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**Labour Migration in Russia and the CIS Countries: Socio-economic  
Significance and Approaches to Regulation**

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There are several definitions of labour migration. It is possible to give two approaches to the definition representing poles of opinions on this question. The essence of an extended interpretation of labour migration could be rendered as migrations with the purpose of employment, including leaving for permanent residence. Sometimes the concept of labour migration also includes the forms of migration connected with commercial activity.

The essence of a narrow interpretation of labour migration lies in the temporary migration of population with the purpose of employment with recurrent returning to a place of permanent residence, i.e. not final migration to the place of work. In 1949 the ILO Convention defined the term "a working migrant" as a person migrating from one country to another with the purpose of employment. The definition of "international labour migration" and recommendations to the statistical account in many scientific and official sources outflank some categories of labour migrants (for example, frontier workers). The given approach is more applicable from the point of labour migration flows fixation and their state regulation.

From the statistical point of view the temporary character of a migrant's stay in a place of work or the stay with recurrent return to a permanent residence is an important characteristic of labour migration. Taking into consideration the factor of temporariness of stay makes it possible to single out labour migrants in statistics. In the CIS countries we have some sources of data on labour migration, each having its own limitations.

1. **The data of national migration services** register the number of foreign workers attracted to the country and the compatriots leaving abroad for work as contract employees. A considerable number of migrants who left (arrived to) the country having tourist visas or crossed the borders illegally are not counted by this kind of statistics. For example, the labour permits in Russia are issued by the Federal Migration Service (FMS). The data on foreign employees registered by FMS are inexact because the permits may be reissued to the same worker within a year (Bilsbrow, Hugo, Oberai, Zlotnik, 1999, p. 156). The statistics in Moldova is carried out by the State Migration Service, in Belarus – by the Migration Committee, in Azerbaijan – by the Ministry of Migration, in Uzbekistan – by the External Labour Migration Agency, in Kazakhstan – by the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of the Population. In regional scales the data are summarized by the CIS Interstate Statistical Committee.

2. **The data of national boundary services** can also provide the information on the number of labour migrants. In spite of the fact that some CIS countries (the Ukraine, Russia, Tajikistan) introduced migration cards, their proper handling has not been put in order yet. Migration cards handling could shed light on the number of labour migrants in the region. Some countries have more progress in the area. Tajikistan introduced the registration system of citizens leaving for work abroad. Every gastarbeiter should fill in a migration card. In Russia the process of formation of the central databank of foreign citizens account has begun.

3. In many CIS countries there is a system of population registration on the place of residence (or stay) **in passport registration offices of the Ministry of Internal Affairs**. For example, in Russia, proper evaluation of this information could be an additional source about labour migration. For the present it has considerable distortions.

One of the top priorities for the CIS countries is bringing the system of the statistical account of labour migration in the countries of the region to the international standards.

4. **Foreign sources** can be regarded as external sources of information on labour migration from the CIS. Among them there are the data of national censuses and registers of the population, special procedures of migrants legalization ("migration amnesties"), the data of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the International Labour Organization which help to estimate the real number and the structure of gastarbeiters from the CIS in some countries.

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The present research is based on two methods. The first - statistical method - depends on the comparative analysis of Russian and foreign statistics data. The method made it possible to reveal the real number of labour migrants from the CIS countries abroad. The research confirmed a hypothesis that the part of external labour migration on departure outside the CIS countries is not registered. In fact the number of emigrants from the CIS countries (including the Russians) working abroad in the countries of the Western Europe, the USA, Canada, Australia, Eastern Asia is higher than the figures of official statistics show.

The national statistics data of the countries where emigrants from the CIS countries are employed are collected and issued by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). The latest OECD report "The Trends of International Migration" given in 2004 contains the surveys on 34 countries. The main disadvantage of the data regarding the CIS countries is that up to the present time all citizens of the former USSR in some economically developed countries are still registered as one figure in one line. Sometimes it is impossible to separate the Russians, the Ukrainians, the Byelorussians and the citizens of other countries.

The data of national censuses and current population records are an important source of information in some countries. The data of censuses in the USA (2000), Finland (2000), Japan (2000), Australia (2001), New Zealand (2001) and Greece (1991) presented in special collections containing the results of the censuses were also used. In our research we used the data of the current population record in

Sweden and Norway, where the registers of the population are compiled. The comparison of these sources of the information might help to evaluate the real scales of labour migration from Russia and clarify the number of the Russians staying abroad for earnings.

Another method is **sociological**. It was represented by two interviews. The first one was made among the labour migrants from Tajikistan working in Russia. They were interviewed in two cities - Astrakhan and Moscow. 125 Tadjik workers (N=125) working on the building-sites, in country residences and apartments were personally interviewed on the basis of the questionnaire "Labour Migration from Tajikistan to Russia".

Another interview was made among Russian women of the Stavropol Region - one of the typical regions of Russia from the point of economic parameters. The women who left abroad and returned to Russia were personally interviewed on the basis of the questionnaire "Labour Migration of Women". The sample made up 102 respondents (N=102).

Both interviews use purpose samples as there is no reliable information on the universal sets of the women leaving the region to earn money abroad, and Tadjik gasarbeiters coming to Russia for earnings. The content-analysis of job offers suggesting the possibilities of foreign employment in the Russian press was also carried out.

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Labour migration in the CIS (the states of the former USSR excluding the Baltic states) has become a large-scale significant socio-economic phenomenon. According to our estimation, 8-11 million people or approximately 6-8% of economically active population of the region is involved in it. The average number of labour migrants from the states of the region simultaneously staying abroad during a year-period is shown in Figure 1.

Figure 1

**The Approximate Number and the Employment Geography of Labour Migrants from CIS Countries, 2004**

The Country	The Estimated	The Basic Countries	The Volume of	The Share
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of Departure	Number, thousands	Receiving Labour Migrants	Economically Active Population in 2004, thousands	of Labour migrants in Total of the Economical ly Active Population of the Country, %
Azerbaijan	1,000-1,500	Russia, Turkey, Iran, the USA, Germany	3,820	26.2-39.3
Armenia	700	Russia, the USA, the countries of the Europe, Australia	1,226	57.0
Belarus	200-280	Russia, Poland, the USA, Czechia	4,447	4.5-6.3
Georgia	200-300	Russia, Turkey	4,315*	4.6-7.0
Kazakhstan	1,000	Russia, China	7,823	12.8
Kyrgyzstan	600-700	Russia, Kazakhstan	2,100	28.6-33.3
Moldova	600-800	Russia, the Ukraine, Czechia, Romania, Germany, Spain, Israel, Portugal, Greece	1,483	40.5-53.9
Russia	1,000-1,200	The USA, Germany, Israel, Greece, Portugal, Cyprus, Finland	72,900	1.4-1.7
Tajikistan	500-600	Russia	1,926	26.0-31.2
Turkmenistan	...	Russia	1,749**	...
Uzbekistan	600-700	Russia, Kazakhstan, South Korea	9,368***	6.4-7.5
The Ukraine	2,000-3,000	Russia, the USA, Czechia, Portugal, Italy, Germany, Poland, Hungary, Spain, Turkey	22,100	9.1-13.6
<b>The CIS Total</b>	<b>8,200-10,780</b>		<b>133,257</b>	<b>6.2-8.1</b>

**Note:** \* - the population of Georgia in 2003 is given without the data on uncontrolled territories ; \*\* - the number of economically employed in 1995 in Turkmenistan; \*\*\* - the data given on Uzbekistan in 2002.

There is large-scale labour migration from the CIS countries to many countries of Europe, including Russia. The most significant streams of labour migrants come from the Ukraine. The real figures which are given by the

trustworthy researchers are 2 - 3 million Ukrainians, working abroad (Pribytkova, 2003, p. 27). Illegal Ukrainian migrants search for work in Russia, the countries of the Eastern Europe, Turkey and Germany (Focus on Labour Migration in Central and Eastern Europe, 1998, p. 3). Their number definitely exceeds the number of Russian gastarbeiters. Another CIS country with scale labour migration is the Republic of Moldova. According to IOM, approximately 600-800 thousand Moldavians work abroad.

The labour migrants from the Transcaucasian countries are quite numerous. 700 thousand Armenian citizens, about 1-1.5 million citizens of Azerbaijan, 200-300 thousand citizens of Georgia are working abroad. In Russia the total of labour migrants from the Transcaucasian countries is 1.2-1.5 million.

Labour migration from the countries of Central Asia is also intensive. Tajikistan being the country with the lowest socio-economic indices in the CIS stands for the leader. The total of its citizens working abroad comes up to at least 500-600 thousand; 85% of them choose namely Russia (Olimova, Bosk, 2003, p. 21). Presently there are about 600-700 thousand labour migrants in Uzbekistan. In Kirghizia the estimation varies within 600-700 thousand people; less than half of them goes to Russia.

The principal cause of labour migration is the differentiation according to socio-economic indices in the CIS countries. Against the background of the decline in the living standard, production curtailing and unemployment growth, some states of the region, Russia and Kazakhstan, are notable for their socio-economic stability, high labour market capacity and high wage standards. Combined with their geographical proximity, a visa-free regime, "transparency" of crossing the borders, cultural and language community, existing relations and business ties, recognition (convertibility) of diplomas, these factors form the streams of labour migrants inside the CIS in favour of Kazakhstan and Russia.

The wage level in Russia is much higher than in other CIS countries. Let us compare the Russian wage level only to Kazakhstan and Belarus (Fig. 2). All other countries fall behind. For example, the gap in official payment level in Russia is 11

times as much as in Tajikistan which stimulates active labour migration of the Tadjik workers. According to the data of interviewing, 60% of Tadjik migrants came to Russia because they were underpaid, and 40% due to the lack of work in their home country. About 40% of migrants from Tajikistan chose to work in Russia as here they have an opportunity to earn more; 20% due to the reason that it is easier to find work here; 16% because of the neighborliness of the country.

Figure 2

**Some Indices of the Living Standard in the CIS Countries**

The Country	The Share of Population Living Below the Poverty Line in 2000, %	The average monthly nominal wage in the CIS Countries, US dollars		
		1995	2000	2004
Azerbaijan	68.1	14.1	49.5	98.4
Armenia	...	17.4	42.1	78.7
Belarus	22.5	65.5	73.6	161.8
Georgia	11.1	10.5	36.5	58.5*
Kazakhstan	34.6	78.5	101.1	207.3
Kyrgyzstan	40.0	34.0	25.7	51.7
Moldova	23.3	31.8	32.8	89.5
Russia	30.9	103.7	79.0	237.0
Tajikistan	...	8.6	8.5	21.5
Turkmenistan	...	...	...	...
The Ukraine	31.7	49.8	42.3	110.8
Uzbekistan	...	35.8	...	...

The CIS countries in the ratio of the parameters of labour immigration and emigration are not homogeneous. In the present research we have compared the parameters of labour migration to the methods of carrying out the system reforms (Fig. 3). Three CIS countries, Russia, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan, applying mainly the methods of "shock therapy" are regarded as "the radicals". From the point of the ration of labour migration they are not homogeneous: Russia and Kazakhstan accept migrants, and Kyrgyzstan "gives" them abroad. In Russia the legal entrance of labour migrants (immigrants) exceeds the departure (emigration) in 8 times, and in Kazakhstan - in 10 times.

The "Intermediate group" of the CIS countries carried out the reforms slower than "the radicals", but faster than "the conservatives". In all these states (Moldova,

the Ukraine, Tajikistan, Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan) labour emigration obviously exceeds immigration. For example, for one labour migrant arriving to the Ukraine there are six migrants who left to work abroad. In Moldova and Tajikistan this ratio turns up to be 1:40 and 1:600 correspondently.

The "conservative states" used the most cautious ways of gradual transition to the market economy. From the point of view of migration among them there are obvious donors - Uzbekistan and Belarus, and the country almost isolated from the point of view of labour migration - Turkmenistan.

Figure 3

**The CIS Countries Grouping According to the Ratio of the Basic Parameters of Official Labour Migration Parameters and the Methods of Carrying out the System Reforms**

The Countries According to the Ratio of Foreign Labour Migration (Emigration to Immigration)	The Countries According to the Types of Carrying out the System Reforms		
	“The Radicals”	“The Intermediate Group”	“The Conservatives”
The “donor” countries (the countries with prevailing labour emigration)	Kyrgyzstan	Moldova (1: 40)*, Tajikistan (1: 600)*, the Ukraine (1:6) *, Azerbaijan, Armenia, Georgia	Uzbekistan, Belarus (1:10) *
The “recipient” countries (the countries with prevailing labour immigration)	Russia (8:1) *, Kazakhstan (10:1) *		
“Closed” countries (emigration and immigration is limited by the state)			Turkmenistan

**Note:** \* - the ratio of labour immigrants and emigrants.

According to the official statistics (the FMS data), the number of legal labour migrants working in Russia had a tendency towards growth. In 2003 it made up about 380 thousand, in 2004 - more than 460 thousand, in 2005 - 750 thousand



people. Thus the share of gastarbeiters in the structure of the employed population of Russia remained scarce - about 1%. The ratio of manpower attracted from the CIS countries and “the old abroad”, was nearly equal.

People with low and average qualifications prevail among the foreign workers. The structure of foreign workers employment shows that the main spheres, attractive for gastarbeiters are building, industry and agriculture. Moreover, there is a kind of a “specialization” of gastarbeiters from different countries in definite spheres of employment. As some studies show, builders and repair men, industrial workers and transport workers come mostly from the Ukraine. Labour migrants from Azerbaijan, China and Vietnam are mainly attracted into the sphere of trade. Immigrants from China work in agriculture. Among the gastarbeiters from Moldova drivers and builders are predominant now. Workers from Turkey are involved in building and are employed in agriculture. The segments of the labour market where foreign migrants find work according to the ethno-territorial principle are being formed in Russia.

Foreign manpower is attracted to Russia from almost 120 countries. According to the official data, the main supplier of manpower into Russia is the Ukraine, which provides one-third, lately one-fourth of all the gastarbeiters. China takes the second place with one fifth of all incoming labour migrants (94 thousand). There is a tendency of a substantial growth of manpower from Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, China, and Vietnam. The number of Vietnamese labour migrants in Russia has recently grown (according to the data of 2003 their number came up to 41.8 thousand). Vietnam in this parameter got close to Turkey - one of the main partners of Russia in international labour migration from “the old abroad” (48 thousand people).

The sex and age structure of foreign workers is quite stable – most of them are men (for a long period it remains the same-about 90%). Among labour migrants a little more than 80% of men and 90% women range in age from 18 to 39 years old. The most numerous group of foreign workers is the one at the age of 30-39 (about 40%).

There is a large gap between the data of the official sources, which register labour migrants and the real scales of labour migration. At the same time, the estimations of illegal labour migration differ greatly. The representatives of the state structures, as a rule, give higher indices of the number of illegal labour migrants in Russia, using exclusively frontier statistics. For example, the representatives of the FMS of the Russian Federation assess the illegal immigration in Russia at the rate of 10 million people. Our research enables us to state that about 5 million migrants who can be considered illegal are staying in Russia. Mainly these are the citizens of the CIS countries who arrived in the country under the visa-free mode conditions, but have no labour permits or registration on the residence (Rybakovsky, Ryazantsev, 2005, p.37).

In the course of the experiment, which lasted from 22, September till 1, December, 2005 in ten regions of Russia, 7.5 thousand labour migrants were legalized. The FMS experiment on the legalization of illegal labour migrants brought 350 million roubles to the state budget (the national duty and other taxes paid by the legalized labour migrants) ([www.interfax.ru](http://www.interfax.ru)). Up to now the problem of illegal labour migration remains acute for Russia.

The employers provide work for gastarbeiters in Russia spontaneously. Migrants come and search for work independently, or through intermediaries (many firms and private persons have no state licenses, and at times cheat labour migrants). In Moscow, St.Petersburg and other cities there are spontaneous job centres along highways, around the markets, near some underground stations where the employers can hire illegal workers from Moldova, the Ukraine, Tajikistan and other countries.

The interview of the Tadjik migrants gave the opportunity to reveal their living conditions in Russia. The majority (68%) of labour migrants from Tajikistan had no labour permits in Russia. Approximately half of the gastarbeiters worked in the building sphere, one third (approximately 32%) - in the services sphere, and 28% - in industry.

More than 60% of migrants got their wages unofficially, without any tax deductions into the social funds. On average the working day of the Tadjik migrants lasted 10-12 hours. Nearly all labour migrants sent money home to their families and relatives - the average amount of money orders made 500 dollars the whole period of staying in Russia (on average migrants work in the country for 5-6 months). Mainly the money is transferred through the bank system.

The employers prefer hiring illegal manpower because of its cheapness and lack of rights. A large criminal sector of economy where fake "migration documents" (registrations, labour permits etc.) are sold has formed in the country. Now about 90% of labour migrants resort to the services of the criminal market participants. By our estimation, only in Moscow about 140 million dollars a year circulate at this criminal market.

Labour migration has many positive aspects for Russia and the CIS countries. The economic sectors like trade, building, transport services, and agriculture are developing owing to migrants. The example of Moscow is rather illustrative. No less than half of those working on the building - sites of Moscow are migrants from various countries, mainly the CIS. Migrant labour is widely used in retailing – in the market stalls and stands, in the shopping tents. Migrants work as cooks and waiters at restaurants and cafes; many of them clean the streets. According to the Moscow city hall information, there are more than 170 large markets where 180 thousand people having foreign citizenship work legally. Migrants from the Ukraine, Moldova, Armenia work as drivers of trolley buses, buses, fixed-route taxis.

Gastarbeiters fill many “niches of no prestige” with hard working conditions which local residents do not accept. In the CIS labour migration generated a powerful flow of remittances. These sums of money can be transferred both through the official channels (bank system, system of remittances) and in unregistered ways through personal and family channels. By approximate estimations, gastarbeiters transfer and take out from Russia up to 15 billion dollars annually (The Information of the First Russian TV Channel, 2003). With absolute

transparency, this money could give the country 4.5 billion of tax deductions (at the lowest rate of personal income tax - 30%), to say nothing of the social deductions. The problem is in exposing these money resources. Now labour migration has become not only a means of survival for a significant part of the population, but also a real mechanism of spontaneous economic integration ("the integration from below") of some countries in the amorphous CIS group.

At the same time, we tend to idealize the consequences of labour migration which has a lot of negative aspects: the stimulation of shadow economy growth, dumping of the wage level, the ethnic structure transformation, formation of the ethnic enclaves, and the growth of interethnic tension. The formation of the isolated zones of compact settlement of migrants according to their ethnic principle ("ethnic enclaves") may be regarded as an unfavourable tendency. It hampers, and at times makes the integration of migrants into society impossible. The isolation of these communities can intensify the negative attitude and mistrust of local population to migrants, leading to the aggravation of interethnic relations.

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Russia has also become the largest exporter of manpower for foreign labour markets. 45-50 thousand people alone go abroad as contract employees. The basic countries of employment for the Russians are the states of Europe - Cyprus, Great Britain, Germany, Greece, Malta and the Netherlands. The Russians with special secondary education are mostly sought after abroad. They make approximately 40-50% of the total contract employees. Russian employees having higher education make up almost one third of the migration stream. Russian skilled workers (half of the migration stream) are in demand at the international labour market, first of all in shipping and fishing industries. About one fourth of all contract employees abroad are the experts in technical sphere, art and culture.

Interviewing Russian women abroad made it possible to reveal the peculiarities of their stay and work abroad. Financial problems and the lack of fair payment in Russia instigate women to migrate (about 80%). One fourth of women-respondents wish to explore the world in such a way. Approximately 4% try to get

successfully married. About 10% of the respondents considered the perspective to stay for a permanent residence abroad before going there.

Russian women have the greatest chances to get officially employed abroad in the entertainment industry, health and medical services, social sphere. There are special visas granting protection for those who want to work in the entertainment industry. For example, the visa of an "entertainment industry employee" issued by Canada, Switzerland, Japan and Korea enables the girls to be engaged in labour activities in bars, restaurants, other entertainment establishments. Russian women of the age group of 20-29 are in demand in the entertainment industry. About 76% of Russian women reported the abuse of their rights abroad. These were underpayment, unauthorized extension of the working day duration (92%), debt bondage, unlawful passport taking and restriction of the freedom of travel (8%).

On average Russian women abroad earn 800 dollars a month. It helped the migrants to purchase or repair their accommodation, pay for their education in the native country, buy household equipment, clothes etc. According to the state balance of payment, issued by the Bank of Russia, the amounts of the remittances of Russian labour migrants working abroad make about 700-800 million dollars. In absolute calculation it is much more than the CIS countries receive from the internal labour migrants, but in relative figures it is approximately 0.2% of GNP.

The international labour migration has become a real means of "survival" and a way of improving the material well-being in the new economic conditions for many Russia citizens, especially in province. The calculations show that 1 - 1.5 million of Russians are working abroad and form a new Russian diaspora there. The diaspora performs important functions. In addition to the remittances and investments into Russian economy, it provides promotion of the projects with Russian partners in the spheres of business, science and technical cooperation, education, and social support of the population. The diaspora propagandizes the Russian culture and the Russian language in foreign countries. Its contribution into sports, art, science and education development is valuable for many countries and forms a positive "image" of Russia abroad.

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**The first stage** of interstate interaction in migration regulation started after the CIS establishment on the basis of the multilateral agreements conclusion. On October, 9th, 1992, in Bishkek the Agreement "On Visa-free Migration of the CIS States Citizens on the Territory of its Members" was signed. On November, 13th, 1992, in Moscow the Agreement "On mutual recognition of the visas of the CIS member-states" (so-called Moscow Agreement) was signed. Bishkek and Moscow Agreements of 1992 preserved a visa-free regime of migration for the citizens of member-states on the major part of the CIS.

In April, 1994, the Agreement "On Cooperation in the Field of Labour Migration and Social Protection of Working Migrants" was signed by all the CIS countries. The further ratification of the given agreement revealed the contradictions between the some CIS countries. The agreement has not come into force for two states - Georgia and Turkmenistan. In December, 1994, within the framework of the CIS the Agreement "On Cooperation in the Sphere of Labour Protection and Determination of Industrial Injuries Got by the Employees Outside the Country of Residence" was signed.

**The second stage** meant the reduction of multilateral interaction of the CIS countries and shifting to migration regulations on the basis of bilateral contracts between the states, and taking measures in fighting illegal migration. It caused the "withdrawal" of the CIS member countries from the Bishkek and Moscow Agreements. Turkmenistan withdrew from the Bishkek Agreement on June, 9th, 1999; Uzbekistan on April, 16th, 2000; Russia on December, 3rd, 2000; Kazakhstan on January, 8th, 2001. Uzbekistan withdrew from the Moscow Agreement, while Russia suspended the order of transit transportation of foreigners through its territory.

The institution of bilateral agreements between the CIS countries was established on the basis of visa-free movement of citizens. Bilateral agreements on visa-free transit of citizens between Russia and the Ukraine (January, 16th, 1997),

Russia and Azerbaijan (July, 3rd, 1997), Russia and Armenia (September, 25th, 2000), Russia and Moldova (December, 7th, 2000) were signed.

Bilateral agreements on labour activity of their citizens were signed by some CIS countries. Russia concluded agreements on labour migration with Armenia, Belarus, Moldova, the Ukraine, Kyrgyzstan. It also signed the agreements with some countries of "the old" abroad: Germany, Finland, Poland, Switzerland, China and Vietnam.

The Ukraine signed agreements on labour migration with Armenia, Belarus, Moldova, Russia, Poland, Latvia, Lithuania, Slovakia, Czechia, Vietnam. Belarus concluded bilateral agreements on mutual employment and social protection of citizens with Russia, Moldova, Lithuania and Kazakhstan. Moldova signed bilateral agreements on the regulation of labour migration with Russia (May, 1993), the Ukraine (December, 1993), Belarus (May, 1994), Poland (April, 1997), Hungary (June, 1997).

**The third stage** is connected with the transition to the regulation of migration within the limits of the CIS on the basis of interstate associations. Interstate Council of the Customs Union member countries adopted the Declaration "On Ten Easy Steps towards Ordinary People" in April, 1998. "Providing the citizens free equal rights of crossing the borders of four states, customs, frontier and other kinds of control" was mentioned as one of the major steps in the improvement of living conditions.

**The fourth stage** is a policy of migration asymmetry, i.e. the application of the simplified migration and employment schemes regarding the citizens of some countries. In November, 2000, the governments of Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia and Tajikistan signed the Agreement "On Mutual Visa-free Tips for Citizens". In March, 2005, these states signed the Protocol of the agreement which simplified the procedure of crossing the borders by citizens of the Eurasian Economic Community states - members. Now it is possible to move from one country to another not only without a visa, but also having local passports.

Some steps on the simplification of the migration regime were taken on the basis of mutual agreements. The agreements between Russia and Belarus save the citizens of two countries from getting labour permits in their territories. In fact there is a common labour market in these states. In October, 2004 Russia and the Ukraine signed the protocol which exempted the citizens of these countries from the obligatory registration on a place of stay within 90 days. Trips between the Ukraine and Russia are visa-free, under internal passports.

A visa-free regime is preserved in Russia and all the CIS states (except for Georgia). However you need a specially issued passport to travel abroad.

The objective state of demographic processes in Russia urges our country to the necessity of close migration interaction with its neighbours. The Russian economy requires labour recourses right now, because the able-bodied population will start to reduce slowly from 2006. Additional manpower will be necessary in the conditions of economic growth. In this connection we suggest creating the Common demographic space according to the agreement with Belarus, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan (within the limits of the Euroasian Economic Community), in the framework of which all the obstacles put to temporary and constant migrants will be removed. (Arkhangelsky and others, The strategy of the demographic development of Russia, 2005). To realize the idea it is necessary to preserve a visa-free regime and the opportunity for reciprocal trips under internal passports, cancel the labour permits, and introduce informative registration and a simplified way of obtaining residential permits and granting citizenship.

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