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Temporary and circular labour migration: reassessing established public policies

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Abstract

Today, Temporary Labour Migration is a fundamental course of action promoted by relevant economic and political agents, such as the EC, the GCIM, or the OECD. This working paper is based on a specific empirical case study of Temporary and Circular Labour Migration in the Catalanian agrarian sector, which has been distinguished as a particularly successful formula. We identify a new area of interest: the emergence of a new empirical migrant category, the *Circular Labour Migrant*, which remains theoretically unnamed and lacks public recognition. We argue that, until now, there have been two historical phases regarding temporary labour migration: one of total deregulation and another of partial regulation, led by private actors with support from public institutions, and featuring circularity. In a developed Welfare State context, it would be normatively pertinent to expect a step towards a third phase, one involving the institutionalization of this new mobility category through the elaboration of a public policy.

Keywords: circular migrant, seasonal migrant programs, migrant rights, labour migration

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