Introduction. External migration during the Soviet period was generally not allowed and insignificant. Migration flows from and to the Republic were limited to the territory of the USSR. Migration became noticeable in 1988, when the permission to migrate was granted to ethnic Jews, Greeks and Germans, as well as the permission to travel abroad to all citizens. Since 1992, return migration of ethnic Russians and migration of CIS nationals to Russia are the main factors that compensate for the loss of population. Russia is also a host and a transit country for refugees from Afghanistan and Central Asia. Current migration flows are mainly directed to the EU. CIS countries are the main source countries.

### Demographic-Economic

#### Outward Migration

- **Russian emigration stocks - year 2011 (a)**
  - **Total emigrants:** 2,288,051 (according to 2011 consular statistics: 1,700,000)

#### Inward Migration

- **Immigration stocks in Russia - years 2002-2010 (b)**
  - **Total immigrants:** 11,976,822 persons born abroad - including post-Soviet Republics (year 2002)
  - **1,640,801 foreign nationals (year 2010)**

#### Five top countries of residence:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Destination countries’ statistics</th>
<th>Russian consular statistics (2011)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>United States: 415,438</td>
<td>Germany: 554,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Israel: 288,375</td>
<td>Israel: 129,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany: 206,030</td>
<td>United States: 119,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estonia: 190,599</td>
<td>Estonia: 127,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latvia: 172,336</td>
<td>Ukraine: 101,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **Sex:**
  - Males: 39.4%
  - Females: 60.6%

- **Age group:**
  - Less than 15: 10.7%
  - 15-64: 72.4%
  - 65+: 16.9%

- **Level of education (year 2006):**
  - Primary or below (31.2%); secondary (38.1%); tertiary (30.7%)

- **Occupation (year 2006):**
  - Elementary occupations (20.4%); craft and related trades workers (18.5%); technicians and associate professionals (15.0%)

- **Notes:**
  - (a) Russian emigrants are defined according to the country of birth (best option) or country of nationality criterion according to countries of residence. In the post-Soviet zone, the country of nationality is used
  - Source: destination countries’ sources (population census/population register/household survey)

### FLOWS

#### Outflows of Russian nationals to selected countries of destination – year 2011

- **Total outflows:** 87,955

#### Inflows of foreign nationals in Russia – years 2010

- **Total inflows:** 45,949 foreign nationals
  - 191,600 persons arrived from abroad

#### Five top countries of nationality

- **Uzbekistan:** 7,513
- **Kazakhstan:** 27,900
- **Tajikistan:** 6,847
- **Ukraine:** 6,829
- **Armenia:** 6,290
- **Azerbaijan:** 4,929

- **Source:** flow data are proxied by the number of registrations to a place of permanent residence in Russia (FSS - Rosstat)
### Legal and political framework governing migration and mobility

#### General legal references
- 2011 Law on Ratification of Agreement on the Legal Status of Labour Migrants and their Family Members
- 2006 Presidential Decree on Regulation of the Procedure for Granting Political Asylum in the RF
- 2006 Law on Migration Registration of Foreign Citizens in the Russian Federation (amended in 2012)
- 2003 Concept on Regulation of Migration Processes in the Russian Federation
- 2002 Law on Citizenship (amended in 2012)
- 1999 Law on the State Policy of the Russian Federation towards Compatriots Living Abroad
- 1996 Law on the Procedure of Exit from the RF and Entry to the RF (amended in 2012)

#### Outward Migration and Mobility

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Visa</th>
<th>Inward Migration and Mobility</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- EU-RF Visa Facilitation Agreement signed in 2006.</td>
<td>- 5 types of visa: ‘DP’ – diplomatic visa (up to 1 year); ‘SL’ – service visa (up to 1 year); ‘O’ – regular visa (7 categories: private, business, tourist, study, work, humanitarian, and visa for the purpose of obtaining refugee status in the RF); ‘TR1’ and ‘TR2’ – transit visa (up to 10 days); and ‘VP’ – visa for temporary residence (up to 4 months, renewable).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- RF citizens are exempted from visa requirements in the CIS countries, Albania, Argentina, Barbados, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Brunei, China, Colombia, Croatia (tourist voucher), Chile, Cuba, Dominican Rep., Ecuador, Philippines, Georgia, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Laos, Hong-Kong, Israel, Macao, Macedonia, Malaysia, Maldives, Morocco, Micronesia, Mongolia (restrictions), Montenegro, Namibia, Nicaragua, Peru, Salvador, Samoa, Seychelles, Serbia, Shri Lanka, Thailand, Tonga, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Venezuela, Vietnam, Uruguay, etc.</td>
<td>- 5 types of visa: ‘DP’ – diplomatic visa (up to 1 year); ‘SL’ – service visa (up to 1 year); ‘O’ – regular visa (7 categories: private, business, tourist, study, work, humanitarian, and visa for the purpose of obtaining refugee status in the RF); ‘TR1’ and ‘TR2’ – transit visa (up to 10 days); and ‘VP’ – visa for temporary residence (up to 4 months, renewable).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Labour

- 2010 Agreement between the RF, BY and Kazakhstan, regulating labour migration and legal status of labour migrants and their family members, and combating illegal migration;
- 2009 RF-France and 2010 RF-Rep. of Korea agreements on temporary labour activity of their citizens on the territory of the other state.
- 1999 Treaty on Customs Union and Common Economic Space between the RF, BY, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan.
- Russia partially ratified the European Social Charter (revised in 1996).

#### Rights

**Readmission Agreements**

Readmission agreements are concluded with Armenia, Denmark, the EU, Iceland, Kazakhstan, Kirgizia and Lithuania (in force until the ratification of the EU-RF Implementation protocol), Lichtenstein, Mongolia, Norway, Switzerland, Turkey, Vietnam, Ukraine and Uzbekistan. In 1998, the Cooperation Agreement with the CIS member states to combat illegal migration was signed (ratified in 2000). Party to the EurAzEC Cooperation Agreement on Countering Illegal Labour Migration from Third Countries.

**Diaspora**

RF has been developing an active diaspora policy, addressing especially ethnic Russians and highly-skilled emigrants. Central state authorities responsible for the realization of state programs on cooperation with diaspora:
- RF Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
- RF Ministry of Culture;
- World congress of compatriots every three years.
A special state program on voluntary resettlement of the Russian citizens living abroad was launched in 2006.

**Multiple Citizenship**

- Dual citizenship is possible in case of existence of an international agreement (exists with Tajikistan);
- Multiple citizenships are allowed;
- RF citizens who are at the same time the citizens of other states are recognized in relation to the Federation only as Russian citizens.

**Irregular Migration**

- Illegal crossing of the state border without valid documents or proper authorization is a crime. Violation of rules of entry and stay is an administrative offence.
- Decision on deportation is taken by the regional branch of the Federal Migration Service (FMS), or the FMS director. The decision on administrative expulsion is taken by the court.

**International Protection**

- Accession to the Geneva Refugee Convention;
- Forms of protection granted in the RF are: refugee status and asylum (temporary and political asylum);
- Application for refugee status is submitted to the Diplomatic or consular mission (outside of the RF), border guard service (at the moment of the border crossing), or the Federal Migration Service (on the territory of the RF). The status is approved by the Federal Migration Service. While waiting, the alien can stay in a Temporary Accommodation Centre.

**Citizenship**

Preconditions of the naturalization are: min 5 years of permanent lawful residence (1 year for refugees, 3 years for persons married to RF citizens); knowledge and observance of the constitution and laws; knowledge of the state language; lawful sources of subsistence; renunciation of the other citizenship.