



## INVITATION

Expert seminar

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### LABOUR MIGRATION IN THE BALTIC SEA COUNTRIES: TRENDS AND PROSPECTS

25 April 2013

Constitutional Hall, Parliament of the Republic of Lithuania, Gedimino av. 53, Vilnius

On behalf of the Lithuanian Social Research Centre, the Nordic Council of Ministers Office in Lithuania, the Embassy of Sweden and the Committee on Social Affairs and Labour of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania, You are invited to an expert seminar 'LABOUR MIGRATION IN THE BALTIC SEA COUNTRIES: TRENDS AND PROSPECTS'.

The seminar will take a closer look at challenges posed by international migration within the context of regional migration issues. Government officials, practitioners, representatives from NGOs and researchers from Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Norway and Sweden will come together to discuss questions of migration-related challenges such as East-North labour migration, labour migration from non-EU countries to the Baltic States and Poland; labour migration policies, and challenges faced by labour migrants in labour markets (*see seminar concept and programme below*).

Working languages: Lithuanian and English

The registration to the expert seminar is obligatory and available via e-mail: [karolis@ces.lt](mailto:karolis@ces.lt) until 22 April 2013. Only registered participants will be allowed to enter the Seimas. The entrance to the seminar is through the Building III, Gedimino av. 53, Vilnius. Personal document (ID or passport) is necessary for the entrance.

More information:

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## Expert seminar

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### LABOUR MIGRATION IN THE BALTIC SEA COUNTRIES: TRENDS AND PROSPECTS

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The decades from 1990 to 2010 mark a period of intense international migration in Europe, which brought new challenges for national and international state policies and called for societies to deal with intercultural coexistence. The expansion of the EU and the latest ratification of the Schengen agreement changed the geopolitical situation of the European continent. The 'shifting' of the EU border towards the East and the liberalisation of the freedom of movement within the EU became one of the most important factors encouraging international migration processes. These factors influenced the emergence of new international migration systems in the EU. Despite the strict immigration policies, most of the EU Member States witnessed a surge in immigration. While in the 1990s the main destination centres in the EU were considered to be the Western European and Nordic countries, the EU integration processes (which took place in 2004 and 2007) have revealed new migration trends: the 'new' EU member states became not only the source of immigrants, but also destination points for those coming from countries within the geographical vicinity (CIS) as well as from more distant parts of the World (e.g. Turkey and China). At the same time as the Western European countries began to critically evaluate their immigration and migrant integration policies, the 'new' EU member states confronted the challenges of establishing migration regulations and strategies for migrant integration.

With regards to the challenges posed by international migration, Baltic States (Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania) are no exception. The historical context and prevailing structure of immigration show that over twenty years ago immigration in the region assumed new forms. After the collapse of the Soviet Union, inter-republic immigration from Russia, Belarus, Ukraine and other post-Soviet countries became international. Therefore, given the political transformation, the same mobility of people has gained new content – from new immigration flows, migration and migrant integration policies to changes in attitudes towards immigration on societal and political levels.

Contrary to immigration processes, which became more visible after the EU enlargement in 2004, the trend of emigration from the Baltic States and Poland has been prevailing for many years. Emigration, which has strong economical aspect as a motive for mobility towards Western Europe and Nordic countries, continues to be dominant migration pattern in the region. Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland remained countries of emigration, where Nordic Countries (Denmark, Norway and Sweden) still are attractive destination points. Therefore, in the light of the dynamics and structure of migration on the one hand, and the technological development, EU integration processes and global labour market on the other, international migration in the Baltic Sea region has become more diverse, more rapid and challenging, both, in the context of academic research and implementation of immigration policies.

The expert seminar 'Labour migration in the Baltic Sea countries: trends and prospects' will take a closer look at the challenges posed by international migration within the context of regional migration issues. Government officials, practitioners, representatives from NGOs community and researchers from Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Norway and Sweden will come together to discuss such questions of migration-related challenges as (1) East-North labour migration; (2) labour migration from non EU countries to the Baltic States and Poland; (3) labour migration policies (shift of labour migration policies before and after global economic changes); (4) challenges faced by migrants in labour markets (access to and mobility in the labour market, vulnerability and exploitation, representation and advocacy), etc.

## A G E N D A

25 April 2013

09:00 Registration

09:30 Introduction to an expert seminar by Dr. Karolis Žibas

09:40 Welcome speech by Kristina Miškinienė, chairperson of the Committee on Social Affairs and Labour of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania

09:50 Welcome speech by a representative of Nordic Council of Ministers

10:00 1<sup>st</sup> Keynote speech by Dr. Tadas Leončikas, European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions: *Labour Migration and Migrant Integration in Recent EU Policy Perspective: Selected Highlights*

10:20 2<sup>nd</sup> Keynote speech by Prof. Charles Woolfson, Linköping University, REMESO Institute for Research on Migration, Ethnicity and Society: *Migration, Austerity and New Challenges to Labour Markets in the Baltic/Nordic Region*

10:40 3<sup>rd</sup> Keynote speech by Kjell Skjaervo, Norwegian United Federation of Trade Unions: *Polish and Baltic Workers in the Single Market – Access and Mobility, Vulnerability and Exploitation, Representation and Advocacy*

11:00 Q/A session (moderator: Lisa Pelling, Global Challenge)

11:30 Coffee break

**PANEL 1: East-North Labour Migration: Challenges and Opportunities** (moderator: Lisa Pelling, Global Challenge)

12:00 Johanna Roto, NordRegio, GIS/Cartography Coordinator (*topic to be confirmed*)

12:15 Dr. Donatas Burneika and Rūta Ubarevičienė, Department of Human Geography, Institute for Sociology at the Lithuanian Social Research Centre: *Population Change and Migrations in Lithuania: Trends and Hidden Processes*

12:30 Prof. Dr. Irena Juozeliūnienė, Department of Sociology, Vilnius University: *Family and Migration in Lithuania: Challenges and Coping with Hardships*

12:45 Tuuli Stewart, Tallinn University, Institute of Political Science and Governance: *A Form of Exclusion and Marginalization – Criminal Penalty. Baltics in Nordic States*

13:00 Discussion (moderator: Lisa Pelling, Global Challenge)

- 13:30 Lunch
- 14:30 4<sup>th</sup> Keynote speech by Jan Niessen, Director of Migration Policy Group, Brussels, Belgium: *Dealing with the Consequences of Labour Mobility: Integration and Citizenship*
- 14:50 5<sup>th</sup> Keynote speech by Anna Platonova, Regional Labour Migration/Migration and Development Specialist, Regional Office for the EEA, EU and NATO, International Organization for Migration, Brussels, Belgium: *The Future of Labour Immigration in the Baltic States and Poland: Labour Market Needs and Policy Dilemmas*
- 15:10 Q/A session (moderator: András Kováts, director of Menedék – Hungarian Association for Migrants)
- 15:30 Coffee break
- PANEL 2: Labour Migration in the Baltic States and Poland: Lessons to Learn** (moderator: András Kováts, director of Menedék – Hungarian Association for Migrants)
- 16:00 Dace Akule, Centre for Public Policy PROVIDUS, Latvia: *Labour Migration to Latvia: Policy and Reality*
- 16:15 Dr. Kristina Kallas, Institute of Baltic Studies, Estonia: *Can there be Immigration After Immigration? The Challenges of Labour Shortages in Estonia in the Context of Integration of Russian-Speaking Population*
- 16:30 Dr. Maciej Duszczyk, Institute of Social Policy, member of the Board of the Centre of Migration Research at the University of Warsaw, Poland: *Liberal Immigration Policy? Case of Ukrainian Workers on the Polish Labour Market*
- 16:45 Vija Platačiūtė, PhD candidate at Vytautas Magnus University, Lithuania: *Lithuanian Labour Immigration Policy: Regulations and Outcomes*
- 17:00 Final discussion (moderator: András Kováts, director of Menedék – Hungarian Association for Migrants)
- 18:00 End of the seminar