

Consequences of Labor Migration in Poland

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Abstract

This paper provides data based analyses of recent labor migration patterns on the example of Poland. The analyses are conducted against a background of general economic situation in Poland, including demography, economic policy and, in particular, domestic labor market.

According to data fact findings, the latest Polish migration is strongly related to the domestic labor market situation. Until 90s Polish migrant was characterized by low civil liberties, restrained by centrally planned economy and not seldom took part in state managed recruitment. In 90s, despite having more liberty, migrants refrained from moving, due to poor economic situation, high unemployment and lack of resources. On the other hand, emigration has always been present in Polish history. Since 2004, there was a record high increase in Polish labor migration, triggered by high unemployment and low earnings at home market and career building opportunities abroad.

The author first examines the features of Polish labor migration, then describes socio-economic regional differences in Poland and finally, discusses the relation between labor migration and domestic labor market.