

A return to guestworkers? Temporary Labour Migration Programmes in Europe

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Temporary migration programmes:

definitions & evolution

- Managed programmes versus spontaneous
- Policy rationales of both TMPs and CMPs *‘are often approached together under the same policies, and with a view to achieving similar policy goals’* (EMN 2011, p. 29).
- Triple win: destination, sending & migrants
- Gastarbeiter; *‘They called for labour but people came’* (Max Frisch)
- *‘There Is Nothing More Permanent Than Temporary Foreign Workers’* (Martin 2001)

Resurgence of TMPs?

- Labour immigration responds to a ‘need scenario’ (CEC 2005)
- Global Commission recommended carefully designed TMPs (GCIM 2005)
- Satisfies the ‘no borders’ and ‘no migrants’
- *Have our countries introduced state sponsored TMP and CMPs?*
- *What are the patterns of migration governance?*

Countries of immigration: *UK &* *France*

- France
 - Aside high skilled, scarce legal routes opened.
 - Mobility agreements & tinkering existing system e.g. new renewable seasonal permit in 2006.
 - Many seasonal go under scattered posted workers.
 - One year RP; everyone is temporary and potentially permanent
 - ‘Hidden workforce’: students, family dependants.
 - Skills and Talents; policy ambiguity
- UK
 - Scarce legal routes; no T3
 - Closure of SBS & SAWS
 - Assumption CEE labour fill shortages
 - Move from high skilled to high capital
 - Meeting ‘policy intent but not meeting the spirit’ (Interview UKVI July 2015).
 - Objective to reduce net migration appears to ‘to be trumping all other aspects of policy’ (Regional Manager, July 2015).

Countries of emigration: *Spain & Italy*

- Spain
 - Decentralized local hiring, complex institutional framework.
 - System inefficient
 - Route to regularization
 - Late to the global race; sectors dominated by low skilled
- Italy
 - Gap between policy and practice
 - Overly bureaucratic and slow system
 - Used as a route to regularize; '*deemed a necessary evil*' (Perlmutter 2014).
 - Annual flow decrees; inefficient
 - Limited to no high skilled initiatives; Remains demand driven system

Patterns

- Lack of TMPs; some circular migration but in form of mobility agreements (securitization agenda).
- Temporary/permanent not framework for governance. Nor is skill level in most cases.
- UK & France made efforts to attract high skilled
 - had problems associated with poor policy implementation
- CEE nationals filling shortages. Over qualification & evidence of exploitation in low/mid skilled sectors

Analysis

- Lack of TMPs overall, evidence of moves towards circularity in Spain.
- *Why have our countries not established TMPs?*
 1. Financial crisis & changes in supply chains
 2. Political will & state capacity
 3. Segmented labour market: CEE nationals filling the 3D jobs.

Thank you! Comments welcome
please