

EURÓPAI INTEGRÁCIÓS ALAP



**Overview of Migration Statistics
Concerning Intergation Policy
in Czech Republic**

International case study, 2009

Nemzetközi esettanulmányok

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Introduction

The project was prepared for the project "Models on Integration of Migrants" base on existing literature, statistic information and study report with a site visit to Prague (Czech republic) in October 2009. The goal of the project was to investigate the development of integration policy in Czech republic in connection with statistic indexes for the assessment of migrants integration

Introduction: Commonalities and differences in Czech Republic and Hungary migration process and policies¹

Determinants and factors of migration or so-called „migration drivers“ includes economic, demographic, geopolitical and contextual factors. During the 1990s all three countries have undergone deep transition/transformation processes. Consequently, an evolution of migratory patterns from 'closed borders' regimes with minimal levels of international movements into diversified (im)migration modes took place.

There are two main Geopolitical factors that played the most important role for the transformation of migration patterns for both countries: 1. Breakdown of the communist bloc and 2. Accession to the EU in 2004. That is not undermine the national interest of both countries in local level as Hungarian interest to their ties to ethnic Hungarians in Romania , Ukraine and Serbia as well as the specific relations of Czechs with Slovaks.

Societal transformation was accompanied by transformations of migratory patterns - from 'closed borders' regimes with minimal levels of international

¹ Based on Drbohlav, D. (2006) The New Generation of Europeans, demography and Families in Enlarged EU. In Lutz, W., Richter, R., Wilson, CH. (EDS.), London, Earthscan, May. Drbohlav, D. Migration in New EU Member States (with special regard to Poland, the Czech Republic and Hungary). Presentation at workshop: "Visa and Migration in Europe" of Hungarian European Society, 5 December 2009, Budapest, Hungary

migration into diversified migration modes. For example Czech Republic is one of the most attractive migration destination country within the CEE context.

Both countries have common historical experience as the Eastern part of the multiethnic Austro-Hungarian Monarchy. Many ethnic Hungarians (more than 30 per cent) lived outside the borders of the newly formed Hungary (mainly in Romania, and Slovakia). In Soviet time Hungary was an almost homogeneous ethnically country versus the Czech Republic (Czechoslovakia at that time). Both countries experienced repatriation forced and voluntary flows in 40s, and in 90s. Both countries since 1990s experienced the change of migration pattern (Czech republic in greater extend but Hungary in less extend) from transit to destination countries of international migration.

Among all NMS Czech republic, and Hungary for last ten years have stable positive migration inflow. Both countries have common heritage of about 40 years of socialist/communist ruling. They also experienced during the 1990s the deep systemic transition/transformation processes from centrally planned economy towards prosperous democratic systems based on free-market economies. Then new unions they are member involved them into western political, economic and security institutional structures (namely to the OECD, NATO – 1999, and EU – 2004).

Migrant stock and current immigration patterns difficult to evaluate (Drbohlav 2009) because of poor quality of migration flow data (namely emigration data). Nevertheless the interest of international migrants to both countries after EU accession is increased. Especially Hungary as its Eastern borderland of EU. The Czech Republic leads the group in terms of the size of registered migrant population. The increase in number of migrants with long-term residence permit is evidence of growth intention of migrants to resettlement strategy in both countries. In spite the fact that current inflow of asylum seekers is rather small, in Hungary it is slowly rising up.

Economic factors are mainly determined by the transition period and unequal economic development of surrounding countries, especially at southern and eastern borderland. Current immigration stimulated mostly by pull factors - namely mismatches between demand and supply of domestic labour, low motivation to work among natives, high labour costs, low internal spatial mobility and, importantly, tolerated practices of undeclared work. Only in the Czech case the demand side matched with the foreign supply side, which is the precondition for robust immigration. In Hungary, due to specific economic structure the demand for labour has been rather low (the growth of economy in Hungary can be characterized as a jobless growth). Shadow economy is an important migration factor in the CEE countries as such, but also the social acceptance of irregularity seems to be decisive. It seems that foreign labour is complementary rather than competitive vis-à-vis domestic workers in both countries.

For both countries labour migration represents the dominant form (of circular, short-term and long-term type)/ The main sources of migrants are CEE countries, Post-Soviet countries, Vietnam, China. The widely developed the seasonal and small border traffic migration. Nevertheless in Hungary also one more source is ethnic migration (ethnic Hungarians from Romania, Ukraine and Serbia)

For Hungary and the Czech Republic - registered migrant labour force involved in sectors of high labour shortages - construction, services, manufacturing and agriculture (not in the Czech Republic, however) Also there is a rather small but important number of labour migrants - professionals coming from other developed countries (mainly EU15) - who work in intellectually demanding jobs. For both countries the stock of foreign labour in 1990-2007 continuously has increased, especially in Czech republic where this rise reached almost 200,000 migrants (in comparison to 50,000 in beginning of 90s.

For both countries there is sizeable irregular migration of foreigners based on labour motivation in CEE countries. However, they represent only a small segment of the total irregular labour force of the countries in question. For Hungary and the Czech Republic – probably similar patterns visible between legal and irregular labour migrants (spatial distribution, countries of origin, involvement in the economy). The estimated numbers of irregular migrant population vary significantly. For Czech Republic it fluctuates from 17,000 to more than 300,000 of irregular immigrants and for Hungary it is evaluated as big as around 100,000 migrants.

Demographic factors is one of important for labour demand, because in fact all CEE countries face low fertility levels together with growing life expectancy leading to population ageing. Immigration only as an alternative to reducing negative effects of population ageing, not a solution. But only in the Czech Republic migration policy really started reacting to demographic problems of the country via launching recruitment programs. All Czech and Hungarian experts agree that importance of demographic factors as determinants of migration will grow in the future.

Some contextual factors exist as Historical experience between all CEE countries and Migrant social networks and family or community-specific chains established in Soviet time. It was disrupted after the collapse of socialist system but some trainees, workers and students who came during the socialist era became „embryos“ of further immigrant inflows in the transformation era (mainly the case of Vietnamese in the Czech Republic). In Hungary, ethnic ties were the key factor behind Hungarian immigration patterns.

It should be emphasized that graduate difference exists in attitudes of the public towards immigrants. In Czech republic this attitude is much more positive and even has tendency to improvement. In contrast in Hungary the population is ready to accept only the ethnic Hungarians from neighboring countries but not other ethnic groups migrants. May be it is the positive

result of Czech integration policy which was the only in CEE countries for the years from 90s.

Both countries have no experience with migration policies in socialist time and the important role in shaping migration patterns was proactive decision making that in fact shaped the flows. The legislation imperfections and gaps in migration regulation served as a pull factor flexibly used by migrants (e.g., „masked“ asylum seekers, fake marriages, „hidden employment“). But seems that all CEE countries passed through some stages of migration regulation transformation such as

In 1989 – early 1990s they experienced the institutionalization of the legal system; in late 1990s – 2004 harmonization to national migration regulation with EU standards and after 2004 with accession of EU consolidation of the migration regime.

However, **The Czech Republic** created distinctive pattern of migration policy making system through the migration policy **development especially in the field of integration policy**, because of internal economic impulses from labour market (high demand in labour for some industries in 2000s). The country started systematically implement different forms of integration policy as recruitment of skilled workers or “green card system. In contrast **Hungary** more oriented towards short-term immigrants from neighbouring countries and support’s co-ethnics above all. It applied small-scale regularization programs towards selected groups of irregular migrants in 2004 and still very cautious to the idea of adoption of long –term integration policy in spite of all EU resolutions and Basic principles existence and requests for homogenization and Europeanization of migration policies.

In both countries at the level of the institutional structures which is highly centralized, the key role plays the Ministry of the Interior with some attempts to share responsibilities with other ministries. In Czech republic they try and make efforts to establishing interministerial bodies (as councils) and regional and community levels administration involvement but

it play a marginal role. There is some improvement in NGOs involvement into the integration processes work, but it is characterize only Czech Republic. For Hungary the role NGOs is negligible in their involvement into the migrants integration process.

Even in Czech republic the experts evaluated the proces of integration of migrants seems to be in an infancy stage. But it made this step and some positive results already exist. **The Czech Republic** is by far the most attractive migration destination country within the CEE context with high immigration and low emigration of natives. It has already made the first step at the way of integration policy direction. Czech republic has more developed statistical system for the evaluation of migration situation and special annual statistic book on situation with migrants in country. Unfortunately the big part of the statistic is not accessible because it is incorporated into the MoI. The majority of Czech experts evaluate this policy rather as assimilation model. **Hungary** seem to be is in a preliminary stage.

1. Statistics, information and data development

Statistical data concerning international migration for this period comes basically from three main sources.

The first source is traditionally the census. Unfortunately, the census information on international migration or more precisely on foreigners in the territory of the Czech Republic is considerably incomplete. The 1991 Census recorded only permanent population (only foreigners with permanent residence permits), the one in 2001 included also foreigners with visas for a period exceeding 90 days. However only 60% of those meant to be counted were in fact enumerated (Drbohlav, Lachmanová 2008a).

The second source is the Information system of registration of inhabitants (ISEO) ⁴ of the Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic which is, however, not normally available for the public or researchers but several data is given to the Czech Statistical Office.

The third source is based on the records of issued residence permits by the Alien Police. These two sources have been gradually interconnected

and since 2005 from the point of view of unified collection of data and methodology they have been in essence integrated.

The year 1993 (foundation of the independent Czech Republic) is an important milestone from the developmental aspect, because since that year there has been relatively consistent information available about the number of the registered foreigners in our territory, including their other characteristics.

The next significant turning point for the statistical analysis was 2001, when a number of methodological changes took place, the most important, based on the 2001 Census, included foreigners with visas for the period exceeding 90 days in the population balances made by the Czech Statistical Office. Until then, the migration balance of the Czech Republic had covered only those migrants whose place of permanent residence was changed. Subsequently, the international migration data before and after 2001 is incompatible.

Minor adjustments were carried out in 2004 in connection with the Czech Republic joining the EU. Migration records do suffer from another problem characteristic of most countries – the impossibility of detecting a considerable volume of emigration flows. Therefore, the number of emigrants given by Czech statistics is considerably lower than the real situation. These incomplete figures relate (since 2001) predominantly to foreigners leaving the country. Currently, it is possible to distinguish in a very simplified manner the following categories of foreigners' stay in the territory of the Czech Republic:

1/ EU citizens and their family members

- registered without a temporary or permanent residence permit
- with temporary residence permit (more or less in a form of registration)
- with permanent residence permit

2/ Third country nationals

- with short-term visas (up to 90 days)
- with visas for the period exceeding 90 days (valid for 1 year, cannot be extended)
- with long-term residence permit (following the visas for the period

exceeding 90 days valid for 1 year, can be extended)

- with permanent residence permit (usually issued after 5 years of residence, in some cases after 4 or 2.5 years)

3/ Foreigners who gained asylum/international protection

4/ Registered applicants for asylum/international protection

1.1. Key data sources and responsible institutions²

There are three key institutions concerned with data collection in the field of migration and foreigners' integration in the Czech Republic: There are three key institutions concerned with data collection in the field of migration and foreigners' integration in the Czech Republic: **the Czech Statistical Office (CZSO)**, the **Ministry of Interior (MoI)** and the **Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (MLSA)**. Nevertheless the approach to data collection tied to migration and integration issues is, still lagging behind this reality. Firstly, immigrants in Czech datasets are predominantly understood as persons with other than Czech citizenship, thus, more accurate concepts of country of birth/origin are not used. Secondly, there is no single register encompassing data both on population, and, consequently, on foreigners. Therefore, to gather a picture of immigrants' lives we have to use many information sources that were primarily designed for particular purposes and hence are not really adapted to the needs of migration/integration research.

Moreover, there is a lack of real cooperation between institutions collecting given data. Data related to migration and stocks of foreigners can generally be seen as more accurate and richer in comparison with data on immigrants' integration. Immigrant inclusion can be measured only in a

² Dušan Drbohlav, Lenka Lachmanová-Medová, Charles University in Prague, PROMINSTAT Country Report Czech Republic April 2009, <http://www.idea6fp.uw.edu.pl/?strona=4>

limited way since no explicit integration indicators have been defined, nor can relevant data be derived from existing datasets.

MoI expert opinion :*Information (statistics) unfortunately collected on all foreigners, but we want to divide it on information on non - EU countries and on EU countries nationals. It is very important. They have different opportunity to access on labour marker. About statistics... we have two databases. One is Statistic Committee on inhabitants but it often misleads, because many people do not physically leave in the place they registered.*

Police has its own system. We hopefully will introduce new united system from 2010 on real life. It will be located in our office but Statistic Committee will have the access to it.

Also if person is self-employed the financial office registered, the firms are in Ministry of Trade and the permissions for labour are issued in MoL. We want to create one office and MoI will keep this information.

With MoL we have close cooperation. there are 2 people in it and they work on integration issues, in every other ministries is one person. Unfortunately they have their own work – other things to add (as I understand they have no much interest to develop integration issue because they are overloaded with work.

The Czech Statistical Office (CZSO) One of the main roles of the **CZSO** is to conduct, every ten years, the Population and Housing Census based on self-enumeration questionnaires delivered personally to all housing units. However, in terms of international migration the 2001 census was the first one. The CZSO also provides data on internal and international migration flows that are handed over from the ISEO dataset of the MoI. Besides providing the above mentioned “counts” the CZSO organizes the **Labour Force Survey (LFS)** throughout the year, but this is, unfortunately, almost useless for studying the migrant population living in the Czech Republic due mainly to the small sample size of respondents with foreign citizenship. The

small sample size is due not only to a higher non-response rate for foreigners, but primarily to the fact that many labour migrants live in collective households (dormitories) that are not surveyed. This also applies to the annual European Union Statistics on Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC) conducted by the CZSO.

The role of the CZSO seems to be crucial, not only because it collects demographic data and organizes large enquiries and censuses, but also because it gathers all sorts of aggregate data concerning foreigners' life from databases of different state institutions. An annual bilingual statistical publication about foreigners in the Czech Republic is produced and all the data are available on a special website under the CZSO server. Moreover, the CZSO publishes other informative literature or analytical reports on foreigners (e.g. from a regional or gender perspective). What is however missing is any relating of this data directly to information on Czech nationals that would give us, to some extent, a picture of the situation of foreigners vis-à-vis the majority society. Intensive and careful interpretation would be needed.

The Ministry of Interior (MoI) is the main state institution in the field of managing migration and collecting administrative migratory data. **The Alien Police run the Alien Information System (CIS)** – the central database containing data on all foreigners residing in the Czech Republic with a residence visa or a residence permit. The Alien Information System (CIS) was launched in 2004, replacing a less effective and decentralized former system (Holá 2007). Information collected on all foreigners possessing any sort of visa or permit, on invitations of foreigners or on undesirable persons-foreigners has been further expanded. CIS has all the information on-line and it enables mutual direct communication with the ISEO database. It also collects data on persons apprehended for illegal migration (illegal border crossing or illegal stay in the Czech Republic) and on those expelled from the country.

The Department of Asylum and Migration Policy of the MoI, which is, in fact, the most important institution in the Czech Republic in the field of migration policy making, runs a special information system on asylum seekers (or more precisely on persons applying for international protection) that is ramified into several sub-databases (in relation to different stages of the asylum procedure). A central registry of individuals who have acquired (or lost) Czech citizenship is also run by the MoI. The Police headquarters, which is part of the MoI, takes care of the dataset covering criminal offenders which could be a useful data source with respect to criminality issues of foreigners.

Population register (ISEO) of MoI that holds basic information on all Czech citizens and on foreigners with permanent residence permits and with residence permits/visas for at least more than 90 days, on EU citizens who are going to stay in the country for at least 3 months and on foreigners under international protection (granted asylum or subsidiary protection). This register contains essential information on the structure and territorial distribution of foreign residents, but researchers have relatively little if any chance of accessing the data. ISEO is updated by data collected by municipalities (6,249 units) which send their information in paper form to a municipality with extended competence (205 units) which enters the data into ISEO on-line. In addition, the data on foreigners are transferred daily to ISEO directly from CIS (Holá 2008a). Although, the data on foreigners should have been included in ISEO since 2003, they have been added only gradually. It was not until 2007 that the information on foreigners was “complete”.³ ISEO also produces its own population figures, so there are two different numbers of the total population. Comparing these figures one can see a difference of about 200,000 people.

³ However, the information is still not fully complete as there were about 4,500 foreigners (at the end of 2007) not included in ISEO due to their “non-standard” residence address which was not compatible with the system of addresses used by ISEO (Holá 2008a) .

MoI has conducted own surveys. The problems with Media.for ex. 1000 migrants in 2004.

The Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs is the most important institution in the field of foreign employment. Information from local labour offices supplies the **Information System of Employment Services (ISSZ)**. This system consists of several modules that cover all economically active persons who have contacted officials at labour offices. This purely administrative dataset contains information on individual applicants/workers in relation to their work permit and workplace.

Foreigners with temporary, long-term visas and permits and permanent permits clearly represent the immigrant population. An important component of the information on foreigners is the data about their economic activities. **The register of work permits** is run by the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs of the Czech Republic.

Another ministerial information system - **the Information System of State Social Support Benefit (ISSSP)** concerns all persons (and their dependents) applying for social benefits. Therefore, the system collects information on foreign applicants who have to hold a short term residence permit (up to 90 days), a permanent residence permit (+ 90 days), a long-term residence permit (issued after 1 year of residence in the country)⁴, or have been granted asylum in order to be eligible for social benefits.

⁴ A long-term residence permit is issued to third country nationals after a 1 year stay on a visa for a period exceeding 90 days. Although it has many advantages, it still does not equal the much more secure "long-term residence" as it is known from EC directives. The first "secure" permit guaranteeing third country nationals (almost) full rights is the so-called permanent residence permit, which may be issued (although there is no legal entitlement) after 5 years of residence in the Czech Republic. Usually after a five-year stay in the Czech Republic (the required length of residence to receive a permanent residence permit was only shortened to 5 years in 2006) third country nationals can get a permanent residence permit, enabling them to reside with almost identical rights to Czech citizens (with the exception of voting rights). Since January 2009, a Czech language test (A1 level of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages) is set as a necessary prerequisite for being granted a permanent residence permit

Ministry of Industry and Trade provides the data concerning the issued trade licences (self employment activities and company owners) is provided by the database of the of the Czech Republic. The time series of both data groups are available from 1993 and 1994 on, respectively. However, in both cases there have been various legal and methodological changes that influence the possibility of comparability over time.

Other ministries also hold datasets which include migrants/foreigners (see Table 1).

Table 1: Main Czech state institutions and their datasets that include foreigners

| <i>Institution</i> | <i>Dataset</i> | <i>Type of dataset</i> |
|---|---|---------------------------|
| Czech Statistical Office | Population and Housing Census | Census |
| | Notification of Birth | Counts |
| | Notification of Death | Counts |
| | Notification of Conclusion of Marriage | Counts |
| | Notification of Divorce | Counts |
| | Statistics on Migration | Counts |
| | Labour Force Survey | Survey |
| | EU-SILC | Survey |
| Ministry of Interior | Information System of Registration of Inhabitants (ISEO) | Register (administrative) |
| | Alien Information System (CIS) | Register (administrative) |
| | Asylum Information System | Register (administrative) |
| | Illegal Entry and Stay of Persons (NVPO) | Counts |
| | Central Registry of Individuals who Acquired Czech Citizenship | Counts |
| | System of Registration and Statistics of Criminality | Register (administrative) |
| The Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs | Information System of Employment Services | Register (administrative) |
| | Information System of State Social Support Benefit | Register (administrative) |
| | Statistics of control actions of labour offices | Counts |
| Ministry of Industry and Trade | Register of Trade Licences | Register (administrative) |
| Ministry of Health | National Registry of Hospitalized Patients | Counts |
| | National Registry of Abortions | Counts |
| | Statistics on Usage of Healthcare by Foreigners | Counts |
| | National Registry of Venereal Diseases | Counts |
| | Registry of Tuberculosis | Register |
| | National Register of Oncological Diseases | Register |
| | National Registry of Parturient Mothers/National Registry of Newborns | Counts |
| | National Registry of Congenital Malformations | Counts |
| Ministry of Education, Youth and Physical Training | Statistics on Pupils and Students | Counts |
| | Union Students' Register | Register (administrative) |
| Ministry of Justice | Prosecuted and Accused Persons | Counts |
| | Convicted Persons | Counts |
| | Register of Persons in Pre-trial Detention and Prisons | Register (administrative) |

1.2. Availability of data

1.2.1. Core demographic data on immigrants and migration control

1.2.1.a Population stocks and general demographic characteristics

There are two main data sources on population stocks in the Czech Republic – the ISEO and the CZSO population figures. Both work with slightly different definitions of population. The ISEO population figure is available (on the ministerial website), however, is only an annual population figure for each municipality. The population figure of the CZSO is produced quarterly and then the mid-year population is taken as a main reference population for the calculation of various demographic and economic characteristics. The population stocks of the CZSO are based on the last census data balanced against the number of births/deaths and immigrants/emigrants. The mid-year population is, unfortunately, not sorted by citizenship.

Standard demographic data (births, deaths, marriages, divorces) on the population (by citizenship and by some additional characteristics) are available annually through the CZSO in a demographic yearbook.

Data on abortions are not collected by the CZSO but by the Institute of Health Information and Statistics is limited since the classification by citizenship **distinguishes only between Czech citizens and foreigners** without any further specification by citizenship.

1.2.1.b Migration flows and characteristics of migrants at the time of migration

The main sources of migration flow data as generated by the CZSO were ISEO (providing data on immigrated/emigrated Czech citizens) and CIS (on foreigners), but since 2008 all data is taken only from ISEO. The CZSO is provided on a monthly basis with data on immigrants/emigrants containing information about, e.g., sex, citizenship, date and country of birth, type of

stay, current address, marital status, country of previous residence, purpose of the stay. It is impossible, however, to get information on all migrants concerning their level of education, occupation status or occupation.

1.2.1.c Legal status of immigrants and details of the residence permit procedure

The Alien Police gather information on the legal status of immigrants since it runs the CIS containing information on all foreigners holding a residence visa or permit. As it is a police database, it provides only selected data to the public. Every month the Alien Police publish the numbers of foreigners (by citizenship) with various types of visa/permits⁵. These data can also be sorted by sex, regions and districts of the Czech Republic. Thus, some categories of foreigners are excluded and data on persons who obtained asylum are added from the Asylum Information System of the MoI.⁶

The accession of the Czech Republic to the EU brought further changes regarding the residence regulations for foreigners. Foreigners have been differentiated into two categories (EU citizens⁷ versus third country nationals) which are treated differently based on the EU legislation concerning the free movement of EU citizens. Briefly, EU citizens may get a temporary residence permit (if their intended length of stay is to be longer than 3 months) or a permanent residence permit (usually after 3 years of residence).

⁵ Statistics are further available in the Annual Report on Migration of the Ministry of the Interior.

⁶ A specific migration regime for Slovak citizens was valid since 1993. Slovaks did not have to apply for a long-term residence visa. They were issued "a statement of temporary stay" in the Czech Republic but only if they asked for it. Similarly, they had only to register themselves at a local labour office when they started working (no work permit required) (Zpráva 2004). Consequently, Slovak workers were registered separately from other foreign workers

⁷ Including their family members and citizens of Norway, Iceland, Switzerland and Liechtenstein.

1.2.1.d Citizenship

Czech citizenship can be acquired in several ways out of which the most common are by birth, by declaration and by grant (naturalization). Because the acquisition of Czech citizenship is based on the principle of "*ius sanguinis*" a child can acquire Czech citizenship if at least one of his/her parents is a Czech citizen. Foreigners can get Czech citizenship by grant if they fulfil several prerequisites (e.g. "usual residence" on a permanent residence permit for at least 5 years, giving up their former citizenship, no conviction of a premeditated criminal offence during the last 5 years and knowledge of the Czech language⁸). The application fee is about 10,000 CZK (about 400 EUR)⁹.

Data on acquisition of Czech citizenship is collected by the MoI, which takes the final decision whether or not to grant Czech citizenship.. The database contains information on applicant's name, birth number, date, place and country of birth, former citizenship, legal status (a permanent residence permit holder, refugee etc.), and on what basis they have acquired Czech citizenship.

Since 2001 annual statistics have been sorted by forms of acquisition as well as by former citizenship. Annual statistics on the period between 1993 and 2000 are available only for persons that acquired Czech citizenship by grant (Slovak citizens were not included). (Koncepte 2006)¹⁰.

⁸ No standardised tests have been set yet, Applicants only go through a simple interview at a local municipality office. However, standardised language tests (at level B1 of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages) are under consideration.

⁹ Czechoslovak citizens who were deprived of Czechoslovak citizenship during the communist era following emigration abroad. These compatriots can get Czech citizenship by declaration and without the obligation of residence. Moreover, rules for Slovak citizens were eased after the dissolution of Czechoslovakia and even now they can get Czech citizenship by declaration if they have been factually staying in the Czech Republic since 1993.

¹⁰ Data on Slovak citizens who obtained Czech citizenship in this period (1993 – 2000) are not handled separately for each year, thus, only statistics for the whole period are available sorted out by forms of acquisition (the most frequent form is "declaration" according to the Act No. 40/1993 Coll., as well as No. 193/1999 Coll.)

1.2.1.e Asylum seekers and refugees

The granting of asylum is regulated by Act No. 325/1999 Coll. and its amendments. With the 2002 amendment, in addition to other restrictive measures, asylum seekers were banned from working in the first year following the submission of their application, which is seen as an important amendment especially in relation to combating irregular work by migrants.

The Department of Asylum and Migration Policy of the MoI is responsible for taking decisions on asylum applications and therefore runs a special administrative information system on asylum seekers (Asylum Information System) that is ramified into several sub-databases (in relation to different stages of the asylum procedure). One database collects information on all persons who lodge a request for asylum. The second is based on information acquired from filed applications and the third collects all information obtained throughout the asylum procedure.. Basic personal data to be supplied in the application is defined in the asylum legislation (e.g. name, citizenship, country of birth, nationality/ethnic origin, religious convictions, knowledge of foreign languages, membership in a political party, level of education, occupation, military service, financial resources, reasons for emigration and for applying for asylum etc.)¹¹. However, more information of a variable extent is gained throughout the procedure (from interviews etc.), but these data are collected strictly for the purpose of handling a person's asylum application and are not made public.

Every month a detailed statistical report on asylum matters is issued by the MoI including figures on various characteristics sorted by citizenship. Aggregated statistics are also available in the Annual Report on Migration by

¹¹ Data on Slovak citizens who obtained Czech citizenship in this period (1993 – 2000) are not handled separately for each year, thus, only statistics for the whole period are available sorted out by forms of acquisition (the most frequent form is "declaration" according to the Act No. 40/1993 Coll., as well as No. 193/1999 Coll.)

the MoI. Certain monthly data are further published on the website of the CZSO.

1.2.1.f Irregular migration, apprehensions and expulsions

Alien Police database called “Illegal Entry and Stay of Persons” (NVPO) - data on irregular migration. It contains information on all persons (foreigners as well as Czech citizens) apprehended for illegal migration or smuggling. Illegal migration is defined by the MoI as ascertained cases of illegal border crossing or illegal stay of foreigners on the territory of the Czech Republic. Thus, two distinct categories have been statistically observed – illegal border crossing (since 1993) and illegal stay (since 2000). However, the latter also includes cases when illegal stay of foreigners is ascertained at the borders when leaving the country (e.g. on an expired permit/visa).

The NVPO collects detailed “technical” information about illegal migration (such as place of apprehension, direction of illegal border crossing, means of transport, size of apprehended group, details about falsified documents) as well as personal information on apprehended persons. Statistics on persons apprehended for illegal migration are available in the Annual migration report of the MoI. Most statistics are separated into two major categories. Data on illegal border crossings¹² is disaggregated by many variables: direction of the border crossing, region and place of apprehension, citizenship, type of the previous entry to the Czech Republic (visa), use of false documents, type of illegal border crossing or repeated illegal border crossing. More specifically, with respect to the types of illegal border crossings two distinct categories are observed - persons who used false documents, and smuggled persons. Smuggled persons are defined as persons who were apprehended with an “assisting” person or who confessed

¹² In December 2007 the Czech Republic joined the Schengen area. As it thus has no external EU-border a change in statistics of illegal border crossing is expected to take place.

to using the services of smugglers during their illegal border crossing. The number of smuggled persons is presented in two variations according to the national and the CIREFI definition (Zpráva 2006).

There are two basic types of expulsion in the Czech Republic – administrative expulsion and expulsion by a court. Foreigners may be generally ordered an administrative expulsion (a residence ban) for several years if they illegally entered or stayed in the Czech Republic or performed illegal economic activities or if they might pose a threat to national security.

Data on persons who were expelled (by both types of expulsion) from the country are collected by the Alien Police, which produces basic annual statistics on the number of persons expelled and the number of persons whose expulsion has been implemented. These statistics are published in the Annual report on migration and in the CZSO publication of various statistics on foreigners called “Foreigners in the Czech Republic”.

1.3. Measuring integration, discrimination and diversity

The possibility of measuring immigrants’ integration and discrimination in the Czech Republic is fairly limited, if it exists at all. It is either partial, incomplete or does not allow for a comparison between foreigners and the majority society.

There are several statistical datasets that could potentially be used for measuring integration as they cover important fields of integration. However, due to the small number of foreigners included in the sample (e.g. LFS, EU-SILC) or incomplete information collected on foreigners (Census) their information value is currently limited.

Qualitative as well as quantitative research on the integration of foreigners is only partially established in the Czech academic field. Thus, datasets originating from research usually have many limitations such as very rare

application of the probability sampling method, regional, ethnical or thematic selectivity, not to mention a limited time perspective.

Furthermore, considering the availability of data that would shed light on the extent of discrimination against migrants/foreigners in the Czech Republic there is almost no dataset even partially covering this important aspect of integration.

1.3.2.a Employment

The Information System of the Employment Services (ISSSZ) collects information on all economically active persons who have contacted officials at local labour offices. **The** “Foreigners” module contains information on third country nationals who apply for a work permit in the Czech Republic or who have already received one and are working legally in the country, as well as on EU citizens and third country nationals with permanent residence permits who should be registered at Czech labour offices by their employers. Data on citizenship and country of birth are collected. Key indicators available from this module in relation to structural integration in the field of employment are level of education, occupation and type of economic activity in the Czech Republic. There is a further module available that contains information on job seekers and those receiving unemployment benefits but only be EU citizens or third country nationals with a permanent residence permit.

The Population and Housing Census is a valuable source, although with certain limitations. The foreign population can be identified according to citizenship, country of birth, nationality or mother tongue. Key indicators available are level of education, economic activity, occupation, employment status, branch of economic activity, additional employment, or commuting.

The Register of Trade Licences contains information on all individual persons and corporate bodies conducting a trade and self-occupation and could be used in an integration study.

The Labour Force Survey (LFS) can be seen only as a potentially useful data source. It collects information on foreigners (identified by citizenship or country of birth) as well as Czech nationals on many aspects of employment (e.g. employment status, employment and unemployment, occupation, level of education). Its results with respect to the foreign population are, however, highly unreliable since only foreigners living in households are taken into account, and the sample size is small and does not reflect the real structure of foreigners in the Czech Republic (Konceptce 2006). The CZSO has repeatedly warned against the usage of the LFS in migration research in the Czech Republic. Therefore, the European Commission enabled the CZSO to carry out the 2008 ad hoc module only in a limited version.

1.3.2.b Incomes, transfers and social benefits

EU-SILC is a crucial source of information on income in many countries, but it is not appropriate to use it in the Czech Republic since the size of its sample of foreigners is small - about 1.2% (approximately 150 persons).

The Information System of State Social Support Benefits (ISSSP) concerns all persons and their dependents applying for social benefits. For the migrant population, only foreigners holding a permanent residence permit, a long-term residence permit (after 1 year of residence in the country) or asylees are eligible for social benefits. Within the ISSSP foreigners can be identified by citizenship, country of birth, type of permit or duration of stay.

1.3.2.d Health and access to healthcare

The Ministry of Health (especially its Institute of Health Information and Statistics) collects a wide range of information on different sorts of illnesses and other health related topics (birth, abortions). Foreigners are supposed to be included in these so-called registries (in fact mostly counts). In some datasets foreigners can be identified according to the country of birth (***Registry of tuberculosis***) or country of origin (***National registry of venereal diseases, National register of oncological diseases, Statistics on usage of healthcare by foreigners***), in other datasets the distinction is made only on the basis of Czech citizens versus EU citizens versus other foreigners without any detailed specification (e.g. in ***National registry of parturient mothers/National registry of newborns, National registry of abortions, National Registry of Hospitalized Patients, National registry of congenital malformations***). However, the number of foreigners included in most of these registries is fairly negligible, hence of limited use for a study on integration/discrimination.

The General Health Insurance Company is obliged to keep a central register of persons insured within the public health insurance scheme. It includes all persons with permanent residence (+90 days) in the Czech Republic and those (without permanent residence) who are employed by an employer with a base in the Czech Republic. Thus, most foreigners living in the Czech Republic are included. There is no detailed specification of citizenship or other migration related variables. The register contains information on the name, address, date when the insurance started and whether the state pays for the insurance and it can be considered as only of limited use for integration research.

1.3.2.e Education

Czech databases in general provide only sporadic information concerning the level of education of migrants, which is seen by the CZSO as a weak point to be dealt with (Konceptce 2006). Since 2004 the variable “level of education” has been included in the work permit application form and, thus, can be found in ***Information system of the Employment Services (ISSSZ)***. Information on the level of education and its specification can be further found in ***Population and Housing Census***. The highest level of completed education is a variable that is included in most counts of demographic events (e.g. births, abortions, deaths, marriages or divorces). **However, education is not included either in migration statistics, or in the Alien Information System concerning residential permits.**

The Labour Force Survey could serve as valuable source of information on education, but due to the limitations mentioned above it is currently of little use. The level of education of persons in pre-trial detention and prisons is also collected but only as a self-declaratory characteristic without any official proof.

Limited data on ***foreign pupils and students are gathered by the Ministry of Education, Youth and Physical Training*** Since 1999, all universities have been obliged to keep their own registers of students, whose individual data are quarterly reported to the central information system (***Union Students’ Register***) run by the Ministry of Education, Youth and Physical Training. Reported data include a student’s citizenship, type, form and place of studies, as well as information on how their studies are financed.

1.3.2.f Family and household

Information on the situation of foreign households could potentially be best traced through the Labour Force Survey. Limited data on households can also be found in the ***Population and Housing Census*** concerning mainly

the demographic and socio-economic structure of household and their housing conditions (but only from the 2001 census).

The family is not used as a standard unit of data collection, nor as a unit of observation in migration research in the Czech Republic.

1.3.2.g Political participation

No datasets concerning political participation of immigrants in the Czech Republic are available since third country nationals do not have the right to vote and be elected.

1.3.2.h Crime and justice

The System of Registration and Statistics of Criminality, run by the ***Police Headquarters***, collects data on all persons suspected of committing a crime. Immigrants are distinguishable within this administrative register according to their citizenship, type of residence permit or country of birth. All sorts of data on the type of crime and related circumstances (e.g. use of alcohol, drugs) as well as on the suspect are collected, but it is very difficult to access these.

The Ministry of Justice runs a complex system of registration of criminal statistical reports and other statements. Two parts of this might be relevant to mapping the situation of foreigners. The counts-like database on ***Prosecuted and Accused Persons*** is based on data from criminal statistical reports sent by prosecuting attorneys' offices. In another criminal statistical report on ***Convicted Persons***. Data concern the convict (e.g. citizenship, date of birth, further convictions), the penalty imposed (for example its length and type), and court proceedings.

General criminal statistics from the Ministry of Justice (composed of the above mentioned databases) are considered to be one of the possible sources of information, if not the only one, on discrimination against immigrants (Diskriminace 2006). They are, however, a relatively weak and

indirect source as only criminal acts that were targeted against persons of a particular race or ethnic origin (racial vilification) or that incited hatred towards a particular group of people or restraints on their rights and freedoms can be used as a subsidiary tool for measuring discrimination against immigrants.

The Register of Persons in Pre-trial Detention and Prisons of the General Directorate of the Prison Service contains data on the country of citizenship as well as on the place of birth and type of residence permit of detainees. Beside many variables (which are, however, not made public), it includes data on the offender's crime and penalty, place of imprisonment or how dangerous an offender is considered to be.

1.4. Accessibility of data

In general, the accessibility of the data in question is rather limited, and the data made public is mostly aggregated. However, even when aggregate data is accessible they may not be useful for migration oriented research because variables like citizenship are sometimes not used as a sorting variable, perhaps due to the short history of migration in the Czech Republic.

The CZSO generally has well accessible datasets. Accessibility is further fostered by an online public database of aggregate data that has been launched recently (still in a pilot version). The CZSO is an important and active stakeholder in the field of migration, as it tries to gather data from different administrative sources and put them on a website that is specifically dedicated to foreigners in the Czech Republic.

Furthermore, aggregate data on the employment of foreigners can be found in the Bulletin of International Labour Migration in the Czech Republic of the Research Institute of Labour and Social Affairs that is published twice a year.

On the other hand, some important datasets (e.g. ISEO, Information System of State Social Support Benefit, Alien Information System) seem to be virtually inaccessible.

Concentration of main part of statistic information in the hands of MoI, where is not simply to obtained this information and also MoI do not prepared properly for the information dissemination and processing for the purpose of research creates some obstacles for analysis and interpretation of information.

1.5. Conclusions – Recommendations on statistic data collection¹³

First, many datasets are, or rather seem to be inaccessible to researchers. There is a certain mistrust on the part of state institutions towards data provision that might be caused by a lack of experience overall with data provision. Furthermore, the fact that data collection usually has a very particular purpose sometimes makes it difficult for state officials to see the relevance of their data to migration/integration research.

Secondly, researchers have to be aware of the fact that most datasets are still available only in the Czech language. To get a basic overview of what data is available a foreign researcher is recommended to visit the special CZSO website that deals with foreigners' life in the Czech Republic where most of the information is available in English (<http://www.czso.cz/csu/cizinci.nsf/kapitola/uvod>).

Policymakers need to be well informed about who the data talks about. A loose data reading may well lead to a misguided interpretation.

Generally, what is needed is a greater openness on the part of state institutions in terms of the accessibility of datasets and cooperation between

¹³ PROMINSTAT 2009

themselves. Moreover, it is desirable to unify various definitions (e.g. of population) and target populations used by different datasets according to international standards. Data collection in the Czech Republic, thus, should apply more realistic concepts of place/country of usual residence and of country of birth.

Moreover, it is inevitable to broaden the information on certain variables tied to immigrants' basic characteristics (e.g. level of education at the time of arrival) and to their integration into the economic sphere, namely on remittances, income and unemployment. Also, more specific characteristics that are related to immigrants with permanent residence permits should be made available and accessible.

In the statistics of the Alien Police it is still not possible to distinguish between immigrants who are arriving in the country for the first time and those who are just renewing their permit or moving between different permits/visa categories. There is a further shortcoming - no statistics allow us to link members of one family.

Regarding the spatial identification of immigrants, it is important to publish data on immigrants by municipalities. Moreover, some important databases (e.g. statistics of trade licences) collect information on place of registration which is often not in harmony with the place/region where immigrants actually stay.

The statistics on the emigration of Czech nationals are underestimated and there is no centralized database on Czech circular labour migrants abroad.

2. Development of migration processes: historical overview

Introduction

The Czech Republic represents one of the most important immigration target country in Central and Eastern Europe. This is a relatively new situation since the Czech lands have traditionally been an area of emigration. The character of international migration movements was significantly influenced by the following events: the Velvet Revolution and the fall of the Iron Curtain in 1989, the division of Czechoslovakia in 1993, accession to the European Union in 2004 and finally joining the Schengen group of countries in 2007.

2.1. Period until the Second World War

From a long-term historical perspective, the territory of today's Czechia was mostly an immigration area until the beginning of the 20th century. The consequences of World War I significantly influenced the demographic development of the population of the Czech lands. It is estimated that during the period of 1914-1918 there were about 550,000 less children born as a result of the war and at the same time 300,000 men were killed in combat (Kučera 1994). From the point of view of natural reproduction, the first half of the 1920s was an era of compensations for the losses that occurred during the war (table 2).

Results of the 1930 Census in the Czech lands showed that approximately 300,000 people were born abroad (2.9 % of the population). A majority of these were, however, persons born in the regions of the former Austro-Hungarian Empire. Migration losses accounted for approximately one tenth of the natural increase (Srb 2004). The independent Czechoslovak Republic (Czechoslovakia) followed in most ways the Austro-Hungarian migration policy traditions regarding emigration and naturalization.

On the other hand, Czechoslovakia was more active in immigration regulation due to the economic recession and the situation in neighbouring countries. In the late 1920s, a highly up-to-date regulation mechanism was established through the Act on Protection of the Labour Market. Employers of a foreign labour force needed to have special permission enabling them to employ foreign workers. This permission could be issued only when the situation in the labour market was favourable, or when no national workers were able to fill the position (Baršová, Barša 2005).

Following the worsening situation in the international arena, further restrictions in immigration legislation took place. In 1935, the Act on Residence of Foreigners (surprisingly close to today's immigration legislation) set an obligation for foreigners (except refugees) already staying in Czechoslovakia or intending to stay there for more than 2 months (regardless of the purpose of the stay) to apply for a residence permit at a police station in the district where they stayed or intended to stay. (Usnesení 2008).

After the Munich Agreement more restrictions were set. Especially conditions of refugees were tightened up as they were made to apply for a residence permit as well. Soon before the Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia was imposed on the territory of the Czech lands, a government resolution stated that migrants were obliged to leave Czechoslovakia if ordered by the relevant state official (Baršová, Barša 2005).

2.2. Period from 1945 to 1989

The most evident example of how politics had become a determining factor in international migration trends is seen in the new geopolitical regime followed the end of World War II. Although exact data for the period are not available, it is estimated that over 5 million people were on the move, including about 4 million in the Czech lands (Horáková 2000). Thus the

Czech lands became ethnically homogeneous country with prevailing Slavic background, where 94% of the population were Czechs.

International migration movements in Czechoslovakia were very specific during the communist era. Migration activities and trends were limited to illegal/undocumented emigration. There was no explicit immigration policy, except for asylum channel which was adjusted to the definition of asylum based on socialist rules in 1960 (Baršová-Barša 2005).

Migration movements of Czechoslovak citizens were organized through so called „visa“ policy, however, was almost impossible to get – thus “illegal” movements were the only way of emigration. Illegal emigrants lost automatically Czech/Slovak citizenship and usually were sentenced to several years in prison. During the 1948–1989 period, two waves of emigration tended to follow political changes in the country – the rise to power of the communists in 1948 and the Soviet army's occupation in 1968 – and their aftermath (see table 1).

Table 1: Migration losses of the Czech lands, 1948–1990

| <i>Year</i> | <i>Legal migrants</i> | <i>Illegal migrants</i> | <i>Total</i> |
|-------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|--------------|
| 1948-1949 | 3,900 | -250,000 | -246,100 |
| 1950-1960 | -2,400 | -32,500 | -34,900 |
| 1961-1970 | -47,700 | -116,800 | -164,500 |
| 1971-1980 | -7,800 | -43,200 | -51,100 |
| 1981-1990 | -13,700 | -40,000 | -53,700 |
| Total | -67,700 | -482,500 | -550,300 |

Source: Andrlé 1993 according to Horáková 2000

During the period between 1960 and 1969, about 44,000 persons emigrated from Czechoslovakia legally (Horáková 2000).

The former Czechoslovakia has also experienced permanent immigration. It was strictly regulated and relatively low. It mainly consisted of immigration for family reasons (reunification or marriage). The immigrants came principally from the countries of Central and Eastern Europe, as well as from

Greece and France. In ethnic terms, many of them were of Czech or Slovak origin. Furthermore, the centre in Moscow and the representatives of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia were directing the migration flow of Greek civilians and pro-communist partisans to Czechoslovakia, where they obtained asylum.

Bulgarian agricultural workers immigrated and settled in depopulated areas of the former Sudetenland. (Horáková 2000). The resettlement program of abandoned areas of Czech Germans also included a semi-conducted immigration of Slovaks and the Slovakian Roma people in the 1940s and 1950s. (Pavelčíková 2004 according to Baršová, Barša 2005).

The liberalization of political life in the period of the 1960s (the period preceding the Prague spring) resulted in a rise in immigration. From 1970 to 1979, when the total number of immigrants to Czechoslovakia reached nearly 50,000. Within the framework of intergovernmental agreements signed between Czechoslovakia and other socialist countries - within the so-called **"international aid co-operation" schemes mainly migrants from Poland, Yugoslavia, Hungary, Cuba, Mongolia, Angola, and North Korea came (Boušková 1998).**

The highest number of Polish citizens working on a long term-basis in our territory has been recorded in 1974 (20,825 persons). Other long-term cooperation existed with the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. Intergovernmental agreements were focused primarily on professional training of Vietnamese citizens. Based on the Agreement of 1979, a total of 8,700 Vietnamese pupils and 23,300 trainees and participants of training arrived in Czechoslovakia. The highest number of such workers was recorded at the end of 1983 (27,100 persons). The citizens of Cuba were the third major group employed in Czechoslovakia based on intergovernmental agreements. In the period from 1978 to 1989, about 23,160 Cuban citizens were accepted.

The net migration was negative throughout the post-war period, compared to natural increase. As mentioned above, the migration losses are estimated at about 0.5 million of inhabitants for the period 1948– 1989, taking into account the illegal emigration. Czech lands thus preserved the emigration nature even in this period.

2.3. The period of 1989–2009

Political changes in 1989 did significantly influence further development of international migration in the Czech Republic. The most important factors playing significant roles included the collapse of the “Iron Curtain” and consequent political, social and economic transformation. Further vital milestones of this era were the division of Czechoslovakia and the foundation of the independent Czech Republic on January 1, 1993 as well as joining the European Union (EU) on May 1, 2004. All these events led to the increased volume of international migration. During the first half of the 1990s, the Czech Republic quickly became a country of transit (migrants going through the country from the East to the West), but, in the course of time, it also became a country of immigration (see table 9).

2.3.1. Migration flows

In the 1990s, when Czech statistics registered migration only on the base of change of permanent residence, there was an annual average of about 10,000 immigrants. This figure does not differ much from the immigration numbers in the 1970s and 1980s.

The new system of statistical registration after 2001 showed a significant increase in the number of immigrants from around 13,000 in 2001 to current 104,000 (in 2007). The net migration, which has been since 1989 positive, has been growing significantly since 2001. An exception to this trend was the year 2001, when the net migration was negative due to aforementioned changes in statistics (see table 2).

Table 2: International migration in the Czech Republic, 1990-2007

| Year | Immigrants | | Emigrants | | Net migration | |
|------|------------|---------------|-----------|-------------|---------------|---------------|
| | Total | from Slovakia | Total | to Slovakia | Total | with Slovakia |
| 1990 | 12,411 | 10,073 | 11,787 | 7,674 | 624 | 2,399 |
| 1991 | 14,096 | 8,334 | 11,22 | 7,324 | 2,876 | 1,01 |
| 1992 | 19,072 | 11,74 | 7,291 | 6,823 | 11,781 | 4,917 |
| 1993 | 12,9 | 7,276 | 7,424 | 7,232 | 5,476 | 44 |
| 1994 | 10,207 | 4,076 | 265 | 56 | 9,942 | 4,02 |
| 1995 | 10,54 | 3,845 | 541 | 140 | 9,999 | 3,705 |
| 1996 | 10,857 | 3,45 | 728 | 213 | 10,129 | 3,237 |
| 1997 | 12,88 | 3,088 | 805 | 260 | 12,075 | 2,828 |
| 1998 | 10,729 | 2,887 | 1,241 | 356 | 9,488 | 2,531 |
| 1999 | 9,91 | 3,235 | 1,136 | 336 | 8,774 | 2,899 |
| 2000 | 7,802 | 2,826 | 1,263 | 413 | 6,539 | 2,413 |
| 2001 | 12,918 | 3,05 | 21,469 | 8,671 | -8,551 | -5,621 |
| 2002 | 44,679 | 13,326 | 32,389 | 14,455 | 12,29 | -1,129 |
| 2003 | 60,015 | 24,41 | 34,226 | 18,316 | 25,789 | 6,094 |
| 2004 | 53,453 | 15,788 | 34,818 | 21,152 | 18,635 | -5,364 |
| 2005 | 60,294 | 10,133 | 24,065 | 1,935 | 36,229 | 8,198 |
| 2006 | 68,183 | 6,795 | 33,463 | 629 | 34,72 | 6,166 |
| 2007 | 104,445 | - | 20,5 | - | 83,945 | - |

Source: Internal 2008

Note: since 2001 - including foreigners with visas for 90 + days

Until 1999 Slovak citizens were the largest group of immigrants. Later they were replaced from this position by Ukrainians, who have clearly dominated the immigration flows. Other large immigration groups consist of citizens of Vietnam, Russia, Poland and Germany, and in recent years they have been joined by Moldovan and Mongolian citizens (see table 3).

Table 3: International migration in the Czech Republic by most important citizenship categories, 2005– 2007 (as of December 31)

| Citizenship | Immigrants | | | Emigrants | | | Net migration | | |
|----------------|------------|--------|---------|-----------|--------|--------|---------------|--------|--------|
| | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 |
| Ukraine | 23,875 | 30,150 | 39,572 | 11,392 | 17,157 | 8,670 | 12,483 | 12,993 | 30,902 |
| Slovakia | 10,107 | 6,781 | 13,931 | 1,946 | 629 | 802 | 8,161 | 6,152 | 13,129 |
| Vietnam | 4,906 | 6,433 | 12,332 | 1,417 | 2,350 | 1,051 | 3,489 | 4,083 | 11,281 |
| Russia | 3,300 | 4,675 | 6,695 | 1,306 | 2,461 | 930 | 1,994 | 2,214 | 5,765 |
| Moldova | 1,672 | 2,377 | 3,419 | 781 | 1,234 | 964 | 891 | 1,143 | 2,455 |
| Mongolia | 911 | 1,549 | 3,319 | 257 | 474 | 440 | 654 | 1,075 | 2,879 |
| Poland | 1,259 | 949 | 2,329 | 140 | 96 | 96 | 1,119 | 853 | 2,233 |
| Germany | 1,431 | 797 | 1,932 | 99 | 63 | 201 | 1,332 | 734 | 1,731 |
| United States | 1,374 | 1,804 | 1,738 | 746 | 1,262 | 871 | 628 | 542 | 867 |
| Bulgaria | 846 | 830 | 1,119 | 454 | 673 | 549 | 392 | 157 | 570 |
| Belarus | 732 | 782 | 1,095 | 306 | 462 | 241 | 426 | 320 | 854 |
| Kazakhstan | 365 | 460 | 986 | 180 | 269 | 139 | 185 | 191 | 847 |
| China | 833 | 1,381 | 961 | 407 | 604 | 276 | 426 | 777 | 685 |
| Romania | 442 | 449 | 909 | 178 | 276 | 333 | 264 | 173 | 576 |
| Uzbekistan | 155 | 304 | 754 | 66 | 164 | 70 | 89 | 140 | 684 |
| United Kingdom | 425 | 269 | 733 | 39 | 22 | 31 | 386 | 247 | 702 |
| Total | 58,576 | 66,125 | 102,511 | 21,796 | 31,388 | 18,424 | 36,780 | 34,737 | 84,087 |

Source: Zahraniční 2008

Since 1989 the Czech Republic has not become a significant emigration country.

2.3.2. Stocks of foreigners

Since 1993 a long-term increase in the number of foreigners has been recorded - in 1993 there were 77,668 foreigners staying in the Czech Republic compared to 394,124 in 2007 (always reported for December 31 – table 4). Since 1996 there has been a gradual rise in the share of permanent residence permits (mostly linked with family reasons) at the expense of the long-term residence permits (chiefly typical economic migrants) – from approximately 23% to current 43%. The reasons can be found primarily on the part of legislation – conditions for obtaining permanent residence have been eased (shorting of the waiting period in relation to the EU regulations) as well as the increase of firmly established ethnic immigrant groups in the country over time.

**Table 4: Foreigners by type of residence in the Czech Republic, 1993-2007
(as of December 31)**

| Year | <i>Permanent residence</i> | <i>Long-term residence/*</i> | <i>Stateless</i> | <i>Gained asylum</i> | <i>Total</i> | <i>Share of population (%)</i> |
|------|----------------------------|------------------------------|------------------|----------------------|--------------|--------------------------------|
| 1993 | 31,072 | 46,070 | 526 | - | 77,668 | 0.75 |
| 1994 | 32,468 | 71,230 | 654 | - | 104,352 | 1.01 |
| 1995 | 38,557 | 120,060 | 590 | - | 159,207 | 1.54 |
| 1996 | 45,837 | 152,767 | 548 | - | 199,152 | 1.93 |
| 1997 | 56,281 | 153,516 | 514 | - | 210,311 | 2.04 |
| 1998 | 63,919 | 155,836 | 432 | - | 220,187 | 2.14 |
| 1999 | 66,754 | 162,108 | - | 1,269 | 230,131 | 2.23 |
| 2000 | 66,891 | 134,060 | - | 1,250 | 202,201 | 1.96 |
| 2001 | 69,816 | 140,978 | - | 1,275 | 212,069 | 2.05 |
| 2002 | 75,249 | 156,359 | - | 1,334 | 232,942 | 2.27 |
| 2003 | 80,844 | 159,577 | - | 1,513 | 241,934 | 2.35 |
| 2004 | 99,467 | 154,827 | - | 1,623 | 255,917 | 2.49 |
| 2005 | 110,598 | 167,714 | - | 1,799 | 280,111 | 2.71 |
| 2006 | 139,185 | 182,271 | - | 1,887 | 323,343 | 3.12 |
| 2007 | 158,018 | 234,069 | - | 2,037 | 394,124 | 3.78 |
| 2008 | | | | | | |

Source: Zpráva 2008

Since 1996 the five largest immigrant groups have remained the same – consisting of citizens of Ukraine, Slovakia, Vietnam, Russia and Poland (see table 13). Whereas the number of Slovak and Polish citizens have not changed much from the mid-1990s, figures of those from Ukraine, Vietnam and Russia increased two fold compared to the situation in the mid-1990s.

As of December 31, 2006, two purposes of residence - settlement (38%) and family reunion and creation (60%) were logically the most represented types among permanent residence permit holders. With respect to foreigners holding long-term permits (for a period exceeding 90 days), the dominant purposes of residence were employment (70%) and business activities

2.3.3. Education and migration

Table 1 Educational attainment of foreigners and required education as at 31 December 2008

| Level of education | Registration of citizens from the EU/EEA and Switzerland | | Valid work permits | |
|---|--|--------------------|------------------------|--------------------|
| | educational attainment | required education | educational attainment | required education |
| no education | 111 | 486 | 588 | 6 516 |
| incomplete basic | 94 | 312 | 384 | 1 881 |
| basic and lower vocational | 21 536 | 41 108 | 96 714 | 145 152 |
| lower middle | 1 338 | 1 549 | 5 540 | 2 600 |
| lower middle vocational | 3 130 | 5 446 | 5 303 | 6 879 |
| middle vocational with Leaving Vocational Certificate | 46 939 | 44 657 | 75 755 | 62 075 |
| middle or middle vocational without Leaving Certificate | 2 324 | 1 347 | 12 402 | 1 929 |
| grammar school | 5 236 | 4 119 | 9 044 | 5 082 |
| complete middle vocational with LVC and LAC | 5 322 | 2 501 | 6 448 | 3 056 |
| complete middle vocational with LAC but without LVC | 15 367 | 11 818 | 20 686 | 15 458 |
| upper vocational | 1 153 | 1 032 | 1 637 | 1 382 |
| university (bachelor) | 2 294 | 2 171 | 4 575 | 3 352 |
| university (masters) | 16 096 | 13 645 | 23 243 | 18 140 |
| doctorate | 880 | 684 | 1 163 | 824 |
| unspecified | 19 252 | 10 222 | 21 044 | 10 225 |

Source: Bulletin 22 International Labour Migration in the CR, RILSA Prague, 2009

2.3.4. Numbers of asylum seekers

Two clearly liberalizing steps for Asylum policy have been taken in 2001. **Firstly**, a new amendment of the Alien Act (years of a foreigner's residence on a temporary permit before 1.1.2000 would be "counted" when applying for a permanent residence permit). **Secondly**, a pilot project for attracting skilled labour migrants to settle in the country were passed within the Government as a deterioration of demographic conditions.

On the other hand, a major Asylum Act amendment (approved in early 2002) followed the restrictive direction. Its purpose was clear - to reduce the number of asylum applications that reached 8,788 in 2000 and even 18,094 in 2001 ²¹ In the same year, a further amendment transformed the asylum

procedure to a one-instance procedure (governed by the Ministry of the Interior).

Table 5: Asylum procedure in the Czech Republic, 1993-2007

| <i>Year</i> | <i>Asylum seekers</i> | <i>Asylum granted</i> | <i>Year</i> | <i>Asylum seekers</i> | <i>Asylum granted</i> |
|-------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1993 | 2,207 | 251 | 2001 | 18,094 | 83 |
| 1994 | 1,187 | 116 | 2002 | 8,481 | 103 |
| 1995 | 1,417 | 59 | 2003 | 11,396 | 208 |
| 1996 | 2,211 | 162 | 2004 | 5,459 | 142 |
| 1997 | 2,109 | 96 | 2005 | 4,021 | 251 |
| 1998 | 4,086 | 78 | 2006 | 3,016 | 268 |
| 1999 | 7,220 | 79 | 2007 | 1,878 | 191 |
| 2000 | 8,788 | 133 | | | |

Source: Zpráva 2001, 2002, 2006, 2007, 2008

2.3.5. Illegal/Irregular migrants and labour migration system organization

Inflows of legal/documented migrants go hand in hand with illegal/irregular migration ⁶. The basic source of information on illegal migration is the database of the Alien Police which contains information on all persons apprehended for illegal migration or smuggling.

Legal and illegal occupation Since 1990 the Czech Republic has become an attractive destination for foreigners. The share of foreigners on population increased during the period 1993–2008 from 0.8 % at the end of 1993 up to 4.2 % at the end of 2008. The share of legally registered foreigners on the CR labour market increased in the same period from 1 % up to 6.4 % of the labour force. After accession of the CR into the EU the economic situation improved and interest of foreigners to work in the CR grew up. Demand for foreign labour exceeded domestic supply. New large foreign direct investments in car industry fostered labour demand – to be supplied from third countries. Labour came mostly from Slovakia and neighbouring former

socialist bloc countries (Ukraine, Moldova, Belarus, and Russia). A significant inflow came also from Asia (Vietnam, Mongolia, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and China).(Horakova 2009)

Agencies and client system

In 2004 an amendment to Act 435/ 2004 Coll. on Employment introduced Employment agencies. Employment agencies are engaged in the direct placement into jobs, serve as advisory and information centres and "lend" their employees to other employers. The new Employment Act should ensure that a person who is an employee of an employment agency and works for another firm has the same employment conditions as other employees of the relevant firm (working hours, wage etc.). A person who is employed by an agency and works for another company must be guaranteed the same conditions as other employees of the relevant company (working hours, wage etc.). Brokering of employment by employment agencies is regulated by Act 435/2004 Coll. (Horakova 2009)

Because the CR industry called for new labour, the number of employment agencies (which were introduced in 2004 by amendment of the Act 435/2004 Coll. on Employment) increased rapidly and exceeded in total 2 500 in December 2008. Some unauthorised foreigner's agencies (so called "clients") employed foreigners under obscure conditions. The grey economy extended (the estimate of undocumented labour migrants on the CR labour market oscillate between 50 000 up to 200 000). Both authorised and unauthorised employment agencies imported foreign labour sometimes irrespective of the labour market situation, therefore the CR government adopted the Government Order of 5 March 2009 which changed conditions of import of foreigner labour by agencies. The range of jobs which such agencies can intermediate for third country nationals was strongly limited. The economic crisis also caused that many labour migrants especially from car industry become rather suddenly redundant. Their hours of work were reduced and they were even released. Many of them lost their income and

consequently also their housing. The CR Government therefore organised with cooperation with IOM voluntary returns of redundant labour migrants reimbursed by the CR (total 1 513 were registered by MoI in May 2009). Total 2 262 authorised employment agencies operated in April 2009 in the CR, their number decreased due to economic slowdown. In **2006** exploitation in several Czech factories of North Korean seamstresses sparks calls to action on living and working conditions of legal migrants as alternative to 'client system' but still there is no visible changes.

Trade licenses Totally 361 709 economically active foreigners were registered as of 31 December 2008 Foreigners' made up 6.3 % of the CR total labour force. 78.8 % work as employees, 23.3 % as entrepreneurs, (mostly self-employed trade licence holders). Only 21 % of foreigners' employment is regulated according to the labour market situation through the institute of work permits. Among foreigners, there are more entrepreneurs (23 %) than in the total populations¹⁴ (16 %). Reason is easier entry of trade licence holders into the CR labour market.

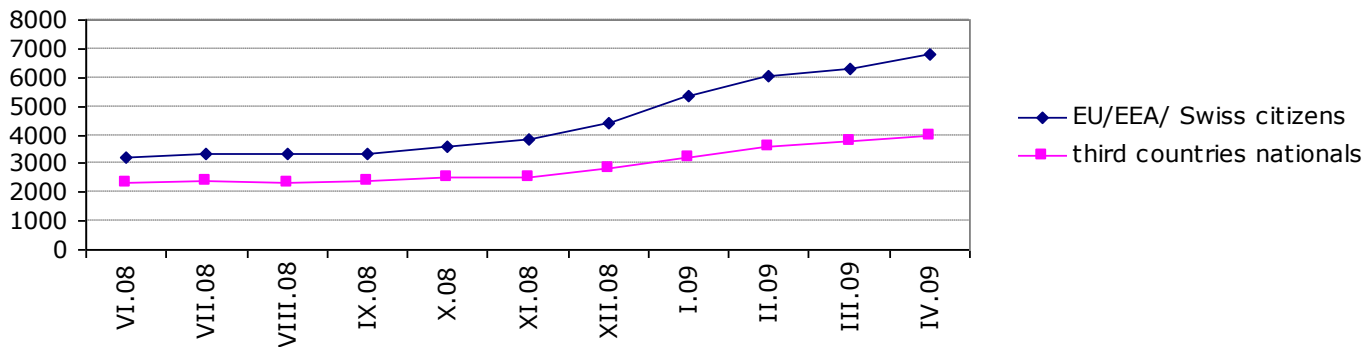
Number of resident permit holders increased from 31 December 2004 to 31 December 2008 from 254 294 to 438 301 and to 443 870 as of 30 April 2009. Total employment of foreigners (foreigners registered at labour offices and trade licence holders) increased during the period 2004-2008 from 173 203 up to 361 709 (end of years data). (Horakova 2009)

2.4. Crisis and employment

Number of foreigners registered at labour offices decreased since December 2008 till 28 February 2009 from 284 551 to 265 016, and till 30 April 2009 little decreased again on 256 319; Number of trade licence holders are not available for first months of 2009.

¹⁴ Employed aged 15 and over according to Labour Force Survey

Registered unemployed foreigners June 2008- April 2009

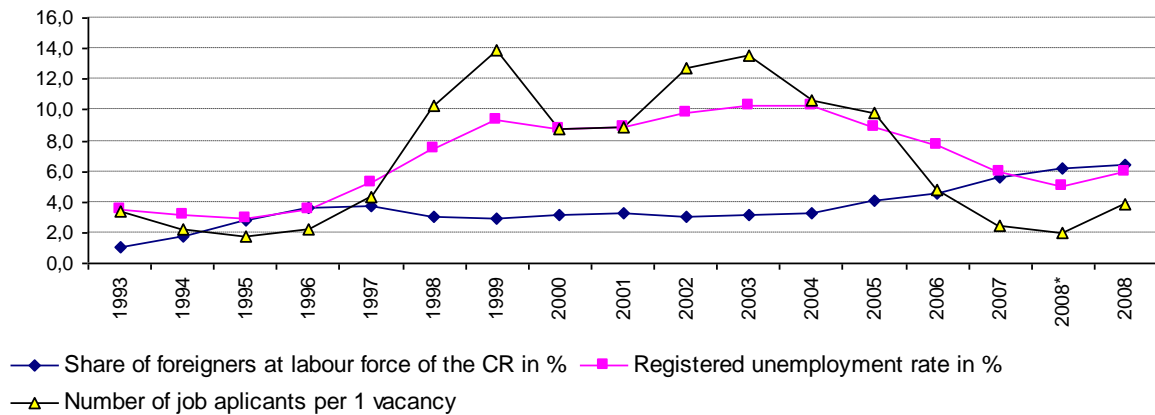


Source: Unpublished data created by Information "OK system" of MoLSA for the purpose of Peer Review at 18.5.2009.

Number of unemployed between all registered foreigners is very low, especially between those coming from third countries. The total CR number of job applicants registered at labour offices was 448 912 at 31 March 2009; thereof 5 846 were the EU/EEA/Swiss citizens (4.4 % of total registered EU/EEA/Swiss citizens as at March 2009). There is no statistics on the third country nationals registered as job applicants. The MoLSA estimates about 3 900 job applicants at 31 March 2009 (3 % of total registered third country nationals at labour offices as at 31 March 2009).

Educational attainment of foreigners is often higher than is required by employers, both in the case of the EU citizens and third nationals. But discrepancy between acquired and requested education is higher in case of third countries nationals. Those take lower qualified jobs than EU citizens do (see table 1). The reason is insufficient number of vacancies for qualified foreigners' workers probably (source MoLSA OK information system). Although total employment of the CR population between 4Q 2008 and 1Q 2009 decreased, employment of foreigners grew from 2004 till the end 2008 as well as number of resident permit holders. Since January of 2009 the inflow of foreigners into the CR remains basically constant.

**Labour market development in a context of foreigners' employment
as at December 31**



Source: MoLSA, MIT, Bulletin 22 International Labour Migration in the CR, RILSA Prague, 2009, graph Milada Horáková

The main aim of the CR policy is to simplify, speed up and make transparent the process of hiring qualified labour from third countries and reduce the grey economy. The support of security is an important element of new labour migration policy too.

Work permits are issued generally with regards to the situation on the CR labour market. Since 1 January 2009 an employer does not need a permission of local labour office to hire employees from abroad. It is rather important simplification of administrative system of hiring foreigner labour. There are three categories of third country nationals with regard to obligation to hold valid work permit:

Work permit regardless of the situation on the labour market is for foreigners who are needed in the Czech economy. Work permit is not required from foreigners listed in the Employment Act (for example those granted asylum, holding permanent residence permit in the CR, performing artists, teachers, academics at universities, employees of universities attending scientific events, pupils or students up to 26 years of age, etc.). (Horakova 2009)

3. Integration Policy

3.1. Development of the concept

1999 adoption of "Principles for the Concept of Immigrant Integration in the Territory of the Czech Republic"

The first Governmental integrated document in the field of foreigners' integration was designed in 1999 under the title "Principles for the Concept of Immigrant Integration in the Territory of the Czech Republic" (15 main theses were formulated - see more in Drbohlav, Horáková, Janská 2005).

2000 "Concept of Immigrant Integration in the Territory of the Czech Republic"

One year later after the Principles were designed, a more precise document called "Concept of Immigrant Integration in the Territory of the Czech Republic" (Concept) followed. The government policy was primarily intended to approximate the status of foreign nationals legally residing in the Czech Republic on a long-term basis to that of citizens of the Czech Republic.¹⁵

The Concept addressed in particular the issue of division of competencies and responsibilities of the relevant government departments (sectors) for the preparation, introduction and implementation of the proposed projects in individual areas of life and immigrant integration in the Czech Republic. Subject to their respective competencies, the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, the Ministry of Industry and Trade, the Ministry of Education, Youth and Physical Education, the Ministry for the Regional Development and the Ministry of the Interior have prepared Plans of integration policies. In terms

¹⁵ In the course of time, the structure of naturalized foreigners by citizenship has been changing. It has become more diversified. In 1993 the 5 largest groups were Russians (457), Greeks (359), Ukrainians (212), Poles (152) and Bulgarians (106). Last year, in the "top-5" Greeks and Bulgarians were substituted by Slovaks (131) and Vietnamese (40), whilst still Ukrainians (424 persons), followed by Russians (102) and Poles (50) were on the top. (Janská 2002, Informace 2000).

of their content, these plans were focused on legislative, organizational, methodological and practical aspects of implementation of the Concept of immigrant integration. Non-governmental non-profit organizations play an important role in this respect.

Consequently, in 2001, in this connection in all districts of the Czech Republic were established District consultative bodies for immigrant integration issues which dealt in particular with the monitoring and analysis of the situation and status of immigrants under local conditions. But at the end of 2002, also the activities of consultative bodies were terminated. Currently, the law does not impose on regions or municipalities the obligation to deal specifically with the issue of immigrant integration. However, a number of regions and municipalities are well aware of the urgent nature of problems associated with immigrant integration and take the initiative to address them.

With regard to the above, we may draw the following conclusions:

In general, immigrant integration was defined as a process in the course of which the local population and immigrants are integrated into a single society. Fifteen points was prepared and approved by the Government of the Czech Republic under the title Principles for the Concept in the territory of the Czech Republic, and on its basis, the Concept in the territory of the Czech Republic in 1999 was prepared which was adopted in 2000. In order to propose adequate measures it is necessary to define in particular on whom the integration measures are targeted, i.e. :

The target group is immigrants who reside in the Czech Republic on the basis of visa for a stay exceeding 90 days, long-term residence permit or permanent residence and asylum-seekers

The target group of the updated Concept does not include EU Member State citizens and asylum-seekers. However, the uniform definition of the target group applicable to all proposed measures is not useful. Also the European

Integration Fund is recommended including all migrants groups regardless their status and time of residence.

At the beginning of 2004, based on the Government Resolution, the agenda associated with the co-ordination of implementation of the Concept in the territory of the Czech Republic was transferred from the Ministry of the Interior to the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs.

The first Concept implementation at the beginning was given to the above mentioned ministries but the main key player was Ministry of Interior. In 2004 the responsibility for the implementation was transferred to the Ministry of Social Affairs and labour where it was preserved till 2008 when the integration matter again was return to the Ministry of Interior. For that time several important documents come in to the force as **24/11/2005** Amendment No.428/2005 Coll. to Act on the Residency of Aliens transposed EC Directive on family reunion changes. It was related with high level of faked marriages. The document install the time of residence for spouse to reach the creterious of long-term residence.

3.1.2. 2006 "Updated concept of immigrant integration in the territory of the Czech Republic"

Updated Concept in the territory of the Czech Republic proposed another change that consists in higher emphasis placed on an individual, i.e. on his/her personal efforts and responsibility as a means to ensure his/her independence, self-sufficiency and integration into society. The objective of the concept is to develop a coherent long-term framework of the integration policies.

Revised Concept proposed necessities in long-term legislative and practical measures, but at the first time it was difficult to estimate now the overall expensiveness of individual targeted specific measures. Nowadays exists only systemic support for the employment of asylum-seekers and immigrants residing on a long-term basis in the Czech Republic and Systemic

support for employment of asylum-seekers and immigrants residing on a long-term basis in Prague. The Concept envisages right from the start an active role at the local level.

The updated Concept is therefore based on two categories of measures. The core part of the Concept constitute targeted specific measures. Their purpose is to eliminate disadvantages arising from the fact that an individual concerned is an immigrant, usually does not speak the language of the host country, his/her orientation in society and the labour market is more difficult and has not established contacts with members of the majority society.

The second group is comprised of such measures and procedures that reflect the impacts of the adopted or existing measures for immigrant integration in the development and revision of other policies and legal regulations. We may label these measures as support measures. Such measures include migration-related measures (for instance issuing of residence permits) and also measures unrelated to migration (for instance access of immigrants to public health insurance).

It is important to ensure the involvement of additional partners and development of additional measures which will contribute to the support for individual efforts of immigrants to integrate themselves into Czech society which is of key importance for the success of integration. Integration is the process that is being implemented at the local level. There are various methods whereby municipalities and regions Targeted specific measures are proposed both at the legislative and non-legislative level.

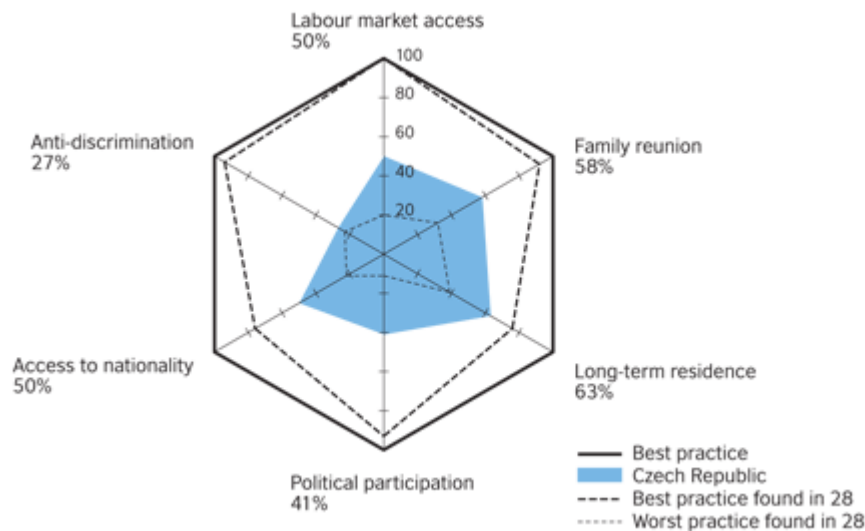
Targeted specific measures are formulated with a view to fulfilling key prerequisites of integration, then key prerequisites for successful immigrant integration under the conditions of the Czech Republic are as follows:

- knowledge of the Czech language
- immigrant's economic self-sufficiency
- immigrant's orientation in society
- immigrant's relations with members of the majority society.

Manner of evaluation of progress achieved in the course of implementation of the updated Concept indicated that the process of immigrant integration is a long-term qualitative matter and exclusively quantitative indicators therefore cannot separately show the effectiveness of the output of the process. However, they may serve as support indicators. For the objectives of the targeted specific measures „knowledge of the Czech language” and „economic self-sufficiency”.

According to the assessment of Migration Integration Policy Index for best integration practice in EU countries the integration model according to opinion of researchers and NGO activists in Czech Republic has features of assimilation model of integration, with protection of own ethnicity.

Picture 1. Czech Republic Integration index MIPEX¹⁶



Source: <http://www.integrationindex.eu/integrationindex/2336.html>

¹⁶<http://www.integrationindex.eu/multiattachments/2713.html>,
<http://www.integrationindex.eu/integrationindex/2336.html>

The state Integration Programme has only targeted recognised refugees and recipients of subsidiary protection. The government's recent action on migration aimed primarily at meeting EU obligations. Integration efforts have been frustrated by a lack of resources and disagreements over a proposed anti-discrimination act and integration measures for permanent residents. As best practice (100% score of ideal model) was pointed position Rights associated with employment and as worse - Implementation policies for political participation and asworse is Anti-discrimination law is worse still: second from the bottom out of the 28 MIPEX countries and just over a quarter of the way to best practice. **Equality policies critically weak.**The Czech Republic is the only MIPEX country to receive a perfect 0% score on equality policies. Victims of discrimination receive little legal advice, assistance in investigating their case or support in court, because the Czech Republic has not yet established a specialised equality agency. The anti-discrimination bill, rejected in May 2006, would have extended the competencies of the Czech Ombudsman to include discrimination and equal opportunities. In June 2007, a similar bill was introduced to place these competences under the Office of the Ombudsman. Under current laws, the state does not have to mainstream equality principles in its functions, lead dialogue on anti-discrimination or inform the public about their rights as victims of discrimination. For best practice, see country profiles for Canada and Sweden

In 2006 Parliament failed to override veto on Anti-Discrimination Act by Senate, which found its definitions vague and difficult to implement. The important moment in integration policy development was **the** Amendment No. 161/2006 to Alien Act on long-term residence transposed EC Directive on long-term residents that decreased the time for application for long-term residence from 10 years to 5 years.

2009 – opening of Integration Centres

The further development of integration policy can be evaluated through the interviews with some officials, scientists and NGOs activists. The opinion on this development by the experts out of MoI is rather pessimistic (for more details see the chapter of interviews). The experts do not know much about the results of the last initiative of MoI on opening of Integration Centres. The only information on their functions and place was provided during the interview with officer of MoI:

„For the last years the new step is the return to integration centres system at local level (to the system of regional level involvement). The idea has emerged in the beginning of 2000s` but was not implemented at municipal level. Regional Integration Centres- we have no legal base to influence on regions to support these centres. They can cooperate only voluntary. But... 3 times we had meetings with 14 regions. Most regions denied change their strategies. About 75% of all operational funds gave European Integration Fund and only 25% funds we got from Czech state.

Integration Centres were established this year(2009) when 6 centres start to operate. They have different legal status: 3 types of organizations: four of them are under the MoI, one is the municipal structural part in region of South Moravia and one more is run by one NGO. Free competition was opened. They(the centres) have opened only 5 months ago.

What are the indicators of evaluation of their work? It is difficult question. There are no clear criteria. We have only some as:

400 hours languages;
Cultural courses;
Targets"

This step is in fact the return to the policy of 2001 when such activity was already done for one year. But we assume that lack of funds and interest at municipal level did not allow to develop the initiative.

3.2. Indicators of Integration

It is rather difficult to evaluate current integration outcomes in the Czech Republic as immigrants' integration is not systematically monitored. Neither an integration report is done, nor are integration indicators used. Main outcomes of a unique report of the Ministry of the Interior which is based on monitoring reports prepared by former district advisory boards for integration of foreigners (Monitoring 2002).

Unfortunately, until now no integration indicators were counted for immigrants and majority society in the Czech Republic. Several obstacles come into play:

Immigrants can usually be distinguished within Czech statistical sources on the basis of foreign citizenship which limits the pool of persons whose integration should be studied. Using the category "foreigners" instead of immigrants is inaccurate as acquiring citizenship of a host country does not necessarily mean an immigrant is integrated (Communication 2003, Bauböck 2005). All in all, only very basic and rough information concerning immigrant integration as measured by indicators.

3.2.1. Economic indicators

Employment rate: Concerning immigrants' socio-economic integration, it is recommended to measure several characteristics tied to employment. As economic reasons are the main reasons for immigration to the Czech Republic, it is not surprising that economic activity rate of foreigners reached more than 86%, compared to about 59% of the total population of the Czech Republic (based on data for 2006/2007).

Unemployment rate is seen as a crucial indicator as employment is considered to be a key mechanism of immigrant integration (Schulte 2005, Doomernik 1998, Baldwin-Edwards 2005). In the Czech Republic, however,

its value is limited as concerning third country nationals only holders of permanent residence permit might be unemployed. Other third country nationals are obliged to leave the country when made redundant as in such a case their work permit terminates which means also termination of their residence permit.

Data on unemployed third country nationals (with permanent residence permit) originated from labour offices is neither published, nor accessible, despite being collected. Reasons for not releasing this data are unknown.

Labour Force Survey data on foreigners cannot be used as its results regarding the foreign population are highly unreliable due to small sample size which does not follow the real structure of foreigners in the Czech Republic (Drbohlav, Lachmanová 2008 a). The only information on unemployment of third country nationals (as of June 30, 2007) which we were able to find was published in a study of the Research Institute of Labour and Social Affairs (Pořízková 2008)³⁵. According to this study there were 2,753 unemployed third country nationals³⁶ (Pořízková 2008).

3.2.2. Social Indicators

Social benefits indicators - As no statistics concerning use of social benefits by foreigners are publicly available, the some basic information related to the first quarter of 2008. Foreigners drew only 0.1% of all paid state social benefits, most of these benefits were tied to children. In general, Slovaks rely on state social benefits the most, followed by Poles, Ukrainians and Vietnamese.

Educational level : Unfortunately, other important aspects of socio-economic integration such as educational level, income level or quality of housing cannot be measured via integration indicators due to unavailability or inaccessibility of background data.

3.2.3. Legal and political indicators

Naturalization policy conditions for family reunification, or political rights.

Family reunion: The Czech Republic would reach best practice on **eligibility**, currently the second most favourable in the EU-10 after HU, if legal residents could apply to become sponsors after a year or less and if spouses and sponsors could be under 20 years old. The right to family reunion is not **conditional** on an integration test although sponsors must go through an expensive procedure to prove that they have sufficient accommodation and income to support their family. The state can refuse their application or withdraw a relative's permit for many reasons and without considering all of the family's circumstances. In the case of a negative decision, however, a family has the **security** of legal guarantees and various avenues of appeal. Reunited family members enjoy equal **rights** as their sponsor to access employment, education, training, and housing. However, they are only included in the public health insurance system if they become long-term residents.

One of the things to be observed is immigrants' participation in the political system of the receiving state. In the case of the Czech Republic, with one exception, almost non-existent. There are no immigrants (persons of foreign origin) in the upper, or the lower chamber of the Parliament, nor are any immigrants visible in the national or regional political arena. The one and only exception, is a women minister of a Kazakh origin who was appointed to the Czech government in 2006 to deal with human rights and national minorities issues. There is no possibility for immigrants to vote and to be elected within elections at a regional level.

Access to nationality Eligibility for nationality receives the third lowest score found in the 28 MIPEX countries. Only long-term residents are eligible after five years of residence, which for most migrants means waiting at least ten years in total. The second- and third-generation (Czech-born children and grandchildren of migrants) must also naturalise to become citizens of their

country of birth. Officially, Czech nationality is available for all those who have not committed a crime in the last five years and who pass the simple, oral language interview. In practice, the state rejects applicants if it considers that their income, level of integration or civic conduct is not good enough. Although the state can reject an applicant on many grounds, migrants enjoy a favourable **security of status** since, once naturalised, their citizenship can never be withdrawn. Some naturalising migrants can become **dual nationals** through bureaucratic exceptions

Anti-discrimination The Czech Republic would reach best practice on **definitions and concepts** if the law punished discrimination by association and based on assumed characteristics of race/ethnicity, religion, and nationality. Yet the law does not protect victims from discrimination in **fields** such as access to housing, health, social protection and social advantages. In education, only EU nationals are protected from discrimination. It is illegal to discriminate against any resident on race/ethnicity, religion, and nationality in employment and vocational training. Only victims of discrimination at work or in training have access to **enforcement measures** such as legal procedures, protection from victimisation and sanctions to punish the perpetrator. **Equality policies** are critically weak (see box)

Political participation: Only Czech citizens are allowed to vote in parliament elections and to the regional chambers. agreement between the Czech Republic and the relevant foreign country on electoral issues has been signed. Governmental materials on the implementation of the Concept of Immigrant Integration mention possibility of foreigners' participation in local elections as regular voters in the near future.

Also, foreigners are not allowed to join political parties in the Czech Republic.

The majority of constitutional functions are not granted to foreigners, with the exceptions of governmental positions (such as minister, vice prime minister or prime minister).

Foreigners cannot become policemen or army officers, but they can be a volunteer for military service after an agreement of the president of the Czech Republic.

Moreover, foreigners can not serve in positions in the public administration such as forester, fisher, or nature guards.

Migrants have no effective electoral rights in the Czech Republic. Since 2001, migrants would have been able to vote in local elections had the Czech Republic chosen to sign reciprocity agreements with countries of origin. Migrants' political liberties (see box) are limited. National government consults migrants in a structured way through their representatives in migrant associations. Regional and local governments only consult migrants ad hoc. Migrants cannot elect these representatives; they are appointed by the state to speak on their behalf. Migrant associations can get state funding at all levels of government under the same conditions as non-migrant associations. This gives the Czech Republic the most favourable implementation policies in the EU-10.

Migrants' political freedoms are limited in the Czech Republic. The Czech Republic, like five other EU-10 countries, received the lowest score on the two indicators of political liberties. Migrants can only form their own associations if they bring in at least three Czech nationals. No foreigners can join a political party, even EU citizens. No changes to this rule have even been discussed by migrant organisations, NGOs or the media. The Ministry of Interior has raised concerns about the participation of Vietnamese in the border areas where they are numerous

3.2.4. Cultural indicators of integration:

These indicators can be best observed through an empirical research concerned with immigrants' lifestyle, attitudes, and values. Concerning the integration indicators, however, there are two basic characteristics that can

tell us more about immigrants' adaptation level in the socio-cultural sphere of the Czech society.

Knowledge of the receiving state's language - An important sign of cultural integration is the (Entzinger, Biezeveld 2003, Fitzgerald 1998, EFNATIS 2001). Moreover, Czech language knowledge is one of the key integration targets set by the Updated Concept of Immigrant Integration. However, there are no general data mapping Czech language competencies among immigrants.

Mixed marriages can be considered as an indicator lying at the borderline between cultural and social integration (Coussey, Christensen 1998, Doomernik 1998). In 2006, 8% of contracted marriages were composed of a Czech and foreign partner (mixed marriages) . Since 1995, the share of mixed marriages has been slightly increasing. Composition of a mixed marriage is more often of a Czech woman and a foreign man, although the share of Czech women has been decreasing in time. Due to common history, mixed marriages with Slovak citizens are the most numerous As Morávková analysed the period 1995-2006, she found that foreign wives of Czech men were most often from "eastern" countries - Ukraine, Slovakia, Vietnam, or Russia. On the other hand, the structure of husbands of Czech women was more variable with an important share of "western" countries such as Germany, Great Britain, USA or Austria. (Morávková 2008).

3.2.5. Other indicators

Criminality can be seen as a sign of not accepting basic society norms and rules (Entzinger, Biezeveld 2003, Doomernik 1998). Moreover, it is a characteristic that is usually closely followed by majority society. The share of foreigners among convicted persons (in 2006) was higher (5.8 %) than their share on total population in general (3.1%), hence could be seen as a negative aspect of their integration (Cizinci 2007).

Convicted foreigners - all in 2006 were Slovak citizens, although their share on foreign population was around 18%. Ukrainian citizens represented a quarter of convicted foreigners, which was, however, less than their share on foreigners in the given year (32%). Among the other most numerous groups of convicted foreigners were Vietnamese (389 persons), Poles (190 persons), Russians (140 persons), and also Romanians who represented 3.1% of all convicted foreigners compared with their 0.9% participation in the foreign population (Cizinci 2007). Foreigners were more often convicted for infringement of rights to trademarks, commercial names and protected designations of origin, and infringements of copyright (3.5 % compared with 0.3% of Czechs), which is a problem specifically tied to stall trade, usually run by Vietnamese trade licence holders.

Demographic behaviour of immigrant population (fertility rates, abortions or births outside marriage) is also considered as a possible indicator of cultural integration, however, its interpretation is ambiguous (Courbage 2003, Barou 2001, Bretz, Cagiano de Azevedo 1992). Concerning the share of live births outside marriage, in 2006 33% of born children with Czech citizenship were born outside marriage, compared to 39% of newborns with foreign citizenship.

Foreigners compact settlements: Mainly due to the great share of "circulators" among foreigners and because only a short time has elapsed since large-scale immigration has started, some "typical" migratory features have not yet developed (Drbohlav 2004). They have not created very significant areas of concentration within cities or regions so far. However, several exceptions can be found - along with the Russian community in Karlovy Vary, one can also mention more visible Vietnamese concentration in several small towns and villages chiefly along the Czech-German border, a firmly established well-off community of "Western" immigrants in Prague district of Nebušice, a newly created Mongolian community in a town of Blansko and several others. All these examples represent important

manifestations of a new and distinctive socio-cultural milieu that was brought to the country. (Drbohlav 2004).

3.3. Integration steps and obstacles in the implementation of the integration plan

3.3.1. KNOWLEDGE OF THE CZECH LANGUAGE: The requirement for a certain level of language skills which an immigrant may prove by the relevant certificate

Obstacles: Unfortunately the unified contents of language courses and methodology of language instruction do not exist. And in addition the methodology and format of Czech language courses should respect specific features of individual groups of immigrants (for instance, unfamiliarity with Roman letters, illiteracy, various age groups or Vietnamese and Ukrainians). They are different in ability to study, because of different cultural distances. One more obstacle is that the Czech language instruction needs to be provided by qualified instructors. This is also problematic. The payment for the costs of language courses is an important issue. The government is able to provide free first exam for applicants, but not but not language courses for all migrants.

3.3.2. ECONOMIC SELF-SUFFICIENCY the second necessary step in integration.

Labour market access: Most migrants are only eligible for equal access as EU nationals to employment if they receive long-term residence permits after five years. Only highly-skilled migrant workers can take a job in most sectors after just 30 months. On the other hand, migrants are free to start a business, without even a viable business plan. Labour market integration measures to help migrants find work are critically weak (see box). Once in a job, they are partially secure in their employment. They can renew almost all work permits. With a long-term residence permit, migrants can stay in the Czech Republic even if they lose their job. The Czech Republic, like 14 other

MIPEX countries, attained best practice on rights associated with employment.

The state does not assist migrants to get their foreign skills and qualifications recognised in the Czech Republic or to improve their knowledge of Czech language. Since there are no state guidelines for assessments of foreign qualifications carried out by regional authorities and public universities, procedures can drag on and become expensive and unreasonable. The state does not have an explicit aim to reduce unemployment by improving the employability of migrant workers. Migrants who wish to improve their vocational skills or Czech language may be blocked by conditions limiting their access to education, training and study grants. For best practice see country profiles for the Netherlands and Sweden

Experience has shown that the concepts envisaging a temporary status of migration are false; it is necessary to assume that even those migrants, who originally intended to reside in the territory of the Czech Republic only temporarily, will remain there permanently.

Obstacles: the area of recognition of qualifications. Migrating workers have often higher qualification for the pursuit of their profession in given positions than the one that is required. Complicated procedures of obtaining the required labour permits leads to illegal employment. It was pointed that is not desirable to allow the immigrants to circumvent the requirement for a work permit by opting for the self-employed status. Consequently, measures aimed at combating these adverse phenomena need to be implemented both at the level of prevention (see the above elimination of excessive administrative obstacles with respect to immigrants who have proved their capability to find a permanent job in the Czech labour market) and at the level of sanctions.

3.3.3. IMMIGRANT'S ORIENTATION IN SOCIETY is the third important component of integration

One of the objectives of integration policy of the state is therefore to help to an immigrant to orientate himself/herself in society through the systematic provision of basic information in the language he/she understands, which will be provided to immigrants in several various ways in such a manner to be available to the widest range of immigrants.

For the widest target group, i.e. for immigrants regardless of the purpose or the length of their residence in the territory of the Czech Republic an information manual will be prepared and subsequently distributed in an appropriate way. This manual will contain basic information on the legal order, values, rights and obligations and information on situations an immigrant normally faces (basic information about conditions for employment, education, housing, public services, rights and obligations pertaining to social and health insurance and the system of social security and social care benefits, integration measures, etc.), the system of government, history of the Czech Republic, etc).

The collection of information on monitoring of migrants housing and professional mobility?

3.3.4. THE IMMIGRANT'S RELATIONS WITH MEMBERS OF THE MAJORITY SOCIETY should help to eliminate the fears of the society opposed to immigration and settling of immigrants in the Czech Republic. As soon as integration is a two-way process requiring effort and willingness on the part of both immigrants and nationals both side have pay attention to the issue of intercultural education and multicultural education. Multicultural education plays an important role also in the development of competencies of the public administration staff.

The more frequent and more intense the relations between an immigrant and members of the majority society are, the higher is the chance of a successful integration. The existing experience with the implementation of the Concept shows enormous potential of the non-governmental non-profit sector in the above areas, i.e. in the area of promotion of awareness and consolidation of relations between immigrants and Czech nationals.

Due to the fact that establishing of human relations may effectively occur only at the local level, i.e. in the place where the immigrant concerned lives, works, attends school, etc. the involvement of municipalities and regions seems to be extremely necessary.

The principle of legal certainty, fair approach and acquisition of rights constitute the principles that must be taken into account when formulating all policies with respect to immigrants. In practice, this means that the scope of rights granted to an immigrant will usually depend on the length of his/her residence in the territory of the Czech Republic, or his/her residence status.

3.4. Conclusions (for the Concept implementation)¹⁷

There is no unified contents of language courses and methodology of language instruction does not exist. The existing methodologies and format of Czech language courses do not respect specific features of individual groups of immigrants (various age and ethnic groups unfamiliarity with Roman letters or Vietnamese and Ukrainians). They are different in ability to study, because of different cultural distances. One more obstacle is that the Czech language instruction needs to be provided by Czech language tests on the basis of the obligation to pass an approved test and confirmed by the certificate and also employment or a commercial activity is an objectively measurable fact are not effective criterions for the integration measurement

¹⁷ Updated Concept 2006; Drbhlav & Medova 2008

1. Legal certainty of the immigrant's residence in the territory of the Czech Republic

The weaknesses have been noted also at the level of procedure of the relevant administrative authorities (failure to inform immigrants, low level of standardization of the requirements at individual workplaces, corruption, poor language skills, unprofessional approach). Also time limits were criticized (for the granting of a permanent residence for family members of the residing residents, for the possibility to ask for the granting of citizenship). – no compliance possible in case of rejection of applications.

2. Social and economic area: Social and economic integration includes the area of employment, social and health security, education, housing, knowledge of the Czech language etc. The key barriers to social and economic integration:

administrative demands placed on the process of obtaining a work permit and on the other hand relatively easy access to trade licences,

immediate loss of a residence permit if the immigrant loses his/her job, impossibility to change a job before the validity of the work permit expires without prejudice to the validity of the residence permit,

extensive illegal employment of immigrants,

impossibility to participate in the public health insurance system on the part of nationals of third countries or their family members (in particular children) who are not employees in the territory of the Czech Republic¹⁸.

¹⁸ or do not have their permanent residence in the territory of the Czech Republic or are the citizens of the state with which the Czech Republic has not entered in the bilateral agreement (most often the agreement on social security) or if Council Regulation (EC) No 859/2003 extending the provisions of Regulation (EEC) No 1408/71 and Regulation No 574/72 to nationals of third countries does not apply to such persons.

In the area of education a serious barrier to integration is:

absence of the obligation to secure for students who are nationals of other than Member States of the European Union free preparation for their inclusion into the primary education, including the Czech language instruction.¹⁹

insufficient availability of the language instruction and insufficient motivation for immigrants to learn Czech language were identified as key barriers to immigrant integration.

difficult access of immigrants to housing, including impossibility to acquire real property.- now they can buy

3. Cultural area

access of immigrants to basic rules and standards of the host society, etc.

support for cultural and educational activities geared to awareness of culture, history, and traditions of both the host country (the Czech Republic) and immigrants.

4. Political area

Political integration includes the area of the right to vote at the local level, the right of assembly, freedom of expression, etc.

The following aspects have been identified as key barriers to political integration: existence of the permit procedure required for the establishing of organizations of foreign nationals, conditions for registration of civic societies and non-existence of the right to vote for permanently residing immigrants in elections into municipality and regional councils- have now

¹⁹ However, this problem does not apply exclusively to children of immigrants.

Personnel resources for the implementation of the Concept required in certain ministries and regional level are not sufficient and do not allow the implementation of Concept. There is another barrier to the implementation of the Concept of immigrant integration, namely the absence of sufficiently clearly formulated commitment to address the issues of immigrant integration.

The co-ordinator of immigrant integration and the owner of know-how, was not given a clear mandate for the promotion of integration policy and for supervision of the progress of implementation of immigrant integration policy.

Financial resources till 2008 were very modest and only from 2008 Czech republic enjoy the opportunities to use European Integration Fund resources for the implementation of the Concept. But before it was financed on the basis of the Government Resolution approved annually whereby the funds are always distributed among the relevant ministries and the Czech Statistical Office. However, the amount of funds that are allocated on the basis of these Government Resolutions for the implementation of the Concept from the chapter of a state budget General Treasury Administration, is relatively low (for instance, in 2004 the total sum of CZK 20 million was allocated, in 2005 even only the sum of CZK 12 million was approved).

The funds allocated for immigrant integration are currently approved always only for one fiscal year. this policy of approval for one-year only causes serious problems to the parties in charge of their implementation (no stability in the employment of qualified professionals, impossibility to maintain the continuity of the services provided, etc.) and results in the lack of financial stability in the implementation of the above projects.

The introduction of multi-annual financing is very problematic and administratively demanding process. One-year financing of grant programmes arises from budgetary rules and from the government rules for

the provision of government grants and currently no change of this manner of financing is being prepared.

The financing of non-governmental non-profit organizations is an important issue and it is being discussed on an ongoing basis at the level of the Government council for non-governmental non-profit organizations. However, no optimal solution to the existing situation has been found yet.

Lack of information for the access for foreigners exists even in respect to the "green card" project). In view of the number of information sources on foreigners and, thus, their different target groups, not to mention the different residential regimes of foreigners. To increase data comparability it is necessary to extend the data that is available in foreign languages, at least in the English language.

c²⁰

Unfavorable demographic development plus demand for unskilled cheap labour will cause lack of labour in the near future, especially qualified one. Aging of population will cause growing demand for qualified but also for unskilled cheap labour, for example in health and social services sector. Sociologists predict fundamental changes in consumption, leisure and demand for services.

Assessment of the policy measure

Green card scheme and Selection of qualified labour scheme are complementary and we believe they will be good instruments. So far there is very little experience with green card scheme, as it started as of 1 January 2009. Economic crisis influenced demand for foreigners labour. From the point of view of the temporary labour market policy toward foreigners, the scheme work very well.

²⁰ (Horakova 2009)

Disadvantage. Only very low numbers of foreigners were selected within project Selection of qualified workers. Moreover selected workers with their families can move to another country if it offers better living and working conditions.

Assessment of success factors and transferability

The project "Selection of Qualified Foreign Workers" supports integration of foreigners and enables them to acquire permanent CR residence permit in a shortened period. Hereby their legal position is very close to that of CR citizens. This makes everyday life much easier for them.

Family migration is more stable compared to migration of individuals because important part in it is the future of children. Children speed up Labour markets in EU 27 are not harmonised and differences in wage levels in particular member states are significant.

Evaluation of migration labour policy and economic crisis

Both work and residence permit are issued in Czech embassies. The process takes more than three month usually. Foreigners search jobs mostly through social networks or both authorized and unauthorized personal agencies. The administrative procedure is complicated and demand of foreigners exceeds supply. For that reason the grey economy extends (estimates are 50 000–200 000).

The aim of migration policy of the CR Government during economic crisis is to keep under control new immigrations (slowdown or stop) and to retain labour migrants staying already long-term (over 1 year) in the CR. See Green card programme bellow.

Economic crisis depleted large number of vacancies, but not so much demand for foreigner labour. Labour market in the CR demands vocationally skilled work force rather than highly skilled professionals. More sophisticated

hiring system is needed for balancing supply and demand of highly skilled professionals.

For proper functioning of labour market flexibility and adaptability of labour force is more important than protectionism. Information technologies can simplify, speed up and make transparent mediation of work for foreigners. Employment agencies can be good instrument for intermediation of work if they work under clear rules and are controlled by state.

4. Perception of Foreigners/Immigrants by the Czech Majority Population

In 2002, a synthesis report of the Ministry of the Interior (Monitoring 2002) was written which gathered information from monitoring reports prepared by district advisory boards for integration of foreigners. The most important conclusions of the report concerning integration outcomes can be summarized as follows:

Roughly 60% of Czechs, the second highest figure in the EU-27, believe that a legally-established third-country national should be able to become a Czech citizen easily. A majority supports migrants' rights to family reunion, while two in three supports equal social rights for migrants. A slight majority considers that ethnic diversity enriches Czech national culture. A similar majority believes that the country should do more to combat discrimination based on all grounds. While Czechs were divided about whether ethnic discrimination was fairly widespread, only one in three thinks it got worse from 2001 to 2006. 47% are convinced that it is tougher for a foreigner to be hired, accepted for training or promoted. Over two in three Czechs support special measures to provide equal opportunities based on ethnic origin in employment (See Eurobarometer 59.2 (2003) and "Special Eurobarometer survey on discrimination in the EU" 65.4 (2006).

One can use results of public opinion polls that mapped tolerance of Czech society towards various social sub-groups (the question was: "Who should not be your neighbour?"). The "foreigners issue", thus, could be substituted by one of the listed sub-groups - "people of different colour". Out of 14 offered areas the tolerance of "people of different colour" occupied the 6th least "popular" position, being outstripped by drug addicted people, alcoholics, people with criminal history, mentally ill and homosexuals. On the other hand, people having different political opinions, seniors and young people were in terms of would-be neighbours tolerated the most. Moreover, this order of importance is very stable over time (since 2003) and, in fact, has not been changed (Češi 2008).

Rather a unique possibility to compare tolerance of Czech society brings table 5 where the tolerance towards people of different colour has been measured since 1995.

Table 5: Tolerance towards people of different colour, 1995-2008 (in %)

| <i>Time</i> | 1995 | 1996 | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2003 | 2005 | 2007 | 2008 |
|-------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Tolerance | 42 | 37 | 49 | 49 | 50 | 43 | 52 | 55 | 59 | 57 |

Source: Češi 2008

Note: The question was: "In your opinion, are people in the Czech Republic tolerant to people of different colour?" The figures represent positive answers to "very tolerant" plus "rather tolerant".

"Tolerance" as it is perceived by Czechs towards foreigners/immigrants is different depending on national/ethnic background of those who are „evaluated“ (see table 6).

Table 6: Good/bad attitude of Czechs towards selected ethnicities/nationalities – population of the Czech Republic, 1991–2001 (in %)

| Relation to/Time | 1991 | 1992 | 1993 | 1994 | 1995 | 1996 | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 |
|------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Slovaks | 58/10 | 59/9 | 62/8 | 65/7 | 66/5 | 69/5 | 70/4 | 74/4 | 77/2 | 71/3 | 74/3 |
| Poles | 35/19 | 23/25 | 39/12 | 37/11 | 39/8 | 43/7 | 48/5 | 53/5 | 57/3 | 52/3 | 53/4 |
| Germans | 46/13 | 33/16 | 35/21 | 35/20 | | 33/22 | 33/19 | 39/18 | 45/13 | 45/14 | 41/16 |
| Jews | 36/5 | 35/4 | 33/7 | 36/7 | 34/6 | 35/5 | 37/5 | 43/5 | 43/5 | 36/6 | 34/8 |
| Vietnamese | - | - | 13/39 | 14/33 | 9/39 | 12/41 | 20/28 | 24/26 | 21/29 | 18/34 | 18/32 |
| Citizen of Balkan | - | - | 12/40 | 10/36 | 10/33 | 9/44 | 12/41 | 11/44 | 9/48 | 11/44 | 9/45 |
| Citizen of former USSR | - | - | - | - | 11/36 | 11/44 | 13/43 | 10/50 | 9/55 | 11/46 | 12/45 |
| Romas | 4/70 | 4/77 | 3/77 | 5/68 | 5/69 | 5/69 | 7/62 | 12/52 | 9/55 | 8/61 | 8/60 |

Source: O vztahu 2001

Question: "How would you characterize your relationship to the following population groups that live in the Czech Republic ...?" Respondents could choose one of the following categories: very good, rather good, not good - not bad, rather bad, very bad.

Another possible perspective through which domestic population perceives foreigners and their activities concerns a level of adjustment to a style of living that is practised by the host majority society. Thus, an integration model that would be preferred by the Czech population might be indirectly tested. In 2008, more than two thirds of the Czech population would support rather very strong adjustment of foreigners to Czech majority society. On the other hand, only 4% would allow foreigners to fully live according to their ways, conventions and habits in conformity with their original culture.

To sum up, majority of the Czech population tends to stick to assimilationist approaches. By contrast, supporters of an „orthodox multiculturalism“ represent a marginal segment of the population. Whereas between 2003 and 2006 the whole picture was relatively stabile, partial weakening of assimilation approaches occurred in 2007, but it was followed by an even more pronounced strengthening of this assimilationist trend in 2008 (see table 7).

Table 7: Attitudes of the Czech population towards foreigners' adjustment to Czech living style, 2003, 2005, 2006, 2007 and 2008 (in %)

| <i>Adjustment/Time</i> | 2003 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 |
|--|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Foreigners in the Czech Republic should adjust to Czech living style as much as possible | 56 | 59 | 58 | 53 | 68 |
| Foreigners in the Czech Republic should partly adjust to Czech living style | 34 | 35 | 34 | 40 | 27 |
| Foreigners in the Czech Republic should have a possibility to fully live according to their living style | 6 | 4 | 6 | 4 | 4 |
| He/she does not know | 4 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 1 |
| Total | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |

Source: Postoje 2008

Notes: The surveys were carried out in May 2003, February 2005, December 2006, May 2007 and March 2008

4.1. Conclusions of Monitoring Report on Integration Outcomes by the Ministry of the Interior (perception of foreigners)

Relations between foreigners and Czech nationals are thought to be "ordinary" with no significant or long-term tensions. In general, Czech nationals do tolerate and accept foreigners. Serious religious intolerance was not noticed, however, it was argued that the real level of cultural or religious tolerance of Czech citizens is rather low (see more section 3.1.).

In general, foreigners' adaptation to the requirements of Czech majority society is thought to be almost without problems.

Czech nationals have a tendency to classify foreigners into different groups with some groups (originating from countries with similar cultural background) being better received than others (especially Arab and Asian communities are more negatively received). Some communities are thought to be more united and closed (especially Vietnamese, and partly also Ukrainians and Poles).

The main obstacles for developing inter-community relations are thought to be a language barrier and differences in culture or mentality of foreigners.

Information from border districts suggests that relations between Czechs and foreigners are positively influenced by the fact that local Czech citizens have direct profitable economic relations to foreigners (e.g. renting of apartments and non-residential premises, babysitting, employing foreigners in Czech companies and vice-versa).

Most district advisory boards did not notice any major signs of racism, xenophobia or discrimination. However, if any signs of discrimination were found they were usually tied to worse access to employment, housing, social benefits, or health care.

The role of media in creating the image of foreigners is criticised. Objective information on foreigners and their countries of origin is thought to be lacking.

No political participation of foreigners was noticed.

Quality of foreigners' housing is diverse.

Foreigners have problems to find an employment according to their qualification.

No cultural, social or sport events dedicated specifically to foreigners were organised by district or local authorities, events were usually organised for all inhabitants (foreigners included).

Cultural events prepared by foreigners to present their cultural traditions and habits were hardly anywhere noticed.

Foreigners conclude approximately 5,000 mostly mixed (exogamous) marriages per year in the Czech Republic. The crude marriage rate of foreigners in 2006 was 7.9‰ (compared to 5‰ for the majority

population), however this indicator is influenced by a different age structure of foreigners.

A rather positive development of attitudes towards selected ethnic/national immigrant groups over time does not correspond to a rather strengthening trend of pushing foreigners to a full adjustment to Czech culture/society (between 2006 and 2008 this share increased from 59.9% to 68.6%).

Experts opinion on some issues of Migration and Integration Policy Prague
October 2009

(extracts):

Expert from Ministry of Interior:

MoI: For integration the real changes had happened in 2004 after assessment of EU. But the Concept was developed in 2000. The target group for integration – are third countries nationals. But we are inside the EU system, and the problems of refugees and asylum are not touching CR very much. At the beginning the concept was proposed for integration of the migrants who live with long permit more than 1 year. But the EIF asked to change the conditions and include all migrants. There is green card approach. We have this conditions that give to person to enter Cz. Labour market. But the problem that people should be selected by firm and they get status without probation. Not many firms are ready to do that. Green card – 12 people Green cards. The other pilot project on qualified skilled workers. The conditions – to apply from residence country, \but many people already there. From 2003 only about 1000 people were recruited. The problems to contact the person and sign the blind contacts. We have still free vacancies!!!!

Cooperation between Ministries exists of course. But MoI coordinates now all cooperation. In fact there are two kind of special counsels. One is for 2 years 25-26 members: policy makers, NGOs representatives, regional representatives (from every region 1 person, universities experts, and so on.

Second is state body – Commission of Ministries representatives it works based on bilateral and joint meetings.

MoI: The Concept is early updated and yearly updated and approved for every next year. MoI now accumulate all budget for that work and after decide to which Ministry the money will be allocated in which number. Our integration department is only 4 people, but the office of alien police itself is about 300 people.

The Integration issue was several times transferred from one to another ministry. For example it was in MoI till 2004 I do not sure the exact year, but after was transferred to MoLabour and Social affairs. Till 2008, and it was returned back into MoI. Immigration and integration issues were put together.

In 2000, the implementation of migration policy was complemented by a new visa policy towards certain countries (e.g. Ukraine, Russia and Belarus) according to a standard regime in the EU countries.

Language test: for development of Language courses we supported by Finance several projects on Czech language. Many ways are to teach language. No unified methodology. Time for people is very important. They usually work a lot. Some people want on Sunday, others want at evening. The problem is to connect teaching and test. It is very problematic also. We asked Germans about the level of text for exams and they ask on A 2 level – open communication level. But government give no money for the preparation stage and we reduced text demand for level A 1. Now 100 hours teaching is enough for level A 1. It is basic level for the test for permanent residence after 5 years of constant living.

There are some categories of people who do not need to pass the exam. There are 1. age more than 60 years old.; 2. person was in Czech school more than 1 year; 3. family reunification; 4. mentally sick people – there are

about 10% of such people among applicants. First time the exam is paid by the state.

MoI: Role of European Integration Fund and other finances: EIF gives more 70 mln. Euros. Before we conducted only small scope projects. Some regions have no NGO, but prefer money: EIF established till 2013 but they propose the continuation till 2020. If it will be successful, NGOs play important role. MoI efficiency. Integration centers hiring NGOs help to create organization in regions.

MoI We introduced this project on voluntary return : 500 EUR + ticket About 100 people have participated: Uzbeks, Vietnamese, Ukrainians. They can return later as soon as the situation will go out of control.

MoI: Refugee integration issues is not included into the Concept. Number of asylum seekers dropped down. For integration of refugees they get 400 hours language training, housing program – they usually settled in remote area in countryside. And they have free access on labour market and some help provided to them to find jobs. They are in better position then migrants. I was in Ministry of Labour and also worked on integration issues till 2008, but our department was transferred to MoI and not 4 people work on this issue.

MoI: There are a lot of information. For ex. www.cizinci.cz, MoI published booklets in Uk, Rus, Eng., Vietnamese and Mongolians. We have also emergency project when we give money to cities and towns to reduce migrants' pressure. CliP project. Three are in Prague and three more are in regions (Plsen, Hsricks).

MoI: OPINION of population There are no much prejudices, but in 2000 we had 17 000 Vietnamese but now in Plsen about 10% of population are Vietnamese.. according to monitoring the xenophobe after 2004 decline. There are 2 sides cooperation in integration according to basic principles. Main actors : migrant and society and their interactions. MoI supports

organization of intercultural festivals. But if person had criminal records it might be problem. As everywhere the criminal records of migrants are not higher than migrants.

MoI: The problem is insurance. There are many faked insurance companies which were established in other countries (for example in Ukraine) Police can't control them.. State is not available for all, but the commercial insurance is very expensive. Especially children insurance is expensive. No company want to secure small baby who often fall in sick. (My friend pay 20 000 kron per month (year?)= between 1000 \$ and 1000 euro.

But the government got decision that in hospitals migrants have to pay the same money as natives. Hospitals now have big debt. It is about 40 000 000 kronas. This is the problem for both sides – for migrant and for state. The government will introduce new Law.

MoI: The client system or brigade system really problem, because we have information that some people work just for food and accommodation. System of personnel agencies is real problem. Owners created slavery system. There are 2000 such agencies. They are not only intermediate persons, but help with papers and with short time jobs (for 3 months). But they take about 40% of income of person. But often agencies bring person to the country and disappeared.

MoI: Corruption in embassies We even introduced on-line internet system,\but it did not worked,\because we do not know how but in Vietnam they blocked this system nobody know how they do it.

Scientists: STATISTICS is very important and problematic issue for all migration evaluation. Concentration of all information and funds in the hands of MoI is not right decision. We have very fragmental information about the integration policy also. For example we know that Integration Centres are operating, but we do not know where, how they work, who is running them

and their program is also unknown even for us. We are experts. But what about the migrants. How they have to know?

Representative Vietnamese NGO: there is a big difference among those who came before 1989, they came mostly from northern Vietnam and from towns and cities, and these were people who were able to manage their journey to Czechoslovakia, or they were the best students who were given such opportunity for their best studies. And then in the 90s it has changed, but still there were people who were able to manage and prepare their journey on their own, and after 2000 it has changed to the migration of the people from the rural areas who are not able to organize the journey on their own, but they pay to middle people to organize it for them. And this is a very important not only because they are from the lower class, rural areas and less educated, but also because they are highly indebted to the mediator. It is about 10 000 dollars per person. Which really limits the life of the migrant here.

Representative of Multicultural Integration centre (NGO)

(NGO) Ministry of education policy these three are mainly involved. But you know at that time it was that the final responsibility was up to the ministry of social affairs. So in general the ministry of interior in Czech republic usually is more successful because the way that they deal with people is not so nice. But still all the changes, which happened on this level, on the state level... So I think if you see some inspiration, and sometimes they were able to suggest some good integration policies, but they were not able to really implement them, because the cooperation here was very poor. Each of the 14 regions should have one person who was in charge of the immigration and integration issues. But this was never considered an important function, so it was usually added to somebody who was already in charge of let's say Roma issues, social exclusion and so on. So it is very-very interesting to interview these people, and I have contacts of some of them and I ask them regarding integration – please can you tell me what is

happening in your regions? And these people usually couldn't distinguish between the Roma and the immigrants, which I think tells you the most. Like usually they told me that they do quite a lot because they organize an exhibition for Roma children. And I was like okay, but can you tell me what do you do with immigrants? and again, it really didn't work. And even now it doesn't get better.

(NGO) About Ministry of Interior The article says that there are a lot of ministries – like the ministry of interior, social affairs, ministry of health, ministry of education and every year these ministries which are responsible for some part of integration, like the ministry of education should be responsible for education of the migrants and so on, they get some money for integration, and for example the ministry of health gave back this money in 2005-2006-2007 so even when they received this money they didn't use them and there was a person responsible for that and I even came to this person and said I know about this and this programs. For example we tried to fundraise some money to have some information brochures for doctors because immigrants have sometimes different diseases Czech doctors are not used to; and we created some kind of small book where they can have a look and see that Vietnamese usually have specific problems..And this project was not supported by the ministry of health. They preferred to give the money back and not to do anything. And I was interested in the language issue as well. And during the two years the department that should be responsible for the language courses was changed three times. So the immigrants issues were the ones no one wanted to have; once it was the department for high schools, now it is a department for equal opportunities and so on.

(NGO) About Integration Centres and now you have most probably heard of what is called integration centres, which should be in each region. Well it is a hopeful step. I think that no one knows what to expect from these centres.

Q: in regions or in municipalities?

A.: NGOs in regions, like in each of 14 regions there should be one. Which looks like a good idea, but look at financing. First of all, most of these integration centres are run by the same half-state organization, which runs also refugee camps. But these centres will be paid through the European Integration fund. But EU integration fund is only for few years, and they are not supported by the state budget. Now and it is not planned. I think that the meaning of the EU integration fund is to support some programs and so on and not to run half-state organization. And honestly this organization is not very successful in what they do.

Helsinki Committee expert

HC: Citizenship problems there were certain aspects we were interested in. Mostly the aspect we were interested in was citizenship, the access to citizenship. And I am not sure that we had anything else on that. The other thing is that we have – we issue something that is called “the state of human rights in the state of Czech republic” and this is something where we had a section on integration of foreigners. But this is mostly that, we criticized this access to citizenship which was very vague and it was very much in the competency of and under authority of the ministry of Interior, the criteria are very loosely set. So there are some criteria that you have to meet: 5 years of permanent residency, and before that you have to have 5 years of so-called temporary permission to reside in the Czech republic; so all in all it takes 10 years before you are eligible to apply for citizenship, it used to be 15 years, but then the EU forced Czech republic to reduce the years of temporary residence to 5 years, so now only 10 years overall. And then there are some other criteria like to have to submit confirmation that you have paid for the health insurance, social insurance, you’re employed, but it is very vague, even if you are not employed,

HC: Integration and crisis Migrants are as such left on their own to integrate. And now the situation has changed, recently because of the economic crises or it is may be that economic crises has been used as an

excuse to change, especially on the job market, because generally you have this hierarchy that when you have this job opening – that first the Czech citizen or the EU citizen should get it and then third country nationals and that hits the foreigners very hard, because they are the first one to be fired and a lot of things happen to them because some of them became almost immediately irregular migrants by this move, because you can be in the Czech republic if you have work – if you lose work you are supposed to leave. You have to leave then, because your residency permit is directly related to your job. And then the problem is if you want to change your job. It is very complicated – you actually have to leave the Czech republic and ask for permission, so you can imagine how it is for ex. For Vietnamese citizens – they have to go back to Vietnam and wait till it is sort out. You also have to leave if you change your reason for staying here – the other reason for staying is if you actually have a company here. You have to leave and to apply again. For every change they harass you and force you to leave. So now when these people became irregular – it's mostly people who have been fired from the factories and some other industry branches the Czech republic offered then a program of repatriation to pay for their air ticket and travel expenses, but that was not very successful, not so many people applied for that. So and this is a big pity because before that, before this economic crises changed the policy completely, Czech republic was thinking of introducing green cards for the foreigners and to make the job market totally liberal, which means if you are able to find the job – you can come and stay here. Nobody is going to go into details about it. So instead of this green card system now we have a system of repatriation. This is what actually happened in the end.

HC: language test one of the criteria that you have to meet for the citizenship is that you prove that you speak Czech language fluently, but so far there is no objective system of measuring it. The ministry of education was supposed until 2008 to come up with the system of the courses and then certificates which will prove that. But now like everything else it is

totally arbitrary. Like now I am talking to you and then I say – now you speak Czech or you don't speak Czech? There is no unified methodology to state this. Even if you get a certificate that you have studied Czech language it simply doesn't count.

HC: Actually language test can be used as a very powerful weapon to keep the people out of these citizenship rights, or for integration tests as you know happen all over Europe is the same. You can make such an integration test that there is nobody in the world who can pass this test.

Recommendations on the basis of the Czech example

There are many commonalities between Czech Republic and Hungary in their migration situation and processes. The most important role for the transformation of migration patterns for both countries: 1. Breakdown of the communist bloc and 2. Accession to the EU in 2004. That is not undermine the national interest of both countries in local level as Hungarian interest to their ties to ethnic Hungarians in Romania, Ukraine and Serbia as well as the specific relations of Czechs with Slovaks.

Demographic factors is one of important for labour demand, because in fact all CEE countries face low fertility levels together with growing life expectancy leading to population ageing. Immigration is only as an alternative to reducing negative effects of population ageing, not a solution. But only in the Czech Republic migration policy really started reacting to demographic problems of the country via launching recruitment programs. All Czech and Hungarian experts agree that importance of demographic factors, as determinants of migration will grow in the future.

However, **The Czech Republic** created distinctive pattern of migration policy-making system through the migration policy **development especially in the field of integration policy**. The country started systematically implement different forms of integration policy as recruitment of skilled workers or "green card system.

In contrast **Hungary** more oriented towards short-term immigrants from neighbouring countries and support's co-ethnics above all.

Czech Republic has already made the first step at the way of integration policy direction. Nevertheless, the experts evaluated the process of integration of migrants as taking off stage. The Czech Republic policy seems rather as assimilation model. **Hungary is** only in a preliminary stage and goes more in direction of exclusive selective model for integration.

Unfavourable demographic development plus demand for unskilled cheap labour will cause lack of labour in the near future, especially qualified one. Aging of population will cause growing demand for qualified but also for unskilled cheap labour, for example in health and social services sector. Sociologists predict fundamental changes in consumption, leisure and demand for services.

There are several approaches that should be useful:

Financial resources: To use European Integration Fund resources for the creation and adoption of the Concept.

The idea of adoption of long –term integration policy according to EU resolutions and Basic principles of integration requests participation of Hungary in homogenization and Europeanization of migration policies.

Integration Concept should be developed and adopted on the bases of long-term strategy with introduction of annual amendments.

The group of migrants for integration should be identified in the Concept to get used to the politicians and society to the idea of democratic society with equal opportunities for legally presented inhabitants. European Integration Fund support the idea on development of different forms of integration for all legally settled migrants regardless their time of residence intention.

There are no sufficient indicators for complete representation integration level of migrants but the main directions should include:

1. Knowledge of the Czech language
2. Immigrant's economic self-sufficiency

3. Immigrant's orientation in society

4. Immigrant's relations with members of the majority society

Every position should have the plan of development in the Concept and long and short – term active plans of realisation and responsible organizations.

It should be desirable to create the Council for Integration (under the umbrella of Ministry of Justice and Law Enforcement or Alien Police) as advisory and consultation board on Concept development and implementation. This Council should include not only ministerial officials, but also representatives of NGOs, scholars who doing migration research, regional representatives, responsible for migration issues and leaders of religious confessions. It has to have regular meetings several times for year for discussion of important issues.

For implementation of Concept to establish in every ministry which has collect information about foreigners (or deal with migrants) the department or person, whose responsibilities will be ONLY migration matter and will be responsible for implementation of Concept principles at ministerial basis.

Personnel resources for the implementation of the Concept require in certain ministries and regional level the persons with clearly formulated commitment to address the issues of immigrant integration.

On the local level it is necessary to establish (at regional and municipal level) the position for person, responsible for implementation of integration Concept at grass root level and who will cooperate to NGOs and migrants and will as in ministries. As the first step it should be done in the regions or districts where the majority of migrants live (in Budapest, in Szeged, Debrecen and some other places).

To give more capacities and support to NGOs (especially to encourage some ethnic NGOs or communities) on development of information web sites or pages for their migrants' compatriots and organize information dissemination for migrants at native language and to provide them information about integration and language courses, consultations with social workers and lawyers. To organize regular consultations for these NGOs.

To develop the language courses system and in high education institutions level to prepare curricular and teachers for teaching Hungarian as foreign language

To give opportunity to graduated students from High education institutions of Hungary to stay one year and to find job in Hungary after graduation.

On the bases of adopted Concept to organize thematic and panel surveys for measurement of immigrants and society attitude and relations.

Further development of information sites in different languages of Alien police

To develop bulletins and manual publications on the languages of main ethnic groups, represented in Hungary (Ukrainian, Serb, English, Russian) with annual introduction of new legal information.

To recruit the personal that knows the languages and to reorganize the system of work with foreigners on language based system. The weaknesses have been noted also at the level of procedure of the relevant administrative authorities (failure to inform immigrants, low level of standardization of the requirements at individual workplaces, corruption, poor language skills, and unprofessional approach). Also time limits were criticized no compliance possible in case of rejection of applications for citizenship.

To prepare for Policymakers monitoring reports that will inform about whom the data talks about. A loose data reading may well lead to a misguided interpretation.

Moreover, it is desirable to unify various definitions (e.g. of population) and target populations used by different datasets according to international standards. To divide statistics on EU and non-EU member states and collect it differently.

It is inevitable to broaden the information on certain variables tied to immigrants' basic characteristics (e.g. level of education at the time of arrival) and to their integration into the economic sphere, namely on remittances, income and unemployment.

In the statistics of the Alien Police it is still not possible to distinguish between immigrants who are arriving in the country for the first time and those who are just renewing their permit or moving between different permits/visa categories. There is a further shortcoming - no statistics allow us to link members of one family.

Regarding the spatial identification of immigrants, it is important to publish data on immigrants by municipalities. Moreover, some important databases (e.g. statistics of BT and KFT on foreigners) collect information on place of registration, which is often not in harmony with the place/region where immigrants actually stay.

The statistics on the emigration of Hungarian nationals are underestimated and there is no centralized database on Hungarian circular labour migrants abroad.

To develop the interest of Non-governmental organizations to be involved into the work with migrants integration and to increase the interest of migrants to study Hungarian language.

Impossibility to participate in the public health insurance system on the part of nationals of third countries or their family members who are not employees in the territory of the Hungary

The co-ordinator of immigrant integration and the owner of know -how, was not given a clear mandate for the promotion of integration policy and for supervision of the progress of implementation of immigrant integration policy.

The financing of non-governmental non-profit organizations is an important issue and it is being discussed on an ongoing basis at the level of the Government council for non-governmental non-profit organizations.

The number of information sources on foreigners and, thus, their different target groups, not to mention the different residential regimes of foreigners. To increase data comparability it is necessary to extend the data that is available in foreign languages, at least in the English language.

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Czech Republic Integration index MIPEx:

<http://www.integrationindex.eu/integrationindex/2336.html>

Internet resource of Ministry of Interior:

<http://www.mvcr.cz/mvcren/article/migration.aspx>

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Appendix 1. The list organization deal with integration issues:

Centre for the Support of the Integration of Foreigners in the Pardubice Region

e-mail: icpardubice@suz.cz

Centre for the Support of the Integration of Foreigners in the Plzeň Region

e-mail: icplzen@suz.cz

Centre for the Support of the Integration of Foreigners in the Zlín Region

e-mail: iczlin@suz.cz

Centre for the Support of the Integration of Foreigners in the Moravia-Silesia Region

e-mail: icostrava@suz.cz

The Foreign Nationals Integration Support Centre project, co-financed from the European Integration Fund, aims to create opportunities for long-term and strategic support of integration of foreign nationals. As of 01/07/2009, four regional centres based in Ostrava, Pardubice, Plzeň and Zlín launched their activities.

Other NGOs

[Berkat](#)

[Charitas Czech Republic](#) / Charita Česká republika

[Centre for Integration of Foreigners](#) / Centrum pro integraci cizinců (CIC)

[Centre for Questions of Migration](#) / Centrum pro otázky migrace (COM)

[Centre of Leisure Time Prague 9](#) / Centrum volného času Praha 9

[Club Hanoi](#) / Klub Hanoi

[Counselling Centre for Citizenship, Civic and Human Rights](#) / Poradna pro občanství, občanská a lidská práva

[Counselling Centre for Refugees](#) / Poradna pro uprchlíky (PPU)

[Consortium of Non-governmental Organisations Working with Migrants](#) / Konzorcium nevládních organizací pracujících s migranty

[Czech Helsinki Committee](#) / Český helsinský výbor

[European Contact Group](#) / Evropská kontaktní skupina (EKS)

[European Council on Refugees and Exiles \(ECRE\)](#)

[European City](#)

[InternetPoradna.cz](#)

[IOM \(International Organization for Migration\)](#)

[La Strada](#)

[Meta o.s. – Association for Opportunities for Young Migrants](#) / Meta o.s. – Sdružení pro příležitosti mladých migrantů

[Migraceonline.cz](#)

[Multiculture Centre Prague](#) / Multikulturní centrum Praha

[Multiculture Centre Ceske Budejovice / Multikulturní centrum České Budějovice](#)

Selected Internet links concerning integration of foreign nationals:

Správa uprchlických zařízení MV

<http://www.suz.cz>

Ministerstvo vnitra ČR

<http://www.mvcr.cz>

MV ČR, azyl a migrace

<http://www.mvcr.cz/o-nas-azyl-a-migrace.aspx>

MV ČR, Projekt dobrovolných návratů

<http://www.mvcr.cz/clanek/projekt-dobrovolnych-navratu.aspx>

Obecně o cizinecké problematice:

<http://www.cizinci.cz>

<http://www.migraceonline.cz/>

Portál veřejné správy České republiky – sekce „Cizinec“:

<http://portal.gov.cz/wps/portal/s.155/696/s.155/9708?ks=882>

Statistická data o cizincích:

<http://www.czso.cz/csu/cizinci.nsf/kapitola/uvod>

Zkoušky z ČJ k udělení trvalého pobytu:

http://cestina-pro-cizince.cz/index.php?hl=cs_CZ

Portál Ministerstva práce a sociálních věcí – Zahraniční zaměstnanost:

http://portal.mpsv.cz/sz/zahr_zam

Integrace cizinců na stránkách Ministerstva práce a sociálních věcí:

<http://www.mpsv.cz/cs/1278>

<http://www.p-p-i.cz/index.php?c=34>

V MV ČR, azyl a migrace

<http://www.mvcr.cz/o-nas-azyl-a-migrace.aspx>

MV ČR, Projekt dobrovolných návratů

<http://www.mvcr.cz/clanek/projekt-dobrovolnych-navratu.aspx>

Obecně o cizinecké problematice:

<http://www.cizinci.cz>

<http://www.migraceonline.cz/>

Portál veřejné správy České republiky – sekce „Cizinec“:

http://portal.gov.cz/wps/portal/_s.155/696/_s.155/9708?ks=882

Statistická data o cizincích:

<http://www.czso.cz/csu/cizinci.nsf/kapitola/uvod>

Zkoušky z ČJ k udělení trvalého pobytu:

http://cestina-pro-cizince.cz/index.php?hl=cs_CZ

Portál Ministerstva práce a sociálních věcí – Zahraniční zaměstnanost:

http://portal.mpsv.cz/sz/zahr_zam

Integrace cizinců na stránkách Ministerstva práce a sociálních věcí:

<http://www.mpsv.cz/cs/1278>

PRACTICAL INFORMATION on Ministries and International Organizations

[OBERIG o.s.](#)

[Organisation for Aid to Refugees](#) / Organizace pro pomoc uprchlíků (OPU)

[People in Need](#) / Člověk v tísni

[Sdružení občanů zabývajících se emigranty \(SOZE\)](#)

[Sofia](#)

[United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees \(UNHCR\)](#) / Úřad Vysokého komisaře OSN pro uprchlíky

[Administration of Refugee Facilities \(Ministry of Internal Affairs of CR\)](#) / Správa uprchlických zařízení (Ministerstvo vnitra ČR)

[Aliens in the Czech Republic \(Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs of CR\)](#) / Cizinci v České republice (Ministerstvo práce a sociálních věcí ČR)

[Czech for Foreigners \(Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport of CR in cooperation with the Research Institute of Education in Prague\)](#) / Čeština pro cizince (Ministerstvo školství, mládeže a tělovýchovy ČR ve spolupráci s Výzkumným ústavem pedagogickým v Praze)

[Employment](#) / Zaměstnanost

[Foreigners and Border Police Service \(Ministry of Internal Affairs of CR\)](#) / Služba cizinecké a pohraniční policie (Ministerstvo vnitra ČR)

[Health insurance of Foreigners \(Insurance Company VZP, a.s.\)](#) / Zdravotní pojištění cizinců (Pojišťovna VZP, a.s.)

[Help in Material Shortage](#) / Pomoc v hmotné nouzi

[Home in the Czech Republic](#) / Doma v České republice

[International Agreements about Social Security \(Czech Social Security Administration\)](#) / Mezinárodní smlouvy o sociálním zabezpečení (Česká správa sociálního zabezpečení)

[International Agreements about Social Security \(Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs of CR\)](#) / Mezinárodní smlouvy o sociálním zabezpečení (Ministerstvo práce a sociálních věcí ČR)

[Issuance of a Driving Licence or an International Driving Licence on the basis of a Driving Licence issued by a Foreign State \(Ministry of Transport of CR\)](#) / Vydání řidičského průkazu na základě řidičského průkazu vydaného cizím státem (Ministerstvo dopravy ČR)

[Jobs for Foreigners](#) / Práce pro cizince

[Legal Migration – Open Chance](#) / Legální migrace – otevřená šance

[Ministry of Internal Affairs of CR – Advices and Services](#) / Ministerstvo vnitra ČR – Rady a služby

[Ministry of Internal Affairs of CR – Asylum and Migration](#) / Ministerstvo vnitra ČR – Azyl a migrace

[Ministry of Internal Affairs of CR – State citizenship](#) / Ministerstvo vnitra ČR – Udělení státního občanství ČR

[Regional Office of Foreigners and Border Police Prague \(Prague City Hall\)](#) / Oblastní ředitelství cizinecké a pohraniční policie Praha (Magistrát hlavního města Prahy)

[Social Care Allowances for Persons with Health Handicap](#) / Dávky sociální péče pro osoby se zdravotním postižením

[Social Services](#) / Sociální služby

[State Social Support](#) / Státní sociální podpora

[Validation of Education \(Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport of CR\)](#) / Uznávání vzdělání (Ministerstvo školství, mládeže a tělovýchovy ČR)