



PRAGUE PROCESS
ПРАЖСКИЙ ПРОЦЕСС

wiiw Workshop Connectivity in Central Asia

Mobility and Labour Migration

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ICMPD

International Centre for
Migration Policy Development



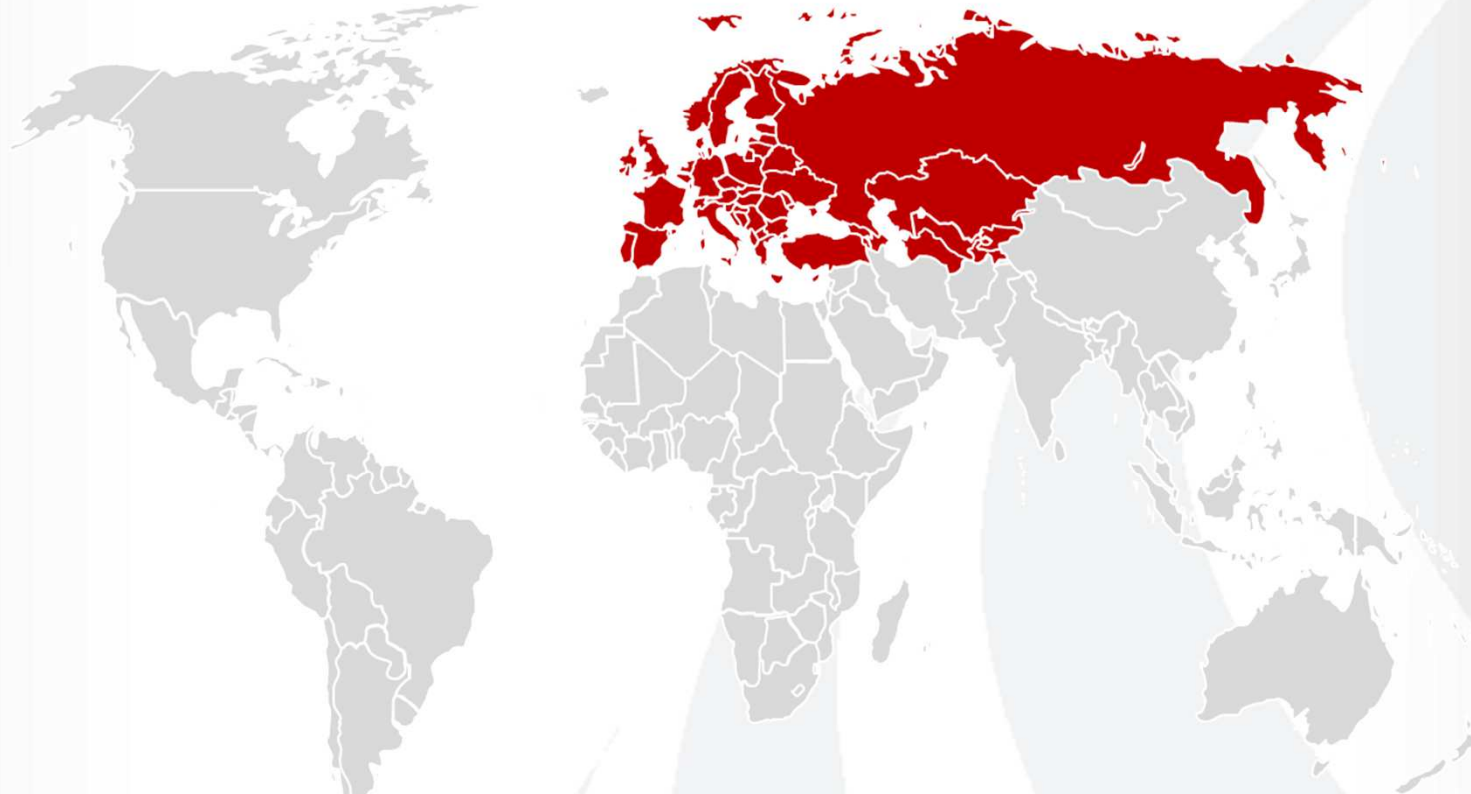
The project is funded by the European Union

What is the Prague Process?

The Prague Process is a targeted intergovernmental migration dialogue promoting migration partnerships among the countries of the European Union, Schengen Area, Eastern Partnership, Western Balkans, Central Asia, Russia and Turkey.

Key EU GAMM process towards the East

Geographical coverage



50 PP participating states: Albania, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Kazakhstan, Kosovo (UNSCR 1244/1999), Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Malta, Moldova, Montenegro, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, United Kingdom, and Uzbekistan.

Phases and milestones

- **1st Ministerial Conference**, Prague, April 2009: Adoption of **Joint Declaration**
- **Building Migration Partnerships** initiative (2009-2011), funded by EC + CZ, HU, PL, RO, SK: establishment of the Knowledge base, mapping of the situation
- **2nd Ministerial Conference**, Poznan, November 2011: Adoption of the **Action Plan 2012-2016**
- **Prague Process Targeted Initiative** (2012-2016), funded by EC: implementation of selected activities of the Action Plan
- **3rd Ministerial Conference**, Bratislava, 19-20 September 2016 – political mandate for 2017-2021

Prague Process Targeted Initiative (EU-funded)

- Objective 1:
 - Continuous expert and senior-level dialogue;
 - Establishment of PP contact network/database;
 - Cooperation and coordination with other platforms (EaP PMA, Budapest Process, Almaty Process, RCPs etc.).
- Objective 2 – Knowledge base:
 - (support to) development of state-owned migration profiles (light, extended); standard format, comparable;
 - Increase of content of the Knowledge base, possibility of analysis of regional migration flows and tendencies. Continuous improvement of the i-Map;
 - Ultimate goal: establishment of the Migration Observatory.
- Objective 3:
 - Implementation of concrete priority actions (7 pilot projects)

Focal points

- Kazakhstan – Ministry of Health and Social Development (after Ministry of Economy)
- Kyrgyzstan – State Migration Service under the Government
- Tajikistan – Migration Service of Ministry of Labour, Migration and Employment
- *Turkmenistan – State Migration Service*
- Uzbekistan - Agency for External Labour Migration under Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of Population
- ❖ Russia – Ministry of Internal Affairs (after FMS)



***Mobility and Labour Migration
in Central Asia***

Remittances

“Remittances are the most tangible and least controversial link between migration and development”

World Bank

Remittances makes up for

- 47% of the national GDP in **Tajikistan**
- 31 % of the national GDP in **Kyrgyzstan**
- 12% of the national GDP in **Uzbekistan**



2011 "Building Migration Partnerships" Map on Irregular Migration Routes



Legend

- Connecting land routes
- Main connecting land routes
- Maritime routes
- Air routes
- Country code (ISO 3166-1 alpha-3 code)
- Capitals
- Main migration hubs
- Coastal migration hubs
- Migration route cities
- Key airports
- Borders with most migration related apprehensions



Introduction

The Map on Irregular Migration Routes is being developed within the framework of the Building Migration Partnerships (BMP) initiative. The financial contribution from the government of Poland.

The purpose of this Map is to serve migration authorities as information tool by visualising the main irregular migration flows within Central, Eastern and South-Eastern Europe as well as in Central Asia and the Russian Federation.

The information provided is mainly based on the "Borderless Migration Profiles" published in the framework of the BMP initiative and available at www.bmp-migration.org. In addition to that, the ICMPD "Yearbook on Illegal Migration, Human Smuggling and Trafficking in Central and Eastern Europe" as well as other available sources of information from the region and relevant EU bodies have been used. The information contained is not and cannot be exhaustive and further development will be sought in close cooperation with the countries concerned.

Irregular Migration Routes in Central, Eastern and South-Eastern Europe

Main corridors of origin include migrants from the Balkan countries (mainly Albania, but also Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina) as well as migrants from the Middle East and Asia (Afghanistan, Iraq, Pakistan as well as Palestine and other countries). Migrants from the former Soviet Union countries usually come from Ukraine, Georgia and Moldova as well as the Russian Federation.

The main direction of irregular migration flows is still from Eastern and South-Eastern Europe to Western Europe. The main migration routes include:

- The Baltic route transiting and/or originating in Moscow heading towards the Baltic States (Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania) and heading towards Austria, Germany and other Western European countries.

- The Central and Eastern European route transiting and/or originating in the Russian Federation, Ukraine, Moldova and heading towards Austria, Germany and other Western European countries.

- The Balkan route transiting and/or originating in Turkey continuing via the Western Balkan States and heading towards Italy, Austria and other Western European countries.

Irregular Migration Routes in Central Asia and the Russian Federation

The main challenge is economically motivated migration within the Central Asian region. Main countries of destination for migrants from Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan are Austria and Kazakhstan due to the more favourable economic climate and liberal migration policy.

The Russian Federation is on the one hand a transit country for migrants from Asian and African countries heading towards the Central Asian region. On the other hand, it is a source of irregular migration from countries such as Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Mongolia and Kazakhstan, while leaving the country by crossing the borders with the Baltic states, Ukraine and Belarus. In Kazakhstan transit migrants are primarily from Afghanistan and Bangladesh as well as China, India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. Irregular labour migrants are mainly from Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan.

The current phase of the BMP initiative, funded by the European Union's Thematic Programme and running between January 2000 and June 2011, is jointly implemented by the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria, Poland, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Romania (Ministry of Administration and Interior), Slovakia (Ministry of Interior) and the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD).

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Coordinates and names shown on the map are used for information purposes only and do not imply a position taken by ICMPD or any other institution of the European Union.

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Migration from Eastern Partnership Countries, Central Asia and Russia to the EU and EFTA



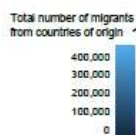
2012

There were around 3 million immigrants from Eastern Partnership countries, Central Asia and Russia in the EU* and EFTA** countries in 2012.

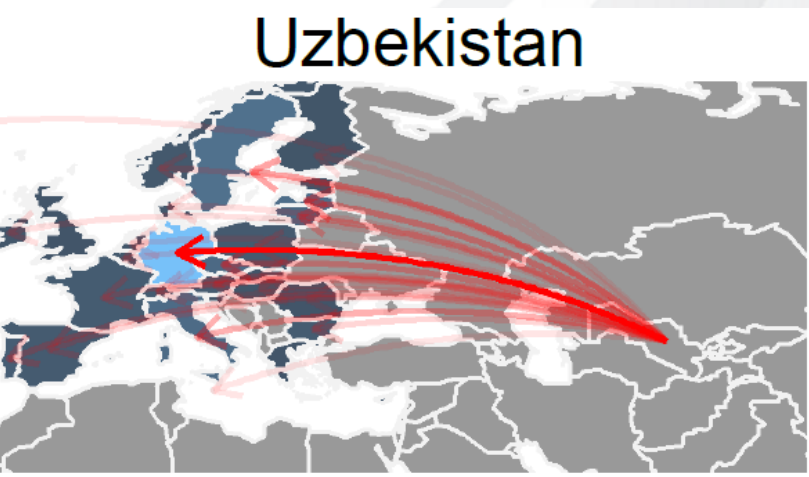
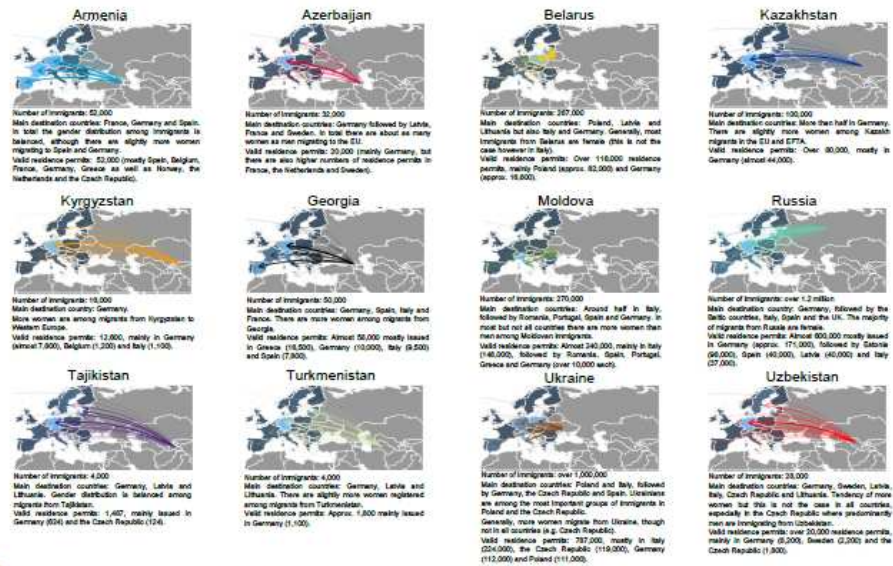
Most immigrants from Eastern European countries reside in Germany and Italy constituting approx. one third of all immigrants from Eastern Partnership countries, Central Asia and Russia. Other important destination countries are Poland, the Baltic countries, Spain and the Czech Republic each with at least some 100,000 immigrants from the East. Most important countries of origin are Russia and Ukraine making up more than half of all immigrants in the EU and EFTA. The two leading countries of origin are followed by Moldova and Belarus as important source countries for migration to the EU and EFTA. Immigrants from Eastern Partnership countries, Central Asia and Russia amount to around 5 to 10 percent of all immigrants from outside of the EU. There is the tendency of female dominated migration to the EU and EFTA and for most countries Eurostat reports more female migrants than male. This is not the case in Belgium, the Czech Republic and Portugal, where more men migrate to. More than 370,000 citizens from the countries of origin have naturalised in the EU and EFTA since 2002.

Between 2009 and 2011 per year around 47,000 citizens from Eastern Partnership countries, Central Asia and Russia obtained citizenship in an EU or EFTA country. By far, most naturalisations took place in Germany, followed by UK and France. Since 2002 most naturalised citizens were (former) Russian citizens at almost 150,000 acquisitions of citizenship. Further important groups among naturalised are Ukrainians at approx. 92,000, Moldovans at approx. 48,000 and Kazakhs at approx. 28,000.

In 2011 there were some 1.97 million valid residence permits held by citizens from Eastern Partnership countries, Central Asia and Russia in the EU-27 (excluding UK) and Norway. Most residence permits were issued in Italy and Germany at around 400,000 each. Other important countries reporting significant numbers of residence permits are in descending order Poland, the Czech Republic, Spain and Estonia (ranging from 100,000 to 200,000).



Total number of migrants from countries of origin



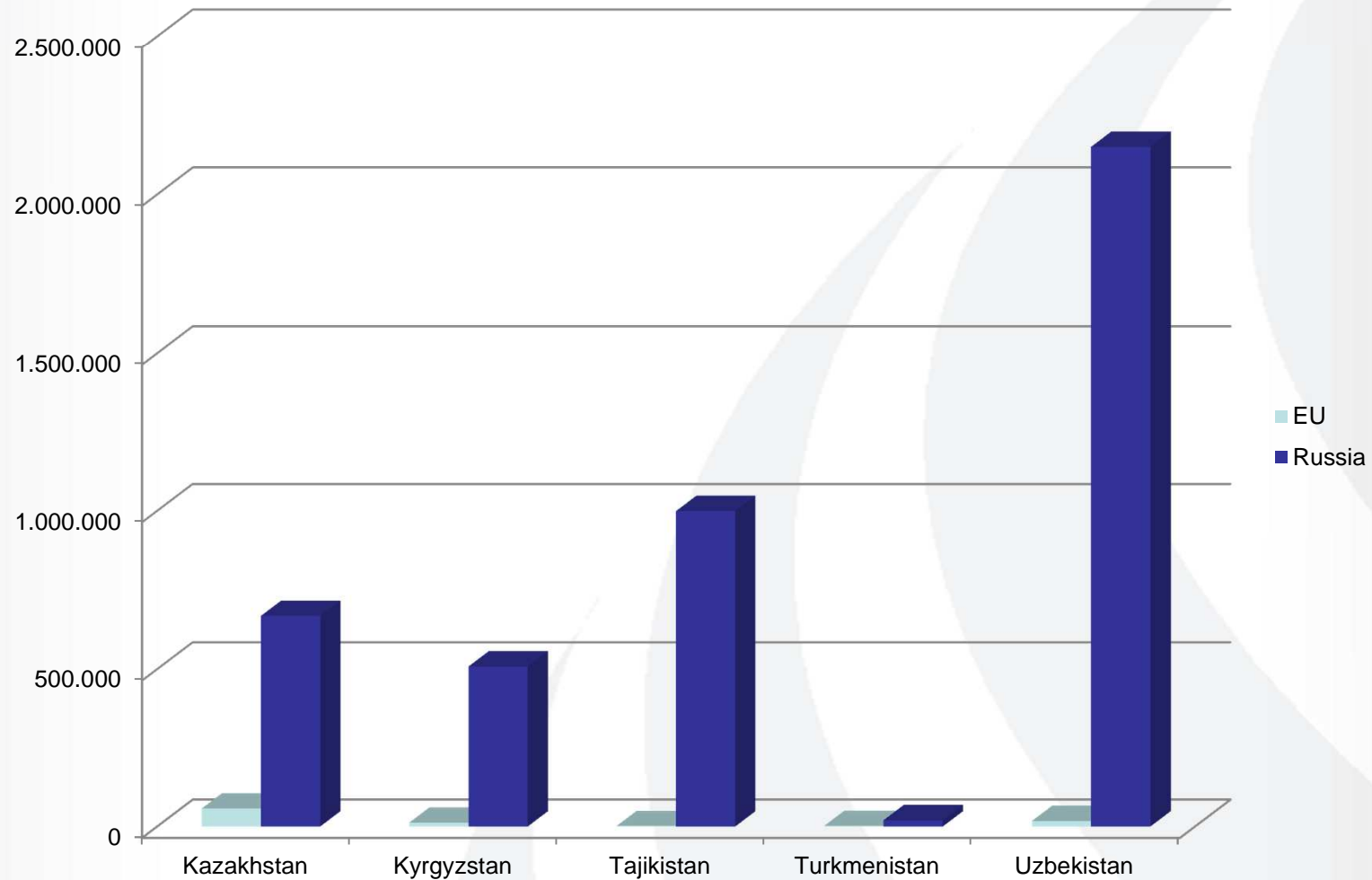
Number of immigrants: 28,000
 Main destination countries: Germany, Sweden, Latvia, Italy, Czech Republic and Lithuania. Tendency of more women but this is not the case in all countries, especially in the Czech Republic where predominantly men are immigrating from Uzbekistan.
 Valid residence permits: over 20,000 residence permits, mainly in Germany (8,200), Sweden (2,200) and the Czech Republic (1,800).

i-map | This overview was prepared in the framework of the Prague Process (PP). The PP is a targeted migration dialogue policy process promoting migration partnerships among the countries of the European Union, Schengen Area, Eastern Partnership, Western Balkans, Central Asia, Russia and Turkey. For more information and contact please visit the project website: www.pragueprocess.eu

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Central Asians in EU and RF (2014-2015)



Labour migrants in EU and RF

	Population	EU <i>(Eurostat, 1.1.2014)</i>	Russia <i>(FMS, 7.6.2015)</i>
Kazakhstan	17.417.447	56.718	668.160
Kyrgyzstan	5.776.500	12.048	508.213
Tajikistan	8.610.000	1.751	998.910
Turkmenistan	5.084.000	1.903	19.705
Uzbekistan	29.994.600	17.207	2.149.897
Total		89.627	4.344.885

OVERVIEW OF THE NEW RUSSIAN MIGRATION POLICY 2014

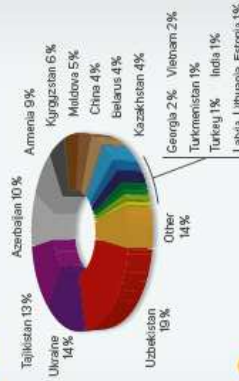


LABOUR MIGRATION

RUSSIA AS THE MAIN MIGRANT RECEIVING COUNTRY IN THE REGION

- Up to 85% of all immigrants come from EaP countries and Central Asia
- Majority are labour migrants
- Officially, 2,411,135 foreign nationals are registered legally working in Russia
- Actual numbers of irregular migrants are considerably higher
- Over 20% of migrants are believed to overstay

LABOUR MIGRANTS IN THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION



INTEGRATION

Large immigration flows into Russia → Need for effective integration policies

- ### OPPORTUNITIES
- Majority of labor immigrants come from the countries of the former Soviet Union
 - High level of regional cooperation with migrant-sending countries (agreements on social protection of migrants, schemes of organized recruitment of migrant workers, etc.)
 - Public infrastructure (education, health care, etc.) remains relatively open to immigrants and their descendants

CHALLENGES

- Observable shift in cultural and social background of recent immigrant groups as compared to earlier arrivals, marked by weaker proficiency in Russian language
- Concentration of immigrants in economically prosperous regions → risk of geographical separation and uneven regional development
- Potential increase of competition for the CIS migrants with other economically growing regions (China, India, EU, Turkey)

RESPONSES

The Concept of the State Migration Policy proposes a broad variety of measures to facilitate integration. In line with the Concept, Russian authorities have implemented several legislative changes, programmes, and measures in relevant areas, namely building integration infrastructure in the RF and abroad, language courses, awareness raising campaigns, etc.

CONCEPT OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION STATE POLICY ON MIGRATION 2012–2025



LEGAL MEASURES AND ENFORCEMENT MECHANISMS

COMBATING IRREGULAR MIGRATION IN THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

- #### MEASURE
- Strict enforcement of 2002 Law on the Legal Status of Foreign Citizens
- #### IMPLEMENTATION
- Automated program recording migrants' infringements
 - New monitoring system at the border
 - Improved identification of offenders
- #### NUMBER OF PERSONS CONCERNED
- 600,000 are currently identified as a risk group, among whom
 - 245,000 Moldovan labour migrants (50% of all Moldovans currently working in Russia)
 - 200,000 Armenian labour migrants
 - Families will be affected → over 1 million persons concerned

RETURN MIGRATION

- #### MEASURE
- State Programme to Assist Voluntary Resettlement of Compatriots Living Abroad to the Russian Federation (since 2006)
- #### IMPLEMENTATION
- Review period of applications decreased to 3 months instead of 6
 - No requirement to apply for/hold a temporary residence permit first
 - Residence permit valid for 3 years
 - Residence permit revoked in the absence of application for citizens after 2 years
 - Moscow and St. Petersburg are excluded; strategic and border regions are favored



- #### NUMBER OF PERSONS CONCERNED
- 259,900 persons filed applications since 2006
 - By 2013 — 166,600 compatriots resettled

NATURALISATION

- #### MEASURE
- Law on the simplification of procedure for granting Russian citizenship for compatriots and Russian speakers (in force as of April 2014)
- #### IMPLEMENTATION
- Russian citizenship is granted to compatriots-Russian speakers, who/whose lineal ancestors resided on the territory of the Russian Federation, also while it was part of the Russian Empire or the USSR
 - Renunciation of their present citizenship is obligatory, although exceptions can be made if the renunciation is not possible
 - Taking up permanent residency on the Russian territory is obligatory

Migration priorities I.

Kazakhstan (expert mission 2014, Migration Profile):

- Labour migration, esp. attraction of highly skilled migrants;
- Closer cooperation with EU MS, visa liberalisation;
- Preparations of Expo 2017, lifting visa regime for numerous states (OECD) for this purpose;
- Compatriot programme – attraction of Kazakhs back home (Oralman programme).
- Readmission agreements with KGS and TAJ

Kyrgyzstan (expert mission 2015):

- Labour migration – employment of own citizens abroad; pre-departure training;
- Compatriot programme – attraction of Kyrgyzs back home (Kairylman programme);
- Removal from Russian blacklist of own citizens

Migration priorities II.

Tajikistan (expert mission 2015):

- Labour migration - employment of own citizens abroad;
- pre-departure training (Skype tests St. Petersburg).
- Removal from Russian blacklist of own citizens
- Integration with EAEU.
- Security of border with Afghanistan.

Uzbekistan (expert mission 2014, Migration Profile):

- Labour migration - employment of own citizens abroad (Korea, Japan); pre-departure training
- Attraction of highly-skilled migrants

Turkmenistan (*research, last contact 2012*):

- Labour migration – attraction of highly qualified specialists; Prevention of illegal migration (security issues at the border with Afghanistan)

Recommendations

- Support to development of labour agreements
- Facilitation of legal channels to labour markets, support circular migration
- Continue involvement in senior and expert level dialogue;
- Support in evidence-based tailor-made migration strategies/concepts' development
- Capacity building (study visits, workshops, trainings) on national, regional and international levels
- Stabilisation of structures and simplification of communication channels
- Enforcement of labour force competitiveness (pre-departure training – professional, language)



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Thank you for your attention!

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