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**Beyond Ukrainian Labour Market Migration to Hungary:
Economic Rationales and Discursive Patterns of
Hungarian Labour Migration Policy**

*A UKRAINE AT TURNING POINT: Debunking Disinformation
& Fake News on Ukraine's Labour Migration*

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Economic Rationales: the Growth Context

Main patterns of Hungarian economic growth

- At present: strong growth (5.3% in Q1 2019), but
- a significant deceleration is expected in the future;
- domestic demand factors supporting growth will weaken;
- main production factors limit future potential growth rate.

Factors that may block future convergence:

- deterioration of business environment perception by external actors
- **human capital**, especially quantity but also quality, i.e. labour shortage in an increasing number of sectors.

Economic Rationales: the Labour Supply Context

Main patterns of Hungarian employment policy

- High ratio of labour market participation among skilled and healthy population;
- Skill mismatch prevail, but an increasing activation happened in the last decade;
- Unfavourable demographic patterns block future increase of labor supply.

Immigration-friendly employment and integration policy would be a logical implication, but..

Discursive Patterns: towards Selective Immigration

Main Policy Instruments and Discursive Patterns of Migration-Related Hungarian Policies

- Securitization discourse dominate (,harmful migration’);
- Workfare idea is the dominant frame (economic nationalism is less prevalent then it was in the first half of this decade);
- Selective migration policy could be the solution of this policy puzzle; i.e. keeping harsh anti-immigrations discourse and providing selective incentives for some potential labour force to come to Hungary;
- Immigration of the ’culturally similar migrants’ are encouraged.

Ukrainian Migrants to Hungary from a Global Care Chain Perspective

- **Care migration** is a main type of migration that expected to expand further;
- **Ukrainian female workers** have been experiencing a particularly strong push factor recently;
- High labour demand in Hungarian construction and tourism sectors encourage **parallel migration of male workers** as well;
- Geographical proximity, formal incentives of labour force immigration and closeness of informal norms encourage Ukrainian immigration;
- but **CZ, PL, SK..**