

TRANSFORMATION OF MIGRATION PROCESSES WITHIN EURASIAN ECONOMIC UNION: CHALLENGES AND NEW OPPORTUNITIES

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Abstract. This paper examines the transformation of the migration process within the Eurasian Economic Union, taking into account legislative, statistical and managerial aspects. The study showed that, despite the positive development trends, the continuing imbalance within both economic and political indicators remains a serious internal challenge for the EEU. Thus, the task of Eurasian integration is the effective economic development of the Union countries and increasing their competitiveness. It also is necessary to take effective measures aimed at unifying the migration legislation of the participating countries and creating a single labor market.

Keywords: EEU, politics, management, remittances

JEL codes: F22, I38, J15

Аңдатпа. Бұл жұмыста заңнамалық, статистикалық және басқарушылық аспектілерді ескере отырып, Еуразиялық экономикалық одақ шеңберіндегі көші-қон процесінің трансформациясы қарастырылған. Жүргізілген зерттеу көрсеткендей, оң даму тенденцияларына қарамастан, мүше елдер арасындағы экономикалық және саяси көрсеткіштер шеңберіндегі теңгерімсіздік ЕАЭО үшін маңызды ішкі проблема болып отыр. Осыған орай, еуразиялық интеграцияның қазіргі кезеңдегі негізгі міндеті - Одақ елдерінің тиімді экономикалық дамуы және олардың бәсекеге қабілеттілігін арттыру. Сонымен қатар, қатысушы елдердің көші-қон заңнамасын біріздендіруге және бірыңғай еңбек нарығын құруға бағытталған тиімді шараларды қабылдау қажет.

Түйін сөздер: ЕАЭО, саясат, менеджмент, ақша аударымдары

JEL кодтары: F22, I38, J15

Аннотация. В данной работе рассматриваются трансформация миграционного процесса в рамках Евразийского экономического союза с учетом законодательных, статистических и управленческих аспектов. Проведенное исследование показало, что несмотря на положительные тенденции развития, серьезным внутренним вызовом для ЕАЭС остается сохраняющийся дисбаланс внутри как по экономическим, так и по политическим показателям. Таким образом, задачей евразийской интеграции является эффективное экономическое развитие стран Союза и повышение их конкурентоспособности. Кроме того, необходимо принятие эффективных мер, направленных на унификацию миграционного законодательства стран-участников и создание единого рынка труда.

Ключевые слова: ЕАЭС, политика, управление, денежные переводы

JEL коды: F22, I38, J15

Introduction

The creation of the Eurasian Economic Union (EEU) influenced not only the economic component of the participants but also became an impetus for active migration processes. The EEU policy to ensure freedom of movement of goods, as well as services, capital, and labor, and the implementation of a coordinated, agreed and unified policy in the sectors of the economy, increased the flow of labor migrants and their families to more economically developed EEU states. Naturally, this affected the cash flows within the EEU countries, creating at the same time an imbalance in labor resources.

According to scientists, there are two scenarios for the development of the migration situation in the EEU: extensive

and intensive. In the extensive scenario of the development of the migration situation in the EEU, the prospects for the geographical expansion of the Eurasian Economic Union are considered, the impact of expansion on labor migration flows and the socio-economic consequences for the countries joining the Union are assessed. The prospects and effects of joining the EEU of the Republic of Tajikistan are assessed.

The authors point out that the further expansion of the Eurasian Economic Union should be based on active interaction with other countries and integration associations. In the intensive scenario of the development of the migration situation in the EEU, the prospects for deepening the economic integration of the participating countries are considered, the prospects for the creation of

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a single labor market for highly qualified specialists in the EEU based on a single innovative infrastructure and a single educational space are assessed.

Meanwhile, the transition of integration projects in the post-Soviet space to deeper forms is limited by the national and economic interests of the current and potential members of integration associations. The stabilization of the single labor market of the EEU can occur under the condition of an increase not in the quantity, but in the quality of the labor force, an increase in its professional qualifications, and an increase in the transparency of migration flows. The low level of professional training not only narrows the opportunities for labor migrants in the external labor markets but also leads to the aggravation of socio-economic problems.

It is important to create the necessary comfortable conditions for the migration of highly qualified specialists within the EEU. There is a need to stimulate the development of innovative infrastructure and the creation of a single educational space, which will be a consequence of the formation of a single labor market for highly qualified specialists.

Thus, member states are intended to create a single labor market for highly qualified specialists through the mechanisms of innovation and educational infrastructure. The creative economy raises the level of requirements for the qualifications of workers in the labor market and thereby stimulates the migration of qualified employees. It is important to prevent a "brain drain" from the EEU member states to third countries. The formation of a knowledge economy in the EEU space can solve several socio-economic problems (*Ryazantsev et al, 2017*).

The Advisory Committee on Migration Policy was created by the Decision of the Board of the Eurasian Economic Commission dated August 30, 2012, No. 154. The Committee is an advisory body of the Eurasian Economic Commission on the implementation of a coordinated policy in the field of labor migration. It develops proposals for the harmonization and unification of the legislation of the Member States in the field of labor migration, for the creation of a common labor market, and for

ensuring the free movement of citizens of the Member States within the Eurasian Economic Union (*Eurasiancommission, 2019*).

Method and Materials

This work uses a descriptive method and content analysis of the materials received both from official sources and expert analyses. To study the current situation and prospects for the transformation of labor migration within the framework of the Eurasian Economic Union, official materials of the Eurasian Economic Union, as well as the member countries of the Union in the field of labor migration, are used. Also, attention is paid to the materials of researchers dealing with labor migration issues within this Union.

Results of the study and discussion

While studying the labor migration in the context of EEU the issues related to the movement of the labor force, the current state of labor migration in member-states, the impact of labor migration on the economies of the EEU countries, as well as prospects of the development of EEU were analyzed.

Legal basis for the movement of migrants in the EEU

The EEU Treaty (29 May 2014) and accompanying documents include several provisions aimed at ensuring freedom of movement within the EEU member states when citizens of these countries carry out labor activities on the territory of another member state, as well as for their family members. These standards can be summarized as follows (*Eurasiancommission, 2015*):

- Persons wishing to work on the territory of another EEU state, and their family members, can stay on the territory of another state without registration for 30 days. In the future, they are registered at the place of stay for a period determined by the validity of the employment contract;

- Citizens of one EEU member state, when crossing the border of another member state with a passport, do not fill out a migration card if their stay does not exceed 30 days. The border crossing mark is put in the passport;

- Citizens of a member state of the EEU are not required to issue a permit to

carry out labor activities in the territory of another member state. They can carry out labor activities based on an employment or civil law contract;

- On the territory of all EEU member states, there is a direct recognition of diplomas and qualifications; certification (nostrification) of educational documents is not required. This norm is established by paragraph 3. of Art. 97 of the Treaty on the EEU dated May 29, 2014. However, the following clause is also made there that workers of one Member State applying for teaching, legal, medical or pharmaceutical activities in another Member State should go through the procedure for the recognition of educational documents established by the legislation of the state of employment and may be admitted to teaching, legal, medical or pharmaceutical activities by the legislation of the state of employment, and the income of a foreign citizen of a member state of the EEU in the territory of another member state is taxed on an equal basis with the income of citizens of that country;

- Labor (including insurance) experience is considered in labor relations for social security;

- Children of a citizen of a member state of the EEU have the right to attend preschool institutions by the legislation of the host state;

- Citizens of the EEU state and members of their families in the territory of another member state are provided with emergency and urgent medical aid free of charge in the same manner and on the same conditions as citizens of this state, regardless of whether they have a medical policy.

Analysis of the current migration situation in the EEU

The creation and the beginning of the functioning of the EEU in its current form in 2015 fell during a difficult time of the financial crisis and economic downturn in the post-Soviet space, associated with the fall in energy prices and the sanctions policy of several Western countries towards the Russian Federation. At a time when many sectors of the economy were in decline, labor migration showed steady growth. It was with the help of migration that most of the EEU member states were able to mitigate the serious consequences of the downturn in their national economies, partly

offsetting the loss of income from the export of raw materials and goods through remittances from migrants.

This is evidenced by the statistics of the Central Bank of the Russian Federation and international payment systems at the end of 2016, according to which the volume of remittances from Russia to Uzbekistan and Tajikistan decreased, while to Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan, on the contrary, increased. The leader in growth was Kazakhstan - 43% (in 2015 it received \$ 318 million), in second place is Kyrgyzstan - 37.8% (\$ 1.083 billion), followed by Tajikistan - 33.7% (\$ 1.278 billion), Uzbekistan is transferred to 13, 5% (\$ 2.37 billion) more than in 2015. The volume of transfers to Turkmenistan decreased by exactly half - from \$ 16 million in 2015 to \$ 8 million in 2016 (*Migrant.ferghana.ru, 2016*).

As can be noticed, in terms of the growth rate of remittances Kazakhstan ranked first among member states. Kyrgyzstan with its heavy dependence on labor migration ranked second in the volume of received remittances from Russia. It is worth noting that Kazakhstan itself attracts a large number of labor migrants from neighboring countries (about 300 thousand people per year). According to the monitoring website UzAnalytics, if in 2016 468 441 Uzbeks went to Kazakhstan for labor purposes, then in 2018 their number exceeded three million. The number of remittances from Kazakhstan to Uzbekistan in 2018 increased by 28% compared to 2017 (*Leater, 2019*).

Meanwhile, Russia remains a major destination for citizens of post-Soviet states for various purposes. According to the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Russian Federation, about half a million people received the citizenship of the Russian Federation in 2019, of which more than 10% were citizens of the Republic of Kazakhstan. In the context of the CIS countries, Kazakhstan ranks second in the number of citizens who received the citizenship of the Russian Federation (50,492 people). The major number of Ukrainians changed their citizenship in 2019 to Russian (299,422 people) (*Leater, 2019*). The reason for this can be the recent economic and political instability of the state.

Table 1. Selected indicators of the migration situation in the Russian Federation for 2019 with distribution by CIS countries

№	CIS countries	Purpose of entry					Obtaining Russian citizenship
		tourism	study	work	private	other	
1.	Azerbaijan	16840	15448	194929	209816	28582	13521
2.	Armenia	11724	13311	210460	82753	12867	24024
3.	Belarus	75061	9751	163410	160596	53220	5043
4.	Kazakhstan	37011	90782	136208	247473	48593	50492
5.	Kyrgyzstan	9243	21543	453702	83716	15513	9371
6.	Moldova	10952	11882	174150	135258	7941	15791
7.	Mongolia	11682	6602	783	17851	3935	3
8.	Tajikistan	8019	44661	1179423	330820	22223	44707
9.	Turkmenistan	10994	49444	4813	11463	6746	1361
10.	Uzbekistan	22035	50080	2107302	366136	38654	19388
11.	Ukraine	56793	35328	435528	550068	56240	299422
	Total	4187536	681832	5478249	2524118	991786	497817

Source: The Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Russian Federation, 2019

In the meantime, according to studies, many migrants from Uzbekistan and Tajikistan (mainly employed in construction, transport, services), forced to spend significant funds on the registration of permits, want to receive the same benefits as labor migrants from Kyrgyzstan and wait for their countries to join the EEU (*Starostin, 2017*). These trends reflect the serious changes that have taken place in the field of labor migration within the EEU over the past two years. This is because the Russian Federation remains the main center of attraction for migrants in the post-Soviet space, therefore, the changes taking place in Russia, including due to the entry into force of the Treaty on the EEU, have a serious impact on the formation of migration flows in the post-Soviet space. First of all, with the entry into force of the Treaty on the EEU and accession to the Treaty on the EEU from August 12, 2015, the citizens of Central Asian countries directing most of the migration flow to Russia were divided in their legal status: citizens of Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan do not need to issue permit documents (patents) for employment, and citizens of Uzbekistan and Tajikistan are faced with tightening migration legislation and an increase in the cost of obtaining permits. To work on the territory of Russia, migrants from the CIS countries now need to apply for a patent, the cost of which varies in different regions, and to obtain it, it

is necessary to register with the tax authorities, buy insurance, and take exams in the Russian language, history, and law.

The impact of labor migration on the economies of the EEU countries, and the adjustment of governance to comply with transformation trends

In this section, the impact of labor migration on economies of member-states as well as state interests while adjusting to transformations in the labor market are considered.

1. The Russian Federation, being the third country in terms of the number of attracted migrants after the United States and Germany, is also interested in attracting qualified labor. In the 2010s. the total number of foreign citizens in Russia fluctuated around 10-12 million people (*Egorova, 2008*). However, recent studies conclude that about 60% of foreign workers in Russia are not included in the data of the Federal State Statistics Service of Russia and the Main Directorate for Migration Issues of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Russian Federation. By the average estimate, if in 2017 about 7.2 million foreign citizens worked in Russia, of which only about 2.9 million people worked legally. Based on an assessment of the total number of foreign labor migrants in Russia, in 2017 the contribution of foreign workers to Russian GDP was about 6.4% (*Aleshkovskii, et al, 2019*).

Meanwhile, the Russian labor market in the coming years may face a serious shortage of labor resources, which are currently shrinking due to an aging population and a demographic decline. According to the estimates of the Federal State Statistics Service, by 2035, the reduction of the working-age population may amount to 3.1 million people. The optimistic version of the forecast expects that the number of able-bodied Russians (men 16–59 years old, women 16–54 years old) will decrease by 500 thousand people over the next 15 years (*Tass.ru*, 2019). In this regard, the Ministry of Labor of the Russian Federation is considering almost double the list of foreign specialists who can obtain Russian citizenship in a simplified manner when moving to work in the Russian Federation. The list is proposed to be supplemented with professions of the medical sphere, for example, such as pediatrician, psychiatrist, psychiatrist-narcologist, therapist.

However, as of the opinions of experts, after the terrorist attack in St. Petersburg in April 2017 and the discovery of several terrorist cells consisting of immigrants from Central Asia, government authorities are seriously talking about toughening migration legislation. The key question is how these two trends will be combined: the needs of the economy for migrants and security issues, and how this will affect the EEU integration project (*Starostin*, 2017).

2. Belarus is the most integrated CIS state with the Russian Federation. The geographical location of Belarus in the center of Europe makes the country a convenient transit corridor for communication between the EEU and the European Union. This explains the large number of foreign citizens crossing the state border. According to the Ministry of Internal Affairs for January-September 2019, for work based on signed agreements and contracts: 7.4 thousand people left the republic or 81.6% of the level of 2018 (in January-September 2018 - 9.1 thousand people). Citizens leave mainly for the Russian Federation (3.4 thousand people, or 45% of the total number of those who left), Poland (1335 people, or 18.1%), Lithuania (903 people, or 12.2%), and the Czech Republic (658 people, or 8.9%); 14.9

thousand people entered the republic (in January-September 2018 - 11.8 thousand people). Most who leave the country are highly qualified specialists, which, on the one hand, weakens the intellectual potential of the republic, and on the other hand, keeps it from social upheavals.

The main donors of labor migrants were the Russian Federation (4.5 thousand people, or 30.1% of the total number of those who entered), China (3.5 thousand people, or 23.5%), Ukraine (2.3 thousand people, or 15.7%), Uzbekistan (934 people, or 6.3%) (*Mcrb.by*, 2019). Meanwhile, the development of the republic's economy indicates that it is unlikely shortly to become a country that actively receives labor migrants.

3. Kyrgyzstan is a classic labor donor country. In 2019, the share of remittances from labor migrants amounted to 30% of the country's GDP (*Sputnik. Kg*, 2020). The republic's accession to the EEU pushed people to leave, and the number of people leaving for Russia and Kazakhstan increased. At the beginning of 2015, 502 thousand citizens of Kyrgyzstan stayed in Russia, which is 58 thousand less compared to the beginning of 2014. The crisis and devaluation of the partner countries led to the fact that it became unprofitable for migrants to work in these countries, and at the end of the year, many decided to return to their homeland. However, after joining the EEU and receiving the above preferences, the number of migrants from Kyrgyzstan began to grow again, and in 2016, 826,640 people were already in Russia. In 2015, this upward trend was observed only for the citizens of Kyrgyzstan, while the opposite trend was observed for neighboring countries (*Islamio.ru*, 2016).

The government of the Kyrgyz Republic notes that the volume of the country's trade, which fell to \$ 5.6 billion in 2015, exceeded the \$ 7 billion mark in 2018 precisely because the country joined the EEU. It is worth recalling that in 2012-2014 this figure was approximately \$ 7.5-8 billion. Moreover, compared with recent years, then the volume of exports was higher (*Rus.azattyk*, 2019).

However, for Kyrgyzstan, a severe consequence of labor migration, which

became apparent back in 2000-2010, when a simplified procedure for obtaining citizenship operated between Russia and the Kyrgyz Republic, is the outflow of qualified specialists: doctors, skilled workers, and engineers, intellectuals, they settle in Russia or Kazakhstan, undermining the intellectual potential of the country. There is a shortage of doctors and teachers in rural areas. The trend towards clericalization of society is growing, which, due to the activities of Islamist groups, poses a threat to the security of the EEU. It is expected that the trend towards an increase in the number of people leaving the republic will continue.

4. Armenia is also a labor exporting member of EEU. Yet, there were several reasons for joining Armenia to EEU, primarily economic, humanitarian, spiritual ties of Armenia with the EEU countries, and, especially, with Russia. Russia today is the main trade and economic partner of Armenia and is in the top three economic donors of the republic in terms of investments. In addition, Armenia get also access to cheap Russian energy resources.

The country's accession to the EEU is not only economic benefits. For Armenia, as a country that is currently at war with Azerbaijan, security is of great importance. Membership in the EEU allows Armenia to purchase weapons at domestic Russian prices. The geopolitical component of the risk of Armenia's Eurasian strategy is the status of the unrecognized Nagorno-Karabakh Republic, which generates a long-term conflict in the region. There is another problem in the issue of conflict resolution and the role of the EEU - the ambiguous attitude of some EEU members to the conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh (*Balasanyan, 2017*).

An influx of tourists has also become another plus for Armenia from joining the EEU. The total number of tourists who visited the republic in 2016 amounted to 1.26 million people, about half a million of whom were Russians. However, current incomes are not able, according to scientists, to reverse negative demographic trends: scientists consider the long-term consequences of the departure of the population to be catastrophic. Analysis of the data from the conducted sample studies shows that out of every 10 departures, 8 are

carried out for employment abroad. In Russia alone, according to the Ministry of Internal Affairs, in 2016, 631,746 Armenian citizens were registered with migration. This is more than a quarter of the population living in the republic. For the country's economy, remittances from international migrants represent significant support. The volume of remittances of international migrants to Armenia is 21% of the republic's GDP (*Starostin, 2017*).

5. Kazakhstan. The regulation of migration processes has been one of the main directions of the state policy of Kazakhstan since the first years of its independence. So, in 1997 the Law "On the migration of the population" and the sectoral "Program of migration policy of the Republic of Kazakhstan for 2001-2010" were approved. Their main goals are to strengthen the state security of the country, to ensure sustainable socio-economic and demographic development of the country, to create the necessary conditions for the realization of the rights of migrants. The Concept of Migration Policy of the Republic of Kazakhstan for 2017-2021, adopted by the government of the country, was aimed at improving the existing and developing qualitatively new areas of management of migration processes in the Republic of Kazakhstan, at pursuing a selective (electoral) policy in attracting immigrants with high educational, innovative, financial, investment potential.

The regulation of ethnic migration took a central place in the migration policy of the Republic of Kazakhstan. In 1998, the government of the Republic of Kazakhstan adopted a resolution "On the Concept of Repatriation of Ethnic Kazakhs to their Historical Homeland", the main goal of which was to create real mechanisms for the repatriation of ethnic Kazakhs (oral means) to their historical homeland, including their organized resettlement and creation of conditions for life in places of settlement. According to the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection of the Population, from 1991 to 2020, 313,256 families or 1,057,280 ethnic Kazakhs returned to their historical homeland and received the status of oralmans. Among them, people of working age make up 56.3%, children under 18 years old - 39% and pensioners - 4.7% (*Informburo, 2019*).

A significant part of oralmans came from China - 41.5% (7,326 people), Uzbekistan - 40.1% (7,074), Turkmenistan - 6.5% (1,152), Mongolia - 6.2% (1,095), Russia - 1.8% (313), 3.9% (701) - from other countries. Most of them settled in Almaty - 38%, Mangistau - 14% regions, in the cities of Shymkent - 7% and Nur-Sultan - 6% (Лутер, 2020).

The country has developed a program for employment of the population, which includes issues of ensuring the employment of oralmans, their vocational training, and self-employment in small business. To make the repatriates more comfortable, special adaptation courses are organized for them, where people study the Kazakh and Russian languages, as well as the basics of the legislation of Kazakhstan.

Kazakhstan is also a consumer of labor from neighboring countries. It should be noted that the bulk of official migrant workers are qualified managers, specialists, and workers from Turkey, China, the USA, the UK, and other countries. At the same time, a significant part of foreign workers in Kazakhstan is Chinese citizens. In 2017, 9,087 Chinese workers were attracted to the country, or 39.1% of the total foreign labor force (Sadovskaya, 2019). The presence of a significant number of labor migrants from China may be associated with the implementation of the Chinese megaproject One Belt One Road. At the same time, within the framework of this project, the members of the EEU cooperate with China in updating the transport infrastructure, in the field of construction, energy, resource extraction, and high technologies (Ria.ru, 2015).

Meanwhile, from January 1, 2017, a new simplified regime was introduced regarding the attraction of foreign labor. By it, the terms for issuing work permits have been reduced, and administrative requirements for employers have been canceled. In return, employers now have to pay a tax fee, which ranges from 137 to 250 monthly calculation indices (1 MCI is 2 269 tenge), that is, from 290 to 530 thousand tenge, depending on the industry and category of foreign labor involved (Starostin, 2017).

Prospects for integration in the labor market and plans of the EEU to develop freedom of movement

If the number of EEU member states does not change, it can be assumed that migration flows focused primarily on Russia as the main market in the post-Soviet space where foreign labor is in demand will continue to transform in the same direction. That is, the share of migrants from the EEU countries working in Russia should gradually increase, while the share of migrants from other post-Soviet states could gradually decrease. However, this is a short-term trend, as the demographic opportunities of Kyrgyzstan, Armenia, and the Russian-speaking diaspora in Kazakhstan are limited. Therefore, migrants from Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Ukraine, and other post-Soviet states could continue to make up a significant share of the labor market of Russia's foreign labor force.

Meanwhile, since 2015, Tajikistan has been considering the feasibility of joining the EEU. In general, Tajikistan is in no hurry to join the Eurasian Economic Union. Neither Tajikistan nor the EEU countries have a political task of joining at any cost. It is necessary to understand the pros and cons of such a decision, as well as the details of the agreements on the transition period.

Tajikistan sees two main advantages: an increase in investment in the republic and an increase in remittances of labor migrants. According to experts' estimates, the potential for GDP growth from investments will provide an additional 1.6 percentage points of GDP growth per year. The investment potential of remittances from abroad will add another 1 percentage point to GDP growth per year. The attraction of foreign direct investment can affect the change in total productivity in the economy through technology transfer and increased competition, which will provide an additional resource for growth by 0.5 percentage points. The capital increase will boost GDP growth by 0.4 percentage points due to the involvement of new labor resources. Thus, the cumulative effect will be up to 3.5 percentage points per year. It is not automatic - it is a potential that must be realized (CGR "Berlek-Unity", 2018).

As for other experts, Tajikistan is worried about the loss of customs duties after integration into the EEU. How it is known that all funds accrued due to the import of goods from other countries will be transferred to the general budget of the

association. Then they will be transferred to member countries depending on the assigned share, such as for Kyrgyzstan the share was set at 1.9%. Probably, for Tajikistan, this figure is not will exceed 1.5-2% (*Khidoyatzoda, 2017*).

In the meantime, in terms of further improving the EEU migration legislation, in 2019, member-states gained the agreement on the compulsory payment of pension contributions and the export of pensions, making it possible not to interrupt work experience. The fact is that today in the member states there are different pension systems, different approaches are applied to the financing of the pension system and the distribution of pension funds. The retirement age, the size of pension accruals, and their sources also differ, the problems of preserving the transfer and preservation of pension rights in the course of labor activity and the movement of citizens of the Member States from one country to another have not been resolved. At present, a Pension Provision Treaty was signed in 2019, which should ensure equal rights in the field of pension provision, protection of pension rights acquired by workers in the territory of the member states, as well as the development of cooperation in the field of pension provision between countries. At the same time, it is planned that the pension systems of the member states will not be subject to significant changes, since the Treaty provides for the participation of labor migrants in the pension system of the host country and the transfer of pension rights of citizens in case of moving from one country to another.

Meanwhile, there is still a lot of work to be done. For example, it is planned to increase the period of staying without registration of citizens in the territories of the member states up to 90 days. Several interstate agreements between the EEU member states are being worked out, aimed at the implementation and unification of Union legislation in matters of cross-border migration, in particular, on facilitating the border crossing regime. The possibilities of exempting citizens of the Union member states from the obligation to fill out a migration card when crossing state borders are being actively discussed. For example, it is planned to ensure priority crossing of state borders by citizens of the Union

member states by allocating special passport control points at the borders.

Work is also underway to expand the list of documents allowing entry, exit, movement, and transit through the territories of the member states, for example, until February 23, 2017, citizens of the Russian Federation could enter the Republic of Armenia only with foreign passports, the entry with internal documents was impossible. But based on an interstate agreement, this problem was solved.

In the European Union, migration legislation has been worked out in detail both about the movement and employment of citizens of the EU member states within the European Union and about third-country nationals staying in the EU for various purposes. The Eurasian Economic Union must move in the same direction, unifying migration legislation about citizens of third countries. The migration policy of the EEU member states in this direction is still different.

It is also necessary to improve cooperation and enhance the coordination of the EEU and CSTO activities in the fight against extremism and terrorism, which, unfortunately, are a concomitant element of informal labor migration. According to experts, cooperation in the field of labor migration between the EEU and CSTO member states is especially relevant in the context of the intensification of integration processes. At the same time, the partner countries are concerned about the possibility of a massive influx of refugees into their territories from zones of instability and armed conflicts. Therefore, particular attention is paid to the formation of a system for the exchange of information between the competent authorities of the Member States in the field of combating illegal migration. This work is carried out within the framework of the Unified Registration System for third-state nationals and stateless persons entering the territory of the CIS member states (*Eurasiancommission, 2016*).

In the long term, these goals can be reduced to a single global goal: to promote the achievement and maintenance of sustainable economic growth of the member states and the Union through the realization of their competitive advantages.

The continuing imbalance within the

Union remains a serious internal challenge for the EEU: Russia remains the trade and the political center of the EEU. The imbalance of the Union also manifests itself in the economic context: member countries by most macroeconomic indicators do not correlate with each other. Judging by the gross of domestic product, calculated at purchasing ability (GDP PPP), in Russia this indicator in 2017 was 4007.831 billion US dollars, while in the second largest the EEU countries, Kazakhstan, the figure reached 477.593 billion dollars USA (*Meshkova, et al, 2019*).

Today, the priorities for the development of the EEU until 2025 include:

- ensuring maximum efficiency of the single EEU market and the implementation of its opportunities for business and consumers;
- the formation of a "territory of innovation" and stimulation of scientific and technical breakthroughs;
- disclosing the potential of integration for people, increasing their well-being and quality of life;
- the formation of the EEU as one of the most significant development centers of the modern world, open for mutually beneficial and equal cooperation with external partners and building new formats of interaction.

Conclusion

The Eurasian Economic Union is a fairly young, but dynamically developing integration unification. Work to develop and deepen the Eurasian integration continues, a new integration agenda, the regulatory and legal base of the EEU, more and more complete harmonization with national legislations of the allied countries. Since the beginning of the implementation of the Eurasian integration project, a significant part of these tasks has already been resolved: experts from the member states and the Eurasian Economic Commission have done a lot of work and achieved significant successes: a customs union and a single customs tariff are in place; a common labor market and a common service market are formed, new technical regulations are adopted. Particularly, to expand the scope of employment, the EEU legislation provides the possibility of exercising labor activity not only under labor but also under a civil contract. It also

stipulates that the restrictions established by the legislation of the Member States to protect the national labor market will not apply. Restrictions were removed for admission to the common labor market of citizens of the member states Union, quotas and mandatory work permits were also canceled. Citizens of the Union member states are exempt from the obligation to register within 30 days from the date of entry and receive a migration card. To simplify employment in the territories of the Member States of the Union, documents are equally recognized about education.

At the same time, Eurasian integration faces several difficulties, including a certain inconsistency in economic development models, insufficient consolidation of institutions, as well as the priority of their modernization projects, which are not always combined with common priorities, and several other constraining factors.

In this regard, at this stage, it is necessary to take measures aimed at the substantive filling of the Eurasian agenda, including the implementation of joint programs and projects, development of cross-border production and technological cooperation, the formation of regional chains of the added cost, a combination of comparative national advantages in the production of technologically complex products, etc. In addition, the following aspects should be the main components of the labor migration regulation system to achieve sustainable socio-economic development of the Eurasian Economic Union member states:

- Creation of a unified, harmonious system of migration legislation of the EEU member states based on the unification of normative legal acts, considering the strategy of socio-economic development of the Union member states.
- Development of interstate agreements of the EEU on the creation of conditions and opportunities for the effective use of the labor potential of the member states of the Union through an organized movement and distribution of labor in labor-deficient territories and regions of the common economic space. It is also important to take measures to prevent "brain drain" from the Union to other countries.
- Ensuring control over compliance by

employers with the implementation of labor legislation, in case of violation, bring to strict judicial and administrative responsibility, up to criminal punishment.

- Creation of equal conditions for labor remuneration of migrants, which will allow to achieve a significant reduction in illegal employment of labor migrants and will contribute to an increase in tax revenues to the budgets of the Union states, as well as eliminate the negative consequences associated with the shadow economy.

- Improvement of the system of development of migration infrastructure

(data banks on vacancies, conditions, rights, recruiting agencies, migration exchanges, a network of available points for money transfer, etc.).

The level of labor migration regulations determines not only the efficiency of the functioning and use of labor resources but also the future socio-economic development and prosperity of the Union member states. Thus, in the context of the intensification of the development of interstate interaction, the importance of migration regulation in the EEU also increases.

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