LABOR MIGRATION IN UKRAINE: CURRENT STATUS AND PROSPECTS

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This issue is actual because in Ukraine the rates of migration, which significantly affect the socioeconomic development, have significantly increased in recent year.

This labor migration changes the composition of labor, creates a new situation in the labor market, exacerbating the demographic situation.

The main reason for the migration is to find work, and its purpose is improving the quality of life due to more attractive and favorable conditions of employment.

In this article the migration is analyzed from the point of its impact on socio-economical development and is carried out a systematic analysis of its consequences.

The countries from which people go abroad to work consider it to be a positive emigration of unskilled workers; as it can reduce unemployment and the associated costs. Some immigrants receive education, training, working experience overseas.

The labor market also observes increasing the number of skilled workers who travel to other countries for jobs because overseas workers are involved in advanced technologies, standards, labor discipline and the organization of production. However, migrant workers from Ukraine are often well—educated people who perform not prestigious, but a much well—paid job abroad than they did at home. In this case, it caused a complete disqualification.

But this migration has positive features for an importing labor country too. These countries use foreign workers as a condition of the effective functioning of the national economy. Besides the local entrepreneurs to some extent constrain the growth the rate of wages of their workers. The use of the foreigners' cheap labor is profitable to consumers of products produced in this branch.

As far as the negative consequences of labor emigration is concerned they greatly affect the social and economical development of the country which exports labor. The bottom line is that in a country that exports labor, the situation on the labor market often gets worse, its intellectual potential "escapes".

In the recent speech, Deputy Prime Minister Sergei Tigipko made a prediction. He said that in 2011, along with the unemployment at 550–560 thousand people in Ukraine would be recorded up to 500 thousand unfilled jobs. This disbalance will be a result of the fact that the professional skills of unemployed and available jobs do not coincide. In other words, unemployed milkmaids can not build roads [1].

According to the survey conducted among Ukrainian students by the Gorshenin Institute, the problem of youth employment is of a top priority: 64.5% of them responded that this issue concerns them the most.

However, only a third (29.1%), Ukrainian students are satisfied with their life in Ukraine and see some prospective for themselves.

Among the possible areas of immigration the most popular ones are the U.S. (16.25) and the UK (15.6%).

According to opinion polls, 41% of workers aged from 18 to 29 admit that they are ready to leave Ukraine for a well–paid and promising work. Thus 32% workers with higher education are willing to leave Ukraine, and among those who have a degree there are 37% [2].

The International Labor Organization says that unemployment among young people in the world reached its record levels, and at the end of 2011 there was 12.5%. That is, one from ten aged 24 had no work [3].

At the same time because of the crisis in economy the youth unemployment spreads both in the countries with the advanced economies and in the developing countries as well. In turn, unemployment will be one more factor that will hinder the recovery of the global economy, says the ILO report.

At the same time Ukraine is attractive for migrants from the less developed countries. "They go to work to Ukraine because we have a higher standard of living than the one in the most developing countries" — said O.Poznyak, Head of Migration Research Institute of Demography and Social Studies. M.V.Ptuhy Nano.

He said some people who come to work to Ukraine become its residents, though their number is small, it's less than ten thousand people.

However, according to the national coordinator of the International Labor Organization in Ukraine Vasyl Kostrytsia, the annual number of immigrants who were granted a work permission in Ukraine is

about 7–8 thousand people. "Even during the crisis of 2009–2010, the situation was about the same," said the expert [4].

He also said that from 8,000 persons who are annually granted work permissions in Ukraine, about 2 million people continue working here after the expiration of labor contracts [5].

Currently in the EU there are over 32 million people who don't come from the EU. Only a third of them (7.2 million) are immigrants from European countries outside the EU–27. Among them people from Turkey, Albania and Ukraine dominate.

In Ukraine the situation is slightly different from the one in Europe. In our country they project a shortage of low skilled employees who can not receive the same money, compared with wages for example in Spain for their work. First of all, there will be lack of workers in the sphere of construction.

It makes the task of involving labor, labors resources easier because Ukraine does not have to engage in price competition for qualified specialists. However, low skills often involve a low culture of an immigrant which makes a state increase its attention to security and adaptation of foreigners.

The demographic situation in Ukraine continues getting worse. All actions of the previous governments, including one—time payments to increase the level of birth, failed to slow down the reduction of the native population. Yet we, as Europe in general, remain a country with a negative population growth.

A number of objective economic forecasts show that Ukraine can avoid attracting migrant workers. The task of this government is to solve an existing problem. The Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine, as the well as European governments before, is facing the task how to prevent domestic highly skilled personnel to leave abroad.

In the next 10–20 years, we would divide the possible solutions of this problem into two parts. The first is labor immigration itself, including bringing low skilled labor from the third world countries. The second component is to make own migrants return.

Fortunately, now there is a considerable number of examples when thousands of former migrant workers return to Western Ukraine. With the saved money (up to the III quarter of 2011 the volume of private money transfers to Ukraine from abroad totalled \$ 5.126 billion, which a 21% increase more than over the same period in 2010) they open a small business: clothing manufactures, hotels, transportation, "green" tourism. I am convinced that we have to find, study and promote such examples, bring them to the attention of our countrymen, including conducting advertising campaigns abroad.

List of sources used

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