

The impact of the recent wave of Ukrainian immigration on the social attitudes of residents of Polish cities. A case study of Poznań.

Russia's invasion of Ukraine in 2022 initiated an unprecedented influx of refugees into Poland, which initially sparked enormous public engagement and solidarity among Poles. However, over time, as the conflict dragged on and the costs of social, healthcare, and educational support grew, negative sentiment toward Ukrainian migrants began to grow. Poznań, a large urban-industrial center in Western Poland, became one of the main refugee destinations, leading to an evolution in residents' attitudes—from initial, spontaneous mobilization and support to tensions and emerging challenges.

This lecture will present the results of research on the perception of Ukrainian immigrants in Poland during the current phase of refugee hosting. The study used surveys among Poznań residents and interviews with representatives of municipal institutions supporting immigrants, and the results reveal both integration processes and emerging social tensions.

There is no doubt that the large wave of Ukrainian immigration has triggered lasting social change in Polish cities. The lecture will also attempt to answer the question whether the end of the war will open a new chapter in Polish-Ukrainian relations in the spirit of cooperation and integration, or whether it will deepen the trends of polarization of residents' attitudes towards the challenges of integration.