

# Republic of Tajikistan

*Draft*

Migration Profile Light

2013

The text of the Migration Profile Light on the Republic of Tajikistan has been prepared by the Secretariat of the Prague Process based on the available public sources. The text was forwarded to the State Migration Service of the Republic of Tajikistan on 1 February 2016 for consideration, comments or approval. In anticipation of reply, this version is published as a draft. The draft is a consultation document and cannot be considered as reflecting the official position of the country.

# Purpose of the report and disclaimer

After the adoption of the Building Migration Partnerships Joint Declaration in Prague in April 2009, the Building Migration Partnerships initiative (BMP) started to work on establishing the BMP Knowledge Base. The Knowledge Base, nowadays known as the Prague Process Knowledge Base, consists of a set of Extended Migration Profiles<sup>1</sup> elaborated and endorsed in 2010-2011 and the interactive online map (i-Map), which visualises the available information.

The Prague Process Targeted Initiative (PP TI) is an EU-funded project, which builds upon the BMP initiative and implements selected priorities identified in the Prague Process Action Plan endorsed in Poznan in November 2011. One of the objectives of PP TI is to maintain the Knowledge Base, keep it up-to-date and develop it further.

While continuous attention to updating and developing Extended Migration Profiles remains, the PP TI has taken into account the feedback received from the Prague Process participating states and has proposed the concept of the Migration Profile Light. In comparison to the Extended Migration Profile, which from its name indicates that the information should be of thorough and detailed nature, the Migration Profile Light should be a handy tool with a limited number of pages clearly indicating the areas of interest. The Migration Profile Light should aim at key priorities and problems, easy annual updatability and standardised data for all countries involved.

The proposed Migration Profile Light (MPL) concept has been well received by the Prague Process participating states and Germany volunteered in testing the concept by filling in the template. The MPL on Germany has been developed and the process of its establishment has led to identification of gaps in the first template, which have been covered in cooperation with the PP TI Support Team at ICMPD. At the time of the publication, MPLs were prepared by Germany (2013), Hungary (2014), Republic of Armenia (2014), Czech Republic (2015), Republic of Kazakhstan (2015), and Republic of Uzbekistan (2015).

The aim of the PP TI is to establish the Knowledge Base as a useful tool consisting of state-owned migration profiles with standard and comparable data categories. While aiming at the seven leading states of PP TI and the PP TI non-EU participating states, the interest of the Prague Process is to collect national MPLs for all 50 Prague Process participating states.

The MPL is an exercise, which targets all states, believing that this will lead to mutual understanding of the migration situation in partner states, existing migratory flows, priorities, problems and interests. The MPL should serve as an informative but also policy making tool. In case of need, methodological and expert support is planned to contribute to the development of MPL in states with limited experience with such exercise.

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<sup>1</sup>Albania (endorsed 2010), Armenia (2011), Azerbaijan (2010), Bosnia and Herzegovina (2010), Czech Republic (2010), Georgia (2011), Hungary (2011), Kazakhstan (2010), Kyrgyzstan (2011), Poland (2010), Romania (2010), Slovakia (2010), Tajikistan (2010), Ukraine (2011).

Ownership and responsibility of the content in terms of data provided in this Migration Profile resides solely with the country elaborating the report.

The PP TI Support Team within the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) is ready to help and can be contacted at [ppti@icmpd.org](mailto:ppti@icmpd.org). The Knowledge Base of the Prague Process is accessible at [www.pragueprocess.eu](http://www.pragueprocess.eu) and [www.imap-migration.org](http://www.imap-migration.org), section Prague Process.

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# 1. Background information on the country

## 1.1. Size, population, bordering countries and length of borders

Official name	Republic of Tajikistan
Capital	Dushanbe
Size	143,000 km <sup>2</sup>
Population	8,160,000 (as of 2013)
Neighbouring countries	Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, China, Afghanistan
Length of border	3,000 km (41 km with China; 870 km with Kyrgyzstan; 1,206 km with Afghanistan; 1,161 km with Uzbekistan)

## 1.2. Short characteristics of the country

Since it gained independence on 9 September 1991 the Republic of Tajikistan (RT) has been actively involved into international migration processes. Political and economic instability, civil war and the excess of labour resources triggered the formation of migration flows from the country. Initial migration saw a rapid increase in the emigration of Russian speaking population. By 1995 42% of ethnic Russians previously residing in the Republic had left the country. Certain groups of ethnic minorities left respectively for Germany, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan and Israel.

According to the World Bank, migration rate in the RT is 11.2% from the population total. Primary driving force behind migration is the absence of adequately paid jobs.<sup>2</sup> Considerable out-migration (437,000 people in 11 years) notwithstanding, the population of the RT, unlike that in the European countries, increases constantly due mainly to high natural growth (up to 2% per year). There are around 150-180 thousand people entering labour market annually. Given the

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<sup>2</sup> Comparative statistics shows that Tajikistan has the lowest wages among the CIS countries.

limited job offer at home, external migration is the principal means of livelihood for the population. External labour migration, important historically, but reduced in Soviet times,<sup>3</sup> is now of primary importance because of the poorly developed domestic industry and high natural population growth which in certain regions of the country amounts up to 2% a year. Due to specific demographic structure with prevailing young population (57% of Tajikistan population is under 24) and growing offer on the labour market, every third household sends at least one person to work abroad. The principal migration flow goes to Russia (over 90%).<sup>4</sup>

The RT in its turn has become a receiving country for the nationals (descending in importance) of China, Afghanistan, Iran, Turkey, Uzbekistan, Pakistan, India, Kyrgyzstan etc.

Due to importance of migration issues as the first step in shaping national migration policy the National Migration Directorate was established at the RT Ministry of Labour and Employment in June 1993. On January 21, 2011 Presidential decree №1014 established the Migration Service under the Government of the RT as a separate body dealing with migration policies.

On October 8, 1998 the Concept of the State Migration Policy of the Republic of Tajikistan was approved by the decision of the Government. It is focused on the protection of the rights and interests of migrants, regulation of migration processes and strengthening of the ties between the citizens of Tajikistan and emigrants. The Strategy on External Labour Migration for 2006-2010 and the National Strategy on Labour Migration for 2011-2015 were also adopted. The main focus of these documents is on streamlining the processes of labour migration, optimizing the benefits of organized labour migration and improving the social and legal support to migrant workers in the country and abroad.<sup>5</sup>

Measures to establish and operate national cultural centres and associations, as well as the creation of the Tajik Society of Friendship and Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries and the RT National Communities are testimonies to the target-oriented state policy aimed at stabilizing migration processes.

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<sup>3</sup> Saodat Olimova, "Migratsiia v gornyykh regionakh Evrazii: proshloe i nastoiashchee" [Migration in Eurasia's Mountainous Regions: Past and Present]. *Tsentral'naiia Aziia i Kavkaz* 6,2005:153

<sup>4</sup> Average monthly salary in Tajikistan is almost 11 times less than that in Russia. Russian labour market is therefore very attractive to the labour migrants from Tajikistan.

<sup>5</sup> The RT is one of the major exporters of labor resources in the CIS countries and the third country providing the largest number of labour migrants to Russia after Ukraine and Uzbekistan. Those who stay in the host countries usually have restricted access to effective legal protection there and do not have sufficient language and professional skills.

## 2. Migration flows and stocks of immigrants and emigrants

### 2.1. Migration flows

Due to the departure of citizens for employment abroad, the Republic experiences negative annual balance of international migration. The migration situation in the period from 2009 to 2012 was characterized by decrease in the negative balance of external migration from -11,674 in 2009 to -5 108 people in 2012.

**Table 1.** Migration in the Republic of Tajikistan, 2009-2012<sup>6</sup>

	2009	2010	2011	2012
Arrivals	25 563	29 637	32 619	33 809
Departures	37 231	36 134	38 867	38 917
Migration balance	-11 674	-6 497	-6 248	-5 108

Source: Agency on Statistics under President of the Republic of Tajikistan

The migration activity shown in the table is due to visa-free regime with Russia, which as a major host country receives more than 90% of all migrants. Up until 2015 Tajik migrants can enter Russia legally with their national passports only, therefore the official migration statistics provided by the Agency on Statistics under the President of the RT does not include these.

According to the data from completed migration cards 877,335 (750,391) (+118,441) labour migrants, including men - 753,328 (666,555) (+86,773) and women - 124,007 (83,142) (+ 40,865), left the Republic of Tajikistan in 2012. During the same period 673,434 (597,511) (+75,923) labour migrants, including men - 564,130 (529,218) (+34,912) and women - 109,304 (68,293) (+41,011), returned. Data show that in addition to the Russian Federation, Tajik migrants go to Kazakhstan (50,000), Ukraine (20,000), Belarus (10,000), as well as to non-CIS states.

Migration to Kazakhstan accounts for about 3-4% of the total migratory flow (according to varying estimates, from 50 to 80 thousand). In addition to Russia and Kazakhstan, migration flows from Tajikistan go to Ukraine (20,000) and Belarus (10,000), as well as to non-CIS countries (China, United Arab Emirates, Afghanistan and the USA).

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<sup>6</sup> Agency on Statistics under President of the Republic of Tajikistan, <http://stat.tj/ru/database/socio-demographic-sector/>, accessed 16.07.2014.

In receiving countries Tajik labor migrants are mostly employed in such areas as construction (74.1% of all migrants), trade (10.8%), industry (4.8%), agriculture (5.4%), community facilities, education and others (around 4.8% in total). The types and sector of migrant employment differ from that in their home country.

## 2.2. Migration stocks

### Immigrants

Return Tajik migrants form the principal immigrant category. In 10 months of 2013 362,827 Tajik citizens entered the Republic, 320,726 of whom returned from Russia. 280,112 of the total number were return labour migrants (77%).

According to the World Bank, the total number of immigrants in Tajikistan in 2008 was about 306,433 or 4.7% of the total population, of which 1.1% were refugees. The main countries of origin were Uzbekistan, Russia and Kyrgyzstan.

### Emigrants

According to the Migration Service of the RT, the total number of Tajik migrants in Russia was from 800 to 900 thousand as of 2013. Unofficial data add another 300 thousand to this number. The total number of seasonal migrants can be as high as 400 thousand. According to official data, the number of citizens permanently residing outside of Tajikistan internationally amounted to about 270 thousand in 2014.

## 3. Legal migration with special focus on labour migration

### 3.1. Responsible state authorities

The Ministry of Labour, Migration and Employment of the RT is the central executive body responsible for the development and implementation of the state policy and normative legal regulation in the field of migration. Ministry develops draft laws and regulations concerning migration, programs for the development of the state policies on migration and organizes works on their implementation; coordinates professional orientation of the youth and unemployed in line with the needs of domestic and foreign markets. The Office of the Ministry of Labour,



Migration and Employment was opened in Russia. It is staffed with 15 employees providing assistance to migrants.<sup>7</sup>

**The Ministry of Foreign Affairs**, in accordance with international law, protects the rights and interests of citizens and legal entities of the RT abroad; examines the legal status of foreign citizens on the territory of the Republic; in due course arranges passport and visa documentation; promotes relations and contacts with compatriots living abroad; within its jurisdiction participates in determining the of issues of citizenship.

Since 2000, the **State Migration Service under the Ministry of the Interior** is responsible for the state regulation of external labour migration and the establishment of international cooperation with the countries of destination, as well as ensuring the rights of labour migrants. The Migration Service of the Republic of Tajikistan through its representative office in the Russian Federation, as well as through diplomatic missions, conducts the activities aimed at awareness-raising among the citizens of the Republic of Tajikistan on the issues of legal stay and employment in the Russian Federation.

**Migration Service and the Ministry of Education of the RT**, in collaboration with the Office of the Federal Migration Service of the Russian Federation in the Republic of Tajikistan and the Russian-Tajik Slavic University organize paid courses on professional training of labour migrants, including free tuition in Russian language. The Office of the Federal Migration Service provides employment at Russian enterprises to the students who successfully complete the course.

### 3.2. Policies

In autumn 2011 a group of national experts led by the Migration Service under the Government of the RT with the expert assistance of the World Bank and the financial support of the Ministry of International Development of the United Kingdom, relying on the comments from the ministries and state authorities of the Republic of Tajikistan, adopted the **National Strategy for Labour Migration** of Tajik citizens abroad for the period of 2011-2015. This strategy is an integral and inalienable part of the National Development Strategy until 2015. As its priority the Strategy defines the socio-economic and legal protection of Tajik citizens involved in international labour migration. Given the high rates of growth of the working population and temporarily limited capacity to provide jobs in Tajikistan, the Strategy articulates public policies focused on the development of new labour markets and promotion of professional training of labour migrants. The Strategy envisages cooperation with non-governmental and international organizations, as

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<sup>7</sup> In 2012, with the help of the Office and with the assistance of the Russian state authorities employers reimbursed more than 10 million rubles to the labour migrants. In 2012, for the first time the Office took part in defending the rights of Tajik citizens in Russian courts. With its involvement 11 cases dealing with the removal of Tajik citizens were decided in their favour.

well as improving material and technical base and organizational capacity of the management of labour migration. The Strategy also provides for concrete measures to promote international labour migration.

In order to regulate labour migration issues, the leaders of the migration agencies of the Russian Federation and the Republic of Tajikistan signed a **Memorandum** of intent on further development of cooperation in the field of migration (5 October 2012) and an **Agreement** on the stay of citizens of the Republic of Tatarstan in the Russian Federation (February 8, 2013). Within the CIS since 1994 an Agreement on the Protection of the Rights of Labour Migrants has been active. In October 2004, Tajikistan and Russia signed an intergovernmental agreement on the protection of labour migrants. Agreements on labour migration have also been signed with Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Belarus.

Resolution of the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan 'On the Rules for issuing work permits to foreign nationals and stateless persons engaged in labour activities in the Republic of Tajikistan', exempts from obtaining work permits those foreign citizens who are investors and depositors of the sums of no less than \$ 500 thousand. Managers and employees of foreign companies operating on the basis of inter-state or inter-governmental investment and concessional loan agreements are likewise exempted.

Opportunity for foreign citizens to carry out labour activities in Tajikistan is outlined by the Law "On the Legal Status of Foreign Citizens in the Republic of Tajikistan." According to this law, foreign citizens staying in Tajikistan have equal with the citizens of the country rights to work and enjoy all the rights and duties envisaged by law.

In accordance with the Law "On Migration" foreign labour recruitment is carried out on the basis of annual quotas established by the Presidential Decree. Need for foreign labour force is determined on the basis of the requests from business entities that plan to employ a certain number of foreign experts in the forthcoming year. Business entities must be licensed to attract foreign labour by the Migration Service and must carry out their activities paying heed to the protection of the interests of the domestic labour market.

Draft agreements on labour migration with Ukraine, Qatar and South Korea, on the status of Tajik and Russian Offices for migration, on organized recruitment of Tajik citizens to work in the Russian Federation have been prepared and are being negotiated. Analytical work on the external labour market and preparatory work for the development of similar draft agreements for cooperation and interaction with the CIS and foreign countries in the field of labour migration is under way.

### 3.3. Statistics

## Labour immigrants in Tajikistan

Tajikistan is a both sending and receiving country, where the export of labour prevails over its imports. Migrant workers from 55 countries work in the RT. The largest group of labour migrants are Chinese citizens working in the RT on the basis of an intergovernmental agreement reflecting the fact that China is the largest creditor of the country whereas Chinese companies are engaged in construction of various facilities in Tajikistan attracting as well their own labour.

In 2011, in view of the needs of the countries concerned, the quota for foreign labour was 5,000. In the following years, foreigners were annually allocated a quota of 4,800 jobs. In 2012 the Migration Service had issued 5,221 work permits to foreign nationals in total, of which 421 were issued on the basis of bilateral agreements between the Republic of Tajikistan and foreign states. On the basis of permits issued the following groups of nationals were engaged in labour activities: 2962 citizens of China (54%), 868 Afghani nationals (18%), 267 citizens of Iran (5.5%), 244 citizens of Turkey (5%), 204 citizens of Uzbekistan, 134 citizens of Pakistan, 73 citizens of India, 66 Kyrgyz citizens, 51 citizens of the Russian Federation, 34 citizens of the USA, etc.<sup>8</sup> Foreigners are mainly engaged in construction of hydropower facilities, infrastructure projects, entrepreneurship, trade and service.

When hiring, foreign companies must employ 70-80% of Tajik citizens; the number of foreign employees should not exceed 30%.

## External labour migration

According to official figures, over 650-700 thousand labour migrants leave the RT annually. Most of them are employed in construction. Total labour migration tends to increase. In 10 months of 2013 793,539 Tajik citizens left the country, of them 83.5% (659,315) were labour migrants - an increase of 22% over the same period of the previous year. Of the total number, 649,401 went to the Russian Federation; 84.5% of those who left were men. Altogether, more than 900 thousand people left for Russia in 2013, of them around 790 thousand were labour migrants. According to the Federal Migration Service, around 1.2 million Tajik citizens are employed in Russia. According to the same source, the number of migrants from Tajikistan in March 2014 was 23% less as compared to 2013, which is due to the introduction of a stricter immigration control in Russia.

After Russia, Kazakhstan is the main receiving country for migrants from Tajikistan (about 50 thousand). About 60% of them are employed in market trade, 20% in construction, 10% in manufacturing, 10% in other sectors (doctors, teachers, entrepreneurs).

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<sup>8</sup> Data from Ozodi Radio portal, <http://rus.ozodi.org/content/article/24904534.html>, accessed 11.07.2014.

In 2012, 4700 people were sent through the organizations licensed to send workers abroad. With the help of one of these organizations, "Umuri Mehnati Ikhtiyorii Chavonon" ("Voluntary work of the youth") under the Committee on Youth, Sports and Tourism, sent 137 people. The number of officially sent migrants is inconsiderable because of visa-free regime with Russia: about 97% of the total number of Tajik migrants go to Russia on their own.

73.1% of Tajik migrants work outside the RT seasonally, i.e. February-March and October-November. After the peak in March and April, the rate of monthly labour migration gradually decreases. Duration of an average stay is six months. The level of labour migration in the mountainous regions of Tajikistan is the highest in the country. Migration here involves from 17 to 30% of the working population.

## 4. Irregular migration in the country

### 4.1. Responsible state authorities

The **Migration Service** is responsible for developing common approaches in fighting irregular migration, carries out preventive work with foreign nationals engaged in labour activity in the RT and interacts with the media in the realization of preventive and information activities to fence off irregular migration (32 events in 10 months of 2013).

In order to prevent illegal migration, the Migration Service together with the **General Prosecutor's Office, the Ministry of the Interior, State Committee for National Security and Border Guard authorities** regularly conducts special operations to prevent, combat and curtail irregular migration. These operations are called "Nelegal" (an illegal immigrant) and aim at identifying persons staying on the territory of the RT illegally.

### 4.2. Policies

In 2013 bilateral cooperation of Tajikistan with the CIS countries in countering irregular migration was carried out within the framework of the Program of Cooperation among the CIS Member States in Combating Illegal Migration for 2012-2014.

In 2013, the Republic of Tajikistan signed an agreement with Russia on the rules of stay of the RT citizens in the Russian Federation, which provides for the registration with the competent authorities of the RF at the place of residence within 15 days instead of 7.

### 4.3. Statistics

In 10 months of 2013, 736 administrative violations of migration legislation by foreign citizens were detected in the RT, including: 214 by the citizens of China; 104 of Pakistan; 94 - the Russian Federation; 85 - Afghanistan; 82 - Uzbekistan; 40 - Kyrgyzstan; 29 - Iran; 14 - Turkey; 7 - the USA; 7 - Ukraine; 6 - Kazakhstan, Nigeria, Bangladesh and Moldova; 4 - Canada and Israel; 3 - Armenia and India; 2 - the UK, Azerbaijan, Romania and Germany; 1 - Latvia, Norway, France, Turkmenistan and Austria. Of the total number of those who violated immigration rules of the RT, 419 were removed from the country. For 7 months of 2013 Russia, in its turn, refused entry to 1,639 citizens of the Republic of Tajikistan.

In 2012, the Migration Service of Tajikistan initiated more than 700 cases related to violation of the migration legislation by foreigners. Following the court decisions, 400 foreign nationals were removed from Tajikistan.

## 5. Return, Readmission and Reintegration

### 5.1. Responsible state authorities

The **Migration Service** and the **Ministry of Health of the Republic of Tajikistan** work together on the implementation of an agreement which would make each labour migrant pass through medical examination before departure and upon return to detect diseases that may be exacerbated during migration and to treat them timely. The Migration Service is also engaged in organization of professional training for labour migrants.

### 5.2. Policies

Tajikistan has no signed readmission agreements with any country. The policy to support Tajik returnees is not defined as a distinct area of state policy and is a part of general policies to provide jobs for Tajik citizens. In this context, the decree by the Government of the Russian Federation number 555 of 17 June 2014 establishing from the 1st of January, 2015 a new entry and departure procedure for the citizens of the Republic of Tajikistan with only foreign, service or diplomatic passports, seaman's identity card or the RT return certificate, will become one of the factors conditioning the return of Tajik migrants to their homecountry.

The Migration Service is considering a proposal for the establishment of reintegration centers for returning migrants, where they will be able to learn foreign languages and acquire professional skills in demand on the labor markets of Tajikistan and other countries.

Upon visiting the State enterprise "Specialized professional boarding school of the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection" and the State enterprise "Tajikistan Center of Adult Education," the

President of the RT commissioned the creation in almost every city and district of the country of training centres that give citizens the opportunity to obtain diplomas and certificates validating skills acquired during migration.

### 5.3. Statistics

To ensure the employment of citizens, returning migrants including, the website of the State Agency of Social Protection, Employment and Migration of the Ministry of Labour, [www.kor.tj](http://www.kor.tj), posts vacant job listings for the entire country. The total number of vacancies as of December 6, 2013 amounted to 4758 jobs in such sectors as transport and communication (73), industry (2374), construction (883), health (693), education (146), culture (27), housing and communal services (333) and others (279). According to official statistics, every year the Government creates 150-200 thousand new jobs, mostly seasonal in character.

## 6. Integration

### 6.1. Responsible state authorities

Information Department of the Migration Service of Tajikistan and, in particular, the Division of Public Relations, deal with the issues of migrants' integration, their learning languages of host countries and evaluation of the EU policies on the integration of migrants.

### 6.2. Policies

Despite the fact that the geography of migration flows from Tajikistan includes Kazakhstan, Ukraine, China, UAE, Afghanistan and the United States, a deliberate policy of migrants' integration is not defined as a distinct area of state policy in view of the small size of the migration flows into the Republic of Tajikistan.

### 6.3. Statistics

## 7. Migration and Development

### 7.1. Responsible state authorities

The **Migration Service** supports numerous Tajik national organizations abroad to strengthen their ties with Tajikistan. Through its Office in the Russian Federation and diplomatic missions of the RT abroad, MS pursues a policy setting direct contacts with Tajik communities abroad. MS also assists citizens in learning Russian and obtaining professional qualifications in demand on the labour market of the Russian Federation. The **Administration for Relations with Compatriots Abroad** under the MS interacts with national associations abroad to assist migrants in their adaptation to the environments in receiving countries. The **Public Council** of the Migration Service of the Republic of Tajikistan works with national associations to support migrants carrying out temporary working activities on the territory of the Russian Federation in their adaptation to the social and cultural context of the host country.

The **Ministry of Foreign Affairs** assists the development of relations with compatriots living abroad.

### 7.2. Policies

To strengthen the cooperation and involvement of Tajik nationals living abroad into the development of their home country, the Government of Tajikistan has adopted the specifically designed Roadmap (2010) and the Plan for its Implementation (2011). The Recommendations / Roadmap to attract Tajik Diaspora to protection of the rights of Tajik migrants and proposals for further cooperation in 2014 are being prepared.

Since April 2012 the Public Council made up of the heads of diplomatic missions accredited in Tajikistan, the leaders of all the ethnic diasporas of the RT, as well as representatives of international, non-governmental and public organizations is active. The Council assists in the development and implementation of the effective State migration policy to protect the rights and interests of labour migrants abroad, provides for the analysis of the migration situation and proper decision making, reviews of legislation and prospects of mutual cooperation.

### 7.3. Statistics

Tajik Diaspora resides mainly in the Russian Federation, Ukraine, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan. A total of 81 public organizations and cultural centers function on the territory of the Russian Federation, two public organizations are active in Ukraine and Kyrgyzstan, and seven cultural centers operate in Kazakhstan.

According to the data of the National Bank of Tajikistan, up until 2014 the flow of remittances of migrant workers tended to increase. In 2004, income from the labour migration in Tajikistan amounted to \$ 500 million; through 2006-2008 the amount of money transferred by labour migrants to Tajikistan increased from 1 to 2.6 billion dollars (2.6 times). In 2008 the RT received through the bank transfers more than \$ 2.0 billion (46% of GDP); in 2012 - about \$ 3.3 billion and in 2013 - about \$ 3.6 billion. (47.5% of GDP). Money transfers from Russia to Tajikistan in the first three months of 2014 amounted to 502 million dollars, which, according to the National Bank of Tajikistan, is 13.4% less than for the same period in 2013.

According to the estimates of the platform 'Tajikistan's Economic News,' the amount of funds Tajikistan has received through remittances since 2002 exceeds \$ 19 billion.

According to the World Bank, Tajik migrants transfer ¼ of their earnings; the rest is spent in the host country. Representatives of the National Bank of Tajikistan report that it is impossible to discern in the total flow of remittances what is sent by the labour migrants and what may be accounted by the cost clearings of small enterprises. Since May 2013 the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade of Tajikistan has not published any data on the volume of remittances by private individuals.

According to unofficial data, the number of migrants is around 1.5 million. This is an indication that economic growth does not create enough jobs and is mostly propelled by external factors. Moreover, in the past seven years, the share of the real sectors of economy (industry and agriculture) decreased from 39.9% (January 2006) to 28.4% (July 2013).

## 8. Asylum and International Protection

### 8.1. Responsible state authorities

The **Ministry of Internal Affairs** is responsible for asylum and refugee status. Because of the long shared border between Tajikistan and Afghanistan and the growing threat of irregular migration to the RT, a special working group has been established.

### 8.2. Policies

Assistance to refugees is mainly provided in the form of a massive humanitarian aid from the Aga Khan Foundation. Since 2000, the Fund, UNDP and other international organizations have begun to change strategy and move on to the technical assistance and development projects. Termination of a large-scale humanitarian aid, withdrawal of Russian border troops in 2004-2005 and, as a consequence, job cuts, served as an additional impetus for the growth of labour migration.



### 8.3. Statistics

During the civil war of 1993-1996 within the period of 1992-1993, every seventh citizen of Tajikistan became a refugee or internally displaced person. In 1991-1995, 284.6 thousand people emigrated from the country.

By the beginning of 2000 there were 20.1 thousand refugees and internally displaced persons from the CIS countries in Tajikistan.<sup>9</sup> According to UNHCR, as of 2012, there were more than 4 thousand Afghan refugees in the Republic; 600 persons were awaiting official refugee status from the authorities of the RT. In nine months of 2012 400 Afghan migrants arrived. For these the RT is a transit country on their way to a third country. Given the extended shared border between Afghanistan and the Republic of Tajikistan, there is a threat of a growth in the number of irregular migrants from Afghanistan.

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<sup>9</sup> *Demograficheskaya situatsiya i formirovaniye obshchego rynka truda gosudarstv-uchastnikov SNG* [Demographic situation and the formation of the common labour market for CIS countries] Analiticheskii doklad. Ed. By. Avgustinov. Moscow, 2001. P. 119.



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