

Labour Migration from Southeast Europe: Facts and Challenges for Politics and for the Business Sector

International Conference for Experts

Organized by:

- Southeast Europe Association / Südosteuropa-Gesellschaft, Munich
- Representation of the State of Baden-Württemberg to the European Union, Brussels
- Committee on Eastern European Economic Relations / Ost-Ausschuss der Deutschen Wirtschaft, Berlin
- Danube Strategy Point, Brussels

Venue: **Representation of the State of Baden-Württemberg to the European Union
Rue Belliard 60 – 62, 1040 Brussels**

Date: **Tuesday, 5 April 2016, 9:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.**

Conference Language: English

Background:

The establishment of the full freedom of movement for workers between Bulgaria, Romania and the EU in late 2013 as well as the strong increase in applications for asylum from citizens of Kosovo, Albania and other western Balkan states in 2015, have recently moved Southeast Europe (SEE) into the focus of public attention. After all, the region has always been a traditional source of labour migration to Western Europe. Which are the dimensions and what are the reasons for the out-migration from SEE? What are the consequences of labour mobility for the societies in the region, not only concerning the loss of human capital but also in view of the potential development effects? What are the opportunities and challenges for the Western European labour markets and societies that occur as a result of the immigration? What (new) legal regulations exist in Germany for example in order to integrate immigrants from SEE into the labour market? What measures do governments, business associations and enterprises take in order to qualify and integrate workers both within their countries of origin and in their countries of destination?

Experts and responsible actors from enterprises, business associations, from the European Parliament, the European Commission, from the German Bundestag and from federal authorities, from universities and initiatives, are going to discuss the above mentioned questions and will try to formulate recommendations for adequate actions to be taken by the relevant actors.

09h30 Registration and Welcome Coffee

10h00 Welcome / Opening

Johannes Jung

Head of the Representation of the State of Baden-Württemberg to the European Union, Brussels

Dr. Hansjörg Brey

Executive Director, Southeast Europe Association, Munich

Introductory statement

Representative of the European Commission (tbc)

Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs, Skills and Labour Mobility

10h30 Opening Panel

Taking Stock: Labour Migration from SEE – Causes, Facts and Outlook

Chair: Anja Quiring

Regional Director South Eastern Europe, Committee on Eastern European Economic Relations, Berlin

Labour Markets, Unemployment and the Situation of Youth in South Eastern Europe

Dr. Dane Taleski, Skopje/Graz

Out-migration from Southeast Europe. Causes, Consequences and Perspectives

Prof. Daniel Göler, University of Bamberg

Labour Mobility as a Factor of Development in South Eastern Europe

Ms Tanja Dedovic, Regional Labour Mobility and Human Development, Regional Office, International Organization for Migration (IOM), Vienna

Dealing with Emigration/Re-migration: A View from the Western Balkans

Marko Cadez, President, Serbian Chamber of Commerce, Belgrade/Frankfurt

12h15 Lunch Break

13h30 Vocational Education and Job Creation Programs: Initiatives, Perspectives for SEE / the Danube Region and for Labor Migrants from the Region

Chair: **Tobias Flessenkemper**, Senior Research Associate, Centre International de Formation Européenne (CIFE), Nice

Initiatives by the German Federal Government/Programs for the Region (Overview)
Helge Tolksdorf, Head of Section EU Enlargement, South East Europe and Turkey, German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy, Berlin
White List „Immigration Towards Apprenticeships” / New Immigration Law

Hans-Dieter Fahrnauer (tbc), Head of Unit, German Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, Berlin

Qualification Schemes in Enterprises

Jessica Flemming, Project Manager, Center for European Trainees (CET), Bildungswerk der Baden-Württembergischen Wirtschaft e.V.

Zoran-Djindjic - Internship Programme of German Business for the Countries of the Western Balkans

Antje Müller, Project Manager, Committee on Eastern European Economic Relations, Berlin

Project “Entrepreneurial Skills and Inclusion of Migrants and Migrants’ Entrepreneurship”

Sandra Rončević, Assistant Director, South East European Centre for Entrepreneurial Learning (SEECCEL), Zagreb

15h15 Closing Statements

Helge Tolksdorf

Head of Section EU Enlargement, South East Europe and Turkey, German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy, Berlin

Johannes Jung

Head of the Representation of the State of Baden-Württemberg

15h30 Networking and Farewell Coffee