

## EDITORIAL

The migration policy developments witnessed across the Prague Process region during the third quarter of 2019 indicate a slightly more pragmatic approach to migration overall, and to regular migration in particular. Whereas irregular migration remains a priority for many participating states, the ongoing demographic and socioeconomic developments across the region call for enhancing regular migration and a widening of legal migration channels. Sweden, United Kingdom, Ukraine and Russia belong to the states that have recently adopted important legal acts to liberalise the access to their countries for various reasons and profiles of visitors. The United Kingdom and Sweden, for instance, will open new employment possibilities to students and researchers. While Ukraine is simplifying the application procedure for a long-term visa from within the country, Russia is aiming to attract more tourists by introducing e-visa services. Meanwhile, the Schengen states plan to make use of external service providers in order to allow for visa applications in partner countries that lack an appropriate EU representation.

After providing a snapshot from the three latest Prague Process activities, this Quarterly Review will inform you about the outcomes of the conference on "Migration and Urban Development", which assessed the ever more important role of cities in managing immigration and integration. This issue will also address the competition for Ukrainian labour force as well as the dangers that such rapid exodus of the working age population might entail. Moreover, it will update you on the temporary redistribution mechanism for migrants arriving to the EU through the Mediterranean Sea, as well as on the latest visa amendments in some of the Prague Process states. Finally, this 20th issue will introduce you to the latest Prague Process publications and propose some additional reading on top.

Have a good read!

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## Looking ahead: upcoming Prague Process activities 2019

04 December

**D** Poland-Central Asia Conference "EU-Central Asia Strategy: cooperation on migration" supported by the Prague Process, Warsaw, Poland

05-06 December

**TA** Study visit of the Central Asian Republics to Polish authorities, supported by the Prague Process

**MO** - Migration Observatory  
**TA** - Training Academy  
**D** - Senior-level Dialogue

## International Summer School on Migration – A major initiative to train young professionals from Eastern Europe and Central Asia

The biggest international training programme for young people from Central Asia, the Southern Caucasus, Eastern and Central Europe on the critical issue of migration took place in Kachreti, Georgia from 30 June to 6 July 2019. Organised by ICMPD and funded by the European Union, this summer school targeted young professionals, government employees, students and civil

society representatives. Violeta Wagner, ICMPD's Regional Portfolio Manager for Eastern Europe and Central Asia, highlighted its importance as follows: "This international summer school has profound implications for the future management of migration and integration in the region, as these early career professionals and talented students will one day be shaping these nations' migration

policies. The calibre and commitment of these young people has been astonishing and suggests that there is a bright future for migration policy making in the region."

Whereas the summer school only targeted students from Georgia and Azerbaijan in the past, its sixth edition expanded to the participating states of the



Prague Process. As a result, it gathered participants from 16 nations: Georgia, Albania, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Northern Macedonia, Russia, Serbia, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan. They received training on various migration-related issues ranging from economics, law, human rights, development, media, to statistics and integration. The engaged teachers and professors represented some of the world's leading universities, including the Universities

of Oxford and Sussex in the UK, the Universities of Maastricht and Leiden in the Netherlands and the Sorbonne.

Ana Latsabidze, 23 years old, Innovations and Reforms Center, Georgia: "It has been a great experience. The project enriched our understanding about migration issues and helped us analyse it from various points of view, and from basic facts to academic theories. It was a great opportunity to learn from the highly specialised researchers. (...) It was also the perfect opportunity to exchange ideas and

knowledge among young professionals from diverse nations and backgrounds. On top of improving my knowledge of the subject – from elementary to advanced level – I was able to learn practical skills and develop my previous knowledge of the issue. It was also fantastic getting to know people from different countries, establish friendships and have fun."



## The 2<sup>nd</sup> Research Coordination Meeting launched the work on the new cycle of publications under the Prague Process Migration Observatory

The meeting, which took place in Vienna on 23 July 2019, mainly served the introduction and peer review of the research papers to be newly produced in 2019. Each author thus had the opportunity to present his advanced outline and receive concrete feedback, ideas and recommendations from the other experts present. The small size of the group allowed to identify possible shortcomings and additional research questions that would improve the envisaged publication.

The 2019 expert group consists mainly of academic experts. The topics of their research include irregular and humanitarian migration, trafficking in human beings, migration and development, as well as an assessment of the EU's external cooperation on migration.

Building on the experience of the first Research Coordination Meeting and the recommendations provided by the respective expert group back in 2018, the second cycle of publications will more often be of comparative nature and in most cases go beyond the national context of individual states. During the joint discussions on possible ways to improve the Migration Observatory further, the attending



experts suggested for its work to be promoted stronger among academics, universities and NGOs. The Migration Observatory should proactively reach out to the research community and policy actors on different levels. The experts further agreed that the research undertaken should preferably focus on recent trends and new phenomena, thereby putting a spotlight on developments that policymakers do not have

on their radars yet. The experts once again underlined the persisting need for better coherence between research and policy.

Check all **publications** of the Prague Process Migration Observatory [here](#).

## Prague Process experts deepen their knowledge on managing labour migration

Upon invitation of the Ministry of Interior of Montenegro, representatives of 14 states gathered in the beautiful town of Budva on 24-26 September for the Training on Labour migration. The 2.5-day training covered the whole cycle of labour migration, ranging from pre-departure and pre-decision activities to skills recognition and reintegration steps.

Each of the five thematic sessions entailed case studies, discussions and exercises to enhance participants' understanding of the particular challenges



and international good practices. Three excellent trainers carried out the training: Mr. Andrea Salvini (University of Modena and Reggio Emilia), Ms. Agnieszka Kulesa (Polish Center for Social and Economic Research) and Ms. Lisa Andersson (Maastricht University).

The introductory *tour-de-table* highlighted a set of common challenges among the attending states, such as

the need to develop comprehensive external labour migration strategies, to attract (highly skilled and skilled) foreign labour force while simultaneously protecting the national labour market, or to design and conclude bi- and multilateral agreements in this policy area.

After a short re-introduction of the key findings of the Prague Process Handbook on Managing Labour and

Circular Migration, participants had an opportunity to exercise the design of pre-departure and pre-decision systems for specific migration corridors and to develop a strategy for cross-border labour matching. Moreover, they were invited to address the frequent employment of migrant workers in the shadow economy and to tailor a reintegration package for return migrants.

## 5<sup>th</sup> International Conference “Migration and urban development”

Organised by the [Russian International Affairs Council \(RIAC\)](#), the [International Committee of the Red Cross \(ICRC\)](#) and the [Russian Presidential Academy of National Economy and Public Administration \(RANEPA\)](#), the event that took place in Moscow on 26-27 September 2019 gathered policy-makers, representatives of academia from Russia and the EU, as well as international organisations and NGOs.

The conference analysed the presence of migrants in urban settings without considering the migrant communities as entities separate from the local population. The importance of the setting and context where migrants find themselves was emphasised instead, allowing for a more detailed analysis of social transformations. Each of the five sessions of the conference addressed a separate element of urban migration.

Session I focused on migration megatrends and their impact on global cities. Dr Jens Schneider (University of Osnabruck, Germany) introduced the concept of *megatrends* in urban migration worldwide: the diversification of the places of origin; the majority-minority dichotomy; the age dimension and generational sedimentation; and the overall diversification of migration. These trends will affect the perception of migration across Europe and shape the respective policies at the national, local and EU level.

ICMPD then presented key findings from the [Mediterranean City-to-City Migration Project](#), summarising the benefits of the city migration profiles developed during the project. The rationale for implementing a project on migration management at city level among the Prague Process participating states was presented.

The following sessions focused on existing and imagined migrant communities in cities (Session II), migration and ethnic entrepreneurship (Session III), the humanitarian perspective concerning migrants and internally displaced people who settle in urban settings (Session IV) and the intergenerational integration of migrants in the cities of Russia (Session V). The conclusions confirmed that while migration and asylum competences rest with national governments, their impact is local, thereby turning cities into key players to be involved in the development and implementation of migration policies.

The ICRC then presented its report *“Displaced in cities: experiencing and responding to urban internal displacement outside camps”*, underlining how internal displacement has become an increasingly urban phenomenon in a quickly urbanising world. In times of armed conflict and other violence, many people from rural areas are seeking safety in cities, further contributing to global urbanization trends.

The two-day conference explored many interesting approaches to urban migration research and management. One conclusion was that an assessment of the migration stocks and flows in the major Russian cities could improve the migration analysis and management across the country. Further reading for those interested in the topic could *inter alia* comprise the [World Economic Forum Report “Migration and Its Impact on Cities”](#) (2017).





## “Europe’s Mexico” - Competition over Ukrainian labour force

According to recent estimates, up to 9 million Ukrainians out of a total population of 42 million work abroad on a seasonal basis or for some part of the year. The number of Ukrainians permanently employed abroad stands at 3.2 million, amounting to 18 % of the total working age population. This considerable outflow of the working-age population derives mainly from the unfavourable economic and political conditions in the country and is reinforced by the growing need for labour force in the direct vicinity of Ukraine, including in the Visegrad countries (Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia), Baltic States (primarily in Lithuania and Estonia), Germany, and - despite all pitfalls - in Russia.

Over the past years, **Poland** became the first resort for Ukrainian workers, who fill the labour market gaps and meanwhile make up to 90 % of all foreign labour force in Poland. Around 1.2 million Ukrainian workers come to Poland every year. Most come to work for a few months, with some 800,000 active in the labour market at any given time. The 1.7 million work declarations issued by Poland in 2017 to Ukrainian citizens show the scale of Ukrainian temporary (circular) labour migration to Poland and its overall penetration strength, turning the Ukrainian labour force into “the collective hero of the Polish economy”. Experts say that Ukrainians readily take up jobs in agriculture, construction or domestic work. Many accept positions below their qualifications. The Polish National Bank estimates that the earnings of Ukrainian workers are slowly increasing, as many move from manual to service jobs. Due to the vicinity of the two countries and the facilitated access for short-term employment, 75 % of Ukrainian workers coming to Poland do not intend to stay in the long-term. Nevertheless, long-term migration from Ukraine to Poland is rising, albeit at a much slower pace. A study of the Warsaw University released in September 2019 confirms that around one third of the Ukrainians present in Poland would like to live there in the long term as compared to only one fifth in 2018.

The Czech Republic, Slovakia and Germany also compete for Ukrainian labour force. As a result, Ukraine is already among the top three source countries of medical staff in the **Czech Republic**. As reported in August 2019, the Czech Republic increased the quota for Ukrainian guest workers from 19,600 to 40,000 people. This is by far the largest quota to foreign labour force in the country, while Ukrainians represent the biggest legally residing foreign community in the Czech Republic with 117,000 persons out of the 10.5 million population.

The amendment of the **German Skilled Immigration Act** adopted in August 2019 simplified the employment of highly skilled and most importantly skilled labour force. Thereby the prospective migrants will only have to prove that they received professional training abroad that is equivalent to the respective German degree. Alternatively, labour migrants can now come on a training contract, facilitated directly by a prospective employer, and acquire the needed professional qualifications on the job. Germany’s announcement to open up to third-country specialists alone resulted in as many as 250,000 Ukrainians leaving Poland in 2019. Such looser regulations in Germany could lure away 20-25% of the Ukrainian work force from Poland over the coming four years, according to the central bank’s *Obserwator Finansowy* news portal.

The Ukrainian communities in the Baltic States are also growing. In **Lithuania**,

Ukrainians are the largest group of resident foreigners as their number increased by 55 % last year. **Estonia** also witnessed a record inflow of Ukrainians in 2018. Meanwhile, Russia also reported of 213,200 Ukrainian migrant workers over the first half of 2019 alone.

The education migration follows the main direction of labour migration. The number of Ukrainian students studying in Poland, Russia, Slovakia and the Czech Republic has increased significantly since 2014. Ukrainian students often view their studies as the first stage of emigration.

The economic consequences of such mass emigration are mixed. In the short term, the export of labour resources is profitable for Ukraine. Insofar, the July 2019 macroeconomic review of the Ministry of Finance of Ukraine indicated that emigration contributed to the reduction of unemployment while boosting the salary level. In the longer run, however, the continued emigration may severely hamper Ukraine’s economic development, with the labour force decreasing by more than 30 % by 2050.

*Read [more](#) on the recent amendments to the Skilled Immigration Act in Germany.*

*Read [more](#) on outmigration from Ukraine (also [here](#)).*

*Read [more](#) on the new Polish Migration Policy.*



## EU Ministers discuss the temporary mechanism to accommodate migrants rescued in the Mediterranean Sea

The discussion on revamping the Dublin regulation, which has put great pressure on the EU frontline countries, continued during the last quarter. At their July meeting in Paris, the Foreign Ministers and Ministers of Interior of 14 EU Member States had tentatively approved the Franco-German proposal to establish a temporary mechanism for the redistribution of migrants rescued in the Mediterranean Sea. The proposed plan implies that the rescued migrants will be relocated among the respective Member States within four weeks upon their arrival. The recipient countries could then process the asylum applications much faster, in a new and harmonised way, in order to reach a decision within weeks and immediately deport all those rejected. The EU would also provide “financial, technical and operational assistance” to the countries involved. Such temporary solution was urgently needed in response to Italy and Malta’s recent closure of ports for rescue vessels carrying migrants.

By the end of September, Italy, France, Germany and Malta had officially reached a deal on the proposed redistribution mechanism. France and Germany are reportedly willing to receive 25 % of the migrants rescued. Italy agreed to take 10 % of the new arrivals. Against this background, Italy allowed a rescue vessel to disembark 182 people while another group of migrants was relocated from Malta to Portugal and France.

However, the agreement did not receive the wider support of EU Member States at the meeting of Ministers of Interior on 8 October when several of them declared that they would not participate in the envisaged redistribution, in spite of its temporary and voluntary nature.

According to Frontex, the number of irregular border crossings amounted to 9.231 in the Central Mediterranean route and 17.706 in the Western Mediterranean route for the period January-September 2019. This represents a considerable drop as compared to the 23.000 and 57.000 respective arrivals recorded on both routes in 2018. The main countries of origin of those aiming for Italy and Malta are

Tunisia, Sudan and Pakistan. Meanwhile, over half of all migrants on the Western Mediterranean route are from unknown countries. Finally, the Eastern Mediterranean route already recorded 50.568 irregular arrivals, mainly from Afghanistan and Syria, and by the end of this year may well reach the 56.500 arrivals recorded in 2018.

Read [more](#) on the temporary mechanism (also [here](#)).

See the Frontex data on irregular border crossings [here](#).



## Visa amendments across the Prague Process region

### Schengen Visa

In June 2019, the Council of the European Union approved the amendments to the Schengen Visa code whereby the price for a short-stay visa will increase from 60 to 80 EUR. The new rules permit the application to be submitted for a maximum of 6 months, and no later than 15

days before the trip. The EU also intends to introduce a harmonised approach to the issuing of multiple entry visas to regular travellers with a positive visa history for a period, which increases gradually from one to five years. Moreover, the Visa code will from now on consider the cooperation of third countries on re-admission. Non-cooperating countries





can become subject to restrictive measures (e.g. visa processing, visa fees). Cooperating countries, on the other hand, may benefit from reduced visa fees, or an increase in the period of validity of multiple entry visas. The new code obliges EU Member States to work with external providers for visa admission in those non-EU states where they are not present or represented by another country. The amendment will come into force as of January 2020.

*Read [more](#) on the newly adopted regulation.*

## Ukraine

The government of Ukraine has introduced a new law allowing non-visa foreign nationals in Ukraine to apply for a long-term D visa without leaving the country. The law applies to a wide range of applicants pursuing employment in Ukrainian companies or in branch offices of foreign companies and foreign banks, as well as in cultural, scientific and educational activities. The amendment will make the process more convenient and cost-effective. Nationals of over 60 countries, including all EU states, will benefit from this change. The law came into effect at the end of June 2019.

*Read [more](#).*

## United Kingdom

The UK Home Office announced several changes to its visa and immigration legislation. The most notable changes will occur across the Tier 2 (General) visa category - the UK start-up and innovator visa schemes - the Tier 1 (Exceptional Talent Visa), the EU Settlement Scheme and the post-study work visa for international students. Most changes will come into force in October 2019 and as of January 2020.

The Tier 2 General visa category will see an expansion of the shortage occupation list to include architects, veterinarians and web designers. Such specialists will receive priority in obtaining a Tier 2 visa. Moreover, PhD level jobs will be removed from the annual Tier 2 visa quota of 20,700 places, which will free up places for other skilled migrants in the



monthly quota allocation. Students who have submitted a start-up application will be allowed to commence their business activity while awaiting the decision on their application. Moreover, international students at the undergraduate level or above will be offered a two-year UK visa upon graduation (as compared to four months at present), allowing them to stay and work in the country. Lawmakers and business groups who have argued that international graduates provide value to the British economy welcomed the announcement.

*Read [more](#).*

## Sweden

The Swedish government is proposing to ease restrictions on employment rights for students and researchers as of January 2020. Currently students can only stay on for six months for the purpose of employment, while researchers cannot stay on at all. Under the new regulation, researchers and students who have completed their stay in Sweden, either in a research position or studies leading to a degree, will have the right to stay in Sweden for up to one year to seek employment or establish themselves as self-employed. The Swedish parliament will vote on the proposal this autumn.

*Read [more](#).*

## Russia

As of 1 October 2019, tourists and business people will be able to visit St. Petersburg with a simplified electronic visa. Visitors will be able to stay in Russia for eight days out of the 30-day validity period. Potential tourists can apply for electronic visas at no fee on the Russian Foreign Ministry website no later than four days before their arrival. The offer will be open to citizens from 53 different countries, including Serbia, Turkey and all EU Member States except the United Kingdom. Since 2017, travellers from 18 countries have been able to obtain free single-entry e-visas to visit Russia's Far East Federal District. As of 1 July 2019, the e-visa was made available for travellers visiting the city of Kaliningrad.

*Check the decree in Russian [here](#).*

## Newly released publications of the Prague Process Migration Observatory and Training Academy

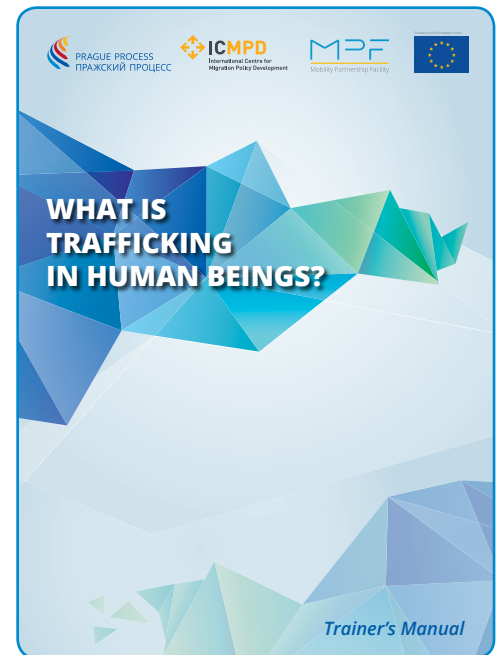
### Training Manual by Madis Vainomaa and Ivanka Hainzl

#### “What is trafficking in Human Beings?”

This Training Manual aims to guide its users in developing and delivering training sessions covering ten key areas concerning combating trafficking in human beings. The manual provides content and technical implementation information for each session, as well as brief instructions on the process of teaching and useful insights about adult learning. The manual is developed specifically for anti-trafficking stakeholders from the Prague Process states. The Manual is a practical guide that can be adapted to the individual training needs. It can be used for in-house trainings, delivered by professionals with a certain level of training experience. The

target groups may range from basic level to training-of-trainers programmes. Considering the diversity among the Prague Process states, the manual can also be adapted to any country-specific context.

Access the manual [here](#).



### Prague Process Migration Observatory

#### Collected Publications 2018-19

This book is a collection of the publications produced within the Prague Process Migration Observatory in 2018. The ambition of these publications - policy briefs and analytical reports - is to inform migration decision-makers, migration specialists, scientists and academics, as well as the interested public about ongoing migration policy aspects in selected countries or regions of the Prague Process. The authors, representing the state services, academic sphere and other specialists, aim at raising awareness concerning migration issues and challenges that are not necessarily part of the European Union's mainstream, but nevertheless strongly resonate in

the geopolitical area concerned, having a potential to influence the lives of individuals and societies. The curious reader may perceive these realities as close or more distant and consider their potential impact on his own life and home country. The professional reader can build upon the lessons learned and develop scenarios in terms of preventive planning or reactive actions.

Access the book [here](#).



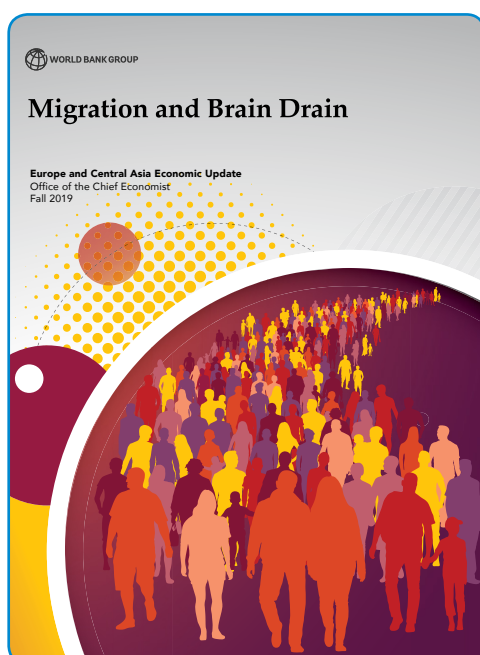
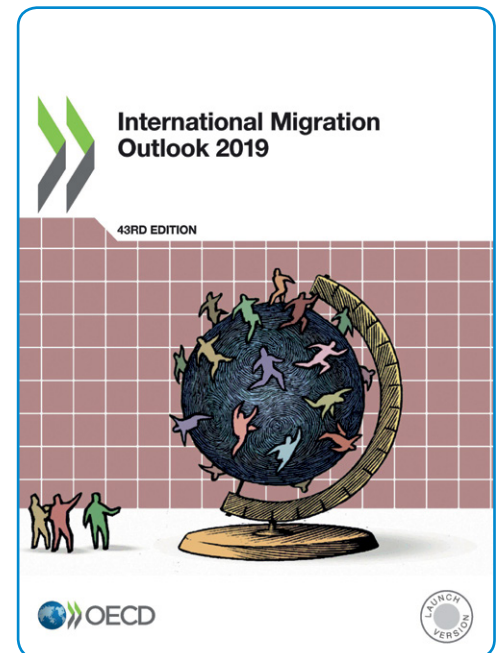
## Interesting reads:

### International Migration Outlook 2019

The 2019 edition of the *International Migration Outlook* analyses recent developments in migration movements and policies in OECD countries and some non-OECD economies. It also examines the evolution of labour market outcomes of immigrants in OECD countries. This year's edition includes two special chapters, one on the contribution of temporary migration to the labour markets of OECD countries and

the other on the long-term integration effects of family presence. The report also contains country notes and a statistical annex.

Access the Outlook in English [here](#).



### World Bank: Europe and Central Asia Economic Update, Fall 2019

#### Migration and Brain Drain

The share of immigrants in Western and Eastern Europe has increased rapidly over the past four decades. Today, one of every three immigrants in the world goes to Europe. Although globally only one-third of migration takes place within regions, intraregional migration is especially high within Europe and Central Asia, with 80 % of the region's emigrants choosing to move within the region. In high-income destination countries, migrants are often blamed for high unemployment and declining social services. There are also widespread concerns about brain drain in the migrant sending countries of Eastern Europe, the Western Balkans, and Central Asia. This update focuses

on the design of policies on labour mobility and presents the trends, determinants and impacts of low- and high-skilled labour.

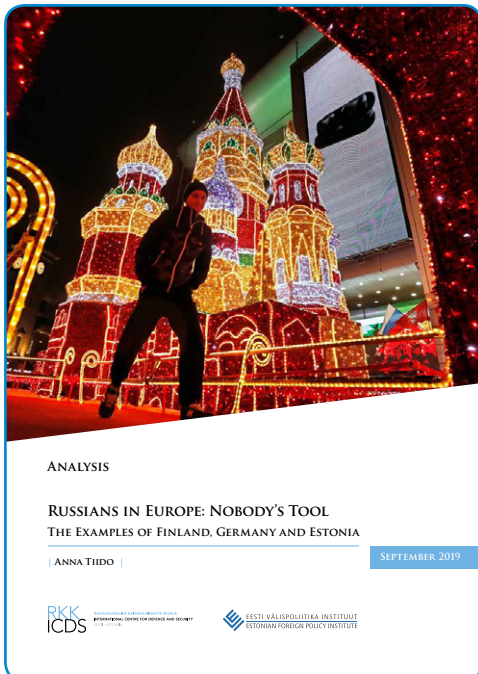
Access the publication in English [here](#).

### Trends in migration to Ireland of nationals of countries with visa liberalisation agreements with the European Union

This European Migration Network study looks at trends in migration to Ireland from certain countries in the Western Balkan and Eastern Partnership regions that have agreed visa liberalisation agreements with the European Union over the period 2009–2017. These agreements allow short-stay visa-free travel to the Schengen Area for holders of biometric passports. The border-free Schengen Area comprises 22 Member States of the European Union and the four European Free Trade Association (EFTA) countries. Ireland is not part of the Schengen Area and does not participate in the EU’s common visa policy. However, the report seeks to

provide a parallel overview of trends in migration to Ireland of nationals of the countries concerned, in circumstances where there is no visa waiver for these nationals to travel to Ireland.

Access the publication in English [here](#).



### Russians in Europe: Nobody's Tool – The Examples of Finland, Germany and Estonia

The paper analyses the issue of Russian speakers in the EU based on the examples of Finland, Germany and Estonia. Although the Kremlin’s “Russian World” policy sees all the people connected to Russia as a homogeneous group, the minority groups analysed are quite diverse. The media preferences and habits of Russian-speakers are connected to language, naturally, and these communities are one of the targets of Russia’s actions. At the same time, Russia also targets non-Russian audiences. Comparing the three cases, the main dividing line can be drawn between “imperial” minorities and immigrants, meaning that Russian-speakers’ communities emerged because of either the collapse of the Soviet Union or their own migration

to European countries. It is a case of either the border going “over their heads” or physical movement from one country to another. This division results in “imperial” communities generally having more grievances. The shared feature of all three societies is the heterogeneity of the Russian-speakers. The paper states that while structures for greater resilience and the integration of minorities are in place in the societies analysed, the exchange of best practices deserves more attention.

Access the publication in English [here](#).

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