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## **BLUE CARD AS A TOOL FOR INVOLVEMENT OF HIGH-SKILLED LABOR FORCE BY EU MEMBER STATES**

In the last years the European Union meets a number of problems like: ageing of population, lack of labor force in certain fields, pressure on the social system etc. A part of the high-skilled specialists in the European market is much smaller than in Australia, Canada and the USA.

Movement of high-skilled labor force within EU is insignificant, therefore member states involve qualified specialists from the third countries using the national policy tools and the scheme of the recent EU Blue Card Directive. Blue Card can be considered as a kind of an analog to the American Green Card.

As far as in 2007, the Blue Card project was presented by the President of the European Commission Jose Manuel Barroso. The aim of introduction of such a novel was to satisfy the EU demands in high-quality migrants. Blue Card is a special permission for work and temporary residence of foreign specialists in the EU member countries.

Thus, Blue Card should not only facilitate the entrance of high-skilled specialists to the member states but also provide their arriv-

al to the countries of the greatest demand. Thus, every EU member state will define by itself which kind and what number of specialists it requires. In this case every member state is obliged to give first of all the working places to the migrants from the EU member states and only then to the specialists from the third countries. However, despite the fact that three countries (Denmark, Great Britain and Ireland) refused to participate in the Blue Card, the majority of countries accepted the idea very positively.

Thus, the aim of the Blue Card introduction is to transform EU into the most attractive region of labor migration for the educated people from outside EU. Blue Card scheme provides the following:

- Labor conditions and salary on the equal terms with the native citizens;
- Free movement within the Schengen Area;
- Social protection ensured on the equal terms with the native citizens;
- Favorable conditions for family reunion;

- Perspective of getting the right for permanent residence.

Today, a significant part of young specialists is looking forward to working in Europe where the salary level is much higher. As a result, Ukraine suffers from lack of high-skilled labor force. Introduc-

tion of the Blue Card threatens the former post-soviet countries, including Ukraine, by “pumping out” the high-skilled specialists. As long as the political and economic crisis in Ukraine increases the problem of labor migration will continue to grow.