

## Preface

This volume is an outgrowth of an April 1996 conference at which policymakers and policy analysts from Soviet successor states, the United States, and a number of international organizations discussed specially prepared reports on migratory processes and policies in the former USSR in the context of current and emergent political, social, and economic changes in the region. The conference, held in Minsk, Belarus, was hosted by the Executive Secretariat of the Commonwealth of Independent States, and was jointly sponsored by RAND's Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies (CRES), the Center for Ethnopolitical and Regional Research (CEPRR) in Moscow, and the Forced Migration Projects of the Open Society Institute. For CRES and CEPRR, the conference was an important milestone in a multiyear program of collaborative research, training, and institution-building that began in October 1994 and is still underway.

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