



Webinar 1. Friday 19 February, 11:00-12:30 CET

Who are they and where do they work? Belarusian circular migrants in Poland, Slovakia, and the Czech Republic

Until recently, Russia was the primary destination country for Belarusian migrants. However, as Russia's attractiveness for Belarusian labour migrants has declined in recent years due to the 2014-2016 economic recession and the depreciation of the Russian rouble, Belarusian labour migrants have started to reorientate westwards. European states, struggling with labour shortages, have also gained in popularity among Belarusian migrants as migration destinations. Additionally, the westward reorientation of Belarusian migrants was facilitated by the introduction of specific policy instruments, such as, for example, the simplified employment scheme and the Polish Card in Poland. These factors have contributed to an increase in the number of Belarusian circular migrants, and it can now be estimated that there are between 30,000 and 70,000 Belarusian circular migrants in EU and EFTA countries.

During the first CIRCMIGR webinar, the speakers will discuss the following issues:

- How to count circular migrants?
- Push and pull factors – why Belarusians are interested in short-term migration to European states? What is the situation of youth on the Belarusian labour market?
- What is the profile of a Belarusian circular migrant in Poland, Slovakia, and the Czech Republic?
- What are the economic effects of the circular migration of Belarusians for Belarus, Poland, Slovakia, and the Czech Republic?

Moderator:

Agnieszka Kulesa, CASE Economist

Speakers:

- **Piotr Kaźmierkiewicz**, CASE expert, Poland
- **Šárka Prát**, Director, Institute for Politics and Society, Czech Republic
- **Marek Radvanský**, Institute of Economic Research of Slovak Academy of Science
- **Kristina Richter**, Youth Labour Rights Belarus
- **Andrei Yelisyeu**, Associate Researcher, CASE Belarus



Webinar 2. Thursday 25 February, 11:00-12:30 CET

To regulate or not to regulate? Policy responses to the circular migration of Belarusians to Poland, Slovakia, and the Czech Republic

In contrast to the well-developed legal regulation of labour migration issues with Russia, Belarus's institutional and legal cooperation with EU countries in the area of migration remains underdeveloped. Yet, Poland, Slovakia, and the Czech Republic have introduced some specific migration policy instruments with potential to influence flows of circular migrants from Belarus. Although smart mobility programmes between Belarus and Poland, Slovakia, and the Czech Republic could help to address economic challenges in all these countries and contribute to a triple win situation, such a scenario seems to be difficult to realise. None of the states under study have recognised the importance of circular migration for their economic development in policy strategic documents either.

During the second CIRCMIGR webinar, the speakers will discuss the following issues:

- What migration policy instruments introduced by Poland, Slovakia, and the Czech Republic have influence on circular migration flows from Belarus?
- Why cooperation on circular migration should matter to policy makers?
- What would be the strengths and weaknesses of such cooperation? What are the opportunities and threats?
- What should be done now to support a triple win scenario?

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Agnieszka Kulesa, CASE Economist

Speakers:

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- **Ivan Lichner**, Institute of Economic Research of Slovak Academy of Science
- **Šárka Prát**, Director, Institute for Politics and Society, Czech Republic
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- **Andrei Yeliseyeu**, Associate Researcher, CASE Belarus

The webinars are conducted within the project

[CIRCMIGR - Improving circular migration between Belarus and Poland, Slovakia and Czechia.](#)