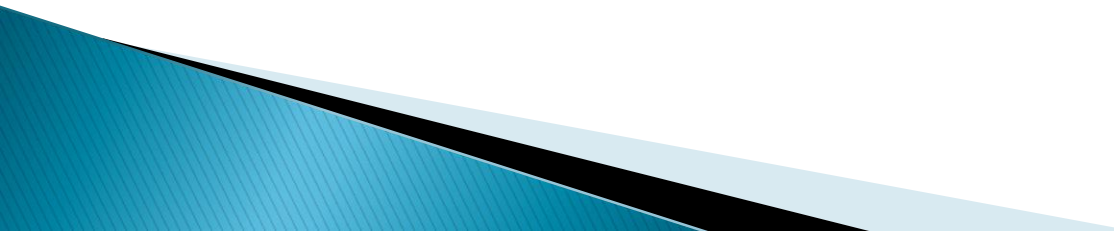


# Summary of Lithuania–Poland Free Movement Conference with special emphasis on frontier workers issues

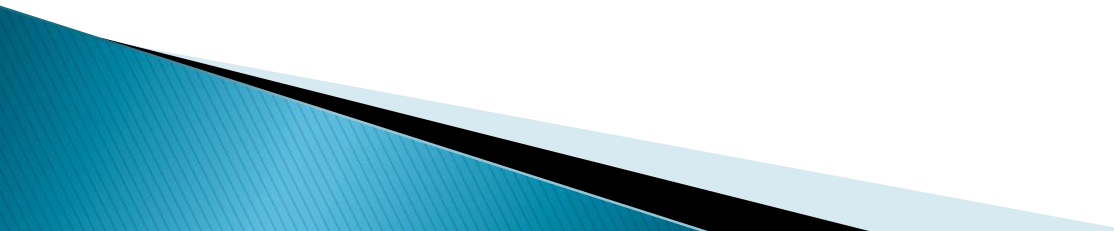
Dr. Aleksandra Czekaj–Dancewicz



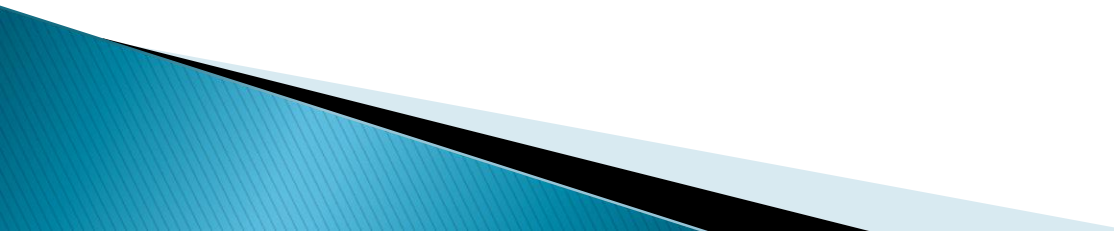
# Goal of the Conference

- ▶ Address the issues that concern both neighbouring countries in the context of most recent developments on free movement in the EU
  - ▶ Propose solutions to these concerns
  - ▶ Enhance awareness on most problematic aspects of free movement in both countries
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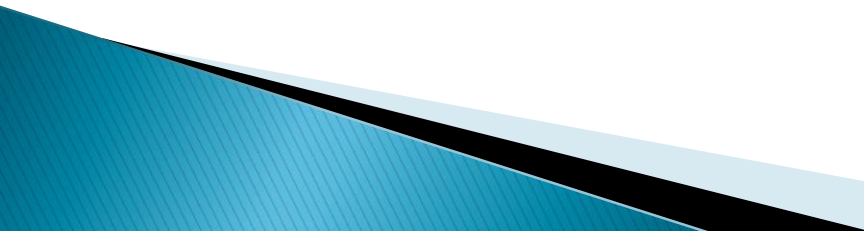
# Frontier workers

- ▶ The situation of frontier workers does not attract particular attention in both countries
  - ▶ The scale of migration is low as a result of comparable income per capita and comparable level of unemployment in both countries
  - ▶ Additional hindrances: language barriers and lack of sufficient information
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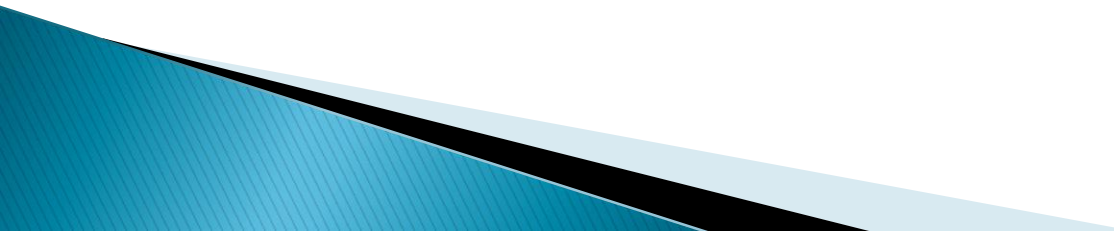
# Frontier workers

- ▶ Growing number of long-term commuters – workers that perform work as an employed or self-employed person in a Member State and reside in another Member State to which they return once a month (and not once a day or once a week)
  - ▶ Necessity to broaden the definition of frontier workers to cover abovementioned situations
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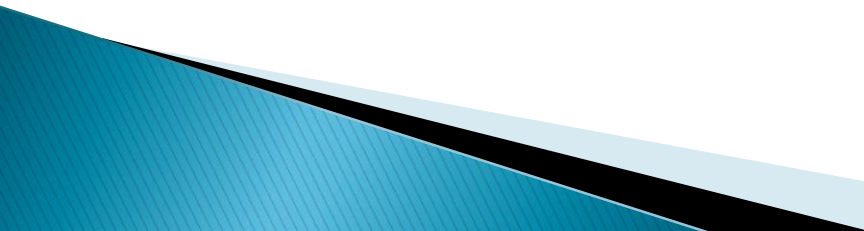
# Frontier workers

- ▶ Cases of abusing social benefits mechanisms by using the same types of social benefits of both states
  - ▶ Comprehensive cooperation between Lithuanian and Polish social security institutions which aim is to detect such infringements
  - ▶ Problems of migrant workers related to accumulation of work record in foreign countries for unemployment benefit
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# Other issues – marriage of convenience

- ▶ Marriage of convenience – difficulties to prove that a marriage is fictitious due to definition contained in the Commission guidance for better transposition and application of Directive 2004/38/EC on the right of citizens of the Union and their family members to move and reside freely within the territory of the Member States (COM 2009, 313)
  - ▶ Both countries are particularly concerned with the problem of sham marriages
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# Other issues – returning Polish migrant workers

- ▶ Significant increase in return migrations since 2009 – especially from United Kingdom and Ireland
  - ▶ Reasons:
    - 1) deterioration of economic situation in destination countries
    - 2) recession and rising competition in the labour market
    - 3) risk of job loss
    - 4) relatively stable economic situation in Poland
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# Other issues – returning Polish migrant workers

- ▶ Special governmental system of support for returning Polish workers
  - ▶ Purpose: provision of information for the migrant worker and facilitation of access to information
  - ▶ This system of support shall not be treated as encouragement to return, but as a help to re-integrate
  - ▶ Delay in implementing similar programme in Lithuania due to budgetary deficit
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