



Experts Speaking: Economic Integration of Migrants in Spotlight

The Eastern Partnership Panel on Migration and Asylum is happy to present you the first issue of the "Experts Speaking" rubric. It is dedicated to the topic of the Panel's most recent event held in Warsaw.

The growing immigrant population in the EU as well as in the Eastern Partnership (EaP) states intensifies the need to develop more comprehensive and effective policy measures in the sphere of economic integration of migrants. Currently, there are around 20 million third country nationals in the EU – or 4% of the total EU population. Seventy-five per cent of them are in France, Germany, Italy, Spain and the UK, while in countries such as Poland, Romania or Slovakia third country nationals make up less than 0.5% of the population.

The evolution of migration trends is gradually transforming EaP states from origin countries to receiving countries, which brings new challenges. Access to national labour markets in the hosting states plays a vital role for ensuring the well-being of migrants and could be beneficial for the national economies and hosting societies in general.



The Article 39 of the New-York Declaration on Refugees and Migrants, adopted in 2016, reinforced the commitment of the United Nations Member States to combat xenophobia, racism and discrimination against refugees and migrants. The signatory states committed to take measures to improve integration and inclusion, with particular reference to access to education, health care, justice and language trainings.

ON LABOUR MIGRATION

"If labour migration is well managed by host societies, then there will be the opportunity to build up a relationship of complementarity and reciprocal convenience in this process, which will strengthen the economy of the countries of origin, also offering benefits to the host countries. In particular, circular migration managed within a co-development paradigm could create international trade flows and value chains, based on the social network that migrants have in countries of origin, as well as on the cultural and economic capital they can acquire in the destination countries."

ON ECONOMIC INTEGRATION IN ITALY

"The economic trend in 2016, which turned out to be blandly positive, brought certain improvements for immigrants: their employment rate rose to 59.5% (2.5 percentage points higher than the Italian nationals), number of businesses run by people born abroad has increased and now stands at 571,000. Current figures confirm the added value for the Italian economy represented by migrant workers, thanks to their positive contribution to public budget and especially to social security sector. Given the young age of immigrants, Italy will be able to count on this advantage for many years to come. But as Italians say: "not all that glitters is gold". In fact, such problems as the use of illegal work and the trafficking of foreign workers are widespread."



Antonio Ricci, Centro Studi e Ricerche IDOS, Immigrazione Dossier Statistico, Italy

ON LABOUR MIGRATION

The Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum, and specifically the Working Group "Social & Labour Policies and Social Dialogue" operating in its framework, focuses on labour migration from EaP countries to the EU. Trade union representatives and experts who participate in the Working Group point to both positive and negative effects of labour migration on the region's economy. Although there is no demand from the side of civil society organizations to restrict labour migration, they often insist that policies should be in place to make it a win-win scenario for both sending and receiving countries. The list of issues we need to work on includes proper defense of human and labour rights of migrants, including the right to equal pay, decent working and living conditions; fighting "Dutch disease" and other negative effects of migration in sending countries; further regulation of social security issues on bilateral level."



Dzmitry Babicki, CASE Belarus (Center for social and economic research Belarus)

ON ECONOMIC INTEGRATION, UKRAINE IN FOCUS



Olena Malynovska, National Institute For Strategic Studies, Ukraine

"The economic integration of migrants, based on organized and safe movements, equal status in the labour market, non-discrimination and respect for labour rights, is in the best interests of both migrants themselves (as it provides them with adequate guarantees), and of destination and origin countries that may use migration potential for their development. In this regard, economic integration can and should be the subject of mutual attention and cooperation. Collaboration with the host countries, ensuring legal employment of Ukrainians abroad, their coverage by social insurance and the possibility of transferring social rights to their homeland are important for Ukraine, which is a prominent labour supplier to the EU labour market."

This information sheet is produced by the support project to the EaP Panel on Migration and Asylum, implemented by the International Organization for Migration (IOM). Mission in Ukraine. This publication has been produced with the assistance of the European Union. The content of this publication can in no way be taken to reflect the views of the European Union. The news and views contained in these media monitoring dispatches, which are provided for information purposes only, do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of IOM or its Member States, nor does IOM represent or endorse the accuracy or reliability of any advice, opinion, statement or other information provided herein.



ON THE IMPORTANCE OF EDUCATION

"European educational institutions have an important role to play in bridging the gap in educational attainment between native and immigrant populations. Institutional features such as preschool and school entry age, teacher-pupils ratios, class composition and school tracking can represent useful instruments to enhance immigrant integration. Preschool attendance and the recruiting of teachers originating from abroad, who can help immigrant children by establishing positive role models, might be particularly beneficial for immigrant children."



Maria De Paola, University of Calabria, Italy

ON PARTICIPATION IN LABOUR MARKET

"Participation in the labour market is crucial for the social integration of people and the most powerful means to combat exclusion. Integration may take many years, but the failure of new immigrants to enter the labour market early and secure appropriate jobs may have detrimental effects over a lifetime. Conversely, investments to support timely labour-market entry and decent work hold the promise of long-term benefits."



Christiane Kuptsch, International Labour Organization, Switzerland