

MIGRATION PROFILES OF THE SENDING (EASTERN PARTNER) COUNTRIES

4.1 Belarus: integration in the international migration space

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4.1.1 Introduction

The Republic of Belarus has had the profile of “donating” country in the context of international migration processes for a long historical period. The population of the Republic of Belarus under the influence of political and socio-economic factors emigrated to the republics of the former Soviet Union or to the countries of Europe, North America and Asia. As a result, the balance of international migration has traditionally had a negative trend.

The Republic of Belarus has become a full participant of the global migration space since the independence. Significant shifts in international migration have occurred during more than twenty years of socio-economic development in the new economic conditions – the factors, volume and structure of migration have changed. Belarus has become a corridor for international migration both legal and illegal. At the same time, due to relative social and economic stability within the post-Soviet states Belarus has become an attractive destination in terms of temporary and permanent employment for the citizens of CIS and other foreign countries.

International migration balance of Belarus in 2000s was positive for the first time during the long history of migration. However, from the aspect of scale and share in the total migration of the Republic of Belarus international migration is not significant with about 5% of the total migration. The volume of international migration is reducing indicating as it does the position of low migration activity of the country. The dominant flows of international migration are directed to and from the CIS countries. The main migration partner is Russia – the major donor and recipient of international migrants. Visegrad countries in the structure of international migration of Belarus have no significant volume either in emigration or in immigration. Within Visegrad countries Poland has the highest level of migration mobility of the population.

International migration in Belarus can be considered as an element of the natural decrease replacing and eliminating the deficit on some specialties in the labour market in the conditions of the depopulation. Problem fields of international migration in Belarus are:

- the emigration of labour force, the so-called “minds and hands” (highly skilled ICT staff, university professors, skilled workers, construction workers, drivers, etc.) as a result of which branches of the economy with deficit of the labour force were formed,
- low-skilled labour force immigration from Asia: these flows are not always registered but definitely change the social climate in some regions of the country.

The main driving forces of labour emigration from Belarus are: higher wages, higher living standards and a much higher quality of life in the EU.

To enhance the prestige of scientific sphere in Belarus is a complex problem: motivation of employment in the home country, material stimulation, rewards and approaching wage levels to the average European level are all to be solved to stop the outflow of highly qualified intellectuals presently forced to leave Belarus because of the gaps in wage levels.

Taking into account the transit and border position of the country with the European Union it appears expedient to develop a monitoring system of illegal migration and regulation of immigrant's structure (including age, income, marital status, education, skills, etc.)

Migration policy in the country is of utmost importance on the basis of a realistic evaluation of the current impact and prospects of international migration in Belarus. Legislation in the field of legal labour migration, struggle with illegal migration, the refugee problem, human trafficking, etc. is actively being developed in the Republic of Belarus. Along with this, bilateral acts between individual states that stipulates preferential conditions for registration and employment of foreign workers are developed to solve the shortage of labour force in rural areas in the country.

4.1.2 General demographic trends and the role of international migration

Demographic development of Belarus in the late 20th-early 21st centuries is characterized by evolutionary trends appropriate for the most advanced countries showing specific capacities of the second and third demographic transitions. Due to the change of fertility behaviour of the population there is a decline of the birth rate in the country whereas the increase of socio-economic development determines demographic ageing and the increase of life expectancy. Natural loss and annual population decline along with migration influence the formation of the demographic balance in the Republic of Belarus. During the period 1991-2012 the population size has declined for 7%: from 10189, 9 to 9465, 2 million people. The character of natural population movement in Belarus has not changed a lot as the mortality rate has exceeded the birth rate in the country since 1993. Whereas in 1991 in Belarus a natural population growth could be observed (1, 8%) in 2012 natural decline was 2.8%. Today the determining feature in the Belarus demographical balance is the natural decline of population (Antipova 2008).

In the 21st century multidirectional trends of demographic dynamics are typical for urban and rural population. The annual growth of population (0.4%) and its natural increase (0,7‰, 2012) is characteristic in the urban area, but in the rural area there is a stable tendency of depopulation with annual decline (2.6‰), mortality exceeding birth rate and a natural decline in the population (13.1‰).

Having acquired independence The Republic of Belarus became a full-fledged participant of the migration space of the world system. For more than two decades under new economic conditions some significant spatio-temporal changes in both domestic and international migration have taken place in the socio-economic development of Belarus. During 1991–2012 the rate, reasons and the issue of migration and the migrants have

changed cardinally. In addition to this fact The Republic of Belarus relatively stable in socio-economic terms in the post-soviet space has become attractive as a temporary and permanent employment opportunity for CIS and other foreign citizens.

In the period from 1991 to 2010 the total volume of international migration in the Republic of Belarus amounted to approximately 1.5 million people. The maximum value of migration reached in 1990 was 256.1 thousand people followed by a steady decline. The international migration proportion in the overall migration throughout the period varies in the interval of 5%. The main trend in the volume of international migration of the population of Belarus for 1991–2012 was a reduction which amounted to 90% for the period and shows the tenfold decrease. Having examined the trends and the volume of arrival and leaving processes of international migrants reduction as a main trend can be stated as typical for both. At the same time the rate of leaving reduction is higher than that of the arrival. The total number of international migrants arrived in Belarus has been reduced by 85%, the number of those who have left by 95%. Whereas in 1990 the intensity of inflow was 11.39%, and outflow rate was 13.74%, in 2010 the arrival decreased to 1.81%, and the outflow reached record low values – less than 1 (0.72%) proving of a sharp decline in the activity of international migration in the Republic of Belarus (Table 1, Fig. 1).

Table 1. Dynamics of main indexes of international migration in the Republic of Belarus

Year	Migration volume, persons	Migration balance, persons	Intensity of inflow, %	Intensity of outflow, %	Net migration, %
1990	256072	-23948	11,39	13,74	-2,35
1995	69937	-205	3,41	3,43	-0,02
2000	39755	12131	2,59	1,38	1,21
2005	24113	1949	1,34	1,14	0,20
2010	24035	10303	1,81	0,72	1,08

Source: author's compilation based on National Statistical Committee of the Republic of Belarus data

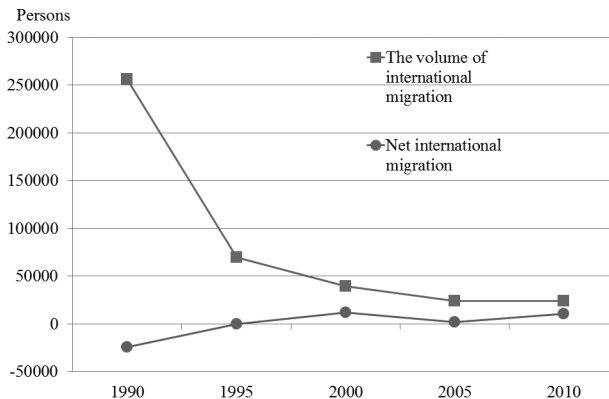


Figure 1. The nature and volume of international migration in the Republic of Belarus

Transformational nature of the trend is typical for the international net migration of the population of the Republic of Belarus in 1991–2012. At the beginning of the studied period in 1990 Belarus permanently kept the position of a “giving country” in the world market with the negative balance value 2,35‰ as a consequence of the processes after the fall of the Soviet Union. During the first independent years of Belarus for the first time in the long-term demographic history the net international migration was positive and its value doubled from 31 to 68 thousand, or in relative terms with 3.08‰ to 6.65‰ in two years – 1991–1992. In the following years (except the period 1994–1995) up to the present time the balance of international migration in Belarus has been and is still positive at the level 10 thousand, which means 1.08 per 1,000 inhabitants (Antipova et al 2013) (Fig. 2).

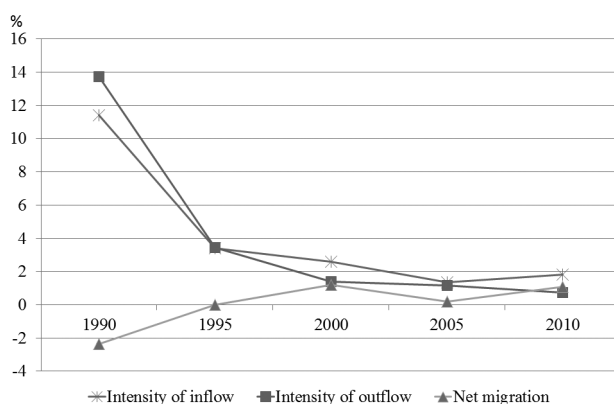


Figure 2. The international migration intensity of the population of the Republic of Belarus

For the detailed analysis of the international migration dynamics in the Republic of Belarus during the period 1991–2010 researches suggest three sub periods.

- First years after the breakdown of the USSR (1991–1995). The largest migration flows in Belarus had been observed in the early 1990s, when labour migration to a large extent was caused by transformational changes in the economy and in politics. After the fall of the USSR ethnic Belarusians returned to Belarus. At the same time there was a growth of refugees and a return of migrants. For the first subperiod the total migration volume amounted to 711.9 thousand people, which is 58.2% of the total number of labour migrants for the period 1991–2010.
- Stabilization of socio-economic development in Belarus (1996–2006). There was a decline in migration population growth particularly as a result of the reduction of the flow of the people arriving in the country whose number statistically lower the rate of those who leave the country. It's necessary to mention the decline of migration exchange of the countries outside the CIS. During this subperiod the total number of migrants was reduced to 407.7 thousand people, or 33.3% of the total number of migrants in the period 1991–2010.

- The realization of The National program of demographic security of the Republic of Belarus (2007–2010). Through the implementation of the program a number of measures were taken that facilitated the procedures for obtaining citizenship and residence permits, for example, for the former inhabitants of Belarus. It gave the opportunity for more migrants to come back to the country officially. However, the effect of these measures did not last long. For the third subperiod the total number of migrants amounted to 101.8 thousands, that is 8.5% of the total number of labour migrants for the period 1991–2010.

In the Republic of Belarus migration exchange with the countries of the CIS is prevalent with 966 thousand people, or 79.1% of the total volume of international migration during 1991–2010. The proportion of international migrants from the countries outside CIS in 1991–2010, was 20.9%, or 259.0 thousand people (Table 2).

Table 2. The dynamics of international migration in the Republic of Belarus during 1991–2010 (thousand people)

Period	Migration volume	Immigration volume	Emigration volume	Migration balance	The arrivals from CIS	The arrivals from non CIS countries	The left to CIS	The left to non CIS countries	Balance with CIS countries	Balance with non CIS countries
1991–1995	712	424,3	287,7	136,6	338	86,3	226,8	60,9	111,2	25,4
1996–2006	407,8	255,5	152,3	103,2	229,1	26,4	88,4	63,9	140,7	–37,5
2007–2010	101,9	68,6	33,3	35,3	56,8	11,8	24,1	9,2	32,7	2,6
1991–2010	1221,7	748,5	473,3	275,1	623,9	124,5	339,3	134	284,6	–9,5

Source: author's compilation based on National Statistical Committee of the Republic of Belarus data

The total number of new arrivals from CIS countries is 623.9 thousand people. The number of new arrivals from non-CIS countries is almost 6 times less than with the countries of the CIS 124.6 thousand people.

The analysis of geographical data on international migration shows that the main exchange occurs with the CIS countries: Russia, Ukraine and Kazakhstan, which is 72.3% of the total volume of the international migration for the period. Russia is the primary destination. The Ukraine and Kazakhstan, which were on the second and third places consequently in 2000, in 2010 seem to have swapped in the rating. In 2000 the fourth and fifth places were occupied by Uzbekistan and the Republic of Moldova, with a share of 1.5% and 1.7%. In 2010, their places were taken by Turkmenistan with 3.2% and Azerbaijan 1.9%. The introduction of these states in the rating data is to be associa-

ted with more than one aspect: the employment of specialists in the sphere of construction and trade, as well as the increase of foreign students admitted to the universities of Belarus (Antipova et al 2013).

According to the distribution of new arrivals from non-CIS countries the first place in both 2000 and 2010 is occupied by Lithuania, the share of which increased from 1.5 to 4.6% in 2010, which is an indication of the return of the ethnic Belarusians. The number of legal migrants from China for 10 years was reduced by approximately 1/3, which may prove the growth of illegal migration in the country as well as the fact of specialists employed in the sphere of construction from the P.R. China.

Latvia has changed its place from the third to the second one with almost double increase in the proportion of migrants, with 1.1% to 2.1%. The reasons for this growth are identical to Lithuania – the return of Belarusians to their homeland. Leading position in the rating of countries of immigration to Belarus is occupied by Poland, Lebanon and Israel. This can be explained by return migration from the countries where mass emigration took place in the early 1990s, after which a considerable number of migrants returned to Belarus as repatriates.

During 1991–2010 the number of drop-outs from the CIS countries was 342.1 thousand people. The most active exchange with the countries of CIS was carried out in 1991 and 1995: 226.8 thousands or 66% of the total number moved from Belarus. In the following periods the emigration declined: from 226.8 thousand people in 1996–2006 to 24.4 thousand people during 2007–2010.

The number of drop-outs from the countries outside CIS for the period 1991–2010 was nearly 1/3 of the immigration flow from the countries of the CIS for the same period: i.e. 134, 4 thousand people. For the period 2007–2010, there was a sharp reduction in the number of emigrants up to 9.5 thousand people, which means a reduction in comparison to the level of 1991 was 84.4%.

The emigration level of countries was also analyzed with a rating method. The share of Russia from 2000 to 2010 increased from 42.3% to 61.7%, the share of Ukraine and Kazakhstan remained approximately the same, at the level 8.0% and 1.0%, respectively.

The indicator reflecting the character of international migration is the migration balance of flows to CIS and non-CIS countries. For the period 1991–2010 the countries of the CIS maintained a positive balance, which reached 281.8 thousand people, 40%, or 111.3 thousand people of whom 50% were in 1991–1995, or 138.2 thousand people were in 1996–2006, the remaining 10%, or 32.3 thousand people were in 2007–2010.

In contrast to the positive value balances with the CIS countries, with non-CIS countries during the period 1991–2010 there was a negative migratory balance in Belarus amounting to 9.5 thousand people which is a summarized value of the following subperiods: +25.4 thousand people – 1991–1995, -37.5 thousand people – in 1996–2006; and +2.6 thousand people in 2007–2010. As we can see, the migration balance during different subperiods varies, it is positive during the first and the last phases, during the second, the longest one, it is negative.

Regarding the characteristics of migration in different regions in Belarus both general and distinctive trends have been identified. Firstly, there is a certain dynamics in the mig-

ration volume decline in all the regions during 1998–2010 from 5.5–8.8 thousand people to 2.3–4.4 thousand people which means an average 0.4–0.5% per year.

Secondly, positive balance is still present in all the regions even in their reduction. In 2010, a maximum balance of migration was in Gomel region – 2195 people (1.53%), followed by the western area of Belarus (Brest: 1907 people, 1.36% and Grodno: 1555 people, 1.45%), which traditionally has been more attractive from the migration point of view. Central Minsk region is ranked in the middle of the list of international migration balance in 2010 of 1526 people (1.08%). The list is ended by Vitebsk (1311 people, 1, 07%), and Mogilev (678 people, 0.62%) regions. Among all the cities according to international migration balance size in 2010 Minsk occupies the leading position (1461 people), that is almost twice as much as the following Brest (893 people) and Gomel (811 people) (Antipova et al 2013) (Fig. 3).

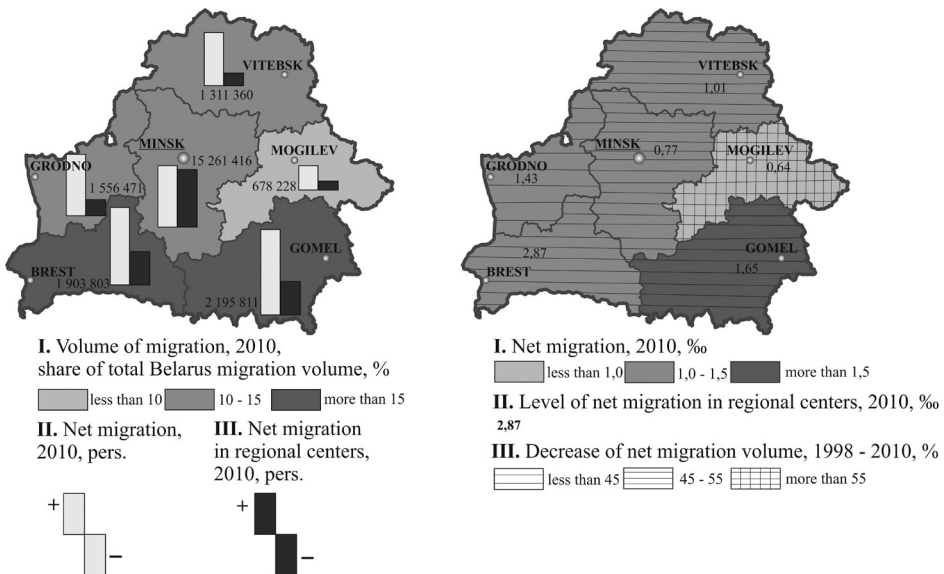


Figure 3. Regionalization of international migration of the population of the Republic of Belarus.

Thirdly, the differentiation of regions according to their contribution to the total international migration process has been determined. Gomel and Brest regions are leading; their share in the international migration volume in 2010 was 19.0 and 16.6% correspondently. During the period 1998-2010 this index was permanently stable – over 15% of the whole migration rate. The share of the capital, Minsk, was 17.3%. The intermediate position according to the share of the total rate of the international migration in 2010 was occupied by Vitebsk, Minsk and Grodno regions – 15,5%, 12,0% and 11,2% correspondently. The minimum contribution, less than 12%, is from eastern Mogilev region (8.9%) as it is the least populated area.

When assessing the international migration in the Republic of Belarus, one of the key issues in the context of globalization to be underlined is the structure of migrants, and to a greater extent, the structure of the labour force and labour resources.

In the period from 2000 to 2011 in the structure of labor migration economically active population (70-80%) and young people under the age of 24 years (more than 60%) dominated, which is largely due to their participation in international education and working projects during the summer holidays. The main countries, receiving migrant workers from Belarus are Russia, the United States, Poland and Germany, respectively. The share of these countries in the labour emigration from Belarus in 2008-2011 was 97%. In contrast to the temporary migrants, 90% of those, whose departure from the country involves a change of permanent residence, received higher or secondary education.

The most attractive market for Belarusian emigrants is Russia. According to some evaluations, more than 90% of labour migrants leave for Russia. Currently many workers in the spheres of construction, agriculture, and oil production are temporarily working in Russia. The labour market of the Ukraine is less popular among Belarusian emigrants. However, in the recent years, both by economic and political reasons some professionals (journalists, businessmen, mass media and culture stuff, etc.) have moved to Ukraine. The flow is relatively small, but for Belarus, this is a loss of skilled workers (Shakhotska, Bobrova 2012; Tsitarenko 2012).

The labour markets of Europe are divided into several categories of Belarusian migrants according to the spheres of employment. In Poland, for example, there are two groups. The first group is highly educated professionals (professors, PhD, university lecturers, doctors), and there is a need of them in Poland, as they substitute Polish professional, who have migrated to other EU countries. The second group is skilled workers (for example truck drivers). Belarusian migrants either permanently live in Poland throughout the contract term or regularly come home each month for 1-2 weeks.

On the labour market in Lithuania Belarus target group of migrants is composed of four categories of the population: (1) university professors, (2) young, well-educated scientists, (3) students, (4) journalists and opposition politicians.

The labour markets of other countries of the European Union are represented by significantly less categories than Belarusian workers. These are mainly scientific researchers and IT professionals. And at the same time almost all EU countries benefit from Belarusian labour migrants, since most of them have a vocational or higher education (or scientific degree) and comply with laws of the host country (Shakhotska, Bobrova 2012; Tsitarenko 2012).

In general, the major motivation factors for labour migrants from Belarus are: higher wages, higher standards of living and much higher quality of life in the EU countries.

4.1.2.1 Results of questioning “Potential migration activity of young people in capital city”

Potential migration activity of young people in the capital city, the attractiveness of cities and countries for permanent and labour migration was investigated by questioning students of leading universities in Belarus.

Students of the Belarusian State University, the Belarusian National Technical University and the Belarusian State University of Informatics and Radio Electronics were interviewed. The total number of respondents was 282 people aged 18 to 25 years.

Exploring the potential of international migration mobility showed that the most attractive countries for living are European states with Germany on the first place (0.51), followed by the United Kingdom and Italy (0.35 and 0.32 respectively). Within the countries of the Visegrad Group Czechia occupies leading positions (the fifth position in the ranking (0.27) after France). Within the countries outside Europe a statistically significant coefficient of repeatability can be shown only in the United States (0.26).

Socio-economic factors that form the potential migration mobility have very high values of the coefficients of repeatability (average 0.80). The determining factor is the possibility of self-fulfillment (0.82), followed by access to the cultural environment and satisfaction of spiritual needs (0.83). Moreover, these factors are in leading position due to the answers of female respondents. Men mentioned as important factors opportunity to find a high-paying job and career prospects.

Willingness to change residence in the future expresses about 27% of respondents. And respondents for which Minsk is not currently a permanent place of residence in 53% of cases indicate that they are ready to move elsewhere in the future.

As external probable directions to move were noted primarily Germany and Russia (repeatability coefficients of 0.11 and 0.09 respectively). The third place has Poland with a level of coefficient about 0.08. Other countries of the Visegrad Group as planned external migration directions in the responses were not marked.

A small share of the students has the possibility for such a migration now (12%). However, the proportion of those who will take all the effort to have such an opportunity in the future, is large enough (39% of all those who are planning to move).

Respondents have relatively high propensity for temporary labour migration. 11% of respondents reported that they plan to take part in temporary labor migration, and 35% – with a high probability. The main direction for temporary labor migration is Germany (0.11), followed by Poland (0.10) and Russia (0.8).

Thus, our survey has revealed that potential of external migration remains relatively low. In the formation of potential migration flows the most important factors are geographical neighborhood and common historical development (Russia, Poland), as well as the level of socio-economic development of country (Germany).

4.1.3 Main receiving and sending countries, the role of V4 countries in international migration, special migrant groups (age, gender, education)

There are two groups, clearly identified in the structure of states participating in the international migration of Belarus. The first is composed of the states, which historically and traditionally constitute a significant flow of international migration. The second group (new-comers) consists of the countries which are new participants in international migration. The evaluation of the countries which receive foreign migrants and from which

migrants come to the Republic of Belarus, taking into consideration the specific feature of National statistics, was held for the two groups of states – CIS and non-CIS countries. In the structure of the CIS countries where an active emigration takes place and which are the most attractive for foreign residents, traditional ones are Russia, the Ukraine, and Kazakhstan. In this case the absolute keynote for emigration of Belarusian people was in favour of Russia, its share in 2000 – 2010 increasing significantly, from 42.3% to 61.7%. The proportion of the Ukraine has remained stable – 8%, the share of Kazakhstan has increased almost twice (Table 3).

Table 3. Rating of the first three countries in terms of emigration from the Republic of Belarus

Place	CIS countries		Non CIS countries	
	2000 yr	2010 yr	2000 yr	2010 yr
1	Russia – 5854* (42.3%)	Russia – 4237 (61.7%)	Israel – 2500 (18.1%)	Germany – 433 (6.3%)
2	Ukraine – 1137 (8.2%)	Ukraine – 555 (8.1%)	USA – 1560 (11.3%)	Israel – 351 (5.1%)
3	Kazakhstan – 110 (0.8%)	Kazakhstan – 93 (1.4%)	Germany – 918 (6.6%)	USA – 221 (3.2%)

* 5854 – number of emigrants, persons, 42.3% – emigrants' share

Source: author's compilation based on National Statistical Committee of the Republic of Belarus data

The receiving countries of Belarus migrants, members of the top-10 of the CIS, but having a small share (from 0.3 to 0.1%) in 2000 were Moldova, Armenia, Georgia, Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Uzbekistan, respectively. In 2010, these countries remained in the rating with the increase of volumes of emigration to Turkmenistan, Azerbaijan, and Moldova.

In the structure of non-CIS countries there has also been a historically stable triplet – Israel, Germany and the United States. However, if in 2000, the first position was occupied by Israel (18%), the second – by the USA and the third – by Germany, currently, in the structure of the international migration there has been a significant decline in the share of Israel (up to 5.1%) and the US (up to 3.2). The first position is for Germany with a stable proportion of about 6%. Traditional receiving countries of Belarusian migrants among non-CIS countries are Lithuania, Latvia and Poland. In addition, in 2000 the top-10 of Belarusian emigration, but with insignificant share, included China, Canada, Afghanistan, and Lebanon. In 2010 the proportion of Poland in the structure emigration, increased, and Vietnam became a part of newcomer countries (Antipova et al 2012) (Fig. 4).

To evaluate the emigration to V4 countries we used materials from the consular departments of these countries concerning the number of issued Schengen visas to the citizens of the Republic of Belarus for 2012, as well as the materials on migrants' account of regional statistics in Brest, Gomel, Grodno and Minsk regions.

The geography of emigration to V4 countries is characterized by two distinguishing properties; the first is the absolute predominance of Poland in the structure. According to

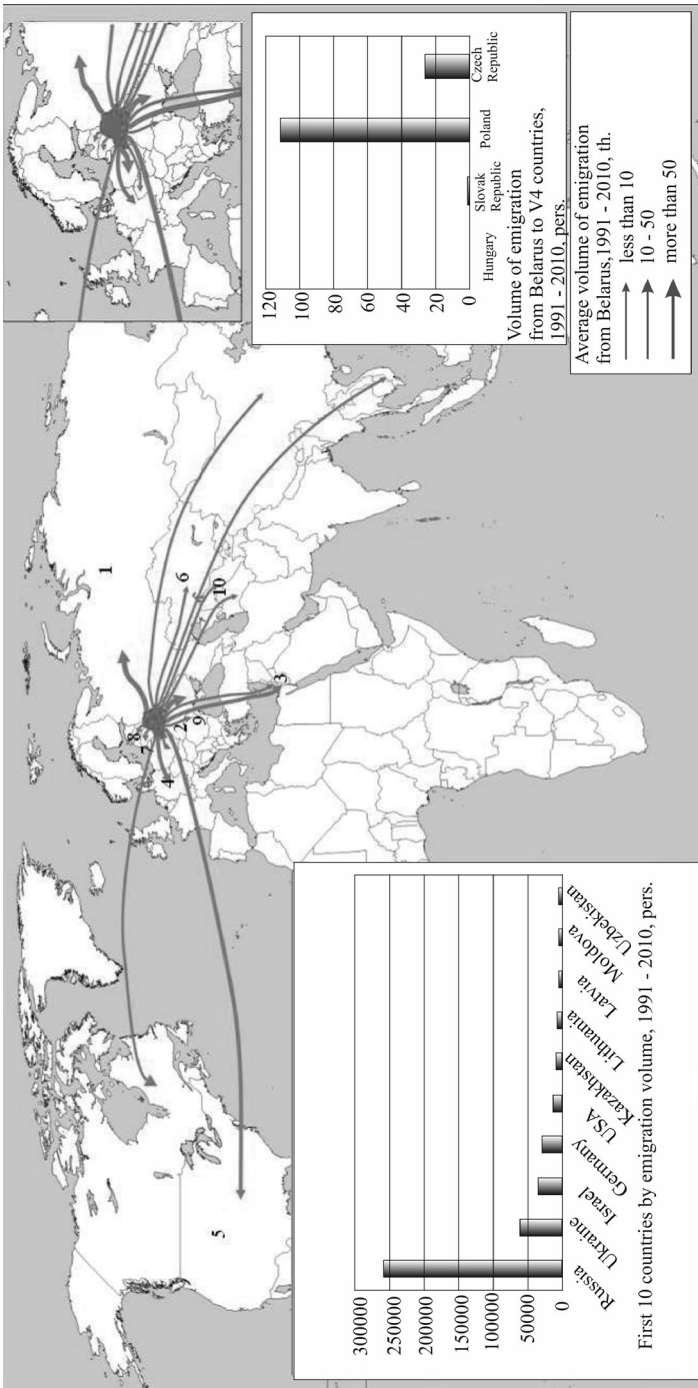


Figure 4. Geography and range amount of emigration in the Republic of Belarus

the official information on the number of received visas to the Visegrad group countries in 2012 the absolute leader was Poland. 350 thousand visas were issued to its visitors, 80% of them were so called “shopping visas” to visit Belostok, Kuznitsa and Sukulky’s malls.

The second position is occupied by the Czechia. The Czechia annually generates about 15–16 thousand short-term visas, about 60% of which are for tourists, 20% – for travels with cultural and sporting purposes and 20% – for business and private travels on invitation. In 2012 there were 15.4 thousand short-term Schengen visas issued.

The second feature is the presence in the structure of states, the share of which is unessential and statistically minimal. In particular, this is the Slovak Republic. For the same period the Consulate of the Slovak Republic has issued 4.2 million short-term Schengen visas, the consulate of the Republic of Hungary issued 11.3 thousand visas. As a rule, most trips are short-term; their aims are tourism, conferences, other business, scientific activities and, visiting relatives abroad.

According to the materials of regional statistics offices, received for 2012, we studied migration with a longer term aiming to receive a permanent place of residence, or leaving for a job study. We have collected the information about four areas: Brest, Gomel, Grodno and Minsk.

Emigration to the countries of Visegrad group from Grodno region is mainly to Poland: 94.8% of the total number of migrants has left the country in 2012. 5.2% have migrated to the Czechia, and the total number of emigrants to Visegrad countries amounted to 58 people. Mainly citizens of large regional centres (Grodno, Lida) and border areas tend to leave the country. Distribution of emigrants on a monthly basis can be seen on the example of Poland where the migration activity summer peak is in July, whereas the spring peak is in March. As far as the gender structure of the emigrants is concerned more men migrate to Poland (64.2%), and the Czech Republic is attractive for women (66.2%). The vast majority of migrants are the people of working age, in the structure of the Czechia there are 100.0% emigrants. As for the family structure about 50% of migrants to Poland and the Czechia are married. According to education level those who have higher education dominate (50% in Poland and 1/3 in the Czechia). We would also like to mention that 80% migrants to Poland and 100% who leave for the Czechia go to have a permanent place of residence. In these cases the situation can be labelled “brain drain”.

In the structure of states, people from the Republic of Belarus arrive at there is a historically and economically determined similarity.

Among CIS countries Belarus is the most attractive for Russia, the Ukraine and Kazakhstan (this is true the other way round as well). Hence, the share of Russia remains relatively stable and dominant (over 50%). The share of the Ukraine has increased a little and reached 15.4%, while the share of Kazakhstan has been reduced by more than twice (Table 4).

Among the countries outside the CIS, Lithuania, Latvia and Poland immigration has been historically motivated (see the emigration pattern); mainly due to ethnic repatriation. While keeping the sustainability of the triad countries of immigration, the share of Lithuania has increased more than 3 times, the share of Latvia has increased more than twice.

Table 4. Top-3 countries by the volume of immigration to the Republic of Belarus

Place	CIS countries		Non CIS countries	
	2000 yr.	2010 yr.	2000 yr.	2010 yr.
1	Russia – 14424* (55.5%)	Russia – 9268 (53.9%)	Lithuania – 384 (1.5%)	Lithuania – 799 (4.6%)
2	Kazakhstan – 3590 (13.8%)	Ukraine – 2640 (15.4%)	China – 348 (1.4%)	Latvia – 363 (2.1%)
3	Ukraine – 3546 (13.6%)	Kazakhstan – 698 (4.1%)	Latvia – 291 (1.1%)	Poland – 242 (1.4%)

* 14424 – number of immigrant, persons, 55,5 % – share of immigrant

Source: author's compilation based on National Statistical Committee of the Republic of Belarus data

The repatriation factor of Belarusian population is the basis of immigration from Germany (0.9%) and Israel (1%).

Recently, China has become an active participant of immigration (1%), which can be connected to economic reasons (work in the construction sector), as well as to student mobility. New countries where migration to Belarus takes place are Vietnam (labour migration), Estonia (ethnic migration of Russian population), and Afghanistan (transit migration). It should be noted, however, that the share of these countries in the immigration structure is extremely small and sometimes does not reach 1% (Fig. 5).

Immigration trends from the countries of Visegrad group are similar to the emigration to these states.

The geography of immigration to V4 countries is to be characterized by two distinct features. The first is the predominance by a wide margin in the structure of migrants from Poland. Total number of immigrants in 2010 amounted to 242 people. The second in line is the Czechia with 10 people. Unessential and statistically minimal is the share of immigrants from the Slovak Republic – 5 people, and Hungary – 2 people. As a rule, most visits are also short-term in nature, either for tourism or for business and scientific activities.

In terms of regions the total volume of immigration to Brest region was 84 persons, 81.0% of them (68 pers.) have come from Poland, 16.6% came from Hungary and 2.6% came from the Czechia. Migration from Slovakia to Brest region in 2012 has not been recorded.

As far as the total population is concerned the intensity of arrival is insignificant. It is explained by traditionally active migration exchange with the countries of the CIS. The arrival from Poland on month's basis is fairly proportional with the excess in the spring months, which may be because of seasonal migration of the labour force. As for other countries there have been bursts to be associated with the arrival of professional groups (e.g. the arrival of the group of mechanics to Hungary in January). It cannot be considered as a sustainable trend to be observed for a long period. The structure of arrival by gender, men take the leading position (from 83.5% of migrants from Poland up to 100.0% of migrants from the Czechia and Hungary). They are mainly workers, coming for seasonal jobs.

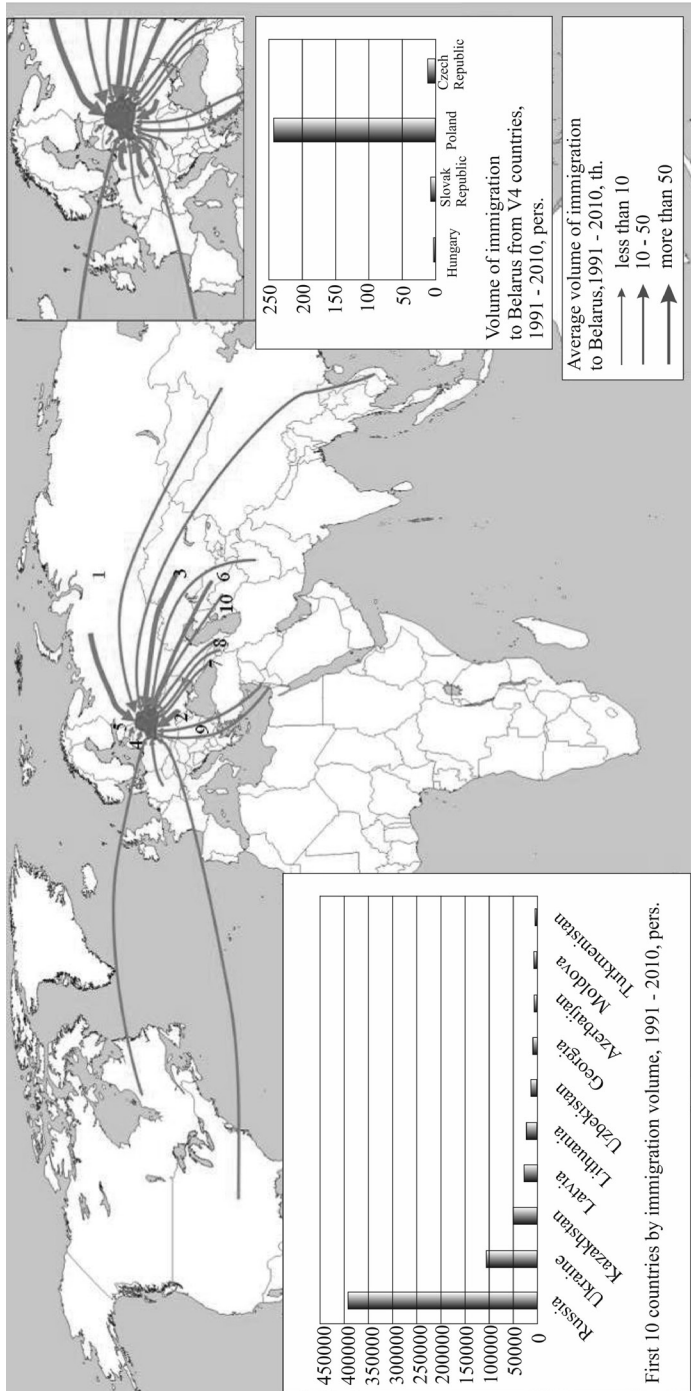


Figure 5. Geography and volumes of immigration to the Republic of Belarus

There is a wide variation of the level of education among immigrants of the region, with predominantly vocational and technical ones (from 30.0% to 100% of countries), 1/3 of migrants from Poland are people with a higher education coming after long-term traineeships. In this case the phenomenon of people returning after a long-term study period is actually a trend opposite to the so-called “brain drain”.

There are several groups to be separated in the professional sphere: those who are employed in the service sector (47.1% of the migrants from Poland and 100% – from the Czechia), those employed in the industry (100.0% migrants from Hungary) and the unemployed: 1/3 of the migrants are from Poland.

The international immigration volume of the population to Grodno region, bordering one of the countries of Visegrad group, Poland is higher and amounted to 80 people in 2012. The majority of them – 88.8% came from Poland, 7.5% came from the Czechia, 2.5% – from Slovakia, and 1.3% came from Hungary. Among the regions of arrival Grodno, Lida and Slonim take leading positions as well as border districts such as Berestovitsa, Lida. In general it is necessary to notice low activity of migration of Belarusian citizens to all the countries of Visegrad group except Poland.

4.1.4 Special characteristics influencing international migration in Belarus

Over a long historical period, Belarus had been a country that “gave” population, which was caused by a number of factors. Political factor consistently dominated until the end of the nineteenth century. Socio-economic factor has prevailed since the mid-nineteenth century, when the migration was linked with the voluntary leaving of employable population for a job search.

The emergence of new international migration factors in the 20th century was due to the rapid growth of the population of Belarus, industrialization and building of industrial enterprises for the Soviet Union, urban development movement in 1960-1980 and the impact of Chernobyl disaster in 1986 as well as the emergence of the legal framework governing the international migration of population in the nineties. As a result of the independence of the Republic of Belarus a range of factors in international migration have started to make impacts on the tendencies among them demographic, institutional and legal factors are of an increasing role. Since the middle of nineties, Belarus has gradually become a “host” country with predominating immigration (Manak 1992).

In addition to deep political and socio-economic transformations resulting from the initiated reforms and the opportunity of free travel abroad huge changes have occurred (in 1990 more than 33 thousand people left for Israel, in 1991 – 15 thousand people left for Israel and 6 thousand people for the United States). In late 1980s a new migration factor – environmental – appeared in the Republic of Belarus. Because of the Chernobyl catastrophe in 1986 and its consequences people of the most affected regions (Gomel, Mogilev) migrated to less affected regions and outside Belarus. 1990 year was the peak, when 12287 people left Gomel region for a permanent place of residence and 5759 people moved from Mogilev region. Later the migration flow because of this reason declined (Antipova 2008).

The period of 1990's can be characterized by dominant political and socio-economic factors, determining quite a broad geography of international migration, with several prevailing countries to receive Belarusian migrants (Russia, Ukraine, the USA, Israel, Germany).

In the 21st century along with socio-economic factors the institutional and legal factors also have started to make effects as a result of a legislative and regulatory framework governing population migration in the territory of Belarus, and by a scientifically determined migration policy of the state. The impact of demographic factor, caused by natural decline of the population and the emergence of areas of labour deficiency in the territory of Belarus, increased.

The correlation method and factor analysis were used for quantitative evaluation of influencing factors in 1998-2010 at the level of administrative regions. The initial data for composing the correlation matrix were the data which were divided into three sections:

1) Migration:

- Migration volume, persons;
- Migration balance, persons;
- Migration net coefficient,‰;

2) Demographic:

- The population of district, thousand people;
- Urbanization,‰;
- Natural population increase,‰;

3) Socio-economic:

- Indexes of the total volume of industrial output according to districts in comparable prices; in per cents to the previous year;
- Nominal charged wages of worker according by districts, thousand rubles;
- Provision of living accommodation at the end of the year, square meters of the total square per 1 inhabitant.

The analysis has shown almost direct dependence, close to 1.0 which is seen between the number of population and the international migration volume. This connection has not become weaker for the studied period (0.99 and 0.97). Migration balance and population number are less dependent, at the level 0, 8-0, 9, however, the correlation coefficient shows their rather strong interdependence. Urbanization level influences the population migration movement less, but it is significant as the correlation indexes show. So, the interdependence of this index with the migration volume is 0.54-0.59 which corresponds to the average level. The same is true for the correlation coefficient of the migration balance. The interdependence of natural population growth and the population migration of Belarus for the studied period intend to increase. In 1998 correlation indexes were 0.3. It shows the absence of connection; in 2010 the indexes of the balance and the migration volume is about 0, 5. It shows a medium level of connection between these phenomena. The following process can be explained by the reduction of the natural decline from 4.4‰ in 1998 to 3.1‰ in 2010.

At the republic level there is a stable positive correlation between migration and demographic factors with the indexes 0.93-0.97; it shows almost direct interdependence.

In 2010 the correlation is direct with the coefficient 0.3. For the studied period the influence of the nominal charged wages to the migration activity has declined from 0.56-0.67 in 1998 to 0.46 – 0.48 in 2010. The size of wages used to influence the migration activity of the population at the average level. However, the dynamics of correlation importance for the studied period is negative.

At the regional level the distribution of the correlation coefficients and consequently the connection between them has a significant difference. So, in 1998 there was a direct in-terdependence between migration and demographic factors in all 118 districts and the city of Minsk. The absolute majority of districts (108 of 118) were characterized by a strong connection – over 0.7. In 2010 the situation differs largely as we can see the indirect connection between phenomena in four districts (Khoyniki, Dribin, Klimovochy, Khotimsk); 13 with a weak connection (mostly outlying districts with a low migration activity), 20 with a medium connection and in 81 districts as well as in Minsk with a strong correlation of factors. Such dynamics testifies the reduction of influence of the population demographic characteristics in terms of migration activity at the microgeographic level. It is connected with the intensity of the demographic periphery of some districts and the reduction of their migration attractiveness on the one hand, and the depletion of demographic potential for the migration at the territory of Belarus on the other hand. To characterize the correlation connection between migration and socio – economic factors we should notice, that in 1998 there was a medium or strong indirect connection among factors in all regions. Here we should take into consideration the general economic background with crisis phenomena. In 2010 the interdependence in all regions is direct, but its tightness varies: it is weak in Bragin district, in 38 districts it is medium and in 80 districts it is strong. It all shows the importance of the socio – economic factor (along with others as well) in the migration movement of the population in the regions of Belarus. At the microgeographic level for the studied period the influence of the socio-economic factor for migration activity of the population of Belarus has considerably increased.

4.1.5 Short migration policy review

In the early 1990s, after the collapse of the Soviet Union, Belarus had to face the problem of migration management and, in particular, of international labour flows. The development of the Belarusian legislation regulating social relations in the field of labour migration took place against the background of significant social, economic and political changes (Zagorets 2000). Belarus became both the host country for labour migrants and their country of origin. It should be noted that the Republic of Belarus had no experience in the field of legal regulation of international labour migration. Therefore, the development of the Belarusian legislation operated, on the one hand, in this area in accordance with international law. On the other hand, Belarusian legislation took over many provisions from the regulations of the former Soviet Union, with all their advantages and disadvantages (regulation gaps).

In the first half of the 1990s laws were passed, which established the basis of the legal regulation of migration. Belarusian legislation however still lacks comprehensive solutions

regulating labour migration, integration of migrants and refugees as well as return and reintegration. Its particular feature is also that it tries to regulate extensively the entries and exits of its own citizens.

Chronological development of legal and political framework governing migration and mobility:

- 2010 Law On the Legal Status of Foreign Nationals and Stateless Persons
- 2010 Law On External Labour Migration
- 2010 Law On the Legal Status of Foreign Nationals and Stateless Persons
- 2009 Law On the Procedure of Entry and Exit for the Citizens of the Republic of Belarus
- 2008 Law On Refugee Status, Subsidiary and Temporary Protection to Foreign Nationals and Stateless Persons
- 2006 Law On the Legal Status of Foreign Nationals and Stateless Persons in the Republic of Belarus
- 2002 Law On Citizenship of the Republic of Belarus
- 1994 Constitution

At the legal level, the issues of readmission in the Republic of Belarus are currently poorly developed due to difficulties in concluding such bilateral agreements. The only relevant regulation pertaining to this issue is the decree by the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus of 31.12.2010 № 1918 “On the Approval of the Regulations on the procedure of handing over to neighbouring states foreign nationals and stateless persons, who have violated the rules of local border traffic set up by international agreements of the Republic of Belarus or who have lost the documents, according to which they had entered the territory of the republic of Belarus.”

Belarus is a party to the following regional agreements:

- 1998 Agreement on cooperation between CIS Member States in combating illegal migration (entered into force in Belarus in 1999)
- 2010 EurAsEC Cooperation Agreement on Countering Illegal Labour Migration from Third Countries (entry into force on 1 January 2012)

The legal basis for prevention of human trafficking in the Republic of Belarus is ensured by numerous laws, while the principle normative legal act related to labour migration is the Law № 225-3 “On External Labour Migration.” It regulates employment of foreigners in the Republic of Belarus, as well as overseas employment according to labour contracts of citizens and foreigners permanently residing in Belarus (MPC 2013).

Bilateral agreements on labour migration have been concluded with six CIS countries (AM, AZ, KZ, MD, RF, UA) and Lithuania, Poland, Serbia. CIS Convention on the legal status of migrant workers and members of their families, coming from the CIS participating states (2008) and Agreement on Cooperation in the Field of Labour Migration and Social Protection for Migrant Workers (1994) apply vis-à-vis certain CIS states.

Russian and Kazakh citizens enjoy a free access to the Belarusian labour market, with the same right as Belarusian citizens. All other foreigners are subject to Law №

225-3. Foreigners permanently residing in the country have the right to engage in labour or entrepreneurial activities equal to that of the citizens of the Republic of Belarus and according to the procedure established by law.

The Department of Citizenship and Migration of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Belarus have developed a system of documentation about employment abroad of Belarusian citizens. It includes:

1. The list of documents to be submitted to the Ministry of Internal Affairs for obtaining / renewal of a special permit (license) for activities related to the employment of citizens out-side of the Republic of Belarus.
2. The procedure for approval the information (advertising) announcements about a job outside of the Republic of Belarus.
3. List of legal entities and individual entrepreneurs engaged to activities related the employment of citizens outside the Republic of Belarus

Migration Policy of the Republic of Belarus in the sphere of labour migration is aiming to improve the regulation of export and import of labour force, protection of the national labour market from the uncontrolled inflow of foreign labour force and a mitigation of the situation in domestic labour market by employment of Belarusian citizens abroad.

In the Republic of Belarus a license procedure of activities has been established to attract foreign labour force and employment of citizens of the Republic of Belarus abroad. This type of activity was carried out by legal entities and individual entrepreneurs who have received special permit (license) issued by the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Belarus. 52 licensees have special permission to carry out activities related to the employment of citizens abroad currently.

The Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Belarus in 2011 approved the Regulations about the issuance of a permit to engage to the Republic of Belarus foreign labour force and special permits for work in the Republic of Belarus.

The Department of Citizenship and Migration of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Belarus has developed a system of documentation in order to attract foreign labour force. It includes: 1) the order of recruitment to the Republic of Belarus the foreign labour force, and 2) list of accounts for issuance fee / renewal of a permit to engage to the Republic of Belarus the foreign workers, as well as special permits for work in the Republic of Belarus for foreign citizens and stateless persons.

The most popular destinations for employment: Russia, USA, Great Britain, Czechia, Lithuania, Latvia and Japan. The most popular professional spheres in demand are builders, drivers, vendors and health care providers.

Specialties, where migrants from Belarus are employed:

- Republic of Poland: construction workers, agricultural workers;
- Czechia: construction workers, maintenance personnel.

At the same time, foreign workers in Belarus are represented as agricultural workers, construction workers, top managers, athletes, trainers, coaches, cooks, and other professionals.

Fundamental changes in migration policy due to the changes of socio-economic situation in the Republic of Belarus in the field of labour migration have not occurred, the main changes are related to the prevention of illegal migration and management of refugee flows.

There is a tendency to reduce the number of people leaving the Republic of Belarus to work on the basis of signed contracts abroad. This tendency started due to the emerging crisis in the world economy resulting in measures taken at the national level to regulate labour migration.

The changes in socio-economic situation led to diversion of the flows: up to 2008 to the EU and CEE after 2008 mainly to the CIS and Russia.

The peculiarity of international agreements of the Republic of Belarus related to migration is that the greatest progress in developing bilateral agreements has been achieved only in agreements with the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States in general and within the Eurasian Economic Community (Common Economic Space) in particular. The key bilateral agreement related to free movement of people is the Agreement between the Republic of Belarus and the Russian Federation to ensure equal rights of the citizens of the Republic of Belarus and of the Russian Federation concerning the freedom of movement, free choice of the place of stay and residence and the territories of the member states of the Union State (concluded in Saint-Petersburg on 24.01.2006). Other CIS agreements on labour migration concluded by Belarus mostly doubled complements and specified the articles of the Agreement on Cooperation in the Field of Labour Migration and Social Protection for Migrant Workers (concluded in Moscow on 15.04.1994, the version of 25.11.2005). In case there are no bilateral agreements between the Republic of Belarus and a particular CIS state related to the exchange of labour force the countries apply the aforementioned Agreement of 1994, as well as the 2008 CIS Convention on the legal status of migrant workers and members of their families, coming from the CIS participating states, which apart from Belarus has been ratified by Armenia, Azerbaijan and Ukraine.

Specialized migration policy for V4 countries in Belarus is not conducted. However, general legal documents govern the migration situation in the Republic of Belarus, there are separate positions related to migration to V4. The general legal documents are mentioned above.

In the sphere of mutual visits of citizens there are some agreements with Hungary (2002), Slovakia (2003) and Poland (2007) which provide visa-free travel for holders of diplomatic passport.

In order to implement international agreements between the Republic of Belarus and Poland member state of V4, as well as Latvia and Lithuania and to regulate the mutual visits of border residents, the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus in February 2011 approved the Statute of the interaction of law enforcement agencies in order to prevent departures of border residents to the neighbouring countries beyond the border areas of the Republic of Belarus.

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