Panel Meeting on Labour Migration

6-7 November 2014

Warsaw, Poland
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

About 50 representatives from EU Member States, Eastern Partnership countries, academia and international organizations gathered in Warsaw on 6-7 November to discuss joint opportunities and challenges in the field of legal labour migration.

The two-day meeting of the Eastern Partnership Panel on Migration and Asylum, which was co-hosted by Poland and Ukraine, gave the participants an opportunity to exchange strategies and policies that aim to maximize the benefits of labour migration. The meeting was marked by dynamic, open and constructive discussions and a friendly atmosphere among the long-standing partners.

Following opening remarks by the European Commission, the Polish Deputy Minister for Labour and Social Policy and the Ukrainian Deputy Minister for Social Policy, some thought-provoking presentations were delivered on the links between labour migration and the demographical changes in Europe, as well as on how the priorities of migrant workers are directly impacted by political changes. The European Commission, in turn, delivered a presentation on the European legislative framework. This was complemented by a presentation on the impact of the European harmonization on national migration schemes in Poland, and the impact of economic growth and development on labour migration in Azerbaijan. In a discussion organized by IOM, the countries were given the opportunity to further elaborate on their mutual policy priorities, strategies and best practices in the field of labour migration.

The afternoon session started with Poland and Italy giving a general overview over the EU neighbourhood policies, which aim to facilitate cooperation in a variety of fields, including on labour migration. These policies have an Eastern and a Southern dimension and a variety of tools designed to manage and support mobility. Portugal made a positive reference to a previously conducted joint project with Ukraine on circular migration, yet stressed that labour markets evolve rapidly and require adaptable and flexible schemes of cooperation. Ukraine aligned itself with this stance in its presentation, which focused on the particular challenges linked to the situation in countries of origin. Case studies presented by Germany and Moldova underlined how well-managed labour migration can bring positive effects for countries of origin and destination, as well as for the labour migrants.

Following a study visit to the Mazowieckie Province Office, where the participants were briefed on how work and residence permits are processed in the region that hosts 43% of Poland’s labour migrants, the delegation went to the Embassy of Ukraine to Poland for dinner and networking.

On the second day, presentations delivered by Poland, Romania and the International Agency for Source Country Information (ASCI) highlighted the importance of involving private actors when planning and implementing labour migration policies. The case study presented by Armenia, which focused on the national strategy on labour migration, once again highlighted the importance of addressing mobility in an all-inclusive manner in order for labour migration to be beneficial for all parties, as well as to facilitate migrants’ return and their personal investments into the economy of the country of origin.

The following session was dedicated to European and national policies on granting social benefits to labour migrants and the transferability of these. The presentations delivered by Sweden, Ukraine and the Netherlands respectively, highlighted the necessity to find a balance between social protection and the priorities of the national economy.

The Panel participants were also briefed on projects carried out within the Prague Process initiative.

Finally, the Panel discussed and agreed on a draft work program for 2015. There will be 4 Panel meetings next year on the following topics: (i) migration trends and migration data management, (ii)
public/private partnerships to facilitate labour migration, (iii) family reunification and (iv) unaccompanied minor asylum seekers.
Welcome and Opening
Chair: Mr. Robert Rybicki, European Commission

Mr. Robert Rybicki, DG HOME, European Commission, opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and thanking Poland and Ukraine for jointly organizing the event. He noted the progress reached by EaP states in developing migration policies, and appraised the countries’ determination to continue cooperation and mutual work despite challenges. He stressed the need for dynamic cooperation on labour migration as it is a topic that ultimately concerns all countries.

Mr. Radoslaw Mleczko, Undersecretary of State Ministry of Labour and Social Policy of the Republic of Poland, greeted all the participants and thanked Ukraine for co-hosting the Panel meeting, which according to the delegate, provided a unique opportunity to develop practical cooperation among states. If well managed, labour migration can be beneficial to all - migrants, countries of origin and countries of destinations. Since EaP countries are not only neighbors, but also countries of origin of labour migrants to the EU MS, their reflections on the topic are of great interest.

Mr. Serhii Ustymenko, Deputy Minister of Labour and Social Policy of Ukraine in charge of European Integration, welcomed the participants and thanked the organizers of the Panel meeting. He stated that labour migration plays an important role in the EU MS and EaP countries. Responding to existing challenges of labour migration is a priority for Ukraine in terms of linking migration and development, as well as protecting own citizens working abroad.

Mr. Daniele Mosconi, JHA Attaché in the Italian Embassy in Warsaw, greeted the participants on behalf of the Italian Presidency of the EU Council highlighting that the issues of migration and asylum are among the top priorities of the Italian Presidency, which has defined a comprehensive and geographically-balanced approach, attaching special importance both to the southern and the eastern dimensions of migratory dialogues with the European Union’s neighbourhood. He stressed that the positive experience of the Southern dimension of the migration dialogues can provide a great added value to the Eastern dimension.

Session I. General Overview
Facilitator: Mr. Robert Rybicki, European Commission

Mr. Peter van Krieken, Hague University (HHS) and Amsterdam University College, delivered a presentation on current developments of labour migration in EU and EaP states, stressing the necessity of awareness of both positive and negative aspects of labour migration. Migration is not always a solution to aging populations and a shrinking workforce. The transfer of capital and technology is more effective than the transfer of workers, especially taking into account the unemployment rate in the EU, and the low ability to attract high-skilled labour migrants. The impact of remittances is overestimated as only around twenty percent of them are invested into development projects. Migration policies should be based on the multidisciplinary approach to labour migration, rather than a purely legalistic approach.

Please see the presentation “Labour Migration”

Ms. Marta Jaroszewicz, Migration Project Coordinator, Center for Eastern Studies, presented research on political dynamics in EaP states and labour migration to the EU. The impact of democratic accountability and political stability on migration policy is more subtle than the impact of economic factors. Long-term political instability affects skilled migrants the most. The research showed that no mass labour immigration from Ukraine to the EU has been observed so far. Russia remains the primary destination for migrants from Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine. No massive inflow of labour migrants from Ukraine, Belarus and Moldova to the EU should be expected after a liberalization of the visa regime with the EU. A moderate growth in inflows of labour migrants to the EU, long-term settlement migration, regularisation of already present migrants, family reunification and growth of undeclared employment is
realistic in the future. Please see the presentation “Political Dynamics in EaP States and Labour Migration to the EU”

Session II. Legal aspects of labour migration
Facilitator: Mr. Roman Andarak, Ukraine

Ms. Maria Brättemark, DG Home (Migration and integration), European Commission, delivered a presentation on the EU legislation on legal labour migration, emphasizing the EU’s need for migrants. According to EUROSTAT, employment is one of the top three reasons for people to migrate to the EU along with family reasons and education. The EU does not have one single policy on labour migration, but rather a common legal framework that regulates admission, gives rights and sanctions violations, commits to integration and engages with third countries. EU legal instruments on migration cover workers, family members, students, researchers and victims of trafficking. This allows the EU to deliver common residence and admission conditions in some sectors, as well as uniform documentation. It also facilitates intra-EU mobility towards the EU labour market and assures the right to equal treatment. At the same time, the EU common legal base cannot determine volumes of admission for economic migration. Please see the presentation “EU Legal Migration Legislation”

Mr. Tomasz Cytrynowicz, Director of the Department of Legalization of Stay, Office for Foreigners in the Republic of Poland, gave a presentation on the influence of the EU legislation on national migration schemes in Poland. The new Law on Foreigners, which adopted recent EU legislative developments, was introduced in Poland in May 2014. The law focuses on facilitating migration, introducing single work and residence permits, long-term EU residency for beneficiaries of the international protection and simplified procedures that reduce evidentiary obligations. Since the adoption of the new law, the number of issued residence and work permits have gone up. Although the numbers of blue card permits, students, researchers and family reunifications have not changed significantly, the influence of the law is undeniable. Harmonization of legislation and practices should not be treated as a method, but rather as an objective. Please see the presentation “Facilitation of Migration Process – Influence of EU Legislation on National Migration Schemes”

Mr. Vahab Mammadov, Head of the Division for Employment and Labour Policy at the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of the Population of the Republic of Azerbaijan, reported on national mechanisms of labour migration regulation. Azerbaijan has concluded fifteen agreements concerning migration. As the country has developed and the unemployment rate has decreased, more skilled immigrants of reproductive age have been registered in recent years. A joint commission was established to determine the labour migration quotas and coordinate relevant issues. Providing proper employment conditions to a foreigner is the employer’s responsibility. According to the “one window principle”, residence permit issuance takes up to 20 days. The majority of labour migrants come from Turkey, and the top employment sector is industry. The visa-liberalization agreement with the EU entered into force this September, but statistics on visa issuance indicate that the numbers have not risen significantly. Please see the presentation “Regulation of Labour Migration Processes in the Republic of Azerbaijan”

Ms. Marina Schramm, Capacity Building in Migration Management Programme Coordinator, delivered a presentation on the discussion paper that was prepared prior to the meeting and was based on questionnaires disseminated among the participating countries. A total of 17 countries provided their input. Please see the presentation “Labour Migration: Policies and Practices in the European Union and Eastern Partnership Countries”

Discussion
The presentations and discussions touched upon international and national policies and practices existing in EU MS and EaP countries in the sphere of labour migration. Moldova elaborated on their specific law on labour migration, which covers both labour immigrants and emigrants. The law is in
compliance with international conventions, and to a great extent facilitates labour migration through the introduction of single work and residence permits, simplified documentation procedures and waiving vacancy quotas. Romania and Belarus elaborated on current developments of their national labour migration legislation. Belarus informed that its Law on External Labour Migration is being amended. Azerbaijan is considering various forms of bilateral cooperation for the future, as it expects an increase in labour migrants from developed countries, while Georgia works on more flexible legislation in this sphere. Poland reported an increase of issued work permits after 2013. Portugal highlighted a change of paradigm in its national policies, as the emigration rates from 2011-2012 were higher than immigration rates.

Azerbaijan stressed the importance of developing favorable economic conditions in the countries of origin as a measure to counter brain drain. Sweden presented its national approach, which allows longer periods of absence from the country without implications for the migrant. Belarus mentioned its national demographic security programme, which facilitates the returning home of migrants.

Responding to a question concerning the revival of the often unimplemented bilateral agreements, Ukraine informed that one of the reasons why such agreements do not work in practice is that social security conditions in the receiving countries are more favorable than those stipulated in the agreements. Azerbaijan explained that in their experience the bilateral agreements work when the legislative framework in both countries is stable. Belarus made reference to the cooperation in the Customs Union of Russia, Belarus and Kazakhstan, where employment procedures are simplified to a great extent. ICMPD added that protection aspects should not be a matter of bilateral agreements only, as integration and orientation is very important.

Session III. Regional migration schemes – different directions, different approaches
Facilitator: Mr. Tomasz Cytrynowicz, Poland

Ms. Agnieszka Skiba, Main expert in the Migration Policy Department, Ministry of Interior of the Republic of Poland, highlighted the Eastern dimension of the EU external migration policy. The Global Approach on Migration and Mobility (GAMM) is an overarching framework for the EU external migration and asylum policy. The four thematic priorities of the GAMM focus on legal migration and mobility, irregular migration and trafficking of human beings, international protection and asylum policy, and development impacts of migration. The main framework of the EU cooperation in the East comprises regional cooperation through the Prague and Budapest Processes, as well as the Eastern Partnership. The Mobility Partnerships with Moldova, Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan are implementation mechanisms of the mentioned policies. Please see the presentation “Labour Migration Aspects of Cooperation in the Framework of External Migration Policy – Eastern Dimension”

Mr. Daniele Mosconi, JHA Attaché in the Italian Embassy in Warsaw, delivered a presentation on the Southern dimension of the EU external migration policy. The Southern dimension complements the Eastern one. The old concept of focusing solely on border protection turned out to be insufficient, and now GAMM highlights the idea of controlling the phenomenon rather than stopping it. Currently the regional cooperation in this dimension is carried out through the Rabat Process, the Khartoum Process, EUROMED and various implementation mechanisms, such as Mobility Partnerships and Common Agenda on Migration and Mobility (CAMM). Better control over the migration processes is ensured through visa facilitation agreements, readmission agreements, project support and capacity building activities.

Ms. Cristina Gatoes, Regional Director, Immigration and Borders Service, Ministry of Interior of Portugal, reported on temporary and circular labour migration between Portugal and Ukraine in light of the TEMPORTU project, which was implemented in 2008-2010. At that time, Portugal experienced labour shortages in certain sectors of the economy, while Ukraine had high unemployment rates.
Moreover, a bilateral agreement on temporary migration between the two countries has existed since 2003. 35 Ukrainian workers received pre-departure training, as well as logistic, documentation and travel assistance in the process of obtaining employment during the course of this project. Lessons learned from this project included that the selection process should not be too long, the job offers should be very detailed, direct flights and visas ensuring that the migrant travels directly to Portugal is preferred, representatives of the authorities and an interpreter should meet the migrant at the airport, and a post-return assistance should be ensured. Please see the presentation “Temporary and Circular Labour Migration between Portugal and Ukraine”

Ms. Natalia Naumenko, Director General of the Department of Foreigners and Refugees of the State Migration Service of Ukraine, presented current developments of the migration situation in Ukraine. National migration legislation has been intensively changing since 2011, amending existing laws and determining the State Migration Concept of Ukraine. The Law of Ukraine on External Labour Migration is currently being developed. Migration flows in Ukraine in recent years are high; the number of people migrating in 2014 is estimated to 10 million. Since 2006 the rate of immigration in Ukraine exceeds the rate of emigration. The labour migration flows are characterized by large volumes and consistency. The new big challenge for Ukrainian migration authorities in terms of both legislation and practical implementation mechanisms is internally displaced persons from the temporary occupied territories of the country. Please see the presentation “Migration Situation in Ukraine: Trends and Solutions” (in Russian)

Mr. Hendrik Lorges, German Federal Ministry of Interior, Division MI 3 – Law on Foreigners, delivered a presentation on the migration schemes for high-skilled labour migrants in Germany. Prior to the introduction of the Blue Card System, two schemes existed in Germany: a) for high skilled workers (holding university degree) and b) for very high skilled workers (scientists or special professionals with annual salary of at least 67,200 EUR). After the transposition of the EU Blue Card Directive, this scheme became the main regime applicable to high skilled labour migrants, but the former scheme are partially kept as parallel to the EU Blue Card. The success of the “Blue Card” depends on three main requirements: University degree, binding job offer and the labour market test. A complementary measure to the scheme introduced in Germany is a job-seeker visa (up to six months). Please see the presentation “German Migration Schemes for Highly Skilled Third-Country Nationals (with Special Focus on the “German Blue Card”)

Ms. Lilia Plugaru, National Employment Agency of the Ministry of Labour, Social Protection and Family of Moldova, focused in her presentation on the schemes of temporary employment of Moldovan nationals abroad. In 2013, more than 300,000 Moldovan nationals worked abroad. Moldova has bilateral agreements on temporary employment with Italy (2011) and Israel (2012). Through agreement with Italy, the labour migrants were offered language courses and orientation sessions aimed at finding employment in Italy. Although 614 persons took the courses, only one beneficiary was employed in Italy. As for the agreement with Israel, it envisages three stages of the selection process: 1) professional testing, 2) random selection, 3) medical screening. Over 4000 of Moldovan job seekers were registered for the programme, and as a result 989 of them were employed in Israel. Please see the presentation “Legal Migration Based on the Bilateral Intergovernmental Agreements” (in Russian)

Visit to Mazowieckie Province Office

The first day of the Panel meeting was continued with a study visit to the Mazowieckie Province Office, where 50% of Poland's labour migrants cases are processed. The province hosts 43% of all migrants coming to Poland, and thus, has the largest department dealing with work and residence applications from foreign nationals.

The presentations delivered by the Mazowieckie Province Office staff gave the participants an opportunity to learn about procedures relating to the legalization of residence of the foreigner, issuance of a work permit and obtaining a Polish citizenship.
Data from the Mazowieckie Province Office shows that 64% of all work permits is issued to the EaP countries nationals, where the top two countries are Ukraine and Belarus. This confirms the close labour migration connections between Poland and the EaP states.
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Session IV. Public employment services and their role in migration process
Facilitator: Mr. Roman Andarak, Ukraine

Mr. Jaroslaw Adamkiewicz, the Chair of the Board of the Association of Employment Agencies, Poland, delivered a presentation on public-private partnerships in the sphere of recruitment based on the three pilot programmes implemented by regional labour offices in Poland. The core idea of the programmes is to reach people who are far from the labour market through private agencies. The main target group was people who had been unemployed for at least two years. In order to engage private sector, the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy developed guidelines for public tenders and a comprehensive four-stage payment scheme. One of the challenges was to maintain a person’s employment for more than three months. Another challenging aspect was that the labour office was often treated as a competitor by the private agencies. Please see the presentation “Zlecanie Zadań Przez Urzędy Pracy Agencjom Zatrudnienia – Prezentacja Wyników Projektów Pilotowych na Przykładzie Projektu „Partnerstwo dla Pracy” (in Polish)

Mr. Bogdan-Tiberius Pasca, European Affairs Advisor, Directorate for Employment and Professional training Policies, Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Protection and Elderly of Romania, shared experiences of the National Agency for Employment (NAE) in the sphere of migration management. Around 2.7-3 million Romanians are working abroad and the majority of them do not use official channels when looking for a job. Since 2007 NAE has been a EURES member, and it is thus using the network tools (information, counseling, mediation) to facilitate the labour mobility of own nationals. Foreign nationals seeking employment in Romania have to register, obtain authorization and fulfill certain conditions. There are established quotas for such authorization; moreover, foreigners must pass the labour market test in order to qualify for employment. Please see the presentation “Romanian National Agency for Employment (NAE) Involvement in Migration Management”

Mr. Nicolaas de Zwager, International Agency for Source Country Information (IASCi) Founding Director, NEXUS Moldova Coordinator, delivered a presentation on the innovative and migrant-centric approach to migration and development based on cooperation between the Moldovan government and the private sector through the NEXUS project. One of the main priorities of the project is to support efficient circular migration by focusing on accumulation and eventual transfer of wealth (financial, social, human capital) as the core motivation for circular migrants, rather than remittances. Remittances proved inefficient from a sustainable development point of view; neither are they considered investments by the migrant, but rather as a type of expense. The project uses evidence-based, client-centered, local-focused, public-private partnership approach. This facilitates benefits for all parties: Migrants, private and public sectors. More information about the project can be found at www.nexusnet.md. Please see the presentation “An Innovative and Practical Migrant-Centric Approach to Migration and Development”

Ms. Naira Bubushyan, Chief Specialist at the Employment Division, Department of Labour and Employment, Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs of the Republic of Armenia, delivered a presentation on current developments of the Armenian labour migration policy. Outbound labour migration (especially seasonal migration) prevails in Armenia due to the high unemployment rate inside the country. Almost ninety percent of all labour migrants are working in the Russian Federation. A comprehensive regulation and the effective management of labour emigration and immigration that maximizes positive effects and minimizing negative ones, is a priority for the Armenian government. Armenia has concluded cooperation agreements in the sphere of labour migration with the CIS, and is currently negotiating bilateral agreements with Bulgaria, France, Qatar and UAE. Please see the presentation “Labour Migration Policy in Republic of Armenia” (in Russian)

Session V. Migrant’s access to rights
Facilitator: Ms. Magdalena Sweklej, Poland
Mr. Herwig Verschueren, Professor of International and European Social Law, University of Antwerp – Free University of Brussels, reported on the developments in social security coordination rules. Social security coordination is of concern to every state, and its purpose is to bring the host and home states’ systems of benefits together. The coordination of social security benefits has two dimensions: a) third-country nationals moving within the EU and b) third-country nationals moving between a third country and a MS. The social security coordination is made possible through the internal EU coordination (EU regulations), external EU coordination (diverse and partial bilateral agreements), and EU immigration instruments. Coordination ensured through bilateral agreements did not prove to be very effective, as they all have limitations. EU immigration instruments play an important role in ensuring the right to equal treatment. However, they provide no real coordination between social security systems of countries of origin. Please see the presentation “Developments of Social Security Coordination Rules”

Mr. Erik Reho, Swedish Migration Board, presented the European Migration Network study on migrants’ access to social security and healthcare in Sweden. Access to social benefits varies throughout the EU, but Sweden is internationally known as a strong welfare state, where rights and entitlements are based either on residence or work. Any person who comes to live in Sweden is considered to be residing in the country if he/she can be expected to stay legally for more than one year. Many benefits are financed through taxation and are not dependent on contributions by the individual, while others are contributory. The social security system in Sweden comprises health insurance, sickness benefits, benefits in respect of accidents at work and occupational diseases, invalidity benefits, old-age and survivors’ pensions, unemployment insurance, financial aid for studies, family benefits and parental insurance. In order to facilitate mobility and circular migration, longer period of absence from Sweden is allowed before revoking a residency permit. Please see the presentation “Migrant Access to Social Security: Policies and Practice in Sweden”

Ms. Iryna Rozka, Head of International Treaties Division, Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine, delivered a presentation on social security bilateral agreements concluded by Ukraine. Ensuring social protection of own nationals is one of the priorities for Ukraine, as it is the country of origin for a considerable number of labour migrants. The social security aspect is mirrored in various types of agreements signed by Ukraine: a) multilateral treaties (mostly with CIS states), b) bilateral agreements on mutual employment and social protection and c) bilateral social security agreements. Certain social security agreements are based on the territorial principle (with former Soviet countries), other on pro-rata basis (9 such agreements are in force). Benefits covered by these agreements usually cover pensions, temporary disability and maternity benefits, unemployment benefits, occupational diseases, family benefits and death (funeral) grants. Ukraine does not have a health insurance system in place, thus, there is no provisions regarding healthcare in social security agreements. The implementation of social security agreements is being monitored by competent state institutions. Please see the presentation “Social Security Aspects of Migration Process in Ukraine (Based on Ukrainian Experience of Bilateral Agreements)”

Ms. Cristel van Tilburg, Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment, the Netherlands, delivered a presentation on the Netherlands’ policy on bilateral social security agreements. Although the Netherlands is one of the EU MS that has many social security agreements in place, it does not have such agreements with any of the EaP countries. There are several types of coverage in place in the Netherlands: i. all persons legally residing in the Netherlands are entitled to national insurance schemes, ii. all employees are compulsory insured and iii. those who cannot sustain themselves are covered through a supplementary benefit scheme. Different policies reflect different needs that have been present in the country through the past decades: From 1960-1970, the Netherlands was a country of origin, which led to the conclusion of many recruitment agreements. From 1980-1990, emigration agreements were in focus. From 2000-2007, enforcement agreements were concluded. Today, the Netherlands does not sign any new social security agreements as current policies limit the export of social security benefits. Please see the presentation “The Netherlands’ Policy on Bilateral Social Security Agreements (SSA)”
General Panel Business and Closure
Chair: European Commission

Mr. Robert Rybicki, DG HOME, European Commission, reminded the participants of the forthcoming exert meeting on credibility assessment in asylum procedures, which is to be organized jointly by the Netherlands and Georgia in Hague on 8-9 December 2014.

The Netherlands stressed its readiness to share experiences and methods within the field of credibility assessment.

Mr. Robert Rybicki, DG HOME, European Commission, led a discussion on the Panel Work programme for 2015. Two Panel meetings and two expert workshops will take place next year. The Panel meeting on migration trends and data management will open the first semester in March 2015. This event will be jointly organized by Hungary and Moldova, and will take place in Budapest. The expert meeting on aspects of labour migration will follow in May, and will be organized in Minsk by Belarus and Latvia. The Panel meeting on family reunification is scheduled for October/November 2015 in Tbilisi, and will be coordinated by Georgia and Czech Republic. The year will be closed with the expert meeting on unaccompanied minors in Sweden. The meeting is planned in November/December, and the meeting will be organized together by Ukraine and Sweden.

Azerbaijan thanked the states who agreed to host these meetings and expressed interest in the suggested topics. Sweden stressed that the issue with unaccompanied minors, which is the topic for one of the upcoming meetings, is a highly relevant topic for Sweden as it is receiving an increasing number of asylum applications from unaccompanied minors. Ukraine stated that this is a relevant issue also for their migration authorities, especially in light of the absence of a unified approach to this vulnerable category of asylum seekers. Hungary reassured its readiness to host the meeting on migration trends and data management with Moldova. Georgia welcomed the participants to the upcoming meeting in Tbilisi. Belarus highlighted its willingness to host the meeting on public-private partnerships in labour migration in Minsk, and encouraged the participants to provide contributions for the agenda.

Ms. Marika Kosiel-Pajak, Prague Process Targeted Initiative Coordinator, Main Expert in the Migration Policy Department in the Ministry of Interior, Republic of Poland, delivered a presentation on the relationship between the Prague Process (PP) and the Panel. Ms. Barbara Kohalmi, Legal expert in the Ministry of Interior at the Department of European Cooperation, delivered a presentation on the outcomes of the PP Targeted Initiatives 2 and 3. The Handbook on Managing Labour and Circular Migration, which provides guidelines and best practices in this sphere, is one of the outcomes of these initiatives. Ms. Jana Novotna, Unit for International Relations and Information on Countries of Origin, Department for Asylum and Migration Policy, Ministry of Interior of the Czech Republic, elaborated on the PP Targeted Initiative 6, which is aimed at exploring and discussing current policies on cross-border mobility of students in the PP region. Please see the presentation “Relationship between Prague Process and EaP Panel including presentations of the outcomes of PP Targeted Initiative Pilot Projects 2 and 3 and presentation of PP Targeted Initiative Pilot Project 6”

Closure of the Panel Meeting

Mr. Robert Rybicki, DG HOME, European Commission, stated that migration presents challenges, and that labour migration is an important issue for the EU MS and Eastern Partners. The meetings and discussions held are beneficial for all parties involved. He also thanked Poland and Ukraine for organizing a constructive and dynamic Panel meeting.
Ms. Magdalena Sweklej, Deputy Director in the Department of Labour Market, Ministry of Labour and Social Policy of Poland, summarized the meeting, and concluded that labour migration is a phenomenon influenced by many factors. This should be taken into account when creating policies on the matter. Mr. Serhii Ustymenko, Deputy Minister of Labour and Social Policy of Ukraine in charge of European Integration, thanked all the participants, speakers and hosts for their contribution to the meeting, and concluded that the discussions had been productive.

All presentations mentioned in this report, as well as all the material related to the meeting, can be found at the Panel website www.eapmigrationpanel.org.