

CEEYouth: The comparative study of young migrants from Poland and Lithuania in the context of Brexit

Logic of the acronym: CEEYouth - Central and Eastern Europe, You and Youth (read: see youth)

This is the research proposal for a dynamic study dedicated to young Polish and Lithuanian migrants in the United Kingdom. We focus specifically on two major ‘new EU’ sending countries and look at what migrants below the age of 34 ‘do’ to handle the result of the Brexit Referendum vote.

The objectives of the project are: (1) To explore various risks experienced by young migrants from Poland and Lithuania in the context of Brexit; (2) To analyse how the unfolding implications of Brexit affect life trajectories of Poles and Lithuanians, with special focus on transitions to adulthood; (3) To explore and compare the latest return migration of young Poles and Lithuanians (4) To compare migrating youth from Poland and Lithuania in the reference to those who stayed in the home countries; (5) To compare and evaluate whether young Poles and Lithuanians are socially “anchored” or embedded in their destination country; and (6) To highlight migratory behaviours of ethnic Poles from Lithuania and ethnic Lithuanians from Poland in the UK.

State of the art: Citizens of the so called ‘new EU’ countries engaged in mass-migration to the United Kingdom. Especially prone to migration were young people below the age of 34. Arriving since around 2004-2007, Polish and Lithuanian migrants were generally well-adjusted and adopted in their lives abroad. However, the result of the Brexit Referendum elicited reconsiderations of mobility, including return, in the context of emergent risks. Still unravelling consequences of Brexit constitute unprecedented and fast-paced shifts in the institutional, social, economic and political conditions experienced by migrants.

Methodology: A so-called mix-method study is proposed for this project. Specific methods include: (1) qualitative longitudinal approach with an asynchronous interviewing technique; (2) online survey of Poles and Lithuanians in the UK as well as returnees; (3) secondary data analysis of the existing survey data.

Dissemination: The *CEEYouth* project is as timely as possible, the team will take the opportunity to communicate the proceeding and outputs of the project nearly throughout the whole cycle of the project through scientific publications in migration and youth studies journals, policy recommendations. Prior to publishing in the international journals, the first inception theoretical and methodological note will be published on our *Youth Working Papers Series* (with its own ISSN: 2543-5213 doi: 10.23809/x numbers). All research outputs will be disseminated through Research Gate and Academia and will be also placed on the project’s website.

Originality: Researching dynamically the impact of the unfolding Brexit vote’s impacts on the young lives of Polish and Lithuanian migrants as the changes and reconsiderations first appear.