

SHAPING MIGRATION POLICY - THE CASE OF POLAND

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Migration profile of Poland

- Changes in migration policy after 1989,
- Accession to the EU in 2004, Poland became the country with the longest external EU land border,
- Poland has been trying to be active in the East (the Eastern Partnership),
- ‘Liberal’ visa regime and access to the labour market for Belarusians, Ukrainians, Russians, Moldovans, Georgians and Armenians.

Polish Migration Policy (PMP)

- In 2011 the Polish Migration Policy (the public policy document) was accepted by the government and
- Followed by the implementing document presented in December 2013 (currently under consultations).

PMP on migrants' rights

- If PMP does mention 'migrants' rights' it is only in two cases: access to work and workers' rights and political rights.
- Protection against discrimination and exploitation is limited.
- Domicile criterion and a temporal limitation to set up an association.
- No political rights granted to third country nationals.

PMP on integration

- A strategy has not yet been developed.
- No integration assistance available to third country nationals.
- The Polish language as a prerequisite for a successful integration and a preferential treatment of Polish-origin foreigners.
- „A high potential to be active in the labour market” and „a potential to integrate” criteria.

PMP on institutions

- Only on few occasions the PMP states that there is a need to cooperate with civil society and migrants' groups.
- The PMP is silent on the role of local authorities and cities.
- The PMP does not include trade unions in the integration process.

PMP on the host society

- Majority of Poles (67%) are against encouraging migrants from Africa, Asia and East Europe coming to Poland (PBS for the Other Space Foundation, 2013) and more dislike Vietnamese, Ukrainians, Russians and Belarusians than like these nations (CBOS, 2013).
- The integration is a two-way process (migrants and the host society should be involved).
- Importance of education and awareness raising.

PMP - summary

- Drafting a document concerning migration policy was a positive step.
- Lack of public debate on migration and the role of migrants.
- Proposed recommendations are too general.
- Some key actors are not involved.
- Assimilationist approach to integration.

Thank you!

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