



Costs and Benefits of Labour Mobility between the EU and the Eastern Partnership Partner Countries

Country report: Poland

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Two goals

- To put together all available data and pieces of other types of information
- A set of partial analysis of economic impacts related to immigration from EAPs to Poland

In both cases the picture and the pieces of analysis conditional on the data availability

Broad context

- Current stage of institutional development
- Efficiency of various arrangements (work permits, simplified employment procedures, and so on)
- Deficiencies and possible ways of further development
- Beyond just institutions to manage immigration flows
- Cultural and historical context

Longer term view

- Sizable migrations are relatively new phenomenon for Poland (since mid 20st century)
- Emigration/immigration country
- Institutional framework to manage migration flows requires further developments
- Public perception has not been fully established yet

Complexity of situation

- Ongoing managing the flows of migrants
- Developing institutional framework for managing the flows
- Eastern Partnership programme matters for Poland as well as for the entire EU – it needs to be strongly supported
- Poland/Ukraine – two large countries neighboring across the EU border

Not a final destination country

- Poland is not a final destination country for migrants from EAPs
- Income disparities as a driving factor for both coming to Poland and leaving for an old EU member state
- Income disparities are typical as a driving factor. Some specific features observed in Poland

Poland and Ukraine

- The largest country covered by the programme is Ukraine
- The bulk of the study is the investigation of Polish-Ukrainian relations
- Numbers matter
- Long history of good but also dramatic events
- Similar relates to Belarus

Ukraine vs. the rest of EAPs

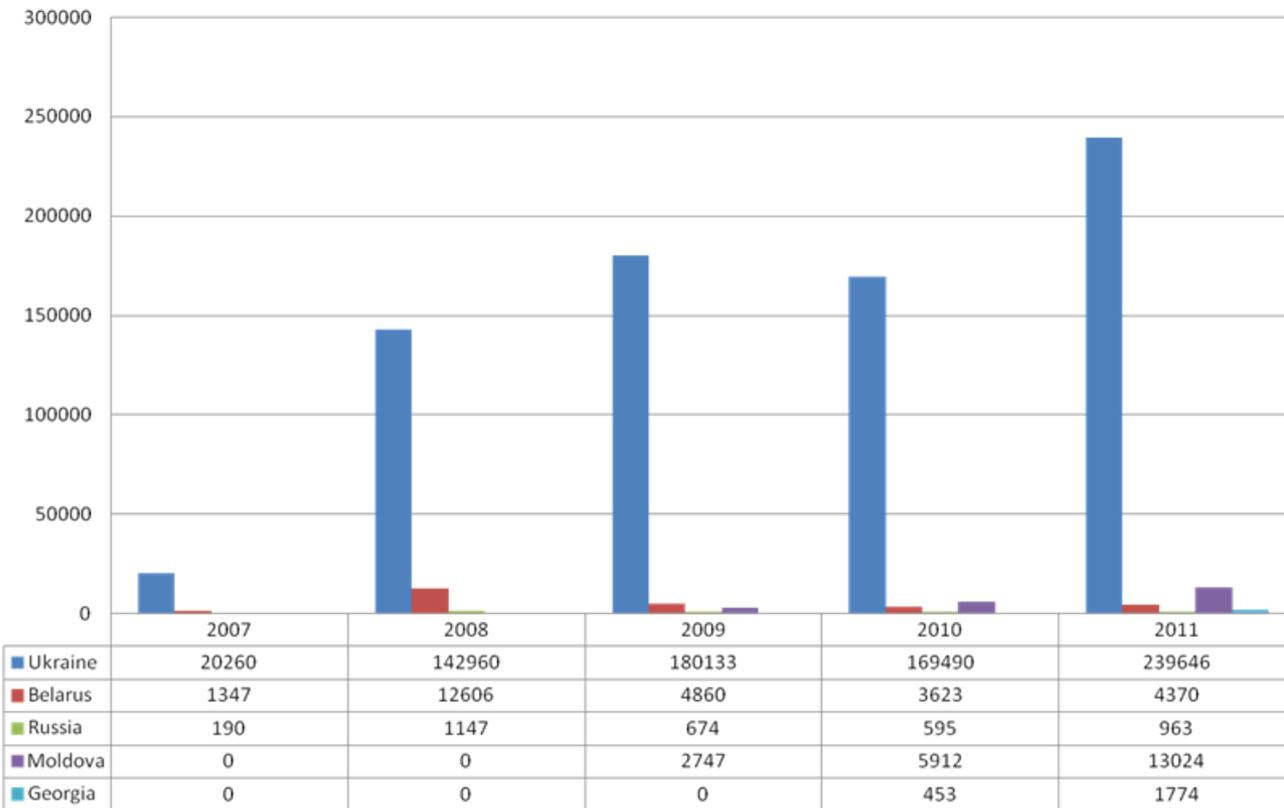
Work permits issued by country

	Country					
	Ukraine	Belarus	Moldova	Georgia	Azerbaijan	Armenia
2007	3 851	855	971	62	21	304
2008	5 400	1 325	1 218	109	19	441
2009	9 504	1 669	601	143	37	619
2010	13 150	1 958	682	95	45	452
2011	18 523	1 385	1 042	173	53	465
2012	19 375	1 723	609	171	70	433

Source: own compilation based on the data from the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy.

Ukraine vs. the rest of EAPs

Number of declarations by country



Factors beyond administrative issues

- Relatively little language barrier
- Relatively little cultural barrier
- Short distance from home
- Similarities of the post second world war history that created similar background of thinking of a couple of generations of people

The above applies to Ukraine but also to Belarus.

Other factors

- Large agriculture and construction sectors in Poland
- Relatively strong welfare growth in Poland leading to growing demand for various household and care services
- Relatively large labour market with clear signs of labour market segmentation
- Relatively low unemployment rate
- More room for the immigrant workers since the large emigration of Polish workers

Seasonal pattern of immigration

- seasonal patterns of immigration to Poland
- relatively easy to come, work for some time and come back to a home country
- since the early 1990s we observe a process of strengthening of the temporary migration pattern from the EAPs
- this kind of mobility may transform itself in the long-term coping strategy

Beyond labour market effects

Keeping the door open for immigrants from EAPs creates:

- Some problems – both typically faced by receiving countries as well as specific ones stemming from not yet fully developed institutional infrastructure
- On the other hand the immigrants contribute to prosperity of Poland and fill in employment gaps

Migration framed within the programme may additionally contribute to building better neighborhood relations

Further developments

- Poland will the most likely maintain the existing approach to labour immigration, which means priority for temporary stays
- Preferences will be kept for Ukraine, Russia, Belarus, Moldova and Georgia (temporary employment without the obligation to obtain a work permit)
- Institutions will be developed to contribute to immigrant employment in agriculture, construction and household services
- New regulations needed

Status quo expected

- No scenarios expected other than maintaining the current policy
- Closing the Polish labour market would create adverse effects on prices (agriculture); absorption capacity in construction (investment co-financed from the 2014-2020 EU budget); women labour market activities (household services)



Social integration

- Solving inevitable problems stemming from the growing flow of immigrants is a challenge
- Focus on institutions responsible for social integration and contributing to prevent prejudice and other problems related to the perception of immigrants

Final conclusion

- For Poland an immigrant-friendly set of labour institutions and social infrastructure, if well designed and working efficiently, may be a contributory factor to the welfare and prosperity of the country