UK2deport
New bordering of the **UK**:
Post-Brexit **deport**ability and governance of EU mobility

What will happen to the EU people after Brexit? When Agnieszka Radziwinowiczówna, the Principal Investigator in this project asked this question to Polish people living in Britain, she often got answers referring to a fear of forced expulsions: "They won't kick us all out, will they?" or "Maybe they will throw us out, who knows?". Their memories went back to the times before 2004 when they or their relatives and friends experienced immigration raids or were not let in Britain at the border in Calais. All in all, Polish people, like other citizens of the "new" member states did not benefit from the EU Freedom of Movement for long. This project sets out to study if we should expect the history to repeat itself.

WHAT? The goal of this research project is to explain how the UK will govern the EU population with the use of deportations after Brexit.

The UK has now for years developed the "hostile environment" introduced in 2014 by then-Home Secretary Theresa May, deploying policies seeking to implement everyday bordering on the non-citizens in the UK. The goal of these policies has been to either force to leave or to deport those who are considered irregular. They were aimed first and foremost at third country nationals, but in the year of the Brexit referendum we already saw hostile environment policies target EU citizens as well (e.g., through deportations of the EU – including Polish – rough sleepers). The end of the Brexit transition and the EU freedom of movement means that EU citizens are legally required to obtain an immigration status, be it under the EUSS for the people who became UK residents before 31 of December 2020 or under the new points-based system. These changes in the immigration system will be happening in an extraordinarily challenging time for the UK economy, as a result of Covid-19 pandemic. EU citizens will not be exempt from the looming economic crisis and that is why UK2deport will research UK's response to the increasing dependence on the social welfare benefits and of the increase in homelessness among the Europeans in Britain.

The novelty of UK2deport consists in inclusion of various forms of population management leading to eventual expulsion of EU citizens from the UK. Namely, the research team will research deportation on security grounds (e.g. of convicts), administrative removal of people with no legal residence (valid visa or pre/settled status) in the UK and returns of vulnerable people in dire economic situation, organised by local authorities and charities.

WHY? This research is important because of its comprehensive approach towards deportations involving various types of expulsions. It is also timely, as it grasps the changes consisting in EU citizens becoming subject to UK immigration laws. Finally, its relevance consists in a novel focus of in-depth study of Lithuanians, Poles and Romanians and in comparing these three cases with other EU nationalities in order to better understand the UE inequalities.

HOW? This research will study law both on the books and in practice, as the people who will be responsible for the implementation of regulations, who will resist them and who will be targeted by them will participate in the research. Between 2021 and 2024 the researchers from the Centre of Migration Research (University of Warsaw) will study this topic in the UK (London and Northern and North-Western England), Lithuania, Poland and Romania. They will conduct one hundred interviews with: Lithuanian, Polish and Romanian deportees and irregular migrants in the UK, council workers in the UK assisting EU citizens, representatives of charities, Home Office personnel and immigration barristers. The researchers will also observe immigration and asylum hearings of EU citizens. Ethnic minorities will be represented among the research participants. Another element of research will be the analysis of legal acts and both formal and informal policies regulating EU migration to UK.

WHAT TO EXPECT FROM UK2deport? The project will explain the impact of the new UK migration policies targeting nationals of "old" versus "new" EU member states. It will also provide a catalogue of forms of expulsions of EU citizens from the post-Brexit UK and explain factors that condition deportability of EU citizens in the UK. The theoretical contribution of UK2deport will consist in the proposal of a middle-range theory of deportation that will explain the role of EU deportations from the UK, by taking into account the specificity of the deporting state and the nationalities targeted with deportation.

The results of the UK2deport project will be disseminated on the radio in Poland and on the Festival of Science in Warsaw in 2023. They will be regularly published on the PI's social media and website (radziwinowiczowna.org). The scientific outcomes will be published in academic journals and discussed at an international workshop and international conferences with other scholars researching deportation in Europe.