

## **Mobilność, migracje i epidemia COVID-19: zarządzanie sytuacją nadzwyczajną na Litwie i w Polsce**

### **(Mobility, migration and the COVID-19 epidemic: governing emergencies in Lithuania and Poland)**

Popular-scientific project's summary

Following the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic, most governments, including Poland and Lithuania, introduced harsh emergency measures to contain the spread of SARS-CoV-2 virus. Poland was among the first in the EU to enforce lockdowns, closing borders and introducing emergency measures. The Baltic states, including Lithuania, implemented more restrictive regulations than for instance Italy and France at the analogous phase of pandemic, but subsequently created the "travel bubble" allowing mobility across the Baltic region. Both Poland and V4 countries as well as Lithuania and Baltic states are portrayed as dealing fairly well with epidemic, mainly due to the rapid introduction of restrictive measures. The proposed research project seeks to examine forms of governance over mobility (including international migration) in Poland and Lithuania during COVID-19 epidemic. Its aim is to study if and what forms of governance towards mobility have appeared as a result of the state's reaction to COVID-19 pandemic. The project addresses two main research questions: 1) what forms of governance towards mobility and migration have appeared as a result of these states' reaction to COVID-19? And (2) what were the main similarities and differences in both states' emergency management and their deeper socio-political roots (including models of resilience)? Poland's and Lithuania's relative success in containing the spread of SARS-CoV-2 virus could be explained by its adaptability and resilience capacity to extreme shock and danger, rooted in experiences of many past atrocities like war, hunger or external occupation. At the same time, post-1989 Poland and Lithuania inherited many institutional capacities in epidemiological control of population and practices of controlling its mobility, while on the social level, many people could refer to their past social experience of 'informal norms' allowing them to decide which of the government's rules should be taken seriously and which could be ignored. It can also explain the high fluctuations in national regulations pertaining to international migration, often of contradictory character.