



**European Economic and Social Committee**

# **Labour Migration and Mobility in the European Union**

## **Assessing Attractiveness and Labour Market Needs**

7<sup>th</sup> May 2013

**Organizers:** Centre for European Policy Studies (CEPS) &  
European Economic and Social Committee (EESC)



## **RATIONALE AND SCOPE**

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Mobility has played a fundamental role in European integration processes. The objective of creating an attractive labour immigration policy was reflected in the Europe 2020 Strategy, which identified economic migration as one of the key factors contributing to economic vitality and competitiveness. Current demographic projections indicate that the EU will need foreign labour force for it to boost its growth and labour markets' stability. Ensuring openness and attractiveness of Europe's labour markets have been therefore identified as priorities.

Since 1999 the EU has aimed at progressively developing a common EU immigration policy offering common rules on conditions of entry and residence of third country nationals. Several pieces of legislation and international agreements have been adopted offering a fragmented and dispersed framework on access and working conditions of non-EU nationals in Europe's labour markets. The development of a labour immigration policy has however remained contested and remains a key challenge for the Union, with Member States remaining hesitant to transfer competences to the EU and questions of non-discrimination and racism still contested across several national arenas.

The ongoing period of economic and financial instabilities across Europe, and the raising of unemployment and poverty rates in several Member States, is posing additional policy dilemmas for the EU. The crises is reframing who is a citizen and who is a foreigner in the Union, with young EU citizens from Southern European countries facing obstacles at times of ensuring their labour market participation and inclusion elsewhere across the EU. It has also led to the emergence of several Member States' policy initiatives and practices putting in tension the principle of the free movement of persons in the Union.

This Seminar aims at discussing the current state of affairs and next steps on the EU policy agenda in the field of labour immigration and mobility policy. It will cover the main EU policy achievements and challenges characterizing migration and mobility for employment purposes. Particular attention will be paid to the ways in which the "attractiveness" of the EU's labour immigration policy as it is shaped today and could be fostered in the future. The role and experiences of the social partners and civil society organisations will be also placed at the heart of these debates.

The event falls within the framework of NEUJOBS, a research project financed by the European Commission, under the 7th Framework Programme and coordinated by CEPS. The objective is to analyse future possible developments of the European labour market(s) under the main assumption that European societies are now facing or preparing to face four main transitions that will have a major impact on employment, in particular for some groups in the labour force or sectors of the economy.

**08.30 – 09.00: Registration****09.00 – 09.30: Welcome Addresses**

- **Chair:** Sergio Carrera (CEPS)
- **Luis Miguel Pariza Castaños** (EESC)
- **Claude Moraes** (MEP)
- **Marc Goffart** (DG Research, European Commission), *Presentation of the NEUJOBS project*

**09.30 – 11.00: OPENING PANEL: Implementing Stockholm: Towards Codification or Legal Fragmentation?**

This panel focuses on the current state of affairs and the future EU policy agenda in respect of labour immigration policy. The implementation of the Stockholm Programme and its future implications will be subject to discussion. How the current EU labour immigration policy and the prospect of adopting an EU Immigration Code could increase the 'attractiveness' of Europe's immigration policy, and what added value and challenges such a code would entail? What are the prospects for the successor multi-annual JHA programme as from 2014?

- **Chair:** Giuseppe Iuliano (EESC)
- **Stefano Manservigi** (DG Home, European Commission)
- **Luis Miguel Pariza Castaños** (EESC, European Economic and Social Committee)
- **Sergio Carrera** (CEPS)

*Discussants:* **Luca Visentini** (ETUC) and **Maxime Cerutti** (Business Europe)

Open Discussion

**11.00 – 11.30 Coffee Break**

**11.30 – 13.00 PANEL I: Migration and Mobility in the EU: Costs and Benefits**

Panel I concentrates on the relationship between migration, mobility and social benefits in the EU and aims to identify the main controversies that arise in this context. What do we know about access by third-country nationals and EU citizens to social benefits moving to a second Member State in the EU?

- **Chair:** Cristian Pîrvulescu (EESC)
  - **Jörg Tagger** (DG Employment, European Commission)
  - **Corrado Giulietti** (IZA Germany)
  - **Hervig Verschueren** (University of Antwerp)
  - **Michal Meduna** (DG Justice, European Commission)
- Discussants:* **Shannon Pfohman** (ENAR) and **Katharina Eisele** (CEPS)

Open Discussion

**13.00 – 14.30 Buffet Lunch****14.30 – 16.00: PANEL II: Wanted Skills: Labour Market Matching and Labour Mobility**

Panel II focuses on labour market matching in the EU. It examines how labour mobility can contribute to synchronizing labour demand and supply. Immigrants are often considered a valuable element to meet skills shortages (and to counterbalance demographic developments) but on the other hand they are the group most likely to be unemployed. This panel aims to identify skill patterns that could untap immigrants' potential. The role of 'New Skills' will be discussed.

- **Chair:** Irini Pari (EESC)
- **Sergio Cofferati** (MEP)
- **Ferruccio Pastore** (FIERI)
- **Patrick Taran** (Global Migration Policy Associates, GMPA)
- **Luca Visentini** (ETUC)
- **Robert Plummer** (Business Europe)
- **Anna-Elisabeth Thum** (CEPS)

*Discussants:* **Peter Verhaeghe** (Caritas Europe) and **Ilaría Maselli** (CEPS)

Open Discussion

**Conference organized by:**



**CENTRE FOR EUROPEAN POLICY STUDIES**



*European Economic and Social Committee*

**EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE**

**Within the framework of:**



**The NEUJOBS project**



**Funded by the EU 7<sup>th</sup> Framework Programme for Research**

**Date:** 7<sup>th</sup> May 2013

**Venue:** European Economic and Social Committee

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**Location:** Room JDE 62

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