

### **The aim of the research and research hypothesis**

The objective of the research is a critical analysis of the changes introduced recently (after 2010) in the outlines of the Swedish integration policy towards immigrants. The Swedish integration policy towards immigrants implemented in the years 1990 – 2010 did not brought previously expected results which forced the Swedish authorities to revise the policy outlines. Problems like ghettoization, marginalization and alienation accruing in immigrant communities did not disappear; on the contrary – the gap between the receiving society and the immigrant minorities (especially so called visible minorities) seems to deepen. Critical comments on the integration policy stem from various public actors like politicians (especially representing the party of Swedish Democrats), opinion leaders (especially on the local level) and plain people (especially inhabitants of areas heavily populated by immigrants, e.g. Malmö, Växjö, Södertälje).

The proposed research project contains **hypothesis** like inter alia:

-distant cultures (from outside Europe) face more difficulties in the process of adaptation and integration. The cultural factor plays here fundamental role and should not be omitted while preparing integration policy outlines.

-insufficiencies in management and logistics of the immigrant groups result in adaptation and integration problems of newcomers. Locating and relocating of immigrants in particular regions, cities or villages goes on in a way that does not seem to fit the real needs of both sides: the newcomers and the hosts (regions, cities, villages) – the immigrants are often located in places where there is no shortage of houses or flats but instead a significant deficit of work is experienced. This can lead and leads to gradual enclosure (ghettoization) or marginalization of immigrants, hampering the integration process or even making it impossible.

-a prolonged stay of immigrants in a stadium (provision of shelter, food and basic help) when they await further administrative decisions make them more likely to become passive members of society. In some cases the waiting period may be over 12 months. The integration process would be much more successful if the immigrants could enter the labor market quicker.

**Methodology.** Research methodology includes:

- critical analysis of the Polish, Scandinavian and international literature concerning migration and integration questions, published after 2010,

- analysis of documents and reports issued by institutions that undertake migration and integration questions; sources like inter alia: MIPEX – The Migrant Integration Policy Index, Eurostat, IOM – International Organization for Migration, MPI- Migration Policy Institute, Centre for Migration Studies (Warsaw University)

- analysis of documents and reports issued by Swedish state authorities on migration and integration processes, - consultations and interviews with Swedish experts and researchers on the revised version of the integration policy (research institutions and universities in 4 cities: Stockholm, Örebro, Malmö, Växjö),

- consultations and interviews with representatives of the state authorities on the regional and local level (4 municipalities with the highest immigrant percentage : 1. Stockholm-Södertälje, Stockholm-Rynkeby, 2. Örebro, 3. Växjö, 4. Malmö),

- in-depth interviews with representatives of the immigrant communities (in 4 municipalities with the highest immigrant percentage: 1. Stockholm-Södertälje, Stockholm-Rynkeby, 2. Örebro, 3. Växjö, 4. Malmö).

### **Expected impact of the research project.**

The outcomes of the research will help to verify (or falsificate) the thesis of a partially failure of the current immigrant integration policy. The comments on the partially failed policy are heard especially on the right side of the Swedish parliament and in some statements made by prominent opinion leaders. The research is aimed to deliver a detailed, in-depth analysis of the modifications applied in the integration policy after 2010, when the global migration crisis started.

The analysis – as a result of the research – will try to provide answers to questions like inter alia:

- what are the main and crucial areas where the integration practices did not bring expected outcomes?

- what are the financial costs of the ineffective practices?

- what are individual and institutional attitudes among immigrant communities towards 1) “old” integration policy 2) modifications of the policy?

- what kind of modification proposals stem from the immigrant communities?

These and similar questions may help create a reservoir of knowledge useful for Poland, as we as society and as a state, face several challenges, inter alia: aging society (foreign labor force import is necessary), labor force shortages due to high emigration from Poland, creating a knowledge & innovation based economy that could compete on the European and global market.

To reach these development goals Poland needs to include as active society members immigrants of different national-, ethnic- and cultural backgrounds, willing, however and being able to integrate.