

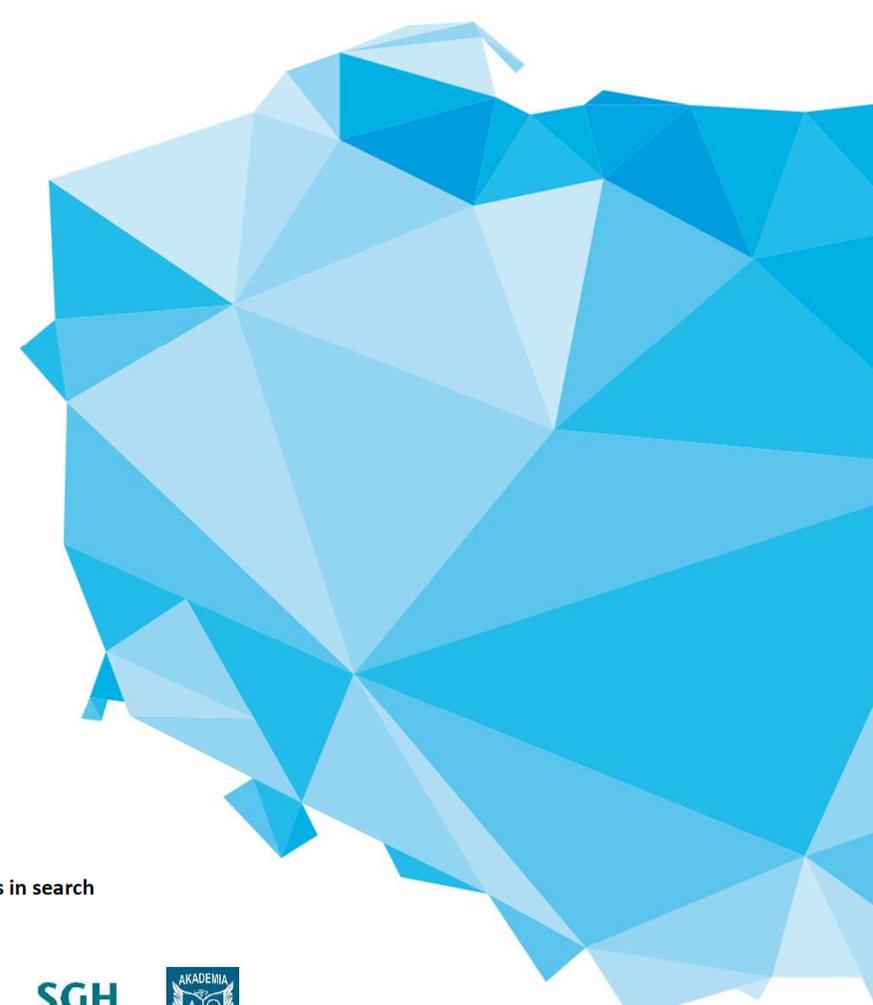


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CENTRE OF MIGRATION RESEARCH

# Approaches to migrant integration policy in Poland. Differences between central and local administration

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“Freedom, solidarity, democracy: the EU and its Member States in search  
for new integration code?”

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## Questions:

- **What are the main approaches to the migrant integration at the central and local level?**
- **Can we call Polish migrant integration policy a multi-level governance model?**
- **Are central and local integration policies coherent?**

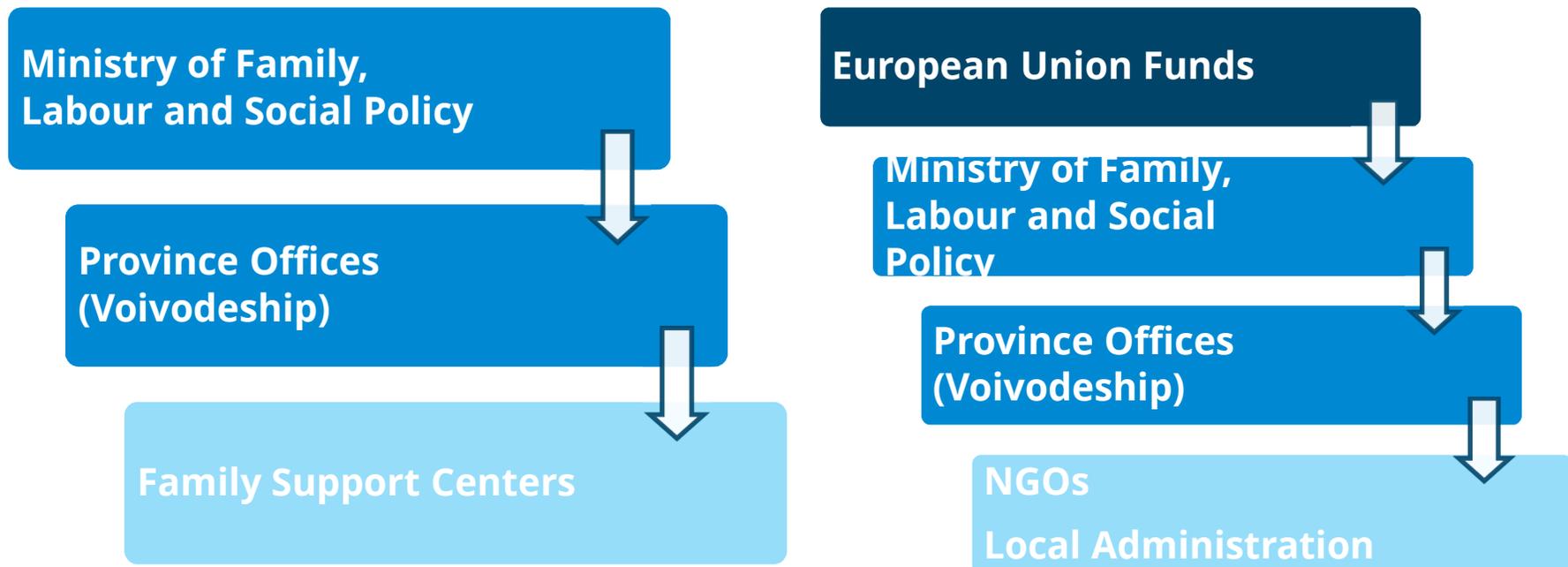


## Periods of the evolution of Polish integration policy

- 1st period – 1989-2000
- 2nd period – 2000-2008
- 3rd period – 2008-2015
- 4th period – 2015+



## Central level migrant integration policy





## Individual Integration Programs

- Dedicated to refugee status and subsidiary protection holders
- Duration of IIP is only 12 months
  - Financial support for living and payment of Polish language courses
  - Health insurance
  - Polish language courses
  - Social assistance and specialized assistance (legal, psychological etc.)





## The Union of Polish Metropolises (UMP)

- At the moment, within the framework of the Union of Polish Metropolises jointly act twelve cities:
  - Białystok, Bydgoszcz, Gdańsk, Katowice, Kraków, Lublin, Łódź, Poznań, Rzeszów, Szczecin, Warszawa and Wrocław.
- 2017 - “Declaration of Mayors on cooperation between the cities of the Union of Polish Metropolises in the area of migration”





CITY  
OF WARSAW

- The capital and the largest city in Poland
- Population 1.7 mln (city) / 3.1 mln (metro)
- 9th biggest city in the EU
- Almost 26.000 foreigners registered in the city (1,48 % of all inhabitants)<sup>1</sup>
- Biggest hub of NGOs supporting foreigners in Poland
  
- Available estimates show that approximately 150.000-170.000 foreigners most likely inhabitat the city (8-10% of all inhabitants)



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1. as of the end of 2016





## Local migrant integration programs and actions in Warsaw

- Housing support:
  - Social flats provided in „Housing contest”
  - 2002-2018 – 80 flats – 233 forced migrants
  - „Protected flat” – temporary housing support for most vulnerable foreigners (max. 12 months with a possibility of extension in special cases)
  - Since 2011 – 51 forced migrants
- Additional Projects:
  - Special counseling (social, medical, psychological, housing and labour market etc.), workshops, vocational trainings, professional Polish courses, foreign language courses, special workshops for women etc.
  - 2008-2018 – cofounded from EU Funds (e.g. AMIF, ESF) – over 800 forced migrants





## Warsaw test project of integration of foreigners with regard to the needs of the labor market „WITEK” (2017-2019)

- Participants: 10 foreigners with refugee status or subsidiary protection
- Actions:
  - Socio-economic diagnosis
  - Housing support (free of charge)
  - Intensive Polish language courses
  - Vocational trainings and labour market assistance
  - Fast track integration to the labour market in Warsaw – from first time job to the long term occupation
  - Social and specialised support
  - Local society integration assistance





## Specialist counseling for foreigners living in Warsaw 2019-2021

- Financing: City of Warsaw budget
- Cooperation between NGOs and local institutions (Warsaw Family Support Center)
- The aim of the project is to organize and conduct specialist counseling for migrants living in Warsaw, in particular refugees, and support them in the integration process
  - Legal counseling
  - Information points
  - Polish language courses
  - Psychological counseling
  - Labour market counseling and workshops
  - Medical counseling and support
  - Cultural awareness activities (e.g. cultural mentoring)
  - Volunteer centers





## Multicultural Center

- Established and supported by the city hall, but run by non-government organizations
- Public space for individuals and groups from various cultures and communities, where they could feel at home and conduct intercultural dialogue.
- The aim is to promote an image of an open and multicultural Warsaw, friendly for migrants
- Services:
  - Info-point
  - Integration activities
  - Incubator for initiatives
  - Education
  - Space and venues

centrum  
wielokulturowe



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**GDAŃSK**  
city of freedom

- The largest city in Northern Poland
- Population 464.000 (city) / 900.000 (metro)
- 6th biggest city in Poland
- Almost 4.000 foreigners registered in the city (less than 1% of all inhabitants)
  
- Available estimates show that up to 20.000 foreigners most likely inhabit the city (4-5% of all inhabitants)



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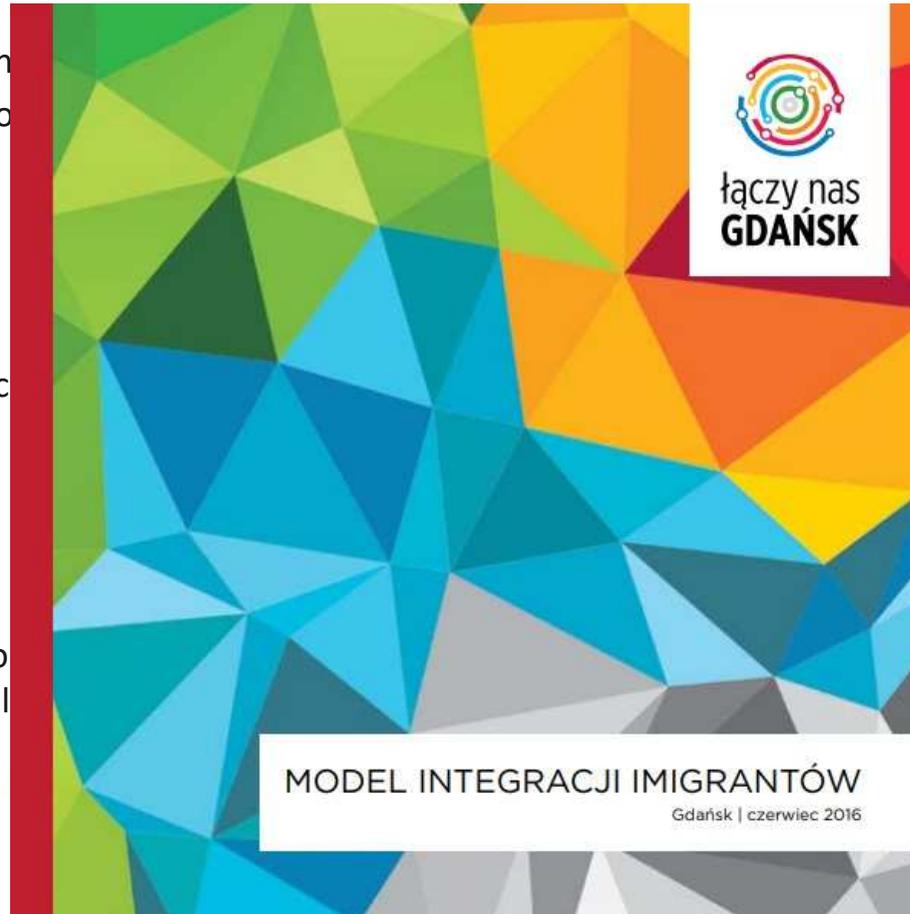


## Migrant Integration Model

- First local strategy in the world
- Participation model (cooperation)
- Fields of action:
  - Education
  - Local society
  - Culture
  - Violence nad discrimination
  - Health
  - Labour market
  - Social services
  - Housing
- The main aim is development of capabilities of the local community to increase integration



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increase integration



## Wrocław

*the meeting PLACE*

- The capital and the largest city in Lower Silesia Province
- Population 635.000 (city) / 1 mln (metro)
- 4th biggest city in Poland
- Almost 8.700 foreigners registered in the city (1 % of all inhabitants)
- Approximately 40% of all foreigners in the city are from EU countries and 10% are students
  
- Available estimates show that approximately 30.000-45.000 foreigners most likely inhabit the city (5-7% of all inhabitants)



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## Wrocław strategy for intercultural dialogue 2018-2022

- Participation model, various stakeholders (institutions, NGOs, business etc.)
- Promotion of multiculturalism and common understanding
- Fields of action:
  - Education
  - Integration
  - Security
  - Cooperation and communication



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## Multicultural Wrocław

- The main aim of the project is to promote intercultural dialogue, common understanding despite differences and build social capital of the city
- Multicultural trainings, workshops, debates, exhibitions
- Various actors – public institutions, organizations or business



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## Counclusions:

- It is questionable if Polish migrant integration policy model can be called a multi-level governance one or rather a disjointed governance.
- Central and local integration policies are not fully coherent and coordinated. Local models often rely on funds and solutions proposed at the central level (IIPs and EU funds) but are not part of general national strategy.