

MIGRATION BAROMETER IN THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

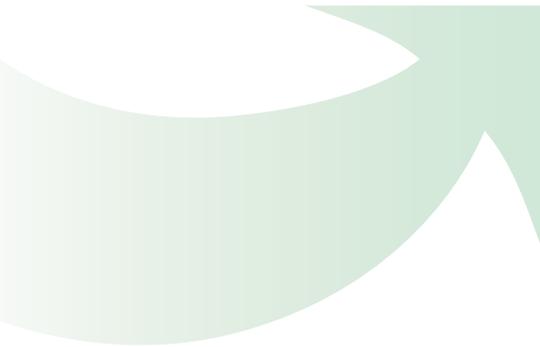


PROJECT

The role of the civil society in the migration policy should not be limited to designing recommendations or criticizing the government. Direct involvement of civil society institutions in addressing practical issues associated with the migration situation in our country is equally important. Helping migrants with adaptation and integration into local communities and overcoming xenophobia and nationalism are no easy tasks for the government without support from society. Addressing these tasks must be a collaborative effort of the government and society. This is why, since 2009, the New Eurasia Foundation has been implementing the project «Migration barometer in the Russian Federation». This project helps find an optimal balance between the public involvement and governmental practices, between a free academic research and current needs of our migration policy.



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foundation



The first phase of the project (2009–2010) was designed to draw the public attention to the problem of labour migration and migrants» rights in the Russian Federation. This phase of the project entailed conducting a series of panel discussions on relevant migration–related problems of contemporary Russia. These panel discussions generated a significant public response in Russia. As a result, the project participants designed specific recommendations on changing relevant migration laws. For example, the experts» recommendations were taken into account when drafting the law «On amending the RF Federal Law «On the legal status of foreign citizens in the Russian Federation». This law made it easier to recruit skilled foreign workers and required the labour migrants employed by physical entities to purchase employment patents.

The second phase of the project (2010–2011) was implemented during a period when the migration situation in Russia became even more complicated and migration–related problems became even more relevant. On the one hand, it is clear that Russia will have a hard time ensuring its ongoing economic development without migration. On the other hand, Russia has come to better understand the challenges represented by the influx of a large number of migrants, including the risks of interethnic and interreligious conflicts. The goal of the second phase of the project «Migration barometer in the Russian Federation» was to facilitate proactive liberal changes in the development of the Russian migration policy.

CONCEPTUAL REPORT «RUSSIAN MIGRATION POLICY»



To prepare a conceptual report on the need to change the Russian current migration policy the New Eurasia Foundation joined its efforts with the Institute of Contemporary Development (ICD). As the experts prepared the report they held five meetings to discuss the migration policy priorities, possible country development scenarios, and their reflection in the migration policy concept. The project experts presented specific sections of the conceptual report on the «Russian migration policy» designed thereby. Some of the materials prepared by the project experts were included in the «Migration processes and the future of Russia» chapter of the «Acquiring the future: Strategy 2012» report prepared by the Institute of Contemporary Development (<http://www.insor-russia.ru/ru>). In addition, the «Migration barometer in the Russian Federation» project has produced seven thematic brochures containing the most important provisions of each of the chapters of the conceptual report «Russian migration policy».

PANEL DISCUSSIONS, CONFERENCES, AND SEMINARS



A total of 13 panel discussions, an international seminar, and an international conference were held in 2009–2011 as part of the project «Migration barometer in the Russian Federation».

All events were attended by the leaders and top officials of the RF Federal Migration Service, RF Ministry of economic development, RF Ministry of social development and health care, deputies and administration officials of the RF State Duma and Federation Council, representatives of business associations — the Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs and OPORA ROSSII (the Russian national association of small and medium-sized businesses), officials of international organizations — International Labour Organization, International Migration Organization, UN–Women, UNESCO, Russian experts from the leading analytical centers, including the Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow State University, and the Higher School of Economics, representatives of nongovernmental organizations catering to the needs of migrants, and members of the press.

These project events produced a significant impact upon the development of the modern Russian migration policy. Many of the comments and recommendations made in the course of the panel discussions were taken into account in the development of the Russian migration policy concept that the RF government is anticipated to adopt at the end of 2011 or in early 2012.



PANEL DISCUSSIONS

- «Migration as an economic development factor»,
- «Certain approaches to improving the foreign workforce recruitment system in the Russian Federation»,
- «Labour migration to Russia: balancing administrative and market regulation»,
- «Consensus: assessing the number of labour migrants in Russia»,
- «The role of mass media in the development of the Russian migration policy»,
- «Russian migration policy in the conditions of a demographic decline»,
- «Problems of social integration of migrants in Russia»,
- «What kind of migration policy does Russia need: on the threshold of adopting a new migration policy concept?»,
- «Developing a service infrastructure for employers and migrants»,
- «The concept of the Russian governmental migration policy: migrants and education».

The panel discussions enabled the project experts to design recommendations on amending the Russian governmental migration policy concept. The project experts from among the members of the Interdepartmental working group for the development of the Russian governmental migration policy concept forwarded the recommendations designed in the course of the project to the RF Governmental Commission for the Migration Policy with the view to finalize the migration policy concept.



INTERNATIONAL PRACTICAL RESEARCH CONFERENCE «GENDER ASPECTS OF THE MIGRATION POLICY: LESSONS LEARNED AND RECOMMENDATIONS»

The conference participants analyzed the problems of female labour migration to Russia and initiated the development of a gender-sensitive governmental migration policy in the Russian Federation.



INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR «DEMOGRAPHIC AND MIGRATION- RELATED PROBLEMS IN RUSSIA, CHINA, AND INDIA: THE PROSPECTS OF EXCHANGING EXPERIENCES AND BEST PRACTICES»

The international seminar helped compare the trends in the migration and demographic changes in the three countries and identify the best solutions and practices in regulation of migration that could be applied in Russia.



PROJECT WEBSITE

Sustainable operation of the website <http://www.barmig.ru> is one of the most important results of the «Migration barometer in the Russian Federation» project. Over the past two years the website has managed to attract a great number of users interested in migration-related issues and this number keeps growing constantly.

The website was upgraded in the second phase of the project and two new rubrics were added to the existing ones. One of them offers materials concerning the most recent changes in the Russian migration law. The other covers activities of the project partners. Detailed information about the outcomes of all project events is available on the website. The website users can access complete transcripts of the past project activities, lists of participants, and key reports and presentations. All migration-related news is immediately published on the website. The New Eurasia Foundation continues publishing expert interviews on the project website. The database of the NGOs working for the benefit of migrants and refugees in the Russian Federation, as well as Russian and international organizations working to address problems associated with migration and labour resources has been expanded. The website library has expanded too: it now contains information about scores of books, magazines, and electronic publications on migration. Any user can find a migration-related article or book, read the annotation, and find out when and where it was published. Many of those articles and even book chapters can be viewed directly on the project website.



MONITORING THE BLOGOSPHERE

The website keeps monitoring the blogs thereby enabling its users to form their own opinions of the public response to the most recent changes in the migration policy of Russia and neighbouring countries, newly released migration-related articles and books, recently held public events, etc., and find out what lay citizens think about migration and migrants. It is now possible to find out what migrants themselves think about migration: in the course of the second phase of the project the New Eurasia Foundation published seven very interesting interviews with migrants from various CIS countries minutely describing their relocation experiences and their thoughts on the modern Russian migration policy.



WEBSITE POLLS

The New Eurasia Foundation continues to use the project website to poll its users on the most relevant migration-related problems in Russia. Almost 600 users have answered the questions on the website. The users were asked about the prospects of introducing patents for labour migrants, proposals on toughening registration of migrants in Russia, access of migrant children to Russian education, the needs of the Russian labour market in migrants and competition for jobs between migrants and local residents. The surveys show that the website users, at least, are coming to better understand how migrants may benefit the country's economic development and offset the natural decline of the permanent able-bodied population.

PUBLISHING ACTIVITIES

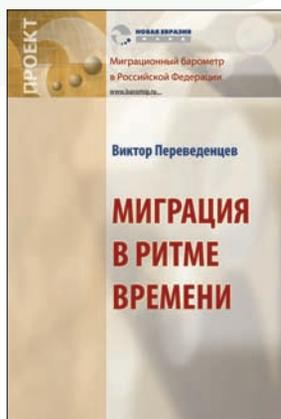
MIGRATION LIBRARY

The New Eurasia Foundation continues building a «migration library» consisting of electronic, as well as printed materials. The library includes the following publications:

- «Migration in Rhythm with Time» by Victor Perevedentsev. This is a compilation of several articles written by a prominent migration researcher, V.I. Perevedentsev. The author analyzes migration-related problems within a broad social context and their interconnection with the demographic processes, labour market, and regional development.
- «Migration and the Demographic Crisis», edited by Zh. A. Zayonchkovskaya and E. V. Tyuryukanova. The publication describes the outcomes of two large-scale research projects in the field of migration implemented by the Center for Migration Studies in 2008–2010.
- «Aching for Citizenship» by Lidia Grafova. This book is a collection of articles on citizenship issues written by the well-known human rights activist Lidia Grafova and published in the «Rossiyskaya Gazeta» over the course of ten years (2001–2010).
- «Russian migration policy prospects: choosing the right path» by I. V. Ivakhnyuk. The author attempts to assess Russia's migration policy implementation experience against the world's most advanced migration management methods and analyze its further development prospects.
- «Women-migrants from CIS in Russia» edited by E. V. Tyuryukanova. The book analyzes the role of women in modern migration processes. It debunks the common stereotype according to which labour migration is a primarily men's activity, describes women's various migration behaviour models, individual and family migration strategies, including migration with children, raises the issue of a gender-sensitive migration policy and states the need to expand the scope of social responsibility of the recipient government.

SEVEN THEMATIC BROCHURES PUBLISHED AS PART OF THE «RUSSIAN MIGRATION POLICY» REPORT:

- «Russian migration policy development scenarios» by V. A. Postavnin and N. I. Vlasova;
- «Labour market and migration» by O. D. Vorobyova;
- «Labour migration regulation mechanisms in developed countries» by M. B. Denisenko;
- «Does Russia need an internal migration policy?» by N. V. Mkrtchian;
- «Integration policy» by V. I. Mukomel;
- «Labour migration in Russia: how to proceed further» by E. V. Tyuryukanova, Zh. A. Zayonchkovskaya, and Yu. F. Florinskaya;
- «Statistical support of the migration policy of the Russian Federation» by O. S. Chudinovskikh.



PROJECT DEVELOPMENT PROSPECTS



The New Eurasia Foundation aims to build a mechanism of networking among the bodies of power, businesses, and nongovernmental organizations to keep the public effectively informed of the problems associated with labour migration and migrants» rights in the Russian regions and CIS member–states. To that end, the New Eurasia Foundation will help put together a forum for discussion of relevant migration–related issues, create conditions enabling the public to monitor observation of the rights of labour migrants, keep holding panel discussions and publish books on relevant migration issues.

PROJECT



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foundation

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