

The objective of research project is to widen the knowledge on political and public participation of migrants in transnational space by analysis of different forms, patterns and determinants of migrants' transnational practices (taking place simultaneously in country of origin and of residence). The case study are Polish migrants in Ireland.

The project allows reaching the following objectives: 1) to identify and analyze the forms of participation of migrants at different levels (local, regional and national), 2) to examine different factors (facilitators and obstacles) which determine migrants' participation process in transnational space; 3) to investigate the impact of country of residence (via political opportunity structure and integration policy addressed to migrants residing in its territory) and of country of origin (via diaspora policy); 4) to create a typology of migrants' transnational practices based on the research outputs.

The research allows to identify the forms and patterns of migrants' participation, factors influencing the process of participation (barriers and opportunities), and thus, to better understand the process migration and integration of contemporary migrants in Europe. This way it contributes to the development of contemporary theories of social and political science, and migration studies in relation to political and public participation and migrants' integration. The project provides scientists with data and know-how of researching the contemporary migration of Poles and their performance in political and public spheres in both country of origin and country of residence.

The project is of interdisciplinary character and fills the existing gap in the field of European social sciences, political science and migration studies in particular. It combines theoretical approach and empirical study. The qualitative research (in-depth interviews) is planned in three different locations at local community level in Ireland; it assures in-depth and thorough examination of the course of participation processes and the role of particular social context where it takes place. The quantitative research includes online survey on Polish migrants residing in Ireland.

Taking into account the dynamics of contemporary migration processes all over the world, the issue of migrants' political and public participation is not only an important problem from the academic perspective, but first and foremost, it is a vital socio-political phenomenon. The project research has an important societal and economic impact by providing reliable data and analyses related to current migration processes in Europe, and their effects. To analyze the forms and patterns of political and public participation of migrants is of key importance for understanding the broader social processes in which migrants take part, such as integration within hosting society structures, relations between citizens residing abroad and country of origin, dynamics of intra group contacts within diaspora and among migrants groups. Taking into account the fact of mass emigration of Poles and, as a result, the increase of Polish migrants' population in the EU countries, this case is especially relevant to examine. The additional value of the project is its societal and political impact. The results will be of practical meaning and utility for local administration and policy makers in both countries: Ireland and Poland. The project fills a serious gap in knowledge based on empirical studies devoted to Polish migrants in contemporary Europe, which is required to understand the process of internal EU mobility and its long-term effects.