

Abstract

This dissertation is about the changes in the regulation of labour migration in the Czech Republic, specifically between the period of economic boom in 2007 and 2008 and the beginning of the global economic and financial crisis. The developments of labour migration processes and policies were studied in relation to the political economy of foreign direct investment and the rise of the competition state in the Czech Republic. The materialisation of these developments resulted in the Czech Republic's further integration into the global labour market. Labour migration policy changes in the case of the Green Card project, however, did not confirm the thesis that the Czech Republic's migration policy eventually became subordinated to the competition state project. Not only did the Ministry of Industry and Trade lack bureaucratic capital in the field of migration regulation but also, there were tensions between different notions of the competition state project while 'migration management' was reorganised in the interest of the Ministry of the Interior. Closely following struggles over the regulation of labour migration in the administrative and political fields, this dissertation contributes to literature on the labour migration perspective of the competition state.

The migration crisis is studied from the perspective of a particular case; that of the Tree Workers, which involves hundreds of exploited migrant workers from Vietnam, Slovakia, Romania, and other countries. This part looks more in depth into the precarious and vulnerable position of migrant workers as it was co-created at the intersection of various state policies in the area of forestry, public procurement, and migration. The term 'public tender chain' is used to explain how the principles of public procurement, introduced with entry into the European Union and realised under conditions of state capture and neo-liberal principles (i.e. 'cost' being largely the only criteria in winning a public tender), have had negative effects on workers at the bottom of subcontracting chains.

The last part of the dissertation is concerned with how equality for migrant workers in the labour market could be promoted, especially by the trade unions (ČMKOS and its affiliates) and the State Labour Inspection Office. It is again set in the context of the economic crisis, characterised by increased tendencies for greater cooperation among institutions controlling different aspects of labour migration. According to the notion of 'citizenship of noncitizens,' to which the chapter normatively subscribes to, migration control should not in certain

situations interfere with the promotion of economic rights such as wage and working conditions or the right to free assembly and association.