

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