

EMN LITHUANIA CONFERENCE

Navigating a Changing Labour Migration Landscape in Lithuania and EMN Countries

CONCEPT NOTE & AGENDA

24 April 2024

1. RATIONALE AND AIMS

Migration has become a critical factor influencing economic development and demographic trends within the European Union (EU). Skilled migrants possess significant potential to make substantial contributions to the growth and innovation of the country's economy. The European Migration Network (EMN) recognizes that, in the context of unprecedented demographic changes, technological development, and the growing mobility of workers, skills shortages in the EU are becoming increasingly pronounced¹.

Additionally, over the past decade, migrants from post-Soviet states had a significant impact on shaping the overall migration picture in Lithuania and in the region. This impact is particularly notable in terms of skilled migration, talents, and highly qualified migrants².

However, geopolitical turmoil introduced by actions of Russian and Belarusian regimes alters labour migration situation in Central and Eastern Europe. In this context, it is imperative to discuss how EMN Member and Observer Countries address existing labour shortages, adapt to changing political situations, and gather insights from the available good practices. As a result, the conference on *Navigating a Changing Labour Migration Landscape in Lithuania and EMN Countries* delves into the ways countries attempt to attract migrants, ensure ethical recruitment, and implement labour market integration policies. In turn, the conference will provide a platform for experts to explore viable solutions that can unlock labour market potential to address existing challenges.

¹ European Migration Network (EMN) Inform on [Skills Mobility Partnerships: Exploring Innovative Approaches to Labour Migration](#), last accessed 08/02/2024.

² Currently, there are about 49,000 Belarusian citizens living in Lithuania. Some 5,200 Belarusian IT professionals are based in Lithuania. Migration of Belarusian citizens to Lithuania has increased after the unfair Belarusian elections in August 2020, which were followed by mass repression by the Lukashenko regime. The second wave was triggered by Russia's war against Ukraine. According to a survey conducted last year, around 86% of respondents said they left Belarus for political reasons. <https://vrm.lrv.lt/en/news/minister-a-bilotaitė-and-s-tsichanouskaya-discussed-about-belarusians-in-lithuania>, last accessed 08/02/2024.

2. PRACTICAL INFORMATION

The Conference is organised by the European Migration Network in Lithuania (EMN Lithuania) in close cooperation with the Ministry of the Interior of Lithuania. EMN in Lithuania is represented by International Organization for Migration (IOM Lithuania) Vilnius office. The event will take place in Vilnius, Lithuania on 24 April 2024. The event will gather National Contact Points from EMN Member and Observer Countries, Prague Process participants, public employment service experts as well as national network members, policy makers, NGOs, international organisations, and other stakeholders.

FORMAT

Venue: Holiday Inn Hotel, Šeimyniškių g. 1, LT-09312, Vilnius, Lithuania

Date and time: 24 April 2024, 9:00 to 14:20

Language: English

Attendance: in-person, for registered participants only.

3. AGENDA

Time	
08.45 – 09.00	Registration and Coffee
09.00 – 09.15	Welcoming Remarks and Introduction <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ <i>Vice Minister of The Ministry of Social Security and Labour of Lithuania (tbc)</i>▪ <i>Mr Eitvydas Bingelis, Head of IOM Lithuania</i>
09.15 – 09.45	Keynote Speech <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Addressing Labour Migration Challenges in Europe: Policies, Lessons, and Dilemmas <i>Mr Martin Ruhs, Professor and Deputy Director of the Migration Policy Centre</i>
09.45 – 10.45	Panel 1: Strategies and Lessons from Countries' Experiences in Attracting Labour Migrants <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Lithuania. How Smaller Countries Can Compete for Talent? Insights and experience of WorkInLithuania.com <i>Ms Laima Bendoraitytė, Work in Lithuania / Invest Lithuania</i>▪ Germany. New Immigration Law to Tackle Shortage of Skilled Workers. The Most Modern Skilled Worker Bill in the World? <i>Tbc</i>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Czechia. How to Attract Foreign Workers? Plans and experience how to fill shortlisted occupations. <i>Ms Anna Brabcová, Director, Labour Market Integration Department, Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs of the Czech Republic</i> ▪ Moderated discussion and Q&A
10.45 – 11.15	Coffee Break
11.15 – 12.15	<p>Panel 2: How to Ensure Rights-Based Labour Mobility</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ethical Recruitment. IOM Italy experience in protecting migrants through collaboration with the National Labour Inspectorate and use of cultural mediators. <i>Mr Giovanni Abbate, International Organization for Migration (IOM) in Italy</i> ▪ Prague Process Country Experience. <i>(tbc)</i> ▪ Lithuania. Business Initiatives for Migrant Rights and Labor Market Integration. <i>(tbc)</i> ▪ Moderated discussion and Q&A
12:15 - 13:15	Lunch
13:15-14:15	<p>Panel 3: Role of Governmental Institutions Addressing Changing Labour Landscape</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Lithuania. Labor Market Transformation: Navigating Changing Geopolitical and Migration Realities <i>Mn Inga Balnanosienė, Director, Lithuanian Public Employment Service</i> ▪ Luxembourg. Online Language Tests for Jobseekers: Promoting rapid acquisition of basic language skills <i>Ms Nadège Dubois, Agency for the Development of Employment (ADEM)</i> ▪ Romania. Shifting Role: How to Tackle Severe Labour Shortages <i>Mr Emil Niculescu, Head of Risk Analysis Department, General Inspectorate for Immigration</i> ▪ Moderated discussion and Q&A
14.15 – 14:20	Closing Remarks