

***Diaspora policy in the context of post-accession emigration. Comparative perspective of
Poland, Hungary and Lithuania.***
General description of the project

Poland, Hungary and Lithuania faced parallel emigration processes over last centuries, similar destinations and profile of emigration (mixed of political and economic outflows), and presence of numerous population of co-ethnics in neighbouring countries. In these countries, the EU accession resulted not only in the large outflows of people and development of new diaspora settings, but also in serious change in emigration and diaspora perception by the policy makers and public opinion in general. Poland, Hungary and Lithuania are undergoing similar political and socio-economical processes and through the last centuries have also experienced serious territorial changes and parallel migratory processes, due to distinct population potentials of different scale though. Therefore, all three countries are migrant sending-states as well as ethnic kin-states with large diaspora dispersed all over the world resulted from mass emigration on the one hand, and border changes on the other.

Generally, three main groups of diaspora can be distinguished in all three countries. 'Traditional' diaspora resulted from numerous outflows date back to the mid-19. century, followed later by emigration, mostly to the USA and Western Europe. Several changes of all three countries' borders in the 20. century resulted in numerous national minorities in their neighbouring states ('kin-minorities'). With entering the EU in 2004 the emigration from these countries much increased ('post-accession' diaspora). According to the latest estimates, approximately 2.5 mln of Poles stayed abroad for more than 3 months (it's ca. 6% of national population). Lithuanian statistics show that since 2004 more than 0,5 mln residents left the country (ca. 17% of national population). Consequently, Poland is the country of the biggest net emigration in the whole EU whereas Lithuania has the biggest net emigration per 1000 population. In case of Hungary the largest outflow took place few years later together with economic crisis (since 2007), and current stock of emigrants in the EU reached ca. 0.6 mln (6% of population).

The fundamental question of the project considers the development, patterns, content, similarities and distinctions of the state policy implemented towards the diaspora in all three countries. More specific research questions which will be answered are: 1) What are the official state's narrative, legal regulations, institutional infrastructure, programs and strategies addressed to diaspora and how they changed in time?; 2) How the state has responded to massive emigration of own nationals after 2004 and what kind of state policy addressed to the "newest" diaspora populations has been developed?; 3) What is the diaspora policy addressed to kin-minorities living beyond their borders and does it change in time of growing diversity of diasporic population related to post-accession emigration?; 4) To what extent diasporas are political agents and have an influence on political system in the country of origin and/or they are the subject of foreign policy and inter-state relations between countries of origin and countries of settlement? The set of questions presented above will be a groundwork to conduct a comparative analysis of cases of three selected countries.

The main objective of the project is to analyse the diaspora policy in the context of mass and dynamic migration processes. The approach advised here is based on conviction that the state policy towards diaspora is multi-dimensional, multi-target and multi-item policy. Consequently, the empirical analysis will cover three dimensions: 1) narrative (political discourse on diaspora constructed by state institutions, political parties and diaspora organizations); 2) legal and institutional (legal provisions and institutional infrastructure dedicated to diaspora); 3) practical (cooperation and support programs, practices undertaken by the state towards diaspora). The methodological approach enables to utilize variety of data sources (primary and secondary) and research (qualitative) methods, several areas of data collection will be covered, including among others min. 48 in-depth interviews conducted in all three countries with policymakers, administration representatives, experts and diaspora leaders.