

ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION IN RUSSIA: ECONOMIC REASONS AND WAYS TO IMPROVE THE SITUATION

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According to the results of the surveys the number of illegal immigrants in Russian regions varies from 1 to 4% on average. But in Krasnoyarsk this rate is more than 5%, which is higher than the average rate. This number tends to grow due to the current reduction of the legal opportunities for external migration. This is the result of the increasing restrictions in Russian state legislation and the shortage of necessary workforce for stabilizing economy because of the demographic crisis in Russia.

According to the survey conducted by "Rosstat" agency in 2012, about 1,500 illegal immigrants entered Russia mainly from the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS countries). It makes more than 90% of the immigration flow into Russia. The rest of newcomers arrived mostly from Southeast Asia.

In this article we would like to focus mainly on economic reasons of illegal immigration in Russia and suggest some solutions that would improve the current situation.

We believe that the main reasons for this type of immigration to Russia are economic as the average salary of migrant workers in Russia is 4-5 times higher than in the countries of their origin. There is also another reason which is the lack of jobs of these immigrants in their home countries. That is why labor force moves from the countries with low standards of living to the countries with higher level of income.

About 20 million foreign citizens and stateless persons annually enter Russia. Many researchers and politicians consider that it causes

- the rise of real estate prices;
- the increase of competition at the labor market;
- the decline of living standards;
- escalation of social problems related to education and public health;
- the growth of ethnic conflicts in the Russian Federation.

It is also the reason of the capital export as immigrants send more than a half of their income to their families they support in their home countries. They violate legal rules of money transfer. The export of capital by immigrant workers is about \$ 15 billion a year. Thus the more immigrants in the country the more cash outflow to other countries is.

Immigrants don't pay taxes and increase criminalization of Russian business environment. Some immigrants don't pay taxes because of illiteracy and others because of feeling insecure and the fear of tax service and other ones.

More than 15% of immigrant workers are sick with infectious diseases (AIDS, syphilis, leprosy, hepatitis) but the Federal Migration Service can legally deport only those with AIDS.

In the some regions there is a big problem with immigrant accumulation in the same areas replacing the local residents in particular industries.

Immigrants' low skills and salary expectations cause a severe blow at the labor market in our country. Illegal workers agree to low wages and any working conditions. They influence the labor market taking a lot of available positions. Russian citizens cannot afford working like as they need to earn real money, because they are obliged to pay for housing and utility services, health and education. As a result the local population is losing the

opportunity to have well-paid jobs.

The massive use of cheap labor that is not qualified for complex operations results in primitive production and lower productivity. The use of unskilled workers leads to the violations of the production process with the negative impact on safety.

As we can see, there are a lot of problems with illegal immigration. However, involvement of foreign workers in some industries such as the construction industry is very important for Russia as there is a significant shortage of workers on main constructions in Krasnoyarskiy kray, such as Boguchanskaya GES, Aluminum Plant, Vankor field and Pulp and Paper Mill.

An important legal document regulating relations between foreigners and Russian Federation has been created recently. Now, Russian migration policy will have been accorded to this legal document by 2025. This concept was approved by President of Russia Vladimir Putin in 13th June 2012.

Main points of concept are

- promoting of academic mobility;
- simplifying immigration rules for investors;
- developing a score system to assess migrants in terms of their life for our country;
- opening of the immigration centers for medical examination;
- creating a system of teaching Russian language in professional educational institutions in the countries with the most intense migration flows;
- accumulating the special funds to encourage the relocation of people to those areas of the country where there is a lack of workforce, such as Russian Far East.

The main disadvantage of this concept is that it is only about improving the legal framework. The practical steps of this concept can be interpreted in different ways depending on the situation and circumstances that by 2025 can change several times.

Suggested course of action according to the concept could include:

- By 2015 -completing development of legal acts;
- 2016-2020 - launching a program of state migration policy;
- 2021-2025 - evaluating the effectiveness of these programs.

The main aim of the concept is regulation of migration policy. By 2021 we must stop the outflow of population from Siberia and Far East, and by 2026 we are to provide inflow.

Low birth rate in Russia is also one of the reasons of illegal immigration.

There were some situations in world history that caused demographic gaps. But when the state governments provided economic measures to increase confidence of the citizens for the future, it increased the birth rate and improved the demographic situation. This was the case in Germany, when the chaos of the Weimar Republic was ended. It happened in Italy and in the Islamic Republic of Iran. Basic measures for solving the problem of low birth rate are support for motherhood and childhood, adequate child benefits, and availability of housing. Thereby, the country will have additional 20 million people at least.

A good example is Sweden's experience when they faced the degeneration of the nation and decided to attract people to the territory of their country, in order to increase population. However, the immigrant had to live far from the tribesmen. Thus the immigrant had to follow the Swedish traditions, communicate with the Swedes and put their children in Swedish schools and whoever had a nationality, culture, education, they became the Swedes.

In many countries there are quotas for particular working specialties which the country currently needs.

Also, a good example is the experience of China in Africa. Chinese make capital investments in the infrastructure of less developed countries, create jobs for natives and Chinese. It is a good opportunity to use natural resources and have good benefits for their economy.

Current immigration problems in Russia, as a consequence of its socio-economic situation requires strong will of the state and the attention of the Russian society to achieve social prosperity and economic progress.