Migrations in the CIS Region: Common Problems and Mutual Benefits

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CIS: Eurasian migration system

- Historical ties
- Geographical proximity, “transparent” borders
- Common transport infrastructure
- Psychological easiness to move
- Demographic complementarity
- Mutual interest towards common labor market
- Regional cooperation aimed at coordinated migration management
- Large-scale irregular migration
CIS: Recent trends in migration flows

Decreasing:
- Migration for permanent residence
- Refugees
- Commercial circular migration
- Transit migration

Increasing:
- Labor migration
  - regular
  - irregular
- Student migration
CIS: Migrant workers abroad estimates (thousands), early 2000s

- Armenia
- Azerbaijan
- Georgia
- Kyrgyzstan
- Moldova
- Ukraine
- Tajikistan
- Uzbekistan
- Russia

Legend:
- Light blue: migrant workers abroad
- Maroon: migrant workers in Russia
CIS: Economic background of migration (1)

GDP per capita, US $

Source: IMF. World Economic Outlook Database. April 2006
CIS: Economic background of migration (2)

Poverty rate
Percentage of population living on less than 2 US $ per day

CIS: Why irregular migration?

- Gaps in economic, migration, labor, and criminal codes.
- Narrow channels for legal labor migration.
- High demand for cheap informal labor of illegal migrants.
- Insufficient official migration infrastructure vs. wide-spread and well-organized human trafficking business.
- Tolerance of a society towards forced labor, exploitation and violation of human rights.
CIS: Migrant remittances (1)

Inflow, million US $
Case of Kyrgyzstan: Economic effect of migrants’ investments

Money earned in Russia by migrants...

... and invested in small-scale business in Kyrgyzstan (111 companies)...

... created 3,700 workplaces for Kyrgyz citizens