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

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New Patterns of East-West Migration in Europe
“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”

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).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Number of border crossings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1990</td>
<td>84,250,304</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1991</td>
<td>118,197,414</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1992</td>
<td>157,437,627</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1993</td>
<td>185,551,514</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1994</td>
<td>217,118,142</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1995</td>
<td>236,940,427</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Number of asylum applications</th>
<th>Asylum procedures dismissed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1992</td>
<td>567</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1993</td>
<td>819</td>
<td>235</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1994</td>
<td>598</td>
<td>362</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1995</td>
<td>843</td>
<td>394</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1996</td>
<td>3,212</td>
<td>1,457</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1997</td>
<td>3,531</td>
<td>3,148</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1998</td>
<td>3,373</td>
<td>1,670</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1999</td>
<td>3,061</td>
<td>786</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>4,662</td>
<td>1,216</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>4,528</td>
<td>1,828</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>5,169</td>
<td>493</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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;
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
Thank you for your attention!

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