

Concepts of the new citizen. Naturalisation in the light of socioeconomic integration.

Poland is changing its migration profile over time from an emigration country to an immigration one. Along with the intensification of migration to Poland, the number of applications for citizenship will increase. The task of the researchers is to fill the gap on the phenomenon of naturalisation. As the literature is mainly concerned with the legal aspects of naturalisation, there is a need to include an identity perspective when studying naturalised citizens.

The decision of former migrants to stay in Poland and accept Polish citizenship is crucial in the lives of individuals, but its exact reasons are little studied. Understanding the process of integration into Polish society is essential because of the clearly effective integration of newcomers into communities who have expressed a desire to belong to the Polish nation. This is particularly important under conditions of demographic decline caused by the insufficient fertility rate of Poles born in Poland. No less important element of the research will be the possible emigration plans of the new Poles.

The main objective of the project is to analyse the behaviour and characteristics of new citizens living in Poland and to explore their adaptation strategies and identity aspects. Through the implementation of the research we want to establish the processes of integration of immigrants into the community from the perspective of former migrants and to answer the question whether the obtaining of the citizenship is the culmination of the integration process or whether it can occur independently of it.

Thirty in-depth interviews will be conducted with new citizens living in Poland, largely those whose country of first citizenship is Ukraine and Belarus. An interesting issue is the behaviour of the naturalised citizens after obtaining of the citizenship. We will try to establish whether there is a regularity within the group in terms of, inter alia, political views, trust in public institutions or civic attitude. The distinct sense of identity of the new Poles, their cultural values and adaptation strategies will be an important factor.

The research project is divided into several parts. In the first, we will analyse the foundational sources in order to systematise knowledge. In order to accurately select research tools, we will include five interviews with experts who are professionally involved in dealing with such applications. The main part of the research will be interviews with new Poles, which will focus on aspects such as social integration in Poland, entry into the labour market, housing situation, sense of belonging, political views, contacts with representatives of the 'new' and 'old' nation, celebration of Polish holidays and traditions. The final stage will be the analysis of qualitative data, which will help to answer the research questions posed earlier.

Knowledge of the adaptation processes of new Poles and the reasons behind their decision to adopt Polish citizenship is extremely important, especially at a time of increasing demographic challenges. The main expected outcomes are to provide knowledge about the integration process in Poland and building bonds with the host society, and to deepen knowledge about the reasons for applying for Polish citizenship. A second important outcome of the research will be a better understanding of such a diverse and still poorly researched group as new citizens and an in-depth knowledge of the types and areas of said diversity.