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## Labor Migration in the Eurasian Economic Union

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### Abstract

This article deals with the concept of labor migration. In this article we consider the types of labor migration, mainly the internal labor migration and international labor migration. Analyzed labor Migration in the countries of the EAEC, states that the member States of the Union, is dominated by internal labor migration. International labor migration is carried out by movement of people within the EAEC. It is noted that the bulk of the migrants are the most highly skilled young workforce. Here we can find the basic perspective directions in the field of Union migration.

**Keywords:** Eurasian Economic Union, labor migration, migrant, labor market, national labor market, the Eurasian Economic Commission, highly skilled workforce, "brain drain", young.

### 1. Introduction

Nowadays, the country's economy is increasingly depending on labor migration, which contributes to its enrichment through the use of additional manpower. Regarding this, we can say that labor migration is one of the most important factors of global development, which provides flexibility to the international labor market.

Thus, labor migration represents a set of territorial displacement of people associated with employment and work searches. The main causes of labor migration probably relies on a wish of a citizen to change the parameters of their own workplace or because of residence problems such as: Socio-cultural, housing, environmental, climatic, etc.

There are two types of migration: internal, which is, the movement of people within the same state, and international, where people cross the international border.

### 2. Materials and Methods

The main provisions and conclusions of the presented publications are based on the data of the Statistics Department of the Eurasian economic Union, including: analytical reviews of basic socio-economic indicators EAEC, statistical yearbooks of the EAEC, etc. Besides, monographic materials, thesis, articles, and the information from open internet sources are used to prepare the article. In the article methods of analysis, synthesis, deduction, generalization, and comparison were applied.

### 3. Discussion

Labor migration takes an important part in the socio-economic development of any country; it affects both of the structure and the size, the social and economic spheres of society. Therefore, it

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is necessary to monitor the migration process, because in the future it can have a positive impact on the economic growth of the country.

Let's consider the types of labor migration as a part of the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU).

Due to the fact that efforts to revive the economic unity of the post-Soviet space in the form of the CIS countries have not entirely justified initial hopes, from the leadership of such countries as Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Russia steps have been made to revive the economic core of the USSR, but in a narrower format. Thus, in May 29, at the meeting of the Supreme Eurasian Economic Council 2014, the Presidents of Belarus, Kazakhstan and the Russian Federation signed the Treaty on the Eurasian Economic Union, according to which the transition of the Eurasian economic project was designated to a new deeper level of integration [1].

In present days, labor migration is the most important element of the integration processes in the countries of the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU). It can assist in overcoming both political and economic crisis, and it may help improve the welfare of the country. Labor migration also has a significant impact on the quality and the lifestyle of the country as a whole and on the individual worker.

It should be noted that the Member States of the Union are taking active steps aimed to create a single market, based on the four "freedoms", that is, the free circulation of goods, services, capital and labor.

Table 1 highlights the main stages of the Eurasian integration.

**Table 1.** Stages of Eurasian integration

<b>Date</b>	<b>Stage</b>
January, 1995	Agreement on the Customs Union
March, 1996	The Treaty on the deepening of integration in economic and humanitarian fields
February, 1999	The Treaty on the Customs Union and on the Common Economic Space
October, 2000	Agreement on the Establishment of the Eurasian Economic Community
September, 2003	The agreement on the formation of the Common Economic Space
October, 2007	Agreement on the establishment of a single customs territory and formation of the Customs Union Agreement on the Customs Union Commission
January, 2010	Start of the Customs Union of Belarus, Kazakhstan and the Russian Federation. Enacted Common Customs Tariff of the Customs Union and single commodity nomenclature of foreign economic activity of the Customs Union. At the internal borders of the Customs Union to abolish customs clearance and customs control
November, 2011	The Treaty on the Eurasian Economic Commission. on the Declaration of the Eurasian economic integration
January, 2012	Start of operation of the Common Economic Space of Belarus, Kazakhstan and the Russian Federation
May, 2014	The Treaty on Eurasian Economic Union
January, 2015	Start of operation of the Eurasian Economic Union

Source: compiled by the author based on: the Eurasian Economic Union. [Electronic resource]. Access: <http://www.eaeunion.org/#> (reference date: 06/04/2017)

The main topics of the movement of labor resources as part of integration association are governed by the rules of the EAEU Treaty since it came into force on 1st January, 2015 [1]:

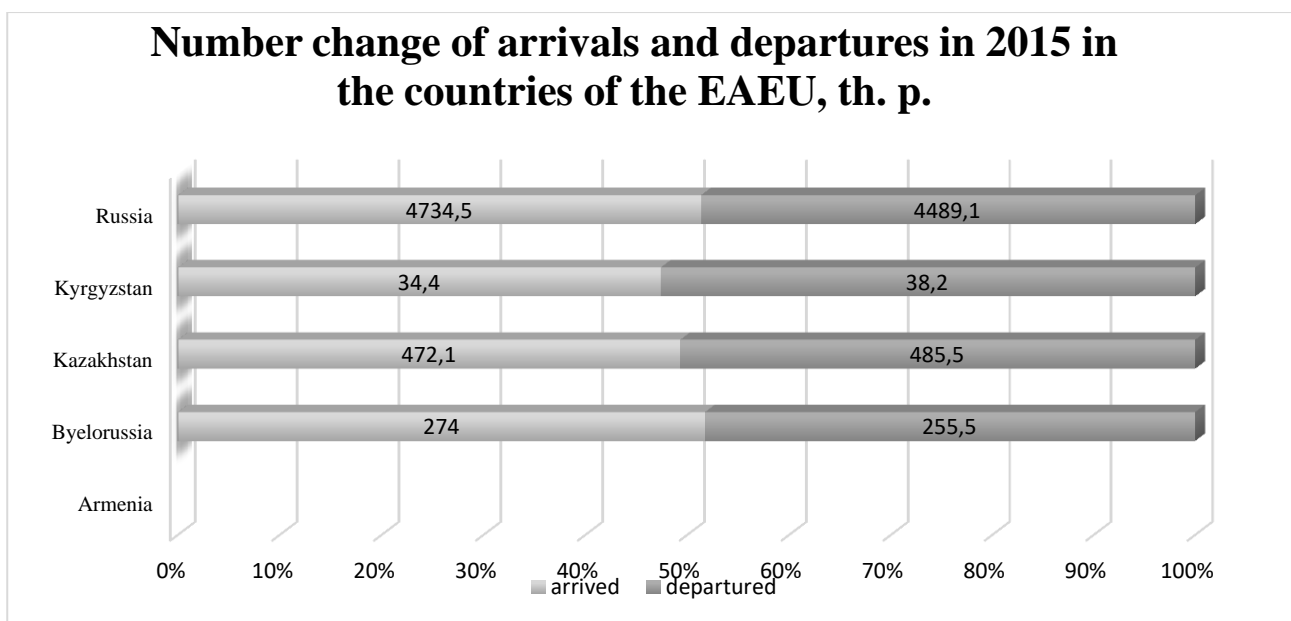
- Citizens of EU member states have the right to work in any country of the Union.
- Union member states do not establish and apply legal restrictions to protect the national labor market.

- Social security of migrant workers and their families is carried out under the same conditions and in the same manner as for the citizens of the state of employment. The same applies to the calculation of seniority.

- Revenue citizens working under contract on the territory of another State of the Union, will be taxed at the same rate of the residents and others.

The issues of labor migration in the Union are taken over by the Department of development of business activities of the EEC (Eurasian Economic Commission). The submitted department carries out monitoring and control of the implementation by the Member States of the Union Treaty in the field of labor migration, the Agreement on cooperation in combating illegal migration from third countries on 19 November 2010, and the planned monitoring of the development of bilateral agreements. Events are also held to ensure workers' awareness, such as media publications, presentations at international conferences, participation in forums and seminars in order to promote international cooperation [7]. One of the priorities is to identify and eliminate obstacles to the free movement of labor within the Union. Division of labor migration also carries out the organization and holding of meetings of the Consultative Committees and working groups on issues of labor migration.

After analyzing the migration issues of the Member States of the Union, we can say that the internal labor migration prevails. Thus, about 90 % of the migration turnover fell on the population movement in 2015 in countries such as Belarus, Kazakhstan and Russia (Fig. 1). The number of arrivals in 2015 was increased compared to the previous year in countries like Belarus (49 632 people), Kazakhstan (26 204 people) and Russia (109 659) [3, p. 46].



**Fig. 1.** Number change of arrivals and departures in 2015 according to the EAEC countries, th. People

Source: compiled by the authors based on: the Eurasian Economic Union in figures: Statistical Yearbook; Eurasian Economic Commission. Moscow: 2016. P. 46.

In regard to international labor migration, in most countries it does not exceed 10 % of the total turnover of the migration. It is worth noticing that the main flow of migrants come to Russia, with 598793 people arriving in 2015, Belarus – 28349 people, Kazakhstan – 3559 (see Table 2). It should be emphasized that international labor migration occurs as consequence of the movement of the population within the EAEU, thus the main flow of migrants from the countries of the Union end up in Russia. It should also be mentioned that employers have recently started to give preference to prospective employees of the EAEC countries, because their employment does not require a significant investment.

Practice shows that in the recent years, the bulk of the migrants are mainly highly skilled young workforce, in turn this gives rise to problems such as the "brain drain" (emigration of skilled and talented individuals to other countries and jurisdictions due to conflicts or lack of opportunity, or threat to life and health in the home country [4]). The movement of that group of people has a really negative impact on the economy of the country, on its scientific and technological development, and on the possibility of using innovative technologies for the development of education, health and culture. So for the countries with a developing economy, educated people are a limited production resource. Therefore, their value is very high. There are many advantages for a

migrating person when he returns to his country after he has received a supplementary education in another country, and acquired a variety of skills that he can later use and apply in their country.

**Table 2.** International migration the EAEU countries population

(Number of persons registered in the bodies of internal affairs at the change of permanent residence, a person)

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
<b>Armenia</b>					
Arrived - all	1 280	18 440	18 084	13 022	2 160
Was disposed - all	2 637	293	5 875	4 267	3 041
<b>Byelorussia</b>					
Arrived - all	17 510	18 040	19 435	24 941	28 349
Was disposed - all	7 610	8 712	7 792	9 219	9 855
<b>Kazakhstan</b>					
Arrived - all	38 016	28 296	24 105	16 784	16 670
Was disposed - all	32 920	29 722	24 384	28 946	30 080
<b>Kyrgyzstan</b>					
Arrived - all	6 337	5 532	4 349	3 928	3 559
Was disposed - all	45 740	13 019	11 552	11 685	7 785
<b>Russia</b>					
Arrived - all	356 535	417 681	482 241	578 511	598 793
Was disposed - all	36 774	122 751	186 382	308 475	352 864

Source: Eurasian Economic Union in figures: Statistical Yearbook The Eurasian Economic Commission. Moscow: 2016. P. 31.

It is worth noting several factors of labor migration that impact positively on the national economy. A significant number of sectors of the economy are developing because of migrants. In addition, there has to be noticed the growth of a number of remittances, for example, each year about 15 billion dollars are derived from Russia. [5] This contributes to the fact that, through remittance, it is possible to reduce the deficit of the balance of payments, and subsequently help to maintain the level of development of the lagging sectors of the national economy. The important part of the migration is in intergovernmental relations.

I would like to point out some promising directions in the field of migration [2]:

- Exemption from the obligation of citizens to fill migration card when crossing the borders of the Union State;
- Increasing the stay period on the territory of Member States up to 90 days for the citizens without registration;
- Ensuring the priority crossing of borders by citizens of Member States (the allocation of points passport control at the borders and the terminal passenger traffic at the airport only to nationals of Member States, including those with special information board "For the citizens of the EAEU");
- Expansion of the list of documents that certify which citizens can enter, leave, travel and transit through the territories of the Member States (for example, at the present time, Russian citizens may enter the Republic of Armenia only by foreign passports, entry by internal documents is not possible).

During its enforcement, the EAEU faced with problems of labor migration to provide social security and health care for the working people of the countries of the Union, as well as the offset of the seniority. From 1st January 2017, in Russia, workers from of the Union countries have access to the compulsory health insurance, which is carried out under the same conditions as for the citizens of the country of employment. [6] At the meantime, the Treaty on pensions for workers of the EAEU member-countries is under consideration by the Board of the EEC, this document is aimed at improving the social protection of the population of the Union. [7] Therefore, these problems are solved by the EEC and the member states.

Particular attention should be paid to the fact that one of the priorities of each country of the Union is to attract highly qualified staff for the state on the most scarce and sought-after professions. As noted earlier, the majority of migrants are young specialists. In this regard, the authors recommend the use of the method of Shadowing, which is widely used by British companies (71% of British companies use this method) [8]. The method is applicable for

adaptation, as well as to exchange experience of employees in the company. For example, a young employee is given the opportunity to sit for two days as observer of an expert, during which time he receives a full understanding of what skills and knowledge he needs to have, what questions he will confront in the course of his employment. To finish up, he will conduct an interview with him, where he will state his own findings. This method increases the possibility of identifying the most motivated professional to employ in the company.

#### 4. Conclusion

Migration processes are one of the most important components of international cooperation in the area of the EAEC. Problems that are related to the expansion of labor migration should be solved, taking into account the experience gained in other integration associations, for example, the experience of the CIS countries for the entire post-Soviet period. In general, it is necessary to create an effective single labor market within the Union, that leads to a common model in all migration laws of the Member States. The migration of the working population in the former Soviet republics is associated with the prospects of economic development of the states of the region, as well as connected to the processes of political integration among EAEU states.

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**Трудовая миграция в Евразийском экономическом союзе**

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**Аннотация.** В данной статье рассмотрено понятие трудовая миграция. Изучены виды трудовой миграции, а именно внутренняя трудовая миграция и международная трудовая миграция. Проанализирована трудовая миграция в странах ЕАЭС, выявлено, что в государствах-членах Союза преобладает внутренняя трудовая миграция населения, а международная трудовая миграция осуществляется путем передвижения населения в пределах ЕАЭС. Отмечено, что основную массу мигрантов составляет в основном молодая высококвалифицированная рабочая сила. Выделены основные перспективные направления в сфере миграции стран Союза.

**Ключевые слова:** Евразийский экономический союз, трудовая миграция, мигрант, рынок труда, национальный рынок труда, Евразийская экономическая комиссия, высококвалифицированная рабочая сила, «утечка умов», молодежь.

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