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### **Reluctant Migrants: Circular Migration from Post Soviet Region to Turkey**

Up until 1960's Turkey considered herself as migrant receiving country, thus established institutions to allow admission only for the Turkish and Muslim communities who steadily fled to Turkey from Balkans. After 1960's, Turkey officially has arrived to a position of a sending country in terms of labour migration. However since 1990's Turkey has had to deal with new population inflows, whose features have been markedly different from the former experiences. The dissolution of the Iron Curtain on the one hand and the formation of Fortress Europe on the other, have resulted in all kinds of irregular migration and plus human trafficking and smuggling activities in the region. Becoming in a buffer zone for the EU places a heavy burden on Turkey, as it does on other "gatekeepers". The growing numbers of temporary residents, transit and circular migrants endure in Turkey with restrictive rules, vivid informal networks and "almost" established attitudes.

This presentation will focus mainly on the arrival of ex-Soviet citizens as circular migrants which is an unexpected experience for Turkish society, as they are coming from a region where relations have been interrupted since nearly a century. The results of an exploratory research conducted in Istanbul on "trafficking in women" and "policies" for combating with trafficking will be argued.

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