



# BELARUS

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**Tenth GFMD Summit Meeting  
28-30 June 2017**

**Roundtable 1: Migration and Development through National Strategies:  
Enhancing the Effectiveness of Domestic Policies**

**Roundtable 1.1 Tools and Safeguards for Policy Coherence – Finding the right  
policy mix to balance different interests and objectives**

Nowadays we are witnessing an unprecedented level of human mobility. Migration is evidently the most large-scale international phenomenon today. It directly affects the global demographic processes and socio-economic development of either separate states and the whole regions of the world.

Though forced displacement and irregular migration in large movements often present complex challenges, Belarus recognizes the positive contribution made by migrants for inclusive growth and sustainable development. Unfortunately, taking into account the actual state of things, the benefits and opportunities of safe, orderly and regular migration are often underestimated.

The current migration situation in Belarus is manageable. Migration processes have no profound effect on the socio-political and criminogenic situation in the country.

According to the statistics, the rate of crimes annually committed by migrants in Belarus is between 1.3% and 1.5% of the total number of registered crimes (the lowest index among the CIS countries).

The official data reflect the positive migration balance in Belarus over recent years.

The trends of external labour migration have been changed under the influence of economic situation in Belarus and the countries of destination. For instance, in the period between 2009 and 2012, the number of Belarussian workers abroad constantly increased. In 2013 and 2014 their number decreased. However, since 2016 it has been growing again.

Belarusians temporarily migrate for work to Russia (the main country of destination), and European states and USA. It should be taken into account that a considerable number of them depart on their own, i.e. under no official labour agreements or contracts with employers abroad. According to non-official data, about 50 ths Belarusians work in Russia annually.

Belarussian migrants do not use migration as an economic survival strategy but rather as a strategy to improve living conditions at home. Unemployment appears to be a less important reason for seeking work abroad than low wages in Belarus and the possibility of earning quick money outside the country.

Belarus, in its turn, is also attractive for labour migrants. The number of foreigners who come to Belarus for work tends to grow. For instance, in 2016 over 20 ths labour migrants (including about 5 ths skilled workers and specialists) came to Belarus under labour agreements and contracts. They were mostly from China, Ukraine, Russia and Uzbekistan.

Belarus labour migration policy is focused on: 1) protection of the national labour market from uncontrolled foreign labour flows, and 2) mitigation of the situation in the internal labour market by placing Belarusians in jobs abroad.

In order to improve the legal regulation of external labour migration, the Law of the Republic of Belarus "On external labour migration" was adopted in 2010.

Belarus migration policy also aims to provide national demographic security.

Taking into account the negative natural population growth in Belarus, migrants can help to address this challenge and contribute to the demographic stability. In 2013-2015 the population increased in Belarus, inter alia, owing to migrants (the overall population growth equals from 4.3 ths in 2013 to 17.5 ths in 2015).

Migration issues are also present in the fundamental national instruments, such as the National Strategy for Sustainable Social and Economic Development for the period till 2030 and the National Programme for Demographic Security for 2016-2020, providing for a wide range of measures to manage external migration with due attention to demographic situation and socio-economic development of the country.

At present the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Belarus, which is responsible for migration regulation at the national level, is considering the development of a concept of the national migration policy. It could serve as an important instrument contributing to the national security, socio-economic development of the country and efficient governance of migration processes.