

# Conclusions and recommendations of the study on changing migration trends: Kazakhstan

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# Kazakhstan as a destination country - general statistics

- The number of **temporary residence** permits has increased significantly: from 530,000 issued in 2022 to **713,000 in 2023**.
- An increasing number of ethnic Kazakhs are returning to the homeland; as of September 2023, **16,026 people have been granted "Kandas" status**.
- Based on the IOM mobility assessment, in December 2023-January 2024 there were:
  - about **half a million** Uzbek labor migrants,
  - **70,000** Russians,
  - **27,000** Kyrgyz,
  - **21,000** Tajiks.
- In general, the number of foreign workers in Kazakhstan **increased by 47%** in 2023 compared to 2022.

# Kazakhstan as a destination country- legislative initiatives



- Kazakhstan has endorsed the **Global Compact on Migration** and participates in various regional migration dialogues.
- The Ministry of Labor and Social Protection is gradually taking over various functions in the field of migration from the Ministry of Internal Affairs.
- Kazakhstan is taking active steps to combat illegal migration: Since June 3, raids through "**Illegal-2024**" have been conducted in all regions **to identify offenses in the field of migration.**
- In early 2023, in response to the influx of Russian citizens, Kazakhstan introduced a **limited visa-free stay** for citizens of the Eurasian Economic Union - **no more than 90 days** in any 180-day period.
- In early July, Kazakhstan adopted a **law, "To combat human trafficking,"** which establishes criminal prosecution of crimes such as kidnapping; illegal deprivation of liberty; trafficking in persons, including minors; involvement in prostitution; and more.

# Kazakhstan as a country of origin - general statistics



- According to the Department of Labor's Committee on Migration (August 2023):
  - **194,000** Kazakhstanis have left since the beginning of the year (about **162,00** have gone to Russia, **13,100** to Poland, **6,000** to South Korea, **5,000** to Great Britain).
- In 2023, Kazakh citizens received **more than 18,500 primary residence permits in the EU** - 11% more than in 2022. The most permits were issued in:
  - **Poland (15% growth** compared to 2022),
  - **Lithuania (sixfold increase** compared to 2022),
  - **The Czech Republic (10% growth** compared to 2021).
- Kazakhstani citizens are also increasingly looking for work abroad in countries such as **Japan, the UK, Hungary, Germany, the USA, and South Korea.**

# Kazakhstan as a country of origin- legislative initiatives



- In 2022, **the Migration Policy Concept for 2023-2027** was approved by the Government of Kazakhstan.
- The Ministry of Labor of the Republic of Kazakhstan developed and submitted for discussion a draft order on approval of the Rules of Interaction of Labor Mobility Centers with private employment agencies (PEA) on the organization of labor activity of citizens of Kazakhstan abroad.
- Draft Rules propose the **formation and maintenance of the registry of PEAs to provide complete and reliable information** about the engagement of PEAs in organizing labor activities for Kazakhstani citizens abroad.

# Portrait of a migrant from Kazakhstan

- **Average age:** 34 years
- **Gender:** Male - 51% and female - 49%
- **Education: specialized secondary education - 40%** , incomplete higher education - 28%, share of migrants with completed higher education - 27%
- **34% of households are considered affluent** - they have enough money to buy everything except a car
- **Scope of Work :**
  - trade - 36%
  - hospitality industry - 23%
  - transportation - 14%
  - healthcare - 9%



# Difficulties of migrants in destination countries

- **79%** of labor migrants have labor contracts;
- **Low level of awareness of labor rights** of migrant workers and mechanisms for their protection (**64%**);
- **Insufficient pre-migration preparation** - risks of forced labor and exploitation in destination countries:
  - 66% are not aware of the procedures of migration
  - 84% are not aware of the types of forced labor
- Low level of awareness of and trust in private employment agencies (PEAs)
  - **7% of migrants are aware of PEAs.**

# Recommendations

- **Migration Policy Concepts** should take into account the goals and objectives of **the Global Compact**;
- For the Republic of Kazakhstan, it is necessary **to develop and adopt the Law on PEAs**. For the Republics of Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan, the responsibility of PEAs, in the legislative order, is to protect the rights of migrants who go to work through them and to provide the migrant with a job;
- **Strengthening control of the labor inspectorate** over employers compliance with labor laws in Kazakhstan with respect to migrant workers;
- **Private and public employment agencies in Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan should work on facilitating legal labor migration in the "Kazakhstan" direction**;
- It is necessary to **create a single information portal** with important resources both for migrants coming to Kazakhstan and for outgoing Kazakhstani migrants.



**Thank you for  
your attention!**

