

Modern research clearly show increasing interest on international migration movements and integration of the newcomers into the host societies. It is a consequence of the importance of these processes, both in terms of scientific as well as pragmatic dimensions (the state policy, bilateral and multilateral relations). In case of Central Eastern European countries, the process of creating a new public policies in the field of migration management is still in its infancy. The debate on issues related to the integration of foreigners had been treated as a marginal topic for a long time. Increased influx of immigrant workers from outside of the European Union as well as the recent refugee crisis in Europe have highlighted the problems around the integration of foreigners and made them a major political concern. The migration crisis has increased the political and public debate about the governance of migration, and pushed it back to the European and national level. However, in the last 2 years we have been observing a significant inflow of labour migrants (mainly from Ukraine) to the CEE metropolises. This project focuses on the institutionalization of the integration policy on the local level, developed as a result of the increase in number of migrants living in the cities. Some of the most recent studies on international migration show a clear turn towards local dimension, i.e. an increased interest in the growing role of municipal authorities attempting to manage migration in a multi-level environment. The cities are a magnet for immigrants and they are the first entities confronted with the immigrant needs, as well as with the potential tensions inside of the ethnically and culturally diverse communities.

This study aims at analyzing issues related to the institutionalization of European policy frame for the integration of immigrants in the metropolitan areas of Central and Eastern Europe. While in Western Europe the integration policies for immigrants have been shaped and implemented based on a variety of national models for the last several decades, in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe we can observe right now some first attempts in shaping new public policies in response to the presence of immigrants.

Main goal of this study is to verify the hypothesis that the institutionalization of European frame for the integration of immigrants in the metropolitan areas of Central and Eastern Europe is carried out according to a similar pattern in all three cases (Prague, Budapest, Warsaw). Aim of this project is to demonstrate dependences, sources and directions of transferring goals (policy learning process) in the process of institutionalization of immigrants integration policies in the cities of Central and Eastern Europe. In the metropolitan areas of Central and Eastern Europe the policy objectives are vague, and the recipients of the integration policy are determined in accordance with the proposals of the European institutions, which deliver funds for the activities. The study aims to verify the hypothesis that the transfer of knowledge is a consequence of the transfer of resources (EU funds) and leads to a passive implementation of the guidelines, mainly being set by the European Commission, without adapting them to a local environment.

Another goal of the research is to analyze the functioning of the different actors in the vertical and horizontal perspective of the multilevel governance model. This will include investigating the relationships between the actors, channels of transferring knowledge (top-down or bottom-up) and the importance of the Europeanization process in migration management area for the institutionalization of the local integration policies.

The proposed research requires suitable empirical material. In the first phase existing data will be analyzed, which includes the literature and documents produced by public bodies on the local level as well as private actors (non-governmental organizations for immigrants, immigrant associations etc.) involved in the process of creating and implementing policies for integrating immigrants in the three surveyed cities. In the second phase individual interviews (IDI) will be conducted with the major actors involved in the process of institutionalization of integration policy in the cities. The empirical material will be next used in heuristic and comparative analysis in order to test the hypotheses about the similarities in the process of institutionalization of immigrants integration policies in the cities of Central and Eastern Europe. The descriptive and explanatory analysis will help to evaluate the degree of institutionalization as well as the potential shift from the European frame to a new Central and Eastern European frame in integration policies on local level.