

## **Description for the general public (in English)**

Jewish and Roma people are traditionally disliked both in Poland and Germany. The antipathy that they face is in some ways similar (both groups are perceived as unfriendly and the general public keenly avoids having contact with them) but in other ways very different (i.e. while Roma are perceived as very incompetent, Jews are seen as agentic, intelligent, and efficient at attaining goals).

The main goal of the current project is to analyze the sources of these similarities and differences. We plan to attain this goal by way of:

- (1) Comparing the attitudes towards Jews and Roma in Poland and Germany.
- (2) Examination of the mechanisms responsible for the differential perceptions of the two groups. Specifically – we want to find out what makes the general population perceive both groups as essentially hostile, but at the same time the Roma as highly incompetent and Jews as competent.
- (3) Testing the factors that can be utilized to reduce negative stereotypes and prejudice against Jews and Roma in Poland and Germany

In aim to realize our objectives we are going to carry out archival analyses (e.g. national records on hate crime directed at both Roma and Jews as well as databases of national and international social surveys diagnostic of intergroup attitudes in the two countries). Next we will conduct two internet sample panel studies in Poland and Germany. Panel studies, that is studies carried out with the same participants who are interviewed several times, allow for exploration of causal relationship between studies variables. In our project we will carry out three waves with a 6 months brake between each of them. These studies will let us explore the relationship between economic and social situation and the formation of negative stereotypes of Roma and Jews. Next we will carry out a series of experiments in which we will test the possible methods for reducing negative stereotypes and prejudice against Jews and Roma in Poland and Germany. The last part of the project will be a representative sample study in Poland (and our German partner will ran a similar study in Germany) that will allow us to validate the model of negative stereotypes.

The results of our project will substantially complement the current theoretical understanding of the formation of negative stereotypes. Moreover, the international character of the project will allow to assess the relative influence of the economic, social, historical, and normative factors on the formation of negative stereotypes.