

With the mass migration of Poles to the United Kingdom (as well as other European countries), many questions related to this phenomenon have emerged. One of them is the question of political involvement of migrants in the context of a new type of migration. The appearance of the so-called trans-migrants, i.e. people who, despite going abroad, still maintain frequent and close contacts with their home country, caused a few new phenomena. Polish emigrants in the UK sometimes commute to Poland for classes on a non-stationary basis, they participate in family life on an ongoing basis.

One of the questions less frequently asked in the context of migration is the political involvement of migrants after leaving abroad. While there have been studies on this subject in the past, the political involvement of Poles in the UK is an unrecognized topic and apart from the number of votes cast by the Polish community during presidential or parliamentary elections, little is known about the nature and scale of Poles' involvement in politics during their stay in the UK. Do they engage in local (that is, British) politics? In what character? Do they support Polish political groups, or do they get involved in the political activities of Polish groups by creating local, British, party, trade union or other organizations? And if they are active in Polish organisations, do they establish contacts with local counterparts (e.g. other environmental organisations)?

Apart from the scale of Polish migration to the UK (at the end of 2017, the British statistical office estimated the number of Poles to be slightly over 1 million, to this number should be added those who have not regulated their formal status on the islands), the characteristics of various waves of migration to the UK should be taken into account. It can be taken for granted that the emigrant communities that stayed on the islands after World War II will be involved in political affairs differently than the wave of 'solidarity' emigration, or the latest wave of migrants after 2004, but - due to the scale and timeliness of the problems raised - this last wave seems to be the most interesting in research.

It should be assumed that the political involvement of Polish emigrants in the UK will correspond to general classifications of civic involvement. One can expect Polish organisations aimed at self-help purposes; political involvement in mass organisations (e.g. political parties); or in radical political organisations (such as emerging groups of Polish nationalists or Polish anti-fascists). All types of these groups will be taken into account during the research.

An additional, extremely important and interesting research aspect is the so-called Brexit, i.e. Britain's withdrawal from the European Union structures. On the one hand, new administrative restrictions connected with staying in the UK have appeared and will appear, on the other hand, the political campaign that led to Brexit has caused an increase in xenophobic and anti-immigrant sentiment, which also affected many Poles, which was widely documented in the national and island press. An important question in the context of this project is to what extent Brexit has become a challenge for the political involvement of Poles in the UK and has it changed its character?

In addition to presenting the situation of political involvement of Poles in the UK, the ambition of this project is to develop theoretical tools, methodological approach and a model that will enable similar research on other communities in other countries. In an era of ever larger and more intensive migration of large groups of people, this will be an additional asset of this project.