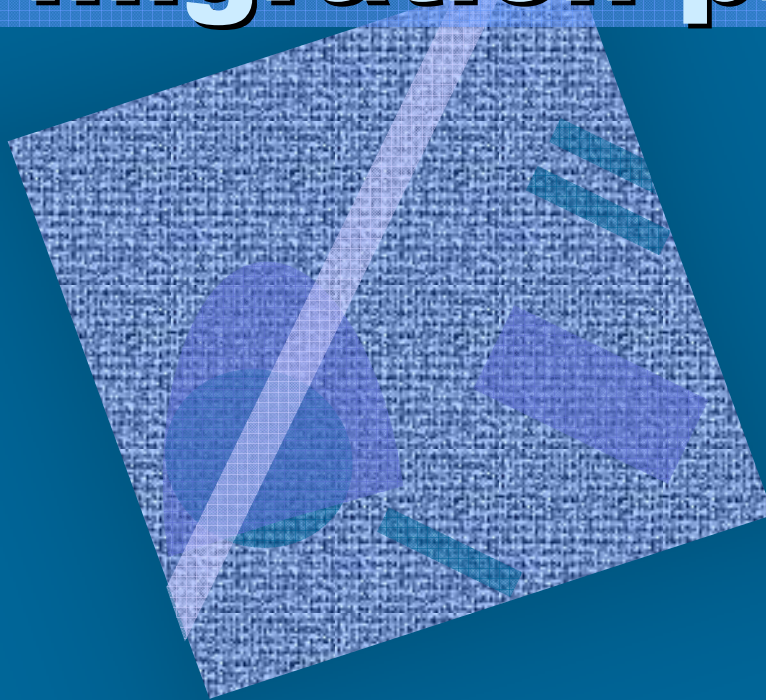


A return to temporary migration programmes?



Metropolis 2006
Lisboa

Peter Stalker
www.pstalker.com

Persistent migration pressures

- **Demand for workers**
 - *Aging populations* – Need for more service workers particularly in health services
 - *Technological advance* – Rising demand for skilled IT personnel
- **Supply of migrants**
 - *Relative poverty* – Widening disparities between rich and poor countries
 - *Mobility* – Urbanization and easier travel and communications

Promises of temporary migration

- **Flexibility**
 - Filling short-term or seasonal gaps
 - Lower impact on national workforce
- **Limited implications for welfare**
 - Less provision of social security or education
- **Easier to sell politically**
 - Alternative to illegal migration
 - The ‘illusion of impermanence’

Definition

Temporary work programmes

“Residence and employment on the basis of a temporary work permit does not on its own create an entitlement to stay permanently in the host country”

Ruhs, M. 2005

Temporary types

- Seasonal workers
- Contract workers
- Professionals and technical workers
- Frontier workers
- Intra-company transferees
- Working holiday-makers
- Trainees/apprentices
- Entertainers/sports people
- Service providers
- Self-employed
- Students
- Au pairs

Abella, M. 2006

Disadvantages

- **Distortion**
 - Employers in destination country count on the availability of migrant workers
 - Depression of wages for local workers
- **Dependence**
 - Migrants rely on a higher income and drift toward permanent, undocumented status

Martin, P. 2003

Risks for some temporary migrants

- **Denial of rights**
 - Exploitative conditions
 - Withholding passports
 - No trade unions
 - No freedom of movement
 - Gender-based violence

Can temporary programmes work?

- **Workplaces**
 - Effective labour market tests
 - Regulating costs through a levy
 - Enforcing employer sanctions
- **Migrants**
 - Reducing costs of legal migration
 - Introducing portable work permits
 - Facilitating return, with some payments at home
- **Governments**
 - Bilateral agreements