

Strategy or action – in search of refugees’ integration models on the local level

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Research questions:

- Can attempts of Polish cities be described as a comprehensive and conscious integration policy at the local level or a mere collection of loosely connected *ad hoc* measures?
- What are the main drivers influencing local activities supporting integration of refugees?
- How these activities differ in given cities and why?

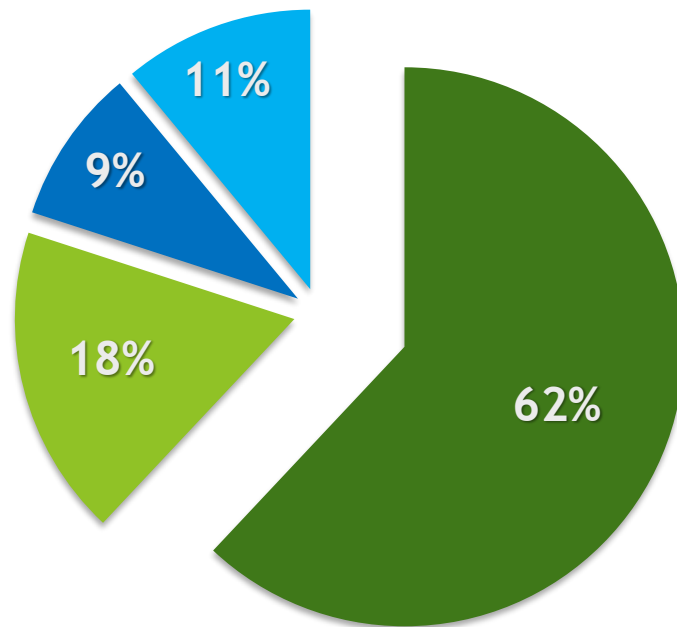
Individual Integration Programs

- Dedicated to refugee status and subsidiary protection holders
- Duration of IIP is only 12 months
 - Financial support for living and payment of Polish language courses
 - Health insurance
 - Polish language courses
 - Social assistance and specialized assistance (legal, psychological etc.)



2000-2017 – 5.856 Integration Programs

- mazowieckie
- podlaskie
- lubelskie
- other





CITY
OF WARSAW

- The capital and the largest city in Poland
- Population 1.7 mln (city) / 3.1 mln (metro)
- 9th biggest city in the EU
- Almost 26.000 foreigners registered in the city (1,48 % of all inhabitants)¹
- Biggest hub of NGOs supporting foreigners in Poland

- Available estimates show that approximately 150.000-170.000 foreigners most likely inhabit the city (8-10% of all inhabitants)

1. as of the end of 2016



Warsaw Family Support Center

- Housing support:
 - Social flats p
 - 2002-2018 -
 - „Protected i (max. 12 mo
 - Since 2011 -
- Additional Proj
 - Special cour etc.), works language co
 - 2008-2018 - migrants



Warszawskie Centrum
Pomocy Rodzinie

vulnerable foreigners
(cases)

g and labour market
i courses, foreign

· over 800 forced

Warsaw test project of integration of foreigners with regard to the needs of the labor market „WITEK” (2017-2019)

Partners:



CITY
OF WARSAW

Department of Economic and Social Projects of
Warsaw Support Center
Warsaw



Warsaw



Warszawskie Centrum
Pomocy Rodzinie

Department of "Ocalenie"
Department of Assessment of Human
Capital



Urząd Pracy
m.st. Warszawy



Warsaw test project of integration of foreigners with regard to the needs of the labor market „WITEK” (2017-2019)

- Participants: 10 foreigners with refugee status or subsidiary protection
- Actions:
 - Socio-economic diagnosis
 - Housing support (free of charge)
 - Intensive Polish language courses
 - Vocational trainings and labour market assistance
 - Fast track integration to the labour market in Warsaw – from first time job to the long term occupation
 - Social and specialised support
 - Local society integration assistance

Specialist counseling for foreigners living in Warsaw 2019-2021

Financing: City of Warsaw budget

FISE Fundacja Inicjatyw Społeczno-Ekonomicznych

inst **S**towarzyszenie Association
Interwencji For Legal
Prawnej Intervention

foreigners living in Warsaw, in
integration process

- Legal counseling
- Information points
- Polish language courses
- Psychological counseling

nd Conduct specialist counseling for
ugees, and support them in the

PFM
POLSKIE FORUM
MIGRACYJNE

g and workshops

support

ies (e.g. cultural mentorin


FUNDACJA
OCALENIE

 **Nasz
wybór**

Multicultural Center

- Established and supported by the city hall, but run by non-government organizations
- Public space for individuals and groups from various cultures and communities, where they could feel at home and conduct intercultural dialogue.
- The aim is to promote an image of an open and multicultural Warsaw, friendly for foreigners
- Services:
 - Info-point
 - Integration activities
 - Incubator for initiatives
 - Education
 - Space and venues



centrum
wielokulturowe



GDAŃSK
city of freedom

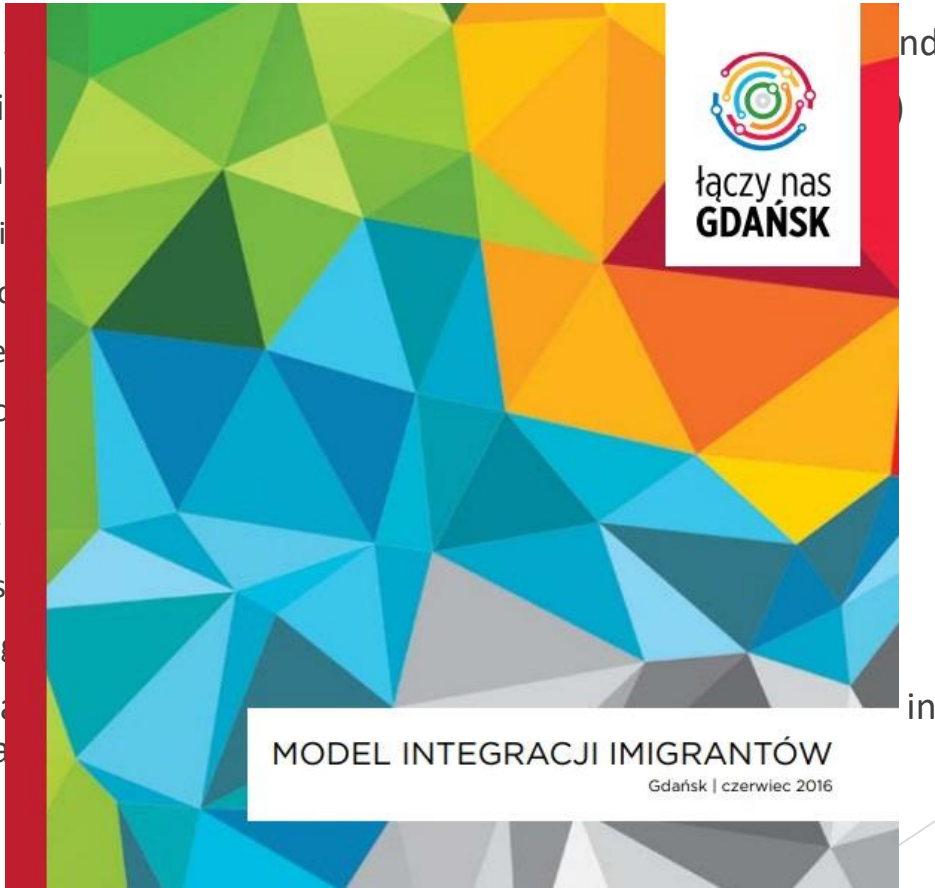
- The largest city in Northern Poland
- Population 464.000 (city) / 900.000 (metro)
- 6th biggest city in Poland
- Almost 4.000 foreigners registered in the city (less than 1% of all inhabitants)

- Available estimates show that up to 20.000 foreigners most likely inhabit the city (4-5% of all inhabitants)



Migrant Integration Model

- First local
- Participati
- Fields of a
 - Educati
 - Local so
 - Culture
 - Violenc
 - Health
 - Labour
 - Social s
 - Housing
- The main a
- and increa



nd

institutions

MODEL INTEGRACJI IMIGRANTÓW

Gdańsk | czerwiec 2016

Support Center for Immigrants

- Cooperation with local institutions
- Services:
 - Legal counseling
 - Information point
 - Polish language courses
 - Labour market counseling
 - Social counseling
- Projects are directed to all foreigners, not only refugees



Wrocław

the meeting PLACE

- The capital and the largest city in Lower Silesia Province
- Population 635.000 (city) / 1 mln (metro)
- 4th biggest city in Poland
- Almost 8.700 foreigners registered in the city (1 % of all inhabitants)
- Approximately 40% of all foreigners in the city are from EU countries and 10% are students
- Available estimates show that approximately 30.000-45.000 foreigners most likely inhabit the city (5-7% of all inhabitants)



Wrocław strategy for intercultural dialogue 2018-2022

- Participation model, various stakeholders (institutions, NGOs, business etc.)
- Promotion of multiculturalism and common understanding
- Fields of action:
 - Education
 - Integration
 - Security
 - Cooperation and communication



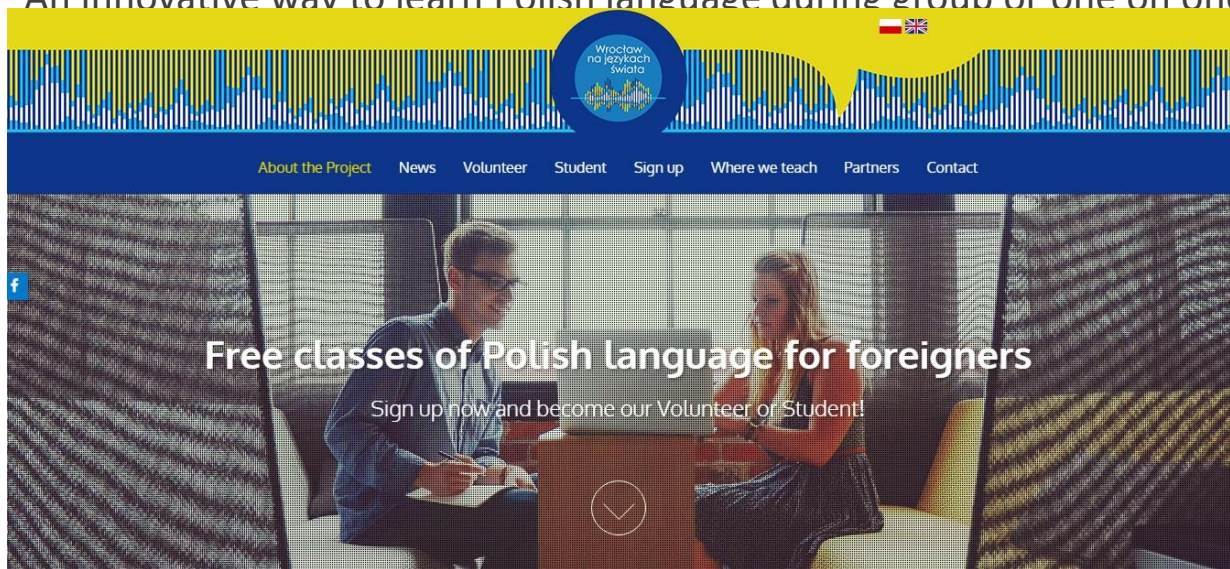
Wrocław strategy for intercultural dialogue 2018-2022

- INTEGRATION - 10 operational goals / 50 actions
 - Conducting trainings and adaptation meetings concerning, among others: residency legalization, security, health, communication, Polish culture etc.
 - Support for legal and civic counseling for foreigners, in particular in Ukrainian and English
 - Supporting and developing socio-integrative forms of learning Polish
 - Preparation of materials and tools supporting communication processes
 - Raising intercultural competence among public service employees
 - Implementation of support programs for refugees, in accordance with applicable laws legal acts, including the implementation of Individual Integration Programs

Wrocław na językach świata

Wrocław on tongues of the world

- An innovative way to learn Polish language during group or one on one



em

of

on

ns,

Multicultural Wrocław

- The main aim of the project is to promote intercultural dialogue, common understanding despite differences and build social capital of the city
- Multicultural trainings, workshops, debates, exhibitions
- Various actors – public institutions, organizations or business



Conclusions:

- Some elements of Warsaw's integration offer could be described as a foundation for local integration policy, but it focuses more on actions than a comprehensive local policy. Gdańsk and Wrocław, differently from Warsaw, decided to prepare a local strategy but with only limited integration offer on place.
- The main driver influencing local activities supporting integration of refugees is willingness to be perceived as open and friendly (multicultural) cities for all residents. Also appearance of the „refugee crisis” in public debate played a role in shaping integration strategies.
- Warsaw focuses on most vulnerable groups of foreigners – forced migrants and provides wide spectrum of integration actions without explicit strategy while Gdańsk and Wrocław decided to prepare local integration strategy directed to all foreigners in an absence of refugees.