INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

Europe in Motion: Labour Migrants or Mobile Workers?

What Does it Mean to Have a Decent Work and to Belong?

DATES
4–5 November 2026

VENUE
Hall "Prof. Marin Drinov", Bulgarian Academy of Sciences main building
1 "15 November" St., Sofia 1040, Bulgaria
Online: YouTube

4 NOVEMBER
On-site: 09:00–16:00 EET
Online: 09:30–16:00 EET / 08:30–15:00 CET

5 NOVEMBER
On-site: 10:00–14:00 EET
Online: 10:15–14:00 EET / 09:15–13:00 CET

PROGRAMME · WEDNESDAY, 4 NOVEMBER 2026

Times are EET (Sofia); CET for online participants is shown in grey.

09:00 – 09:30 EET
08:00 – 08:30 CET

Registration

09:30 – 10:00 EET
08:30 – 09:00 CET

Opening of the conference

What is the TRAM4DW project and why is this conference being held?

- Opening remarks by the organisers – Assoc. Prof. Dr Stoyanka Cherkezova (Institute for Population and Human Studies, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences), Ms Anna Borisova (Bulgarian Red Cross)
- Welcome address by Mr Danail Rusev, Deputy Minister of Labour and Social Policy
- Welcome address by Dr Nadezhda Todorovska, Deputy Director General, Bulgarian Red Cross
- Welcome address by Corresponding Member Evelina Slavcheva, President of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences

PARTNERS

PANEL 1

Free Movement and Mobile Citizenship: Legal, Social and Demographic Dimensions

10:00 – 10:15 EET
09:00 – 09:15 CET

Who are the migrants in Europe? Migration flows, profiles and types of mobility
Assoc. Prof. Dr Spas Tashev – Institute for Population and Human Studies, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences

10:15 – 10:25 EET
09:15 – 09:25 CET

Different migrants, different regimes: law and the formal limits of inclusion
Attorney Yanka Kosarova – Foundation for Access to Rights (FAR)

10:25 – 10:45 EET
09:25 – 09:45 CET

Legal Framework: Refugee Protection in Bulgaria
Attorney Maria Shisheva – UNHCR Representation in Bulgaria

10:45 – 11:00 EET
09:45 – 10:00 CET

From 'stranger' to 'one of us': migration, identity and social distances
Assoc. Prof. Dr Lyuba Spasova – Institute of Philosophy and Sociology, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences

11:00 – 11:15 EET
10:00 – 10:15 CET

Coffee break

11:15 – 12:15 EET
10:15 – 11:15 CET

PANEL DISCUSSION

From mobility to belonging: who is 'one of us' in Europe? Transformations in the understanding of citizenship and migration

MODERATOR: **Assoc. Prof. María Dolores (Lola) Domínguez García** – Complutense University of Madrid

PARTICIPANTS:

1. **Ms Maria Samuilova** – International Organisation for Migration (IOM)
2. **Attorney Yanka Kosarova** – Foundation for Access to Rights (FAR)
3. **Ms Rayna Mandzhukova** – Executive Director of the Executive Agency for Bulgarians Abroad
4. **Dr Viktoriia Chelpan** – Mariupol State University, Ukraine
5. **Attorney Diana Radoslavova** – Center for Legal Aid – Voice in Bulgaria
6. **Dr Vasil Pavlov** – University of National and World Economy (UNWE)
7. **Dr Tsvetelina Tsvetanova** – Institute for Population and Human Studies, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences

12:15 – 13:15 EET
11:15 – 12:15 CET

Lunch break

PANEL 2

Decent Work and the Protection of Workers

13:15 – 13:45 EET
12:15 – 12:45 CET

Migration, Asylum and Work: What Does the New Pact on Migration and Asylum Change?
Attorney Diana Radoslavova – Center for Legal Aid – Voice in Bulgaria

13:45 – 14:15 EET
12:45 – 13:15 CET

Migration and labour: between the opportunity for mobility and the risk of exploitation – challenges to decent work for mobile citizens in Bulgaria and, conversely, for Bulgarian citizens in other EU countries
Mr Dimitar Madjarov – General Labour Inspectorate

14:15 – 14:30 EET
13:15 – 13:30 CET

Different forms of mobility, different levels of vulnerability: access to labour rights and legal mobilisation amongst migrants in Germany
Dr Nikolai Huke – University of Hamburg

14:30 – 15:00 EET
13:30 – 14:00 CET

Coffee break

15:00 – 15:55 EET
14:00 – 14:55 CET

PANEL DISCUSSION

European standards for decent work

MODERATOR: **Ms Guergana Tsenova** – Civil Association for Communication and Education 'Sofia' (ACCESOphia), Spain

PARTICIPANTS:

1. **Ms Magdalena Morgenroth** – Arbeit & Leben Hamburg
2. **Mr Dimitar Madjarov** – General Labour Inspectorate
3. **Ms Ani Kanazirska** – Employment Agency
4. **Ms Darena Dimitrova** – Employment Agency
5. **Ms Miglena Todorova** – Bulgarian Industrial Capital Association (BICA)
6. **Attorney Diana Radoslavova** – Center for Legal Aid – Voice in Bulgaria

15:55 – 16:00 EET
14:55 – 15:00 CET

Closing remarks
Summary and conclusions for the day

- Dr Christo Karabadjakov – University of Applied Sciences HAW Hamburg

10:00 – 10:15 EET
09:00 – 09:15 CET
Registration

PANEL 3

Social Inclusion and Non-Discrimination: From Formal Rights to Genuine Participation

10:15 – 10:45 EET
09:15 – 09:45 CET

Barriers and opportunities for the social inclusion of migrants and refugees in the labour market

Ms Silvia Desheva – UNHCR

10:45 – 11:15 EET
09:45 – 10:15 CET

From the promise of a job to the trap of exploitation: how to recognise the risk?

Ms Daniela Saveklieva – National Commission for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings

11:15 – 11:45 EET
10:15 – 10:45 CET
Coffee break

11:45 – 12:15 EET
10:45 – 11:15 CET

Migration dynamics in the contemporary world through the lens of democratic processes and social polarisation

Prof. DSc Antoaneta Hristova – Institute for Population and Human Studies, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences

12:15 – 13:15 EET
11:15 – 12:15 CET

PANEL DISCUSSION

Migration and political polarisation – between non-discrimination and hate speech

MODERATOR: **Prof. Siyka Chavdarova-Kostova, DSc** – Sofia University

PARTICIPANTS:

1. **Ms Silvia Desheva** – UNHCR Representation in Bulgaria
2. **Mr Vladimir Yonchev** – Journalist & Editor-in-chief, OFFNews
3. **Mr Edwin Pérez** – Director of the immigrant publication Aquí Latinos
4. **Ms Radoslava Mechkyurova** – Commission for Protection against Discrimination
5. **Ms Milena Karakanova** – Caritas
6. **Dr Ilina Nacheva** – Institute for Population and Human Studies, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences

13:15 – 14:00 EET
12:15 – 13:00 CET

CLOSING DISCUSSION

Europe in Motion: what does it mean to have a decent job and to belong?

MODERATOR: **Dr Leendert de Bell** – HU University of Applied Sciences Utrecht