

Legal Migration and the Labour Market in the EU: Perspective from the Member States

On 13 November 2018, the Annual Conference organized by EMN National Contact Point of Malta was held in Valetta. The Conference gathered professionals from the field of legal migration from all over the Europe. The welcoming and the introductory speeches were delivered by the senior official within the Ministry for Home Affairs and National Security, Joseph St John, Minister of Home Affairs and National Security, Dr. Michael Farrugia and Professor of Sociology at the University of Malta, Godfrey Baldacchino.

Mr. Ferrugia pointed out the EU's needs of migrants as labour force, that leads to the necessity of better legislation and legal instruments. Opening new jobs in Malta leads to job mobility and it is planned that the migrants will improve living conditions in Malta by helping to build it.

Mr. Baldacchino concentrated on the rotation of temporary workers in Malta, who come for several months and then leave back home. His presentation covered several important aspects of migration: conservatism (a large number of migrants coming from conservative environments), ghettoization (classification to high-end and low-end migrants, depending on the location and the level of the assimilation to the existing society), the building of community and the English language, which is slowly becoming preferred language in Malta.

The first session was held by the Adviser at the Identity Malta Citizenship Agency, Joseph Mizzi, who presented the legal framework and its importance. He shortly presented different directives related to migrants, such as Blue Card Directive aiming at highly qualified migrants, as well as EC's plan to revise those directives to increase economic wellbeing, competitiveness and attractiveness of the EU.

In the second session, Graziella Cauchi from the Maltese job seeking agency Jobsplus talked about legal migration and labour market from the Maltese perspective, pointing out to a huge increase in the number of issued residence permits in the period from 2011 to 2017, which shows that Malta is a favourable destination of employment. Discussion on this topic continued in the third session, held by Dustin Camilleri, a Legal Officer from Identity Malta.

Fourth session was dedicated to the European experiences, namely the experience from Austria, Sweden and Slovenia. Speeches in this session were delivered by Julia Rutz (Head of Research and Migration Law Department of the IOM Country Office for Austria), Anna Bartosiewicz (Legal expert at the Legal Department of the Swedish Migration Agency) and Anja Dangubič (Senior Advisor of Labour Migration Division at the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities). Their presentations covered the procedures, quotas, tools for integration of foreign workers etc. in their respective countries.

The Conference was attended by the Croatian representatives from the EMN National Contact Point of Croatia and from the Croatian Employment Service.