

The starting point for the formulated research project are the events described by the Polish writer and reporter Melchior Wańkowicz during his travels to the north-eastern voivodships of the Second Polish Republic. The writer in this manner illustrated the gainful exodus to Latvia: "*a twenty-hectare host goes to seek a job for a five-legged Latvian who is crossing the border on such land, received inheritance from that Russia and after that war.*" The situation described was not an isolated or individual phenomenon, but was a permanent element of everyday life in those areas. Preliminary analysis of the archival sources indicates that starting from 1932, two Baltic states - Latvia and Estonia - were enjoying growing interest from economic migrants from different regions of the Second Polish Republic. In a relatively short time, the problem of gainful emigration to the two Baltic states has grown into a serious economic and social issue. In total, in the years 1932-1939, Polish gainful emigration in Latvia and Estonia numbered over one hundred thousand people.

Wańkowicz's above-mentioned words induce several important questions: what was the attractiveness of seasonal work in the Baltic States? In the north-eastern voivodships located closest to the border with the Baltic countries, this phenomenon was an important factor affecting the situation and development of this part of Poland.

Although this subject constitutes a very important episode of the history of emigration from Poland in the interwar period, so far it has not been given a thorough comprehensive scientific study and it constitutes a kind of "terra incognita" in historiography. Only a few authors, in their works devoted to Polish relations with the Baltic states, addressed this issue in the margins. A rich archival database located abroad was not used. In connection with the above, the authors of this project aimed to provide a comprehensive and holistic presentation of the image of gainful emigration from Poland to Latvia and Estonia in the 1930s. I intend to present the problem of gainful emigration from Poland to Estonia and Latvia in the thirties in a multi-faceted manner. I want to look at the problem of seasonal gainful emigration in the aforementioned period in the framework of political, economic, social, demographic and national processes taking place in the region at the time.

The means to achieve this goal will be conducting research on documents and materials on the subject of seasonal emigration from Poland to Latvia and Estonia (1932 - 1939). For this purpose, an in-depth archival query is needed in archives and libraries in Poland, Estonia, Lithuania, Latvia and Russia. On the basis of these studies, a scientific monograph will be prepared and published.