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## **Baltic Cities and Migration**

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Baltic Cities and Migration  
Problems – Potentials – Perspectives  
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## Welcome

*Karin Wohlgemuth, UBC Commission on Health and Social Affairs*

Dear Guests,

from Tartu, Karlskrona, Sundsvall, Vilnius, Kleipedia and Rostock. Thank you for coming and following the invitation of the UBC Commission on Health and Social Affairs for the workshop on migration here in the Hanseatic City of Rostock. Obviously, migration is a very important issue for all cities including the Baltic Sea region and that is precisely why we are here: we want to look at migration from many different angles and hopefully throw some light on the migration issues that concern all of us. Let me welcome you on behalf of the Mayor of the Hanseatic City of Rostock, Roland Methling, who sends his best regards to you. Unfortunately, he cannot be here, but he wishes a creative and constructive meeting on us. This evening we are guests of the University of Rostock and I have the pleasure to introduce to you Prof. Nikolaus Werz, the Chair of Comparative Government and Politics at the Department for Political and Administrative Sciences of the University of Rostock. Prof. Werz now is going to give us an introduction to migration and its politics in the Baltic Sea Region.

## Welcome

*Prof. Dr. Nikolaus Werz, University of Rostock, Faculty of Economics and Social Sciences, Department of Political and Administrative Sciences*

Dear guests from the Baltic,

I would like to welcome you to the workshop “Baltic Cities and Migration. Problems - Potentials - Perspectives”. The list of the participants indicates that some of you have a migration background. Therefore, you do not only know the Baltic cities. This can be a very good background for our workshop.

Universities are excellent places to discuss migration issues. According to their definition, they are open minded and try to attract students and ideas from abroad. The University of Rostock, founded in 1419, has a long history in the Baltic region. The experience of our university shows that the times of dictatorship and authoritarian regimes were bad for the development of science and the presence of students from other countries. Since 1990, the number of students from foreign countries has increased and reached nearly 1,000 in the year 2006.

Last Monday we had the investiture of our new university president, the “Rektor”, in this room. He realized part of his academic career in Canada, has a Canadian passport, studied

and worked in France and Switzerland. I am sure that in the forthcoming years our university will go even further in the direction of internationalisation.

The presentation of Prof. Kersten Krüger from the Department of History and my own presentation will try to show that Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania has a long history of migration. At the university there is a certain tradition of migration studies which started in the German Democratic Republic (GDR) with the working group about “Fremdarbeit und Imperialismus”. That group analyzed exclusively capitalist countries but did not reflect on migration to the GDR. Actually, migration studies are realized at both the Department of History and the Department of Political Science. The Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research in Rostock is working on these topics from the demographic point of view.

For us it is an honour and a pleasure to welcome you to our old university. The practical experience you have will be very useful and interesting for our ongoing studies about migration.

The Faculty of Economics and Social Sciences has supported this project with 1.050 €.

## Early Modern Urbanization in the Baltic Region

*Prof. Dr. Kersten Krüger, University of Rostock, Faculty of Philosophy, Department of History*

The history of the University of Rostock is old. It was founded almost 600 years ago as a university of the Hanseatic League when the hanseatic cities wanted to give their sons the opportunity to get higher education in law and later on in theology and medicine. The history of our university is characterized by many ups and downs. Its prime time was in the 16<sup>th</sup> century after the reformation when Rostock became the highlight of the North. The resources of the University of Rostock got doubled by the Prince of Mecklenburg. It was not financed by the city of Rostock – it was the early modern state. Many of the educated priests came from the Baltic countries. The University of Rostock played the most important role before the Scandinavian universities of Uppsala, Copenhagen and Tartu took over its leading role. Remarkably, there was no nationality problem, because the education language at that time was Latin although the priests had to preach in their native language, for instance, in Danish or Swedish.

There is a certain break in the development of the University of Rostock caused by the Thirty Years` War. The economic crises shrank it to a provincial territorial state university and it was not before the 19<sup>th</sup> century when again the modern state provided resources and money so that the university was allowed to recover and strengthen. Today, we have overcome the dictatorships: the national socialist and the socialist dictatorship. We have the freedom of speech, the freedom of research and the freedom of teaching and education, but there are other, mainly economic problems.

Leading you back to the historical perspective, the early modern urbanization in the Baltic area was the result of the conscious modernisation policy of the Scandinavian governments in Copenhagen and Stockholm. The 16<sup>th</sup> century constituted a pre-modern time before the modernization policy of governments began. Back then, the societies were characterized by population increase, unemployment and poverty. In order to give the increasing population the opportunity to survive and be employed in non-agricultural activities, the governments started a conscious policy of urbanization in the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries. In the Swedish Monarchy including Finland and the Baltic provinces, the system of cities went up from about 60 towns to over 90 in the course of the 17<sup>th</sup> century. That meant a success of the modernization policy by urbanization.

Next, I would like to introduce the information system “Baltic Towns” which can be found in the internet ([www.baltictowns.com](http://www.baltictowns.com)). This project is a co-operation of the Universities of Rostock, Stockholm and Århus. Rostock’s part was to cover the historical founding and development of new towns and cities in the 16<sup>th</sup> but mainly in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. One example: The town Tornio/Torneå was founded in 1621, two years after the law for Swedish towns was passed. Other small towns were founded as well. The basis for the foundings of the towns were not only privileges, there were also plans. In the project, we could see that the plans for an ideal city developed by the Italian and later taken up by the

German architects, was very significant for the founding of towns and cities. Tornio/Torneå, a small town, had a regular plan of squared house blocks and squared and regular streets dividing the town. This was an important pattern of new founded cities: The square as one of the main figures of which a town should consist.

In Hamina/Frederikshamn, founded in 1649, competing principles of founding towns which were prescribed by the government can be observed: according to the first one, at the end of the 17<sup>th</sup> century, the town had to be divided in squared grounds or sites, following the second one, in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, the plan was changed in order to build a radial town with fortifications. It should be mentioned that the military activities at that time were increasing. Consequently, many towns had to be fortified by huge bastions to protect their citizens. In the early 18<sup>th</sup> century, Hamina/Frederikshamn became a border town because of the new border with Russia. In this respect, the town was fortified. In the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, however, those fortifications were no longer in use because military concerns were replaced by economic interests.

I want to continue from that lowest layer of founded towns to the “middle class” of new founded towns. One of the most famous and successful examples is Gothenburg, founded in 1619 just in time with the new law for the Swedish cities. It was marked by quarter sized house blocks; artificial canals divided the town into several quarters. The privilege for Gothenburg was published in Low German and it was advertised in the Netherlands to allure economic innovators. We know that Gothenburg was a bilingual city until the middle of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. The merchants who came from the Netherlands were welcomed as innovators of commerce and the industry. Gothenburg was very close to Denmark and Norway, and only a few kilometres away from their borders. Therefore, it had to be fortified to be a secure place for economic and non-agricultural activities.

In Denmark, we have plenty of “Kristian” towns, as for instance, Kristiansand, which was founded in 1644. Here, we can still witness the tradition of square formed houses and blocks. At that time, such regularity became an indicator for the new order – disorder should disappear. The aim of the Renaissance policy was to get everything in a square or circle order. There was, so to speak, a geomatrization of towns. This development was accompanied by the King’s ambition to allure foreign specialists.

My last example is Copenhagen, a city that was transformed by the monarchy and modernized in a very radical way. The first plan of the new Copenhagen was a fantastic figure of a radial city but never put into reality. King Christian preferred radial cities, but the realization was not possible because the blocks were too unpractical. Today, we can see the plan that was finalized: we find the old town, huge fortifications and the new town for colonial and oversea commerce that was founded by the King: Christianshavn.

So far, my introduction to the policy of the crown of Denmark and the crown of Sweden established to modernize society, to promote division of labour and to facilitate economic activities. In this respect, migration played a significant role, because the societies were in need of help and support, they needed foreign innovators. Due to that, a mixed culture evolved in the Scandinavian monarchies including the Baltic provinces. To sum up, the

keywords for the development of the towns in the Baltic Sea region are modernization, urbanization and fortification, additionally integration of immigrants as innovators of economy and society.

## Migration and Migration Politics in Non-Classical Immigration Countries – Studies on the New German “Bundesländer” and the Baltic Sea Region

*Prof. Dr. Nikolaus Werz, Rostock University, Faculty of Economics and Social Sciences, Department of Political and Administrative Sciences*

Concerning the simultaneity of the demographic change and the crisis of the welfare state, the western industrial countries face the challenge of defining their migration politics. Especially states which until recently did not belong to the classical immigration countries or, which did not define themselves as immigration countries must find new ways of coping with immigration and integration. This concerns the Nordic welfare states (see contributions in Currell 2004) that had a low percentage of foreign residential population until the 1980s as well as the new German *Bundesländer* that have – due to their GDR history – a much lower proportion of foreigners compared to the old German *Bundesländer*. In the past, some of these countries were emigration countries. This was the case of some Nordic states and of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania.

Our *Bundesland* Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania has a long history of emigration in the 19<sup>th</sup> century and of large immigration after the Second World War. The migration after 1945 was forced. Due to the consequences of the Second World War started by the Nazi Regime, we can find forced forms of migration in the Baltic Republics. After 1989/90, the coordinates of migration changed. There was a strong internal migration between the so-called new and old *Bundesländer* in Germany. The Nordic welfare states became very attractive as immigration countries and experienced an increase in their populations.

Therefore, it seems useful to look at the different forms of migration processes and migration policies of the Baltic Sea states. These states are stable democracies that experienced large immigration flows in the last years. This is also the case for Spain which is currently experiencing a strong influx of migrants as Germany did in the early 1990s. Here and in Costa Rica, unlike in the other examined states, immigration is less characterized by language differences, but nevertheless has specific features.

The countries we deal with in the UBC workshop show both similarities and differences. The new German *Bundesländer* belong to the transformation states in which a rapid social change took place after the system change 1989/90. The foreign residential population of the GDR and of the transformation state primarily came from Algeria, Cuba and Vietnam. Moreover, there were smaller groups of political refugees – *politische Emigranten*, the so-called PEs. Among them, the Chilean exile played an influential role. A characteristic of the controlled immigration was the accommodation of guest workers and refugees in narrowly enclosed areas. The foreign population reached 1.2 per cent in the GDR which was quite a lot compared to other countries from the so-called socialist camp. Sources from Poland indicate that 100,000 Polish workers were in the GDR in 1989. In contrast to the discourse of the GDR that concentrated on the political maxim of international solidarity, practical

experiences with foreigners were very rare. In this respect, the new German *Bundesländer* represented a homogeneous society (Report of the Advisory Council of Experts for Immigration 2004:110-115).

Therefore, the mechanisms of immigration and migration that are known and tested in the old Federal Republic work only partially in the new German *Bundesländer*. Besides, the experience of the population drain during the transformation process constituted a more influential experience than the immigration of a foreign population (Werz 2001). The simultaneity of migration and – from the former GDR citizens' point of view – the sudden immigration at the beginning of the 1990s led to hostile reactions against foreigners that differ partly from those of the old Federal Republic (Heinrich/Werz 2003). In 1992, Rostock-Lichtenhagen became a symbol for xenophobia and racism; it was hard work to reconstitute a positive image for our *Bundesland*. The complicated interaction of mass departure to the old German *Bundesländer* and the selective and low immigration of foreigners to the new *Bundesländer* can be analyzed particularly well in Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania (Werz/Nuthmann 2004). The integration experiences and the dealing with migration in the “new Bundesland” have until today only been studied to some extent (Heinrich 2004, Kletzin 2003, Behrends/Lindenberger/Poutrus 2003). Even in the university towns, experiences with foreigners and foreign students were and still are not as characteristic as in the old German *Bundesländer*.

Since 1990, the population structure of the *Baltic Sea Region* (BSR) has undergone rapid changes. A significant decline occurred in the Eastern BSR population in the years directly following the dismantling of the “Planwirtschaft” economies. During the 1990s, the level of population decline in the Baltic States was the highest in Europe. In the Nordic countries, however, the prevailing situation is rather different. This is particularly true for Finland, Norway and Sweden where there has been a constant population increase throughout the post war era.

Traditionally, the Nordic states in the BSR are ethnically and religiously homogeneous societies. Only between two and four per cent of the foreigners come from countries whose political, cultural and religious traditions differ strongly from those of the Nordic countries. Between a third and a half are coming from Nordic neighbour states, EU states or North America. Immigration and integration issues have played a significant role in the last two decades. Finland experienced a flow of immigration at the beginning of the 1990s – today the development of a national integration policy is defined as an important political task. In Denmark, there has been a strong increase in the number of immigrants since the middle of the 1980s, but the proportion of foreigners has remained relatively low at five per cent. Nevertheless, the topics ethnic minorities and immigration moved to the top of the political agenda and led to political reactions. The quarrel about the Mohammed cartoons that first appeared in a Danish newspaper at the beginning of 2006 proves it.

Costa Rica could be consulted as a non-European example. The high number of female migrants is noticeable; therefore, one speaks about “feminization of migration” (Werz 2005:386). Especially the Latin American immigration to Spain and Europe shows features of transnational migration (Baumer 2004). To some extent, this also concerns immigration

in Costa Rica that has become apparent since two decades and has its origin in the Central America conflict. Considering Latin American conditions, Costa Rica has a very high level of education; the political system has developed welfare features since 1948. The increasing migration from poorer neighbour states like Nicaragua shows a high proportion of women. It leads to a new discussion about immigration and political reactions that might be compared to those in the Nordic countries.

The UBC meeting aims at discussing migration in non-classical or new immigration countries – until now, these countries have barely been investigated in a comparative perspective. Some questions are: Which institutions deal with immigration in the selected states? Can specific migration politics be identified? Are the demographic change and the decline in the fertility rate – both obvious developments concerning the native residential population in all examined states – issues discussed in connection with immigration? Which positive integration experiences can be identified? How does the change from controlled immigration (GDR, Sweden before 1989) proceed to the situation in times of globalisation? These are only some of the questions to be discussed. Thank you very much for coming!

# **Activities of ABRO – the Foreigners’ Assessment Council of the Hanseatic City of Rostock**

*Dr. Maher Fakhouri, President*

## **1. Introduction**

Welcome Ladies and Gentlemen to one of the most beautiful Baltic Sea cities: Rostock. My Name is Dr. Maher Fakhouri. I am from Syria and I have been living in Rostock for more than 22 years. Therefore, I am very well experienced in migrating from one country to another. Moreover, since I have been living here for so long, I also experienced the times of the two German states that have been reunified 16 years ago. Such experiences help me concerning my job as a social worker. My work is to help people to integrate in Rostock: first to support them learning and improving the German language and secondly, to offer training courses that support them finding a job.

## **2. The History and Development of Integrating People in Rostock in General**

I experienced that in times of the GDR there was hardly anything done for integrating foreign people. Workers from Vietnam, for example, were given language courses for only two months and then they were expected to start working. They also had to live isolated from the German population without getting into contact with the German language and culture. And as you probably all know, Germans who worked in public institutions were not allowed to get into contact with immigrants. After Germany had been reunified in 1990, the city of Rostock established an institution for integrating immigrants in 1991.

## **3. Facts and Data**

### **3.1. The term “immigrants”**

Who is meant by the term immigrants? It means those foreigners who intent to live here forever and those who are Germans by law, but come from the former Soviet Union. The German term for these ethnic Germans is called “Spätaussiedler”.

### **3.2. Data**

Since 1990, the number of immigrants in Rostock has increased and it is still increasing today while the whole amount of the population of Rostock is decreasing, due to the economic situation. Most of the foreigners who live permanently in Rostock come from Russia (approximately 980 persons), Ukraine (940) and Vietnam (800). Then there are smaller groups, for instance, from Turkey (290), Poland (270) and Hungary (240). According to the different kinds of residence permits, most of the foreigners have the permission to stay here for a long time.

#### **4. Foreigners' Assessment Council of the Hanseatic City of Rostock (ABRO) and Other Associations for Immigrants**

The ABRO was founded in 1992. Remarkably, it is the only advisory council for immigrants in Mecklenburg- Western Pomerania. The ABRO is a communal institution that supports immigrants to deal with important integration related aspects. Members of the ABRO regularly discuss the responsibilities of the Hanseatic City of Rostock as well as of political parties to make the problems of immigrants transparent. Here you can see photography of a discussion about the project BQN.



From left to right: Dr. Maher Fakhouri, Jürgen Hauf (Federal Institute for Vocational Education and Training, Bonn) and Dr. Wolfgang Richter (Rostock's Representative for Foreigner Affairs)

Photograph: Nadine Voß

The ABRO also co-operates with other associations to fight racism and discrimination.

Examples of activities:

- Co-operation with the government of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania for the conception of the immigrants' integration in Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania
- Multicultural weeks in Rostock that take place every year and contain more than 40 different events

Some examples of associations for immigrants in Rostock are:

- Diên Hồng e.V. ( German-Vietnamese association)
- Freunde der russischen Sprache e.V. (Russian association)
- Talide e.V. (Latin American association)
- A.B.I. e.V. (African association)

#### **5. Problems with Integrating Foreign People**

The language is the main problem for immigrants when trying to integrate in the German society. Problems with speaking German also inhibit them from developing in every respect. This inevitably leads to the next problem: getting a job. Immigrants, in general, have many difficulties with getting a job, on the one hand because of the language and on

the other hand because of different labour market systems in their home countries. The unemployment rate of the whole population in Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania figures 20 per cent, whereas the unemployment rate of immigrants figures even more than 40 per cent.

Another problem is the social integration of immigrants. Since many immigrants come from very different countries with very different cultures and customs, it is not that easy for them to get along with the German habits.

## **6. What is done by the Hanseatic City of Rostock for the Integration of Immigrants?**

In 1992, Dr. Wolfgang Richter took responsibility for the integration of immigrants. He is in charge of mediating between the responsibilities of Rostock and its immigrants and I do not want to miss the chance to mention that he is very engaged and creative.

Since a couple of years, we have established a network that includes all the associations and institutions that work for the integration of immigrants. The institutions are divided into five working groups according to the different kind of tasks, for instance, the task of the social consult for immigrants. Every single group meets regularly to discuss problems and the whole network meets once a year. The last big meeting was on the 25<sup>th</sup> of September in 2006. Advantages of these meeting are the chances to get to know each other better as well as the different ways of working.

## **7. Examples of Integration Projects**

- The first consult office (takes care for new immigrants)
- Social consult office (helps to solve social problems)
- Consult office for youth immigrants (those under 25 years)
- Consult office for immigrants (language courses, educational training measures)
- BQN (improvement of the structure in educating youth immigrants)

## **8. Summary**

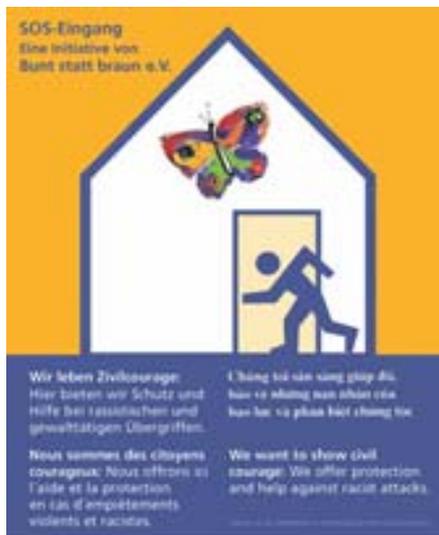
To sum up, it must be said that the integration work in the Hanseatic City of Rostock works very well. However, there are still many things left that have to be improved. But improvements are also to be made on a national level, for example, concerning the German Immigration Law (“Zuwanderungsgesetz”) that was enacted in 2005.

## Civil Commitment in Rostock for an Open-Minded City

*Lena Fassnacht, Citizens' Initiative Bunt statt braun e.V.*

Amongst the associations in Rostock which are active for democracy and against right-wing extremism, there is the citizens' group "Bunt statt braun e.V." (translated meaning "colourful, diverse instead of extremist"). *Bunt statt braun* is a registered association that enhances the acceptance of cultural diversity. At present, it includes 270 members, amongst them institutions like the University of Rostock as well as Scandlines and other big firms.

**Picture: SOS-Emergency Escape Sticker which is part of the SOS-Emergency Escape campaign.**



For instance, if you use the street car or bus system, or if you decide to visit the university or the town hall, you can for sure hit upon a sign of this association. For there you can see a large sticker attached to the window pane of about 7x7 inches square in the shape of a house. This sticker is part of the SOS-Emergency Escape campaign – Rostock nails its colours to the mast, a *Bunt statt braun e.V.* project.

The aim of SOS-Emergency Escape is to offer direct help in emergency situations. Solidarity with the victims of racist and violent attacks is demonstrated in public. At the same time it is made clear that such attacks and such tendencies in society will not be

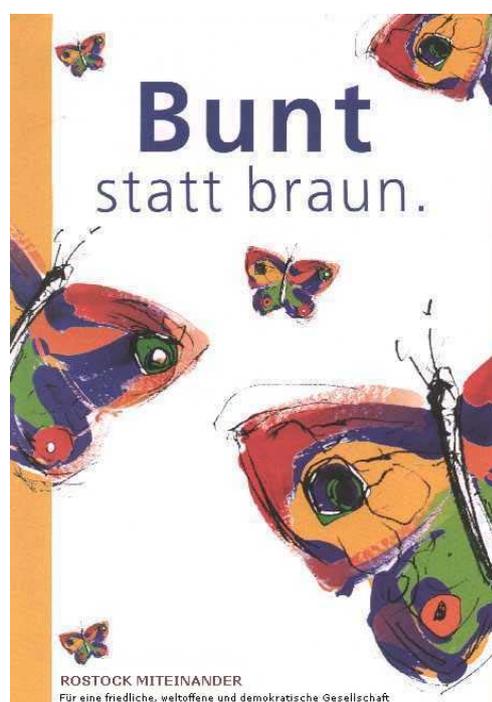
tolerated. SOS-Emergency Escape gives everybody a chance to take a stand against every kind of racist violence and to combat it.

The idea arose at the end of the 1990s. The campaign was launched in a number of towns in Brandenburg and in other German federal states. Since 2001, *Bunt statt braun e.V.* provides distinctive stickers and information sheets. The largest possible number of business people, firms, associations and institutions in public places are requested to display the stickers. The better known SOS-Emergency Escape becomes, the greater the effect on the public. This also means an increased subjective feeling of safety, not only for potential victims of racist and violent attacks, but for everyone. SOS-Emergency Escape encourages people to demonstrate the strength of their convictions in the face of xenophobic, racist and right-wing extremist acts. The project represents preventative action against the attempt by right-wing extremists to infect public life with their ideology.

## The background of Bunt statt braun e.V.:

In August 1992, several hundred Neo-Nazis attacked a multi-storey building in Lichtenhagen, a suburb of Rostock. It accommodated Roma asylum seekers and Vietnamese contract workers. After a siege that lasted several days, the first two floors – the Vietnamese apartments – were set on fire. Miraculously, no one was seriously injured. The “Lichtenhagen pogrom”, as it became known, led to a restriction of the asylum laws in reunified Germany. Yet, it also left Rostock with the stigma of xenophobia. The latter is a central issue of the East German right-wing extremist’s argumentation, that predominantly focuses on the problematic socio-economic situation (in contrast to revanchism and ideological patterns in West Germany).

When the extreme right-wing NPD party planned to hold a demonstration in front of the "Sunflower House" in Lichtenhagen to mark the culmination of their election campaign in 1998, a broad alliance against right-wing extremists was formed in Rostock and remained publicly active in the ensuing months and years. A group of people who had been active since that time decided, in August 2000, to form a registered association in order to create a more suitable framework for continuous common action against the dangerous right ideology. The citizens’ group is committed to action against right-wing extremism and opposes the use of violence. The association actively supports a peaceful and democratic shared life for the people of Rostock, a life marked by mutual acceptance and respect. The association encourages the population of Rostock to actively oppose racism, xenophobia and discrimination. It supports contact between different cultures and proactive political education work. This citizens’ group sees itself as one of several representatives of the Rostock idea “Bunt statt braun” under the motto “Rostock together with one another. For a peaceful, democratic society open to the world”. The butterfly symbol signals variety and non-violence.



Instead of reviving the Lichtenhagen events of the past and thus again evoking the static picture that is still prevalent in the mass media, *Bunt statt braun* seeks to highlight the positive developments of the present by presenting, for instance, Rostock’s hidden cultural variety through music. The most recent activity is an intercultural music project to help teenagers in dealing with cultural variety: a recording project in co-operation with the *Musikhochschule Rostock* (“Conservatory of Music”). The project design highlights the hidden variety of Rostock’s minority cultures of the present. It consists of a (nearly completed) CD with sixteen tracks by migrant, intercultural, and German “world music” performers. The migrant communities are represented, among others, by musicians from Africa, Iraq, and

Latin-America, and the CD includes two tracks from “Russian-German” migrants. The interest to participate in this project has been quite strong within these groups, as it offers them a good platform to present their cultures to a larger public. This is particularly true for the Russian-Germans who are the largest, yet least integrated minority culture with high conflict potential in Germany at the time of writing. The CD “Polyphony of Cultures” will be accompanied by a CD-ROM with further background information (completed in 2007) – and separate teaching material (2007/2008). Addressing the issues of xenophobia and right-wing extremism, this project intends to raise the level of tolerance through the knowledge of music. First of all, through the (subconscious) physical component of music that can be experienced through dancing. In a second step, this physical side is enhanced by background knowledge – not only of the actual cultures, but also of how strongly our popular traditions are actually intertwined with the “other.” One line of argument demonstrates how Latin-American rhythms and Afro-American elements are evident in western popular music, revealing also that many Neo-Nazi songs that are directed against (amongst others, African) migrants likewise use pop elements that are based on *Afro-American* traditions.

**Further activities:**

- Organizing events, for instance, the Peace Festival or the yearly “Night of Cultures” and campaigns on current issues (this year, in 2006, the “Night of Cultures” will be celebrated on December 9<sup>th</sup> in the city hall, offering a 9-hour program on 10 floors with more than 60 concerts and other cultural performances)
- Travelling exhibition and internet portal on “Lichtenhagen 1992-2002”
- Educational publications and workshops
- Public responses to extreme right-wing attacks and help for the victims

## **Introduction: Integration in the Municipality of Sundsvall/Sweden**

*João Pinheiro, Chairman of Committee Employment, Adult Education and Integration*

The municipality of Sundsvall has a population of about 94.000. Some seven per cent of the population are born in another country than Sweden.

The town developed from the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century with forest based industry, starting with the sawmill products and afterwards to the chemically based paper production. This is still the case with quite an important developed sector in the field of environment friendly technique by the side of large industrial complexes.

In the 1970s, a number of national state works boosted the white-collar sector creating jobs in administration, information technology, pensions and insurance. Up to the seventies, Sweden encouraged “immigration politics” where workers destined for the Swedish labour market could easily and smoothly integrate in the country mainly in the industrial sector. They got jobs from day one on!

When the necessity to import workforce diminished, the so-called refugee immigration began in the eighties. This was really a new phase where people wanting to come to the country could only get access by seeking political asylum. Sweden really tried to play by the rules and allowed a system to develop whereby people had to wait sometimes years to get their cases solved. Many stayed for humanitarian reasons, but the system helped to create socially dependent people instead of contributors to wealth.

Meanwhile this also coincided with the deep changes brought about by computerization and automation which in turn made many jobs disappear and many work places trimmed to leave mainly qualified people on the payroll.

What we tried to do in Sundsvall since 2003 was to get back on lost course and emphasize an attitude of seeing people as a needed resource. As a ground for this strategy, we have a European and Swedish picture of shortage of manpower caused by many retirements in the near future.

We think it is important in order to have success in this endeavour to let many different actors work so as to achieve a breakthrough in mentalities and attitudes. This is showing itself rather difficult as proven by the election in September, which delivered a three per cent support for a nationalistic right wing party now strengthened at the national level.

What we are presenting here today are two examples of how to work with people that are resident in Sundsvall and who mainly are non-Nordic and to a certain extent non-European with the aim of changing attitudes and welcoming this workforce into the labour market.

Mrs. Görel Crona will explain how work can be carried out to break barriers in the public sector. Mr. Henrik Wikström will tell how a sports club can play a role and be a resource in integration, and how the co-operative third sector can become active in this.

## Diversity in the Municipality of Sundsvall

*Görel Crona, Diversity Management Co-ordinator*

In Sundsvall, we have a declaration of diversity that contains all the differences:

- Culture
- Gender
- Social background
- Age
- Religion
- Physical and mental abilities

As you can see there is no ethnic category, but it is included in the categories “culture” and “social background”. Sexuality also belongs to part of the differences. The declaration was passed three years ago.

My vision is to make diversity a matter of concern for everyone. 8.000 are employed in Sundsvalls kommun and we have more than 500 work places. The objective is to make the concept of diversity known at our workplaces, to talk about and understand it. The reason for making the concept known is to increase the knowledge about the issue, question prejudices and support an open atmosphere. In Sundsvall, inhabitants with a foreign background are a resourceful minority. We often talk about ”we” and ”them”, but I want us to talk about ”us” because foreigners with their families have been living in Sundsvall for a long time.

### **The demands for our work:**

- Concrete activities
- Open and visible
- Increase the number of ”immigrants” within the organization
- Change of values and attitudes
- Identify and clear away obstacles
- Learn from experiences
- New methods for every day work

We wanted to offer people with a foreign background and education work practice. I started by building a bank of work practice places in our central administration and made a diversity programme that I shortly described in eight points:

- 12 work practice places in department offices

- Offers 6 months of work to unemployed persons with higher education and foreign background
- Supports the participants to increase their possibilities to find a job
- Activates participation with individual plans
- Elects and educates "mentors"
- Introduces a win-win concept
- Develops communication, work experience and culture, daily talking
- Gives certificates for participation

Since November 2005, about 30 people in total have been interested in participating. But since we do not have many technical work areas, none for example in chemistry, about ten of them had to look for other personal solutions. These are the results:

- 15 participants have started
- 7 men, 8 women, aged 20-54
- From Columbia, England, the Netherlands, Iran, Iraq, Latvia, Russia, Somali, Syria, USA, Zimbabwe
- Families resident in Sundsvall, been in Sweden between 2-15 years
- Educated in, for example, electricity, computersystems, finance, sociology
- Very positive reactions, "a breakthrough"
- 9 got full time employment, 2 part time

Finally, I could say that our project shows the same pattern as known in general for successful entrance in the labour market. The language is the main key, an experience of our work culture gives "the culture code" and the work experiences and personal references increase the possibilities to get a job tremendously.

## GIF Sundsvall Fotboll Plus – An Integration Project

*Henrik Wikström, Project Leader, GIF Sundsvall Football Plus*



### **Background:**

- Sundsvall Municipality has experienced problems with the integration of immigrants and refugees into the local job market.
- People of foreign descent usually experience problems due to poor language skills and poorly developed social networks.
- As one countermeasure, the municipality has decided to co-operate with a local football club working with integration related projects. The municipal committee responsible for employment, adult education and integration gives financial support and evaluates the projects while the club carries out the specified work.
- Sundsvall Municipality has co-operated with Project Fotball Plus since 2004.
- The project started in 2003 as an initiative of Mr. João Pinheiro, chairman of the GIF Sundsvall youth organisation. More recently, he has also taken the initiative of building the co-operative "Integrate Us" with the objective of quicker entry to the local job market for unemployed foreigners and youths.

### **Project Football Plus & Integrate Us!**

Project Football Plus, one project – two functions:

- **Integration:** Initiate processes to give a meaningful and active leisure time for immigrants and refugees.
- **Studies for young Football players:** Administrate and develop the weekly hour of homework for the active young football players in the GIF Sundsvall club.

**Integrate Us (separate project):** An economic association founded in May 2006 to help foreigners and long-time unemployed youths to get into the local job market (financially supported by EU).

## Aims and Objectives

- Get immigrants and refugees involved in leisure time clubs to extend their social networks
- Increase the participation of newly arrived children, youths and adults in leisure time activities
- Strengthen children's, youths' and adults' identity and their self-confidence
- Give immigrants the right to an active and developing leisure time
- All activities aim at counteracting and opposing the feeling of being left out of the community

## Activities and integration

- Facilitate contacts between immigrants and sport & leisure clubs in the Sundsvall area
- Initiate processes to develop leisure activities in Sundsvall
- Assist in founding new clubs for sports or other recreational activities
- Visit newly arrived refugees to inform them and help them find leisure time activities in Sundsvall and opposing to the feeling of being left out of the community
- Initiate and carry out different kinds of try-out activities, such as swimming for women, aerobics etc.
- Initiate and carry out and administrate Summercamp (integration related) together with other sport clubs

## Studies for youth players

- The activity started 2003
- It aims to prepare the club's youngsters for higher studies and to strengthen good studying habits (for those born 1993 to 96)
- The club wants to take responsibility not only for the football practice but also for their studying performance



- To help youths with foreign descent with their homework as well as ethnic Swedes that have problems to find support for their studies at home
- It is carried out and supported by university students aspiring to become school teachers
- Two parents per occasion function as extra support

### **Integrate Us**

- An economic association (co-operative) founded in May 2006
- The aim of the EU-funded project is to speed up the job market entry for long-time unemployed youths, immigrants and refugees
- The organisation is still in its build-up phase
- So far, the economic association has been involved in selling matchprogrammes and cleaning the arena when the best local football club plays homegames
- "Integrate us" also drives at being an employment mediating agency, where personally developed contacts are used to get its members employed

## **Work with Refugees in Kristiansand/Norway**

*Oddmund Sjøveian, Head of Social Department*

Employment and skill development are in many ways the main keys to integration. It is through social work relationships that people are best able to gain a mutual awareness of each other's differences and commonalities. Working life is an important arena for becoming part of society. Obviously, the most important aspect of having a job is financial independence, but having a work-related identity is also a crucial part of people's lives. This is as important to immigrants as to the rest of the population. This approach ensures long-term integration, and for that reason, efforts to develop skills and create opportunities for work must be a central part of the municipal reception and integration effort.

Experiences from the work on the skill development programme in Kristiansand show that nearly 80 per cent of the settled refugees who arrived in 1999 and participated are employed, attend education or are independent from financial social assistance 3 years later. In comparison, of the settled refugees who arrived in the year 2000, slightly more than 60 per cent are employed, attend education or are independent from financial social assistance three years later. Many more are at the threshold of obtaining a possible job and an equal number of men and women are actively involved in their own skill development.

Regarding the whole nation, it is a three-way balancing act: ensuring labour supply for the Norwegian business and public sectors, ensuring controlled immigration and emigration as well as ensuring equal rights and creating the right conditions for immigrants to take an active part in social life. Internationally, the balance is equally difficult to strike. The aim is not to stop migration, but to handle migration more wisely, to encourage positive effects and to counter the negative ones.

A more globalized world also requires new measures in relation to integration. Many people have their identity tied to two or more countries. Hopefully, this can bring the world closer together and create loyalty across country borders, but it could also give rise to conflicts and insecurity. The rules for a coexistence of different religious, cultural, and national beliefs and views must therefore be addressed internationally, and not simply be left up to the individual state.

## **Introduction: Integration in the Municipality of Karlskrona/Sweden**

*Ingrid Augustinsson Swennergren, Co-ordinator of Welfare Matters, Municipality of Karlskrona*

The municipality of Karlskrona has about 61.500 inhabitants. It is situated in the very south-east corner of Sweden. Karlskrona was built for just one reason: the Swedish king needed a naval base in the south of Sweden which he could use also during cold winters. When the naval base was established, there was of course a need for skilled shipbuilders and other craftsmen and therefore people from the rest of Sweden and from abroad moved to Karlskrona. It could also be interesting to know that Karlskrona was one of very few towns in Sweden where Jews were allowed to settle and therefore we have an old Jewish parish.

Throughout the years, Karlskrona has been characterized by its purpose – a town built for military purpose. Quite a few areas in the municipality were restricted areas and non-Swedish persons needed permission to visit people that lived in these areas. Few immigrants settled in Karlskrona and we were very late with starting a reception for refugees, which we eventually did in the 1980s

In the 1990s, Nationalsocialistisk front (NSF, the National Socialist Front) was established in Karlskrona, which we are not very proud of. The organization was actually founded in the outskirts of Karlskrona and its chairman and several board members lived in Karlskrona. There was a huge effort put into the fight against the national socialistic front, by more or less all parts of the municipality. Due to these efforts, boards members of NSF no longer live in Karlskrona and their activities are minimal. NSF has participated in the two last local elections, but without succeeding in getting any seats in our municipality council.

In the local election before the last, Sverigedemokraterna (SD, the Swedish democrats) took part and managed to get three seats in our municipality council. The SD calls itself a nationalistic party and one of their main issues is to limit immigration and increase repatriation. In the last election, one month ago, the SD managed to increase its vote and the party now has 8 seats (of 75) in our municipality council.

When it comes to how we are organized in Karlskrona, more or less all departments within the municipality work on these tasks. The Child and Youth Welfare Department, for instance, is responsible for all education up to upper secondary school level, including Swedish as a second language and education in the native language. The Department of Care of the Elderly has a special group that takes care of elderly people from Bosnia.

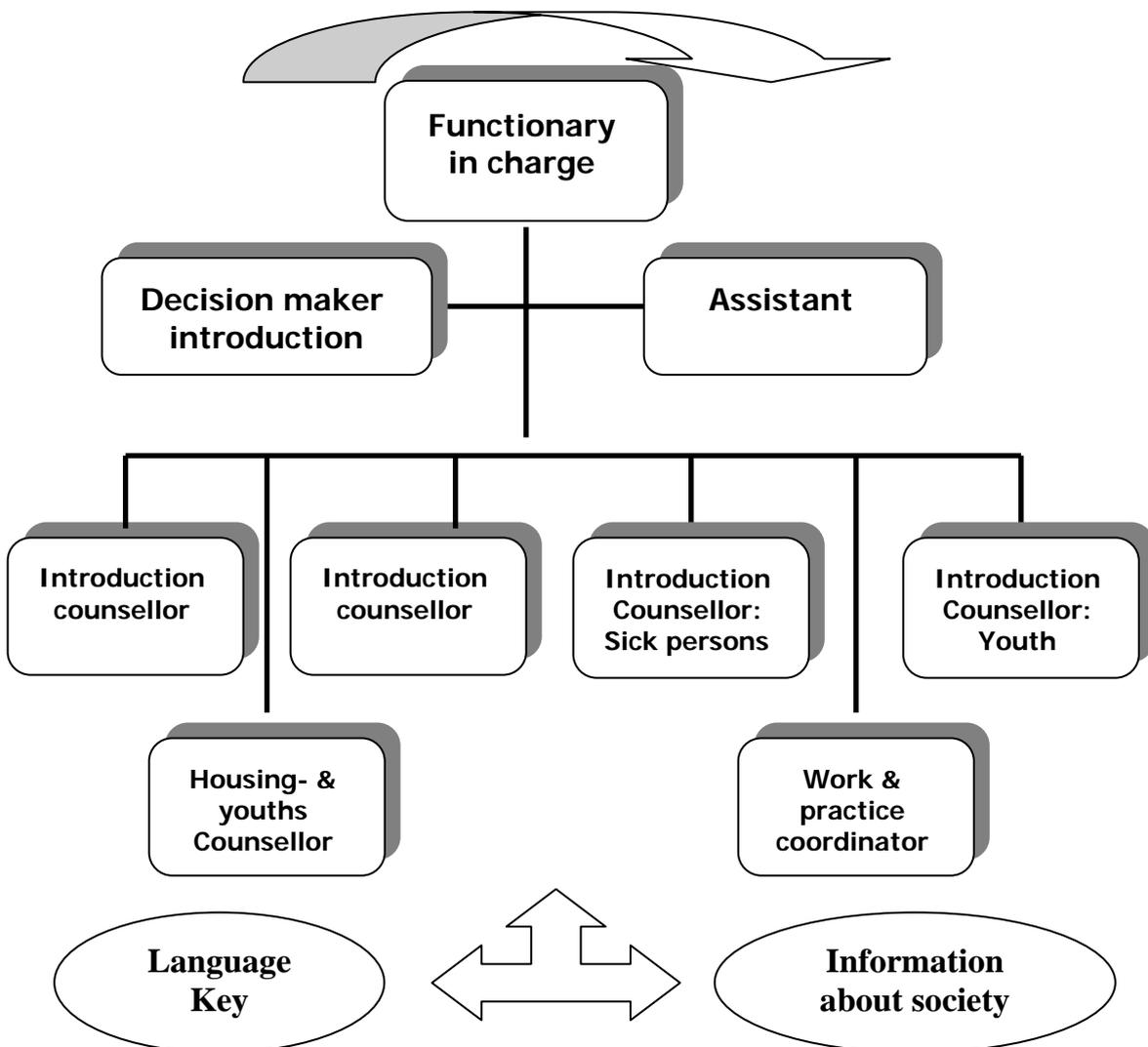
But there is one organisation that works and is responsible for how we work with the introduction of refugees into our municipality. This is Leif Petersson's responsibility and he will tell you what and how we do it.

## Migration, Refugee Introduction and Local Labour Market

*Leif Petersson, Head of Labour Market Measures, Municipality of Karlskrona*

Since September 2004, the responsibility for reception and introduction of refugees is transferred to the organization for labour market measures from the unit of social affairs. The unit labour market measures are today a part of unit of trade and industry. This organization benefits a wide connection to the labour market through contacts with the local companies.

**Picture: The refugee introduction by the unit organization**



During the last years, the municipality of Karlskrona has an agreement with the state to take care of and to accept 100 refugees a year. This year, 2006, we have a separate

agreement with the state to take care of and to accommodate 155 refugees, according to a temporary Swedish law.

When refugees arrive in Karlskrona, we offer them an introduction programme, which they principally can accept or refuse. In connection to the introduction programme, a fee or salary for participating in the introduction programme (8 hours a day) is paid. The fee, or as we say “introduction compensation”, is a little bit more than what they would get in the normal social security system.

In principle, every refugee accepts the refugee introduction programme. We take the responsibility for the refugees’ introduction for three years plus the month of their arrival. Usually, we are responsible for the refugees three and a half year. The agreement with the state gives us compensation for our costs during 24 months. So we have to manage a good introduction where the refugees can go to a workplace and earn own money for their living, in an average time of totally 24 months. We do not have any other compensations or money for our activities than the money from the agreement with the state.

The introduction programme contains four main issues: SFI (**S**wedish **F**or **I**migrants), civics, practice in work and finally work/employment.

Our main task is, with our counsellors working as service providers, to coach the participants (refugees) to reach individual goals as fast as possible. The individual goals are connected to a flexible, diverse and fast introduction to the Swedish society. A very important “new” working tool for us is our work- and practice co-ordinator. In this case, the work- and practice co-ordinator helps the participant and the counsellors to find the right contacts in the local trade and industry to find the most suitable practice or employment.

Today, we use both the unit of labour market measures and the unit of trade and industry to shorten the way and the amount of time for introduction and integration in the Swedish society, for the purpose of getting employed for self support as early as possible.

# Trafficking of Migrants, Especially Women in Lithuania

*Mantas Jersovas, International Organization for Migration, Mission in Lithuania*

## International Organization for Migration

The International Organization for Migration is an intergovernmental humanitarian organization committed to the principle that humane and orderly migration benefits migrants and society. The organization has 116 member states and 280 field missions, 22 observer states, its headquarter is in Geneva/Switzerland.

### Main functions and aims

- Assistance to migrants in need
- Assistance to governments when dealing with migration management problems
- Different activities in conflict areas/war zones

### Service areas

- Movements
- Assisted returns
- Labour migration
- Migration health
- Mass information
- Technical co-operation on migration
- Counter-Trafficking

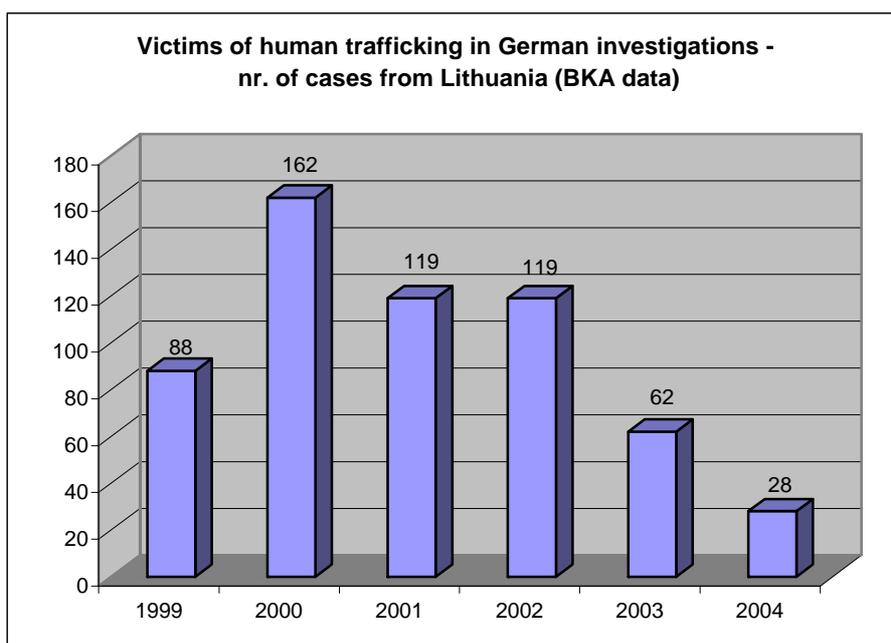
### Scope

- Expert evaluation: number of victims 2000-3000 from Baltic States yearly, more than half of them from Lithuania
- The number of victims increased after Lithuania's accession to the EU
- Currently, the situation is improving, but the time frame is too short to make wide-ranging generalizations

## Geography

- In the mid-1990s, main flows went to the southern direction, for example, to Israel, Greece, United Arab Emirates, Turkey, now the main flows go to North and West Europe: Great Britain, Ireland, Spain, Germany, Norway, the Netherlands, Denmark, Sweden and Spain
- Geography is expanding and therefore flows also go to new exotic countries as, for example, Japan

**Figure1: Victims of human trafficking**



## Data from Eaves House Poppy Project/United Kingdom

- Period of project March 2003 – January 2006
- Out of 414 victims 80 cases of trafficking involved Lithuania (1<sup>st</sup> place), Albania 40 cases (2<sup>nd</sup> place)
- Some of the victims were not Lithuanians but possessed forged Lithuanian passports

## Depersonalized Data Base about Victims of Trafficking in Lithuania

Data on trafficking is very scattered and not easy to generalize, therefore:

- IOM Vilnius in co-operation with 8 leading NGOs in Lithuania assisting victims of trafficking established a depersonalized data base
- Project period May 2004 – January 2006, in total 220 cases have been reported
- Experts think this makes only about 10 % of all trafficking cases

- Age structure: 16 % minors (before the accession to the EU minors constituted 12 %), 64 % women between 18 -23 years old, 8 % over 30 years
- Education: 52 % uncompleted secondary education, vocational schools 7 %, secondary schools 14 %
- 72 % single women, 53 % of them have children
- Counter-trafficking police officials report that in the last six months the incidence of trafficking in Lithuania is decreasing
- Official reports are based on the skewed notion of trafficking (trafficking is still understood only as trafficking for sexual abuse while disregarding other forms such as slave-labour exploitation, internal exploitation)
- IOM mission in Lithuania notes that cases related to slave-labour exploitation are increasing
- Problem: in many cases neither the police nor victims and even exploiters understand that putting a person into such conditions/deceiving him or her/not paying a wage is also trafficking which is punishable

### **Weaknesses**

- Awareness raising and prevention campaigns (especially for risk groups) are highly needed
- Awareness raising about other forms of trafficking (especially labour exploitation)
- Recent IOM research demonstrated that the weakest link in the prosecution process in Lithuania is witness protection; too many trafficking cases have not been successful because victims change their testimonies or withdraw their complains
- During 1999-2005, out of 117 reported human trafficking cases only 31 reached the court, even less were sentenced

### **Strength/vision for the future**

- State is getting actively involved in counter-trafficking issues and provided funds needed for assistance/integration for the victims. Trafficking finally gets a priority status.
- Lithuania is the only country in the Baltic-Nordic region with a functioning system of return and integration of victims of trafficking.
- Extensive efforts of the police such as improving the social and economic situation at home, creating more possibilities for legal employment abroad, and reaper flight do give hope that the number of victims of trafficking will decrease or at least not increase. However, law enforcement officials emphasize an increase of trafficking to Lithuania (especially women from Belarus and workers from Belarus and Ukraine).

# Migration in the Baltic Sea Region. The Baltic Sea Countries – New Immigration Countries?

*Jenny Bonin, University of Rostock, Faculty of Economics and Social Sciences, Department of Political and Administrative Sciences*

## 1. Introduction: The Baltic Sea Region after 1989/90

Since 1989/90, the Baltic Sea Region (BSR) has undergone fundamental changes. The area that was divided into western, capitalist countries with market economies and socialistic states since the end of the Second World War became a more peaceful and secure region. With the fall of the Iron Curtain, the Baltic States emerged as sovereign countries, Poland gained political independence from the Soviet Union and the former German Democratic Republic (GDR) got reunited with the Federal Republic of Germany. A new political map of the BSR arose as a result of the political developments. Today, the political map includes the following countries: the Federal Republic of Germany, Poland, the Baltic States Lithuania, Estonia and Latvia, the Russian Federation with the exclave Kaliningrad and the Scandinavian countries Finland, Sweden and Denmark. Unlike the other states, Norway and Island do not have a direct gateway to the Baltic Sea, but nevertheless these countries are counted among the Baltic Sea states mainly due to their historical development. After 1989/90, the new transformation states, the Scandinavian states and the reunified Germany took a new line concerning their dialogue and political relations.

The BSR constitutes a prospering economic region today, but it is still characterized by strong differences between the Western market economies and the transformation states. The Baltic States, Poland and Mecklenburg Western Pomerania, the new German *Bundesland* situated at the Baltic Sea, made economic progress – even though serious unsolved problems, especially a high unemployment rate in comparison to the Scandinavian countries, exist. Economically, the former communist countries have still a long way to go to obtain the level of the wealthy postindustrial Scandinavian countries, but the rapid economic development in Estonia shows that regaining lost time is possible.

In the field of science relations, the years 1989/90 marked a turning point concerning co-operation and exchange of scientists and students, because since then exchanges and co-operation have increased enormously. Nowadays, education and science play an important role in all BSR countries (Werz et al. 2005).

Regarding political interests, major differences can be identified. The Scandinavian and Nordic countries are characterized by an intensive co-operation with the BSR in respect of the Nordic Council and the Nordic Dimension of the EU. The Baltic States attempt to enlarge their relations and co-operations to a similar extent. In contrast, in Poland and Russia, co-operations with other BSR countries have remained on a relative low level due to their stronger interest in international politics (Werz et al. 2005).

To sum up, since 1989/90, the BSR experienced fundamental changes. The old and new countries that belong to the BSR have come closer concerning co-operation and exchange. The changed political map brought new chances as well as new challenges, especially for the transformation states

## 2. Changing Migration

The years around 1990 also reflect a turning point with respect to international migration. In the course of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, Europe – a continent with a distinct emigration tradition – became the second important immigration destination after North America. From the end of the 1980s on, the continent was affected by new migration push factors: the breakdown of the Soviet Regime and the Eastern Bloc, the Balkan Crisis, political crises and famines in Africa and Asia led to a sharp increase in the number of refugees. Even European countries that – until that time – had almost never been affected by international migration flows became destinations for immigrants and refugees.

According to the *International Organization for Migration* (IOM), immigration affects the European countries to a large extent:

“The world is changing, and migration is contributing to that change. For instance, Ireland, traditionally a country of emigration, had one of the fastest growing immigrant populations in Europe in the early years of the 21st century. Germany, a country that until recently saw itself as a non-immigration country, has passed an Immigration Bill, to come into effect in 2005, and the UK recently elected its first local councillor of Somali origin.”<sup>1</sup>

Today, Europe can be generally described as a continent of immigration. For the European countries, migration movements constitute enormous political, social and economical challenges and are perceived like that. The increasing number of immigrants and refugees provokes feelings of threat among the European populations.

Immigration does not only raise questions concerning the financial burden for the welfare systems. Moreover, it raises the question: How do states define themselves? Who are we and who belongs to us? To which extent are foreigners allowed to become integrated into our society? The integration of immigrants and refugees is one of the most difficult questions; it can be regarded as “a key test for the openness and stability of civil societies. It shows whether civil society really provides an alternative to the integration of societies as national communities” (Bauböck 1996). Integration – the new political guideline of governments all over Europe – is connected with opportunities if it is defined as active communication between different cultures. In this respect, immigrants bring new experiences, skills and knowledge as well as a new culture and religion to a host society. Formerly homogenous societies become more and more multicultural, open and diverse. But there are also several difficulties, for instance, integration requires a lot of money and

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1 International Organization for Migration (ed.): *World Migration 2005: Costs and Benefits of International Migration*, Geneva, S. 13.

work, and without financial and human resources a comprehensive integration is not possible. Language training is usually defined as a key factor for integration, but language courses alone are not sufficient for the purpose of integrating migrants; there are more tasks, for example, concerning employment or cultural participation. One problem is that newcomers who arrive in a given society are often perceived as “strange” and as “somehow different”, as people who do not come from here and do not belong here – but the willingness of the host society to integrate newcomers is an important pre-condition to successful integration.

These questions concern almost all European countries, but for the Baltic Sea countries, they have a special meaning. In contrast to countries like the Netherlands and France, most of the Baltic Sea countries have less immigration experience and a smaller proportion of foreigners.

**Table: Foreign Citizens in the Baltic Sea countries in 2004 in per cent of the total population**

<b>Country</b>	<b>% foreigners</b>	<b>Country of the citizenship of the biggest foreigner groups</b>
Germany	8.9	Turkey
Poland	1.8	Germany
Denmark	4.9	Turkey
Finland	2.0	Russia
Sweden	6.5	Finland
Norway	4.1	Sweden
Estonia	20.0	Russia
Lithuania	1.0	Russia
Latvia	22.2	Russia

Source: Eurostat Luxembourg: <http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu>

As one can see in table 1, the proportions of foreigners and the countries where the biggest groups come from, vary. Due to the many differences of the Baltic Sea countries, one can not speak of “one BSR migration pattern”. But it is possible to look at similarities and differences of migration in the Nordic Baltic Sea countries and compare them with the history and current situation in the transformation states.

### **3. The Nordic States**

According to Runblom and other social scientists, the history of Nordic migration is characterized by a typical pattern: because of their geographic position, the Nordic countries have not been an important destination for population movements in Europe. The establishment of the Common Nordic Labour Market in 1954 and further agreements

of the Nordic countries encouraged more than one million Nordic citizens to move and work in a Nordic neighbour country. Inner-Nordic migration has – until today – played a significant role.

In the 1950s and 1960, the demand for labour power increased considerably in Sweden, Norway and Denmark. Therefore, foreign labour power from Non-Nordic countries, for example, from Turkey and Pakistan, was recruited. In 1972/73, the recruitment was halted because of increasing unemployment caused by the oil crises and economic recession. Contrary to the official assumption, many “guest workers” decided to stay and bring their families.

In the 1970s, refugees from the so-called Third World came to Denmark, Norway and Sweden, but their number remained relatively low. Not until the 1980s, their number increased and it became obvious that “the Nordic area’s relative isolation from the global migration currents was a phenomenon of the past” (Runblom 1995). Among the crucial factors were the mentioned push factors, for instance, the Balkan Crisis and the breakdown of the Soviet Regime, and moreover, the integration of the Scandinavian countries into international airline networks with direct flights to and from Third World countries. In order to cope with the increasing number of refugees, the Scandinavian countries began to reorganize their reception systems and their refugee policy. In the course of the 1980s, the governments enacted law revisions and restrictions. The aim was to limit the number of refugees and to gain control over immigration (Runblom 1995).

Sweden was one of the first European countries to develop integration measures and to make arrangements for the acquirement of the Swedish citizenship and the legal status for the former “guest workers”. In contrast to Sweden, Denmark and Norway provided adequate policies relatively late. In 1999, Denmark, Norway and Finland enacted integration laws with the aim of creating a legal framework for a successful integration.

The increasing number of immigrants and refugees has aroused suspicion within the Scandinavian populations. Many people worry about the abuse of the Nordic welfare system that is characterised by a high level of social security. It should be mentioned here that immigrants have the right to certain social benefits in the Nordic countries. The access to the welfare system is traditionally based on residence instead of work or other factors.

In Denmark and Norway, populist parties – the so-called *Progress Parties* –, founded at the beginning of the 1970s as protest parties against the level of taxes, subsidies, and regulations, took up the immigration issue in the 80s. In Sweden, the party *New Democracy* claimed to restrict immigration at the beginning of the 1990s. The Danish election in 2001 was dominated by the immigration issue and the Danish People’s Party, an extremely xenophobic party, succeeded with focussing predominantly on immigration issues their campaign and won 22 seats in parliament. Since that year, the party supports the Conservative-Liberal minority government coalition, for example, concerning the anti-immigration policy. Internationally, the government has been highly criticized for tightening the immigration and refugee laws that were enacted within a few months. Moreover, politicians of different parties were criticized for hitting the wrong note in the

immigration debate, especially towards Muslims. According to this, the quarrel about the Mohammed cartoons was the outbreak of a smouldering conflict.

Since the 1990s, the immigration of immigrants and refugees in the Nordic countries can be regarded as a controversial topic that leads to heated political and public discussions. The topic is particularly difficult because it is linked to fundamental elements of the Nordic countries: As traditionally very homogenous societies, the Nordic countries have difficulties with the idea of becoming more and more multicultural. Furthermore, the populations fear the loss of the welfare system.

Even though the number of immigrants and refugees from the so-called Third Countries (countries inside and outside Europe that are neither EU members nor states associated with the Framework Programme) has increased considerably, their share is still low compared to the proportion of Nordic citizens. In Denmark, approximately ten per cent of the foreign population comes from a different Nordic country, in Sweden, the number amounts to two thirds and in Norway to a quarter. In Finland, the biggest group of Nordic immigrants are Swedes.

The pattern of migration in the Nordic countries may be summarised shortly as follows: mass immigration to the Nordic countries is a relative new phenomenon that has a polarizing effect in the political life in the Scandinavian countries.

#### **4. The Baltic Sea Transformation States**

There are distinct similarities when looking at the causes and effects of immigration in the Baltic Sea transformation states Poland, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and the new German *Bundesland* Mecklenburg Western Pomerania. As former allies of the Soviet Union (Poland and the GDR) or post-Soviet states (Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania) they traditionally constituted “closed societies”<sup>2</sup>. Since the breakdown of Communism, the former closed societies have been in a process of transformation and have tried to turn into open societies. In the communist systems, contacts to foreign countries and to foreigners were limited and made difficult. After 1989/90, immigration and the dealing of politicians and the people with foreign refugees and immigrants marked a new experience that raised difficult questions (Prawda 1997).

In the new German *Bundesländer*, as for instance in Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, the current migration situation differs clearly from the old *Bundesländer*. Immigrant groups have different characteristics. The new *Bundesländer* have a distinct history of migration and tradition in the GDR and therefore a different experience concerning the reception of foreigners and the public discourse on migration. Labour migration plays a less important role compared to the old *Bundesländer*. The majority of the migrants, who have been living in Eastern Germany, for example, since four or three decades, originally come from

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2 The term “closed society” was used by Karl Popper in his book *The Open Society and Its Enemies*. According to Popper, an “open society” ensures that political leaders can be overthrown without the need for bloodshed. In contrast, in a “closed society” a bloody revolution or coup d'état is necessary to change the leaders. For instance, democracies belong to “open societies”; totalitarian dictatorships and autocratic monarchies are “closed societies”.

socialist countries such as Vietnam and Cuba. Migrants, who immigrated after 1990, are mainly Jewish migrants and *Aussiedler*, the term for ethnic Germans who live as ethnic minorities in the former Soviet Union and other East European countries. The number of migrants in East German municipalities is usually smaller than in comparable West German municipalities. In the new *Bundesländer*, the proportion of foreigners reaches between two and three per cent. In the old *Bundesländer* such as Baden-Wuerttemberg, Hessen and North Rhine-Westphalia, the proportion reaches far more than ten per cent. Due to the differences between the number and descent of migrants and their reasons to immigrate, different challenges and problems are connected to immigration and integration in the *Bundesländer* belonging to the former GDR.

Until the beginning of the 1990s, emigration played a more important role than immigration in Poland. The number of Polish people with the Polish citizenship living abroad is still high, it amounts to 12 millions. The significance of immigration increased in the course of the 90s and an Aliens Law was enacted in order to limit the entry of “unwanted” foreigners. Nowadays, Poland constitutes a transit country for migrants moving between East and West Europe (Netzwerk Migration in Europa 2003).

In the case of Poland, the real proportion of foreigners is hard to estimate. According to Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Communities, 1.8 per cent of the population had a foreign citizenship at the end of 2004. Official information act on the assumption that only about 40.000 foreigners reside in Poland – a number that is nearly incapable of measurement. Other statistics give numbers that seem far too high, for one, the UN Population Division estimates a number of more than two million foreigners. One reason for unequal data is the different use of the terms “foreigners” and “migrants”: some statistics only refer to immigrants and do not take refugees into consideration, other statistics, such as the UN Population Division statistic, do not sum people with a foreign passport, instead they use the definition “foreign born” – in Poland, this leads to high numbers due to the displacement of the Polish border after the Second World War. It is assumed that in comparison to West European countries, the proportion of foreigners is very low (Netzwerk Migration in Europa 2003). According to Eurostat, the biggest group of foreigners with a different citizenship are Germans. Moreover, citizens from former Soviet Republics, for example, the Ukraine, Belarus and Armenia, live in Poland.

In the Baltic States Estonia, Lithuania and Latvia, today, migration movements are much more complex than in previous years. They now constitute countries that send as well as receive migrants. The situation during the Soviet period was different: the Baltic States were immigration countries with multicultural and multi-ethnic societies. Many citizens from the Soviet Union including Soviet military personnel lived in Latvia and Estonia. Since the independence of the Baltic States, the migration situation changed completely. Many inhabitants left the countries, moreover the Russian Federal troops withdrew. The number of inhabitants declined considerably. Since the beginning of the 1990s, immigration flows have stabilised at a low level (Kielyte 2002). As transformation states, the governments have developed and enacted the legal frame in order to define the rules

for entering and staying as well as to regulate and limit immigration. The main instruments are visas, immigration quotes and immigration fees.

In May 2004, Estonia, Lithuania and Latvia became members of the European Union (EU). This brought new challenges concerning the new external frontier of the EU. One responsibility is to combat irregular migration and to co-operate with the neighbour states: the Russian Federation and the Republic of Belarus. In Estonia and Latvia, the number of foreign citizens – citizens with a foreign passport – is very high (see table 1). Due to the specific history as Soviet Republics, the majority are citizens from the former Soviet Union who live permanently in Estonia and Latvia and keep their original citizenship. It is an interesting fact that the share of residents from the Baltic States in Germany, Finland, Sweden and Denmark is considerably higher than in other EU Member States. This leads to the assumption that geography, culture and language (e.g. between Estonia and Finland) are key factors with regard to migration decisions (Kielyte 2002).

One problem for foreigners living in the transformation states of the BSR is xenophobia among parts of the the populations. Especially in the early 1990s, attitudes among the main populations towards foreigners were hostile. Foreigners, in particular asylum seekers, have repeatedly been attacked or even assassinated. In Eastern Germany, in the course of the 1990s, the number of assaults has declined, but according to the latest findings, their number is rising again. In Mecklenburg Western Pomerania, the right wing extremist NPD achieved 7.3 per cent of the vote in the latest state election.

To sum up, as former closed societies, the Baltic Sea transformation countries face new challenges and responsibilities. As EU members, the countries became more attractive as migration targets. Even though the importance as destination countries for international migration is increasing, migration issues do not play an essential role in public debates, especially in Poland and Lithuania. The transition from closed to open societies has not been finished with respect to xenophobia and contacts to foreigners which are still limited.

## **5. Challenges for the Baltic Sea Countries**

Migration in the Baltic Sea countries is characterized by a number of similarities and differences. Therefore, one distinct pattern can not be identified. Since the early 1990s, the Nordic countries as well as the Baltic States, Poland and the new German *Bundesländer* have become more important as destination countries. Hence, they face diverse challenges and responsibilities across a wide range of migration issues.

One challenge refers to the development of a national integration policy that concentrates on same duties and rights for the immigrant and host population and sets the course for the equal participation of immigrants in the political, economic, and social life of the society. The Scandinavian countries are one step ahead regarding integration measures and the role of integration in migration debates.

Moreover, an immigration policy is needed in order to ensure demands of the labour market. Especially Poland and Germany face a considerable decline in birth rate since the early 1990s. In the Nordic countries, demographers expect serious shortages in the labour

markets, triggered by an ageing population and a stable economic growth. Hence, the countries will face a strong demand in workforce in the future. An active immigration policy is needed in order to diminish and overcome labour market bottlenecks.

Recently, the current governor of the Kaliningrad Oblast (federal subject of Russia), Georgy Boos, proclaimed that there are at least 65.000 job vacancies in Kaliningrad caused by the economic boom, for instance, about 15.000 in the building industry. The governor announced that the government is planning to double the population of the exclave by the aid of an immigration programme within the next ten years. The aim is to keep up with the significant upturn. The government acts on the assumption that more than 170.000 people are going to immigrate to the Kaliningrad Oblast within the next three years, mainly from Russia, the former Soviet Republics and the Baltic States.

Another challenge refers to the fact that the Baltic Sea countries become more multicultural. Therefore, the societies have to change to become more open societies which combat intolerance and disinterest. The awareness of the populations that living together with foreigners is part of the normal daily life is still missing. The immigration of immigrants and refugees is a relative recent phenomenon that is often exclusively regarded as a threat and burden instead as a chance. In the future, the transition from emigration to immigration countries in the BSR is expected to continue – this means that the governments and the populations have to prepare and make arrangements for this development. Especially in Poland and the Baltic States, immigration has to become a more important issue in public debates. Despite of Sweden, it is difficult for the countries of the BSR to get used to the idea of turning into immigration or transit countries.

One challenge is to solve the unsolved problems that have increased in connection with immigration. In the BSR, the unemployment rate among immigrants is very high. Many investigations and experiences of other countries show that work is of great importance for integration processes. In particular immigrants from Third Countries and refugees are affected by unemployment. Negative attitudes among the populations towards foreigners make their integration additionally difficult. To summarize it can be stated that the immigration of migrants in the BSR poses enormous challenges. One major task, integration, does not only mean to allow foreigners to become part of the society, it also means to realize their membership by providing suitable legal and social preconditions. Presumably, it will be a long way for the Baltic Sea countries to go, but the successful realization is of great importance for the cohesion of the societies.

## **Review on Migration and Migration Debates in the Baltic Sea Countries and on Experiences and Problems connected with Integration in the Municipalities**

*João Pinheiro, Chairman of Committee Employment, Adult Education and Integration in the Municipality of Sundsvall*

### **Migration in Sweden**

#### **What are the main pull and push factors for migration in your country?**

Sweden needs a certain type of immigration but is not particularly active in attracting it. Sweden is one of the countries in Europe that has been most open for refugee immigration compared to its population. Today, many people come to Sweden for family reunification. This applies to all groups; this includes refugee groups as well.

#### **What are the major immigrant groups?**

Asians, immigrants from the Middle East, Kurds, from Iraq, ex-Yugoslavia, and Somalia. Concerning family reunions, mainly women come to Sweden via marriage.

#### **How are the terms foreigners and immigrants used?**

The terms generally used are immigrants (*invandrare*) and refugees (*flyktingar*), very seldom foreigners (*utlänningar*). Lately, there has been made an attempt to use the term New Swedes (*Nya svenskar*) even if they do not have the Swedish nationality.

#### **Do the state and the population define your country as an immigration country?**

Yes. And there are also groups officially called minorities, Roma, Jews, besides the Samer from Laponia.

#### **Which institutions deal with immigration?**

At the moment two: Migrationsverket, responsible for nationality questions, resident permits and refugee matters, and the Integrationsverket concerned with integration. The new government has announced to abolish the Integrationsverket.

#### **On which principal is citizenship based? (the principle of ethnicity *ius sanguinis* or the principle of place of birth *ius soli*)**

The principle is *ius sanguinis* by the mother, but recently we have made improvements in citizenship questions such as the possibility of dual nationality, which applies to many other European countries.

## **Integration in the Municipality of Sundsvall**

### **Which positive integration experiences can be identified in your municipality?**

Ceremony to welcome new Swedes as citizens is performed yearly at the national day 6<sup>th</sup> June. An annual prize is given out on this date to acknowledge the good work of persons or organizations to stimulate diversity and integration.

In addition, projects which allow academic educated immigrants to get work practice at the municipality are carried out. There are different municipal projects to improve employability (Moa) and to support immigrant organisations and associations working with integration as a goal, for instance, Fotboll plus.

### **What are the biggest problems concerning the integration of migrants in your municipality?**

Lack of job possibilities and a certain amount of bureaucracy delaying advancement.

### **Does your municipality already have a comprehensive concept with the aim of establishing and coordinating integration policy?**

The municipality has its own office for refugee reception and integration. This is part of an office responsible for Employment, Adult Education and Integration.

## **Discussion in Sweden**

### **Is there a discussion about migration and integration in your country?**

Yes, and it has been rather confusing with quite a lot of misunderstanding and ignorance connected to these issues.

### **Are the demographic change and the decline in the fertility rate – both obvious developments concerning the native residential population in all Baltic Sea states – issues discussed in connection with immigration?**

Very seldom do we hear of any political leaders at the national level taking up the question with reference to a positive resource.

### **Do populists use migration issues for political purposes?**

Yes. The question has helped two populist parties to gain some influence at different levels. In 1991, Nydemokrati got into national parliament with some four per cent. In 2006, the Sverigedemokraterna failed to gain representation in Sweden's national parliament, but managed to get a strong representation in the municipalities all over Sweden.

## **Integration in the Municipality of Karlskrona**

### **Which positive integration experiences can be identified in your municipality?**

We have a good co-operation with the trade and industry in our municipality. Through this co-operation we manage to create minor projects which result in employment. We also co-operate with different educational organizations such as folk high school to be able to diversify the education in, for example, Swedish.

In the area with most foreigners we have a compulsory school that works with culture and sport in a fascinating and successful way. In the leisure time centre at this school we have established a meeting place for the adults in the area. Here you can participate in all different sorts of activities. In the same area the municipality is participating in a project ESMEC, financed by the ESF, which among other things, aims at rising the wellness among unemployed refugees.

### **What are the biggest problems concerning the integration of migrants in your municipality?**

Lack of work. The unemployment rate in Karlskrona is higher than the average in Sweden. As a result of this it is even harder for a person with a non-Swedish background to get a job in Karlskrona.

### **Does your municipality already have a comprehensive concept with the aim of establishing and coordinating integration policy?**

The Municipality Council adopted a policy for the work in 2003 with ethnic diversity in Karlskrona 2003 – 2006. The policy holds, among other things,

- \* Information on governmental goals,
- \* The aims of the municipality,
- \* Five prioritized areas in Karlskrona,
- \* Who is responsible for what?
- \* Definitions

The aims of the municipality are:

- \* All the inhabitants of Karlskrona shall have equal rights, possibilities and obligations irrespective of their ethnic or cultural background.
- \* Mutual respect shall be shown to our differences.
- \* The competence and knowledge of the individual shall be appreciated.

The five prioritized areas are:

1. Democracy
2. Labour
3. Child care, school and education
4. Culture and leisure time
5. Accommodation

## **Discussion in Sweden**

### **Is there a discussion about migration and integration in your country?**

Yes. The main group of foreigners who have arrived in Karlskrona during the last 20 years are refugees, whom we have arranged introduction for. There is an ongoing discussion about the number of refugees and whether we shall have refugees in Karlskrona (and Sweden) at all. The higher the unemployment rates of the Swedish population are, the more discussions about refugees we have.

There is also a discussion on whom we shall allow to come to Sweden. When the refugees came from Iran or former Yugoslavia, the majority of the refugees came into work quite fast. For our present groups of refugees, who mainly come from Iraq, Palestine, the former Soviet Union, the distance to the labour market is for many persons much longer. A few have an education that can be used immediately or used after completing studies in Sweden. But the majority has a low or no educational background and a few are illiterate.

### **Are the demographic change and the decline in the fertility rate – both obvious developments concerning the native residential population in all Baltic Sea states – issues discussed in connection with immigration?**

At present, we do not have a decline in fertility rate. The fertility rate is increasing in Karlskrona and so is our number of inhabitants.

### **Do populists use migration issues for political purposes?**

Yes. In the local election before last Sverigedemokraterna (SD, the Swedish democrats) took part and managed to get three seats in our municipality council. The SD calls itself a nationalistic party and one of its main issues is to limit immigration and increase repatriation. In the last election, one month ago, the SD managed to increase its votes and has now 8 seats (of 75) in our municipality council.

## **Migration in Germany**

### **What are the main pull and push factors for migration in your country?**

Between 1955 and 1973, West Germany recruited foreign workers. At that time, an increasing economic prosperity and the need for workers were the major pull factor that attracted “guest workers”. After 1973, many of these workers decided to stay and brought their families. Due to Germany’s “guest worker tradition”, about 60 per cent of the foreign population originally comes from a country that sent workforce to Germany, for example, Italy and Turkey.

Between the middle of the 1980s and 1992, the number of asylum seekers increased remarkably, one of the major push factors was the war in ex-Yugoslavia. Additionally, the number of the group called *Aussiedler* (see question on immigrant groups) increased considerably.

### **What are the major immigrant groups?**

Among the Baltic Sea countries, Germany has the biggest number of migrants and a clear dominant group: There are more than 2.5 million Turks or people of Turkish origin living in Germany. Moreover, the “Aussiedler” group is another dominant immigrant group. These are ethnic German immigrants from Middle and East Europe and the area of the Soviet Union. Between 1987 und 1999, about 2.7 millions *Spätaussiedler* from the former Soviet Union immigrated to Germany.

### **How are the terms foreigners and immigrants used?**

According to latest information given by the Federal Statistical Office Germany, there are 7.3 million foreign citizens permanently living in Germany (year 2005). This means that 8.8 per cent of the population does not have a German passport. For the first time, the Federal Statistical Office also presented the number of people with a “migration background”. According to this definition, people with a migration background can be German or foreign citizens, either they immigrated or they belong to the group of the second or third generation of immigrants. The number of people with a migration background comprises 15.3 millions, almost one fifth of the whole population.

Since the end of the Second World War, the terms “Ausländer” und “Aussiedler” are normally used. But since a couple of years, the term “people with a migration background” that includes all the groups irrespective of citizenship or generation becomes widely accepted.

### **Do the state and the population define your country as an immigration country?**

Traditionally, Germany perceives itself as a non-immigration country even though the country has a distinct immigration tradition. Until the end of the 1990s, the sentence “Germany is not an immigration country” was repeated permanently by different German governments. But in fact, Germany has become an immigration country with a second and third “immigrant” generation. It was difficult for the German nation to get used to this idea and it took similar decades, but today, the idea of being an immigration country becomes accepted. As the Red-Green Government (1998-2005), the Grand Coalition Government (since 2005) recognises this development and attempts to act accordingly.

In comparison to Sweden, the process of accepting being an immigration country and of enacting adequate measures and laws took much longer.

### **Which institutions deal with immigration?**

Germany is a federal state with 16 federal states (*Bundesländer*). Migration and asylum issues are dealt on the “Bundes” level by the Federal Government of Germany. Under the portfolio of the Federal Ministry of the Interior, the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees is in charge of co-ordinating information on labour migration between aliens authorities, the labour administration and the German missions abroad, responsible for the Central Register for Aliens, for developing and conducting integration courses, and for implementing measures to support voluntary return. The federal states have some competencies concerning integration.

### **On which principal is citizenship based? (the principle of ethnicity *ius sanguinis* or the principle of place of birth *ius soli*)**

Traditionally, the German citizenship is based on the *jus sanguinis* principle. In 2000, the Red-Green-Government passed a new citizenship law that focuses on legal issues regarding multiple nationalities. The *ius soli* principle and the increased acceptance of dual nationality were introduced. Now, children of parents with a foreign passport can acquire the German citizenship by being born in Germany if 1) at least one parent has lived legally and permanently in Germany for at least eight years, and 2) that parent had a permanent residence permit for three years at the time of the birth. Taking into consideration that the majority of the foreigners live on a long-term basis in Germany, the new citizenship law introduced shorter mandatory waiting periods for naturalizations with the aim of facilitating integration.

### **Integration in the Municipality of Rostock**

#### **Which positive integration experiences can be identified in your municipality?**

As Dr. Maher Fakhouri, the President of the Foreigners’ Assessment Council of the Hanseatic City of Rostock (ABRO) stated, in the GDR there was hardly anything done for integrating foreign people. After 1990, the city of Rostock has established a net to integrate immigrants. Since 1992, when Rostock-Lichtenhagen became a symbol for xenophobia and racism; the awareness of relative isolated groups living in Rostock has raised among the

German population. In 1997, the intercultural centre „Waldemarhof“ was established, for instance, in order to present immigrant associations and to get to know each other better. In general one can say, that contacts between the German population and foreigners have intensified.

**What are the biggest problems concerning the integration of migrants in your municipality?**

Like in the Swedish municipalities Sundsvall and Karlskrona, the main barrier for the integration of immigrants is the labour market. Immigrants are particularly affected by the high unemployment rate in Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania. There are integration projects that support immigrants to improve their vocational skills and to get into contact with employers and the labour market by attending internships, but the number of immigrants who succeed in getting employed is still much too low.

Moreover, contacts between immigrants and the local population and the mutual understanding have enhanced to a large extent during the last years, but there are still barriers we have to learn to dismantle.

**Does your municipality already have a comprehensive concept with the aim of establishing and coordinating integration policy?**

In the city of Rostock, Dr. Wolfgang Richter, the Representative for Foreigner Affairs, has together with representatives from initiatives and authorities established a comprehensive network. According to Dr. Maher Fakhouri, it includes many associations and institutions that are engaged in work for the integration of immigrants. Five working groups meet regularly in order to advance the measures offered to immigrants. A number of different integration projects are carried out in Rostock.

**Discussion in Germany**

**Is there a discussion about migration and integration in your country?**

In Germany, migration and integration issues are discussed in the population, media, and on the political level as highly controversial political and social topics. Different debates can be distinguished. Since 2003, when the German Constitutional Court announced its decision that a woman can not be dismissed for wearing a head scarf to work, the discussion has focussed on the questions whether it should be allowed to demonstrate symbols of religious faith in state-funded public institutions and whether the head scarf represents a symbol of oppression.

The Muslim headscarf is one topic of the debates dealing with the integration of immigrants. Besides, the composition of Islamic religious education is being discussed. Since the terror attacks in the United States of America, these topics have become major topics. In general, security aspects have gained in importance.

In 2005, the new Immigration Law (“Zuwanderungsgesetz”) was enacted. It introduced integration courses for newcomers from non-EU countries. The implementation was accompanied by numerous debates. In order to improve the integration of immigrants in

the German society, to initiate a serious debate about integration and to establish understanding between foreigners and Germans, Chancellor Angela Merkel invited representatives of immigrant associations to the “Integration Summit” in July 2006. Two month later, Merkel discussed with Muslim community leaders in the “Islam Summit”.

**Are the demographic change and the decline in the fertility rate – both obvious developments concerning the native residential population in all Baltic Sea states – issues discussed in connection with immigration?**

Yes, the need for skilled workers is being discussed on the political level, especially in connection with the new Immigration Law. The aim of the Red-Green Government was to introduce a so-called point system that would help to select the immigrants based on criteria of education, age, and language skills. The opposition was against the point system, and therefore, it had to be left out. In Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, we face the problem of having a badly need for persons in the medical profession, but the conditions of work and the salaries are not attractive enough to encourage doctors to come and stay here. In the future, we will also face the problem of not having enough nursing staff and carer for the elderly. Because of the our high unemployment rate, many people have not become aware of how serious this problem is.

**Do populists use migration issues for political purposes?**

Unfortunately, we have populist parties which take up migration issues knowingly: the right wing extremist NPD (National Democratic Party of Germany) and the DVU (German People's Union). In comparison to the democratic parties, these parties have remained relatively small, but succeeded in gaining seats in state parliaments, for instance the NPD in Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania in 2006. Paradoxically, their demand to limit the number of immigrants and asylum seekers is most popular in areas with a very marginal foreign population, such as in Saxony-Anhalt and Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania.

But in the past, even some politicians of the democratic political parties took up migration issues in a populist way. An example: In 1999, Roland Koch (Christian Democratic Union, CDU), since that year prime minister of Hessen, launched a controversial campaign against double citizenship for the state election in Hessen.

## **Migration in Lithuania**

### **What are the main pull and push factors for migration in Lithuania?**

Pull factors:

1. Higher payments (up to 5 times higher for some sectors, for example, construction, agriculture, IT) – equalizing
2. High demand for manual work in receiving countries – decreasing
3. More opportunities for personal and professional development
4. Extensive networks and communities of nationals abroad (especially in UK, USA, Ireland, also recently Spain, Germany)
5. Myths about living and working abroad (widespread among young people)

Push factors:

1. Relatively small salaries
2. Unemployment (especially in rural places)
3. Bad working culture, attitudes of the employers towards their workers. This is especially evident among the young people. After having worked abroad for some time they cannot accept rude management culture and exploitation.
4. Lack of perspectives in the country

### **What are the major immigrant groups?**

Citizens of the Russian Federation (mainly Chechen nationals)

### **How are the terms foreigners and immigrants used?**

Negatively.

### **Do the state and the population define your country as an immigration country?**

No, not yet. Lithuania only defines itself as an emigration country.

### **Is there a chain migration and are there forces which try to interrupt chain migration?**

After Lithuania joined the EU, there are more cases when families join and relocate abroad. Before that, one family member usually worked while the rest stayed in Lithuania.

### **Which institutions deal with immigration?**

Migration department, ministry of labour and social affairs, foreigners reception centre.

**On which principal is citizenship based? (the principle of ethnicity *ius sanguinis* or the principle of place of birth *ius soli*)**

Ius sanguinis

**Integration in the Municipality of Vilnius**

**Which positive integration experiences can be identified in your municipality?**

No, there are no positive integration experiences in Vilnius.

**What are the biggest problems concerning the integration of migrants in your municipality?**

There is no clear system and too many projects which work on competing activities. Migrants do not consider staying there; therefore, they do not put efforts into learning the language to integrate.

**Does your municipality already has a comprehensive concept with the aim of establishing and coordinating integration policy?**

No, the municipality does not have a comprehensive concept.

**Discussion in Lithuania**

**Is there a discussion about migration and integration in your country?**

No, only about what to do with the mass emigration.

**Are the demographic change and the decline in the fertility rate – both obvious developments concerning the native residential population in all Baltic Sea states – issues discussed in connection with immigration?**

No, only concerning emigration.

**Do populists use migration issues for political purposes?**

Not yet, but this is highly possible in the near future.

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