

**MIGRATORY NETWORK UNESCO - MOST  
ON MIGRATION IN CENTRAL AND EAST EUROPE  
CEENOM**

***COORDINATION CENTRE IN MOSCOW***

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**Project Proposal:**

***PROTECTION OF RIGHTS OF WORKING MIGRANTS  
IN THE COUNTRIES CENTRAL AND THE EAST EUROPE***

**DESCRIPTION AND SIGNIFICANCE**

Labour migration is a rather new phenomenon for the countries of Central and Eastern Europe. The region underwent rapid development after the fall of communism and of the Iron Curtain, and labour migration increased, reaching high rates. The research data shows that about 7 million citizens from CIS countries are involved in labour migration, mostly departing to other countries. Migrants from Central and Eastern European countries search for work in countries to the West, but, in turn, these states accept migrant workers from the countries of the CIS; amounting to hundreds of thousands of people in each of the Central European countries.

At the same time, there is insufficient protection for the rights of migrant workers in these countries: first, because of lack of means, owing to an economic crisis; second, because of insufficient experience of management in this sphere; third, because of the imperfection or absence of the adequate legislation and the appropriate infrastructure. Non-governmental organizations have raised awareness on the legal protection of workers – migrant workers are in general badly informed about their rights and about their entitlement to legal protection. The majority of labour migrants lack proper documentation, and many are therefore involved in illegal activity. Most governments are not making sufficient efforts to legislate on either the residency or the activity of migrant workers.

The overwhelming majority of Central and East European countries have not signed the United Nations Convention on the rights of Migrant Workers.

Research and discussion on this question is very important for the region. Part of this research will focus on reasons why countries have not yet signed the convention, and what advantages or disadvantages they can expect.

### ***Goals***

The overall objective of the project is to uncover the main obstacles in the way of protecting the rights of migrant workers, which may be preventing these countries from signing the United Nations convention; and also to catalogue basic infringements of migrant workers' rights.

### ***Purposes***

1. Examination of legislation and other legal documents in the field of labour migration in the countries of the region, to reveal their weaknesses;
2. Analysis of support mechanisms which enable the state and local administrations to determine infrastructure maintenance of the activities of migrant;
3. Monitoring of employers' fulfillment of their obligations towards migrant workers;
4. Analysis of working conditions, to determine the levels of security needed and to decide the fields in which protection is required;
5. Analysis of security of labour migrants regarding vulnerability to physical violence, fraud and deception;
6. Analysis of migrant workers' knowledge about their rights to protection, about rules of registration, residency and employment, and about registration of individual activity or business in the receiving country.

### ***Research methods***

Research will be carried out by interviewing experts:

- persons accepting the decisions, working in the governmental organizations and regional administrations;
- researchers, businessmen and directors of enterprises;
- workers of international offices in the countries concerned;
- migrant workers

The legislation will be analyzed in the field of labour migration and results will be submitted and discussed at conference entitled “*Migration and the Labour Market in Central and Eastern Europe*”, scheduled to take place in the Moldovan capital, Kishinev. Kishinev is conveniently located in the centre of the region, so travel expenses will be kept to a minimum. The University of Kishinev is a partner of CEENOM. Professor V.G. Mosneaga, an expert in the field of labour migration who has carried out important sociological research on the issue, is based at the University and will facilitate the conference.

### ***Countries – participants***

Twelve countries have been selected. Countries of immigration, and emigration are included:

- Azerbaijan – Protection of rights of migrant workers, including women
- Armenia
- Czech Republic
- Belarus
- Hungary
- Kazakhstan
- Kirgizia
- Moldova
- Russian Federation
- Turkey
- Ukraine
- Uzbekistan