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OŚRODEK BADAŃ NAD MIGRACJAMI
CENTRE OF MIGRATION RESEARCH

Centre of Migration Research
University of Warsaw
– research fields, projects, priorities

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CZELO and PoISCa Meetings and Seminars
Criminal behaviour and migration in the EU

Brussels, 30 March 2010



Structure of the presentation

- CMR University of Warsaw – brief introduction: who we are and what we are doing
- CMR main projects on irregular migration and their main findings
- Research priorities on irregular migration



CMR University of Warsaw

- An interdisciplinary inter-faculty research unit, specialising in studies on migration processes in Poland and in Europe
- Established in 1993
- 37 researchers currently affiliated with the CMR
- Throughout the years, around 50 research projects have been finalised, of a total budget of approximately 1.25 million euro (excluding individual and advisor grants)



CMR Research Units

Academic and research activities of the CMR are conducted within five research units:

- Theories and Methods of Migration Studies
- Economics of Migration
- Integration and Ethnic Relations
- Social Mobility of Migrants
- Migration Policies

The major research fields covered by CMR studies include:

- Theories and methods in migration studies
- Determinants of migration decisions on different analytical levels
- Causes and consequences of emigration from Poland
- Inflow and operation of foreigners on the Polish labour market
- Formation, development and integration of immigrant groups in Poland
- Migration policy on national and the UE level
- **Borders and irregular migration**
- Social mobility of migrants .



CMR Research Projects

The largest and most significant scientifically projects conducted by the CMR include:

Mobility and Migrations at the Time of Transformation - Methodological Challenges (MWM, co-funded by **EEA Financial Mechanism**), 2008-2011

IDEA - Mediterranean and Eastern European Countries as new immigration destinations in the European Union (consortium of eleven institutions from nine countries, co-funded by **6 Framework Program**), 2007-2009

Migration Policy and Labour Market Change (MPLM Project, co-funded by the **European Social Fund**), 2006-2008

Getonies - Generating Interethnic Tolerance and Neighbourhood Integration in European Urban Spaces (**7 Framework Program**), 2008-2011

As well as international cooperation:

IMISCOE Research Network (*International Migration, Integration and Social Cohesion*; till 2009 known as IMISCOE Network of Excellence),

Sopemi (OECD),

European Website on Immigration

Details: <http://www.migracje.uw.edu.pl/projekt/>



CMR research priorities (irregular migration)

- Borders of the EU and inflows from the East
- Irregular migration in CEE
- Labour market – foreign workers-irregular employment
- Shadow economy and exploitation of foreign workers



Irregular migration as research priority in CMR (projects)

- External EU Border Monitoring Project 2006/2007: Better Efficiency at Border Crossing Points as a Precondition for the Improved Cross-border Cooperation (2006-2007)
- Trafficking for forced labour in other industries than the sex-industry – Poland’s perspective after the accession to the EU (2006-2009)
- New migrations dynamics: regular and irregular work on the European labour market (2006-2008)
- Border as a resource: Institutionalization of cross-border trade at the Polish-Russian (Kaliningrad Oblast) border (2006-2008)
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- Undocumented foreigners in Poland (1999)
- Migrants trafficking in Poland (1997-1999)
- Migrant trafficking in Central Europe (1997-1998)



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Research on irregular migration, that's a challenge!

- Complex phenomenon (variety of terms and definitions used)
- Problem with measurement and reliable statistics
- Variety of forms of irregular migration
- Dilemmas of the researcher: identification and interviewing irregular migrants
- Sensitive topic of trafficking and forced labour



Main findings

- **Labour market needs** of key importance
- **Irregular employment** profitable for all
- **Border control dilemma:** stricter border controls tend to lead to an extended period of stay because re-entering or moving to and from the country becomes difficult.
- **Role of the state and labour market:** „Weak” state - shadow economy – high tolerance for unregistered employment
- **Vulnerability of migrants** correlated with unauthorized entrance and stay



Main topics needed further investigation

- **Migration and criminal behaviour**
- Human smuggling and trafficking (border control)
- Exploitation of foreign workers on labour market
- Impact on host countries and economies: shadow economy, tax evasions
- Tackling irregular migration and its consequences by the state and the UE (migration policy)



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Thank you!

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