

The art of restoring bridges

The immigration and integration of the immigrants in post-communist country

Poland is a country of rich, fascinating and inspiring historical heritage. Through ages, Poles were connected with cultures of numerous countries like Lithuania, Ukraine, Germany, Russia, Hungary, Austria, France etc. by unions and obligation forced by political situation. In every city we can find many signs of multicultural societies. Unfortunately, the events of World War II and the period of communism destroyed the cultural connection, eliminating ethnical and religious minorities from Polish society. During 44 years of communism, Poles were forced to forget how to coexist with the representatives of another countries, religions or races. After the abolition of communism, Poland opened her borders for immigration and it became a transition country for those immigrants who wanted to live in Western Europe. Economic development, joining European Union and Schengen Area was the impulse for the increased immigration from Eastern Europe, Asia and Africa. Poland became a country that is a final destination for many immigrants.

The questions that I would like to answer are: how Polish society finds herself in this situation? How we can improve the integration of immigrants in modern society? What is the image of immigrants in Polish media? We have to remember that Poland is also a country who produce a considerable number of immigrants, therefore Poles should be more sensitive and understanding for foreigners living in their society and they should treat them as they would like to be treated abroad. What is more, Polish people in many countries create problems for the citizens of hosting countries. In Belgium, for example, Poles are considered thieves, even though there are immigrants from different countries that statistically causes more robberies. Regrettably, that is not a case. Communism successfully closed the minds of many generation of Poles and we have to put more effort in restoring the art of building and restoring bridges with different cultures.

I would like to study the immigration policy of Poland and the demographic structure of minorities and geographical placement of different communities. I would like to focus on the media and internet side of this subject because it can be used in my bachelor thesis paper. After studying previously mentioned aspects I would like to present ideas for improvement of the integration process, consider different project to change the Polish mentality, restore multicultural society and prepare Poles for the century of globalization and transnationalism. I'm planning to use different press articles, blogs and social media regarding immigration and immigrants to analyze the image of different minorities. Also I want to study the statistics from European Commission Eurostat.

I would like to study this subject because I consider myself not only a Polish citizen, but also an European. The experiences of Erasmus opened me for different cultures and I'm sure that in some time I will become an immigrant in one country. I would like to know how can I improve my society for those who will look for a better life in the same situation that I might be someday.