

# The birth and development of Polish integration policy

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# 3xWhat & 1xWho Questions

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# 1. What is the main problem of migrant integration policy in Poland?

- According to the MIPEX (Migrant Integration Policy Index) report Poland took 20th place in ranking of 31 countries in Europe and North America
- The Integration Policy is not an important elements of the national migration policy in Poland.

## Reasons of it:

- Poland is the country of emigration, not of immigration.
- The lack of historical experience to manage immigrants.
- The seasonal migration
- The most of migrants come for work only and will return home.
- The majority of immigrants are almost like locals.

# Till 2005 only two groups of immigrants were in focus of integration activities undertaken in Poland:

- ▶ Refugees and people under subsidiary protection

(since 1990, when Poland signed the Geneva Convention);

- ▶ Repatriates and their families

(the return process of ethnic Poles to Poland after the collapse of the USSR).

Other immigrant groups did not exist in the legal field

## 2. What is the legal context of the migrant integration in Poland?

	PROS	CONS
Proposals for actions aimed at creating a comprehensive policy of foreigner integration in Poland (2005)	Integration policy is needed and should responses to real changes according to economic and political development	A very general content and any proposed actions
Poland's migration policy - current state and postulated actions (2012)	The integration policy spreads to all immigrant groups (not just refugees)	The lack of goals and tasks of migration policy definition; The lack of created official state integration strategy
Polish policy on the integration of foreigners - assumptions and guidelines (2013)	Creation the separate institution that will be responsible for integration policy implementing	The lack of a real action plan of integration program implementation
Building structures for integration of foreigners in Poland (2017-2020)	Creation the basis for building structures for the foreigner integration	Will see after 2020

## Results:

1. There isn't **holistic policy paper** that presents the Polish government position of the integration of immigrants
2. There is no any **special organization** that is authorized to develop this policy and is responsible for its implementation.

### 3. Who are the main actors in the area?

Institutions dealing with some aspects of integration policy:

➤ *Governmental institutions*

➤ *NGOs*

# *Governmental institutions*

- ▶ Ministry of Family, Labor and Social Policy (MRPiPS)

MRPiPS is the **leading institution** in the field of implementing integration policy in Poland from 2004.

All integration activities are mainly related to a **small group of immigrants**, which are people with refugee status, tolerated stay permits or subsidiary protection.

Polish integration has only two forms, which are **individual and family integration programs**.

# *Governmental institutions*

- ▶ the Ministry of the Interior and Administration (MSWiA), and in particular – the Migration Group coordinated by the Ministry, created in 2007

Members of the Migration Group are specialized on **different public policy areas** related to migration such as economy, public finance, culture and protection of national heritage, science and higher education, work, regional development, social security, foreign affairs etc.

However, after **more than 10 years** the establishment of this state body, there is still **no complete official document** that would define the migration and integration public policy and began its implementation.

# *Governmental institutions*

- ▶ The Department of Analysis and Migration Policy of the Ministry of Interior and Administration.

It is responsible for:

- participation in the **creation and implementation** of migration and integration **policy** towards immigrants,
- initiating, analyzing and giving **opinions on draft normative acts** and other documents related to the migration policy,
- gathering **information on the migration situation** in the country and abroad,
- **cooperation** with domestic and foreign scientific and research institutions and others.

## *NGOs*

Several dozens of over 100,000 NGOs are registered in the Polish REGON database deal with foreigners' issues.

- ▶ **Target group** is the both refugees and other migrant groups.
- ▶ **NGO's financing** is from EU funds: the European Social Fund (ESF), the European Fund for the Integration of Third-Country Nationals, and the European Refugee Fund.

# NGOs

- ▶ The main NGO's **goal** is the elimination social barriers or at least making its smaller on the path of integrating migrants into the new social environmental.
- ▶ The NGO's **tools**:
  - providing **consultancy and information** assistance,
  - offering **psychological** support,
  - conducting free **language courses** and **vocational training**,
  - helping with finding a **job** and a **place to live**,
  - fighting against stereotypes and false information by organization various **cultural events** and **anti-discrimination activities**.

# NGOs

- ▶ The most active Polish NGOs, which specialize in migrant help with integration are:
  - Polish Migration Forum (<http://www.forummigracyjne.org>)
  - Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights (<http://www.hfhr.pl/>)
  - Migration Research Center (<http://www.migracje.uw.edu.pl>)
  - Caritas Polska (<https://caritas.pl>)

## *NGOs*

- ▶ **The number of participants** in projects for foreigners that organized by NGOs is **not impressive**.
- ▶ **Possible reasons:**
  - **the lack of information** activities about ongoing programs.
  - **the lack of interest** of the target group.

## 4. What is next?

- ▶ **Ukrainians and Belarusians** are the majority of foreigners, who come in Poland from countries with a **very close culture**.
- ▶ It may seem that integration problems will not be able to appear

## 4. What is next?

- ▶ Poland recently opens borders for an increasing number of **immigrants from Asian countries** (India, Nepal, Bangladesh, China)
- ▶ The lack of **fast reaction** for increasing number of immigrants with other culture can lead to **negative social effects**:
  - the creation of a „state in the state”,
  - the emergence of the gray economy
  - national conflicts, etc.

## 4. What is next?

### ► It means **Poland should:**

- properly use the integration policy as a tool against negative effects of migration,
- learn from the Western countries experiences and not repeat their mistakes.

### ► However, the analysis showed **Poland doesn't has:**

- the uniform **migration strategy** for all migrant groups,
- the strategic approach to migrant **integration policy**,
- the **special governmental department** that would coordinate all areas of migration policy (political, economic, legal, administrative and substantive),
- **political will** to increase efforts to integrate immigrants.

## 4. What is next?

- ▶ If Polish migration policy isn't changed in a way of **higher awareness** of migrant integration issues and **real actions** in this area, the price of it could be **unrest and social divisions** that will touch the both **locals and immigrants**.

Thank you for your  
attention