

## **Migration Media Award / 2nd production: The effects of the Transnational Provision of Service Act in Slovenia.**

### **General summary:**

*More than 46,000 workers were posted abroad from Slovenia based on the E101/A1 form in the last year alone and altogether, there were more than 490,000 forms issued. The fact that companies engaging in unfair practices have no trouble obtaining these forms has become controversial. In January, the Transnational Provision of Service Act came into force, which aims to prevent dishonest practices in the field of posted work. Despite this, the people interviewed do not believe that the new act will lead to a major improvement.*

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### **Part I.**

#### **Delavske domine 1/3, FM+special podcast: Migrant Workers in Clutches of Psychopaths**

**Link: <https://val202.rtvsllo.si/2019/05/delavske-domine/>**

The rights of migrant workers are falling as dominoes. It is a completed exploitation system in which there is no space for law. Young people are leaving their homes with the hope of a better life, convinced that the difficult stories of many, who did the same, can't happen to them. But there is many traps waiting for them. Empty cities without any future are left behind. There is almost no young people left in the city of Sanski Most in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Some of the young we met on empty streets said they didn't leave because they still have to go to school. They described Sanski Most as a dead city where nothing happens. In Velika Kladuša we visited the mother of a truck driver, who was forced into driving without any rest by a Slovenian employer. Instead of paying the agreed payment, the employer claimed 5,000 euros from him for arranging a visa and cleaning the truck. Migrant workers usually don't know Slovenian language and legislation. The employment agreement between Slovenia and Bosnia and Herzegovina is written in a way that it leaves the doors for exploitation wide open. This agreement stipulates that a Bosnian worker only has free access to the Slovenian labour market after his first year of employment in Slovenia. Until then, the worker is tied to one employer and thus more vulnerable to exploitation.

## **Part II.**

**Delavske domine 2/3, FM+special podcast: Price of freedom: 500 euros**

**Link: <https://val202.rtvsl.si/2019/05/delavske-domine-2/>**

There are no borders for exploitation, and migrant workers from Slovenia experienced that as well. We spoke with two of them from Maribor, who worked in tourism for 35 days without any break in Austria. They didn't get their overtime payment, and what is more, they experienced an arrogant and degrading attitude from their supervisors. Bosnian workers from the company in Vrhnika also told us about their experience of unscrupulous exploitation. They had to work over 240 hours a month. They even had to defend themselves if they went to the bathroom. These exhausted workers feel like new-age slaves. If they change their employer before the period of one year, the company charges them 500 euros. Psychotherapist Nika Deu is convinced that this kind of exploitation system gives the opportunity for success to "corporate psychopaths" who don't let good and cheap workers out of their clutches. "Corporate psychopaths" don't hesitate to do whatever it takes to achieve greater productivity and profit, even if it comes at the expense of somebody's well-being and emotions.

## **Part III.**

**Delavske domine 3/3, FM+special podcast: "Call Angela, we're done!"**

**Link: <https://val202.rtvsl.si/2019/06/delavske-domine-3/>**

65% of Kosovar population is under the age of 35. The line in front of the Slovenian embassy in Pristina is traditionally long. Illegal journeys from the country are cheaper than legal ones, and some people are willing to risk their life in order to find work in European Union. Workers from abroad can send money back home, which is an important source for the survival for many families. The situation is similar in Bosnia and Herzegovina as well. An elderly gentleman can barely pay the bills with his 200 euros of pension. To be able to survive, his daughter has to help him. Consumption of antidepressants is rising steeply. A local psychologist is convinced that BiH has become the Center of cheap labour for the countries of the European Union. The Employment Service confirms that only in the last six months the number of requests for Bosnian workers by Slovenian employers has doubled. According to the professor and director of the agency for job brokerage, which is based at a private university, the price of a Bosnian worker for a Slovenian employer is 150 euros, for a German one a bit more. Due to the massive departure of skilled young workers, they sometimes have serious problems. The graduates in Tuzla tried to have their voices heard by wearing T-shirts with a very clear message: "Call Angela, we're done!" The Bosnian health system is also problematic. Through the system of retraining, nurses are massively leaving to work in Germany. A local owner of a tourist company can't get qualified personnel as all waiters and chefs left as soon as they got the chance. In Slovenia, some agencies are also extorting employers, as their exploitation is the source of their income. It is a dangerous trend that devastates the countries where the working force comes from. Workers are victims, left without dignity. Their powerlessness allows "corporate psychopaths" to make quick profits at the expense of people. And the system is always at least a few steps behind them.

#### **Part IV.**

**Special report from Bosnia and Hercegovina, FM+special podcast: O tempora, o mores!**

**Link: <https://val202.rtv slo.si/2019/06/bosna-in-hercegovina-reportaza/>**

Even Cicero would be surprised by the current situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina. In a country where people live from today to tomorrow, the system is failing. This is no longer a secret. People from Bosnia and Herzegovina doesn't because of economic reasons, but because of the overall decadent situation.

Jure Petrović and Jasmin Hadžisadiković are still staying in Bihać. They have a stable status and, above all, there is love for music. They are both members of the quite original music group Jall Aux Yeux. Their lyrics are in French, and music has a touch of traditional rhythms.

This is a reportage about the social situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina, from the bakery in Banja Luka to the natural park in Bihać. From journalism to music. Bosnia and Herzegovina.

#### **Part V.**

**Article on MMC RTV Slovenija (on-line newspaper): Mix of all four research podcasts prepared for on-line newspaper.**

**Link: <https://www.rtv slo.si/gospodarstvo/migrantski-delavci-v-krempljih-psihopatov/491701>**