

Central European Forum  
for Migration Research



Środkowoeuropejskie Forum  
Badań Migracyjnych

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**WAS IT REALLY THE ONLY PLAYER?  
THE EU ENLARGEMENT  
AND ITS IMPACT  
ON THE POLISH MIGRATION POLICY.**

*Anna Kicinger*

Central European Forum for Migration Research

New Patterns of East-West Migration in Europe

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„policy in the Central and Eastern European countries has arisen almost entirely as a result of the requirements of EU accession and (...) the EU policy models and ideas about borders, security and insecurity have been exported to CEE countries”

Geddes 2003: 173.



## First pillars of cooperation after 1989:



Security issues and combating  
illegal migrations;



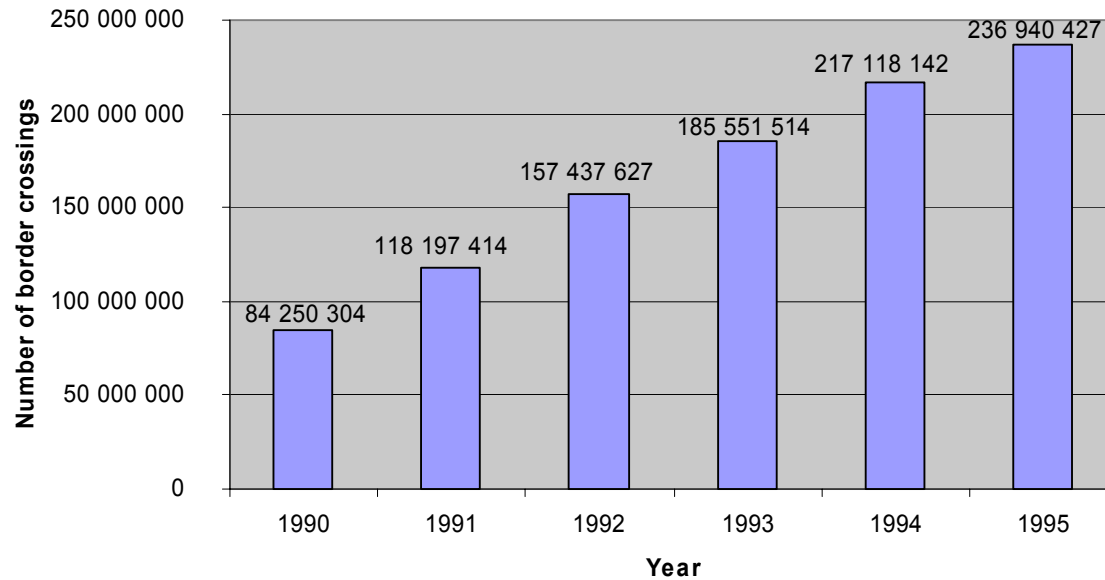
Asylum;



Readmission agreements.

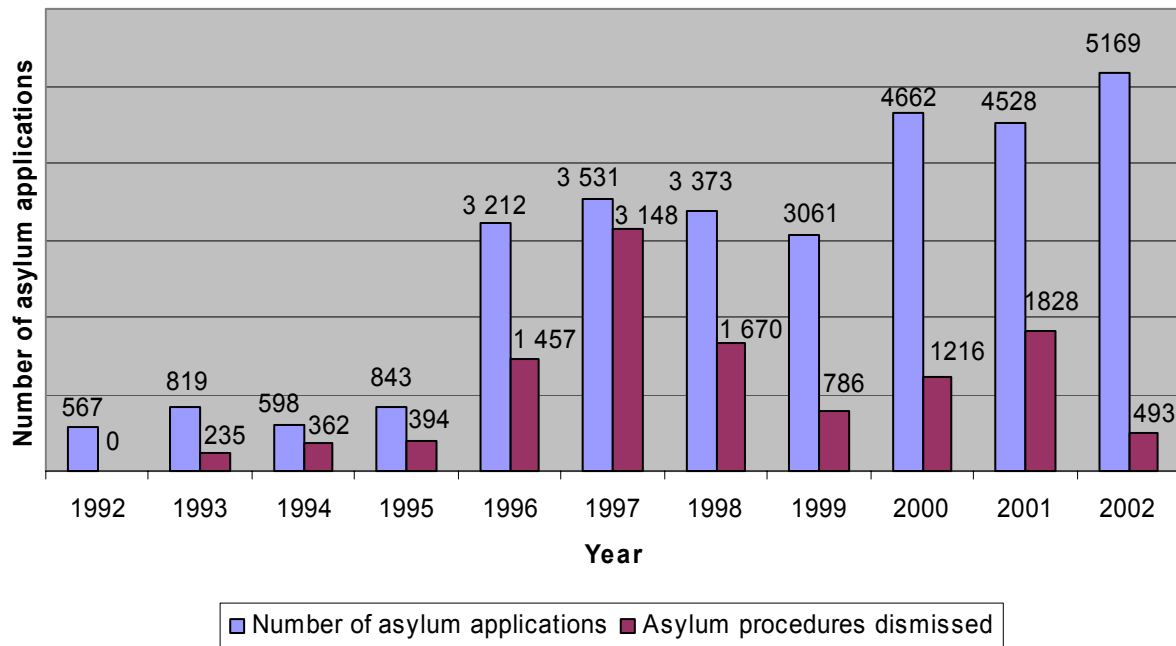


**Table 1. Border crossings 1990-1995 – entry and exit  
(including both Polish nationals and foreigners).**



Source: Polish Border Guard Statistics, *Poland. Statistical Data on Migration 1990-1996*.

**Table 2. The number of foreigners that applied for refugee status in Poland in 1992-2002.**

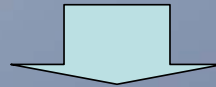


Source: Ministry of Interior, Department for Migration and Refugee Affairs statistics, after Szonert 1999, Koryś 2004; Kępińska 2004.

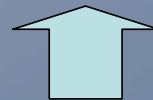


## The Polish migration law:

European influences



Constant evolution since 1989



Changing migration situation



## European influences: novelties in Polish legislation – some examples:

- Refugee status (1991);
- Safe third country, safe country of origin; manifestly unfounded application and accelerated procedure (1997);
- Temporary protection (2001);
- Family reunification (2001);
- Tolerated stay (2003);
- Special provisions for unaccompanied minors and other vulnerable groups (2003).



- Temporary residence permit (1997);
- Sea and air carrier responsibility (1997);
- Marriage of convenience (2001);

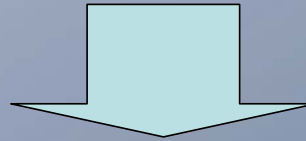
Other fields: constant evolution

Special focus on border protection and  
security issues





## EU – not the only player



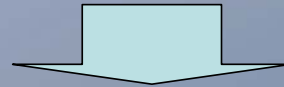
### Areas of Polish interests:

- Visas for Polish Eastern neighbours;
- Employment of foreigners in Poland;
- Repatriation;
- Emigration.



## Visas for nationals of Ukraine, Belarus and Russia

„close contacts” principle in Polish Eastern policy



Non-visa regime left in force after 1989



Important decision in terms of flows and economy



Ukraine, Belarus and Russia on EU visa-countries list



Debates in Poland



Liberal mode of issuing visas

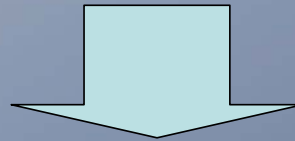
SUCCESS



# Employment of foreigners in Poland

Work permit system since 1989

Costly and complicated procedure



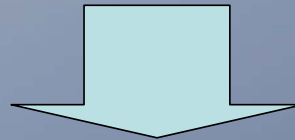
Small numbers of work permits

Vast majority of them issued to highly-skilled  
Western workers



# Employment of foreigners in Poland

c. a. 300 000 Ukrainians, Belorussians and Russians  
illegally employed in secondary labour market



A classical „policy gap”?

(Cornelius, Tsuda 2004).



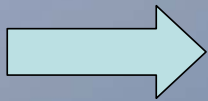
# Employment of foreigners in Poland

„The policy of silent toleration”



Absence of an effective regulatory system  
as a policy

(Zolberg 1999)



Economic and political rationale

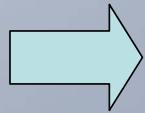


## Repatriation

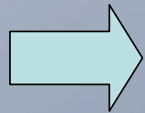
- The concept of repatriation present in Polish policy since 1920;
- Revival of the idea after 1989;
- Constitution 1997 – right to settle in Poland for all persons of Polish origin;
- 1996-2003 – 1.865 families.



## Emigration



From selective to permissive exit rules  
after 1989 (Weiner 1985)



De facto emigration policy?

- Bilateral agreements on labour migration
- Fight for the opening of the EU 15 labour markets





## Conclusions

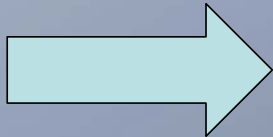
- Unquestionable Europeanization of Polish migration law;
- Concurrent development of Polish migration policy and European migration policy;
- Not always contradictions – e.g. security
- Securing specific Polish interest;



## Conclusions



There is a Polish migration policy



The EU has been the most important but not the only player in the game

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Thank you for your attention!

[kicinger@cefmr.pan.pl](mailto:kicinger@cefmr.pan.pl)  
[www.cefmr.pan.pl](http://www.cefmr.pan.pl)