

УДК 331.556.4

Jankauskaitė D.,

Vilnius University, Kaunas Faculty of Humanities, Kaunas, ЛИТВА

**ANALYSIS OF UKRAINE'S AND LITHUANIA'S MIGRATION POLICIES**

*Oxfords dictionary defines migration as “movement of people to a new area or country in order to find work or better living conditions”. Migration is a complex process that manifests by affecting various aspects of well-being in countries of origin, destination and transit. Therefore it is an important task to analyze the migration policy, challenges and problems. As a result of regaining independence, Ukraine and Lithuania were faced with challenge of putting in place new migration policies. Aim – compare Ukraine’s and Lithuania’s migration policies.*

*Keywords: migration, migration policy, international migration, Lithuania, Ukraine.*

**АНАЛІЗ МІГРАЦІЙНОЇ ПОЛІТИКИ УКРАЇНИ ТА ЛИТВИ**

Янкаускайте Д.

*На основі аналізу теоретичних основ міграційної політики міграція розглядається як рух людей до нової області або країни, з тим щоб знайти роботу або кращі умови життя. Міграція є складним процесом, який проявляється через вплив різних аспектів добробуту в країнах походження, призначення та транзиту. Тому важливим завданням є аналіз міграційної політики, завдань і проблем. Розглянуті проблеми введення в дію нової міграційної політики Литви та України.*

*Ключові слова: міграція, міграційна політика, міжнародна міграція, Литва, Україна.*

**АНАЛИЗ МИГРАЦИОННОЙ ПОЛИТИКИ УКРАИНЫ И ЛИТВЫ**

Янкаускайте Д.

*На основе анализа теоретических основ миграционной политики миграция рассматривается как движение людей в новую область или страну с целью найти работу или лучшие условия жизни. Миграция является сложным процессом, проявляющимся через влияние разных аспектов благосостояния в странах происхождения, назначения и транзита. Поэтому важной задачей является анализ миграционной политики, задач и проблем. Рассмотрены проблемы введения в действие новой миграционной политики Литвы и Украины.*

*Ключевые слова: миграция, миграционная политика, международная миграция, Литва, Украина.*

**Introduction.** Ukraine and Lithuania are two of 15 republics of the former Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) that became independent states in 1991 after the USSR collapsed. Therefore new migration policies had to be put in place.

**The aim** is compare Ukraine's and Lithuania's migration policies.

The Ukrainian government began with abolishment of all exit restrictions in January 1993, followed by adoption of the „Law on the Order of Exit from Ukraine and Entrance to Ukraine for the Citizens of Ukraine“ in February 1994. Ukrainian citizens were guaranteed the right to freely move in and out of Ukraine. The basic principles of Ukraine's national migration policy are secured by its constitution. The 2003 “Law on Freedom of Movement and Free Choice of Residence in Ukraine” provides additional free movement guarantees [1]. In Ukraine immigration is regulated by the „Law on Immigration“ (2001), which foresees the quotas and a preference system. However migration policy is perceived in the context of control, law enforcement rather than a socio-economic task.

Düvell refers to Ukraine as Europe's Mexico, due to Ukraine and Russia possessing the second largest migration corridor in the world. As in Mexico – US case, Ukraine's and Russia's border exhibits high levels of illegal migration [2]. In order to prevent illegal migration, the government has launched a number of state programs that aim to improve border control and the visa acquisition process, and internal control.

In 2005 Ukraine served as a transit country for migration into the European Union. The 2004 May enlargement of the E.U. brought Ukraine to the edge of a new Europe. According to Malynovska this period of Ukraine's migration policy struggle is best described as “Caught Between East and West”, because while Ukraine strengthens relations with EU, it also must control the second largest migration corridor in the world [1]. In 2007 Ukraine joined the Council of Europe's key legal instrument in the field of migration – the European Convention on the Legal Status of Migrant Workers.

In March 2010, Ukraine established State Migration Service [3]. In pursuit of active migration policy, in 2012 Ukraine prepared several important legislations: “Law on the Legal Status of Foreign Citizens and Stateless Persons”, “Law on Refugees and Persons in Need of Subsidiary and Temporary Protection” and “Action Plan on Integration of Refugees until 2020”. Ukraine has been strengthening migration policy, development of migration policy involves the State Migration Service of Ukraine, the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine and the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine. Projects are aimed at providing electronic services to immigrants and emigrants.

For a while active migration policy was not conducted in Ukraine, therefore there haven't been any attempts to use any mechanisms to attract long-term immigrant workers with high demand skills: the quota for foreigners and stateless persons who are highly qualified specialists and workers has never been established, although it is provided for in the immigration law [4]. In addition, immigrants into Ukraine tend to be either ethnic Ukrainians or residents of post-Soviet

countries, only recently has Ukraine faced challenges integrating immigrants from culturally different regions.

Among challenges faced by Ukraine's migration strategy are included: reintegration of returning migrants, repatriation of ethnic Ukrainians, education of emigrated children, ensuring voting rights abroad, and procedure simplification for emigrants and promotion of investments by emigrants. Due to the complicated situation of the country in 2014, a lot of issues arose, concerning migration and increased number of requests for asylum.

During the first year of Lithuania's independence, government directed its focus towards development of educational and cultural activities in ethnic Lithuanian communities in neighboring countries and establishment and nurture of connections with Lithuanian communities residing in foreign countries. At the beginning of the independence, returning expatriates included not only those displaced to the eastern countries during soviet period, but also expatriates (or their offspring) from earlier emigration waves to western destinations. They would face issues concerning citizenship, taxation etc. Therefore in 1997 a special commission was assembled, tasked with coordinating „Integration of Lithuania's expatriates back to homeland programme“.

Lithuanian migration policy of 1998 is characterized by the desire to accede to the European Union and the associated conditions of bringing national law in line with the *acquis communautaire* [5]. As mentioned earlier, in 2004 European Union was supplemented by Poland, Hungary and Slovakia, in addition to Lithuania. Lithuania along with other four recently accepted member countries was granted a right to use the following four freedoms: 1) Free transit among EU member states, which delivered the right to employment, residence and eliminated border control between the member states; 2) Main freedoms for EU citizens in other member countries, such as equal economic policies, and civil rights; 3) Immigration and asylum policy, concerning refugee cooperation policy as well as common policy with regards to the citizens of third world countries ; 4) Cooperation between law enforcement and judicial institutions to combat drug trafficking, terrorist activity and international crime [5].

Using these freedoms, Lithuanians are able to emigrate to EU countries and Lithuania was one of the leading EU countries according to the number of emigrants. Only since 2006 a clear realization was established, that Lithuania has no strategy concerning migration, therefore migration strategies, plans and means for reducing emigration were prepared, one of such important legislations is “Strategy of economical migration regulation”, which was confirmed in 2007. However Lithuania is also concerned with low level of immigration. The 2007 Economic Migration Regulation Strategy and Immigration Policy Guidelines identify four prioritized countries and regions of origin: Ukraine, Belarus, Moldova, and South Caucasus.

In 2010 The Migrant Integration Policy Index, which ranks 31 countries according to their integration policies, positioned Lithuania in the 27th place. Even though various means were employed, public discussions on migration were actively conducted – Lithuania's migration policy remained weak. In addition, attempts to increase immigration and reduce emigration didn't give any

noticeable results. Lithuania can be described as a country with a rather restrictive labor immigration policy. Workers from third countries are considered to be only a temporary solution and therefore are not allowed to stay after their contract is finished or terminated. They cannot change their employer or look for work while in the country. However, in 2010 – 2011 arrival procedures have been simplified [7]. Lithuania has not yet developed a coherent integration program for foreigners (except those under international protection).

**Conclusion.** Since regaining independence both, Lithuania and Ukraine were faced with various issues related to migration. Ukraine was attempting to control world's second largest border, with Russia and at the same time trying to maintain good relations with European Union, in the meantime Lithuania diverted most of its efforts towards communication with Lithuanian communities abroad and attempts to adapt European Union's migration policy. Ukraine conducts a more liberal immigration policy, when compared to Lithuania. Due to higher immigration, Ukraine's net migration is currently positive, while Lithuania's – negative (as it was since regaining independence).

1. *Malynovska O. Caught Between East and West, Ukraine Struggles with Its Migration Policy [Electronic resource] / O. Malynovska. – Mode of access: <http://www.migrationpolicy.org/article/caught-between-east-and-west-ukraine-struggles-its-migration-policy>.*

2. *Düvell F. Ukraine – Europe's Mexico? [Electronic resource] / F. Düvell // Research Resource Report 1/3: Country Profile, Oxford: COMPAS. – Mode of access: [https://www.compas.ox.ac.uk/fileadmin/files/Publications/Research\\_projec...](https://www.compas.ox.ac.uk/fileadmin/files/Publications/Research_projec...)*

3. *Decree of the President of Ukraine №405/2011, On the Statute of the State Migration Service of Ukraine [Electronic resource]. – Mode of access: <http://zakon1.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/405/2011>.*

4. *Korostelina K. M. Ukraine twenty years after independence: Concept models of the society [Electronic resource] / K. M. Korostelina // Communist and Post-Communist Studies. – 2006. – Vol. 46. – No 1.*

5. *Focus Migration, Country Profile. Lithuania. – 2007. – No.7 (Hamburg Institute of International Economics). – Mode of access: [http://focusmigration.hwwi.de/typo3\\_upload/groups/3/focus\\_Migration\\_Publikationen/Laenderprofile/CP\\_07\\_Lithuania.pdf](http://focusmigration.hwwi.de/typo3_upload/groups/3/focus_Migration_Publikationen/Laenderprofile/CP_07_Lithuania.pdf).*

6. *Hix S. Europas Sjungos politinė sistema / S. Hix. – Vilnius: Eugrimas, 2006.*

7. *International Organization for Migration, Migration Profile: Lithuania [Electronic resource]. – Mode of access: [http://www.iom.lt/documents/Migration\\_profile\\_EN.pdf](http://www.iom.lt/documents/Migration_profile_EN.pdf).*

8. *Oxford Dictionaries [Electronic resource]. – Mode of access: <http://www.oxforddictionaries.com/definition/english/migration>.*