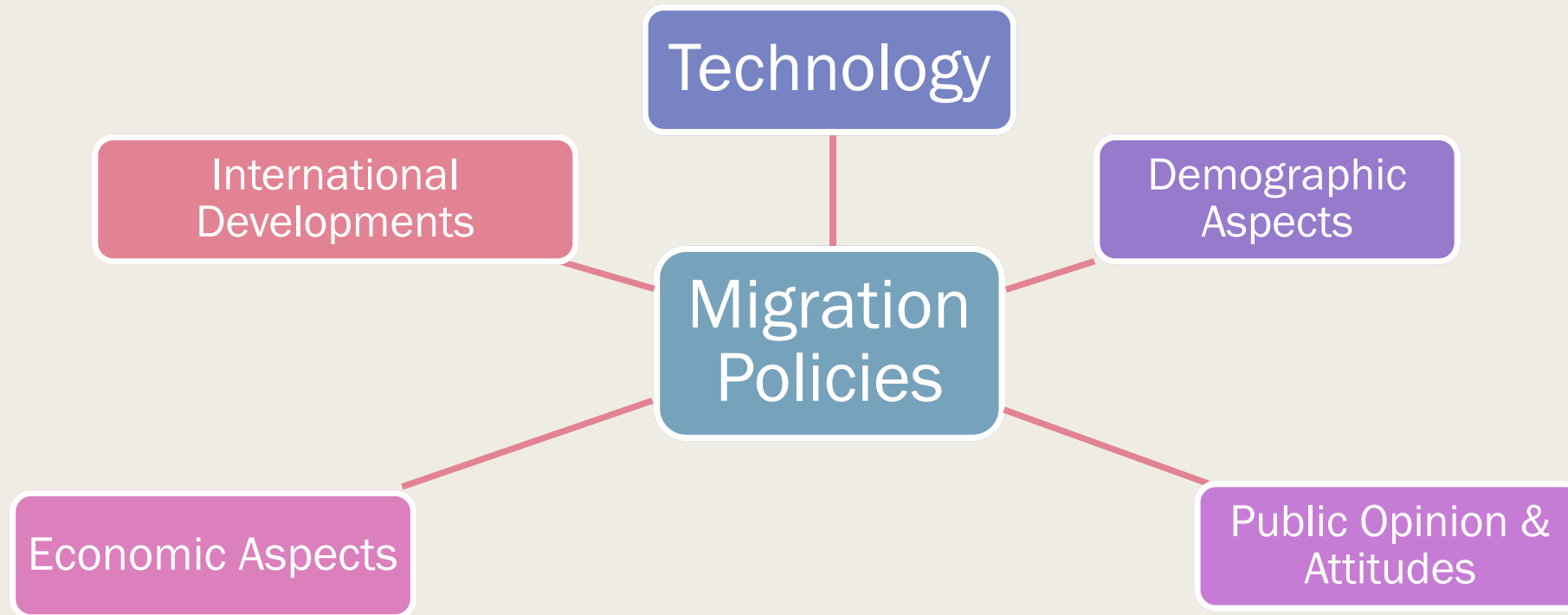
## Lithuania to introduce e-residency to foreigners

Source: Xinhua | 2019-05-01 00:49:17 |

VILNIUS, April 30 (Xinhua) -- The Lithuanian government approved on Tuesday the legislation introducing e-residency status to foreigners based on the Estonian example.

E-residency status, providing the foreigners with digital identity, would open an online access to Lithuania's public and commercial services, such as opening a bank account, establishing a company or submitting a tax declaration.

# Takeaway



# References

- Hunt, J. (2010), “Skilled Immigrants’ Contribution to Innovation and Entrepreneurship in the US”
- OECD (2012), “Renewing the Skills of Ageing Workforces: The Role of Migration”
- Liebig, T. and J. Mo (2013), “The Fiscal Impact of Immigration in OECD Countries”
- Pellerin, H. & Mullings, B. (2013) “The ‘Diaspora option’, migration and the changing political economy of development”
- Roitman J.V. (2018) Mediating Multiculturalism: Jews, Blacks, and Curaçao, 1825–1970.