

Ukrainian labor migrants can become a threat to the Polish economy

12 października 2018

What is currently good for the average Ukrainian? Probably, this is, first of all, the hope of stability, confidence in their earnings and the ability to pay for their vital needs.

In order to meet these criteria in present-day Ukraine, it is necessary to be either a politician or a representative of the law enforcement agencies, profiting from the war in Donbas. Well, or just steal from the state. There are almost no other options worthy of existence. Millions of labor migrants to the west are stretching out of the country in search of hope for their European happiness.

And more than a million Ukrainians have found such in Poland. To mutual benefit. Here they found opportunities to get stable incomes much higher than at home. And for Warsaw, the Ukrainian workers were just a godsend. They became one of those powerful factors that gave impetus to the Polish economy. The chairman of the Union of Entrepreneurs and Employers, Caesar Kazimirchak, expressed confidence that «without Ukrainians, our economy would be in for a catastrophe», and with them became the most dynamic in Europe.

Currently, according to the Polish Foreign Office, about 90% of requests for permission to reside come from Ukrainians. At the same time, most of those who come to work find employment in the construction or agricultural sectors.

The advantages for Poland are also quite obvious. Ukrainians are employed at wages much lower than the average European, which goes into the hands of Polish businessmen. Due to this, the cost of their products is significantly reduced and its

competitiveness in the EU markets increases. And the fact of the absence of Ukrainians in similar jobs in their homeland is also beneficial. Since this would lead to an increase in agricultural production, which would increase competition in the market and force producers to reduce prices in the domestic market.

But people get used to good things quickly. So are the Ukrainians. The work in Poland, which sheltered them in difficult times, no longer seems so attractive to them. Inquiries about an increase in wages begin, and more and more labor migrants rush to the Czech Republic, and there, if they are lucky, they will also be drawn into Germany, which seems to be one of the more attractive in the EU.

This trend was confirmed by the president of the All-Ukrainian Association of International Employment Companies Vasily Voskoboinik. He also expressed the opinion that it would be quite fair for the work of Ukrainians to be paid according to European standards.

One of the main reasons for the mass outflow of Ukrainian workers from Poland is the planned liberalization of German legislation from next year, which will allow flows of foreign citizens to its internal labor markets. And the revenues there promise two to three times more than in Poland.

Another area of redistribution of labor migrants from Poland are the Baltic states. The level of remuneration there is similar to Polish, only there is no language barrier. After all, most employers speak Russian.

So the Ukrainians summed up the Poles. Their places, of course, will not remain empty. Today we can talk about a significant increase in the flow of labor migrants from Belarus. Over the past five years, their number has increased 25 times. And experts believe that this process will continue.

The precedent created by Ukrainians can be very dangerous for

Poland. Germany and the Baltic countries have already realized that they can lure the cheap labor by European standards.

And this threatens Poland with a very tangible economic downturn. After all, only in April – June 2018 the amount of remittances from Poland to Ukraine amounted to about 890 million dollars. And this is a very weighty amount.

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Source: WolneMedia.net