

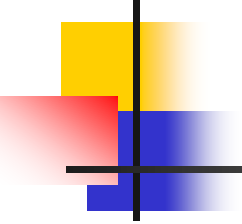
Issues that migrants create and issues that create migrants: the case of St.Petersburg



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- “Labour Migrants in St.Petersburg: Social Problems and Policy Recommendations”, in cooperation with the Russian “Red Cross” in St.Petersburg, funded by the European Commission.
 - Fieldwork: interviews with experts working on migrant issues, and informal talks with the newcomers having a status of legal or illegal labour migrants in St.Petersburg.
 - two groups of experts – representatives of executive authorities and employers hiring migrants from CIS countries, 16 interviews in total.



State institutions dealing with labour migrants

- The Federal Migration Service (FMS);
- Police;
- prosecutor's office;
- labour inspectorate;
- Federal service on customers' rights protection and human well-being surveillance (Rospotrebnadzor);
- various executive committees in St.Petersburg (health committee, employment committee, law and order committee, housing committee)



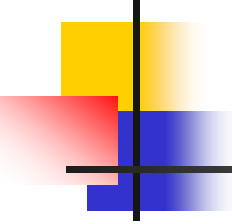
Elements of a “barrier” migrant policy

- 1. annual admitting of labour quotas;*
- 2. selecting of immigrants at the “entrance” - medical testing;*
- 3. efficient administrative expulsion and deportation.*

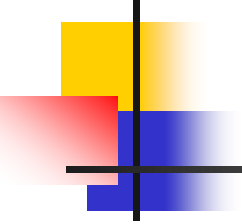


Issues that migrants create

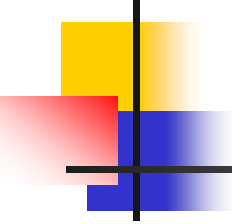
- *Immigrants as epidemiological threat;*
- *Immigrants flood out labour market in St.Petersburg;*
- *Illegal migration*



Our contingent of population, they are 100% vaccinated, we are responsible for our population. We know we definitely won't have an eruption. We don't know what migrants bring us. The diseases we suddenly get, we get them from migrants. [...] They bring us much tuberculosis. Increasing of tuberculosis is influenced by migrants. According to the statistics of our city T.B. prophylactic centre, we do not have an increasing of tuberculosis amongst the locals, St.Petersburg inhabitants. [...] We have this increasing due to the newcomers, migrants who arrive to work here (official of the health committee)



Annually the health committee obtains quite large bills from directors of clinics due to the treatment of foreign citizens. Nobody pays those bills. These are very big sums (official of the health committee)



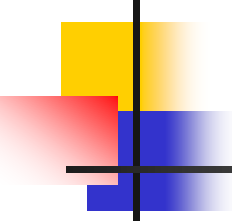
In general, last two years we have a very deplorable situation. We basically use the quota on the citizens of Uzbekistan and Tajikistan, who do not have dwelling here, come here without any education. In fact, St.Petersburg does not really need these people. Our economy demands highly qualified personnel. We would like to spend the quota on them. But the Federal Migration Service can not limit an entrance for the citizens of Uzbekistan

(official of the law and order committee)



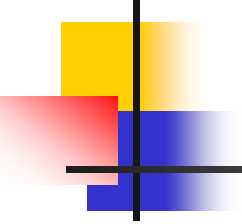
Issues that create migrants

- *Incomplete migration law;*
- *Information deficit and vacuum;*
- *Organizational barriers of the state offices issuing migrant permits;*
- *Precarious labour and social positions;*
- *Lack of social infrastructure.*

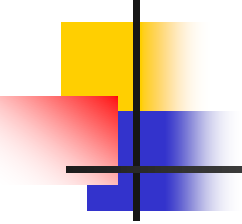


It's impossible to apply officially. People take a queue in the night time. The desk works not everyday, several hours a day. The days are fragmented: one day you can apply for the registration, another day – for prolonging it. Working time is very much limited. Every person has 30-40 minutes. Finally, the person I know was said: "You ran out of time for staying without permit 2 days ago. That's it. We can not do anything". He asks: «Why? I was here several times. You required this or that"

(employer, int.#1)

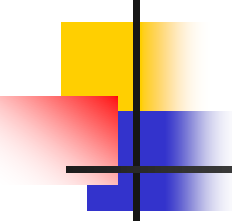


There are very few highly qualified immigrant inspectors. Once I had a case, when I approached an inspector to clarify one issue. She told me: "You better ask my boss, and then tell me what he will say". [...] Finally, I came to the conclusion that I will better take my laptop with me to FMS office to Google and show the law to inspector. Or if I know it in advance that I will have some difficulties, I take a hard copy of the law underlined with a red marker (employer, int.#1)



The best strategy is performing a beggar in FMS office. For instance, you come and ask: "Please... the situation is the following. Explain it to me, may be, I've got it wrong. May be, I can do it like that..."

(employer, int.#1)



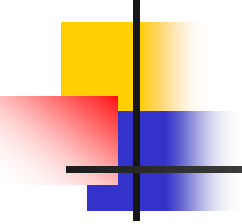
They call it an internship. It means that before you'll be hired officially, you have to work three days as an internee. They say: "Try as a street-cleaner or a bricklayer. If we'll like you, we pay". There are many employers who hire migrants for three days. He works, then they hire others, endlessly. That's why the majority tries via familiar persons (employer, int.#1)

The woman, citizen of Kyrgyzstan. She's been working in housing and communal services illegally; she does not have any status. Of course, she works without labour contract, and was paid 3000 RRUB (about 70 €). She started asking for the full payment. She was said: "You're illegal here, we will inform FMS right now, and they deport you" (NGO specialist)

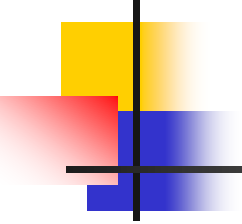


Approaches to integration

- *Denial and veiling the problems of migration;*
- *Delegation the responsibility of social and cultural integration;*
- *Building social infrastructure*



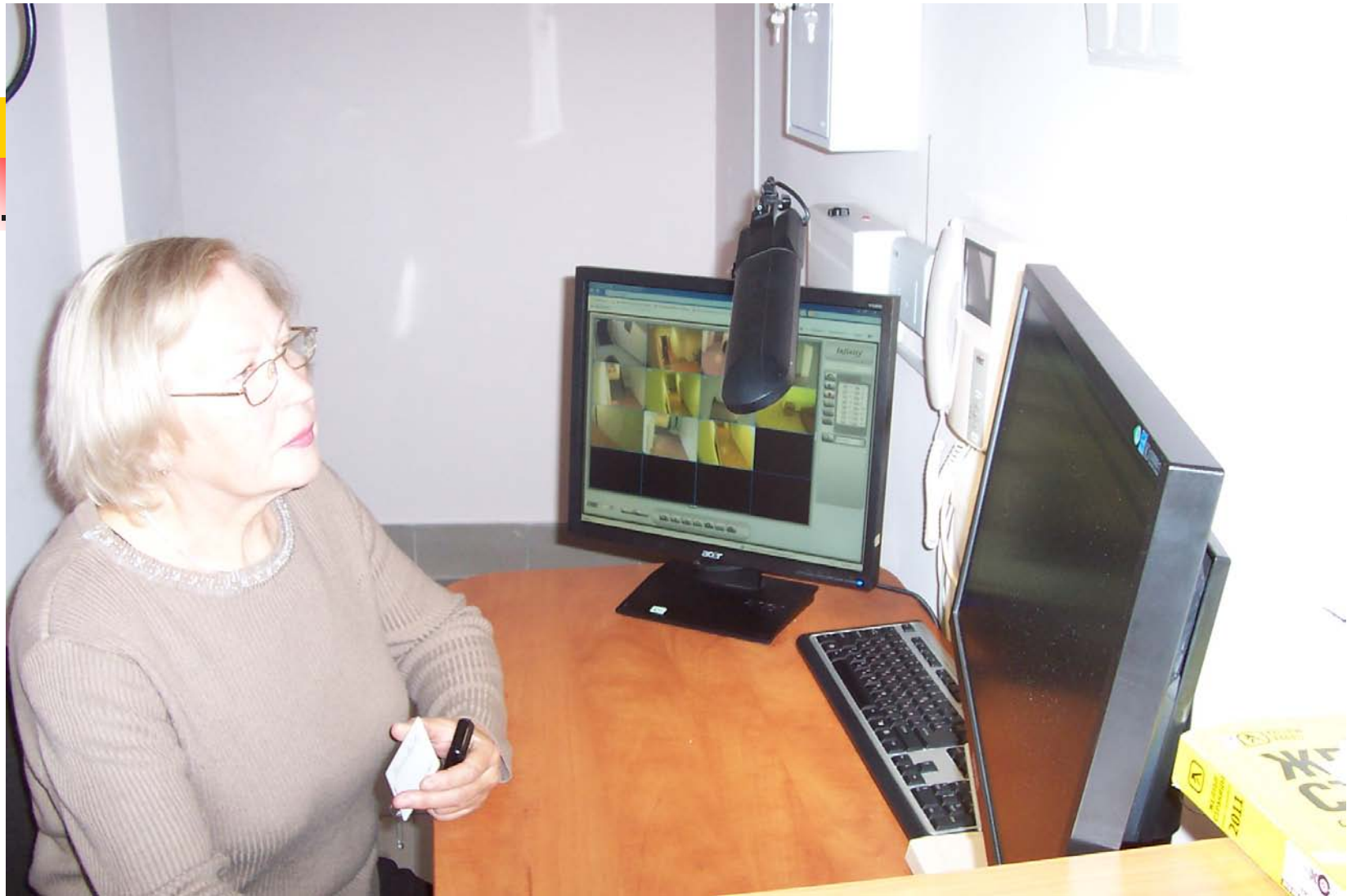
The applicants were standing in a queue to pass medical tests. Suddenly they were ordered with no explanations: "Move 50 meters from here, they territory should be empty". The authorities came to examine – no people, no queues, no anything. Everything is fine. [...] And then they said: "You know, we were there and had a seminar. There are no queues there" (employer, int. #1)

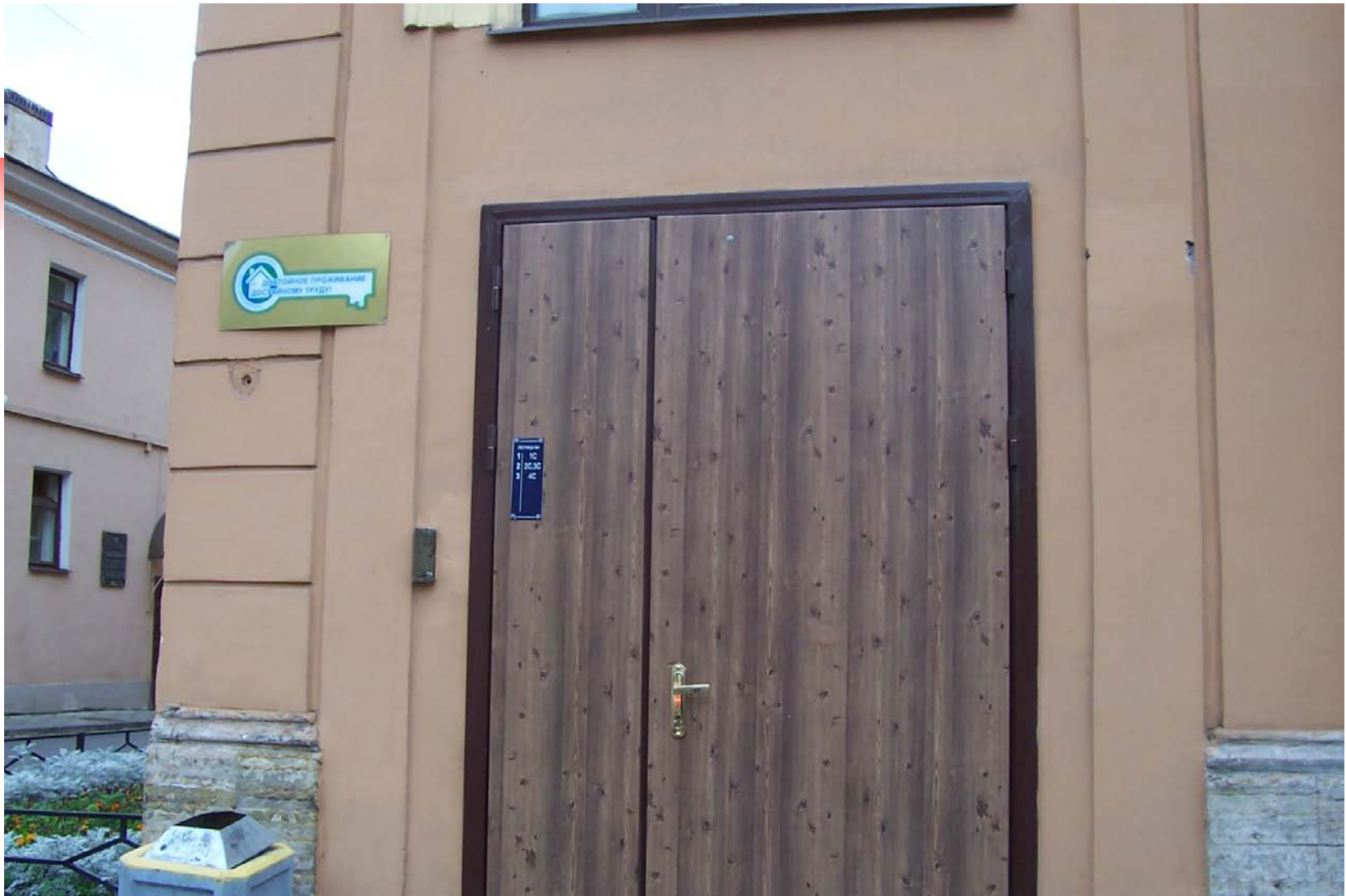
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- *Q: Do you have any ideas, how they [guest-workers] lived?*
 - *A: Not at all. We absolutely did not worry about that.*
 - *Q: So, you don't know...*
 - *A: Why? We knew where they were registered. All at the same address. This is how it went. These were not our problems. Why are you asking me that? We did not check it (employer, int.#3)*



Ведется
видеонаблюдение







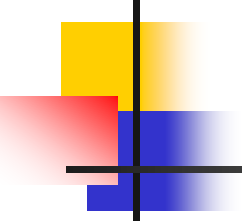




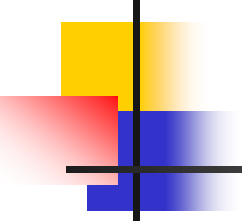




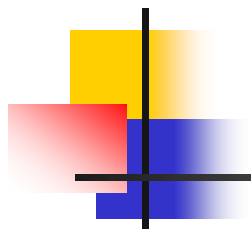




An idea is the following. People arrive to earn money. Of course, they come without their families. They are mainly men – breadwinners. Men and women live separately. [...] The main [target] is their closeness to the working place, [...] so they are settled closer to their stairs, backyards, and garbage cans [working places]
(official of the housing committee)



He [a migrant hired informally] told me: "I think, I will work for your neighbour today, but tomorrow I will come to you and bring my stuff to live here". And then he suddenly added: "And then my wife will also come. I'm with wife. I got married here. I've been living here for five years, so I got married. She will come. She's on vacations now". [...] I said: "No, I don't want your wife staying here" (employer, int.#2)



Thank you!