

# Who does what in the field of migration & integration in Poland

– a Stakeholder Analysis

**Agnieszka Mikulska-Jolles**



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# Executive Summary

Poland does not have much experience with accommodating foreigners, nor with their integration. For decades, it was a country of emigrants. However, relatively high numbers of foreigners started to come to Poland after the collapse of the communist system and after Poland's accession to the European Union, but these were no mass movements. It is only since 2014 that a sharp increase in migration to Poland has occurred, the main reason being the eruption of the conflict in eastern Ukraine. Migration has also been driven by the upturn in the Polish economy, as well as relatively liberal regulations on the foreigners' access to the labour market.

Since 2015, political changes regarding the approach to migration, especially forced migrants, have also been introduced. Migration has become a political issue since the debate on how to solve the so-called refugee crisis coincided with the campaign for parliamentary elections in Poland in 2015. The debate on the possibility of receiving and relocating refugees – which was sparked at that time – was very fierce and had a xenophobic resonance. Opinion polls carried out on a regular basis demonstrated a continuing decrease in support for the idea of receiving migrants, and the anti-immigration rhetoric of politicians helped them to gain votes. Over the next few years, the debate on migration died away, which is surprising given the rapid influx of migrant workers settling down in the country (the number of Ukrainians alone is estimated to be 1.25 mln). Currently, the mainstream media only occasionally raise specific issues related to the presence of migrants, and the topic no longer stirs up emotions as strong as those evoked by the prospect of an influx of migrants from the Middle East four years ago.

After the Law and Justice party (Prawo i Sprawiedliwość – PiS) won the election, its government began to modify the existing migration policy. First, in keeping with the party's electoral promises, Poland did not receive refugees under a system of quotas set as a result of negotiations between the EU Member States, which the previous government had pledged to do. Moreover, PiS made it more difficult for people attempting to cross Poland's eastern border to file asylum applications. Furthermore, the possibility for NGOs and local authorities to seek financial aid from the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund was limited. What is more, *Poland's migration policy: the current state and proposed actions*, i.e. the document shaping the design of migration policy, was withdrawn. The government announced it would develop a new migration policy, but the work is not yet finished. According to the guidelines which are already known to the public, Poland will continue to receive migrant workers in order to offset the effects of demographic changes and meet the needs of the labour market. People of Polish descent, as well as those who are expected to be able to integrate into the society due to their social capital, education and financial status, are to be preferred. It is, however, unclear whether there will be country-wide guidelines covering all potential players involved in the integration process with their actions harmonised or, as it is now, if various players will shape and carry out their actions individually, taking into account their respective scope of competencies and local situations.<sup>1</sup>

The list of entities which currently deal with migration and integration is comprehensive, comprising government institutions, local authorities, social organisations, research centres and informal initiatives. Since 2009, a great number of measures for migrants and refugees, particularly those undertaken by public entities and social organisations, have been EU funded, which in fact means that the

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1 The so-called "refugee crisis" was not key to understanding that integration policy is a cross-cutting task which requires appropriate organisation and coordination at all levels of public administration. Integration policy should always be about enabling people staying in a country to be active members of the host society. Cf. S. Angenendt, Petra Bendel, Internationale und nationale Aspekte des Whole of Government, Heinrich Böll Foundation, Berlin 2017. <https://heimatkunde.boell.de/2017/12/21/internationale-und-nationale-aspekte-des-whole-government-ansatzes>

European migration policy framework put forward by the European Commission has been implemented. The blocking of EU funds has most substantially affected the functioning of social organisations, which have had to revise their activities. The changes have included a reduction in, or even ending of, existing projects, staff cutbacks and – in extreme cases – the complete discontinuation of activities. However, social organisations are still involved in diverse actions to support the process of integration, including legal advice, linguistic training, employment aid, support services in cases of migrant exploitation, monitoring and advocacy. Social organisations often work closely with one another, as well as with academia, local authorities and public institutions.

In recent years, the integration of foreigners has been increasingly addressed by local authorities, particularly voivodeship capitals, which are the most affected by migration and wish to address the issue but which, at the same time, want to create the image of being “open cities”. To this end, they strive for both the model of present-day multinational metropolitan areas as well as their own historical legacy of multiculturalism. Integration programmes, projects and strategies are often drafted in a participatory manner, i.e. as a joint effort by local authorities, social organisations and academics. It is ensured that migrant and minority associations participate in the process. This approach to local integration policy is definitely worth maintaining because the process of cooperation itself is a form of integration. However, for the cooperation to be sustainable, social organisations, especially migrant and minority ones, should be stable and have sufficient human and intellectual resources enabling them to take an active part in the work.

In order to pursue a progressive migrant and integration policy, understood as the involvement of both migrants and members of the host society in the process of integration, the political will of decision-makers (at central and local level) needs to be complemented by social support. And to build this support, a friendly attitude towards refugees and migration needs to be created. Various agents might be involved in the process, such as politicians, journalists, teachers, educators, artists and celebrities that inspire authority and are popular with various social groups. However, creating a positive narrative must go hand in hand with combating fake news regarding migration in Western European countries as well as around the drivers of the refugee problem.

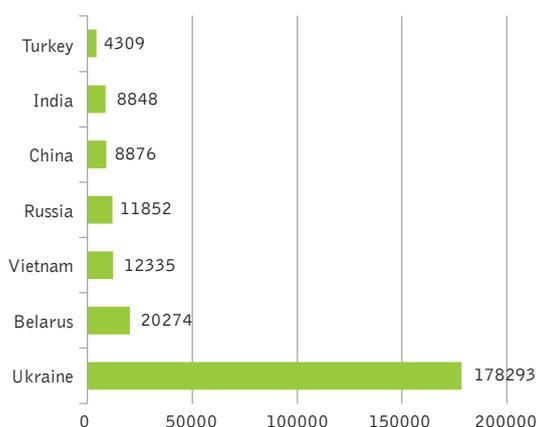
# 1. Introduction

## 1.1. Statistical data

Despite having little experience with receiving migrants and their integration, Poland has a historical memory of multiculturalism. As a result of hostilities, the extermination of Jews, changing state borders and resettlement movements, Poland became a mono-ethnic state for many years following 1945. The national and ethnic minorities that remained on its territory constituted relatively small groups who were virtually invisible in social and political life. During the Communist period, migration to Poland was insignificant and involved only the citizens of politically friendly countries, for instance the European states of the Soviet bloc and communist Vietnam. Following the political transformation, borders were open, which, however, mostly led to increased emigration from Poland (particularly after the accession to the European Union), with the number of emigrants higher than that of immigrants. Moreover, immigration was to a large extent circular rather than populating.

The first groups of migrants came to liberated Poland from neighbouring countries where no actual democratic transition had taken place or where the transition had not translated into enhanced quality of life (Ukraine, Russia, Belarus and other Soviet Union states). At that time, there was also a relatively large number of migrants from Vietnam and Armenia: the citizens of those countries had already been migrating to Poland before and their diasporas were present there. Towards the end of the 1990s, the Chinese started to come to Poland, with their number quickly becoming significant – for Polish conditions. A bit later, intensive migration of people from India started. Currently, both the Chinese and Indians are among the largest migrant communities in Poland. Also, Turkish citizens represent a large group.

**Chart no. 1: The largest groups of migrants residing in Poland on the basis of residence permit, broken down by citizenship**



2 Data generated from [www.migracje.gov.pl](http://www.migracje.gov.pl) regarding residence cards issued in relation to the granting of refugee status, subsidiary protection, tolerated stay, residence on humanitarian grounds, temporary stay, permanent stay and long-term EU residence permit.

Since 2014, an accelerated growth of migration to Poland has been observed, which is mostly – but not only – linked to a dynamic inflow of Ukrainians. In 2014, there were slightly over 74,000 foreigners from outside the European Union with the right of residence in Poland. Three years later, in November 2018, the number increased to almost 290,000.<sup>3</sup> However, the data covers only those staying in Poland on a residence permit, while not taking into account the largest group in terms of legal basis of stay, i.e. foreigners with a visa. The number of visas issued by consuls amounts to over one million per year. Analyses conducted on the basis of mobile telephony use (Polish SIM card, software in Ukrainian/Russian and at least one visit to Ukraine or a SIM card change to a Ukrainian one) indicate that the **number of people from Ukraine residing in Poland in 2018 was 1.25 million.**<sup>4</sup>

Increased migration to Poland is determined by a variety of factors. One is the unstable political and economic situation in Ukraine and the resulting privatisation, which leads to a growing number of Ukrainians moving to neighbouring countries, including Poland. Furthermore, the relatively favourable economic situation in Poland, coupled with labour shortages in some economy sectors, is a pull-factor for workers from abroad. Mobility has also been facilitated by relatively liberal migration laws for foreigners who wish to work in Poland. The citizens of six countries – Ukraine, Russia, Belarus, Moldova, Armenia and Georgia – can take up employment (subject to some conditions) without having to obtain authorisation. The Polish labour market currently attracts people from the former Soviet Bloc and Asian countries – Vietnam, China, India, Turkey, Nepal and Bangladesh. Data from the Ministry of Labour, Family and Social Policy indicates a continuous surge in employment of foreigners in Poland. In 2017, there was a record number of work permits for foreigners (236,000) and registered declarations of intention to employ a foreigner (over 1.8 million).<sup>5</sup> Preliminary data of the Ministry for 2018 indicates that the upward trend continues, although the growth is less dynamic.<sup>6</sup>

In addition to foreign workers, increasing numbers of students are coming to Poland. As a result of the demographic decline, higher education institutions are trying to attract foreign students, and the majority of those who arrive in Poland are Ukrainians, Belarusians and Indians. According to data from Statistics Poland, in 2017, 72,700 foreigners studied at Polish universities, making up 5.6% of the total of 1.29 million students.<sup>7</sup>

## 1.2. Changes to migration policy

Developments in migration over recent years have been accompanied by changes on the Polish political scene, i.e. the Law and Justice party, who had been in opposition for eight years, sweeping to power in autumn 2015. The new government quickly modified the migration and integration policy framework.

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3 Data from [www.migracje.gov.pl](http://www.migracje.gov.pl). The statistics cover valid residence cards issued in relation to the granting of refugee status, subsidiary protection, tolerated stay, residence on humanitarian grounds, temporary stay, permanent stay and long-term EU residence permit.

4 *Ilu Ukraińców przebywa w Polsce? Obliczono to na podstawie danych z telefonów komórkowych*, 7 March 2019, [forsal.pl](https://forsal.pl/artykuly/1401851,ilu-ukraincow-przebywa-w-polsce-obliczono-to-na-podstawie-danych-z-telefonow-komorkowych.html), available at: <https://forsal.pl/artykuly/1401851,ilu-ukraincow-przebywa-w-polsce-obliczono-to-na-podstawie-danych-z-telefonow-komorkowych.html> (accessed on 20 March 2019)

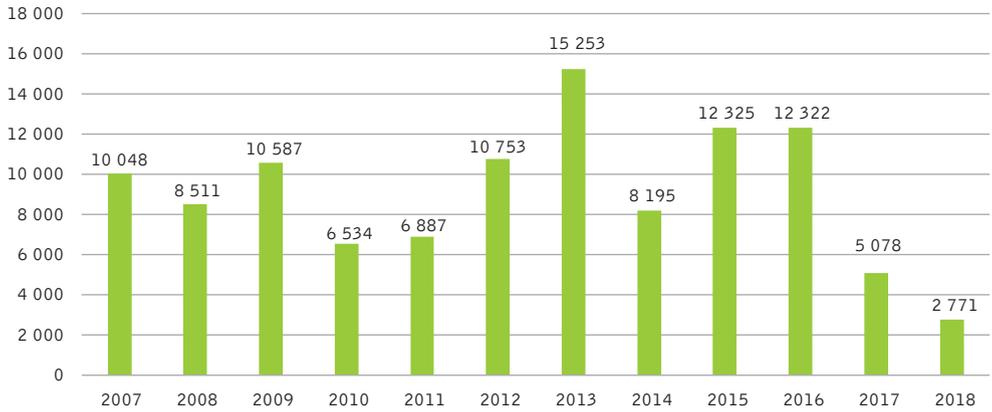
5 The number of declarations or work permits granted should not be directly equated to the number of foreigners, which may be smaller due to reasons such as deciding not to come to Poland or being refused a visa by the consul, registering more than one declaration or issuing more than one permit per foreigner, or not showing up for work.

6 The Ministry of Labour, Family and Social Policy, *Informacja o zatrudnianiu cudzoziemców w Polsce*, 10 November 2015, available at: <http://psz.praca.gov.pl/web/urzed-pracy/-/8180234-informacje-o-zatrudnieniu-cudzoziemcow-w-polsce> (accessed on 30 January 2019).

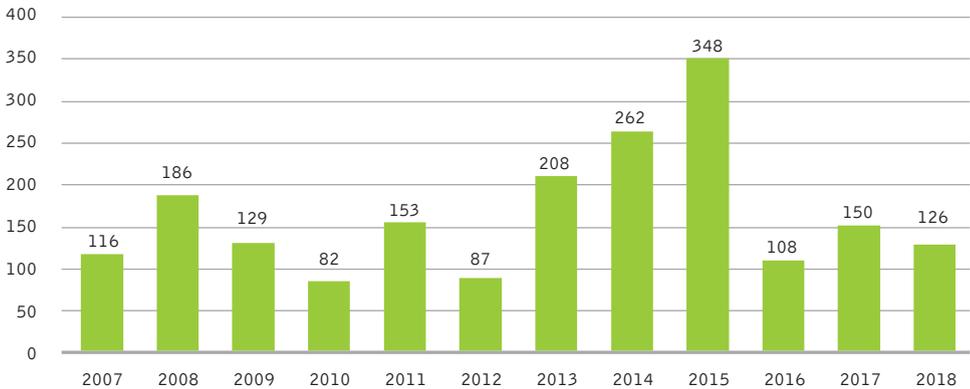
7 Source: A. Wittenberg, *Uczelniom ubywa studentów. Puste miejsca zajmują cudzoziemcy*, "Gazeta Prawna", 27 June 2018, available at: <https://serwisy.gazetaprawna.pl/edukacja/artykuly/1152194,liczba-studentow-i-cudzoziemcow-na-uczelniach.html> (accessed on 30 January 2019).

First, in keeping with the ruling party’s electoral promise, Poland did not receive refugees under a system of quotas set in negotiations between the EU Member States, which the previous government had pledged to do. Moreover, PiS made it more difficult for people seeking international protection to cross Poland’s eastern border, particularly in Terespol, which is described in detail in the reports of the Ombudsman, NGOs and lawyers accompanying foreigners during their attempts to cross the border.<sup>8</sup> **Cases of making it impossible for foreigners to submit applications for international protection in Poland were dealt with by national courts and the European Court of Human Rights but – although the disputes were settled in favour of foreigners – the border is still being blocked.** This is reflected in statistics: the number of applications for international protection has decreased rapidly since 2016. Refugee status and complementary protection are granted only occasionally –to several hundred people per year over recent years.

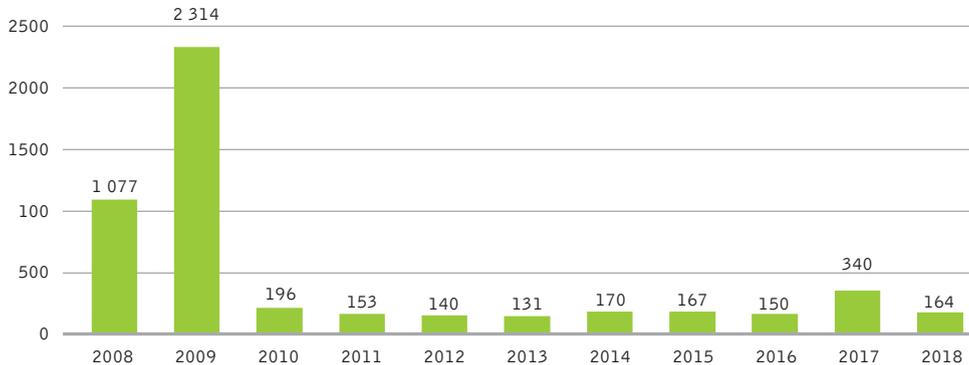
**Chart no. 2: The number of people who submitted applications for international protection (as of 1 September 2018)**



**Chart no. 3: The number of people who were granted refugee status (as of 1 September 2018)**



8 Cf. for instance: Ombudsman, *Inspection of the railway border crossing in Terespol*, available at: <https://www.rpo.gov.pl/en/content/inspection-railway-border-crossing-terespol> (accessed on 29 January 2019).

**Chart no. 4: The number of people who were granted subsidiary protection (as of 1 September 2018)**

Yet another change introduced by the Law and Justice party was a freeze on resources from the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF), the main financing instrument for actions taken to support migrants and refugees. Since 2015, no open calls for proposals have been concluded, leading to a reduction in activities and severe changes to the implementation of projects supporting voluntary migrants and refugees by NGOs. After a lengthy period during which decisions had been suspended, it turned out that the calls would not be decided, with the ruling party explaining that applicable standards needed to be revised due to the changed migration situation. On 25 October 2016, the Council of Ministers considered the two documents shaping the existing migration policy: *Poland's migration policy: the current state and proposed actions*<sup>9</sup> and its implementation plan<sup>10</sup> to being not applicable.

The government announced it would develop a new comprehensive migration policy, but the work is not yet finished.<sup>11</sup> However, a short document setting out the policy's social and economic priorities has already been drafted,<sup>12</sup> covering mostly the needs of the labour market, which – in the face of Poland's rapidly diminishing working-age population – needs workers from abroad. In this context, the groups of people to be given priority have been defined, including: foreign students, doctoral candidates, researchers, university teachers, entrepreneurs, highly qualified workers, and workers in sectors that face labour shortages. Returnees and other people of Polish descent are to be prioritised, too. This implies that the aim of the Polish migration policy is to attract people who have high social capital and share cultural similarities. The document identifying the social and economic priorities of migration policy focuses mostly on economic issues, i.e. the benefits of migration for the labour market. A general reference has been made to the need to support integration of people coming to Poland to take up employment or to study. The issue of forced migration has not been addressed in any way. The proposed changes to refugee legislation indicate a trend towards considering Belarus and Ukraine as safe countries. In practice, this will mean that applications for international protection in Poland from people residing in those countries will be considered unfounded.

9 *Poland's migration policy – the current state and proposed actions*, a document adopted at the meeting of the Council of Ministers on 31 July 2012.

10 Implementation plan for the document *Poland's migration policy – the current state and proposed actions*, adopted by the Council of Ministers on 2 December 2014.

11 As of 31 January 2019.

12 Ministry of Investment and Economic Development, *Nowe priorytety migracyjne rządowej polityki migracyjnej*, 29 March 2018, available at: <https://www.miiir.gov.pl/strony/aktualnosci/nowe-priorytety-rzadowej-polityki-migracyjnej> (accessed on 30 January 2019).

### 1.3. The “refugee crisis” in public discourse

Before 2015, which saw the onset of the so-called refugee crisis and the resulting discussions on receiving and relocating refugees, the influx of foreigners had largely been absent from broader public debate. To a great extent, this was obviously due to the problem being rare and the emigration of Polish citizens to other countries being much more common. As a result, if it took place at all, the debate on migration focused on the consequences of Polish citizens leaving the country. The media raised the issue of foreigners in Poland only occasionally, mostly in relation to some specific events, for instance when changes to regulations on the employment of migrants were introduced or if some cases of extreme exploitation of foreign workers were revealed. The paucity of media interest in migration is something that virtually all researches conducting studies on media discourse before 2015 indicated.<sup>13</sup>

**The year 2015, when public debate on receiving and relocating refugees from Africa and Middle East was sparked, marked a turning point in migration discourse.** In Poland, it coincided with the campaign for parliamentary elections, which led to the topic of migration being taken up by candidates in order to gain votes, and thus surfacing in almost all the media. Migration was addressed not only by journalists, politicians and commentators but Internet users as well. It also needs to be stressed that the 2015 election campaign was the first to cover migration – until then this topic had not come up in public debate or political parties’ election programmes at all.<sup>14</sup>

The debate on migration was very turbulent and often used radical language. The monitoring carried out by “**Kultura Liberalna**” under the project “**Public Debate Observatory**” demonstrated that some extreme statements could be found in both left-wing and right-wing media, although there were definitely more of them in the latter (particularly in the *wSieci* weekly and on *Fronda.pl* and *Niezależna.pl* websites).<sup>15</sup> The authors of the analysis identified three main streams in the anti-refugee narrative: 1) allegations of succumbing to the dictates of Germany and the West and giving up Polish sovereignty; 2) instilling fear of invasion by “strangers” – savages, criminals, fanatics, terrorists; 3) undermining the credibility of migrants by claiming they were coming to Europe to receive social welfare assistance rather than to flee from danger.<sup>16</sup>

The analysis of the Internet debate on refugee crisis carried out in October 2015 by the Polish **Public Opinion Research Centre (CBOS)** in cooperation with the **Newspoint** company found that 81% of posts were against Poland accepting refugees because of the alleged terrorist, cultural or social threat, with only 6% of Internet users talking positively about the refugees.<sup>17</sup> At the same time, opinion polls conducted by the CBOS revealed a gradual decline in support for the idea of providing shelter to people fleeing from armed conflicts. Back in May 2015, the rate of acceptance was 72%, compared with 21%

13 J. Jura, K. Kałużńska, *Obraz obcokrajowców i migrantów w polskich mediach tradycyjnych i mediach internetowych*, Warsaw 2015, Institute of Economic Expert Opinions, “Our Choice” Foundation, p. 49, available at: [http://i-see.org.pl/strona/uploads/ngrey/Documents/Analiza\\_dyskursu\\_JJ\\_KK.pdf](http://i-see.org.pl/strona/uploads/ngrey/Documents/Analiza_dyskursu_JJ_KK.pdf), (accessed on 30 January 2019).

14 Cf. also J. Kucharczyk, Joanna Fomina, *From politics of fear to securitisation policies? Poland in the face of migration crisis*, in: J. Kucharczyk, Grigorij Meseżnikov (eds.): *Phantom Menace. The Politics and Policies of Migration in Central Europe*. Prague/Warsaw, 2018. Available at <https://www.isp.org.pl/pl/publikacje/phantom-menace-the-politics-and-policies-of-migration-in-central-europe>

15 Other sources that were analysed include: “Wprost”, “Do Rzeczy”, “Gazeta Wyborcza”, “Dziennik Opinii”, “Newsweek”.

16 Ł. Bertram, M. Jędrzejek, *Islamskie hordy, azjatycki najazd, socjalny dżihad. Jak polskie media piszą o uchodźcach?* Analiza specjalna, 14 October 2015, Kultura Liberalna’s Public Debate Observatory, available at: <https://obserwatorium.kulturaliberalna.pl/raport/islamskie-hordy-azjatycki-najazd-socjalny-dzihad-jak-polskie-media-pisza-o-uchodz-cach-uchodzcy/> (accessed on 30 January 2019).

17 The analysed content comes from over 8,000 Polish websites, around 13 million social media posts (for instance from Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Google+, NK, Golden Line and Instagram), some smaller social media platforms as well as fora and blogs in Polish. Cf. CBOS, *Newspoint, Polacy o uchodźcach w Internecie i w realu*, Survey Report 149/2015, Warsaw 2015.

of respondents being against. In the following months, the attitudes towards refugees became increasingly negative, and in February 2016, 57% of respondents said “No” to the question of whether Poland should receive refugees, while 39% believed the opposite.<sup>18</sup> The declared attitude of Poles towards other nations has also changed, which means that the sustained trend of growing sympathy observed over the last 20 years has collapsed. An opinion poll from 2016 revealed an increase in aversion to many nations, especially Arabs, Roma, Turks, Greeks, Ukrainians and Germans.<sup>19</sup>

**The negative attitudes towards foreigners were reflected in an increased number of racist crimes: physical assaults, threats and hate speech.** According to the data of the National Public Prosecutor’s Office, in 2014, 1,069 new hate crime cases were registered, compared with 1,169 in 2015, 1,314 in 2016, and 1,449 in 2017. Data from prosecutors’ offices also indicate that Islamophobia has been the most common reason for hate crimes since 2016. It is ever more frequently the case that assault victims are Ukrainians. In 2017, they were the second most commonly attacked group covered by the statistics. The majority of assaults take place over the Internet, but the number of cases of direct violence has been growing since 2016.<sup>20</sup>

Sparked off in 2015, the turbulent debate on migration has faded away over the course of time, which undoubtedly results from the Law and Justice party withdrawing from the previous government’s pledge to receive refugees. Paradoxically, the actual inflow of (voluntary) migrants to, and settlement in, Poland has not kept the debate going. The mainstream media occasionally raise specific issues related to the presence of migrants, but the topic no longer stirs up such strong emotions as those evoked by the prospect of an influx of migrants from the Middle East in 2015. It is only niche media, such as *Najwyższy Czas* and its Internet version *nczas.com*, that are continuously exploiting the topic of migration in the context of the threat it represents, and their regular readership is not insignificant.<sup>21</sup> It is worth noting here that the mainstream media tend to build their narratives based on various reports from the West (usually from Germany) that are often false and manipulated. During the monitoring of the election campaign conducted by the Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights, the researchers identified articles disseminated by Janusz Korwin-Mikke containing this kind of false information (for instance the cancellation of a Christmas concert in Örebro in Sweden because of the Muslims living in the city).<sup>22</sup>

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18 CBOS, *Stosunek Polaków do przyjmowania uchodźców*, Survey Report 24/2016, Warsaw 2016, p. 2.

19 CBOS, *Stosunek do innych narodów*, Survey Report 53/2016, Warsaw 2016, available at: [http://www.cbos.pl/SPISKOM.POL/2016/K\\_053\\_16.PDF](http://www.cbos.pl/SPISKOM.POL/2016/K_053_16.PDF)

20 The data is derived from periodic reports of the National Public Prosecutor’s Office, available at: <https://pk.gov.pl/dzialalnosc/sprawozdania-i-statystyki/>

21 The circulation of the paper edition of “Najwyższy Czas” is 30,000, and the number of Facebook followers is almost 23,500. Regular columnists of the magazine have a wider audience: Janusz Korwin-Mikke’s fanpage has almost 750,000 likes.

22 Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights, *Migranci, uchodźcy i ksenofobia w kampanii wyborczej – raport z monitoringu*, Warsaw 2018, available at: <https://goo.gl/6J2v7i> (accessed on 30 January 2019).

## 2. Measures to improve the integration of migrants

### 2.1. Migration and integration in research and in the media

#### A. Academic and research centres

Over recent years, the popularity of migration studies – covering not only immigration and emigration but also international and domestic mobility, as well as the broader issue of integration – has been growing. In its *Report on the state of migration research in Poland after 1989*, the **Migration Research Committee of the Polish Academy of Sciences** identified **87 research centres, 183 research projects, 693 researchers, and over 1,700 publications regarding migration.**<sup>23</sup> The main scientific areas in which migration studies are undertaken are sociology, economics, geography, political science, history, anthropology and law.

There are research units addressing migration in **all of the most important academic centres in Poland – in Warsaw, Cracow, Lublin, Poznań and Białystok.**

The most dynamic institution in Warsaw is the **Centre of Migration Research (Ośrodek Badań nad Migracjami – OBM)**, which is a research unit of the **University of Warsaw**. The centre is involved in academic, research, publishing and educational activity, including post-graduate studies in **Contemporary International Migrations**, which are addressed to, among others, public administration employees and representatives of migrant NGOs. The lecturers include not only employees of the centre, but also individuals combining a scientific career with working in the third sector. For many years, the OBM has cooperated with the **OECD**, and it is a member of the **IMISCOE Research Network**. Another important institution in the context of integration is the **Centre for Research on Prejudice at the Faculty of Psychology of the University of Warsaw**, which performs analyses regarding, for instance, xenophobia and hate speech.

At the **Jagiellonian University**, migration is addressed at various faculties, and in 2014 the **Jagiellonian Centre for Migration Studies** was established. Researchers associated with the Jagiellonian University have undertaken research on the theory of migration, the links between migration and the process of transformation, migration after Poland's accession to the EU, and adaptation and trauma in the context of forced and voluntary migration. The Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań hosts the **Centre for Migration Studies (Centrum Badań nad Migracjami – CeBaM)**, which performs analyses (often based on qualitative methods) the outcomes of which serve as a basis for producing recommendations concerning migration policy and related projects. Under the CeBaM, an eponymous foundation was set up to provide support for foreigners.

Outside academia, the **National Contact Point of the European Migration Network (EMN)** should be mentioned as an important centre monitoring migration in Poland.<sup>24</sup> Under the EMN, there are 29 National Contact Points (in all EU Member States plus Norway) whose task is to collect information on

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23 A. Horolets, M. Lesińska, M. Okulski, *Raport o stanie badań nad migracjami w Polsce po 1989*, Warsaw 2018, Migration Research Committee of the Polish Academy of Sciences, available at: <http://igsegp.amu.edu.pl/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/Raport-o-stanie-bada%C5%84-nad-migracjami-w-Polsce-po-1989-roku.pdf> (accessed on 30 January 2019).

24 The European Migration Network was set up in 2008 by a Decision of the Council of the European Union (2008/381/EC).

migration and asylum, and to compile reports, analyses and studies. The EMN's work is to serve the decision-makers who shape national and European policies and to contribute to increasing the general public's knowledge on migration and asylum. In Poland, the **National Contact Point** operates under the **Ministry of the Interior and Administration**.

## B. Non-governmental organisations active in the field of migration and integration

Owing to their direct contact with migrants – both voluntary and forced – NGOs have a thorough insight into their actual situation and can monitor the consequences of given legal solutions and social policies' components. On top of that, some of them do research and monitoring in order to extend and systematise their knowledge in the field. The Halina Nieć Legal Aid Centre, for instance, carries out annual monitoring of the access to the refugee procedure and of the observance of the non-refoulement principle,<sup>25</sup> as well as compiling an annual report on combating and preventing human trafficking. The **Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights**, independently or as a **National Focal Point of the FRANET (established by the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights)**, monitors the situation of migrants from the perspective of selected human rights issues. It also conducts research on individual problems (for instance, exploitation of foreign workers and racially-motivated violence). The situation of foreign workers has also been examined by the **Association for Legal Intervention**, an organisation that has for some years now been involved in research on refugee integration. The **Institute of Public Affairs** is a typical think-tank with numerous analyses on the situation of migrants and migration policies to its credit. It performs studies on individual migrant groups (such as Ukrainian students, migrants with medical qualifications and Asian migrant communities in Poland) and specific issues (such as family reunification of foreigners). The Institute is currently running a six-year international project evaluating integration policies of EU states regarding forced migrants.

NGOs often pursue joint research – under formal partnerships or as a result of cooperation of individual persons – and collaborate with research centres. Moreover, it is sometimes the case that NGOs are established at research centres to make it possible to raise funds and run projects that go beyond the statutory possibilities of the centres.

## C. The media

As already indicated, the public debate on refugees that was sparked in 2015 was very turbulent, leading to a clear polarisation of positions in the media. Among mainstream journals, *Gazeta Wyborcza* and the associated website *Gazeta.pl* were clearly in favour of receiving refugees. In their reports, a great emphasis was placed on the humanitarian aspect of the refugee crisis. They also reacted to an outbreak of hate speech in the comments of Internet users and decided to block comments under articles concerning the migration crisis. The problem of fake news concerning refugees led to the creation of a fact-checking website *Uchodźcy.info*, the aim of which is to publish reliable information on the situation of refugees in Poland and Europe.

Other left-wing and liberal media, and in particular the weeklies *Polityka* and *Newsweek*, and *Kultura Liberalna*, also take up the topic of migration and integration in a manner that is favourable to migrants. Particularly at the time of the refugee crisis, but also later, the Catholic *Tygodnik Powszechny* also had a pro-migrant outlook. Among radio stations, **Tok FM** raises the issue of migration most frequently. In 2018, it received the Golden Fan Award, a prize awarded by the International Organisation for Migration, for engagement in – and manner of addressing – the topic.

25 A principle of international law providing that an individual who has been denied refugee status should not be expelled or returned to a country where his or her life or freedom would be threatened.

## 2.2. Action by central authorities

In Poland, there is no single specialised body responsible for shaping and pursuing migration and integration policy as a whole. Specific competences and responsibilities in this area are assigned to individual ministries and other bodies.

### A. Ministries and central offices

The most important institution dealing with migration in the government is the **Ministry of the Interior and Administration** with the **Analysis and Migration Policy Department**. The entities answering to the Ministry are the **Border Guard** and the **Office for Foreigners**. The powers of the latter include conducting proceedings concerning international or national protection for foreigners, as well as handling appeals against decisions of voivodeship governors on the regularisation of voluntary migrants. For many years, it has also played an important role in shaping and executing the state's migration policy.

The **Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Policy** is responsible for the policy of foreigner employment, which is probably the most important aspect in the Polish migration context. The task of the **Ministry of Foreign Affairs** is to pursue the visa policy. However, it needs to be noted that until recently, decisions by consuls to deny a visa did not require justification. The 2018 ruling of the Voivodeship Administrative Court in Warsaw, in which justification of such a decision was ordered,<sup>26</sup> may turn out to be a breakthrough in that matter. Given the large number of complaints coming to courts in similar cases, a change to that practice might be expected.

Two further ministries – the **Ministry of National Education** and the **Ministry of Science and Higher Education** – deal with, respectively, the participation of foreigners in the education system and academic recognition.

### B. Interministerial cooperation and the development of migration policy

There are two subsidiary bodies of the Prime Minister's office that serve as platforms of interministerial cooperation at governmental level: the **Team on Migration Issues** (established in 2007)<sup>27</sup> and the recently founded **Interministerial Team on Socio-Economic Aspects of Migration Policy**.<sup>28</sup> The teams comprise high-level representatives of ministries, as well as institutions and central offices. The former team is led by the **Minister of the Interior and Administration**, while the latter is headed by the under-secretary of state in the **Ministry of Investment and Economic Development** and was formed for a specifically defined purpose, i.e. to identify the socio-economic priorities of migration policy. The fact that the Ministry of Investment and Economic Development is one of the key agents shaping migration policy is novel when compared to the previous government competence scheme, and might indicate that a very pragmatic approach to migration has been adopted.

**The socio-economic priorities of migration policy put forward by the Ministry of Investment and Economic Development are to regulate migratory flows so as to offset the negative effects of demographic processes and to closely monitor labour market needs and the social security scheme.** Within this framework, receiving certain groups of migrants – individuals with high social

26 Cf. Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights, *WSA w Warszawie w pierwszej sprawie dotyczącej odmowy wydania wizej Schengen uchylił decyzję konsula*, available at: <http://www.hfhr.pl/wsa-w-warszawie-w-pierwszej-sprawie-dotyczacej-odmowy-wydania-wizej-schengen-uchylil-decyzje-konsula/> (accessed on 31 January 2019).

27 Set up by the ordinance of the Council of Ministers no. 12 dated 14 February 2007.

28 Set up by the ordinance of the Economic Committee of the Council of Ministers dated 23 November 2016.

capital and sharing cultural similarities (returnees and persons of Polish descent) is prioritised. Such an approach is intended to ensure a kind of secure migration, i.e. the arrival of people who are unlikely to fail to integrate (unlikely, for instance, to be outside the labour market for a longer period, to fail to learn Polish, or to fail to acquire cultural competences). Contrary to the assumptions of the previous migration policy, the groups of migrants who are granted preferential treatment do not include people taking advantage of some form of protection, nor people from so-called “vulnerable groups” (such as unaccompanied minors, victims of trafficking in human beings and people who need assistance for medical or humanitarian reasons).<sup>29</sup>

The approach to forced migrants marks the most significant difference between the priorities of the migration policy set by the Ministry of Investment and Economic Development, the practice currently applied towards that group, and the proposals included in *Poland's migration policy – the current state and proposed actions* of 2012. This document sought primarily to bring the state migration policy into line with international commitments under the Geneva Convention and Poland's membership of the European Union. Also, Poland's accession to the Union Resettlement Programme was recommended, although this did not happen, even despite the so-called refugee crisis of 2015 and the Polish government's pledges to receive people fleeing from Syria and Eritrea.

The migration policy that was set in 2012 also sought to significantly expand integration measures, in both their material and personal scope. Therefore, integration assistance was to be provided not only to those already enjoying refugee status and the beneficiaries of subsidiary protection but also to those awaiting a decision in reception centres (pre-integration), as well as voluntary migrants. It was also planned to make the host society more aware of migration and integration issues. Integration policy was to be developed centrally and implemented locally.

As demonstrated by Mikołaj Pawlak in his analysis (the document *Poland's migration policy – the current state and proposed actions*), the part covering integration was modelled on documents governing the implementation of the European Fund for the Integration of third-country nationals.<sup>30</sup> A reference to the European migration policy framework set by the European Commission was visible in the overall concept of the migration policy shaped in 2012.

When looking at the current process of framing the new migration policy, one cannot help but feel that it is intentionally being developed in a way that is invisible to third parties. Except for the website of the Ministry of Investment and Economic Development mentioning the fact that the socio-economic priorities of the migration policy have been adopted by the Council of Ministers, it is very difficult to learn about further works. Moreover, the available information indicates that only public institutions have been consulted about the document, with no social stakeholders taking part in the process.

### C. Action taken by public entities to facilitate the integration of foreigners

**Integration measures taken by the state** can be operationally divided into two main categories. The first is the support for forced migrants under the social assistance law in the form of Individual Integration Programmes. The other category comprises actions supporting integration through projects subsidised from the European Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund, targeting both voluntary and forced migrants.

**Foreigners who have obtained refugee status or subsidiary protection** can join annual **Individual Integration Programmes (IIPs)** run by **District Family Assistance Centres**. The IIPs cover mandatory training in the Polish language (although it is not organised in a systemic fashion) and financial

29 *Poland's Migration Policy: the current state...*, op. cit., p. 14.

30 M. Pawlak, *Imitacja w tworzeniu polskiej polityki integracji cudzoziemców*, Instytut Profilaktyki Społecznej i Resocjalizacji, p. 119, available at: [https://depot.ceon.pl/bitstream/handle/123456789/2950/imitacja\\_w\\_tworzeniu\\_polskiej\\_polityki\\_integracji\\_cudzoziemcow.pdf?sequence=1](https://depot.ceon.pl/bitstream/handle/123456789/2950/imitacja_w_tworzeniu_polskiej_polityki_integracji_cudzoziemcow.pdf?sequence=1)

support and assistance in contacting employment offices. The IPI system does not provide for cultural orientation courses – which are popular in other countries – so the support in that field depends mostly on the engagement and competences of **social workers in charge of the IPIs**.<sup>31</sup> As there are no systemic guidelines regarding the integration process nor any evaluation mechanism concerning the actions taken, the only framework for social workers' actions is time and financial constraints.

Public institutions are involved in the implementation of projects under the **Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund**. As these funds have been frozen for NGOs, the only direct beneficiaries of the AMIF are state institutions – the Border Guard, the Office for Foreigners and voivodeship offices.<sup>32</sup> However, some of the latter have decided to establish partnerships with other agents to jointly run projects funded under the AMIF. These entities include NGOs (partners in four voivodeships), Caritas (partner in five voivodeships), higher education institutions (partners in four voivodeships), and the board of education in Silesia (partner in one voivodeship). The governor of the Pomorskie voivodeship was initially supposed to set up a partnership with the city of Gdańsk and the Vox Humana Association, but eventually withdrew.<sup>33</sup>

The measures taken within the framework of AMIF projects run by voivodeship governors are generally supposed to improve the level of services provided to foreigners. Therefore, they aim at upgrading the language and cultural skills of officials working with foreigners, as well as broadening their general knowledge on migration.<sup>34</sup> Furthermore, public administration buildings are being refurbished, and investments in ICT infrastructure are being made. On top of that, measures supporting the integration of both voluntary and forced migrants are being implemented, such as Polish language courses, and legal, psychological and vocational counselling. Such tasks are carried out by voivodeship offices' partners, but above all by social organisations. Hence, the working line set in the migration policy from 2012 is in a way being continued, but to a much smaller degree due to the generally lesser involvement of project promoters.

Furthermore, the Ministry of the Interior and Administration as well as the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy are strategic partners of the **Institute of Public Affairs**, which runs the international project entitled the **National Integration Evaluation Mechanism**, which aims to assess the integration policies of 15 EU Member States. The project is co-financed by the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund, albeit from the international rather than national budget line.

The joint implementation of projects under the AMIF is one of the few areas of cooperation that are currently available to public institutions and social organisations, and it is limited to quite a narrow group of the latter. Another area – which serves merely as a platform for discussion and exchange of views – is conferences of the National Migration Network, to which a relatively broad range of stakeholders are invited. Some NGOs still engage in consultations on draft legislation in the field of migration.

31 Institute of Public Affairs, *W stronę Krajowego Mechanizmu Ewaluacji Integracji. Diagnoza sytuacji beneficjentów ochrony międzynarodowej w Polsce*, p. 42. Available at: <https://www.isp.org.pl/pl/publikacje/w-strone-krajowego-mechanizmu-ewaluacji-integracji-diagnoza-sytuacji-beneficjentow-ochrony-miedzynarodowej-w-polsce>

32 The only exception is a project of the Absolwent Association that received funding under a call for proposals decided in 2015 and is not yet finalised.

33 W. Klaus, E. Ostaszewska-Żuk, M. Szczepaniak, *Fundusze europejskie i ich rola we wspieraniu integracji cudzoziemców w Polsce*, Warsaw 2017, Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights, Association for Legal Intervention. Available at: [https://interwencjaprawna.pl/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/raport\\_po-FAMI\\_net.pdf](https://interwencjaprawna.pl/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/raport_po-FAMI_net.pdf) (accessed on 31 January 2019).

34 For instance, in Mazowieckie voivodeship, several officials have taken up post-graduate studies in Contemporary International Migrations at the Centre of Migration Research of the University of Warsaw.

## 2.3. Cities as integration labs

In the absence of a national integration policy and, at the same time, given the dynamic influx of migrants to Poland, the actions taken by individual cities could prove essential to a successful integration of migrants into host communities. Some municipalities have already achieved a lot in that regard, with local politicians promoting the vision of open cities welcoming diverse inhabitants. Such initiatives are undertaken mostly in large urban centres – voivodeship capitals – which is obviously linked to the high number of foreigners in Poland.<sup>35</sup>

During the campaign for local elections in 2018, openness, tolerance and equality were key items on the agendas of some candidates. In Warsaw, these concepts were promoted for instance by Rafał Trzaskowski, who won the election, but also by his opponents: Jacek Wojciechowicz and Jan Śpiewak, in Wrocław by Jacek Sutryk, and in Poznań by Jacek Jaśkowiak. The mayor of Lublin, Krzysztof Żuk, also formulated pro-migrant demands and statements, and the mayor of Gdańsk, Paweł Adamowicz, was known for his friendly attitude towards foreigners. During the previous term, in 2017, seven mayoral candidates, while still mayors-in-office, signed a **Mayors' Declaration on Cooperation between the Cities of the Union of Polish Metropolises in the area of Migration**,<sup>36</sup> which their political opponents tried to use against them during the local election campaign (mostly by means of an anti-refugee spot *#Bezpieczny samorząd* [*#Safe local government*]<sup>37</sup>). This, however, did not lead to the signatories being beaten in the elections. On the contrary – **all the signatories of the Declaration who stood for re-election were successful**.<sup>38</sup>

### Warsaw

**Warsaw** is a city where much work has been done in the area of integration. Since 2012, the **Social Dialogue Commission on Foreigners** at the Warsaw Town Hall has been active, composed of – in addition to local government representatives – representatives of NGOs, including migrant organisations. The commission is empowered to identify areas that should be supported financially by the city, providing expert opinions on legal acts and consultation on documents regarding immigration. The most important achievement in the field of cooperation between the city and NGOs is the creation of the **Multicultural Centre** in Warsaw, which is currently the main space for actions aimed at enhancing integration (cultural projects, language training, and serving as an entry point for regularisation of stay applications). The main contributor to its creation was the **Other Space Foundation**, which had piloted the Multicultural Centre in Warsaw and, together with other agents, established the Multicultural Centre Foundation managing the centre in the period 2014–2017. Since May 2017, the centre's hosts have been the **Pro Humanum Association** and the **Foundation for Somalia**. In addition to providing

35 A comprehensive proposal regarding the inclusion of cities' achievements and capabilities in the EU refugee and asylum policy is put forward in the publication by P. Bendel, H. Schammann, Ch. Heimann, J. Stürner, *Der Weg über die Kommunen. Empfehlungen für eine neue Schlüsselrolle der Kommunen in der Flüchtlings- und Asylpolitik der EU*, Heinrich Böll Foundation, Berlin 2019. Available at: <https://www.boell.de/de/2019/02/11/der-weg-ueber-die-kommunen>

36 The Declaration was signed by: Paweł Adamowicz (Gdańsk), Tadeusz Ferenc (Rzeszów), Jacek Jaśkowiak (Poznań), Piotr Krzystek (Szczecin), Jacek Majchrowski (Cracow), Tadeusz Truskolaski (Białystok) and Krzysztof Żuk (Lublin).

37 *#Bezpieczny Samorząd* [*#Safe local government*] is an election video of the Law and Justice Party taking the form of a political fiction film depicting Poland in 2020, engulfed in violence and chaos caused by Muslim refugees, which is supposed to result from the closure of voivodeship offices proposed by the Civic Platform, combined with the will to receive migrants declared by local politicians from that party. As evidence of this intent, the video contains a flash showing the Mayors' Declaration mentioned above. The video fuelled controversies and came under criticism, also from supporters of the Law and Justice party, including the minister-in-office Jarosław Gowin.

38 Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights (2018) Migranci, uchodźcy i ksenofobia w kampanii wyborczej – raport z monitoringu, Warsaw. Available at: <https://goo.gl/6J2v7i>

funds for the centre, the city of Warsaw also supports the activities of migrant NGOs (such as legal and integration counselling) and the education of foreign students.

### **Poznań**

Actions supporting foreigners' integration have been under way in Poznań for several years now. The city supports projects run by NGOs and academia. Moreover, it is one of the signatories of the Diversity Charter. In January 2019, the **Team for Equality and Diversity Policy** was set up under the Mayor of the City, composed of representatives of the Public Benefit Council in Poznań, the town hall, and experts – including in the field of migration and foreigner integration. The team is led by a city councillor who is at the same time Mayor's Plenipotentiary for the Prevention of Exclusion. The team's objective is to devise a coherent municipal policy with respect to equal treatment and the promotion of non-discrimination.

### **Cracow**

Another city pursuing a policy of openness is Cracow, where the **“Open Cracow”** scheme has been in operation since 2016. Several priority areas have been identified in which concrete actions are taken. One of them is equal access to municipal services and benefits, which is to be ensured by, among other things, the activities of the **Foreigners Information Point** (currently run by the Foundation of Polish–Ukrainian Cooperation “U-WORK”), welcome packages for foreigners, and multiculturalism training for employees. Moreover, mechanisms for responding to discriminatory and racist incidents, including racist slogans and graphics, are being implemented. A platform for cooperation between the representatives of minorities, foreigners and local authorities – the **Interdisciplinary Cooperation Team for the Execution of the “Open Cracow” Scheme**– has been established. Cracow is also planning to join the **Intercultural Cities network of the Council of Europe**, and is currently engaged in implementing an international British Council project “Mural – Mutual Understanding, Respect and Learning”.

### **Lublin**

For several years now, Lublin has been a member of the Intercultural Cities network of the Council of Europe mentioned above. Owing to this cooperation platform, Lublin has set up and implemented the **“Lublin for Everyone” project**, leading to the creation of a **Participatory Cultural Diversity Management Scheme** and the introduction of the “Faces of Lublin – Lublin for Everyone” social campaign. In addition to local authorities and public institutions, representatives of minorities from Lublin, as well as NGOs (Homo Faber, Association for Earth, the Rule of Law Institute Foundation, Volunteering Centre and Caritas), have contributed to the creation of the scheme. Moreover, all these agents form the **Integration Support Group**. A continued implementation of the multiculturalism scheme is incorporated in the **Development Strategy for Lublin for 2013–2020** adopted by Lublin Town Hall. In September 2014, the **Foreigners' Service Point** was established at the Residents' Service Office of Lublin Town Hall, offering support and information to migrants in three languages (Polish, English, Ukrainian).<sup>39</sup> The city of Lublin also provided three sheltered flats to people (families) who had been granted a form of international protection and were in a particularly difficult situation.

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39 For more information visit: <https://lublin.eu/mieszkanicy/partycypacja/lublin-dla-wszystkich/lublin-dla-wszystkich/>.

## Wrocław

One of the recent initiatives is the **Strategy for Intercultural Dialogue in Wrocław** for the period 2018–2022, which on the one hand addresses the rapidly-growing population of foreigners in Wrocław and, on the other, draws on the multicultural tradition of the city. The initiator of the strategy was the mayor of Wrocław, and it was drafted by local authorities, as well as representatives of churches, religious communities, businesses, NGOs and science. Its main areas of focus are education, integration, security and cooperation. The Wrocław Strategy is implemented by the **Multicultural Dialogue Strategy Team**, composed of employees of departments and offices of the town hall and municipal entities. The team is coordinated by the **Wrocław Centre for Social Development** with the assistance of the **Multicultural Dialogue Council**, which is the Mayor's advisory body.

## Gdańsk

With the **Immigrant Integration Model (IIM)** developed in 2016, Gdańsk is the only city with a systemic approach to integration and migration. The work on the IIM was commenced on the initiative of the Immigrant Support Centre and was conducted by a cross-sectoral and interdisciplinary team that, in the final stage of the project, brought together 150 people representing approximately 70 public institutions and NGOs. The IIM is based on eight main thematic areas in which needs are diagnosed and concrete actions are taken. The areas include: education, culture, housing, social assistance, employment, discrimination/violence, local communities and health.<sup>40</sup> The **Immigrant Council** is active under the Mayor of Gdańsk, featuring as a consultative–advisory body. Given the short period of time since the IIM was established, its effectiveness cannot yet be assessed, but Gdańsk's approach to migration is regarded as exemplary in terms of both its complexity and the cooperation between local authorities and NGOs.<sup>41</sup>

## Białystok

During the election campaign, Katarzyna Sztop-Rutkowska, who ran for the mayor of Białystok as a candidate of **urban movements**, advocated the creation of a similar model for **Białystok**. The incumbent mayor did not announce that such a step would be taken, but it seems there is a potential for a more systemic approach to integration in the city. In the period 2013–2017, the programme “**Białystok for Tolerance**” was run as a response to repeated racist violence. The incumbent mayor is a signatory of the Mayors' Declaration on the Cooperation of the Cities of the Union of Polish Metropolises in the area of Migration, which indicates his interest in the topic. During the election campaign in Białystok, various candidates shared the idea of emphasising multiculturalism as an element of local history and the contemporary image of the city.

## Łódź, Bydgoszcz, Szczecin

Other big cities also have the potential and will to take actions for integration. In **Łódź**, a **Mayor's Plenipotentiary for Equal Treatment** has been appointed, and work is already underway to develop a **Multianual Non-Discrimination Action Plan**. It is also planned to appoint a **Council for Foreign-**

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40 Immigrant Integration Model Team, *Model Integracji imigrantów*, Gdańsk 2016, Gdańsk Town Hall, available at: <https://www.gdansk.pl/download/2017-01/83702.pdf> (accessed on 31 January 2019).

41 A. Dragan, *Organizacje pozarządowe zajmujące się pomocą uchodźcom i migrantom*, Warsaw 2017, Analyses and Documentation Office of the Senate of the Republic of Poland, Chancellery of the Senate of the Republic of Poland, available at: [https://www.senat.gov.pl/gfx/senat/pl/senatopracowania/146/plik/ot-650\\_internet.pdf](https://www.senat.gov.pl/gfx/senat/pl/senatopracowania/146/plik/ot-650_internet.pdf) (accessed on 31 January 2019).

**ers and the Prevention of Xenophobia.** The development of a foreigners' integration strategy is also planned in **Bydgoszcz**, where local authorities are already running various integration projects (such as the **Bydgoszcz Urban Project "Open and Tolerant School"**). **Szczecin's** development strategy implies that the city should be tolerant and open to diversity. Due to the large number of Ukrainians, Szczecin has implemented the project "New Competencies in a New Country" addressed to that group of migrants in collaboration with the University of Szczecin.

The examples mentioned above demonstrate that large cities not only take integration measures but also adopt a participatory approach. Programmes and strategies are developed in cooperation with local authorities and social organisations, including migrant and minority ones. Moreover, the cities establish cooperation with metropolitan areas from abroad and organise study visits to identify best practices and share experiences (for instance, representatives of Lublin visited Bristol in August 2008). The **Union of Polish Metropolises** is a national platform of cooperation between the largest cities, under which the **Migration and Integration Team** was established.

Outside of the largest cities, relatively large groups of migrants can be found in places where reception centres are located. In 2015, the Association for Legal Intervention carried out studies in two municipalities – Podkowa Leśna and Góra Kalwaria – at the request of the Ombudsman. The studies found that the municipalities take *ad-hoc* integration measures, mostly with respect to children's education, but the actions are not planned, nor incorporated in the municipality development strategy.<sup>42</sup>

## 2.4. Civil society

Social organisations' activities date back to the beginning of the 1990s, when people fleeing areas of conflict resulting from the collapse of the Soviet Bloc began to arrive in Poland. Foreigners were offered humanitarian aid (for instance, by Polish Humanitarian Action and Caritas) and legal assistance (by the Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights). Over time, initiatives for the development of multicultural dialogue and inclusion of migrants in the society also started to be undertaken, often in the field of culture. In the following years, as the number of migrants grew, more and more organisations began to address these issues, and the scope of their activities also expanded. Moreover, the first organisations created or co-created by migrants started to occur (such as the Foundation for Somalia, the "Our Choice" Foundation, the "Africa Another Way" Foundation, and Foundation Ukraine).

The report compiled by the Analyses and Documentation Office of the Polish Senate on NGOs dealing with refugee and migrant support describes **46 such entities**, with a proviso that the list is not exhaustive and that **there are several dozen such organisations**. The majority (32) of the agents described are based in Warsaw, which, according to the author, is a logical consequence of foreigners being concentrated in the Mazowieckie voivodeship.<sup>43</sup> Following that line of reasoning, it is expected that new organisations will be emerging in other regions of Poland as there has lately been a trend towards a more even distribution of migrants across the country.

The NGOs providing support to migrants and refugees constitute a very diverse group in terms of human resources (the teams dealing with migration within one organisation are often composed of a few persons), size, funding sources, budget, location and geographical coverage. The organisations are usually stable and have been present in social life for over 10 years. Their actions are also not uniform – they are addressed at both migrants (forced, migratory, or both) and the host society. The measures taken can be divided operationally into several categories (**examples** of organisations active in a given

42 E. Piechowska, *Obecność uchodźców w małych gminach. Doświadczenia Góry Kalwarii i Podkowy Leśnej w integracji uchodźców i edukacji ich dzieci*, Ombudsman's Office, Association for Legal Intervention, 2015, available at: [https://www.rpo.gov.pl/sites/default/files/Badanie%20w%20Gorzewie%20Kalwarii%20i%20Podkowie%20Lesnej\\_0.pdf](https://www.rpo.gov.pl/sites/default/files/Badanie%20w%20Gorzewie%20Kalwarii%20i%20Podkowie%20Lesnej_0.pdf)

43 A. Dragan, *Organizacje pozarządowe...*, op. cit.

area have been given in brackets; a more detailed description of selected organisations can be found in the appendix).

- a) **Legal measures.** This category involves mostly counselling for individuals, primarily with respect to their regularisation, as well as in cases related to taking up employment, labour law and discrimination. Foreigners also receive the support of lawyers, who represent them in courts and conduct strategic litigation.<sup>44</sup> The category also comprises the monitoring of migration law and providing consultation on draft legislation (e.g. the Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights, the Halina Nieć Legal Aid Centre, the Association for Legal Intervention, Migrant Info Point).
- b) **Informal measures and measures supporting integration.** These are all kinds of publications – books, brochures, leaflets, films, videos, Internet apps – containing information on living in Poland or in a given city. The category also comprises the support provided by so-called integration counsellors, i.e. people who help migrants solve everyday problems, such as helping them find a school for their children and going through a recruitment process (e.g. Foundation Ukraine, MultiOcalenie Foundation, Homo Faber Association).
- c) **Employment aid** – helping to find employment or bring undeclared work into the open, as well as providing vocational and business counselling (e.g. Polish Migration Forum, Foundation for Somalia, Absolwent Association).
- d) **Linguistic training** – organising formal language courses and private lessons, including for children (e.g. Immigrant Support Centre, Lingua Mundi, INTERKULTURALNI Association).
- e) **Integration measures targeted at specific migrant groups.** This category hosts very different projects, for instance childbirth classes for migrants, support groups, interest groups, artistic activities (e.g. Polish Migration Forum, “Our Choice” Foundation).
- f) **Assistance in finding accommodation and other forms of financial support** (e.g. Refugee.pl Foundation, Salvation Foundation, With Bread and Salt – Polish Hospitality Foundation, Jesuit Activity Centre “In Action”).
- g) **Monitoring and research** (e.g. Halina Nieć Legal Aid Centre, Institute of Public Affairs, Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights).
- h) **Advocacy.** This category comprises advocacy efforts aimed at bringing about changes to legislation and practice, as well as actions taken for the sake of individual persons (for instance, to prevent deportation) by means of digital advocacy (such as online petitions by Amnesty International, Association for Legal Intervention).
- i) **Actions targeting the host society.** This category primarily concerns informal education: courses, workshops, seminars, conferences, cultural festivals, sports events, etc. (e.g. Other Space Foundation, Amnesty International, Centre for Citizenship Education, For Freedom Foundation, Strefa WolnoSłowa Foundation, “Never Again” Association).
- k) **Cooperation with local authorities to develop municipal integration action plans and policies** (e.g. Other Space Foundation, House of Peace Foundation, Immigrant Support Centre).
- l) **Actions supporting the education of migrant children and multicultural education.** They involve cooperation with schools attended by children with a migration background, conducting multicultural workshops, support in developing the Codes of Conduct, monitoring of newly implemented educational solutions, organising private lessons for foreign children (e.g. Social Diversity Forum Foundation, Anti-Discrimination Education Society, With Bread and Salt Initiative).

The availability of EU funds, mostly from the European Fund for the Integration of third-country nationals (EIF), European Refugee Fund (ERF), European Return Fund (ERF) and – for a brief period – their continuation under the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF), has played a vital role in

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44 Strategic litigation is legal proceedings aimed at a precedent-setting settlement of a socially significant legal issue. It may lead to profound changes in legislation, or in how legislation is applied.

the development of NGOs. As already mentioned, the AMIF resources were frozen by the new government that swept to power in autumn of 2015. Of six open calls for proposal under the AMIF, only the first two were decided (in autumn of 2015, before the change in power). The entities that managed to obtain funding were running their projects over the subsequent months or even years, some of them as long as until 2018. Given the fact that the remaining calls were not decided and, most of all, that there was no prospect of the EU funds becoming available again, the rest of the organisations have had to revise their previous activities.

The changes included a reduction in, or even ending of, existing projects, staff cutbacks and – in extreme cases – the complete discontinuation of activities. It has also proven to be essential for the organisations to gain funds from other sources or in completely different ways. Some of them have started to provide services against payment or to conduct commercial activity (for instance, the Association for Legal Intervention offers paid advice to employers employing foreigners). Moreover, various forms of raising funds for statutory activities or for specific aims have become popular, which is fostered by the development of online fundraising – on their webpages or social media profiles, many organisations currently provide a direct link to a website where contributions can be easily made. What is also popular is raising money in relation to specific actions, for instance collecting money or goods for a given person or family, a solution which, by the way, had not been widespread among migration organisations.

The success of such initiatives is fostered not only by technological facilitations and the development of social media but also by the growing popularity of the ideas of sharing economy and zero waste, as well as – paradoxically – the debate on receiving refugees from 2015. Not only did it show the public how migrant organisations function, but it also encouraged some people to provide different kinds of support. In addition to an increase in donations, refugee organisations have noted a rise in transfers under the 1-percent tax scheme since 2015.

Nevertheless, this phenomenon also has a downside: the organisations have fallen victim to attacks from people who are against migratory flows and have had to develop some mechanisms of response. It needs to be remembered that society's perception of organisations' work is influenced by the dissemination of fake news regarding migrants, mostly in tabloids and right-wing media, which report on alleged incidents involving migrants in Western and Northern Europe (mostly in Germany and Sweden).

NGOs often work together, which involves running joint projects, delivering addresses, using synergies and supporting one another in everyday work. It is often the case that organisations build broad coalitions to avoid competing with one another and to improve their chances of obtaining a grant. The cooperation is even more crucial given the fact that working conditions have been more difficult since 2015. A **consortium of migrant and refugee organisations** established by nine organisations from a number of Polish cities is an example of the strengthened ties between the organisations.

### **Informal initiatives**

The so-called refugee crisis gave rise to a number of informal initiatives, whose members have started to engage in various kinds of activities supporting refugees since 2015. The actions involve charity projects (raising goods or money), advocacy activities, demonstrations of support for receiving people fleeing from war and persecution, and various educational, information and cultural activities aimed at raising public awareness of refugees' situations and combating stereotypes. Those engaged in such informal measures have different backgrounds and professions and include **social activists, academics, journalists, artists and culture animators, as well as people affiliated to left-wing or anarchist movements and to the Club of Catholic Intelligentsia**. **Eleven such initiatives** are listed on the *Uchodzący.info* website.

Although the migrants from the Middle East and Africa that the 2015 debate centred around did not ultimately arrive in Poland, the groups established at that time are still active. Their work relies on

volunteers and is funded by collecting goods and money, usually via social media and websites dedicated to raising funds for specific aims. Some of these initiatives have institutionalised their activities. For instance, the **Polish Hospitality Foundation** was registered by individuals running the *Uchodźcy.info* website and the **With Bread and Salt** group.

## 2.5. The labour market and social partners

Foreigners employed in Poland are exposed to discrimination and exploitation at work. A survey conducted in 2017 among Ukrainian workers for the International Organisation for Migration demonstrated that 22% of respondents had been deceived or exploited by an employer or employment agent.<sup>45</sup> Discrimination mainly involves lower wages and poorer working conditions. According to analyses commissioned by the National Bank of Poland, the wage gap between Polish citizens and immigrants in the Warsaw agglomeration is about 30%. At 15%, the disparity is less significant in smaller towns and cities. Poorer working conditions mostly involve illegal employment, night work, work under civil-law contracts instead of employment contracts, and delegating foreigners to perform the most onerous types of work. Monitoring by the State Labour Inspection also found other abuses by employers against foreign workers: failure to observe agreed working hours, to pay overtime and to grant leave. Moreover, numerous migrants are underemployed. Foreigners often fall victim to dishonest employers or employment agents whose frauds involve the non-payment of wages and illegitimate reduction of earnings by amounts constituting the cost of employment or accommodation of a foreign employee. In extreme cases, the relations between employees and employers or employment agencies can be considered as human trafficking.<sup>46</sup>

Although knowledge of the situation of foreign workers is quite common, Polish trade unions generally do not address their issues. The only exception is the All-Poland Alliance of Trade Unions (OPZZ), under which a small organisation – the **Inter-Company Trade Union of Ukrainian Workers in Poland** – has been active. In 2015, the Solidarity trade union spoke out against the liberalisation of foreigners' employment, arguing that the excessively low wages being accepted by some foreigners could "spoil" the labour market. These opinions did not have much social resonance. The available studies on the employment of foreigners generally do not address the issue of trade unions.

Nevertheless, the subject of migrant workers is taken up by employers' organisations, which lobby for simplifications to the procedures for employing foreigners and for facilitating job transitions (or changes in working conditions) for foreigners. In this respect, business cooperates with NGOs, which consider the current law unfavourable to foreigners, among others due to the strong attachment of foreign employees to their employers, which promotes discriminatory practices and exploitation. An example of such cooperation is a joint letter of the **Union of Entrepreneurs and Employers**, the **Business Centre Club**, the **Polish Chamber of Commerce** and eight NGOs to the Minister of Family, Labour and Social Policy and the Minister of Entrepreneurship and Technology in connection with the planned amendment of the labour market law.<sup>47</sup>

45 *The results of a survey conducted among migrants from Ukraine residing in Poland regarding the awareness of the risks linked to human trafficking and knowledge of the support system for the victims of human trafficking in Poland*, International Organisation for Migration, 2017, available at: <https://poland.iom.int/sites/default/files/Raport%20IOM%202004%20PL%20FIN%20edit2.pdf>

46 The problems of migrant workers have already been addressed in numerous studies and reports, cf. for instance: D. Hall, *Severe labour exploitation: workers' perspectives*, Warsaw 2017, Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights (unpublished report submitted to the European Union Agency for Human Rights).

47 The letter is available here: <https://interwencjaprawna.pl/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/pismo-do-ministerstwa.pdf> (accessed on 31 January 2019).

### 3. Conclusions and summary

The approach to migration and integration in Poland has changed significantly in recent years. Migration, especially in relation to refugees, has become a political issue since the debate on how to solve the so-called refugee crisis coincided with the campaigns for presidential and parliamentary elections in Poland in 2015. The discussions of that time had a very negative impact on the social perception of the problem.

The Law and Justice party, which formed the government in autumn 2015, delivered on its promise not to receive refugees under the system of quotas set in negotiations between the EU Member States. The government went even further in its anti-refugee actions, making it more difficult for people seeking international protection to enter Poland directly via the eastern border, by denying them the possibility to file asylum applications and refusing entry on the grounds of the lack of a document authorising them to do so. Thus, the flow of refugees was stopped, but, at the same time, since 2014, a dynamic influx of voluntary migrants has been observed. This has been facilitated mostly by the needs of the labour market, which is facing labour shortages with respect to domestic workers. Despite the generally xenophobic rhetoric of the ruling party, no efforts are made to stop labour migration. On the contrary, due to demographic and economic reasons, it is planned to further receive foreign workers.

At present, it is difficult to forecast future developments given, for instance, the upcoming parliamentary elections due in autumn 2019. However, as they are preceded by European elections, the topic of national migration policy is not surfacing in political narratives right now – in contrast to the situation back in 2015, when a sharp growth in xenophobic attitudes was visible, and the politicians' anti-refugee rhetoric translated into votes in parliamentary elections. However, during the local election campaign in 2018, migration and refugee issues were no longer “hot topics”, and xenophobic statements did not score political points, at least among voters in the largest cities – it was mostly candidates advocating the vision of “open cities” who were victorious. Given the large influx of foreigners into Poland happening at that time, this may mean that Polish society was starting to get used to greater social diversity. On the other hand, it should be remembered that local authorities have no influence over decisions concerning the entry of foreigners into Poland; therefore, the experiences drawn from local elections cannot help interpret social attitudes towards migration.

If the elections do not result in a political change, it is likely that the announced changes regarding migration policy will be introduced. As mentioned above, they involve bringing foreign workers to Poland in order to mitigate the effects of demographic changes and fill the expected deficit in staff. Preference is to be given to individuals with high social capital and bearing cultural similarities (returnees and persons of Polish origin), which is intended to ensure a kind of safe migration, i.e. the arrival of people who are unlikely to fail to integrate. Work is in progress on a document setting out a more comprehensive migration policy, but as it is confidential, it is difficult to predict what direction the integration policy will take. It is, therefore, unclear whether some guidelines will be drawn up to cover all potential actors involved in the integration process with their actions harmonised, or whether, as at present, different actors will design and carry out their own activities taking into account their respective scope of competence and local situations.

If a pro-European party succeeds in Polish parliamentary elections, the migration policy from before 2015, i.e. in line with the proposals of the European Commission, is likely to be continued. In such a scenario, the possibility for local authorities and NGOs to benefit from the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund could again be expected. Given the fact that large cities have already started to plan and implement integration measures themselves, the access to funds would probably facilitate and strengthen this direction. The possibility for NGOs to receive subsidies again should translate into a

greater diversification of projects and result in reaching the places where integration support is needed but where, for various reasons, it is not organised or is very limited. This is the case with, for instance, municipalities where reception centres are located but that lack money, human resources and/or the political will to carry out integration activities.

When analysing the situation in Poland in terms of possible cooperation on integration, local authorities in large cities and social organisations seem to be the most promising partners. So-called urban movements are also potential allies, but except for pro-migrant statements made by individual candidates during the 2018 local election campaign, they have not yet been visible in the debate or integration initiatives.

The largest cities have been taking more or less comprehensive integration measures for several years now, thus responding to the inflow of migrants and, at the same time, creating the image of “open cities”. To this end, they strive for both the model of present-day multinational metropolitan areas and their own historical legacy of multiculturalism. Integration programmes, projects and strategies are often drafted in a participatory manner, i.e. as a joint effort by local authorities and social organisations. It is ensured that migrant and minority associations participate in the process. This approach to local integration policy is definitely worth maintaining because the process of cooperation itself is a form of integration. However, for the cooperation to be sustainable, social organisations, especially migrant and minority ones, should be stable and have sufficient human and intellectual resources to enable them to take an active part in the work.

Organisations have been playing a very important role in the integration process of migrants for many years, either on their own or in cooperation with local authorities and research centres. The blocking of AMIF funds brought an end to a relatively comfortable period during which European funds were the main source of funding for the organisations. Some of them have had to reduce or even end some projects, make staff cutbacks or even discontinue their activities. It has proven to be essential for them to gain funds from other sources or in completely different ways (for instance, to provide services against payment or to conduct commercial activity, and to collect money and goods). It is, therefore, important now to support the organisations at least in maintaining the know-how they have gathered throughout the years.<sup>48</sup>

Some cities establish cooperation with foreign agglomerations, e.g. by organising study visits in search of good practices and to share experiences in the field of integration. As Patrycja Matusz-Protasiewicz noted, the aim of being a member of international networks of cities is also to influence the decision-making process at the community level, which enables the multi-level management of the EU while leaving the national level out.<sup>49</sup> This is particularly important in the cases of there being a mismatch in migration and integration policy between central and local levels, which to some extent has been the case in Poland since 2015: the vision of a national and “safe” state promoted by the government clashes with large cities’ ambitions to become open and dynamic metropolises attracting investors, innovators and tourists. Due to this mismatch and – in the Polish context – also the blocking of financing under the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund, the need to create opportunities for local governments (and other entities) to seek financing of their integration measures directly at EU level is often stressed.

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48 After the completion of this study, two calls for applications under the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund were unexpectedly announced – one regarding actions for people undergoing the refugee procedure and the other concerning the integration of voluntary migrants (25 March 2019). In contrast to the guidelines from the previous calls, this time the measures that could be possibly financed from the Fund have been specified. Moreover, it has been indicated that comprehensive projects, i.e. ones involving various types of activities (legal, psychological and social aid, Polish language courses, support for foreign students and persons who work with them, etc.) will be given priority. Taking into account the capabilities and characteristics of social organisations, in order to successfully apply for the funds, they will have to build project partnerships.

49 P. Matusz-Protasiewicz, *Rosnąca rola poziomu lokalnego w kreowaniu polityki integracji imigrantów w Unii Europejskiej*, “Central and Eastern European Migration Review”, vol. 2, no. 2/2013, pp. 92–93.

In order to pursue a progressive migrant and integration policy, understood as the involvement of both migrants and members of the host society in the process of integration, the political will of decision-makers (at central and local level) needs to be complemented by social support, including a softening of attitudes towards refugees and migration. Various agents might be involved in the process, such as politicians, journalists, teachers, educators, artists and celebrities that inspire respect and are popular with various social groups. However, creating a positive narrative must go hand in hand with combating fake news regarding migration in Western European countries and regarding the drivers of the refugee problem. In Internet media, mostly national and tabloid media, numerous reports on criminal incidents in Germany and Sweden that allegedly involve migrants are published, which influences the public opinion in Poland, particularly the youth.

As studies indicate, the young are the social group that is most reticent towards refugees in Poland. Moreover, young people have no confidence in traditional media and are persuaded that the independent authors of online media content provide reliable information.<sup>50</sup> The lack of confidence in traditional mass media, which are regarded by Internet users as being German (for instance, Onet), also surfaced in the migration debate during the election campaign, forming a general theory claiming that Polish politicians and journalists depend on Germany and that a policy favourable to the Poland's western neighbour, including in the field of migration, is being implemented.<sup>51</sup> Given the above, it seems necessary to work on combating fake news and creating a better picture of migrants and refugees on the Internet.

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50 D. Hall, A. Mikulska-Jolles, *Upředzenia, strach czy niewiedza? Młodzi Polacy o powodach niechęci do przyjmowania uchodźców*, Warsaw 2016, Association for Legal Intervention, available at: <http://interwencjaprawna.pl/docs/ARE-116-upredzenia-mlodych-polakow.pdf> (accessed on 31 January 2019).

51 Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights, *Migranci, uchodźcy i ksenofobia w kampanii wyborczej – raport z monitoringu*, Warsaw 2018, available at: <https://goo.gl/6J2v7i> (accessed on 31 January 2019).

# Appendix

## Stakeholders: Detailed Information

The following is an overview of selected institutions, NGOs and informal initiatives dealing with broader migration and integration issues. The list is not exhaustive, and the choice has mostly been based on the desire to show diversity of orientations and modes of operation in Poland, as well as different sources of funding. The list comprises local, national and international organisations. Some of the initiatives described are new, while others have operated uninterruptedly for a long time and have a wealth of experience. Some organisations established by migrants are presented, too. The descriptions provided are largely based on information taken directly from the entities' Internet websites.

The overview contains contact details of persons/institutions responsible for immigration in cities where significant measures are taken in that field.

### Main Research Centres

#### Centre for Migration Studies at the Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań (CeBaM)

The Centre for Migration Studies was established at the Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań in 2009 as an interdisciplinary unit and is to a large extent dominated by social sciences, in particular cultural and social anthropology. CeBaM's research is based on qualitative methods and is socially engaged, with the results of the studies serving as a basis for the development of recommendations for migration policy and projects. Initially, the Centre focused on migration phenomena in western Poland, but it has broadened its research field over time. The organisation cooperates with numerous institutions in Poland and abroad, such as the Institute for the Study of International Migration at Georgetown University in Washington, the European University Viadrina and Munich Town Hall.

In 2013, the individuals associated with the CeBaM launched a **Migrant Info Point** providing information and consultation to migrants, run by the **Centre for Migration Studies Foundation** specifically set up for that purpose (this was necessary in order to be able to obtain funding). At the Migrant Info Point, foreigners can receive free legal aid, integration and vocational counselling, and support in learning Polish. Moreover, open workshops and lectures on migration, integration and related topics are staged. Owing to a subsidy from the city of Poznań, the Migrant Info Point mostly covers Wielkopolska. It has also received one-off grants from the Oxfam Foundation, the local government in Wielkopolska and the Stefan Batory Foundation, as well as having benefited from EU funds in the past.

#### Contact details

##### Centre for Migration Studies

Prof. Michał Buchowski, Ph.D. – head of CeBaM

e-mail: [mbuch@amu.edu.pl](mailto:mbuch@amu.edu.pl), [cebam@amu.edu.pl](mailto:cebam@amu.edu.pl)

website: <https://www.cebam.amu.edu.pl/wydarzenia-cebam.html>

##### Migrant Info Point

Izabela Czerniejewska, Ph.D.

tel.: +48 503 979 758

e-mail: [izacz@migrant.poznan.pl](mailto:izacz@migrant.poznan.pl)

website: <http://migrant.poznan.pl/pl/>

### Migration Research Committee of the Polish Academy of Sciences

The Migration Research Committee is an interdisciplinary problem committee of the Polish Academy of Sciences, composed of 36 researchers from numerous academic centres from all over Poland, representing different science disciplines and research methods.<sup>52</sup> The Committee comprises three thematic sections: the Polish Diaspora Research Section, the Contemporary Migrations Research Section, and the Immigration Processes Research Section. The committee is responsible for staging an annual migration conference and delivering expert opinions and analyses. The committee publishes the quarterly “Studia Migracyjne – Przegląd Polonijny” [Migration Studies – Polish Diaspora Review].

#### Contact details

Magdalena Lesińska, Ph.D. – committee’s secretary

tel.: +48 22 822 91 73

website: <http://www.kbnm.pan.pl/>

### Centre of Migration Research

The Centre of Migration Research is an interdisciplinary research centre specialising in migration process research in Poland and Europe. It is part of the University of Warsaw. The centre is involved in academic, research, publishing and educational activity, including post-graduate studies in Contemporary International Migrations. The centre comprises three main research teams: the Migration Economics Team, the Integration and Ethnic Relations Team, and the Migration Policies Team, as well as one problem research team: the Quantitative Methods Team. In 2018, the centre implemented 20 domestic and international research projects. Since 1991, it has been involved in monitoring migration trends under the OECD, and in 2007 it joined the IMISCOE Research Network.

#### Contact details:

Paweł Kaczmarczyk – centre head

tel.: + 48 22 554 67 70

e-mail: [migration.cmr@uw.edu.pl](mailto:migration.cmr@uw.edu.pl), [p.kaczmarczyk@uw.edu.pl](mailto:p.kaczmarczyk@uw.edu.pl)

## Media

**Gazeta.pl** – <https://gazeta.pl>

**Gazeta Wyborcza** – <https://wyborcza.pl>, the average circulation of the paper edition is 166,765

**KulturaLiberalna** – <https://kulturaliberalna.pl>

**Polityka** – <https://polityka.pl>, the average circulation of the paper edition is 157,421

**Newsweek** – <https://newsweek.pl>, the average circulation of the paper edition is 137,356

**OKO.press** – <https://oko.press/>

**Radio Tok FM** – <http://www.tokfm.pl>

**TygodnikPowszechny** – <https://www.tygodnikpowszechny.pl/>, the average circulation of the paper edition is 55,000.

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52 The composition of the committee can be found at: [http://www.kbnm.pan.pl/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=58&Itemid=43](http://www.kbnm.pan.pl/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=58&Itemid=43).

## Units Dealing with Migration in Town Halls

### Bydgoszcz

#### NGO and Volunteering Support Team

Marlena Plebańska –the team's acting coordinator

marlena.plebanska@um.bydgoszcz.pl

tel. +48 (52) 58 58 727

website: [www.bydgoszcz.pl](http://www.bydgoszcz.pl)

### Gdańsk

**Social Development Department, Gdańsk Town Hall** (the unit jointly responsible for implementing the Immigrant Integration Model)

Grzegorz Szczuka –department head

e-mail: [grzegorz.szczuka@gdansk.gda.pl](mailto:grzegorz.szczuka@gdansk.gda.pl)

tel.: +48 58 323 67 00

website: <https://www.gdansk.pl/urząd-miejski/wydział-rozwoju-społecznego>

### Cracow

**Social Projects, Dialogue and Multiculturalism Office in the Social Policy and Health Department at Cracow Town Hall** (the unit responsible for the “Open Cracow” programme and other measures promoting multiculturalism).

Magdalena Frudzik– office head

e-mail: [magdalena.frudzik@um.krakow.pl](mailto:magdalena.frudzik@um.krakow.pl), [otwarty@um.krakow.pl](mailto:otwarty@um.krakow.pl)

tel: + 48 12 616 78 16

website: <https://www.bip.krakow.pl/?id=32&sub=struktura&query=id%3D1300087%26pz%3D%26vSpecReg%3Dall>

### Lublin

**Social Participation Office at the Lublin Town Hall** (the unit coordinating work of the Integration Support Group)

Anna Szadkowska

e-mail: [partycypacja@lublin.eu](mailto:partycypacja@lublin.eu)

tel.: + 48 81 466 2560

website: <https://lublin.eu/mieszkanicy/partycypacja/lublin-dla-wszystkich/lublin-dla-wszystkich/>

### Łódź

#### Plenipotentiary for Equal Treatment

Agnieszka Łuczak

tel.: +48 42 638 54 63

e-mail: [ag.luczak@uml.lodz.pl](mailto:ag.luczak@uml.lodz.pl)

website: <https://uml.lodz.pl/dla-mieszkancow/lodzianie-decyduja/ngo/skontaktuj-sie-z-nami/pelnomocnik-ds-rownego-traktowania/>

### Poznań

#### Equality and Diversity Policy Team

Marta Mazurek – team head

e-mail: [marta.mazurek@umww.pl](mailto:marta.mazurek@umww.pl)

## Szczecin

### Social Affairs Department

Beata Bugajska – department head  
 tel.: + 48 91 4245672  
 e-mail: bbugajaska@um.szczecin.pl

## Warsaw

### Social Dialogue Commission on Foreigners

Iwona Cichowicz, Witold Hebanowski – commission co-presidents  
 Contact details: kds.cudzoziemcy@gmail.com

### Social Communication Centre of the Warsaw Town Hall

Magdalena Wojno  
 e-mail: m.wojno@um.warszawa.pl  
 tel. +48 22 44 33 447  
 website: <http://ngo.um.warszawa.pl/komisje/komisja-dialogu-spo-ecznego-ds-cudzoziemc-w>

## Wrocław

### Social Development Centre in Wrocław – Multicultural Dialogue Team

Manuela Plizga-Jonarska – team coordinator  
 tel.: + 48 71 77 24 908  
 e-mail: manuela.plizga-jonarska@wcrs.wroclaw.pl  
 website: <https://wcrs.wroclaw.pl/>

## Non-Governmental Organisations

### Halina Nieć Legal Aid Centre (Cracow)

Established in 2002, the Halina Nieć Legal Aid Centre is a public benefit NGO based in Cracow. It focuses on the issues of refugees, statelessness, and victims of human trafficking and other persons at risk of discrimination and social exclusion. As UNHCR's executive partner, it provides free legal aid to refugees and persons requesting international protection in Poland. The organisation's activities also involve conducting research and monitoring, as well as compiling reports and expert opinions. For instance, the organisation carries out annual monitoring of the access to the refugee procedure and the observance of the non-refoulement principle, as well as preparing a report on combating and preventing human trafficking. The centre also performs educational activities in the form of training for the Border Guard, public administration employees and students. Migration is the organisation's main field of interest.

#### Geographical scope:

The Halina Nieć Legal Aid Centre is based in Cracow, but its support for persons seeking international protection also covers detention centres in Biała Podlaska, Lesznowola, Przemyśl and Krosno Odrzańskie. As far as monitoring of the access to the refugee procedure and the observance of the non-refoulement principle is concerned, the centre focuses on the Terespol and Medyka border crossings.

#### Partners:

The centre is a regular executive partner of the UNHCR and a member of the European Network on Statelessness and the Polish Nationwide Network of the Non-Governmental Organisations Against Trafficking in Human Beings.

**Sources of funding:**

The centre's main sources of funding are grants and subsidies, including from EU funds, the UNHCR, Cracow Town Hall, the European Network on Statelessness, Stefan Batory Foundation, and the International Visegrad Fund. It also receives donations from private persons.

**Contact details:**

Halina Nieć Legal Aid Centre

tel.: +48 12 633 72 23

e-mail: [biuro@pomocprawna.org](mailto:biuro@pomocprawna.org)

website: <https://www.pomocprawna.org/>

**Immigrant Support Centre (Gdańsk)**

Registered in 2013, the Immigrant Support Centre provides assistance to foreigners living in the area of the Tri-city. It offers legal and vocational counselling and assistance in contacting municipal offices, as well as organising Polish language courses. The support it provides is free of charge. As the centre employs foreigners, its services are offered in various languages. In the field of integration, the centre cooperates closely with Gdańsk Town Hall, and its president is also the co-coordinator of the Immigrant Integration Model – a strategy created on the initiative of municipal authorities. The centre's objectives are to improve integration and prevent discrimination. Migration is the centre's main area of interest.

**Geographical scope:**

The Immigrant Support Centre is mostly active in Gdańsk and Pomorskie voivodeship.

**Partners:**

On its website, the centre lists the following partners: the European Solidarity Centre, the Salvation Foundation, the Association for Legal Intervention, NEWW-Poland, the Stefan Batory Foundation and Gdańskie Towarzystwo Budownictwa Społecznego sp. z o.o. [Gdańsk Social Housing Society limited liability company].

**Sources of funding:**

The Immigrant Support Centre obtains funding from various sources, including the city of Gdańsk, the Stefan Batory Foundation and EEA grants (Citizens for Democracy programme). In the past, it also benefitted from the EU Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund. The centre also receives donations from private persons.

**Contact details:**

tel: +48 512 949 109

e-mail: [centrum@cwii.org.pl](mailto:centrum@cwii.org.pl)

website: <http://cwii.org.pl/>

**Institute of Public Affairs Foundation (Warsaw)**

The Institute of Public Affairs is an analytical and research centre established in 1995 to deal with the most important aspects of social life, including migration. The institute carries out research regarding different aspects of migration and integration of foreigners coming to Poland, and Poles residing abroad. The numerous reports by the institute include studies on various migrant groups (such as Ukrainian students, migrants with medical qualifications and Asian migrant communities in Poland) and individual issues (such as family reunification of foreigners). The institute is currently running a six-year project entitled the "National Integration Evaluation Mechanism", which every two years evaluates the integration policies of 15 EU Member States regarding individuals enjoying international protection. The aim of the study is to identify practices and regulatory gaps in – and evaluate the results of – political and legislative changes. The Institute of Public Affairs also engages in public debate through publishing activities and the organisation of conferences and seminars.

**Geographical scope:**

The Institute of Public Affairs is based in Warsaw, but its research and analyses are Poland-wide or international in scope.

**Partners:**

The Institute of Public Affairs cooperates with numerous institutions and organisations from Poland and abroad (e.g. Polish Migration Forum Foundation, Association for Legal Intervention, Migration Policy Group, Peace Institute, People in Need). It also runs projects together with international organisations (including the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees – UNHCR), government departments (Ministry of the Interior and Administration as well as Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Policy) and diplomatic missions (for instance the Representation of the Kingdom of the Netherlands).

**Sources of funding:**

The Institute obtains funding from various sources, including the EU funds available for national and international actions (such as the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund, Europe for Citizens). The work of the Institute has also been supported by the Stefan Batory Foundation and the International Visegrad Fund.

**Contact details:**

tel.: +48 22 556 42 61

e-mail: [migracje@isp.org.pl](mailto:migracje@isp.org.pl)

website: <https://www.isp.org.pl/>

**Ocalenie ("Salvation") Foundation (Warsaw)**

Established in 2000, the Ocalenie Foundation defines its aim as “supporting migrants in integration and personal development”. The foundation’s regular activities include, among other things, running the Help Centre for Foreigners in Warsaw, and a Consultation Site and a day-care centre for refugee and Polish children in Łomża, as well as organising Polish language courses and training and workshops for companies and organisations employing foreigners (the Foundation itself has an international team of workers). It also runs the programme “Refugees Welcome” that offers intermediation in renting flats for refugees, as well as implementing projects promoting integration and non-discrimination (such as cooking classes). Migration is the foundation’s main area of focus.

**Geographical scope:**

The foundation has offices in Warsaw and Łomża.

**Partners:**

On its website, the foundation lists the following partners: Immigrant Support Centre, “Our Choice” Foundation, the Polish Theatre, “Projekt Starsi” Foundation, and others.

**Sources of funding:**

The Ocalenie Foundation obtains funding from various sources. Its projects have been financed from, among others, EU funds (EQUAL Initiative, EIF, ERF, AMIF), the budget of the city of Warsaw, the governor of the Mazowieckie voivodeship, the governor of the Podlaskie voivodeship, the Ministry of National Education, the Stefan Batory Foundation, the Benefit Systems Foundation, the Velux Foundation, the Empowering Children Foundation, BGŻ BNP Paribas Group, the US Embassy and the Senate of the Republic of Poland.

Part of the foundation’s activities is based on voluntary work. It also receives donations from individuals and raises funds for specific aims. As a public benefit organisation, it can obtain funds under the 1-percent tax scheme.

**Contact details:**

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website: <http://www.ocalenie.org.pl>

### Polish Hospitality Foundation (Warsaw)

The Polish Hospitality Foundation is one of the newer organisations for refugees. It was set up in 2017 by a group of people working under the informal **With Bread and Salt** initiative (known for, among other things, the staging of pro-refugee demonstrations during the so-called refugee crisis). Currently, the Polish Hospitality Foundation describes itself as an NGO at the crossroads of the media, politics, science and the third sector. Its mission is to create an “open and tolerant Poland”. Its activities are addressed at both migrants (mostly forced ones) and society as a whole. The foundation’s flagship project targeted at the latter group is the website *Uchodźcy.info* devoted to refugees in Poland and abroad. Its creators also carry out “fact checking”, i.e. follow politicians’ statements and media reports on migration and comment on them if there is any incorrect information. The initiatives that target migrants include assistance in education and childcare (through the support of numerous volunteers) and various forms of financial and accommodation support, such as intermediation in finding somewhere to live and providing the necessary goods (clothes, flat equipment). Migration is the foundation’s main area of focus.

#### Geographical scope:

The foundation is registered in Warsaw, but some of its activities are wider in scope. By definition, this regards campaigns and information activities, for instance running the *Uchodźcy.info* website. The individuals who form the Polish Hospitality today – while still members of the informal group With Bread and Salt – organised collections of goods for refugees from the Middle East staying in Bulgaria, Serbia and Germany. Moreover, pro-refugee demonstrations and anti-racist events were staged in different Polish cities.

#### Partners:

On its website, the foundation lists the following partners: e.g. the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Common Space Foundation, the Strefa Wolnościowa Foundation, the Stefan Batory Foundation, the Association for Legal Intervention, the Plan B Association, and the European Students’ Union. It is also a member of a consortium of refugee and migrant social organisations.

#### Sources of funding:

Part of the foundation’s activities is based on voluntary work and on targeted collections of goods. The foundation also receives donations from individuals – on its website, it is possible to easily donate funds to specific aims (for instance, extra lessons in Polish). The organisation has also received funding from the Stefan Batory Foundation and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

#### Contact details:

e-mail: [kontakt@polskagoscinnosc.org](mailto:kontakt@polskagoscinnosc.org)

website: <http://polskagoscinnosc.org/kim-jestesmy/>

### Polish Migration Forum Foundation (Warsaw)

The Polish Migration Forum Foundation was established in 2007. It mostly specialises in educational and information activities targeted at both migrants and the host society. The foundation offers a broad spectrum of support for foreigners: legal and psychological aid, support of vocational and business counsellors and intercultural assistants, and support in parenting issues (for instance, childbirth classes for migrant women), as well as organising group meetings for teenagers. Advice is given in the languages most commonly used by migrants living in Poland (including Russian, English, Vietnamese, Ukrainian and Arabic). The organisation is also active in educational establishments attended by foreigners, where, for instance, specialist workshops are staged for teachers, tutors and psychologists on issues related to working with children from other countries and with a migrant background. Psychological and educational support for such students is also provided, and other events devoted to migration and multiculturalism targeting various groups of people are organised.

The Polish Migration Forum Foundation is involved in the development of Polish migration policy through issuing opinions on draft legislation, and participation in fora, working groups and expert commissions. Migration is the organisation’s main area of interest.

**Geographical scope:**

The foundation operates mostly in the Mazowieckie voivodeship.

**Partners:**

The Polish Migration Forum implements projects in cooperation with very diverse partners such as: the UNHCR, the governor of the Mazowieckie voivodeship, the Institute of Ethnology and Cultural Anthropology of the University of Warsaw, the Servitium Rei Publicae Foundation, the Refugee.pl Foundation, the Association for Legal Intervention, the Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights, the Club of Catholic Intelligentsia, the Community of Sant' Egidio, and the Jesuit Activity Centre "In Action". It is also a member of a consortium of refugee and migrant social organisations.

**Sources of funding:**

The foundation obtains funds from various sources. In recent years, the projects implemented by the PMF have been financed from, among others, the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF), the Education Office of the City of Warsaw, the National Bank of Poland, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of National Education, the Heinrich Böll Foundation, and the NUTRICIA Foundation. The PMF also carries out gainful statutory activity, accepts donations and, as a public benefit organisation, can receive funds under the 1-percent tax scheme.

**Contact details:**

tel.: +48 22 110 00 85

e-mail: [info@forummigracyjne.org](mailto:info@forummigracyjne.org)

website: <http://www.forummigracyjne.org/pl/index.php>

**Strefa WolnoSłowa Foundation (Warsaw)**

The Strefa WolnoSłowa Foundation comprises people dealing with art, culture and writing who create and run various socially engaged artistic initiatives. The foundation's actions are oriented at multicultural and intergenerational dialogue; therefore, representatives of various social groups are invited to cooperate, including migrants and refugees (including as actors and performers). One of the projects run by the Foundation was called "NEIGHBOURLINESS, or the borders of closeness", under which a three-month Neighbourly Academy was operating in which young artists were taught how to project cultural and artistic activities co-created with migrant communities. Strefa WolnoSłowa's offices are located in the seat of the Zygmunt Hübner Powszechny Theatre in Warsaw.

**Geographical scope:** The foundation's offices are located in Warsaw, but the organisation is also active in other Polish and European cities.

**Partners:**

The foundation's website lists the following partners: the Ocalenie Foundation, the Foundation for Development Beyond Borders, Circle Theatre Studio, the UNHCR, House of Culture "Zacisze", Warsaw Cultural Education Centre, the Working Stage Theatrical Residence Centre, and others.

**Sources of funding:**

The organisation has received funding from, among others, the city of Warsaw and EU funds (including Creative Europe and Youth in Action programmes).

**Contact details:**

e-mail: [a.borkowska@strefawolnoslowa.pl](mailto:a.borkowska@strefawolnoslowa.pl)

website: <http://strefawolnoslowa.pl/o-strefie/>

**Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights (Warsaw)**

Registered in 1990, the Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights is the oldest Polish NGO dealing with human right issues. Its creation was preceded by eight years of underground activities by the Helsinki Committee. From the very onset, the foundation has provided legal and integration support to migrants and refugees, including assisting with precedent-setting litigations. Moreover, the organisation is involved in the legislative process and the shaping of migration policy. The foundation's activities also include

preparing reports and expert opinions, as well as carrying out studies and monitoring, including as the National Contact Point of the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights. On behalf of the agency, it has carried out research on the exploitation of foreign workers. Moreover, the situation of individuals seeking international protection and hate crime incidents is regularly reported. A new course of action in the field of migration is the monitoring of election campaigns in terms of xenophobia and the debate on migration. The HFHR is also involved in educational activities regarding migration: it organises lectures, training and workshops addressed at various groups, including public service officers, students and NGO workers.

**Geographical coverage:**

The Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights is based in Warsaw, where it provides legal advice to migrants and refugees, but its workers also visit refugee reception and detention centres in other regions of Poland. The organisation's educational, research and monitoring activities have wider geographical coverage – national or international.

**Partners:**

When implementing migrant and refugee projects, the HFHR cooperates with numerous Polish organisations and institutions, for instance the Association for Legal Intervention, the Institute of Public Affairs, and the Polish Migration Forum. The foundation is also a member of the European Council on Refugees and Exile, and it cooperates on an ongoing basis with the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights as a National Focal Point under the FRANET.

**Sources of funding:**

The foundation's activities related to migration, refugee and xenophobia have been financed from, among others, EU funds (AMIF; EIF; ERF; EIF; ERF; Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme of the European Union), the International Visegrad Fund, the UNHCR and the Heinrich Böll Foundation. Some of the expenditure associated with these activities has been covered by institutional grants received from Open Society Foundations and the Stefan Batory Foundation.

**Contact details:**

e-mail: [refugees@hfhr.org.pl](mailto:refugees@hfhr.org.pl)

website: <http://www.hfhr.pl/>

**NOMADA – the Association for Multicultural Society Integration (Wrocław)**

The NOMADA Association is an NGO based in Wrocław, active in the field of human rights, mostly focusing on excluded groups, migrants, foreigners, and ethnic and religious minorities. It provides them with support with respect to integration as well as legal and social issues, and various forms of intervention support. NOMADA is one of a handful of organisations working closely with the community of Romanian Roma. The association's objectives are to encourage solidarity between people with different backgrounds and social status and to overcome stereotypes and prejudices; hence, some of its projects target the general public. NOMADA also carries out monitoring and advocacy, organises training, conferences and debates, and publishes journalistic and literary texts.

**Geographical coverage:**

The NOMADA Association is mostly active in Wrocław, but it also runs joint projects with NGOs from other regions of Poland.

**Partners:**

NOMADA cooperates with, among others, Amnesty International in Wrocław, the Muslim Cultural Centre in Wrocław, and Krytyka Polityczna.

**Sources of funding:**

NOMADA's activities have been financed from, among others, the Trust for Civil Society in Central and Eastern Europe, the Ministry of National Education, the Stefan Batory Foundation, the Polish Children and Youth Foundation, and the "Remembrance, Responsibility and Future" Foundation. The association also accepts donations and organises collections for specific aims.

**Contact details:**

tel.: +48 71 307 03 35

e-mail: [nomada@nomada.info.pl](mailto:nomada@nomada.info.pl)

website: <http://nomada.info.pl/>

**Homo Faber Association (Lublin)**

Homo Faber is an association established in Lublin in 2004 to promote human rights and prevent discrimination. Currently, its activities are grouped under three programmes: Anti-discrimination, Integration and Film. The first two involve providing support to people at risk of discrimination and foreigners during the integration process. The association also provides training and workshops and carries out other projects targeting the representatives of public institutions, which can be potential perpetrators of discrimination. Moreover, Homo Faber conducts publishing, monitoring and educational activities, covering multicultural education and Lublin's multiculturalism. The association very often uses films as a form of public education, which constitutes a starting point for discussions during workshops or meetings with experts.

**Geographical coverage:**

The Homo Faber Association operates mostly in Lublin.

**Partners:**

Homo Faber cooperates with many organisations and institutions, including: the Department of Human Rights – Faculty of Political Science at the Maria Curie-Skłodowska University in Lublin, the Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights, Amnesty International Poland, University College of Enterprise and Administration in Lublin, La Strada – Foundation against Human Trafficking and Slavery, the Association of Creative Initiatives “e”, and Citizens Network Watchdog Poland.

**Sources of funding:**

The association obtains funding from donors (for instance, the Stefan Batory Foundation), accepts donations and, as a public benefit organisation, can receive funds under the 1-percent tax scheme.

**Contact details:**

e-mail: [info@hf.org.pl](mailto:info@hf.org.pl)

website: [www.hf.org.pl](http://www.hf.org.pl)

**Association for Legal Intervention (Warsaw)**

The Association for Legal Intervention was established in 2005, and its mission is to “ensure social cohesion through promoting equality for all before the law”. The organisation focuses on support for people from groups at risk of social exclusion, mostly refugees and migrants. Foreigners are offered legal aid, including with respect to obtaining international protection, regularisation and fighting against discrimination, as well as integration support in the form of assistance in running everyday errands such as visits to offices or medical centres. In 2015, the Integration Lab was established at the association, carrying out research on migration, preparing reports and expert opinions and providing training and mediation activities (including employee and multicultural mediation). The aim of the lab is to ensure that the unavoidable influx and integration of migrants take place in a peaceful and planned manner. As a result, the association's members are committed to changing negative social attitudes towards migration and migrants, for instance by means of cooperation with decision-makers. The Association for Legal Intervention is involved in shaping Polish migration policy by issuing opinions on draft legislation as well as by participating in fora, working groups and expert committees.

**Geographical coverage:**

The association operates mostly in Warsaw, but some of its activities are carried out in other regions of Poland as well – for instance, counselling is provided in reception and detention centres in other regions of Poland.

**Partners:**

When implementing projects concerning migrants and refugees, the Association for Legal Intervention cooperates with numerous Polish organisations and institutions, including the Institute of Public Affairs, Polish Migration Forum, the Rule of Law Institute Foundation, the Homo Faber Association, the Halina Nieć Legal Aid Centre, the Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights, the Centre for Social and Economic Research, and the Polish Hospitality Foundation. The association is also a member of a consortium of refugee and migrant social organisations. Moreover, it has run projects under international partnerships with various organisations and institutions from nearly all European countries.

**Sources of funding:**

The association has received funds for its migration-related activities from, among others, European funds (such as ERF, EIF, AMIF), the Stefan Batory Foundation, the city of Warsaw, the Konrad Adenauer Foundation, and the Network of European Foundations. The association also carries out gainful activity (e.g. it provides advice to employers wishing to legally employ foreigners), accepts donations and, as a public benefit organisation, can receive funds under the 1-percent tax scheme.

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website: <https://interwencjaprawna.pl/>

## Organisations Established by Migrants

### Foundation “Africa Another Way” (Warsaw)

The Foundation “Africa Another Way” was registered in 2007 as an institutional continuation of a website of the same name devoted to Africa. It brings together Africans living in Poland and Poles interested in Africa. The foundation promotes integration and multicultural dialogue – it organises concerts, exhibitions, happenings, and its flagship project is the celebration of Africa Day. People associated with the foundation are also engaged in integration and anti-racism initiatives and events organised by other entities. The organisation has carried out two studies on Africans in Poland in terms of racism and discrimination.

**Geographical coverage:**

The foundation is active in Poland, but it also runs projects in Africa.

**Partners:**

The Foundation “Africa Another Way” cooperates (or used to cooperate) with, among others, the Other Space Foundation, the Multicultural Centre Foundation, the Habitat for Humanity Poland Foundation, and the International Organisation for Migration.

**Sources of funding:**

The Foundation “Africa Another Way” has been supported by, among others, the Stefan Batory Foundation. It has implemented projects funded under EEA grants (Citizens for Democracy) and EU funds (BUILD Solid Ground). To implement its activities, the organisation also collects money from private donors and, as a public benefit organisation, can receive funds under the 1-percent tax scheme.

**Contact details:**

e-mail: [info@afryka.org](mailto:info@afryka.org)

website: <http://www.fundacja.afryka.org/>

### “Our Choice” Foundation (Warsaw)

“Our Choice” Foundation was set up in 2009 by Ukrainians and their Polish friends to support Ukrainian migrants in Poland in their integration with Polish society and to familiarise Poles with Ukrainian culture. Over time, the organisation extended the groups it targets to cover citizens of other countries. The foundation provides foreigners with legal aid and runs an information point. One of its most im-

portant projects is the Ukrainian House – a meeting place for the Ukrainian diaspora where exhibitions and cultural events are organised, including regular meetings of the Ukrainian Women’s Club, the Literary Club and the Children’s Club “Glove”. The foundation runs the Saturday Ukrainian School and information portal [www.naszwybir.pl](http://www.naszwybir.pl) aimed at Ukrainians residing in Poland, and publishes the journal *Our Choice*. It also organises aid charities for beneficiaries from Ukraine. The foundation carries out studies on the situation of Ukrainian migrants in the Polish labour market, stages conferences on the topic and engages in the protection of migrants’ labour rights.

**Geographical coverage:**

The foundation is active in the Mazowieckie voivodeship, but some of its projects (the information portal and the journal) are much wider in scope.

**Partners:**

The foundation cooperates with, among others, the Union of Ukrainians in Poland, the Ocalenie Foundation, and the Zustricz Foundation (Cracow). Moreover, it is one of the co-founders of the Multicultural Centre Foundation in Warsaw. It also establishes partnerships with organisations supporting migrants in other countries, e.g. the Multicultural Centre Prague and Europe Without Barriers (Ukraine).

**Sources of funding:**

The foundation obtains funds from various sources, including its own gainful and commercial activity. It has also benefitted from EU funds (such as the AMIF), the Stefan Batory Foundation grants, city of Warsaw grants, the International Organisation for Migration, and the RITA programme.

**Contact details:**

tel.: +48 22 258 40 18

e-mail: [biuro@naszwybor.org.pl](mailto:biuro@naszwybor.org.pl)

website: <https://ukrainskidom.pl/>

### Foundation for Somalia (Warsaw)

The Foundation for Somalia was established in 2007 in Warsaw by a Somali, Abdulcadir Gabeire Farah, and initially organised humanitarian aid for people in need in Somalia. Over time, it has developed into an organisation for migrants living in Poland. Its actions targeting foreigners include legal aid, integration and psychological support, multicultural assistance and support in learning Polish. Supporting migrants in the labour market through vocational counselling and entrepreneurship education (under the ABC of Entrepreneurship project) is an important part of the foundation’s activities. The organisation also promotes multicultural dialogue and diversity. Since May 2017, along with the Pro Humanum Association, it has co-run the Warsaw Multicultural Centre.

**Geographical coverage:**

The projects targeting migrants are implemented mostly in Warsaw, but the foundation is also active abroad, including in Africa.

**Partners:**

The foundation cooperates with, among others, the governor of the Mazowieckie voivodeship, the Pro Humanum Association, the Polish Migration Forum Foundation, Caritas, and the Lingua Mundi Foundation.

**Sources of funding**

The foundation has financed its activities from EU funds (ERF, EIF, AMIF), the Office of Social Assistance of the City of Warsaw, the Youth in Action Programme, and the Polish development aid cooperation programme of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. It also accepts donations.

**Contact details:**

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website: [fds.org.pl](http://fds.org.pl)

### Foundation Ukraine (Wrocław)

The Foundation Ukraine is one of the younger NGOs dealing with migrant issues. Established in 2013 by Ukraine's honorary consul Grzegorz Dzik, it initially aimed at supporting Ukrainian citizens residing in Lower Silesia, but over the course of time it has expanded the list of beneficiaries to include other migrants as well. The main lines of the foundation's action are coordinating cultural and integration as well as information and educational projects, and supporting valuable Polish-Ukrainian initiatives. The foundation runs an information point for foreigners and the integration programme Ruska46a, and, in cooperation with the Dolnośląskie Voivodeship Office, implements the project "Integration, adaptation, acceptance. Supporting third-country nationals residing in Lower Silesia".

#### **Geographical coverage:**

The foundation is active in Lower Silesia.

#### **Partners:**

On its website, the foundation lists the following partners: Ukraine's Honorary Consulate, Dolnośląskie Voivodeship Office, Impol and Sanpro Impel Group companies, and others.

#### **Sources of funding:**

The foundation has received financing from the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (currently as a partner of the Dolnośląskie Voivodeship Office).

#### **Contact details:**

tel.: +48 571 330 203

e-mail: [biuro@fundacjaukraina.eu](mailto:biuro@fundacjaukraina.eu)

website: <http://fundacjaukraina.eu/>

## Other Entities

### Caritas

Caritas is a charity of the Polish Episcopal Conference and one of the biggest charities in Poland. Since the very onset of its activity, which was reactivated in 1990, it has helped socially excluded people and supported migrants and refugees. Currently, its main project is the "New House Poland", run in cooperation with the organisation's branches from dioceses in Białystok, Siedlce, Lublin, Zielona Góra-Gorzów and Warsaw, as well as the Office for Foreigners. The project involves providing social and psychological support and multicultural advice. Caritas units are currently partners of several voivodeship offices implementing projects financed under the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund.

#### **Contact details:**

Migrant Support Centre (Warsaw)

tel.: + 48 660 424 014

website contact form: <http://migranci-uchodzcy.caritas.pl/>

### Consortium of migrant and refugee organisations

The consortium is an informal group of cooperating migrant and refugee organisations. It was established in 2016 as a result of working meetings during which a new strategy of work in that area was discussed as a result of the freezing of the AMIF fund and other challenges related to work in the field of migration and refugee. Initially, the aim of the meetings was to share experience, provide mutual support and achieve synergies, but over time the meetings have become incubators for new ideas and joint initiatives. In October 2018, the largest project to date began to be implemented – "One for All, All for One", under which, for instance, direct support for migrants in Poland is provided, advice centres for migrants are run in Warsaw, Poznań, Lublin and Wrocław, and a base and communication platform for volunteers of the organisations forming Consortium have been created. Work is in progress on a mentoring programme for leaders of migrant and minority communities (particularly those from

smaller towns). The project is financed by the Open Society Initiative for Europe and has also received support from the Citizenship Fund. The consortium comprises nine organisations: Amnesty International Poland, the Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights, Migrant Info Point, Polish Migration Forum, the NOMADA Association, the “Our Choice” Foundation, the Association for Legal Intervention and the Homo Faber Association, as well as *Uchodźcy.info* and *With Bread and Salt* initiatives (currently registered as the Polish Hospitality Foundation).

**Contact details:**

e-mail: [biuro@interwencjaprawna.pl](mailto:biuro@interwencjaprawna.pl)

website: <https://konsorcjum.org.pl/>

### **Kuchnia Konfliktu (Warsaw)**

Kuchnia Konfliktu [Conflict Kitchen] is a project combining social activism and cuisine. In the restaurant, migrants and foreigners serve dishes from their homelands. Along with the dishes, customers get information on the political situation of a given region, as well as its culture, art and social life. Each order by a customer is accompanied by a personal story of an individual with a migration background. Kuchnia Konfliktu also organises meetings and film screenings. Ahead of local elections, Kuchnia Konfliktu invited candidates for the Mayor of Warsaw to come and talk about the situation of foreigners in Poland – the invitation was accepted by two individuals.

**Contact details**

e-mail: [kuchniakonfliktu@gmail.com](mailto:kuchniakonfliktu@gmail.com)

website: <https://www.facebook.com/kuchniakonfliktu/>

### **Informal groups**

The so-called refugee crisis gave rise to a number of informal initiatives whose members have engaged in various kinds of activities for refugees since 2015. The actions involve charity projects (raising goods or money), advocacy activities, demonstrations of support for receiving people fleeing from war and persecution, and various educational, information and cultural activities aimed at raising public awareness of refugees' situations and combating stereotypes. **Eleven such initiatives** are listed on the *Uchodźcy.info* website, one of them being the **Open House**, which has been run in Warsaw since 2016. Its main areas of focus are giving classes (also at schools), organising collections of goods and money as well as lobbying in migrant issues. Thanks to the cooperation with similar initiatives abroad, some of the groups provide support outside Poland. For instance, **Dobrowolki Group – Aid for Refugees** provides support mostly to refugees along the so-called Balkan route, and the individuals associated with **From Poznań with Love** bring help to Lesbos island.

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## About the Author

Agnieszka Mikulska-Jolles is an ethnologist and cultural anthropologist who works for the Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights. In addition to managing projects and delivering training, she also does research and has authored publications on racism, discrimination and minority rights, including reports and expert opinions for international organisations and institutions (for instance the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights and the European Commission). Agnieszka cooperates on a regular basis with organisations dealing with human rights as well as migration and integration. She has also received the prestigious Marshall Memorial Fellowship.

## About the Foundation

**The Heinrich Böll Foundation** is a German green political foundation that operates in over 60 countries to promote sustainable development, gender democracy and intercultural understanding. The Warsaw Office runs projects in the areas of Energy & Climate, Democracy & Human Rights, International Policy, and European Rural Policy. Its mission is to enhance democracy and human rights, increase civic participation and promote long-term and balanced socio-economic modernisation based on sustainable and just development and a clean environment. The key link between all these activities is common European values. In the area of migration and integration, in collaboration with partner organisations and experts, the Foundation releases publications and organises conferences, training, school workshops and exhibitions (for instance EXILIUM).

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Poland does not have much experience with accommodating foreigners, nor with their integration. For decades, it was a country of emigrants, with relatively high numbers of foreigners beginning to settle there after the collapse of the communist system and after Poland's accession to the European Union, but these were no mass movements. It is only since 2014 that a sharp increase in migration to Poland has occurred, the main reason being the eruption of the conflict in eastern Ukraine. Migration has also been driven by the upturn in the Polish economy, as well as relatively liberal regulations on the foreigners' access to the labour market.

Since 2015, political changes regarding the approach to migration, especially forced migrants, have also been introduced. Migration has become a political issue since the debate on how to solve the so-called refugee crisis coincided with the campaign for parliamentary elections in Poland in 2015. The government announced it would develop a new migration policy. According to the guidelines which are already known to the public, Poland will continue to receive migrant workers in order to offset the effects of demographic changes and meet the needs of the labour market. This publication analyses the current development of migration and integration policy in Poland and presents key actors of its implementation.