

## Description for general public

The project is dedicated to the issue of **political activity of Vietnamese migrants in current Era**, commonly referred to as "the era of global interconnectedness." Vietnamese diaspora, which consists of migrant communities located in various countries around the world, is a very interesting case in terms of the political commitment of its members. This is a consequence of the fact that migrant communities, residing in different countries, have diverse origins and different historical roots. Vietnamese residing in the United States and other Western countries predominantly derive from refugees leaving the territory of South Vietnam after the lost war between the United States and communist North Vietnam. For this reason, traditionally they presented pro-democratic stance, and antagonistic attitude towards the current leadership of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. In turn, the genesis of migrant communities located in the former countries of Soviet Bloc, including Poland, dates back to the "fraternal assistance" offered by the Soviet Union and other socialist countries to the communist authorities of Vietnam. As part of the aid programs, several thousand Vietnamese students arrived to Poland, and some of them remained in this country, providing the basis for the development of the country's largest migrant community from outside Europe. Unlike their compatriots living in the United States, the Vietnamese in Eastern Europe were known to be generally loyal to the authorities of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. Migrant organizations, created by the Vietnamese in Poland, mostly operated in cooperation with and under the auspices of the Vietnamese government, such as the Embassy of Socialist Republic of Vietnam or the Vietnamese Fatherland Front.

However, in recent times, the described situation is transforming dynamically. First, the Vietnamese community located in the United States is subject to increasing diversity, due to the fact of growing importance educational of migration from the territory of Vietnam. Vietnamese newly arriving in the United, usually originating from prosperous families, often linked to the communist authorities, in contrast to the refugees from the first wave of migration, do not show antagonism against the authorities of Vietnam. This situation causes serious tensions within the migrant community. Secondly, the Vietnamese living in Poland for several years, become actively involved in political activities opposing the current Vietnamese government such as organizing protests against its policy towards environmental pollution or Chinese expansionism. In addition, they actively engage in political activities in the territory of the Poland, standing for the local elections (2014 year) and parliamentary elections (2015 year).

The research project aims to answer the following question: **what are the reasons standing behind the changes taking place in the socio-political activity of the Vietnamese diaspora?** Should they be contributed to the factors related to globalization and the growth of global interdependence, such as increasing role of online communication, including social media, which provide the Poland-based community with the access to content produced by the much more numerous, traditionally anticommunist Vietnamese American community? Or is it rather the fact of living in Poland - the homeland of Solidarity movement, a country with a rich tradition of struggle for democratization – that influences the change of the attitudes during the time? In order to explore this issue, the multi-sited ethnographic study will be conducted among the community of Vietnamese in Poland and the United States. A key element of the study will be also netnography – the research activity carried out within the space of the Internet. The analysis is designed to answer the more general question regarding the role of the old historical divisions, rooted in the Cold War Era order, in the modern globalized world.