

MAX

Maximising Migrants' Contribution to Society

Diversity Dialogue Fora: Estonia

Migrants' contribution to Estonian labour market, and coping in the context of COVID-19 situation

27th April at 13:30 GMT+2 (in Zoom)

Register here: <https://forms.gle/HFWMEdPQmP4sgDB56>

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- 13:30 – 13:35 Welcoming by the moderator
- 13:35 – 13:55** Overview about the RITA-RÄNNE project results and migration policy recommendations concerning local labour market
- **Raul Eamets** – RITA-RÄNNE project manager
- 13:55 – 15:10** Roundtable on migrants' contribution to Estonian labour market, and coping in the context of COVID-19 situation
- **Ali Adil** - Owner of Damak kebab, Zaiga ja Jiro Jiro Sushi
 - **Cassandra Tanneberg** - Pipedrive
 - **Annika Sepp** - Ministry Of Social Affairs
 - **Roomet Sõrmus** - Estonian Chamber of Agriculture and Commerce
 - **Anu Viltrop** - Estonian Refugee Council
 - **Inga Rebane** - Estonian Unemployment Insurance Fund
 - **Kati Madisson** - Estonian Unemployment Insurance Fund
 - **Nuriyan Navruzova & Kirill Jasnov** - Owners of The Kurze
- 15:10 – 15:30 Open questions from the audience and conclusions
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The number of foreigners who migrate to Estonia is higher than that of Estonians who emigrate. Most foreigners come to Estonia to work, study, or on the basis of family reunification. In 2020 there were 178 791 non-Estonian-born living in the country (13,5% of Estonian population). The number of applicants for a residence permit for the purpose of entrepreneurship and the share of foreigners working in Estonian start-ups is growing significantly year after year. Nevertheless, the situation of TCNs in the Estonian labour market differs a lot depending on the work field.

The COVID-19 pandemic has also largely affected the Estonian labour market, including the accommodation and food services sectors that provide jobs for a large number of TCNs. Estonia also relies on foreign seasonal workers during Summertime. Due to the COVID-19 restrictions, exceptions for short-term workers were made, so that they could stay in the country and keep supporting Estonian agriculture.

The general unemployment rate has risen from 4,4% at the end of 2018, to 7,4% at the end of 2020. The health crisis provoked by the COVID-19 has a major effect on the Estonian labour market, and on the possibilities to find suitable employment. Migrants belong to the group of a population whose work life and work possibilities are largely affected by the current situation.

With the online panel discussion, we aim at providing a general overview of the current situation in the Estonian labour market, its effects on migrants' employment, existing opportunities, and obstacles in entering the local labour market.

The panel discussion brings together specialists from various fields to discuss the role of migrants' in the Estonian labour market and the possible ways to support third country nationals' well-being, especially during the current COVID-19 situation.

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