



Office of Citizenship and
Migration Affairs
Republic of Latvia

The experience of visa liberalisation in the Baltic States

Ilze Siliņa-Osmāne
European Migration Network, Latvian Contact Point
emn@pmlp.gov.lv

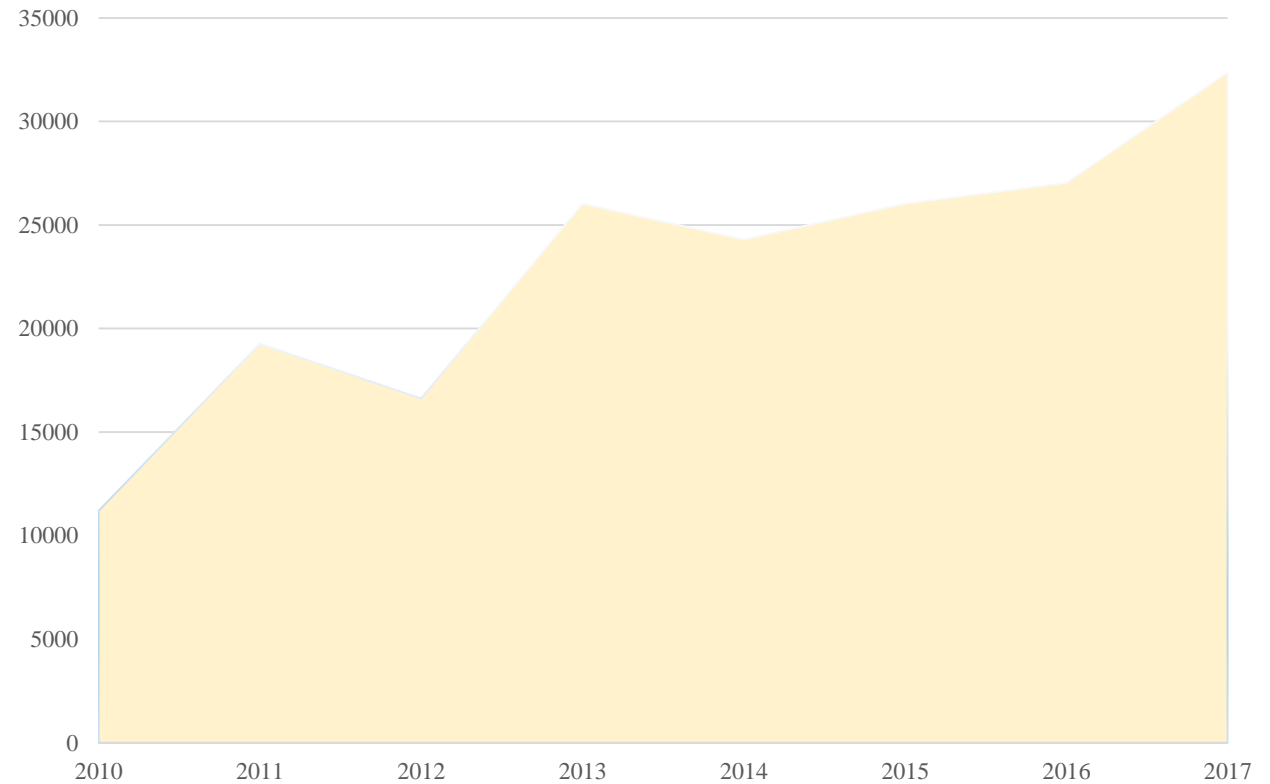
April 17, 2019.

Riga



Office of Citizenship and
Migration Affairs
Republic of Latvia

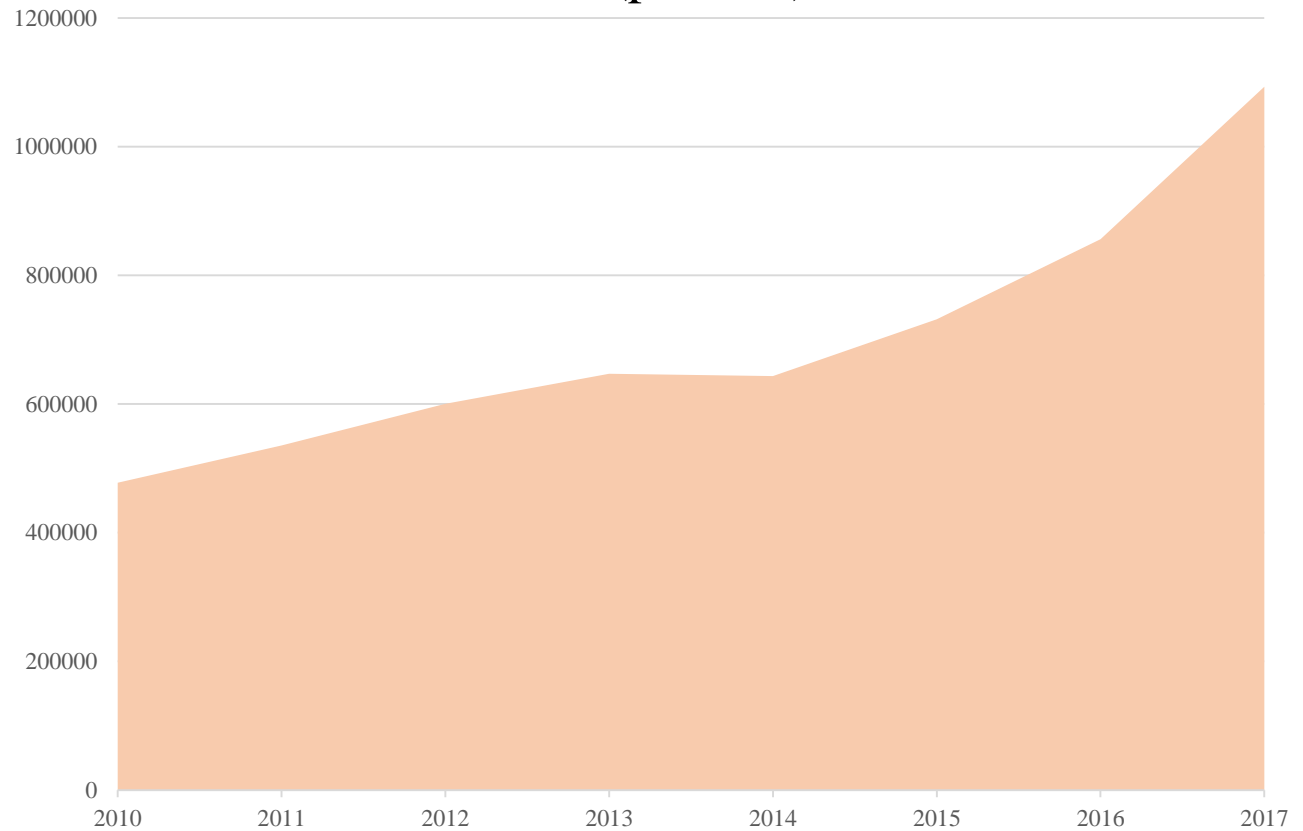
Number of external border-crossings from Western Balkans in the Baltic States (persons)





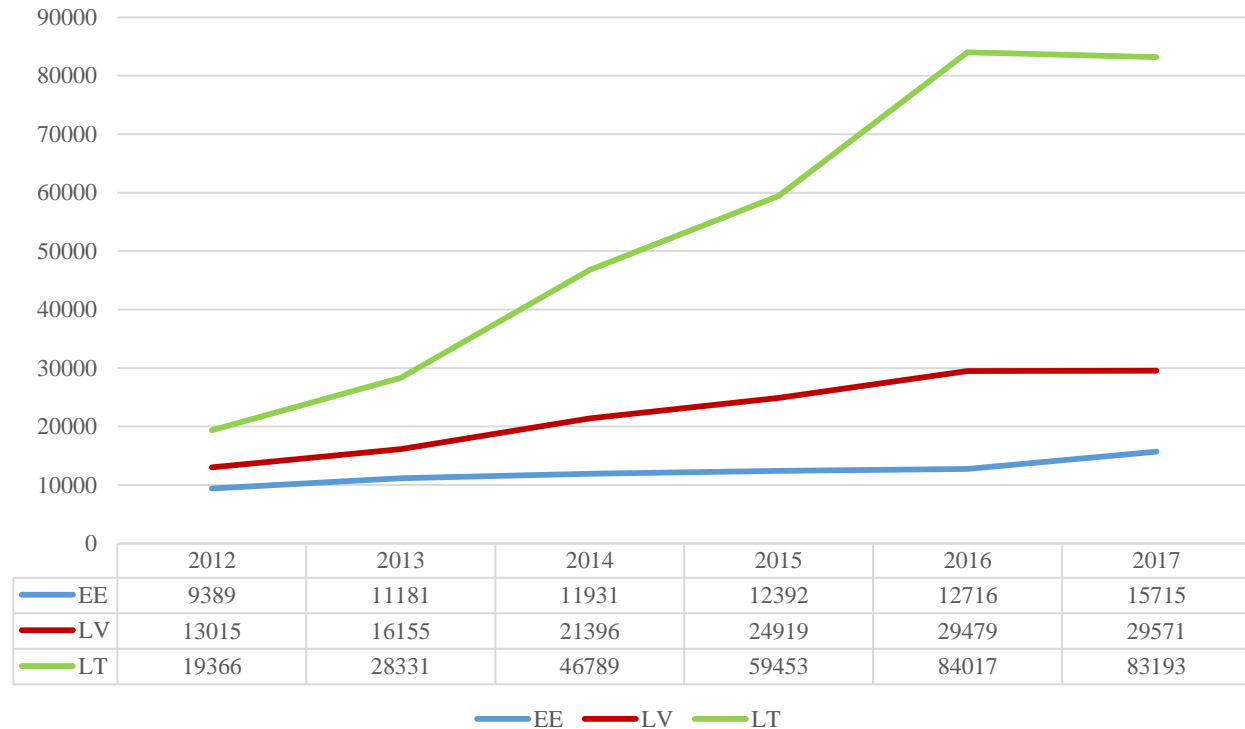
Office of Citizenship and
Migration Affairs
Republic of Latvia

Number of external border-crossings from Eastern Partnership countries in the Baltic States (persons)





Number of visitors staying in hotels and other accommodation establishments from Ukraine in the Baltic States





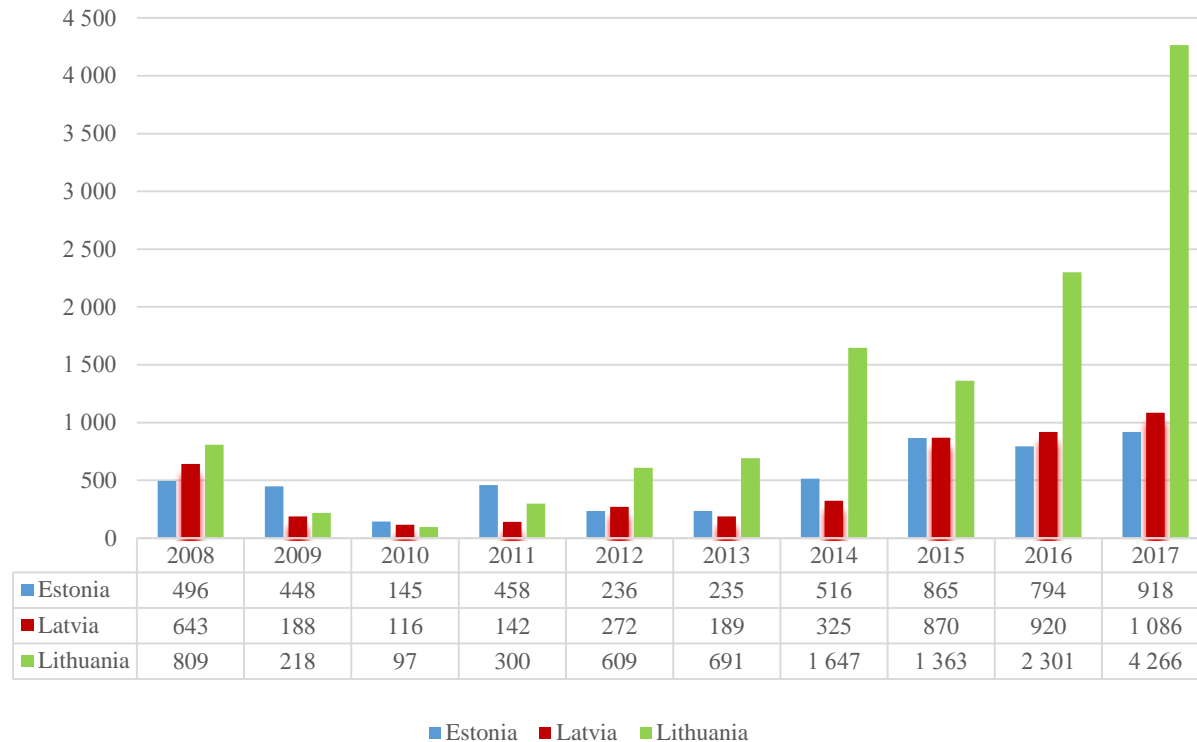
Office of Citizenship and
Migration Affairs
Republic of Latvia

Pull factors for Eastern Partnership countries

- family ties,
- diaspora in the Baltic States,
- more favourable employment opportunities, including higher salary
- easier communication,
- social integration, which is easier due to the knowledge of the Russian language.



Number of first residence permits issued for remunerated activities reasons to Ukrainians in the Baltic States





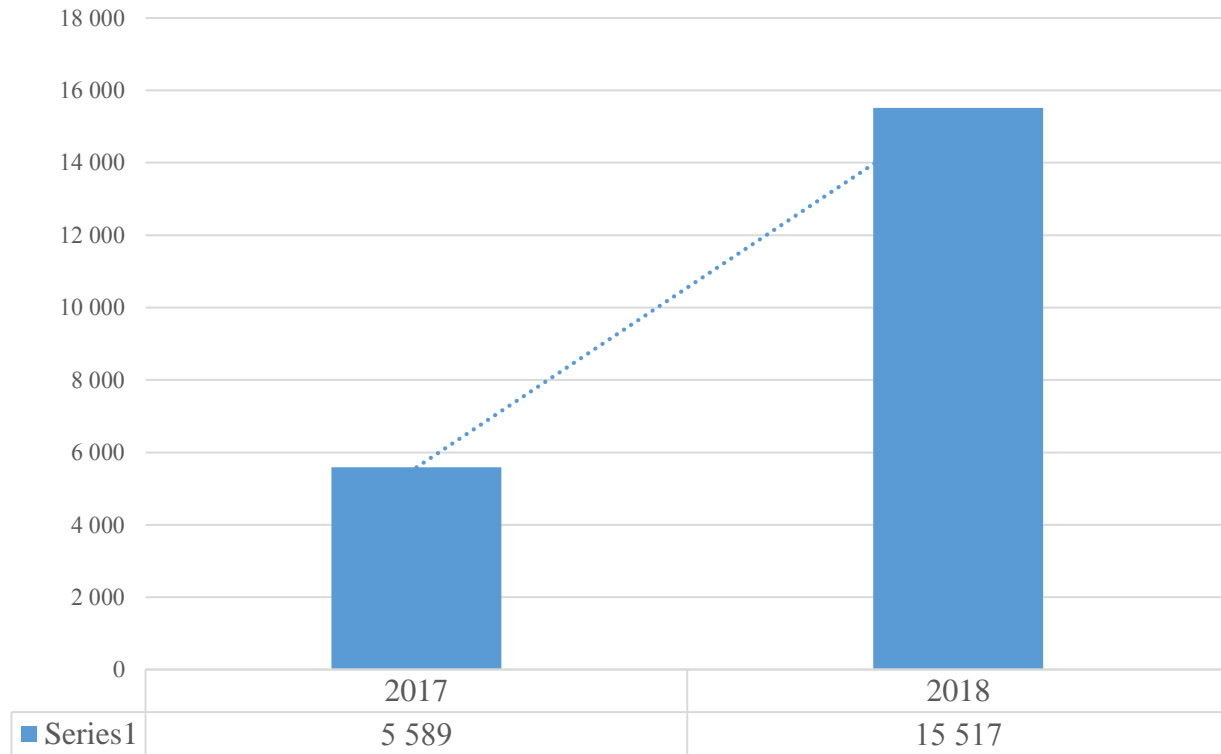
Office of Citizenship and
Migration Affairs
Republic of Latvia

The Baltic States allow to request the residence permit with the right to employment on their territory.



Office of Citizenship and
Migration Affairs
Republic of Latvia

Short-term employment registrations by Ukrainian nationals in Estonia





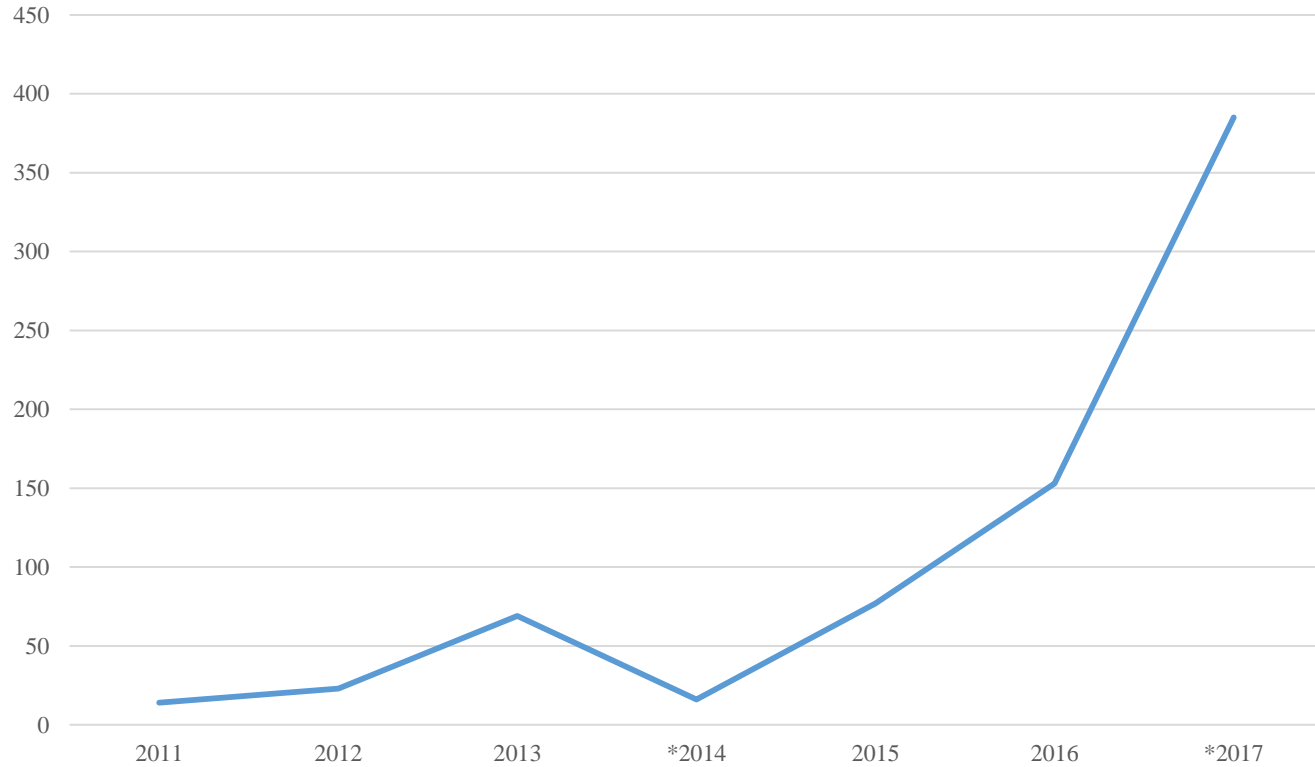
Office of Citizenship and
Migration Affairs
Republic of Latvia

- almost none asylum applications lodged from visa-free countries
- the number of voluntary returns from the visa-free countries was too low to merit specific attention
- in the Baltic States the actions taken to combat trafficking in human beings were general and not specifically geared towards nationals of the visa-free countries.
- The Baltic States shared concern of possible misuse of the visa-free regime, resulting in national authorities having to carry out more thorough and time-consuming controls to avoid identity fraud, irregular migration or illegal employment



Office of Citizenship and
Migration Affairs
Republic of Latvia

Number of Ukrainians found in illegal employment in the Baltic States





Office of Citizenship and
Migration Affairs
Republic of Latvia

Thank you for your attention!

Ilze Siliņa-Osmāne
European Migration Network, Latvian Contact Point
emn@pmlp.gov.lv

17.04.2019.

Rīga