

## **Research project objectives**

The primary **aim** of the proposed research, which is entitled '**Socialization agents shaping transnational transitions and multi-scalar belonging of migrant children in Poland**' is to study what happens when children arriving to Poland from various countries start school and begin to form attachment and belongingness in this country. Specifically, the project looks at major paths and characteristics of what is called '**transnational transitions**' and means undergoing shifts from home to school in a foreign, bi/multicultural setting. As such, the process contributes to the **formation of sense of belonging** among migrant children in Poland. In the project, it will be investigated which persons and institutions ('socialization agents') play a role in these processes.

The study is meant to fill the gap in the research on migrant children's cross-border experiences and their socialization in Poland. For this purpose, the project examines the impact of family, school, peers, religion and media on children's experiences of educational transitions in a transnational context.

## **Research description**

The research will be conducted using a so-called mosaic approach which is rooted in a child-centred approach. It means selecting the most valid techniques of the qualitative research methods and bringing them together in one research. Consequently, a range of methods will be utilized for listening to school-aged children, who have already experienced transnational transitions. The chosen techniques entail semi-structured interviews based on children's drawings and photo elicitation, the storytelling based on the prepared photos. This has the power to offer a nuanced understanding of the children's experiences and has advantage over other techniques in 'giving voice' to children who are treated as fully-fledged research partners.

The project will be based on the interviews with migrant children in Poland, who arrived from various countries and have different backgrounds and experiences. Pupils aged 7 to 12 will be asked to participate in the research. Prior to that, the interviews with the migrant children's parents will be held in order to learn more about the children's pre and post migration experiences. In total, 20 interviews with migrant children and 20 with their parents will be conducted.

## **Significance of the project**

The topic of foreign-born children in Poland has become more popular within the last decade due to the mass-migration processes. Though, the majority of the works refer either to the macro-level topics, like changes in the National Curriculum, schools and the educators' readiness to the work with the multicultural classes. Fewer studies concentrate on mixed marriages and bi/multilingual children, while researchers often focus on the designated ethnic groups of migrants, such as Vietnamese, Chechen, Roma or Ukrainian. This will be overcome in this research by focusing on interviewing children from various ethnic groups in a cross-comparative and child-centric perspectives.

By evaluating the various paths and characteristics of the migrant children's backgrounds and experiences, the researcher will present models of the migrant children's transnational transitions in Poland. The research will shed light on the ways children with different social, cultural and economic capitals, experience cross-border transitions and socialization process in Poland. Besides, the study will present how immigrant children in Poland undergo the change of place and environment, break of family and friendship ties, and what affect it has on the formation of sense of belonging among the young migrants.