

# POLISH NATIONAL REPORT ON MIGRATION, SUSTAINABILITY AND DEVELOPMENT EDUCATION

## Activity 1.1.1: Audit on migration, sustainability and development education

Version 2 prepared in April 2018



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## 1.1. Introduction

In the frame of the international project “Developing capacities together. European CSO-university networks for global learning on migration, security and sustainable development in an interdependent world - INTERCAP”, The Anti-discrimination Education Association (TEA) is presenting a summary of the research prepared about the current political context in Poland. TEA is a part of an international partnership engaged in the above-mentioned project and is an active organisation in global, intercultural, sustainable and migration education.

The political situation in Poland over the last two years makes the subject of this research summary very relevant. In 2015, a right-wing conservative party Law and Justice (Prawo i Sprawiedliwość) won both presidential and parliamentary elections. The new ruling party refers to the Catholic traditions of Poland, a history closely connected to World War II and the times during communism. Safety (both physical and economical) is one of the key points of their programme.

Both election campaigns were dominated by the theme of migration and Polish fears toward migrants and refugees. The party winning both elections has made the issue of migration even more prevalent over the last two years of governance. Furthermore, all issues connected with ethnic and national minorities in Poland, as well as hate speech and hate crimes, have become political subjects which are often used to win some political goals. For example, when discussing Poland’s future in the European Union, themes connected with migration and how “the European Union is not solving the problem by allowing migrants and refugees to come to Europe” are being highlighted, usually showing how the Polish solution of not letting any refugees to relocate to Poland is being better than the European. Government representatives point out that they do everything for the country’s safety, meaning that creating a monocultural society and not taking part in actions of solidarity proposed by other European countries is the only thing a government can do to keep the country safe.

The aim of this research, according to the project “Developing capacities together. European CSO-university networks for global learning on migration, security and sustainable development in an interdependent world - INTERCAP” proposal submitted to the European Commission was to investigate gaps, needs and expectations (from target groups, beneficiaries and stakeholders) in shifting public perceptions of (in)security and risk as well as influencing understanding of migration, sustainable development and lifestyles in an interdependent world. In the face of the current Polish situation, this aim becomes extremely relevant. There is a need to shift the narrative of dangerous migrants and refugees coming to Europe/Poland only for economic purposes and instead to understand global mechanisms and deep causes of why people decide to leave their homes and move to another place that they do not know. Understanding such an issue as migration is very much connected with what is happening in the world: wars, political conflicts, climate change, economic inequalities, poverty and hunger. The overall aim of the InterCap project



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is to build this understanding and the research will give the whole partnership a good foundation, looking at why and how the subject should be tackled and how we should address our audience.

The research is based on literary review as well as individual interviews conducted with decision makers, academics, teachers and activists. The literature review is based on existing documents and research produced by Polish public institutions (e.g. Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Interior and Administration), opinion polls prepared by Public Opinion Research Centre, non-governmental organisations and media outputs.

Presented research has its limitations:

- 1) Ten individual interviews have been conducted instead of two focus groups as it was difficult to deal with people's availability.
- 2) The specifics of individual interviews gave us a much deeper understanding of different contexts and attitudes.
- 3) The political context of the migration issue has been affected by an absence of opinion from the side of governmental decision makers (e.g. Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs or Ministry of Education).

## 2. Literature review

### 2.1. Public opinion polls

#### Opinion polls on migration and refugees

Starting in May 2015, Public Opinion Research Centre (pl. Centrum Badania Opinii Społecznej – CBOS) started taking regular opinion polls related to migration and refugees including people's country/region of origin (e.g. Ukraine, the Middle East or Africa) and the possibility to grant asylum and subsidiary protection.

According to the report from June 2015<sup>1</sup> 72% of respondents supported accepting refugees displaced by conflict and war, 21% were against, 7% did not have an opinion. Within the 72% supporting, 58% would accept on a temporary basis (until the conflict finished) and 14% on long-term basis (including settlement).

On a monthly basis, the same opinion poll was repeated. The last observation showed how support decreased over 8 months (in February 2016,<sup>2</sup>) to 4% of respondents who supported accepting refugees on long-term basis (including settlement), 35% were ready to

1(2015) Polish people on refugee problem. Communication on report, CBOS nr 81/2015, s. 1-7, link: [http://www.cbos.pl/SPISKOM.POL/2015/K\\_081\\_15.PDF](http://www.cbos.pl/SPISKOM.POL/2015/K_081_15.PDF) [date of availability: 18.03.2018]

2(2016) Polish people on refugee problem. Communication on report, CBOS nr 24/2016, link: [http://www.cbos.pl/SPISKOM.POL/2016/K\\_024\\_16.PDF](http://www.cbos.pl/SPISKOM.POL/2016/K_024_16.PDF) [date of availability: 18.03.2018]



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help temporarily, 57% were against any kind of support in Poland. The change is the consequence of both political and media campaigns against refugees (including presidential and governmental election campaigns in autumn 2015).

One interesting part of the research is how the positive perception of migrants from Ukraine has changed. Support for them increased from 50% to 61% between May 2015 and February 2016. The situation differs when it comes to refugees from the Middle East and Africa. Support decreased from 33% to 26% during this time, whereas the percentage of opponents rose from 53% to 67%. Due to the political campaign, Ukrainian migrants became "refugees" in public opinion and the economic context was no longer highlighted. In the same time, a strong push towards an "anti-Islamic" agenda was seen both in the media and in political debate, which influence the perception of refugees from the Middle East and Africa.

Opinion polls showed that Poles do not recognise the difference between refugees, migrants and asylum seekers, so conflict as a cause of migration does not make any difference. Younger people are much more radical in their views when it comes to any forms of assistance for refugees. This is also related to the level of education. What is interesting, the difference based on political views is rather small – 15% between rightists and leftists when it comes to closing Polish borders.

In May 2017, according to an opinion poll, 70% of respondents were against the reallocation of refugees from Muslim countries. For 65%, losing European funds is still not an argument for accepting refugees from Muslim countries. 56% support the idea of a national migration referendum in Poland. The idea for a referendum was announced by Konrad Szymański, Poland's deputy foreign minister, based on the Hungarian example with a referendum in 2016.<sup>3</sup>

A recent public opinion poll from 12<sup>th</sup> March 2018<sup>4</sup> showed Polish people's approach to 24 other nations. Poles did not change their opinion about any single nation compared to the previous year's results. The most disliked nations are:

- Arabs: 62% of respondents declared to dislike the Arab nation (+3% compared with the previous year) and only 10% declared sympathy (-6%);
- Roma people: 59% declared a dislike of Roma people (+9% comparing to the previous year) and only 12 % declared sympathy (-9%);
- Russians: 49% declared to dislike the Russian nation (+11%) and only 18% declared sympathy (-13% comparing to the previous year).

<sup>3</sup> Kośmiński Paweł, (2017). Nie chcemy uchodźców nawet za cenę utraty funduszy z UE [sondaż], Gazeta Wyborcza 2017, link: <http://wyborcza.pl/7.75398.21892061,nie-chcemy-uchodzcow-nawet-za-cene-ultraty-funduszy-z-ue-sondaz.html> [date of availability: 18.03.2017]

<sup>4</sup> (2018) Communication after the research on Polish approach to different nations, CBOS nr 37/2018, link: <http://www.cbos.pl/PL/publikacje/raporty.php> [date of availability: 18.03.2018]



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Poles mostly like Czechs (44%), Italians (44%) and Americans (43%). It is important to notice that still less than half of the respondents declared sympathy for them and 23% of respondents disliked everyone.

The above-mentioned polls demonstrate changes in the attitudes of Poles caused by political debate. In autumn 2015, there were both governmental and presidential elections in Poland. During the election campaigns, the European refugee crisis was politicised and used as an argument concerning security issues and cultural (especially Islamic) threats. This was reinforced after the rightist parties in Poland, such as Law and Justice and Kukiz'15, won the election and started their campaign against refugees. The concept of delivering aid in the place needed rather than supporting migrants' movement has been taken up by Polish society and this is visible especially in the poll about sanctions on the European level. Exclusion and discrimination in the views and opinions of Poles is demonstrated by the previously mentioned poll, where we discovered that almost 25% do not like any other nation, which in practice means not accepting any otherness or diversity.

### Opinion polls on security

Based on the Eurobarometer report "Europeans' attitudes towards security"<sup>5</sup> published in December 2017, around 90% of Poles felt secure in their closer neighbourhood, 93% respondents answered positively in relation to their city, town or village and 91% in relation to the country. Still, only 59% of respondents considered the European Union as a secure place to live in. The most important challenges according to Poles are: terrorism (94%), organised crime (93%) and the EU's external borders (91%). Natural and man-made disasters are recognised as a challenge by 90% of respondents.

According to research conducted by Public Opinion Research Center (pl. Centrum Badania Opinii Społecznej – CBOS) in the first week of April 2017, 89% of respondents considered Poland as a safe country to live in and 95% felt safe in their neighbourhood. Researchers highlighted that the outcome of the research was one of the highest/ best since 1987.

It is interesting that Polish society feels safe inside but expects risk from outside. The methodology of the poll was focused on neighbourhood relations, based on local experience and does not open global, non-European or cultural issues. Probably this is the main reason why the results are so different. When a poll concerns something known and understandable, the answers are based on experience rather than assumptions. When starting with questions related to global issues, it is more likely this could negatively influence the results.

### Opinion polls on sustainable development

<sup>5</sup> Factsheet: Poland, report: Europeans' attitudes towards security, December 2017: [date of availability: 18.03.2018] <http://ec.europa.eu/commfrontoffice/publicopinion/index.cfm/Survey/getSurveyDetail/instruments/SPECIAL/surveyKy/1569>



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The most recent opinion poll on development aid was ordered by Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Poland at the end of 2015<sup>6</sup> (according to information in the report interviews were conducted between 27<sup>th</sup> November and 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2015). According to this, 65% of respondents agreed that Poland should help less developed countries (LDCs) and only 22% were against it. When it comes to reasons for development aid, 46% answered that richer countries helped Poland in the past so now this is our role. The second most popular answer was ethical/moral obligations – 44% of respondents. Only 7% of respondents had heard about Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) in late 2015.

Three frequently mentioned obstacles in development for other countries are access to water (50%), wars and conflicts (45%) and infectious diseases such as HIV and AIDS (45%). Human rights violations are considered to be an important obstacle by 13% of respondents and exploitation of natural resources by only 10%.

According to the Eurobarometer opinion poll “The European Year for Development – Citizens’ views on development, cooperation and aid”<sup>7</sup> only 7% of respondents had heard about SDGs and also knew what they mean, whereas 16% had heard of them but didn’t know anything more.

Polish society’s awareness of global challenges seems to be lower than average in the EU. The lack of data after 2015 related to development issues underlines the political shift in Poland and a narrowing down of perspectives. Focusing more on national issues is also related to excluding people (with the idea of closing borders to stop migrants) and antipathy to others, no matter where they come from (as almost 25% of Polish people do not like any other nation). On the other hand, Polish people feel safe in their neighbourhoods and their country, but this changes when it comes to EU as a community.

In order to work on Polish society’s assumptions and negative stereotypes or emotions, teachers and educators (both formal and non-formal) need to be equipped with various tools/methods addressing emotions, conflicts and values. On one hand, in such a highly negative and isolationist atmosphere, the education process will be difficult. The response from Polish society to actively participate in any activities related to the issues could be relatively low. On the other hand, the polarisation of society is an important issue, so the supporters could be much more engaged and motivated by the situation in their country. Since it seems that the political situation will not change in the near future, focusing mainly on social media and alternative media in order to balance the messages is very important.

## 2.2. Media response

<sup>6</sup> In 2016, Polish MFA stopped conducting opinion polls. You may find all reports 2005-2015: <https://www.polskapomoc.gov.pl/Badania.opinii.publicznej.128.html> [date of availability: 18.03.2018]

<sup>7</sup> Factsheet: The European Year for Development – Citizens’ views on development, cooperation and aid, (2016): [https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/special-eurobarometer-441-european-year-development-citizens-views-on-development-cooperation-and-aid\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/special-eurobarometer-441-european-year-development-citizens-views-on-development-cooperation-and-aid_en) [date of availability: 18.03.2018]



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"Should Poland refuse to accept refugees from Muslim countries, even if this decision would force Poland to leave European Union?" - this question was included in a public opinion poll conducted by one of the largest weekly newspapers in Poland "Polityka" in July 2017. The answers were terrifying - more than 51% of respondents answered "yes" and around 38% said "no". This question reveals the kind of attitudes currently prevailing in Poland.

The topics of migration and, especially, refugees coming to Europe and Poland appeared strongly in the media in the middle of 2015. This was the time when the conflict in Syria forced hundreds of thousands of people to flee and look for a safer place to live in other countries, including Europe. The middle of 2015 was also a very hot political time in Poland - just after the presidential elections (in May 2015) won by a conservative candidate Andrzej Duda and just a few months before the parliamentary elections (in November 2015). According to an analysis<sup>8</sup> of the six most popular weekly newspapers (with the highest readership rates), a significantly higher number of texts on migration and refugees appeared starting in May/June 2015 and most of them were published in September/October 2015. In July 2015, the Polish prime minister announced the official decision of the Polish government to accept 7,000 refugees in the framework of the allocation mechanism. This decision was heavily discussed in the media and finally, after the elections were won by the conservative "Law and Justice" party, Poland never met these arrangements. A clear division could be observed in the above-mentioned weekly newspapers. Those more liberal were describing the situation of refugees more accurately, focusing on the people, their needs and the problems they were dealing with. This can be seen, for example, in the interview with Janina Ochojska (CEO of Polish Humanitarian Action)<sup>9</sup> or the commentary by Szymon Hołownia<sup>10</sup>. It is important to note that "Tygodnik Powszechny" is a progressive Catholic weekly publication, not at all considered conservative or right-wing.

Those papers more conservative and in favour of the new ruling party were very much against accepting refugees and, even more significantly, were discussing migrants as “a horde” or “invaders”. Refugees were also described as “terrorists” and people with “demanding attitudes” - this last one was described in an article titled “Too much pasta, too little sex”<sup>11</sup>. A lot of space in media coverage was dedicated to issues of religion: most of the migrants coming to Europe were/are Muslims. A very clear assumption was made very quickly - when talking about Muslims, it means “terrorists”. Therefore, the conservative media were focusing on creating a correlation between migration, terrorist attacks and a lack of security. The clear conclusion was: “If we want to be safe, we cannot accept migrants in Poland because migrants are terrorists”.

<sup>8</sup> The analysis was a side research prepared by E. Kielak for Anti-discrimination Education Association in 2015. It was never published.

9 Janina Ochojska (2015), Obojętność, która zabija, Tygodnik Powszechny 37/3452, 13.09, p. 9

10 Szymon Hołownia (2015), Gość w dom, Tygodnik Powszechny 37/3452 (13.09), p. 6

<sup>11</sup> (2015) Za dużo makaronu, za mało seksu, W Sieci 41/150 (12.10), p.18.

Almost no other issues connected to the current world migration processes are being mentioned in the media in Poland. After 2015, the topic has appeared only when there are significant situations happening in Europe: terrorist attacks (e.g. in Paris, Berlin or Stockholm) or the so-called sexual attacks in 2016 in Köln, Germany. Most of the coverage is against migrants, with an aim to prove that migration to Poland means lack of security. Deeper texts on the causes of migration (such as climate change, poverty and hunger) are not being presented to the general public. Themes like human solidarity and Polish commitment to global challenges are not “hot” media topics.

Since 2015, the situation has gotten worse. As mentioned in the subsection above, attitudes toward migration are very pessimistic. Polish public television has manipulated data, broadcasting information that more than 100% of respondents are against accepting refugees in Poland (from data in April 2017).<sup>12</sup> This is a minor manipulation, but it appeared on public television in an European country in 2017.

The situation described above is pessimistic (taking into account the whole political context), but it also shows a huge chance for educational activities. The main aim would be to work on changing attitudes toward diversity, solidarity and global understanding. Project activities would not be dedicated directly to politicians or journalists but bringing education about migration and sustainable development to schools, higher education institutions and teacher training facilities is a great chance for social change. Moreover, methods proposed in the InterCap project - like Philosophy for Children - provide great opportunities to encourage people to start reflecting, talking and sharing their opinions. This is a first step towards changing attitudes to be more open for widely understood diversity.

## 2.3. Research and project production

Despite the political situation in Poland and the negative attitudes toward migration in general and refugees in particular, there have been several research papers and reports published tackling themes of refugees, migration and the situation of migrants in Poland and in Europe. Most of these publications were prepared by the non-governmental sector with the financial support of such organisations like Stefan Batory Foundation.

### Activities led by public central institutions

At the same time, there has also been some state-sponsored research published by The Office for Foreigners, an institution “established to provide comprehensive and professional service in the scope of legalisation of stay and granting protection to foreigners staying in the territory of the Republic of Poland”.<sup>13</sup> OFF produces reports summarising its activities related to legalisation of stay and granting protection.<sup>14</sup>

<sup>12</sup> tw (2017), Źary z prezentacji w TVP Info sondażu o uchodźcach. „Przeciw przyjmowaniu jest 117 proc.”, link: <http://www.wirtualnemedia.pl/artykul/tvp-info-sondaz-o-uchodzach-przeciw-przyjmowaniu-jest-117-proc> [date of availability: 18.03.2018]

<sup>13</sup> Website of the office: <https://udsc.gov.pl/en/urzad/misja-urzedu/> [date of availability: 18.03.2018]

<sup>14</sup> Reports prepared by OFF are published on the institutions website: <https://udsc.gov.pl/statystyki/raporty-specjalne/>



Another state institution where the scope includes the broad issue of migration is the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Administration, responsible also for protecting human rights in Poland. This Ministry published a statistical analysis on motives of perpetrators of hate crimes, the legal qualifications, types of crimes divided into groups against which they were targeted, a demographic profile of victims and perpetrators as well as educational activities undertaken. The report was published in 2016.<sup>15</sup> The most important outcome from this research was the conclusion that a significant increase in the number of hate crime cases has been noted. The motivation of the perpetrators is primarily xenophobic. In 2015, there also was a significant increase in crimes against Arabs and Muslims.

Another public institution, appointed to counter discrimination toward minority groups as well as migrants, was the Council for the Prevention of Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance (the Council operated by the Ministry of Digitisation). The aim of the Council was also to conduct targeted research, but it was liquidated in April 2016 by the former Prime Minister Beata Szydło.

### Academic and research institutions

One of the most important research institutions dealing with widely understood attitudes toward diversity is the Centre for Research on Prejudice. This academic institution, affiliated with the University of Warsaw, conducts research on the prejudice of Polish citizens toward different groups, such as minorities in Poland and also migrants. Their last two significant publications are "Prejudice in Poland" and "Hate speech, contempt speech". The first is a comprehensive study on various forms of intergroup prejudice in Poland and was published in 2015.<sup>16</sup> In a chapter related to attitudes toward Chechen refugees in Poland<sup>17</sup> the author looks at two kinds of victimization: inclusive and exclusive. Results show that, despite the relatively small community of refugees living in Poland and the fact that negative historical events happened some time ago, a sense of victimisation plays a role in intergroup relations in Poland.

The second piece of research, "Hate speech, contempt speech", is a study on young people attitudes toward hate speech directed at minority groups. The research was conducted by Mikołaj Wiśniewski, Karolina Hansen, Michał Bilewicz, Wiktor Soral, Aleksandra Świderska and Dominika Bulska and was financed by Stefan Batory Foundation in the frame of EOG Programme. A whole chapter was dedicated to the analysis of hate speech toward refugees and Muslims.<sup>18</sup> Results show that attitudes towards Muslims, measured by the scale of anti-Islamic prejudices and secular criticism of Islam, can also be taken as negative. Adults were more prejudiced than young people, but at the same time more willing to accept

15 Ministry of Interior and Administration (2016) Analysis of hate crime [Analiza przestępcości z nienawiści], 05.2016. [http://www.spoleczenstwoobywatelskie.gov.pl/sites/default/files/analiza\\_mswia\\_policia.pdf](http://www.spoleczenstwoobywatelskie.gov.pl/sites/default/files/analiza_mswia_policia.pdf) [date of availability: 18.03.2018]

16 <http://cbu.psychologia.pl/en/events-2/prejudice-in-poland> [date of availability: 18.03.2018]

17 Olechowski, M. "National victimization and its influence on prejudice toward refugees" (in: Bilewicz, M., Stefaniak, A., Winiewski, M. (2015). "Prejudice in Poland". Warsaw University. pp. 98

18 [http://www.batory.org.pl/upload/files/pdf/MOWA\\_NIENAWISCI\\_MOWA\\_POGARDY\\_INTERNET.pdf](http://www.batory.org.pl/upload/files/pdf/MOWA_NIENAWISCI_MOWA_POGARDY_INTERNET.pdf) (18.02.2018)



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Muslims in everyday relationships. When it comes to refugees, attitudes toward this group - especially in relation to their relatively small number in Poland, - were definitely negative and the attitudes of the youth are more negative than the attitudes of adults.

### Research conducted by non-governmental sector

The Anti-discrimination Education Association (TEA) also tackled the theme of migration in its latest report. The aim of the report was to analyse the responses of public institutions responsible for the formal education system to reports of different types of discrimination happening in schools in Poland. One basis for discrimination was national or ethnic origin, as was confession/atheism. Within this, migration/refugee experience was also reported as a premise for discrimination.<sup>19</sup>

Another player in the migration research field in Poland is the International Organisation for Migration. Active on the Polish scene, they are conducting projects with migrants in Poland as well as publishing data and reports. The latest of these is "World Migration Report 2018"<sup>20</sup> which summarises a global overview on migration in 2017.

An interesting study on migration and Polish humanitarian aid is this presented by Grupa Zagranica, a Polish platform of civil society organisations, engaged in development cooperation, democracy support, humanitarian aid and global education. The study "If Polish government is not helping refugees in Poland, then where is it helping?" was prepared by Magdalena Trojanek and Magdalena Wnuk in 2016.<sup>21</sup> The main results from this overview of data provided by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is that, in terms of bilateral assistance, Poland directly helps refugees and victims of the Syrian war residing in three countries: Jordan and Lebanon and in the Autonomous Region of Iraqi Kurdistan (Iraq). The Ministry of Foreign Affairs does not finance projects in Syria (in the territory of the conflict), explaining that helping directly in Syria might be dangerous for workers of the organisation and would be difficult to monitor. The Polish Humanitarian Action operates directly in Syria, but funds for this purpose must be obtained from sources other than public monies.

In summarising this segment of our research, it is worth emphasising that there have been several pieces of research conducted in Poland, mostly looking at attitudes and prejudice toward diversity and minority groups (including refugees). The subject of sustainable development and Sustainable Development Goals is generally not taken into consideration when studying migrants' situation in Poland, with the exception of one study summary addressing the topic of humanitarian aid. Discussions about global challenges such as migration are very focused on Polish circumstances in Poland, rather than taking into consideration the global context.

## 2.4. Case studies and good practices

19 [http://www.tea.org.pl/userfiles/raporty/tea\\_raport\\_www\\_final.pdf](http://www.tea.org.pl/userfiles/raporty/tea_raport_www_final.pdf) [date of availability: 18.03.2017]

20 [http://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/wmr\\_2018\\_en.pdf](http://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/wmr_2018_en.pdf) [date of availability: 18.03.2017]

21 [http://zagranica.org.pl/sites/zagranica.org.pl/files/attachments/Publikacje/RaportGZ/pomoc\\_humanitarna\\_2016.pdf](http://zagranica.org.pl/sites/zagranica.org.pl/files/attachments/Publikacje/RaportGZ/pomoc_humanitarna_2016.pdf)



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Since 2015, there have been many interesting and valuable projects conducted in the area of migration and refugee education. Most of them were financed in the frame of EOG mechanism granted by the Stefan Batory Foundation. It is worth mentioning that Batory Foundation diagnosed a significant problem of discriminatory attitudes against migrants (especially Muslims) and dedicated a huge amount of money for projects tackling this issue. Most of the projects were conducted between January and April 2016 and most of them were dedicated to education.

### Examples of projects conducted by Polish NGOs

The practices mentioned below have been identified as those most important, taking into consideration the aim of this research. All activities were designed by Polish NGOs and all are combining two significant issues: migration as a global challenge and sustainable development, wherein sustainable development is often treated as a cross-cutting issue not always mentioned directly in project proposals or descriptions.

#### **The Anti-discrimination Association “Refugees? Welcome”**

In 2016, TEA carried out a project with teachers aiming to train teachers how to tackle migration issues in school education. There were lesson scenarios created, based on reportage texts written by three of the most respected journalists in Poland: Wojciech Tochman, Lidia Ostalowska and Katarzyna Boni. Information about the project in Polish: [http://tea.org.pl/pl/SiteContent?subitem=uchodzcy\\_zapraszamy!/](http://tea.org.pl/pl/SiteContent?subitem=uchodzcy_zapraszamy!/) Publication: [http://tea.org.pl/userfiles/raporty/tea\\_scenariusze www\\_pojedyczne.pdf](http://tea.org.pl/userfiles/raporty/tea_scenariusze www_pojedyczne.pdf)

#### **Uchodzcy.info**

This is a website created by the informal initiative Chlebem i Solą (Bread and salt) and Stefan Batory Foundation. It was created to raise public awareness about refugees in Poland and Europe by disseminating reliable knowledge and combating stereotypes. This website is also a kind of guide for various forms of engagement and help - it contains practical knowledge and the most essential tools. Its aim is to encourage and inspire people to act on behalf of refugees across the widest possible range - from combating hate speech, through educational and media activities, to direct help to those in need.

Website only in Polish: <http://uchodzcy.info>

#### **Centre for Citizenship Education**

The Centre is one of the most active organisations in global education in Poland. It conducts projects on global citizenship education and, starting in January 2016, also in refugee/migration education. All projects are targeted at teachers, providing training, and methodological help as well as lesson scenarios. The most significant project, when talking about migration, would be “Let’s talk about refugees”. This was created to enable teachers to conduct conversations about refugees in the framework of lessons at school. The project



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activities consisted of blended learning courses, where teachers experienced and active in the field devised lessons scenarios () and gathered a library of texts on how to talk about migration including the most important facts about current challenges connected with the topic of migration. There were also short videoclips created, to make the conversations with young people easier. The project is still on-going (in 2018) and all materials can be found on the website in Polish: <https://migracje.ceo.org.pl>

### **Amnesty International**

Amnesty International Poland is also one of the most active organisations in the field of global and anti-discrimination education. It has conducted several projects, mostly directed at teachers. One recent project, "All human beings are born free and equal," aimed to build a network of conscious leaders in civil society (primarily teachers and activists) with the motivation and competence to mobilise their local communities for a world free from discrimination, hate speech and violence. The outcome of the project was a publication to be used in schools and local communities on migration in the context of global education and sustainable development goals. Link to the publication in Polish: <https://amnesty.org.pl/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/Wszyscy-ludzie-rodza-sie-wolni-i-rowni-pakiet-materialow-edukacji-praw-czlowieka.pdf>

### **Instytut Globalnej Odpowiedzialności (IGO)**

The Institute of Global Responsibility is an independent non-governmental organisation based in Warsaw, Poland. It was established in 2007 and focuses on development policy issues, global education and cooperation with partners in the South. It works on the issue of migrants in the area of critical global education (as one of the most relevant and current topics to discuss values) and also analyses the influence of media on our perception. Discussions on diversity, difference, the notion of "otherness" and respecting people form part of their work about values, using dialogical methods such as Philosophy for Children (P4C) as well as Open Spaces for Dialogue and Enquiry (OSDE). Link to the new version of guidebook on Code of Conduct regarding images and messages on the global South: "Jak mówić o większości świata? Jak rzetelnie informować o krajach globalnego Południa?": [http://igo.org.pl/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/Jak\\_mowic\\_o\\_wiekszosci\\_swiaty\\_wydanie4\\_ebook.pdf](http://igo.org.pl/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/Jak_mowic_o_wiekszosci_swiaty_wydanie4_ebook.pdf)

### **Fundacja Ocalenie**

The Ocalenie Foundation was established to support migrants with regards to integration and individual development in Poland. It works for intercultural dialogue and the strengthening of civil society, striving to make every human being able to live with dignity and respect for his/her rights. The Foundation directs its activities toward two major groups of people: migrants and Polish citizens. It helps migrants with all issues connected with settling in Poland and educates Polish society on migration issues. The website of Ocalenie Foundation: <https://ocalenie.org.pl>



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The above-mentioned initiatives carried out in Poland over the last two years are those most significant with regards to raising awareness on migration and sustainable development. However, we cannot forget that activities described in this subchapter, as well as many others being introduced in Poland, are created by the non-governmental sector and are usually on a local level. When it comes to the national level, such ideas or projects are not created, calls are not being opened or fulfilled. The Ministry of Interior and Administration, which is responsible for migration issues in Poland, has not resolved The Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) call for almost three years.

## 2.5. Migration policies and sustainable development

The relation of policy framework between migration and sustainable development is difficult to indicate on national level. First of all, the division of labour in the governmental bodies is as follows:

- Ministry of the Interior and Administration is responsible for all forms of social support for migrants in Poland
- Ministry of Investments and Development became a national coordinator for the implementation of Agenda 2030
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs is a national coordinator for development cooperation (including humanitarian aid and global education) based on development cooperation law and is also responsible for national policy on human rights in relation to The United Nations (UN) and organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)
- Beata Kempa, a Minister and Member of the Cabinet<sup>22</sup>, is responsible for needs assessment and action direction for humanitarian aid

The engagement of three different ministries plus the Prime Minister's Office on different levels of implementation makes the framework quite fragmented. There is a lack of understanding and cooperation between ministries, as well as an overlap in the area of humanitarian aid. Additionally, there are divisions within the ministries, e.g. Ministry of Foreign Affairs has two separate departments - one working on Development Cooperation (pol. *Departament Współpracy Rozwojowej*) and one dealing with the UN and human rights (pol. *Departament Narodów Zjednoczonych i Praw Człowieka*). These factors make relations even more complicated. It is also important to note that the Ministry of Environment does not have any significant role in the implementation and monitoring process.

In 2015, during the European Year of Development, there was a chance for the Development Cooperation Department in MFA to open and lead Polish debate on migration and refugees and also connect this with Sustainable Development Goals. However,

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<sup>22</sup> Decree law to appoint Beata Kempa to her post, 8.01.2018:  
<http://prawo.sejm.gov.pl/isap.nsf/download.xsp/WDU2018000046/O/D20180046.pdf>



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decision makers were fixed on a conservative agenda, especially in the final phase of the election campaign, so they decided to avoid controversial issues such as migration. By that time, the Polish Development Cooperation was not able to influence or frame any political debate on migration. In late 2015, the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Administration, together with Prime Minister's Office, became the centres of communication on migration. The refugees and migrants issue has been narrowed down to a national context with two main domains: security and cultural difference. Because of this, there are no linkages between international development cooperation and global sustainable development. The only international link highlighted is the obligation to the European Union and its migration policy (which is unacceptable for Polish decision makers due to the local context mentioned).

Also, there is no integration of migration and sustainable development policies on a national level. There are two strategies where Sustainable Development Goals are present, but they have different policy status and are based in different areas of work and different ministries. The first one is the National Strategy of Responsible Development under the Ministry of Investment and Development with the following goals: stable economic growth based on knowledge, data and perfect organization:

1. Development sensitised for society and territorially sustainable
2. Effective state and institutions towards growth and social and economic inclusion

The Sustainable Development Goals are mentioned only in general introduction and there is no context of migration. At the same time, the Multiannual Programme of Development Cooperation 2016-2020 under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs states that the Policy Coherence for Development is an important rule for implementation and effectiveness. SDGs are mentioned here as a key reference point, so the country's priorities - the Polish Development Cooperation programme does not have country-specific strategic papers - should be coordinated to support global sustainable development. This declaration has not been realised by the ministry itself nor by other ministries or governmental agendas.

These two examples show that commitment depends not only on policy levels but also on the understanding of sustainable development, which may differ when it comes to economic growth agenda. Cases referencing the SDGs are general and the indicators are not implemented to measure changes in certain sectors/areas of work. Migration is not a priority in the Multiannual Programme of Development Cooperation. It is only mentioned in one paragraph related to the Syrian situation where it is called a "migration crisis". There is also an intention to address the consequences of the crisis, so that Polish Development Cooperation delivers aid to refugees in the region but holds back on migration (see the chapter related to global challenges).<sup>23</sup>

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<sup>23</sup> Ministry of Foreign Affairs (2016), Multiannual Programme of Development Cooperation 2016-2020: [http://polskapomoc.gov.pl/Dokumenty\\_i\\_publikacje\\_83.html](http://polskapomoc.gov.pl/Dokumenty_i_publikacje_83.html)



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The Supreme Audit Office announced they would monitor the preparation process towards the implementation of Agenda 2030 between 15<sup>th</sup> January and 30<sup>th</sup> March, 2018 (the report will be published in mid-2018).<sup>24</sup> The monitoring process will be based on a *whole-of-government* approach, which tracks the application on all levels (central, regional and local) by public institutions and other actors.

There is no direct link to migration as an issue in the above-mentioned documents. The Polish government has officially stated that we adopt different approaches and sets of activities by helping in the place of conflict in order to stop refugees coming to Europe. Under Polish law, humanitarian aid is a part of development cooperation but there is no priority of this topic in documents proving this. The Polish government disagreed with the European Commission's decision regarding the re-allocation of 6,000 people from Greece and Italy.

Migration is described as a part of national policy. Therefore, it is helpful to look at the most important national legislations shaping the migration issue: the Constitution of the Republic of Poland from 2<sup>nd</sup> April, 1997.<sup>25</sup> In article 56, the document mentions "refugee status" as linked to international frameworks such as The Geneva Conventions.

1. The law on security and asylum for foreigners in Poland, dated on 13<sup>th</sup> June , 2003.<sup>26</sup> This is the most important and detailed law related to the situation of refugees in Poland, including all assumptions of refugee status and asylum procedure. The law is also an implementation of all international and European directives.
2. The law about foreigners dated 12<sup>th</sup> December , 2013.<sup>27</sup> This law specifies the status of refugees and rules of deportation and also introduces new assumptions for refugee status related to humanitarian issues.
3. Regulation of Minister of Interior and Administration dated 19<sup>th</sup> February 2016<sup>28</sup> on the volume of assistance for foreigners applying for refugee status.

This list of documents shows that all existing laws and regulations on migration are focused on the national level and internal commitments under the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Administration. Most of them are rather technical and there seems to be no place to formulate a broader agenda on migration. It is notable that most of the regulations came into force before 2015. Between 2013 and 2015, most people awaiting refugee status came from Russia and Ukraine.

From 2015, there has been no public or political debate about migration in a broader context. Official statements are mostly derived from fear-based management and a lack of information related to the causes and consequences of migration as a global process.

24 Link to information about the monitoring process: <https://www.nik.gov.pl/aktualnosci/nik-sprawdzi-realizacje-celow-onz.html>

25 Full text of The Constitution: <http://prawo.sejm.gov.pl/isap.nsf/DocDetails.xsp?id=WDU19970780483>

26 Full text of the law: <http://prawo.sejm.gov.pl/isap.nsf/DocDetails.xsp?id=WDU20031281176>

27 Full text of the law: <http://isap.sejm.gov.pl/DetailsServlet?id=WDU20130001650>

28 Full text of the law: <http://prawo.sejm.gov.pl/isap.nsf/DocDetails.xsp?id=WDU20160000311>



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There are no expectations that the policy framework will change in the coming future to become more progressive in the field of linkages between migration and sustainable development. Development Cooperation does not have a high priority under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and it is more likely to be a part of the PR strategy on an international level. In 2018, the mid-term review of the Multiannual Programme of Development Cooperation is expected and civil society organisations will have a chance to take part in consultation process, so some small technical changes are expected.

## 3. Field research

### 3.1. Introduction

Participants of interviews were identified by three main factors:

- their expertise and engagement in the topic in previous years (project engagement, publications, media coverage, etc.)
- their institutional affiliation (during the research, the focus was on representatives of civil society organisations - practitioners and university tutors - working on theory)
- availability during the research period and readiness to publicly state their opinions

Ten representatives of non-governmental organisations and academia took part in the field research. Six out of ten represented the higher education sector and four came from non-governmental organisations. Most of the participants are based in big cities in Poland (e.g. Warsaw, Cracow, Katowice and Wroclaw), engaged in the topic of global education, development, migration and sustainable development. All participants are considered to be experts and have some connection with civil society sector and researchers from The Anti-discrimination Education Association (TEA). Due to limitations, research was conducted as a set of individual interviews both online and offline. Each interview lasted 45-70 minutes.

### 3.2. Awareness about international migration and sustainable development

The first part of each interview was dedicated to discussing the participant's awareness about international migration and sustainable development. According to the instructions, researchers explored the participant's knowledge about Policy Coherence for Development (PCD), Sustainable Development Goals, the Paris Agreement, Habitat III and other relevant documents/initiatives/strategies and how these documents are reflected by different actors in Poland.

All participants were aware about international documents and strategies, but they do not make use of them in their everyday work. SDGs agenda was the only initiative that was mentioned as one sometimes discussed, especially by academic teachers who refer to it during their educational work. Overall, people were aware that international institutions created such documents, they know the aims of each document but there is no need to rely on it in practice. One of the participants working with migrants and refugees mentioned that, for him, the most important are national legal regulations and documents addressing the



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rights of migrants and refugees in Poland. There was only one voice that highlighted the importance of working close to SDGs Agenda and Policy Coherence for Development, but in advocacy rather than on an educational level.

It is worth highlighting one critical opinion about the role of international bodies and communities (especially The United Nations and the European Union) as agents of change. According to this opinion, all large strategic processes are much more focused on a good-looking document at the end rather than on the inclusive implementation of the strategy - "the final product of the strategy makes a nice pdf file, but not the change itself". It is also important to note that, most of the interlocutors, saw strategies such as Agenda 2030 as having an economic approach aligned with a neoliberal agenda which is far from the reality not only of their educational work with students but also from the interest of public opinion. According to the opinions collected, deeper knowledge about European and international strategies is not necessary to work effectively in the field of education. It was deemed that having a basic insight and using the framework as a context in the educational processes is enough. For teacher trainers and lecturers, it is important to present the reference point, but working on international documents is not interesting for their target groups.

### 3.3. Link between migration and sustainable development

In the second part of each interview, researchers focused on links between migration and sustainable development. Questions were asked concerning the role of climate change in global migration movements. All interviewees noted the significance of this link but also mentioned a lack of resources to elaborate on this issue. One of the interviewees dealing with migrants and refugees on an everyday basis emphasised that the official UN definition of a refugee should be updated, and that climate change should be mentioned as one of the reasons people have a right to obtain refugee status.

On the other hand, there are only few organisations and practitioners who understand this link clearly. There are only few researchers in academia working in this field and analysing the global context of migration in Poland and probably none are focused on climate change context as such. Most researchers are focused on small parts of the process, so they don't utilise the global context. When it comes to research and study, universities are not institutions that react immediately to current situations. For example, in 2018 at Warsaw University, researchers analyse discourse about migrants and refugees that happened in 2015. Therefore, fragmentation of research will not provide a hypotheses on a global scale. One of the representatives from academia highlighted that Polish society is no longer ready to analyse complex issues. The Polish education system (including schools and universities) tends to be apolitical in their views and stories, so they are not prepared for discussions about the here and now. The effect is that we have lost not only the civic engagement of people, but also an understanding of the current situation (which is obviously political). These interlinkages need a holistic approach and critical thinking, not ready-made answers.



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Moreover, one of the participants mentioned that the story about the connections between global migration movements and climate change is of course true, but that this is not a very fortunate story. Migration is such a complex phenomenon that attempting to indicate individual factors and the strength of these factors is doomed to failure. Additionally, we cannot forget about the numerous individual choices people make when deciding to flee. While it is clear that the rising level of the Pacific level will accelerate migration movements, a clear cause of conflict in Syria and migration movements from this area is not so evident. Summing up this part of the interviews, it is worth recalling a concept used when teaching adults – the David Kolb cycle of learning. It consists of four main phases: experience, reflection, generalisation/conceptualisation and active experimentation. When discussing migration in Poland, people stop on the second level. Even when there is a chance to experience someone's story or to meet a migrant and talk with him/her, even when there is a short moment of reflection about this individual story, people are not able to move to the conceptualisation part of the cycle. It is not possible to draw generalisations from this one story or to think about how an individual story could influence our lives in Poland/Europe, let alone what can be done and what individuals do to change the situation. This is due to a number of factors, including limitations of the education system, a lack of experiences with intercultural, global and anti-discrimination education as well as popular media coverage.

### 3.4. Insecurity

The theme of insecurity was also mentioned during every interview. Most of the participants focused on one factor of social insecurity - migration movements to the country. In almost all conversations, the issue of the “politicisation” of this topic was mentioned. Politicians use migration to win their political battles by creating an atmosphere of fear among people.

One of the representatives from academia mentioned how the word “security” has made such a great career in the academic world that she feels sick because of this trend. The revision of our understanding of security, despite the fact that the world is safer than ever, is directly linked with a neoliberal system because it makes profits, e.g. intelligent cities that collect all data about you and sell this to companies under an agenda of security. Also, safety is an argument that ends all discussions, when it comes to someone's security or defence. Security has started to be a universal value rather than a subjective feeling, which is very disturbing in the conception of the modern world. The fear-based management/strategy works fairly well when it comes to the migration issue. It is very likely that opinion polls related to security would change completely if you begin the discussion with the issue of migration, as this puts people into an unknown context and immediately activates fears.

One final point mentioned in one of the interviews is the Polish Catholic Church - which is not confronted at all when it comes to migration issues. The Church as an institution is designated to help people and take care of those in need. However, the Church in Poland is somehow a part of the political debate and even when some individual priests mention the role of the Church in helping, they are not listened to. Even the government, declaring itself as Catholic, didn't realise one of the flagship ideas of creating “humanitarian corridors” for



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refugees. This solution, proposed by Catholic Church in Poland, was never taken into consideration by politicians.

There is a definite need for possibilities to engage people in Poland in real discussions based on values and to find ways to identify and define them in the community. Overcoming fears and prejudice in both teaching and learning processes seems to be crucial for interviewees to make the discussion happen.

### 3.5. Main factors that shape public opinion and instruments to shape public discourse

Before 2015, the debate on migration had a different aspect. Around 2 million Polish young people had departed to work in different European countries. Therefore, we faced a situation on the labour market where there was not enough work for people to answer their needs. On the other hand, many migrants from Ukraine came to work in areas of basic services and less qualified jobs. The perception of migration changed in 2015. The question is whether the debate is still divided and if we still think about Polish migrants in this context.

One of the key factors that shape the public opinion views is social media and short, non-revised news. Social media has been mentioned by all interviewees. One of them said that initially the internet was supposed to be a place where you have unlimited access to various information and perspectives, so it could be a great critical tool. However, social media has changed this perception completely, especially with its short messages and visual tools. Fake news and memes influence the debate on migration on a large scale.

One of the academic representatives highlighted that social media stops a real debate and has left it on the level on memes, fake news and hate speech. In social media, it is easier to break communication rules, writing comments from a comfortable chair with a cup of coffee. One example is the photo of Aylan Kurdi, a three-year-old Syrian boy of Kurdish ethnic background whose image made global headlines after he drowned on 2nd September 2015 in the Mediterranean Sea. Some interviewees also noticed that, communication on social media, has made it harder to make deeper reflections, especially for young people, as news is important for only a few hours.

The perspective changes when we face a more homogeneous society with a lack of experiences and is far from the national centre of the debate. One of the academic representatives mentioned that her students at the Faculty of Education are passive in such discussions and don't want to speak about their opinions. They feel a distance from such a complex issue and a lack of understanding to argue about it. Their peripheral location makes them less engaged in political issues.

Summarising this part of the interviews conducted, there were two more factors shaping public discourse mentioned: politics/politicians and creating an atmosphere of fear. As fear was previously addressed, politics and politicisation of the topic is worth now describing.



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The migration issue was used to build political support particularly in the second half of 2015, but not only. This topic is still utilised when politicians want to gain something - it creates an atmosphere where the ruling party (Law and Justice) seems to be the only one able to defend the safety of Polish citizens by not allowing migrants to come to Poland. The message here is clear - vote for us, we guarantee you a safe life without any "non-catholic foreigners". A large part of this discourse is built on people being scared of other people and of other religions, with whom they have no experiences and who they've never met. This, according to one of the respondents, shows that we do not have any public discourse about migration in Poland at all. The media coverage and political use of this topic makes us feel this is not a debate we should have. As a society, we are very distant from any real discussion about this issue.

The interviewees cannot expect the re-opening or a real opening of the debate on migration thanks to the activities of just one project. However, it is worth to take it as a starting point that there is a need to learn how to start such discussions, how to work with emotions and fears or lack of understanding. Some targeted materials and methods, as well as meetings with real people to hear their stories could be a good starting point.

### 3.6. Gaps of information and instruments to fill the gaps

There is a huge information gap, when it comes to research on this topic. Some of the interviewees mentioned that education provides hope and the only answer to fill this gap. The way education process is designed for both young people and adults is very important. There are not enough opportunities to meet with Others - foreigners, people of other religions. As Polish society is still homogenous (which is a new situation, as before the II World War it wasn't) and not ready for diversity, we need to secure opportunities to discover diversity and feel comfortable with it.

Civil society organisations have some potential to do this, but they are not ready to use it, and their capacity or range is too small to make that happen. Representatives from academia suggested that NGOs could bring changes and new methods/tools/instruments. But some investment has to be made in the NGO sector, to give them capacity and strength to work on this. Also, political will would be required to instigate work in this field, which is nowadays absent in Poland.

On the other hand, NGO representatives see universities as places where change could be validated and objectified - creating an open space where discussions could be conducted, where different people representing different fields could meet. This may be a chance for creating a new style of debate on migration.

The last thing worth mentioning here was the idea of engaging pop culture products (e.g. television drama series) to open discussion. In previous years, HBO produced two seasons of a Polish crime series entitled "Wataha" about border guards working under pressure on the EU eastern border. This provides an interesting look at xenophobia and misogyny in Poland and Ukraine, with terrorist attacks, human traffickers and refugees as a background.



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Such a pop culture product could be a great factor for starting mature debates on global migrations and its causes.

All interviewees are looking for allies and other interlocutors to make this topic less isolated and more public. Certain examples of opening the topic are very positive in terms of creativity of the movement. It is worth considering the efforts of project that build synergies, with networking activities both on a national level and also on a European level. Both practitioners and academics can provide input to the community of experts, which can be built-in to project activities.

### 3.7. The role of education systems

The role of education systems could be significant, but when it comes to practice the limitations of the systems are bigger than expected. Representatives from NGOs saw the role of both universities and schools to start explaining the current world and also to teach about values. However, the condition of the education sector after reforms were conducted by conservative government in 2016-2017 shows that civil society engagement is also necessary.

Representatives from universities underlined that structure and hierarchy are involved when it comes to strategic decisions. Universities are no longer places of free and erudite discussions, because they are now answering to neoliberal market needs. The higher education sector at the moment is a sophisticated work agency which gives important points to a young person's CV or portfolio toward their future career, said one of the university representatives. Critical thinking attitude and deeper discussions on current issues are no longer an area of interest and only fans of academia are willing to work at universities and conduct research under the conditions that Polish academia can offer. The academic world is petrified by grant conditions and also by the recent political push. During interviews, comments of parliamentarians from the Law and Justice Party about the academic work of Michał Bilewicz on hate speech were mentioned. Questions about the condition of Polish academia came up many times during our meetings.

When researchers asked about practical proposals, most people supported cross-cutting training with a strong anti-discrimination approach and also improving methods to work with critical thinking skills. One of the interlocutors emphasised that most academic lecturers need anti-discrimination training and that this should be as important as work safety and hygiene training when starting work or studying. Building on this, it is important to train tutors at universities, but we have to remember how difficult the target group is and to use various methods or tools. The idea of addressing this as a cross-cutting issue was emphasised by many people.

The creation of new faculties or studying programmes is not the way to promote knowledge on global challenges and critical thinking attitude, according to our interviewees. This would only attract people already interested and convinced, which is not our goal.



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The last interesting proposal mentioned by respondents was to create training programmes for in-service teachers to strengthen their knowledge, abilities and competencies to work on global issues, including migration and its causes. This was seen as a very important part of the role of NGOs in the education system. Of course, this may be difficult considering the current situation in Poland, where several NGOs have been blacklisted by the Ministry of Education. However, there is still a great need amongst teachers to tackle these issues and to take part in training.

All interviewees highlighted the practical aspect of solutions within the education system. Proposals coming from the NGO sector are interesting as they present new qualities and new approaches to teaching and learning, different than what is typical. Innovations related to partnerships and methods are important, but the financial capacities of universities are not ready to fund such additional work. What is also important is to plan this as a long-term process with different kind of activities (including critical feedback, etc.) including stable cooperation between partners in order to make this idea work in the institutions, rather than giving the impression that a few hours of training or lectures could solve all the problems.



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## Summary

The research provokes reflection on the condition of Polish academic work on migration, but also some critical comments towards the skills and engagement of civil society organisations. The coming together of all these voices and different backgrounds has given a deeper understanding of the current condition of both sectors. It also provided a lot of inspiring ideas which could be a part of a needs assessment for a project target group.

Based on the literature review, we can observe the lack of connection between migration and sustainable development on a national policy level. Based on changes in political debate and also in media coverage on the migration issue, public opinion has radicalised rapidly, and this is visible in the quoted opinion polls (which start getting worse in late 2015). The analysis does not take into account social media as a main information channel but, from the researchers' perspective, the traditional media coverage is a continuation of the internet discussions.

Non-governmental organisations are the main actors active in the area of changing the discourse. Good practices mentioned in the report showed that this can be a group of change makers, but even the methods and range of their work wouldn't be able to entirely change the situation in its complexity and volume.

The field research showed how the many limitations of the current system and agenda make it difficult to work in this area. The politicisation of the topic, together with a high level of fear and emotions, makes it even harder. A lack of political will or openness between actors makes the debate seem useless. Looking for alliances between civil society organisations and academia seems to be reasonable when it comes to looking for solutions. Cooperation between practitioners and academics to develop methods for working with opponents and those unconvinced could be an answer to break the isolation of this issue.

## 4. Conclusions and recommendations

### 4.1. National and local level recommendations for NGOs:

- Initiate cross-sectoral cooperation between NGOs and universities/educational institutions. Look for broader alliances and supporting initiatives to bring the debate on migration and values to various places.
- Introduce critical thinking attitudes in learning processes. Present methods that help to deliver a new set of skills and attitudes to young people and train multipliers in this area.
- Strengthen anti-discrimination and holistic approach in education. Lead with efforts to introduce anti-discrimination and holistic approach in education. If necessary,



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change the language and describe this as an investment in future, ambitious plans and identify this as a market need.

- Build expertise in social media work as an essential area to balance messages on migration and sustainable development. Increase understanding of the role of social media in the delivery of information.

## 4.2. National and local level recommendations for governmental institutions:

- Support cross-sectoral cooperation between NGOs and universities/educational institutions on migration and sustainable development financially and through operational policy decisions on a national level.
- Utilise NGOs as experts in their advocacy work with migrants and sustainable development policies, e.g. during public consultations processes on the national level.

## 4.3. Local level recommendations for municipalities:

- Support cross-sectoral cooperation between NGOs and universities/educational institutions on migration and sustainable development financially and through operational policy decisions at a local level.
- Utilise NGOs as experts in their advocacy work towards migrants and sustainable development policies, e.g. during public consultations processes at a local level.

## 4.4. National and local level recommendations for educational institutions:

- Take active part in cross-sectoral cooperation between NGOs and universities/educational institutions. Look for broader alliances and support initiatives to bring the debate on migration and values to various places.
- Introduce a critical thinking attitude into learning processes. Apply methods which help to deliver a new set of skills and attitudes to young people and train multipliers in this area and use expertise of NGOs in this area.
- Strengthen anti-discrimination and holistic approach in education. Support efforts to introduce anti-discrimination and holistic approach in education into their institutions. If necessary, change the language and describe this as an investment in future, ambitious plans and identify this as a market need.

## 4.5. Recommendations for future research areas:



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- NGOs as actors leading debates on migration and sustainable development in social media and alternative media.
- If, why and how universities work/do not work in the global and anti-discrimination context based on migration and sustainable development topics.
- Overview of the methods for working with controversial issues in both formal and informal education areas (e.g. schools, academia, NGOs).



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