

## **The role of institutional and legal factors on the selection of the acculturation strategies among foreigners in Poland. Socio-legal study of migrants from former Yugoslavia and Albania.**

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Polish law creates specific legal and institutional framework shaping the reality of foreigners living in Poland, depending on the legal form of their residence. The presence of foreigners in the society results in the unavoidable occurrence of the phenomenon of acculturation. Acculturation comes from the continuous direct contact between two groups from different cultures. It involves gradual changes in the cultural pattern of one or both groups. The objective of this project is to investigate the factors determining the type and effectiveness of acculturation strategies chosen by foreigners living in Poland. Special emphasis will be placed on legal and institutional factors, particularly on the legal status of these foreigners' residence on the territory of Poland. In my research, I would aim to evaluate these institutions from the foreigners' perspective. The project is based on a theoretical model developed by a group of Spanish researchers working at the Universidad de Almería, created in order to study the phenomenon of acculturation - *Relative Acculturation Extended Model* – RAEM.

The research group in this project will consists of migrants originating from former Yugoslavia and Albania, who arrived in the Republic of Poland in the period of 1992-2003. According to the data of the Office for Foreigners it is a group of 5 thousand people, of which about 450 people have received the status of refugee or subsidiary protection. Selecting this research group allows to conduct comparative research. In the first stage of the research the formal-dogmatic method and the critical analysis of the text will be used to map and analyze legal and institutional environment which determines foreigners' functioning in Poland and its change over time. The case law will be analyzed as well, with particular emphasis on the administrative courts in the 1990s, which largely shaped the legal and institutional framework for the functioning of foreigners in Poland. Then the qualitative method will be used in the form of biographical interviews with migrants. The results will identify the underlying biographical processes associated with the migration process and determine how institutional factors affect the experience of migrants in the migration process, the strategies desired and implemented by them, and the nature of the relationship between these choices, their effect and beforementioned factors.

The project will contribute to the development of research on the migrants' acculturation in Poland in both methodological and theoretical terms. The knowledge gained in the project may be of practical importance in the face of the current geopolitical situation and the influx of refugees from areas affected by armed conflicts and, in the case of Poland, also migrants from Ukraine. In Poland, this kind of empirical research has not yet been conducted, so the material collected and its analysis will be an important and innovative contribution.