

12.9.2025

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Title

The brain drain between knowledge-based economies : the European human capital outflow to the US

Publisher

Paris : La Documentation Française, 2008

Collation

44 Bl.

Publication year

2008

Source/Footnote

In: Economie internationale : la revue du CEPII / Centre d'Études Prospectives et d'Informations Internationales. - Paris : La Documentation Française. - S. 65 - 108

Inventory number

44149

Keywords

Ausland : Europa : Studenten, Studium, Lehre ; Ausland : Europa : Forschung ; Ausland : USA : Finanzierung, Stiftungen ; Ausland : USA : Forschung, Hochschullehrer ; Austausch von Wissenschaftlern und Studenten ; Abwanderung ; Mobilität

Abstract

This paper uses census data from 1980 to 2006 to study the new European emigration to the US. This emigration is about a small but rising number of individuals. Yet since 1990, emigrants are increasingly selected from the upper tail quality distribution of their source country workforce in terms of education, scientific knowledge and, unobservable skills. This nineties surge has been amplified by the fact that returnees were fewer, older and, if anything, relatively less educated. As for the rationales, I provide preliminary evidence showing that the brain drain reflects the weakness of

12.9.2025

demand for skilled labor in Europe. Lately, I show that the technological changes triggered by human capital losses could make these outflows increasingly costly for Europe in terms of productivity.

(HRK / Abstract übernommen)

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