

EU Labour Migration since Enlargement

Trends, Impacts and
Policies

Edited by

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One of the most important consequences of EU enlargement in May 2004 was to extend the principle of the free movement of labour to the citizens of the central and eastern European new member states. In this book, a team of labour economists and migration experts sheds light on the dimensions, characteristics and impacts of cross-border labour migration in selected sending (Hungary, Latvia and Poland) and receiving (Austria, Germany, Sweden and the UK) countries. Separate contributions detail the policy responses by governments, employers and trade unions in these countries to the challenges posed by both inward and outward migration. By setting out and analysing the facts for seven countries, which vary greatly in their geographical situation, policies, and outcomes, the book contributes to the debate on this crucial issue in the ongoing process of European integration. It will be of interest to scholars and policy-makers concerned with the implications of labour migration since enlargement.

In recent years many citizens of new EU member states entertained hopes that EU enlargement would give them access to better jobs in western Europe. Many in western Europe, on the other hand, initially feared increased competition on their home labour markets in the belief that it would generate higher unemployment and lower wages. This book carefully analyses the major effects and policy responses in both the sending and the receiving countries. The authors, in their conclusions, are able to replace the publicly expressed hopes and fears by a much more nuanced view. The book is essential reading for anyone interested in the issue of labour mobility within an enlarged EU and its effects on sending and receiving societies.

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