

ACTIVE MIGRATION POLICIES AND THEIR POTENTIAL FOR CIRCULAR MIGRATION MODELS WITH DEVELOPMENT ASPECT



Jan Schroth
IOM Prague





Recent change of policy

- many developed countries have been adjusting their attitude to migration
- increasing number of active migration policy projects
 - Focusing on temporary labour migration or permanent immigration
 - Focusing on highly-qualified
 - Not so many focusing on semi-skilled or low-skilled ones



Source of brain-drain?

projects focused on permanent migration of skilled migrants often perceived as a source of brain-drain hampering development of source countries

BUT...



Aspects of migration

Migration is natural , can not be stopped

- especially of highly skilled and „trans-nationals“

Recent trends

- simpler to keep contacts with a country of origin
- easier to support homeland without return



Crucial for development!

In order anybody could enhance the development of a country, region, community or family, the basic precondition is that such a person must have the **possibility to explore his/her potential**

In some cases a qualified person cannot use her or his potential fully at home due to e.g. economical or political conditions, and in such cases he/she could be **capable to do more for his homeland from abroad**





Role of active migration projects

- to give fast-track access to a labour market
- to give rights to allow full assertion and professional growth
- avoid so called Brain Waste (Deskilling)
- promote Brain Gain
- allow and support regular migration
- not constrain immigrants from transferring acquired knowledge and financial means personally or implicitly to countries of origin.

SELECTION OF QUALIFIED FOREIGN WORKERS

- Czech Republic started active migration project as the first post-communist country in the region of Central Europe
- The 5 years pilot project began in July 2003.
- Governmental project implementing by MLSA
- IOM implementing information campaign in the Czech Republic as well as abroad.
- Detailed information at www.immigrationcz.org

SELECTION OF QUALIFIED FOREIGN WORKERS

Objectives

- According to estimations, the Czech labour market will lack 400,000 workers in the year 2030. Their deficit can be perceived in some regions and professions already today
- To test attractiveness of the Czech Republic especially for qualified foreigners

SELECTION OF QUALIFIED FOREIGN WORKERS

What the Project Offers to its Participants

- Opportunity to apply for a permanent residence permit already after 1.5 (high skilled) or 2.5 years (according to current legal provisions, it is after 5 years – was 10 by 2006).
- 45 days protection period to find a new work position in case of a job loss caused by different reasons than own fault.

The Czech Republic does not ensure employment, visa, accommodation or other service.

SELECTION OF QUALIFIED FOREIGN WORKERS

Who Can Apply

- **Citizens of**
 - Bulgaria, Belarus, Croatia, Kazakhstan, Moldova
 - Canada, Serbia and Montenegro (since July 1, 2005)
 - Ukraine (since January 1, 2006)
 - Bosnia and Hercegovina, Macedonia, Russia (since July 1, 2006)
 - India (since July 1, 2007)
- **Foreign graduates of**
 - **Czech universities** regardless their country of origin, who finished their studies in 1995 or later.
 - **Czech secondary schools** regardless their country of origin, who finished their studies in 2000 or later.

SELECTION OF QUALIFIED FOREIGN WORKERS

Which Requirements Must a Foreign Candidate Meet?

- Secondary vocational or higher education
- Sufficient points in the on-line computer selection procedure
- Work permit
- Visa for more than 90 days for the purpose of employment or a long term residence permit

SELECTION OF QUALIFIED FOREIGN WORKERS

Internet application of the MLSA www.praceprocizince.cz (jobforforeigners)– link between long term unfilled positions at the Czech labour market and demand for work was created

Application Objective

- To enable employers who cannot find qualified workers in the Czech Republic and in the EU to find employees abroad.
- Make it easier for foreign workers interested in the pilot project to find employment in the Czech Republic.

SELECTION OF QUALIFIED FOREIGN WORKERS

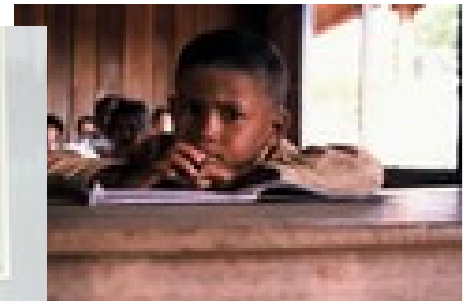
Current situation and experience

- 742 participants (1500 with family members)
- Growing numbers applicants from abroad
- Well adjusted objective point system
- Disproportion between IOM info-campaign results (more than 200 000 visits of project-website and thousand calls to info-lines abroad) and number of applicants
- Opened broader debate and improved perception of foreigners in society



Questions and Conclusions

- Stopping projects leads to stopping brain-drain?
- Could current projects support development or new ones needed?





Theory or praxis?

developed countries benefiting from the immigration should share the profit with the countries of origin in a form of development and other projects



Thank you for your attention.

Jan Schroth
schroth@iom.cz