

## LABOUR MIGRATION AND CHARACTERISTICS OF ITS MANAGEMENT IN GEORGIA

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### **Giguashvili G., Makasarashvili T. Labour Migration and Characteristics of its Management in Georgia.**

Labour migration activating is an important problem for the Georgian Labor Market, that in its turn was facilitated, by a constant increase of unemployment rate. It is naturally that outflow of employable, qualified personnel from the country impedes the process of economic growth. For the purpose of regulation of migration processes a number of projects were implemented in Georgia; migration policy; was improved "Migration Strategy of Georgia for the years 2013-2015" and its action plan were created. Their realization will help to overcome the existing problems.

### **Гігуашвілі Г., Макасарашвілі Т. - Трудова міграція та особливості управління нею в Грузії.**

Активізація трудової міграції являє собою значну проблему трудового ринку Грузії, чому в свою чергу сприяв неухильне зростання рівня безробіття. Витік працездатних, кваліфікованих кадрів з країни, природно, перешкоджає росту економічного процесу. З метою регулювання міграційних процесів в Грузії був реалізований не один проект; вдосконалена міграційна політика; створена «Міграційна стратегія Грузії на 2013-2015 роки» та план дії до неї, реалізація яких, думаємо, буде сприяти подоланню існуючих проблем.

### **Гигуашвили Г., Макасарашвили Т. - Трудовая миграция и особенности управления ею в Грузии.**

Активизация трудовой миграции представляет собой значительную проблему трудового рынка Грузии, чему в свою очередь способствовал неуклонный рост уровня безработицы. Утечка трудоспособных, квалифицированных кадров из страны, естественно, препятствует росту экономического процесса. С целью регулирования миграционных процессов в Грузии был реализован не один проект; усовершенствована миграционная политика; создана «Миграционная стратегия Грузии на 2013-2015 годы» и план действия к ней, реализация которых, думаем, будет способствовать преодолению существующих проблем.

Labour migration is the sharpest social-economic problem of modern Georgia. Increase of unemployment, low level of remuneration and existed defaults in the labor legislation stimulate important part of population of Georgia to leave the country and find livelihood out of borders of country. Quite big part of workforce, more than million people by the expert estimation, works abroad.

Despite labor market reforms implemented for overcoming unemployment and consistence improvement of employment policy, for a number of objective or subjective factors, unemployment still remains as a major challenge for the country. According to the information of National Statistics Office of Georgia the unemployment rate in Georgia in 2013 decreased with 0.4 percentage points compare to 2012 and amounts to 14.6 percentages. [1]

Economically active population amounts to 66.2 percentage of working age population (15 years old and older population) in 2013. Compared to the last year the number of economically active population decreased with 1.2 percentages and the level of activity with 0.7 percentage points. Traditionally, the share of self-employed people prevails in employed people. The unemployment rate is much lower in rural people compared to urban residents. As for the rate of unemployment in regional section, Tbilisi – Capital of Georgia still distinguishes with the highest rate of unemployment. It should be noted that unemployment rate is higher among men than women. The main reason is that the most unemployed women are housewives and respectively they belong to inactive population category. Consideration of unemployment rate in age section shows us, that unemployment rate has reached the highest mark in 15-19 year old age group in 2013.

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Active population (labour force), thousand persons	2023.9	2021.8	1965.3	1917.8	1991.8	1944.9	1959.3	2029.1	2003.9
Employed, thousand persons	1744.6	1747.3	1704.3	1601.9	1656.1	1628.1	1664.2	1724.0	1712.1
Unemployed, thousand persons	279.3	274.5	261.0	315.8	335.6	316.9	295.1	305.1	291.8
Unemployment rate, percentage	13.8	13.6	13.3	16.5	16.9	16.3	15.1	15.0	14.6

[http://www.geostat.ge/index.php?action=page&p\\_id=146&lang=eng](http://www.geostat.ge/index.php?action=page&p_id=146&lang=eng)

Under the influence of the abovementioned circumstances the migration from Georgia acquired large-scale nature. Voluntary migration is promoted by the development of technologies, increase of accessibility for transport and cheaper travelling, accessibility of information, labor market diversification, greater and greater dissonance between levels of development of countries around the world. Studies confirm that 80-85% of labor migrants leave Georgia for economic reasons (unemployment, low salaries). Especially large is share of women among migrants - this index is higher than 45%. The majority of labor migrants are employed abroad illegally, not with specialty, on low-skilled and low-paid jobs. Positive aspects are also defined with negative – the poverty rate in the country would be higher than existed without money remittances and other kinds of transfers from labor migrants. International Organization for Migration (IOM) managed to reveal these five countries where the most Georgians live. Georgian citizens mostly go to Greece, Azerbaijan, Russia, Ukraine and the United States of America for working, studying or living. It became possible to establish this mainly through the fixed money remittances in the National Bank. Money remittances received from abroad are annually increased. In 2010 the transfers of money by migrants in Georgia amount to 1 052 thousand GEL, in 2011 - 1 268 thousand GEL, in 2012 - 1 334 thousand GEL and in 2013 - 1 934 thousand GEL.

It is indubitable that demographic situation of our country is worsened by migration processes. The UN estimates that if current demographic trends continue, Georgian population will be reduced with 20 million in 2000-2050, which is almost 40% of the current population. In addition, labor migration is mainly illegal natured and is related to our compatriots' extremely discriminatory employment and existence abroad. It is known that a number of labor migrants have become a victim of trafficking.

For the purpose of improving the management of migration processes it is necessary to implement a number of measures in the country, namely: labor migration, circular migration, visa policy development; General raising of public awareness in the issues of migration-related human rights, trafficking and border management; Visa regime liberalization; Support for Migration Policy Development. Current projects in the field of migration in Georgia are quite diverse according to the thematic directions:

Ø The project „Enhancing Georgia's Migration Management (ENIGMMA)“. The project is funded by the European Union under the Eastern Partnership Integration and Cooperation Programme. The project started in December 2013 and will run until June 2017.

Ø The project – Reinforcing the Capacities of the Government of Georgia in Border and Migration Management (More-for-More) – is funded under the Eastern Partnership Integration and Cooperation Programme 2012 and is implemented by the International Organization for Migration (IOM), Mission to Georgia. The project started on 15 December 2013 and will continue until June 2017. During this project IOM will implement a complex and integrated set of tailored capacity building activities for the Georgian authorities in enhancing border and migration management policies and institutional approaches in line with EU standards.

Ø The objective of Enhancing the Role of Georgian Emigrants at Home (ERGEM) project is to contribute to an increased role of Diasporas in Georgia's economic development by establishing links between the Georgian institutions and Georgians living abroad.[2]

For supporting the management of labor migration and economic development of the country it is important to organize statistical and analytical surveys of labor migration. Today migration statistics in Georgia are based on only accounting data of people who cross the borders, a statistical study of labor migration is not implemented (if we do not consider the episodic and small-scale studies of individual international and research organization). However, Georgia still remains as the country with high intensity of migration and in the near perspective; these trends are likely to be maintained. Therefore, a special emphasis is on the state regulation strategy of labor migration. It must ensure the legalization of migration, protection of the interests of individual labor migrants, stimulation of inter-state cooperation in the field of temporary employment of workforce. Exactly for this purpose "Migration Strategy of Georgia for the years 2013-2015"

and its action plan were created, the realization of them represents legal, informational and organizational basis for the regulation and effective management of labor migration. [3]

The aim of Georgian Government is to govern all processes related to migration by the consideration of interests of Georgian citizens and International Society. The special emphasis is on the development of circular migration, which, in its turn, implies a legal migration between Georgia and EU countries and undoubtedly it is beneficial for all parties involved in the process. The measures implemented within the strategy will be directed to further approximation of Georgia with the European and Euro-Atlantic structures. Considerable attention will be paid to the usage of positive effects of migration for the development of country. Promotion for process of reintegration of Georgian citizens will be implemented. Effective measures will be continued in terms of combat with trafficking and illegal migration, for the development and improvement of the system of persons having asylum and humanitarian status. Data collection about migration processes and appropriate scientific analysis will promote to plan the right policy in the field of migration in Georgia and its realization.

#### References:

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**Keywords:** unemployment, labor migrants, migration policy, migration strategy.

**Ключові слова:** безробіття, трудові емігранти, міграційна політика, міграційна стратегія.

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