

LLP-ERASMUS
Intensive Programme

**Internet advanced promotional tools application for increasing awareness
of social exclusions movement**

Social exclusion of immigrants in Poland

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Introduction

*We know that social exclusion is closely tied to the new economic world order, globalized,
with free and open markets,
which isn't bringing prosperity or social justice to all.*

Claudio Hummes

The objective of the report is to provide an insight into the immigration phenomenon in the case of Poland, putting the emphasis on the issues basically associated with immigrants' exclusion. In the era of globalization, unlike during any other historical period, the case of immigrants has become of the great importance because of a regular and intensive migration flow within the countries.

The aim of this paper is to verify if the immigrants are a unit excluded from society or if the native inhabitants integrate them to the local structures. In that respect, integration is defined as the social coexistence that brings about racial desegregation, equal opportunities regardless of race and cultural origin. The nature of the process is quite complex and may appear in many aspects (structural, cultural, social etc.) affecting both immigrants and the receiving society. Actually, exclusion is the opposite concept, which denies certain groups access to rights, opportunities and resources and prevents an individual from participating in the basic political, cultural and economic aspects of living in society. Exclusion affects the minorities as they are either unable to adjust to the social conditions or they are far different from the characteristics represented by the majority.

R. Szarfenberg treats the immigrant exclusion as "Long-term, systematic and unjust actions which directly or indirectly limit the possibilities of satisfying the needs and achieving values of certain people, groups or communities"¹. The synthetic definition of the phenomenon could be understood as a form of alienation and denial of full citizenship experienced by particular individuals or communities. Thus, the immigrants cannot benefit from the social and democratic activities of the countries in which they permanently live.

¹ <http://www.isp.org.pl/files/15092712760608654001258628195.pdf>



The size of the exclusion of immigrants is constantly growing as more foreigners decide to stay permanently. Poland which is geographically located between Eastern and Western Europe, generally was considered by the immigrants from outside the EU as a transit country. However, it remains the member of European Union that has not fallen into deep recession during the crisis and has continued to grow economically, which changes the foreigners' perception of the country and attracts them. Thus, the issue of immigration is expected to be a matter of public debate in the near future more and more often (together with the problem of exclusion).

Poland has a relatively short history of immigration compared to other European Union members; therefore the exclusion is mainly associated with the lack of the legislation and poor public awareness. The communist regime prevented the processes of immigration by a restrictive migration policy, making Poland an example of ethnic homogeneity. The above-mentioned historical factors have determined contemporary society's perception of the international migration phenomenon and of the immigrants in general. Since Poland became a member of the European Union, the government has adapted its migration policy to EU standards and support pro-immigrant initiatives. Many information campaigns and educational activities are organized in order to promote tolerance and respect for cultural and national identity. Nevertheless, the problem of integration of foreigners is visible not only in the case of the refugees but also among economic immigrants - considering their situation on the labour market. Moreover, long-term legalization procedures, the need of an annual renewal of their residence permit and the refusal of the employers to give jobs to foreigners without a permit (even if they live permanently on the Polish territory) are also noted as a result of institutional deficiencies.

The Report is divided into six thematic parts concerning the case of immigrants in Poland. The first section provides the summary about the level and structure of immigration. The second part contains the causes and consequences of the immigrants' exclusion. Chapter three details the government's role in preventing the exclusion of immigrants. The next sections refer mainly to the actions and activities of institutions against the phenomenon. The last part is about the characteristics of Emigrant Association, which is a Silesian institution involved in projects for immigrants

1. Level and structure of immigrants' exclusion

According to the Eurostat report "Population of foreign citizens in the EU27 in 2009" the number of foreigners living in Poland is estimated to be 35900 people, which corresponds to 0,1% of the total population. 71% (25600 people) of foreigners living in the country were citizens from outside the EU and 29% (10300 people) were citizens of another EU member state.² Nevertheless, those are approximate data. The latest comprehensive research about the foreign population in the country was the Polish census of 2002³, which indicated the number of 49221 foreigners living in Poland. The most-widely represented nationalities were the Germans (5429 people) and the Ukrainians (3749 people)⁴.

Table 1, Most widely represented nationalities in Poland according to Polish Census⁵

Nationality	Number of citizens
German	5 429
Ukrainian	3 749
Russian	2 843
Vietnamese	1 358
Belorussian	965
Bulgarian	705

GUS has elaborated a system of international migration statistics based on three types of data sources: administrative systems, statistical surveys and foreign data sources. Nevertheless, the data concerning the immigrant people at risk of poverty or social exclusion are still uncertain.

The immigration rate i.e. applicable to the group of people who are permanent residents of another country, but temporarily staying in Poland⁶ is estimated to be lower than in other countries of the EU. Acquisition of data on the actual level of migration is very difficult as many foreigners stay in Poland without registration or with unsettled residential status. However,

² http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/cache/ITY_PUBLIC/3-07092010-AP/EN/3-07092010-AP-EN.PDF

³ at the time of elaborating the publication, the results of the census of 2011 were not available

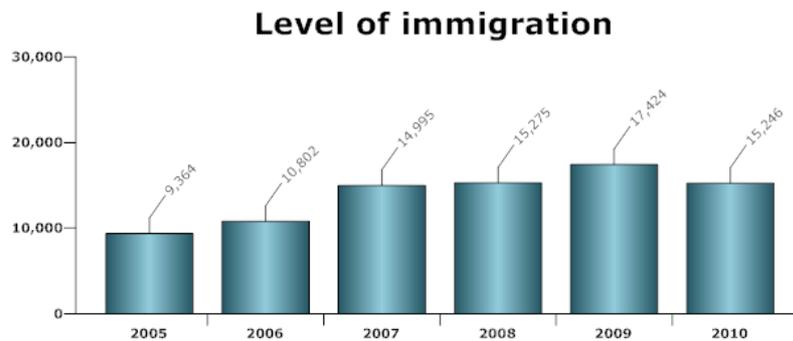
⁴ <http://www.udsc.gov.pl/Zestawienia,roczne,233.html>

⁵ ibidem

⁶ http://www.stat.gov.pl/cps/rde/xbcr/gus/PUBL_p_inter_migration_stat_system_in_poland.pdf

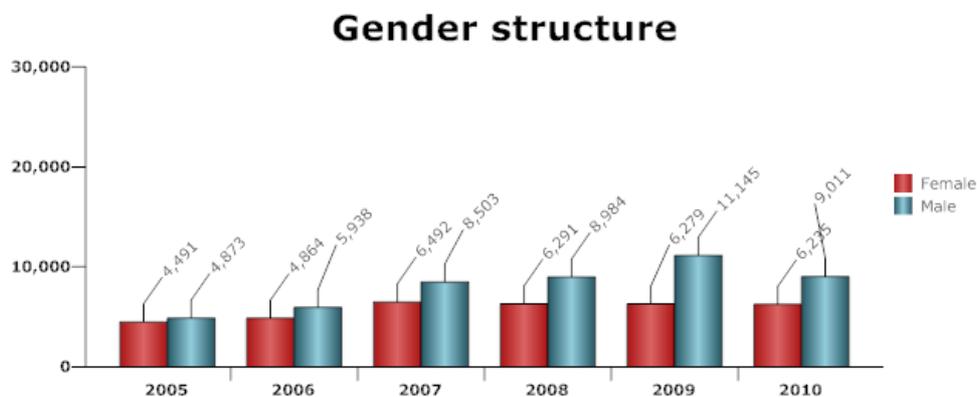
according to GUS research, during the years 2005-2009 the number of immigrants was increasing steadily (from 9 364 to 17 424). However in 2010 the rate declined slightly (15 246)⁷.

Figure 1, Level of immigration in Poland⁸



The statistics indicate the evident dominance of male immigrants in the gender structure analyzing the period from 2005 to 2010. Since 2007 the percentage of women on the whole remains unchanged⁹. In 2010 the number of immigrant men was at least 30% higher than that of immigrant women.

Figure 2, Gender structure of immigrants in Poland¹⁰



⁷ <http://demografia.stat.gov.pl/bazademografia/Tables.aspx>

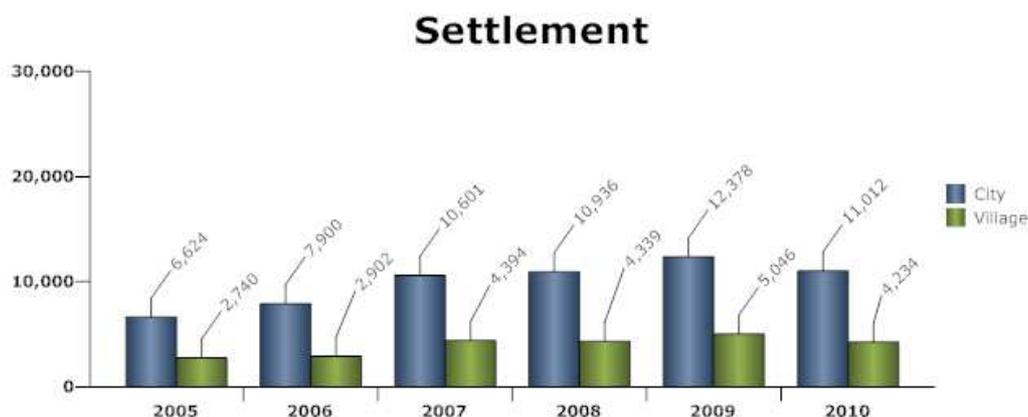
⁸ ibidem

⁹ ibidem

¹⁰ ibidem

In general, more immigrants live in the cities than in villages. In 2010, the number of foreigners staying in the urban zones was approximately three times as high (11012 people) as those in the rural area (4234 people).

Figure 3, Settlement of immigrants in Poland¹¹



Śląskie Voivodeship has the largest number of immigrants – 2214 foreigners. The data related to the immigrants in other Voivodeships are presented in Table 2. There is a visible trend among the foreigners to choose the provinces with a high level of urbanization.

Table 2, Settlement of immigrants by Voivodeship¹²

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Dolnośląskie	772	1171	1785	1771	1940	1813
Kujawsko-pomorskie	224	396	652	588	663	526
Lubelskie	331	270	537	524	576	421
Lubuskie	391	430	490	520	561	557
Łódzkie	312	324	509	487	576	533
Małopolskie	1294	1161	1646	1756	2076	1966
Mazowieckie	973	1362	1334	1394	1453	1282
Opolskie	862	831	1068	889	1010	726
Podkarpackie	738	717	909	1029	1151	907
Podlaskie	462	394	415	410	400	521
Pomorskie	670	752	1287	1280	1453	1296
Śląskie	1238	1344	2046	2351	2715	2214
Świętokrzyskie	113	216	346	335	391	329
Wamińsko-mazurskie	293	423	621	577	674	755
Wielkopolskie	356	403	599	643	899	661
Zachodniopomorskie	335	608	751	721	886	739

¹¹ ibidem

¹² ibidem



2. Causes and consequences of immigrants exclusion

The term social exclusion refers to a situation in which the person or persons who are members of the society cannot fully participate in its political, economic and cultural life¹³. This is achieved by, inter alia, reduction of social rights and the lack of access to goods and institutions in the country or region.

In Poland, as in other European Union countries, there is a problem of social exclusion of immigrants. People who came from abroad to settle in the country face the problem of lack of acceptance. There are many reasons for which the phenomenon of exclusion of immigrants from society appears. These are the most common causes of social exclusion of immigrants in Poland:

- Poverty – people came to Poland hoping for a solution to their material problems. However, their situation does not improve and in some cases it even gets worse (not always but often)
- Lack of education causes inability to take well-paid jobs - Poland, despite the opinion which can be observed among people, especially from the eastern side, is not a paradise. Not everybody can find a well-paid job. Everybody must gain a specialized knowledge and big experience to find a well-paid job.
- Prejudice among Polish citizens and deepening stereotypes – Poles are a distrustful nation, foreigners must earn their trust. An additional difficulty for immigrants is a large number of harmful stereotypes which concern foreigners.
- The reluctance of immigrants to assimilate with the local population and their isolation from other citizens – a common cause of social exclusion of immigrants is their behavior, unwillingness to learn about the culture and traditions of the Poles and the creation of a kind of ghetto, where immigrants live in large groups in which the Poles are not welcome.

¹³ Dach Z.: *Ekonomiczno-społeczne problemy transformacji systemowej w Polsce*. Wydawnictwo ekonomiczne w Krakowie, Kraków 2007, s. 90-91.



- Cultural barriers – each country has its traditions and manners. Deciding to move to another country, people should face the fact that they will have to submit to the habits that prevail in it¹⁴.
- Language barriers – a basic mistake that immigrants make is to come into the country without at least basic knowledge of the language¹⁵.

People emigrate to find their own piece of land. The place where they will be happy, the place where they can live in dignity and not just exist. The most common reason for leaving a country is seeking employment and improve the level of their earnings. Another popular reason for emigration is escaping from the territories threatened by natural disasters and armed conflicts¹⁶.

Social exclusion of immigrants affects both themselves and the local community, citizens of Poland and of the European Union.

The effects of social exclusion of immigrants are¹⁷:

- Deepening poverty – people came to Poland with the hope of improving their financial situation. On the spot it is apparent that the amount of money in their wallet does not increase or decrease dramatically, causing a debit on their account.
- Taking low-level jobs – by doing simple work, immigrants do not have a chance to raise their social status.
- Unemployment or illegal employment – it also happens that immigrants coming to Poland do not find any job. If they are not financially secure before leaving their country, money can be spent quickly and immigrants can become homeless or be forced to go back to their country.
- Addictions to alcohol or drugs – a difficult financial situation can lead to several pathologies such as alcoholism or drugs. People who fall into the trap

¹⁴ Kok W.: *Facing the challenge. The Lisbon strategy for growth and employment*. Office for Official Publications of the European Communities, Luxembourg 2004.

¹⁵ Ibidem.

¹⁶ Zięba M.: *Migracja – wyzwanie XXI wieku*. Katolicki Uniwersytet Lubelski, Lubelska Szkoła Biznesu, Lublin 2008.

¹⁷ Frieske K.: *Kumulacja czynników marginalności społecznej*. [w:] *Polityka społeczna. Wybrane problemy*.

Wybór artykułów z lat 1999 – 2005. Wydawnictwo Instytutu Pracy i Spraw Socjalnych, Warszawa 2005, s. 247.



of addiction will roll on the margins of society from which it is very difficult to escape without other people's help.

- Problem with law, crime – often a difficult financial situation may encourage the immigrants to indulge into unlawful activities.
- Prostitution – prostitution is one of the effects of social exclusion of immigrants. Those who cannot find legal work decide to make fast and easy profit by selling their bodies..

The effects of social exclusion of immigrants also affect local communities. The most common ones are:

- The increase in crime – the fear of local communities concerning immigrants who, because of the lack of work, commit thefts, robberies and other crimes.
- The deepening of stereotypes – the bad financial situation of immigrants can contribute to deepening of already big amount of stereotypes that exist in Poland (for example a dirty Romanian or alcoholic from the East).
- The fear of transferring to Poland traditions and habits from other countries – immigrants do not assimilate with Polish citizens, do not know their habits and bring their own (for example , a progressive Islamization not only of Poland but also of Europe can be noticed).

Here are the effects of social exclusion of immigrants that affect the country:

- The need to create support programs for foreigners – the government is forced to create active labor market programs, social programs and others using the state budget.
- Establishment of centers for foreigners – the state budget is spent on creating institution in which foreigners can find shelter.

3. Government role in preventing immigrants exclusion

The exclusion of foreigners is not currently recognized in Poland as an important social or political problem. But it does not mean that this situation cannot be changed in the future. Structure of the Polish population has a low percentage of foreigners. Only a small group of foreigners decide to stay permanently in Poland. The vast majority treat Poland as a transit country. Due to these factors, activities on integration in Poland are in the early stage of development.

The basic legal acts referring integration and exclusion of foreigners and are among others: the Act of 15 February 1962 on Polish citizenship, the Act of 7 April 1989 - Law of Associations, the Act of 17 May 1989 on Guarantees of freedom of conscience and religion, the Act of 7 September 1991 the education system, the Act of 13 June 2003 on granting protection to foreigners on Polish territory, the Act of 12 March 2004 on social assistance, the Act of 20 April 2004 on employment promotion and labor market institutions and the Act of 27 July 2005 - Law on Higher Education¹⁸.

The Polish government develops a migration policy, which includes actions preventing the exclusion of immigrants. A document "Polish Migration Policy - present and postulated actions" was prepared by The Team for Migration, an advisory body of the Prime Minister. Authors of the document describe an objective of a integration policy as: "creating a friendly environment for immigrants, allowing them to live independently, using the opportunities offered by the labor market, education and healthcare system, preparing them to participate in social life and to use of their rights". Actions, which are proposed to implement the policy are divided in three groups: efforts to create solutions, actions directed to the host society to build inter-cultural dialogue and conduct studies about the phenomenon of migration. The first group of actions refers to: the adoption of comprehensive legal solutions for the integration of foreigners, the formulation of local programs for newly arrived migrants, the support of local institutions by providing better practices and stimulating the cooperation between local communities, immigrants and non-governmental organizations. The second

¹⁸ POLITYKA MIGRACYJNA POLSKI – stan obecny i postulowane działania. Redakcja: Ministerstwo Spraw Wewnętrznych i Administracji - Departament Polityki Migracyjnej, 20 LIPCA 2011, s. 67.

category of actions includes: launching information campaigns and training, releasing publications on foreigners in Poland, conducting activities aimed to make people respect the rights of foreigners and prevent them from discriminating against the immigrants, preparing officers, teachers and employees of public institutions to the specificity of working with foreigners, creating platforms for cooperation between representatives of Polish society and communities of immigrants. Studies and monitoring the problem of migration requires conducting research about the needs for integration of immigrants and their expectations when arriving in Poland. The research process should be improved by developing the most appropriate indicators (in Polish conditions) of the degree of integration of migrants, strengthening the existing system of data- collection and monitoring social attitudes and information provided by the mass media which are affecting the integration of immigrants¹⁹.

Institutions that implement elements of the policy on the issue of integration of foreigners are: the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Administration, the Office for Foreigners, Human Rights' Defender and Plenipotentiary for Equal Treatment²⁰.

The Ministry of Labour and Social Policy is a leading agency in creating the policy of integration of foreigners in Poland²¹. The department is responsible for the implantation of a program "The active forms of countering social exclusion". The idea of a program is to prevent different groups within society from exclusion by a synergy actions resting on three pillars: - Employment (Employment Office), Social Assistance – (social welfare centers), Social and Vocational Integration (Clubs and Centers for Social Integration)²². Moreover The Ministry of Labour and Social Policy supports centers for social integration and powiat's family support centers (PCPR).

The Ministry of Internal Affairs and Administration coordinates activities in the area of migration and anti-discrimination. There are three main departments of the Ministry dealing with issues related to immigration: the Team for Combating and Preventing Human

¹⁹ POLITYKA MIGRACYJNA POLSKI – stan obecny i postulowane działania. Redakcja: Ministerstwo Spraw Wewnętrznych i Administracji - Departament Polityki Migracyjnej, 20 LIPCA 2011, s. 72-75.

²⁰ POLITYKA MIGRACYJNA POLSKI – stan obecny i postulowane działania. Redakcja: Ministerstwo Spraw Wewnętrznych i Administracji - Departament Polityki Migracyjnej, 20 LIPCA 2011, s. 68- 69.

²¹ www.mpips.gov.pl, 07.02.2012.

²² <http://www.mpips.gov.pl/pomoc-spoeczna/programy/programy-zatwierdzone-przez-ministra-pracy-i-polityki-spoecznej-na-lata-2011-2015/program-aktywne-formy-przeciwdzialania-wykluczeniu-spoecznemu-edycja-2011/>, 07.02.2012.

Trafficking, the Department for Citizenship and the Department of Migration Policy. In terms of foreigners' integration, the most important role is for the Department of Migration Policy. It conducts and coordinates the implementation of actions in the field of state migration policy, in particular: cooperation in the development and implementation of migration and integration policies towards immigrants, initiating, analyzing and issuing opinions on normative acts and other documents, initiating and co-organizing projects aimed at promoting knowledge on the issues of migration policy. The department is also involved in data collecting and preparing studies on a migration situation, conducting international cooperation in the field of migration matters and cooperating with other institutions,²³

The Office for Foreigners is primarily responsible for conducting administrative proceedings, including: legalizing the stay of foreigners, processing visa applications and granting refugee status. Moreover, the Office for Foreigners is involved in actions against social exclusion of immigrants. It cooperates with public benefit organizations in terms of providing assistance and guidance services in fields of: legal advice, vocational activation and education of foreigners, actions for the local community, actions for refugee children²⁴

The Human Rights Defender safeguards the interests of all citizens of the Republic of Poland. One of its duties is to establish the Commission of Experts on Migration.

The Plenipotentiary Government for Equal Treatment is an institution responsible for the coordination of projects and undertakings on equal treatment. Those actions include counteracting discrimination due to sex, race, ethnicity, nationality, religion or faith, political convictions, age, sexual orientation, and marital or family status²⁵. That plenipotentiary body organizes various kinds of social campaigns on many problems. In May 2011 the Government Plenipotentiary for Equal Treatment launched a public campaign under the slogan "Get rid of xenophobia from streets". The campaign was to combat anti-Semitic, racist and xenophobic inscriptions and graffiti from public space in Polish cities. Several Polish cities, the Polish Scouting Association, and numerous NGOs participated in the campaign²⁶. Apart from that,

²³ <http://www2.mswia.gov.pl/portal/pl/78/4066/>, 07.02.2012.

²⁴ <http://www.udsc.gov.pl>, 07.02.2012.

²⁵ <http://rownetraktowanie.gov.pl/>, 07.02.2012.

²⁶ <http://rownetraktowanie.gov.pl/kampanie/kampania-spoeczna-wymiecm-yksenofobie-z-ulic-letnie-porzadki-dla-tolerancji>, 07.02.2012.



the Plenipotentiary is promoting a project called “Equality Network”²⁷ and it is involved in organizing a special contest for projects against discrimination “Poland to All”²⁸.

Regional government institutions responsible for immigration issues are local government bodies– “voivodeship” offices. In Silesia this function is held by The Silesian Voivodeship Office. It is responsible for the registration of residence of immigrants. The Voivodeship office provides guidance on work for foreigners on the Polish territory and issues appropriate work permits. The institution implements “Human Capital Program”. The program promotes actions protecting different groups of people against exclusion, including immigrants²⁹.

At the local level, government institutions responsible for helping foreigners are “powiat’s” family support center (PCPR). They pay out social welfare benefits to immigrants, provide medical care and counseling services³⁰. The total amount of social assistance granted in 2010 by the centers of social assistance to all foreigners in Poland was 3,794,129.89 zł. The total number of all foreigners benefiting from social assistance in 2010 was 3064 (including 836 women and 1600 children)³¹. In Silesia are located 17 PCPRs³².

²⁷ <http://www.sieczrownosci.gov.pl/o-projekcie/>, 07.02.2012.

²⁸ <http://www.polskadlawszystkich.pl/>, 07.02.2012.

²⁹ <http://www.funduszeuropejskie.gov.pl/poradnikbeneficjenta/pokl/strony/7.2.1-aktywizacja-zawodowa-i-spoleczna-osob-zagro.aspx>, 07.02.2012.

³⁰ <http://www.pcpr.info/>, 07.02.2012.

³¹

http://www.mpips.gov.pl/gfx/mpips/userfiles/_public/1_NOWA%20STRONA/Pomoc%20spoleczna/statystyki/2011/2010%20pomoc_w_PCPR_i OPS_dla_cudzoziemcow.pdf, 07.02.2012.

³² <http://www.pcpr.info/>, 07.02.2012.



4. Institutions and their actions

Apart from governmental institutions responsible for preventing exclusion against immigrants there are in Poland many other organizations, dealing with this problem. We can divide them into three main groups: international organizations, NGOs and organizations of foreigners in Poland.

International organizations involved in working for the migrants in Poland are: the International Organization for Migration and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in Central Europe.

The International Organization for Migration is an intergovernmental organization founded and in 1951. IOM includes 132 member countries. It deals with problems of migrants, supports countries in conducting proper migration and integration policies, helps migrants and protect their rights. IOM has been operating in Poland since 2002. It leads projects for assistance in case of voluntary return and reintegration, fights against illegal migration and human trafficking, takes care of immigrant's integration, health and conducts research projects. The Warsaw office of IOM conducts the following integration projects: "Intercultural School in a Multicultural City" and "Cooperation is a way to Integration". The project "Cooperation is a way to integration" began in 2010. Its purpose is to promote the integration of immigrants in Poland. As part of the project, a national platform for cooperation between organizations of immigrants and Polish institutions has been established. The platform serves as a forum for communication, exchange of information and experiences between the participating institutions. The platform is attended by representatives of government and other public institutions, trade unions and employers' organizations, social and cultural associations, religious organizations, political parties, NGOs and migrants' organizations. Apart from that project, seminars on various issues affecting the integration of immigrants in Poland have been held. The second project is "Intercultural School in the Multicultural City," which was implemented by the International Organization for Migration in cooperation with the Bureau of Education of Warsaw and the Department of Education of Warsaw in 2009. The project includes intercultural training program, which is dedicated to teachers, parents and students. Problems and needs expressed by teachers participating in



these workshops have formed the basis for creating the agenda of the seminar "School towards cultural diversity" and the idea for an art competition "Foreigners in Poland - so different and so similar." The project has been financed by the European Fund for the Integration of Third-Country Nationals (EIF). 1345 people, including 208 teachers and school principals, and 1029 students have participated in the project since 2009³³.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees for Central Europe was founded in 1950 by the United Nations. The office is responsible for leading and coordinating global actions to protect and resolve problems related to migrants. Its primary purpose is to safeguard the rights and well-being of immigrants. Today the organization operates in 125 countries worldwide and it is helping around 33.9 million people. The UNHCR Office was established in Poland in 1992. The UNHCR main tasks are: monitoring the borders, ensuring legal protection, overseeing reception conditions, promoting integration, resettlement, caring for vulnerable groups, protecting the stateless people. In 1951 the UNHCR prepared a lists of socioeconomic and legal rights, which are needed for successful immigrants integration. The list consist of such indicators as: freedom of movement, access to education and labour market, access to public relief, the possibility of acquiring property and the possibility of citizenship. The organization pays attention to the issue of integration of migrants in Central Europe. The UNHCR develops documents, which provide guidelines for governments in terms of integration policies. Those documents are : "Note on Refugee Integration in Central Europe" and "Agenda for Refugee Integration in Central Europe". In terms of promoting refugee integration the UNHCR helps countries to develop appropriate legislative solutions on education, health, social welfare and employment. The organization lobbies for the foundation of services that enable integration of foreigners. The Regional Representation in Central Europe has developed in cooperation with the Migration Policy Group the comprehensive Integration Evaluation Tool. The tool will help to measure the level and the success of integration through over 200 indicators. The draft tool will be piloted both in Central European and other European countries during a period of 18 months³⁴.

The second group of organizations linked to the problem of immigrants exclusion are NGOs. The examples of national NGOs are: the Center for Refugees of Polish Humanitarian

³³ www.iom.pl/, 09.02.2012.

³⁴ <http://www.unhcr-centraleurope.org/en/index.html>, 09.02.2012.



Action, the Foundation for Intercultural Education, the Foundation Diversity Forum, the Foundation "Salvation", the Foundation "Polish Migration Forum", the Development Foundation "Without Borders", the Association for the Protection and Integration of Foreigners "Proxenia", the Association "One World", the Cultural Practitioners Association and the Association "Villa Decius'.

The Center for Refugees of Polish Humanitarian Action conducts social and vocational counseling for foreigners and Polish language training programs. It leads Refugee Home. The Centre is also involved in advocacy and lobbying for refugees. PAH promotes integration of foreigners in Poland. It informs about the situation of refugees in Poland and around the world. Organization publishes the journal "Refugee.pl" and it runs websites www.uchodzczydoszkoly.pl and www.refuge.pl. PAH publishes books and guides for immigrants, outsources preparation of surveys. The organization participates in the initiatives of the NGO sector for the development of good laws and wise immigration policy. The Centre organizes the celebration of the International Refugee Day, in which are carried out public awareness campaigns, presentations of movies about refugees "Refugee Review", exhibitions, competitions and outdoor events³⁵.

The Foundation for Intercultural Education is preparing proposals for activities with children, material for teachers to facilitate teaching about multiculturalism. It promotes traveling and learning about other cultures through the publication of travel memories and photos from different countries. On its website the foundation publishes articles explaining the lives of people in other countries and other cultures as well as information and links to interesting projects with a multicultural background³⁶.

The Foundation "Diversity Forum" leads mobile information point for migrants. It provides legal information and various kinds of welfare tips in Russian, English, Ukrainian, French and German³⁷.

The Foundation "Salvation" offers a variety of support for the integration of refugees and migrants. It provides support of mentors, which are representatives of migrants, helping kinsmen to organize their lives in Poland. The foundation supports immigrants with

³⁵ www.pah.org.pl, 10.02.2012.

³⁶ <http://miedzykulturowa.org.pl/>, 10.02.2012.

³⁷ www.ffr.org.pl, 10.02.2012.



psychological help and career guidance. It employs mediators who help to resolve cultural conflicts³⁸.

The Foundation "Polish Migration Forum" promotes respect for human rights of foreigners in Poland, mainly through information and education. It publishes on its website guidebooks for foreigners in Polish, English and Russian³⁹.

The Development Foundation "Without Borders" promotes bringing together nations, societies and countries in Central and Eastern Europe. It runs the Migrant Knowledge Portal, which is a useful compendium of information for immigrants in Poland. The foundation takes care of the Migrant Career Center, which is a type of a specialized employment agency for immigrants⁴⁰.

The Association for the Protection and Integration of Foreigners "Proxenia" is a non-governmental organization, which aims to play an active role in creating legal and social conditions for the participation of foreigners in Polish public life⁴¹.

The Association "One World" runs a program of education on refugees and interculturalism. In the summer it organizes games and workshops for children in refugee centers due to the involvement of an international group of volunteers⁴².

The Cultural Practitioners carries out artistic actions associated with multiculturalism. It creates performances with the participation of foreigners in Poland⁴³.

The Association "Villa Decius" leads diversified initiatives to promote interculturalism and tolerance, mostly among young people. Projects, which are implemented by "Villa Decius" are: the Action Laboratory - empowerment workshop for adults, the International Conferences, the International Summer Academy of Art, the Visegrad Summer School and the Gardens of Creativity. The Association runs a program "Education for Integration", which aims to increase the efficiency of integration and to improve equal opportunities for immigrants in Polish society. The addressees of the project are teachers, trainers, researchers and students of pedagogy, which are considered to be a basis for building an open society. Moreover the organization deals with problems of national and ethnic

³⁸ www.ocalenie.org.pl, 10.02.2012.

³⁹ www.forummigracyjne.org, 10.02.2012.

⁴⁰ www.frog.org.pl, 10.02.2012.

⁴¹ www.proxenia.org.pl/, 10.02.2012.

⁴² www.jedenswiat.org.pl, 10.02.2012.

⁴³ www.praktycy.org, 10.02.2012.



minorities. It organizes trainings, seminars and conferences devoted mainly to the Roma minority in Poland. The association since 2003 has handed the Polish Prize of Sergio Vieira de Mello - UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (2002-2003). Award has been given to individuals and non-governmental organizations pursuing an objective of peaceful coexistence and cooperation of communities, religions and cultures. The "Villa Decius" in cooperation with the sponsors founds scholarships in literature.⁴⁴

There are also a few examples of local and regional non-governmental organizations, which are aimed at supporting the immigrants' integration in Poland. Those are: the Foundation "A'venir", the Creativity and Education Foundation and the Foundation 'The Other Space'.

The Foundation "A'venir" runs in Lublin educational program about refugees dedicated to schools. The Foundation carries out such projects as "Intercultural dialogue - the exchange of experience", "Intercultural competence in working with foreigners" and "Social work with foreigners - a pilot project for social workers MOPR Lublin". The projects are aimed to improve a standard of service for foreigners by raising the qualifications of officials and social services in the Lublin province.⁴⁵

The Creativity and Education Foundation manages a program of support for the integration of foreigners, who are applying for refugee status in Bialystok. It helps in finding housing for immigrants and organizes cultural events. The main field of activities of the foundation is education, in particular teaching foreigners the Polish language⁴⁶.

The Foundation 'The Other Space' takes actions for the integration of foreigners, builds a positive image of foreigners and promotes cross-cultural actions in Warsaw. It supports artistic activity of migrants. An interesting project of the Foundation is "Multicultural Warsaw Street Party". It is a street festival, which aims to promote multiculturalism through an atmosphere of fun. A culmination point of the event is a colorful parade along the streets of the Polish capital city. Another project is called "Transkaukazja". This is the only international, multidisciplinary festival inspired by the modern Caucasus. It takes place in the open, central urban areas and well-known Warsaw clubs and cafes. The

⁴⁴ www.villa.org.pl, 11.02.2012.

⁴⁵ www.avenir.ngo.org.pl/, 11.02.2012.

⁴⁶ www.mentoring.pl/, 11.02.2012.



festival is organized every two years and it is interdisciplinary. It presents the events of borderline species, visual arts, music, site-specific events.⁴⁷

In Poland there are also organizations, which were created by foreigners. Among them are: the African Culture Center "Motema Africa", the Welcome Center, the Armenian Foundation, the Kurdish Information and Documentation Centre, the Polish-Sudanese Association for the cooperation and friendship "Nil-Vistula", the Association "House of Caucasus in Poland", the Armenian Cultural Association, the Vietforum.

The African Culture Center "Motema Africa" brings together Africans and friends of Africa in Poland. It mainly engages in artistic activities promoting African music⁴⁸. The center offers: drumming workshops, language courses (Swahili, Arabic, English and Polish for foreigners) and meetings on Africa's culture and tolerance of races and cultures. Moreover the center has a African music band, which gives concerts in various places in Poland⁴⁹.

The Welcome Center was founded by women migrants from East and West. The organization supports immigrants by offering legal advice, Polish language classes and counseling. It also runs a free internet cafe for migrants⁵⁰.

The Armenian Foundation environment supports the Armenians in Poland - both national minority in Poland and migrants who has arrived to Poland in recent years⁵¹.

The main purpose of the Kurdish Information and Documentation Center is to promote Kurdish culture in Poland, true information about the Kurdish nation, its history and language among the Poles and to integrate the Kurds living in Poland⁵².

The Armenian Cultural Association works to preserve the cultural heritage of Armenians in Poland. It also supports the recent immigration of Armenians to Poland⁵³.

The Association "House of Caucasus in Poland" promotes knowledge about Caucasus in Poland. The Association is also trying to gather a community of migrants from the Caucasus and promote dialogue between nations of the Caucasus⁵⁴.

⁴⁷ www.przestrzen.art.pl, 11.02.2012.

⁴⁸ http://kontynent-warszawa.pl/content-2-miejsca-93-centrum_kultury_afryka%C5%84skiej___motema_africa.htm, 12.02.2012.

⁴⁹ www.motemaafrica.net, 12.02.2012.

⁵⁰ www.centrumpowitania.org.pl, 12.02.2012.

⁵¹ www.fundacjaormianska.pl, 12.02.2012.

⁵² www.kurd.pl, 12.02.2012.

⁵³ www.otk.armenia.pl, 13.02.2012.

⁵⁴ <http://domkaukaski.org>, 13.02.2012.



5. Other activities against immigrants exclusion

In the previous chapter the organizations which deal with the problems of immigrants in Poland were described. There are actions that lead to the integration of immigrants and Poles and to the minimization of the social exclusion of immigrants. There are many different types of events and social campaigns. Below there is a description of the most popular activities.

The University of Silesia is also trying to fight against the stereotypes and social exclusion by organizing the Arab Culture Day at the Faculty of Arabic in Sosnowiec⁵⁵. Hundreds of guests visit the faculty to view the photos from the far corners of the world, to decorate their bodies with traditional makeup, get a business card with their names written in Arabic or taste the delicacies from Arab countries. Visitors can also take part in the competition checking their knowledge of the culture of the Middle East. The event was graced by professional dancers performing a belly dance and a concert of Arabic songs. With the event the university encourages young people to study at the Faculty of Arabic, and builds a positive image of people from the Middle East. The event is an opportunity to strengthen intercultural dialogue, overcoming stereotypes and building bridges between our societies⁵⁶.

Another example of action directed against the social exclusion of immigrants is the Cardiff-Warsaw Integration Project. This is a project implemented in collaboration with schools, local authorities and NGOs from Warsaw and Cardiff (United Kingdom) which was initiated on the basis of experience in the integration of newly arrived immigrant families in the education system. The project website provides information that *“there has been a rapid and recent increase in the number of newly arriving pupils in both partner regions (Cardiff and Warsaw) who do not have an understanding of English (Cardiff) or Polish (Warsaw). The parents and these children are unprepared for the education system in their new country. Language barriers, as well as finding ways to adapt into their new society, can be both challenging and frustrating for new comers. It is recognised that many have come from challenging backgrounds from their country of origin. Furthermore many parents have not*

⁵⁵ <http://gu.us.edu.pl/node/266191>, 15.02.2012.

⁵⁶ <http://www.fil.us.edu.pl/index2.php?s=aktualnosci/dniarabskie>, 15.02.2012.



experienced formal schooling in their home country and are in need of support programmes"⁵⁷.

Many of the actions against social exclusion of immigrants are organized by the Foundation "Salvation". Their projects include *MultiTraining*, *Social and economic integration of Muslim immigrants in Poland* and the *Foreigners Assistance Center - Warsaw*. *MultiTraining* is a workshop for officials and government officials. The project provides a combination of training and workshops on various aspects related to the presence of foreigners in Poland. The objective of the project is to increase the intercultural competence of staff of public institutions, to support the integration of foreigners and develop and implement cross-cultural workshops for officials and officers⁵⁸. *Social and economic integration of Muslim immigrants in Poland* is a research project that provides coverage about 100 newly-arrived Polish immigrants of Muslim faith. The survey aims to provide knowledge about migration strategies of newcomers to Poland's Muslims, in particular their integration strategies in two main areas: social and economic. The project aims to include and demonstrate the relationship between religion, ethnicity and social and economic integration of Muslim immigrants in Poland⁵⁹. Through the action of the Help Center - Warsaw foreigners have received assistance in finding apartments for rent, in finding jobs, in coping with official and legal problems, in establishing contacts with schools and universities and with authorities and institutions. Foreigners can also take advantage of the free Polish language classes conducted by volunteers⁶⁰.

Another action against social exclusion of immigrants is also organized by the Polish Migration Forum. One of their projects is "The integration of refugee centers around" that shares information about refugees in places that are running the new centers for refugees. The project aims to create a good atmosphere for the newly emerging centers and informing the community about the foreign neighbours. The second project of the Polish Forum for Migration is "*Building good neighborly relations - Podkowa Leśna / Dębak*". The goal of the project is the integration of foreigners into the local community in two towns near Warsaw and the creation of school theater groups with the participation of Polish and foreign children.

⁵⁷ <http://www.caerdydd-warsaw.eu>, 15.02.2012.

⁵⁸ http://www.ocalenie.org.pl/?page_id=3593, 15.02.2012.

⁵⁹ http://www.ocalenie.org.pl/?page_id=4268, 15.02.2012.

⁶⁰ http://www.ocalenie.org.pl/?page_id=295, 15.02.2012.



Other activities organized in Poland against social exclusion of immigrants are presented in Table 3.

Table 3, Actions against social exclusion of immigrants in Poland

Name of organization or action	Short description
Arteria / Take a Walk Around Multicultural Warsaw ⁶¹	During a walk the group is visiting places associated with the cultural diversity of Warsaw. Each walk is previously discussed and agreed upon with the group - depending on the number of people, their interests and expectations. Walks last about 3-4 hours, during which they visit 3-4 places with different profiles (galleries, museums, ethnic craft shops).
Arteria / Five Flavours Film Club ⁶²	A series of films and documentaries from South-East Asia meant to present the cultural and political atmosphere of this region of the world.
Foundation for Education and Creativity / Center for Integration of Refugees ⁶³	Refugee Integration Centre is oriented towards helping the foreigners who have obtained refugee status or subsidiary protection. The activities carried out at the Centre: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • support of refugees for their social inclusion, • legal advice
FEP: Foundation for Education and Entrepreneurship / Legal Advice Centre ⁶⁴	Foundation in connection with volunteers providing free legal assistance to foreigners by the administration, so that at any time, immigrants may obtain a quick and professional help in important matters.
FEP: Foundation for Education and Entrepreneurship / The Academy of Coaching for women in difficult situation ⁶⁵	The project addressed to immigrants and Polish women in difficult situations. Free coaching sessions is a great tool that helps to find the right way to their destination using

⁶¹ <http://www.piecsmakow.pl/index.php/pl/o-spacerach>, 15.02.2012.

⁶² <http://www.piecsmakow.pl/index.php/en/about-the-adkf>, 15.02.2012.

⁶³ http://www.mentoring.pl/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=225&Itemid=156, 15.02.2012.

⁶⁴ <http://www.fep.org.pl/imigranci>, 15.02.2012.

⁶⁵ *ibidem*.

	their experience, skills, techniques and tools and other people whose help you can use.
Vox Humana / Immigrants in the Polish school ⁶⁶	<p>Aims of the project are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • increasing knowledge about different cultures, • increasing understanding between the cultures, • show cultural differences and their consequences, • achieving the integration of all immigrant groups in society.
The Rule of Law Institute / Network Support For Immigrants ⁶⁷	The aim is to create institutional support for entities and individuals dealing with foreigners in the Lublin region. Through the organization of the actions that are taken, it seeks to strengthen and develop cooperation between the organization members, and coordinate tasks performed by a network of affiliated institutions. The ultimate, long-term goal of the project will be to integrate and improve the situation of migrants in the Lublin region.
Helsinki Committee for Human Rights / Hurdles. The barriers to integration ⁶⁸	The project focuses on the issues of discrimination and barriers to integrate for third world country's nationals arriving to Poland.

⁶⁶ <http://www.voxhumana.pl/?projekt-imigranci-w-polskiej-szkole-kontynuacja>, 67, 15.02.2012.

⁶⁷ <http://www.fipp.org.pl/pl/projekty/lubelska-regionalna-siec-wsparcia-imigrantow-ii/o-projekcie-siec-wsparcia-imigrantow-ii/0,-3,1,29>, 15.02.2012.

⁶⁸ <http://www.hfhrpol.waw.pl/wielokulturowosc/page.php?pag=2&sec=8&art=374>, 15.02.2012.

6. Characteristic of “EMIGRANT Association”

Basic information

website: emigrant.net.pl

e-mail: info@emigrant.net.pl

address: ul. Sobieskiego 5
42-217 Częstochowa

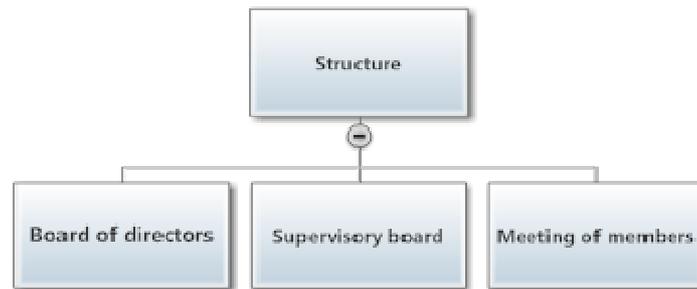
telephone: +48 34 361 27 72

Figure 4, Logo of Emigrant Association



EMIGRANT is an organization founded in 2006 by Koryun Saakyan and other 18 foreign founders, involved in legalizing residence and employment for foreigners in Poland. However, since 1990's they were co-operating group of 'The Association Protecting Polish Manufacturing'. In 2009 Emigrant Association was inscribed by The Silesian Province Governor into the register of organizations as an employment, personal counseling and temporary employment agency. Moreover, they are also written in Register of Training Institutions. The structure of the Association as in any other organization is composed of three organs: board of directors, supervisory board and meeting of members.

Figure 5, Structure of the Emigrant Association



At the beginning the main aim of the organization was to represent its wards to various public administration authorities. The founders were conscious of the problems arising from the lack of knowledge of Polish language, legal regulations, social-economic conditions as well as local culture and customs. First project “Czujemy się prawie jak u siebie w domu”, financed from The European Funds, was a response to the needs of the immigrants and was basically concentrated on the limitations of the Citizens of Third Countries in integrating with the Polish society. Next project “Akademia Emigrant – szansą integracji obywateli państw trzecich” offered the immigrants an opportunity to participate in various educational trainings. Currently, the association cooperates with French ‘ATE’, Italian ‘Interculturando’ and Portuguese ‘Competir’ organizations, creating the project Grundtviga. The strategy of mentioned cooperation was to exchange experiences and to choose an effective solution to the problems associated with immigrants’ integration.

The Association assists the public institutions and NGOs in developing and initiating the rational policy towards foreigners by promoting appropriate social integrating models. Their goal is to encourage principles of solidarity and respect for human rights with regard to refugees and other groups seeking refuge in Poland. Another aspect of the action is endorsing good relations between foreigners, national and local authorities, supporting employment of foreigners and validating their vocations in Poland as well as delivering them health education and social help. The “Emigrant Associations” also works to advance the cause for ethnic minorities and models of humanitarian aid for destitute foreigners. Moreover, they lead diversified initiatives to increase the public awareness and

to promote positive attitudes within the society in developing general benefits for international relations and exchange⁶⁹.

Their main activity is to offer the residing foreigners counseling regarding the Polish law as well as representation before various public administration authorities. They assist in complicated Polish administrative-procedure formalities to both business and individuals. Moreover, the organization provides help in legalizing residence in Poland, gaining employment and business registration.⁷⁰ Emigrant Association is the originator, author, initiating and managing entity of ‘Emigrant Academy’ focused on the integration of third country nationals” and co-financed by the European Fund for the Integration of Third Country Nationals and State Budget. The aim is in particular an implementation of the process of integration to newly-arrived citizens of third countries through the organization of programs and trainings. The project enables them to obtain the basic knowledge related to history, language, institutions, social-economic aspects, cultural life and basic norms and the values of the European society. In undertaking those actions the Emigrant Association enables the foreigners coming from various economic, social, cultural, religious, linguistic and ethnic environments to fulfill the conditions to obtain the right of legal stay⁷¹.

⁶⁹ http://emigrant.net.pl/eng_cele.php

⁷⁰ http://emigrant.net.pl/eng_index.php

⁷¹ <http://www.akademiaemigrant.gre.pl/pages/view/42>



Conclusions

In recent years we can observe intensifying migrations in Europe. In Poland also the number of immigrants is gradually increasing. This phenomenon should draw the governments' attention to the problem of social exclusion of foreigners. Both, the government institutions and NGOs should take appropriate actions, aimed at supporting the integration of immigrants within local communities. These activities should be focused on protecting immigrants against the causes of social exclusion, including: social problems, employment problems, stereotypes in societies and xenophobia, lack of knowledge about the culture of the country and its language.

In the first place, the EU authorities should develop a coherent policy towards immigrants' problems. Its assumptions would be a starting point for formulating national policies. Then, national governments should set up national policies in collaboration with representatives of immigrant communities and institutions. Institutional arrangements must facilitate the efficient handling of the mandatory formalities the foreigners have to cope with. Division of competences between institutions should be clear and not cause additional difficulties.

Immigrants could be supported by local information centers for foreigners. These institutions would offer such services as: legal advice, career counseling and job search, information on social assistance, housing guidance, help in finding or organizing language courses.

Further elements of the strategy against social exclusion of immigrants could be a website and a guidebook for immigrants. Both of them should provide complex information about national culture, traditions, history, basic phrases in the national language, legal regulations concerning immigrants, obligatory procedures, a list of NGOs helping immigrants, important addresses and phone numbers. A website could also offer an access to an online dictionary and real-time updates about projects, which are conducted by NGOs and government institutions. A paper guide should be available at embassies across the country and in the offices.

European societies are facing the problem of stereotypes. The role of local government and other organizations is to educate local communities about cultural diversity. Different

kinds of social campaigns could be performed to increase the acceptance of foreigners within a society and to tackle the issue of xenophobia. Public education towards tolerance to immigrants should start from childhood. Governments and local communities should develop educational programs for schools at each level, whose aim is to increase knowledge about other cultures and customs in other countries and to shape positive attitude towards foreigners.

To conclude, an important precondition for conducting effective actions against the social exclusion of immigrants is to ensure a real cooperation between government institutions, research organizations, organizations of immigrants and NGOs. The common commitment of all of these bodies will result in a synergy effect between separate actions and in a better correspondence between the forms of assistance and the needs of foreigners. Collaboration and information sharing among different parties will cause better and faster integration of immigrants into society.



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