Abstract

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The changing nature of migrant labour in the UK - the impact of Brexit and Covid - gender perspective.

The British labour market and the overall economy has relied on European migrants for many decades. More recently on the migration from the former Communist countries of Eastern and Central Europe such as Poland, Slovakia, Hungary, and the most recently from Romania and Bulgaria. It can be argued that the intensity and the size of the flow of this migration was effectively used by the pro-Brexit propaganda, which resulted in the departure of the UK from the EU. This political move was always going to have a profound impact on the composition of the migrant workforce. However, the subsequent arrival of the Covid 19 was completely unexpected, and coupled with the Brexit, they both together entirely changed the incentives and the possibilities of European migrants to either remain or to arrive to come to work for British organisations.

This qualitative research examines the changing nature of Eastern European female migrants’ motivations to remain and to work in the UK after Brexit. It follows their professional journeys during their lives in the UK and examines the career progression. It also discusses the impact of the Covid 19 on this group and evaluates to what extend it aided or halted their career progression.