BRATISLAVA INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF LIBERAL ARTS

Migration and Integration Policies in the Slovak Republic revised

BACHELOR THESIS

Martin Balko   **February   2021**

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Declaration of Originality

I hereby declare that I wrote my bachelor thesis myself and that the thesis or part of the thesis was not published elsewhere. I also declare that all sources used in this work are listed in the bibliography.

Bratislava, 15 February, 2021   **Martin Balko**

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Abstract

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The bachelor thesis itself deals with the positive and negative aspects of the migration policy of the Slovak Republic. It directly deals with the legal immigration of persons from third countries to the Slovak Republic, but does not deal with asylum policy or asylum seekers as such. The introduction explains the demography of the Slovak Republic and the reasons why immigration of foreigners in Slovakia is necessary due to the future demographic crisis. Subsequently, the first chapter examines the impact of global migration on the Slovak Republic, especially the migration crisis since 2015 and migration routes to the European Union. The second chapter already describes the integration policy plans of the Slovak Republic and the integration process itself. This process has also been examined through the Migration Policy Index (MIPEX), which compares migration policies between 52 countries around the world (including the Slovak Republic). The third chapter already analyzes the general view of the citizens of the Slovak Republic on migrants from third countries and suggests possible measures. The work itself as such evaluates the migration and integration policy of the Slovak Republic as such and aims to evaluate their main positive and negative aspects.

Key words: Migration, integration, laws, migrant, public attitude, Slovakia

Abstrakt

Názov práce: Rozpracovanie migračných a integračných politík Slovenskej republiky

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Predložená bakalárska práca sa zaoberá pozitívnymi a negatívnymi stránkami migračnej politiky Slovenskej republiky. Priamo sa zaoberá legálnou imigráciou osôb z tretích krajín do Slovenskej republiky, no nevenuje sa azylovej politike ani azylantom ako takým. V úvode práce je vysvetlená demografia Slovenskej republiky a dôvody, prečo je v dôsledku budúcej demografickej krízy potrebná imigrácia cudzincov na Slovensku. Následne prvá kapitola skúma, aký mala dopad svetová migrácia na Slovenskú republiku, predovšetkým migračnou krízou od roku 2015 a migračnými trasami do Európskej únie. Druhá kapitola už popisuje plány integračnej politiky Slovenskej republiky a samotný integračný proces. Tento proces bol je skúmaný aj prostredníctvom Indexu migračných politík (MIPEX), ktorý porovnáva migračné politiky medzi 52 krajinami vo svete (medzi nimi aj Slovenskú republiku). Tretia kapitola už rozoberá všeobecný pohľad občanov Slovenskej republiky na migrantov z tretích krajín a navrhuje možné opatrenia. Samotná práca ako taká vyhodnocuje migračnú a integračnú politiku Slovenskej republiky ako takej a má za cieľ vyhodnotiť ich hlavné pozitívne a negatívne stránky.

Kľúčové slová: Migrácia, integrácia, zákony, migrant, verejná mienka, Slovensko

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Introduction

The Slovak Republic is not one of the countries of the European Union that deals with mass legal migration of people from third countries on its own territory. The complicated integration process and conservative attitude of Slovak citizens towards immigrants creates a negative image of the Slovak Republic, which discourages these migrants from coming to Slovakia (Vašečka, 2009). At the same time, the Slovak Republic is facing massive emigration of young people abroad and a wide-ranging aging of the population throughout the country. This creates the conditions for a severe demographic crisis with an impact on the whole country. One of the tools to prevent this crisis is also the appropriate setting of migration policy in Slovakia.

Migration policy is a concept that includes the migration of people from all states moving freely all around the world. However, the work deals with the Slovak Republic and the attitude of the Slovak Republic to the relationship to migrants from other countries - countries that are not part of the European Union. The bachelor thesis aims to analyze the laws concerning migration policy in Slovakia – from permission to enter the country, through the acquisition of citizenship of the Slovak Republic. It will also work with theoretical research of attitudes toward immigrants to create a complex picture of the situation in Slovak Republic. The basis of the whole research will be a summary of positive and negative aspects related to migration policy in Slovakia and a proposal of possible measures to improve them.

The bachelor thesis will have two parts within the methodology – theoretical and analytical. The theoretical one will describe the real situation with the Slovak migration and integration policy. Since the situation is very serious, the analytical part analyzes the overall problem and suggests possible solutions at the theoretical level. This means that the work itself will identify shortcomings in the official situation, which is described by the government itself, but also by non-profit organizations without any bias. The theoretical part will rather focus on the theoretical possibilities of Slovak government institutions that are in charge of migration and integration policy. Within the research of the institution in Slovakia, theoretical research will be done, while field research is taken into account in the diploma thesis.

The analytical part, on the other hand, deals with the analysis of the identified problems,

especially from the legislative and institutional level. These are mainly laws that concern citizenship, migration and integration, as well as the institutions that deal with this issue, but also those that are missing. The work tries to find out from the identified analyzes possible solutions that would help solve problems with migration and integration policy in Slovakia. The laws themselves will essential in this work because they will discuss the possibilities of migrants from third countries and their possible implementation in Slovak society.

The bachelor thesis as a whole tries to identify the main positives and negatives of migration and integration policy in Slovakia and also to clarify some phenomena that accompany migration and integration policy. The main reason why the work deals with migration policy is the demographic crisis, which may hit the full force in Slovakia in the future, and migration policy is just one of the proposals. It deals with the main areas - what characterizes the migration and related integration policy in Slovakia? What are the main positives and negatives of migration and integration policy in Slovakia? And then how the identified possible problems with migration policy in Slovakia could be improved?

Migration policy, which is directly linked to integration policy, has positive as well as negative aspects in Slovakia, but it can be one of the most important tools in solving the demographic crisis in the future.

Literature Review

The literature review itself can be divided into two categories. The first of these is the primary literature, which comes directly from official sources - i.e. regulations, laws or documents approved by the Slovak government, which deal with migration in Slovakia and the integration of foreigners in Slovakia with plans that also address the issue of the future. The secondary literature is based from professional publications, which aim to provide a study of either the integration of foreigners in Slovakia or international migration in Slovakia, in order to capture only a certain element of the problem.

The topic of migration is complex, especially in Slovakia because documents and laws which focus on integration of foreigners in Slovakia and the overall migration policy are not adequately focusing on current situation in the world because they deal with migration and integration by procedures which were actual 20 years ago. Nonetheless, laws, regulations and official documents form the very basis of the entire research, especially an official document called Migration Policy of the Slovak Republic with a view to 2020, and the document called Integration Policy of the Slovak Republic. These two documents form the backbone of my research because they give overall value of situation in Slovakia and also propose the theoretical solutions. Additionally, these two documents establish the problem of immigration and integration of foreigners in Slovakia is based. Unfortunately, these documents lack a number of important things, such as the actual funding of projects related to migration and integration, but also the deadlines and a narrower breakdown of projects related to this phenomenon. Subsequently, the literature, which deals with partial problems, for instance with public opinion about immigrants, tries to find concrete solutions and possible elaboration of proposals to improve the overall situation with migration.

The remaining documents, such as the Migration Policy of the Slovak Republic or Public Attitudes towards Foreigners and Foreign Migration in the Slovak Republic, which do not come from official institutions, form a specific part of the research on which the work is based. This bibliography consists of partial information, which aims to approach the goal of the work - to map the migration and integration of the poor in Slovakia and identify opportunities for improvement in Slovakia. Since the work itself deals more with the analysis of current

documents related to migration and integration of foreigners in Slovakia, it is necessary to analyze partial documents that deal with certain aspects of the phenomenon.

Later, other sources will be used to elaborate the whole work, thanks to which the work will offer an objective view of solving the identified problems, because it will be necessary to examine the sources that look at solving international migration and integration incorrectly. Moreover, additional resources will provide additional information to clarify some phenomena in society, especially to ensure that the work is written objectively without any bias or misunderstandings.

Finally, the work will clarify the functioning of migration and integration policy in Slovakia and the influence of all information from various sources will help define the basic problems of migration and integration and suggest ways to solve them from a legislative and practical point of view. The main target of the bachelor thesis is then showing how improvement of integration and immigration policy can help Slovak society with demographic crisis which will come in next years.

Chapter 1. Global Migration

1.1 Demography of the Slovak Republic

Topic: Migration and integration of people from third countries in Slovakia

The topic of international migration and the integration of people from other countries (countries outside the European Union) into European society resonate in most European countries. The crisis began after 2010, when there was a massive transfer of people from North Africa and the Middle East to EU countries. The overall unstable political situation, the lack of security, the poor level of health or education have contributed and continue to contribute to the fact that people from outside the EU decide to leave their home country and try to integrate into society elsewhere in the world. The most important reason why these people should be integrated into European society is extremely crucial. In demographic terms, the majority of Europe's population is aging and very few children are being born compared to the 1970s and 1980s (Štatistický úrad Slovenskej republiky, 2020). This causes a situation where many people retire, but there is no one to replace them in their jobs. This raises the average retirement age, increases health and social security contributions, and loses many jobs at the expense of skills shortages. Western European countries quickly became aware of the risk of a near demographic crisis and greatly simplified their entire immigration and integration policies, but post-communist countries (including Slovakia) had widespread problems in adapting people from third countries and refused to include them in the adaptation process, national identity and public opinion-building. As a result, these people in post-communist countries are generally considered second-class people because they come from countries where overall maturity has not yet reached the level of European countries.

The bachelor's thesis follows the migration and integration policy of the Slovak Republic, where it makes mistakes and where improvements could be made. The work is based on MIPEX indicator (Migrant Integration Policy Index) which compares the immigration and integration policy of the Slovak Republic with the other 51 states in the world (MIPEX, 2019). It is precisely describes these problems with integration policy that this work addresses, as the Slovak Republic will face a massive demographic crisis in the future, and simplifying the integration of migrants

and granting citizenship more quickly may be one of the solutions to help mitigate the effects of the demographic crisis.

When the first Czechoslovak Republic was established in 1918, the population in the Slovak-speaking part of the country developed quite evenly. This natural increase lasted until about 1940, when many people died in the war, and at the same time a massive part of the Jewish population was forcibly displaced and killed in concentration camps under the laws of the time. Also, in the 1940s, many people emigrated from the country due to the unfavorable political and economic situation. The situation did not change even after the war in 1945. In 1948, a communist coup took place and other people were forced to emigrate from Czechoslovakia in an attempt to escape another totalitarian regime. All these situations eventually contributed to the drastic decline of the population in Slovakia (Šprocha & Majo, 2016). The communists eventually set the laws so that there would be no natural decline in population and so that the population would continue to grow. The subsequent development of the population in the then communist Czechoslovakia was balanced until the 70s of the 20th century. Significantly an increase in the years 1973 to 1979, when there was a population explosion and an above-average number of children were born (Štatistický úrad Slovenskej republiky, 2020). In the following years, the birth rate was still high, but gradually decreased due to new laws, because the state as such was not ready for a population explosion of such proportions. It was necessary to build new apartments, schools and preschool facilities and facilities for families. All these factors were reflected in the financial area, and in the end, thanks to the global financial crisis, laws to ensure higher birth rates were repealed. After 1989, when communism fell, and especially after 1993, when Czechoslovakia was divided and an independent Slovak Republic was established, the overall birth rate slowed down drastically, reaching a level 50% lower than that of the 1970s. Not only the fall of communism and the subsequent freedom to decide on one's own future contributed to this effect, but also the advent of modernity, which caused people to pursue a career at a young age, not to start early families and children not to be a priority in life.

The consequence of these changes manifested itself in the form of an asymmetric curve of the population structure in Slovakia, where a group born in the 70s of the 20th century clearly stood out. It was expected that this population group would have at least 2 children, which would cause a stable effect in demography, with the overall structure of the population being balanced.

Unfortunately, due to the mentioned factors, this group of people already had much fewer children than expected (Šprocha & Majo, 2016). At the beginning of the 21st century, this group of the population was of a productive age that continues to this day, but the future is worrying. In the summer of 2019, the Government of the Slovak Republic approved a law enabling the payment of a pension to every citizen of the Slovak Republic who reached the age of 64. This law is considered extremely controversial because it can bring extensive problems in the labor market and in the pension system. The biggest problem can arise if people born in the 70s of the 20th century, whose representation in the population structure is the highest reach the age of 64, and decide to retire. First of all, the problem will be that there will be significantly fewer people in the labor market who will give part of their income to the social insurance company for pensions, and also that there will be no one to replace this group of people in the labor market. The previous pension system, which was in force until 2019, shifted the retirement age depending on the situation on the labor market - it worked with the basic thesis that people would work until there were enough people in the population to replace them. This system has also had problems in that some people would be entitled to a state pension aged 70 or over. In the current situation, therefore, one of the alternatives is to accept a workforce from abroad that would be able to fill a future gap in the labor market, and thus not only strengthen the Slovak labor market, but also ensure that people have a stable pension after employment.
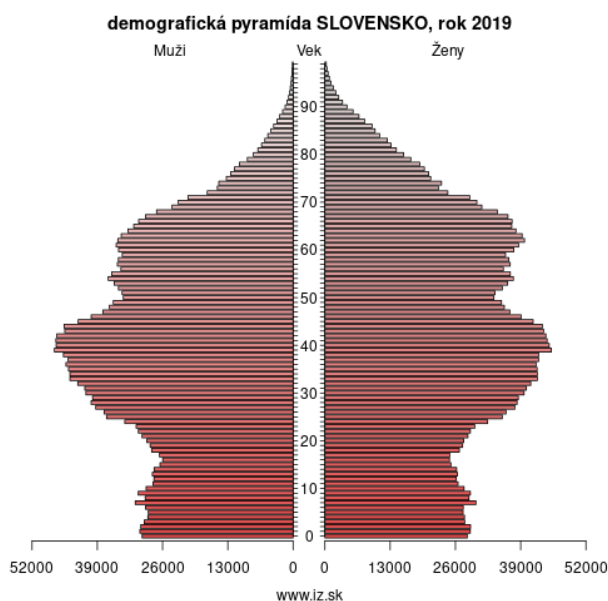

Figure 1: Demography in Slovak Republic (iz.sk, 2020)

1.2 Global Migration

When migrating, many people recall the connotation of refugees, immigrants, asylum seekers, or ordinary people who travel somewhere. They all have a common goal, especially that they need to get to some place. While a refugee is forced to flee his country for many reasons, whether war, famine or natural disasters, he is also granted refugee status. An asylum seeker is also a person who has been forced to leave his or her home country, but has so far only sought refuge in another country and has not been granted refugee status (UNHCR, 2006). Of course, the group of migrants includes economic migrants who are looking for a country that would give them more welfare, students who travel to study, and travelers who just get to know the world. In this work, the term "migrant" will be used especially for people who are trying to get to Europe permanently from Asian and African countries, from some Balkan countries and from Eastern Europe. The term "migrant" will not apply to travelers or students, as their movement is not so massive and, from an economic and political point of view, they do not pose any major problem for European countries because they are not permanently settled in the new country.

1.3 History of Global Migration to the European Union

Migration is one of the basic points in which the population in a certain area is examined. The other two points of population research are birth rate and mortality. Migration as a whole has existed since the beginning of human civilization, because people have always tended to migrate somewhere to seek for better life conditions. Whether for work or new housing, people have always taken migration as part of their lives (Lindley, 2014). With the creation of the European Community (later the European Union in 1993), ideas arose so that people could travel freely throughout the EU. This was finally fulfilled when the Schengen Agreement was signed in 1985, to which the other states of the later European Union later joined (Slovakia in 2007). The principle of this Treaty stipulated that the Member States should focus more on protecting the external borders of the European Union than on the borders of neighboring states within the Union. Moreover, it assures freedom travel for people, goods, services, and capital by establishing a single market within the EU. But the migration itself did not end. Within the

European Union, people can travel freely, but outside the European Union it is not that easy, due to visas and other permits to enter the EU countries. Nevertheless, developed countries of the European Union are often considered attractive to foreigners from other countries for many reasons.

The main reason is that there is no war in EU countries. This fact is an attractive destination for refugees from North Africa and the Middle East, as political unrest or wars are raging in their countries. The situation has become more dramatic, especially since 2011, when the Arab Spring broke out, dictatorial regimes fell in the countries, but at the same time widespread unrest broke out (Bounanno, 2017). Especially in countries such as Syria or Libya, civil wars have broken out that continue to this day. This has caused a massive outflow of migrants to safer countries such as Turkey, Greece or Italy.

The second reason is that EU countries are among the most economically advanced in the world. This is an attraction not only for people affected by the war, but also for economic migrants who hope to find better employment and better salaries in these countries, while improving their living conditions. The situation is attractive not only due to high incomes compared to African and Asian countries, but also more opportunities to build one's own identity and leisure, which are much better than those in underdeveloped countries. Advanced educational, cultural, or social institutions are only a few examples why economic migrants want to migrate to the EU countries.

The third reason is a quality social system, which is significantly better than that in African and Asian countries. Migrants here, like other people, receive financial support from the state so that they can integrate into society on their own. This reason is also attractive because financial support from the state is often higher than their salary in their country of origin. At the crossroads of being poor in one's home country or in a European Union country, it is more tempting for migrants to choose a country that is rich, as a rich country is more likely to take care of the poor better.

All three of these reasons create a concept that is highly attractive to migrants, but also poses a major challenge for EU countries, which have to cope with this challenge to the best of their ability. Fortunately, the EU is already responding to these trends in an effort to halt massive

migration to EU countries. As part of this mass migration, it can be said that they went in certain way. One of them runs across the Mediterranean Sea and is used mainly by migrants from North Africa. Of course, this current also has its core areas. In the western Mediterranean, migrants flow into the European Union, mainly from Morocco, Algeria or Mali, using the proximity of the Spanish enclaves - Ceuta and Melilla, which lie on the African continent, but administratively fall under Spanish territory. The route in the central Mediterranean is mainly used by migrants from Libya, Tunisia or Chad, who later sail by boat to Malta, the coast of Italy or Greece. The Eastern Mediterranean is used by migrants from Syria, Egypt or Somalia, who also sail to Europe - to Malta, the Greek coast or Cyprus. The second major migration route to the EU is the land route, mainly through Turkey. Migrants from Syria use it in large numbers, while from Turkey they can easily get to Greece, to the Greek islands (Kasparek, 2016). It should be noted that within Europe, there is also the Balkan Road, which is used not only by migrants from Asia and Africa, but also by Europeans themselves seeking to enter the EU. The worst situation within European countries is mainly in the Balkans - Albania, Serbia, from where people go either to Greece or the already mentioned Balkan route to Europe - Northern Italy, Croatia. The migration route through Eastern Europe, which is used mainly by Ukrainians and Russians, especially through the Baltic countries and countries such as Slovakia or Poland, is also important, but it is not so much used because civil war is raging in Ukraine itself and migrants to Europe do not use a single route. Situation in Slovakia is much more different compared with rest of the EU countries.

1.4 Slovakia within the European Migration

Slovakia as a country is not an attractive destination for migrants for various reasons. Even today, Slovakia is considered as a country with very conservative attitude toward migrants in the European Union.

The main reason is that in Slovakia, as in other post-communist countries, the standard of living is not as high as in the surrounding countries of the European Union. This is mainly due to communism as such, which until 1989 prevented the improvement of living standards by the

market economy. After the fall of the regime in 1989, the situation began to improve significantly, but it is still not at the level of the countries of Northern and Western Europe.

Another reason is that Slovakia, as a country, is not very cosmopolitan and is still extremely conservative in its opinion. Communism in this case played the role that the country was for many years closed beyond the ability to adapt to world society - to increase cultural, religious, and racial diversity, and so it is more difficult for Slovaks to adapt in a new society, especially for the elderly population (Vašečka, 2009). As a result, it has increased distrust of foreigners and some concern about the changes that may occur.

Also, Slovak politicians as such are very conservative towards migrants and are not inclined to their mass integration into Slovak society. This creates a strong anti-migration campaign against foreigners, especially against people of other faiths, which also creates negative advertising for potential migrants. Nor does the government even try to invest large sums of money in migration and integration policy.

All these reasons ultimately create an overall picture of Slovakia, which leads to the fact that the territory of the Slovak Republic is used more as a transit territory further to the more developed countries of the European Union than as a destination for migrants.

The European Union is trying to keep the tendency of the increase of migrants to the optimal dimensions - to accept refugees within the economic possibilities of the states of the European Union. The European Border and Coast Guard Agency (Frontex) - an organization of the European Union - has set up an operation on migration routes across the Mediterranean in cooperation with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) because they save migrants who get into trouble. It is often the case that migrants use flimsy vessels, which are often overcrowded, to travel across the Mediterranean. This is happening in close cooperation with the countries of North Africa, which continues to receive migrants (Jeandesboz, 2016). Thanks to this operation, migration routes across the Mediterranean have also been brought under control, and the migration flow itself has been reduced.

As part of the land migration route through Turkey, the European Union has signed an agreement with Turkey under which Turkey detects migrants on its territory and does not allow them further into the EU - especially Greece, from where they could continue on to Europe.

Moreover, Turkey received money for migrants and from wider protection of its borders with the EU countries, especially with Greece. In 2020, under long negotiations, agreement was extended until 2022 (European Commission, 2020).

Chapter 2 Situation in the Slovak Republic

Migration policy in Slovakia is addressed by three ministries, which aim to either purposefully integrate the migrant into Slovak society or expel him outside the territory of the Slovak Republic. The Department of Migration Policy itself is in charge of the Ministry of the Interior of the Slovak Republic, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic and the Ministry of Labor, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic. Together, these three ministries have to put forward proposals for measures and laws to help address the migration crisis. In this case, the Ministry of the Interior resolves laws concerning the stay of migrants in the territory of the Slovak Republic, their legal entry into the territory of the Slovak Republic up to the very acquisition of citizenship, which represents the completion of the entire integration process. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs coordinates migration from the perspective of international relations - it solves migration crises at the global level and coordinates steps with international partners. It also addresses the possibility of granting visas and permits to enter the territory of the Slovak Republic through embassies and consulates located in the territory of another state. The Ministry of Labor, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic will finally address the issue of integration and admission to the labor market of the Slovak Republic. The cooperation of these ministries itself should be smooth and, to a large extent, as simple as possible without unnecessary bureaucratic problems, especially for the reason that a person interested in staying in the territory of the Slovak Republic has the simplest possible access. Statistics from the Ministry of the Interior show that there is relatively great interest in staying in the Slovak Republic, but since 2018, migrants from third countries have predominated over migrants from the European Union (International Organization for Migration, 2020). Migrants from EU countries come mainly from the Czech Republic, Hungary or Poland, mainly due to their close geographical location and common borders with these countries. Within non-EU countries (third countries), migrants dominate, mainly from Ukraine and Serbia. The reasons why the territory of the Slovak Republic is dominated by the inhabitants of Ukraine and Serbia are easy to understand. As statistics show, migrants from Ukraine and Serbia have chosen Slovakia as their destination for several reasons (Filadelfiová, Gyárfášová, Sekulová, & Hlinčíková, 2011). The main one was the fact that Slovakia is a member of the European Union,

and thus it is a higher standard of living than in Ukraine or Serbia. Another reason was purely economic and concerned job opportunities, specifically, the fact that Serbs and Ukrainians had and still have a job with a higher wage than in their country of origin. The last reason is the opportunity to study in Slovakia. As Slovak education is free, it is an ideal reason for a stay for people from third countries. Mainly for these reasons, it can be seen that the number of people from third countries in Slovakia is increasing, but not at a dizzying pace as in other EU countries.

The Ministry of Labor, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic, as it addresses the most serious complex agenda in the field of migration and social cohesion, has prepared a document entitled Integration Policy of the Slovak Republic with a view to 2020 (Ministry of Labor, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic 2014).

2.1 Migration Policy of the Slovak Republic

Migration Policy of the Slovak Republic Perspective until 2020 addresses several important points. In this work, it is necessary to focus on points related to legal migration, integration and institutional security. Other points are important in the context of migration, but include points such as asylum or illegal migration, which are not directly related to this work. The primary factor concerns mainly legal migration, which is an important point for the demographic development of the Slovak Republic. It is important that the priority of this point is to enable easier entry for migrants who have the potential to be economically beneficial for the Slovak Republic and also to simplify some processes, for example when issuing visas (Ministerstvo vnútra Slovenskej republiky, 2011). Within this factor, this policy also seeks to simplify the actual stay in Slovakia by improving their access to information or simply defining their rights, which is extremely difficult in the legal context.

Within the integration of migrants, this document indirectly refers to the integration policy of the Slovak Republic, where this process is described in much more detail. In this document, it mainly addresses their inclusion in society, protection against discrimination and other negative phenomena in society, and their assistance with information and obtaining adequate education in the Slovak language.

The entire migration policy is to be overseen by the state together with close cooperation with local governments, which will have their own competencies. This policy also envisages close cooperation with the EU and its departments. One of the most fundamental things should be the creation of a separate Immigration and Naturalization Office, which would deal with migration globally throughout Slovakia and take over the tasks of individual ministries.

Migration policy was written in 2011 in a simple and comprehensible way, but by 2020 several goals had not been met. So far, there is no separate Immigration and Naturalization Office of the Slovak Republic, so the whole agenda remains divided within the ministries. The condition of cooperation with the EU was also not observed, because after the outbreak of the migration crisis in 2015, Slovakia rejected mandatory quotas for the redistribution of migrants (Pokorná, 2020). There is also no simplified access to Slovakia for migrants, as they are still subject to similar rules as in 2011.

2.2 Integration Policy of the Slovak Republic

The Integration Police of the Slovak Republic was approved by the government of Prime Minister Robert Fico in 2014 and the entire document has 40 pages. Separately, it builds on the recommendations of the European Union, which in itself has developed the Europe 2020 initiative, which aims to work effectively with countries outside the European Union (third countries) and thus curb the consequences of the demographic crisis. Within these 40 pages, it deals with exactly 8 integration policy measures.

The first measure of these is the measure concerning self-governing regions. The basic point of this part is to set aside the regional scope of integration policy, i.e. that self-governing regions draw up their own strategy plan for the integration of people from third countries, map the integration itself, support integration through their own self-governments and raise awareness of integration among people (Ministry of Labor, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic, 2014).

The second point deals with housing, which is the basic point for self-realization. This point includes measures that address that integrated foreigners are not associated with marginalized groups in Slovakia, but to create a separate target group. It also provides measures to create conditions for obtaining rental housing for foreigners, with the proviso that children from children's homes could obtain more favorable loans for obtaining an apartment with other accommodation assistance for migrants (Ministry of Labor, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic, 2014).

The third point deals with the cultural and social integration of foreigners. This is one of the more extensive points mentioned in the document, and therefore a number of measures have been developed for it. Many of them are of nondiscriminatory nature, which are supposed to help break down prejudices and create space for one's own cultural self-realization (Ministry of Labor, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic, 2014). The basis of all measures in the field of culture is that foreigners do not lose their own culture into integration into Slovak society, are not the target of attacks and discrimination, and that society creates space for their self-realization (the document also provides for dialogue at state and local level for positive promotion of the culture of other ethnic groups living in Slovakia).

The fourth point is devoted to health care. It is interesting that the improvement of health care for foreigners is conditioned by their employment in the labor market, which would also provide them with health insurance and generally better access to health care (Ministry of Labor, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic, 2014). The overall approach is still not appropriate because people from third countries do not automatically receive health insurance and they are at higher risk of deportation than people coming from the European Union.

The fifth point deals with training, which deals with a wide range of different measures. It primarily discuss the language training of children, but also adults from third countries that come to the territory of the Slovak Republic without prior knowledge of the Slovak language. Moreover, it also deals with the qualification training of persons from third countries for the labor market and the recognition of work qualifications for the labor market. This pod is important from the point of view that it should ensure a quality application of the workforce from third countries on the labor market, with a quality level of knowledge of the Slovak language (Ministry of Labor, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic, 2014). The last part of this

point is to focus on Slovaks. It is important to ensure proper awareness of migrants in order to better integrate them into society without prejudice and other discriminatory factors (racial or religious intolerance).

The sixth point deals with employment and social protection, which forms the basis for the successful completion of an individual in society. The priority of this point is to create an attractive labor market for qualified people from third countries, and also to enable students to gain work experience during their studies in Slovakia. Within the framework of social protection, it aims to provide state support for immigrants from third countries, to ensure quality social services and, in cooperation with non-governmental organizations, to develop further programs for their successful integration into society to prevent their exclusion and economic decline into poverty (Ministry of Labor, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic, 2014).

The seventh point deals with citizenship, which is considered to be the last point in the integration of people from other countries into society. The point itself states that this is a complicated bureaucratic process in which the individual authorities do not have to agree (Ministry of Labor, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic, 2014). The only measure mentioned is to increase the efficiency of delivering an application for citizenship.

The last eighth point addresses unaccompanied minors who are to be granted increased protection because children are considered a very vulnerable group of people. As a measure, research is needed on why minors travel alone, to prevent them from undergoing secondary trauma and to create further measures to protect them (Ministry of Labor, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic, 2014).

The integration policy plan itself is comprehensive, but there are some parameters that need to be considered. In the first case, it is necessary to state the financing of the entire integration policy - i.e. what amount of money will be needed to meet the objectives of the integration policy in specific points, for instances how much it will cost housing, support for education and other things. Furthermore, it is necessary to state how specific measures are to be fulfilled and more clearly define the tasks for specific entities that will deal with or are already dealing with the integration of foreigners from third countries in Slovakia. Finally, the document itself states that obtaining citizenship is a long-term process, as it is still governed by the 1993 law, when the

migration situation was not as massive as it is today. The solution to the problem of citizenship would be solved by a new law that would simplify the acquisition of citizenship, and it would not be necessary to obtain certificates from various authorities, such as the General Prosecutor's Office of the Slovak Republic. The process of integration of immigrants in the Slovak Republic was studied by MIPEX (Migrant Integration Policy Index) which examined overall integration policies and laws, and compared it with other countries (MIPEX, 2019).

2.3 MIPEX Analysis and Integration Policy in Practice

The MIPEX analysis (2020 edition) plays an important role in examining integration policies, including 8 sectors that are part of integration policy. These sectors include access to citizenship, anti-discrimination, access to education, family reunification of migrants, access to health care, access to the labor market, the possibility of permanent residence, and the opportunity to engage in politics. All 8 sectors are compared between 52 countries of the world - important world countries + countries of the European Union. The countries themselves receive points with a maximum of 100 points - the provision of the aid is at the maximum level, and 0 points is the minimum - the provision of aid is practically non-existent.

Slovakia received a rating of 65 in the assessment of granting permanent residence for immigrants, which means that the terms are quite acceptable. Compared to other countries, Slovakia ended roughly in the first half of the ranking of the surveyed countries. A third-country migrant can obtain either a temporary stay that is issued for a certain period (often limited by the validity of visas that need to be extended for a longer stay) for business, educational or family reunification purposes. Later, the person may be granted permanent residence, first being granted for 5 years, later after 4 years it may be extended indefinitely. In doing so, the migrant must meet several conditions. The main one is that the stay of the person must be in the interest of the Slovak Republic - i.e. the person must have a benefit for Slovakia, or the person is already married to a person with citizenship of the Slovak Republic, or a child under 18 years entrusted to the care of a person in Slovakia / he cannot take care of himself. This person must confirm his / her integrity by an extract from the criminal record from the place where he / she was located.

Furthermore, it must be proven by sufficient funds (twelve times the subsistence level - 12 * 214.83 EUR = 2577.96 EUR). The last conditions are for the migrant to be able to prove the provision of accommodation by a lease agreement or a declaration of ownership of real estate, and a medical examination to prove that the migrant does not suffer from any disease that would endanger the general health of the Slovak population. Finally, within 90 days, the police will decide to grant permanent residence for 5 years or reject it altogether. After 4 years, the person must re-apply for permanent residence to the police, re-documenting all the above-mentioned conditions except for a medical examination, as it is calculated that the person has no foreign illness. The police will decide again within 90 days. The main role in this is played by Act No. 404 of 2011 on the Residence of Aliens and on the Amendment of Certain Acts (National Council of the Slovak Republic, 2011). MIPEX analysis considers these procedures to be quite complicated, but not extremely difficult.

Slovakia received 59 points in the MIPEX analysis in the possibilities for family reunification, which also ranks it among the first half of the evaluated countries, as in the case of granting permanent residence for the purpose of family reunification. The MIPEX analysis is concerned that the Slovak Republic is mainly governed by binding European Union regulations on family reunification issues and does not it make additional efforts to reunite the families of third-country nationals and integrate them into society by acquiring permanent residence. The same conditions apply here as for granting permanent residence - the person is already married to a person with citizenship of the Slovak Republic, or has a relative in the family with citizenship from the Slovak Republic, or is a child under 18 years entrusted to the care of a person in Slovakia / so he cannot take care of himself. All these rules are governed by the following laws: Act No. 36 of 2005 on the Family and on Amendments to Certain Acts (National Council of the Slovak Republic, 2005), Act No. 154 of 1994 on Registries (National Council of Slovak republic, 1994), Act No. 97 of 1963 on Private International Law and Procedure (National Assembly of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic, 1963), Act No. 404 of 2011 on Residence of Aliens and on the Amendment of Certain Acts (National Council of the Slovak Republic, 2011).

Slovakia ranked 28 points when assessing access to citizenship for immigrants, which means that access to citizenship is extremely complicated. Refusal to grant citizenship may also be granted for subjective reasons. It is also problematic for migrants over the age of 18 to pay a fee

of € 700 after citizenship has been approved, as the fee itself is too high. Act No. 145 of 1995 on Administrative Fees (National Council of the Slovak Republic, 1995), as amended, imposes an obligation to pay a fee of EUR 150 for a person between the ages of 15 and 18 and a fee of EUR 100 for a person under the age of 15. The fee itself is waived for people over the age of 65, people who have been granted asylum, disabled pensioners, people with severe mental disabilities, and displaced persons from the Chernobyl area in Ukraine.

MIPEX analysis further analyzes migrants' access to education in a given country. In Slovakia, it gained only 7 points in the analysis, which ranks the Slovak Republic among the worst countries analyzed, behind Hungary and Indonesia. Access to education in Slovakia is quite unfavorable also because the Slovak Republic and the special Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sports of the Slovak Republic do not pay enough attention to this phenomenon. Children who have been allowed to stay in the Slovak Republic are also granted full access to education like any other child in Slovakia, but the conditions remain that these children have a full command of the Slovak language. Special Slovak language courses have been set up, with the Ministry of Education contributing to regional governments in Slovakia to organize these courses. Subsequently, the school principal must examine the child from the Slovak language, and according to that he will place him in the grade at school. The law imposes an obligation on the legal representative to enroll a child in school if he or she has not reached the age of 16 and has not completed compulsory schooling, otherwise (the child is over 16 or has completed compulsory schooling) voluntary education. If the child has received an education in a third country outside the Slovak Republic, he / she will have to be tested according to the state educational program of the Slovak Republic. All these details are regulated by Act No. 245 of 2008 on Upbringing and Education (School Act) (National Council of the Slovak Republic, 2008). The main negatives of the Mipex analysis are that there is a lack of specific strategies and support for the integration of children in schools, especially in order to respect their cultural traditions and values. Studying at a university in Slovakia is also a problem, because most programs are in Slovak and a minimum of them are in English.

The MIPEX analysis further analyzes the access to the labor market for migrants in Slovakia. He gives Slovakia 17 points, which puts him at the bottom of the ranking of evaluated countries again (only Indonesia and India are behind Slovakia). The Ministry of Labor, Social Affairs and

Family of the Slovak Republic has issued a document entitled Strategy for Job Mobility of Foreigners in the Slovak Republic until 2020, with a view to 2030 (The Ministry of Labor, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic, 2018). It states that the number of migrants is extremely low, but for market needs and long-term development due to demographic crisis, it will be important to recruit a skilled workforce from third-country nationals in the future. As part of this, a gap in the labor market caused by the massive retirement caused by the aging of the population in Slovakia must be avoided, and at the same time the economic development of the Slovak Republic must be maintained. The plans of this document also remain that the labor market will be made more transparent and that work in Slovakia will be promoted abroad as well. For this reason, migrants' access to Slovakia must also be facilitated, and bureaucratic obstacles must be removed. On the other hand, the phenomenon in which the illegal labor market would be fought must be stopped and uncontrollable migration to the territory of the Slovak Republic would not take place. MIPEX estimates that there is room for improvement, especially in the labor market conditions for migrants and their further professional development.

In the next point, MIPEX analyzes the possibilities of political participation for migrants in Slovakia. Slovakia received only 5 points out of 100, which ranks him again almost at the end of the ranking of evaluated countries in the world. This means that a migrant has passive and active political rights (the right to vote and to be elected in elections) only if he has a permanent residence in the Slovak Republic, and only in regional elections to the municipal council and to the bodies of self-governing regions. Otherwise, their political rights are not possible. Only a migrant who has acquired citizenship and thus become a full citizen of the Slovak Republic will acquire full political rights. All details are explained in Act No. 180 of 2014 on the Conditions for the Exercise of the Right to Vote and on Amendments to Certain Acts (National Council of the Slovak Republic, 2014).

MIPEX also pays specific attention to access to healthcare for migrants. Slovakia received 50 points out of 100 in the evaluation, which ranks it among the average of all evaluated countries. MIPEX evaluates that the very access to health care in Slovakia is fair in the form that everyone who has a permanent residence in Slovakia, or applies for it, is also compulsorily insured with a health insurance company, which ensures that the health system is open to people from third countries. The health insurance itself is paid by the migrant with permanent residence in

Slovakia alone if he is employed, otherwise - if he applies for a job, is unable to work, studies, is retired, or is a person with a disability, the state pays health insurance. The laws that address the issue are mainly Act No. 576 of 2004 on Health Care, Health Care Services and Amending Certain Acts (National Council of the Slovak Republic, 2004), and Act No 580 of 2004 on Health Insurance and Amending Act no. 95/2002 Coll. on Insurance and on Amendments to Certain Acts (National Council of the Slovak Republic, 2004). MIPEX assesses that the level of health austerity is good, but the problem is that health care is seldom able to reflect the specific needs of migrants, such as language barriers or little information about health care options.

In the last point, MIPEX evaluates the anti-discriminatory protection of migrants, in which Slovakia achieved 79 points, which ranks it among the countries that are evaluated in the first half of the ranking. The anti-discrimination itself is also based on a law that prohibits it in its entirety against all persons of another religion, race, gender, sexual orientation, culture or gender. The problem that MIPEX also points out is the very implementation of the law into society and the promotion of anti-discrimination in the public sector. The law concerning anti-discrimination policy is Act No. 365 of 2004 on Equal Treatment in Certain Fields and Protection Against Discrimination and Amending Certain Acts (Anti-discrimination Law) (National Council of Slovak republic, 2004).

In the overall evaluation, MIPEX gives Slovakia 39 points out of 100, which means that Slovakia ranked below average compared to other countries that were evaluated (MIPEX, 2019). Officially, most laws and regulations concerning migrants are quite high, but their implementation in practice is often questionable. According to MIPEX, Slovakia needs to work mainly on areas related to education and on the possibilities of political participation for migrants, because apart from the possibility to vote and be elected in local elections, they have no other political rights. Access to education should also be improved, which should be more inclusive and more responsive to the culture and customs of migrants. The perception of migrants in the eyes of the public and the media should also be improved, which, thanks to certain events in the world (isolated terroristic attacks), are causing a strong wave of xenophobia and Islamophobia, which affect society as a whole in the Slovak Republic.
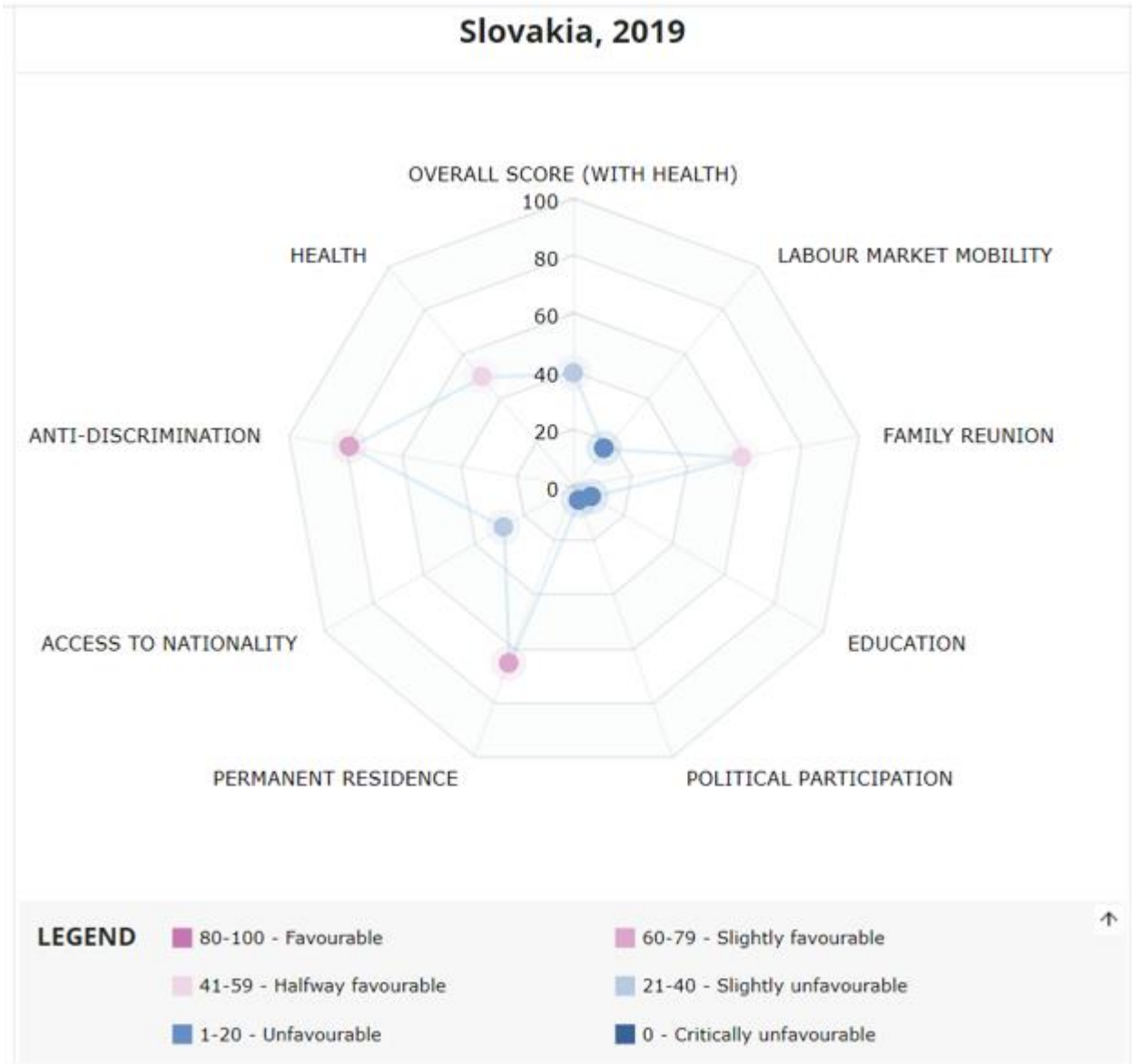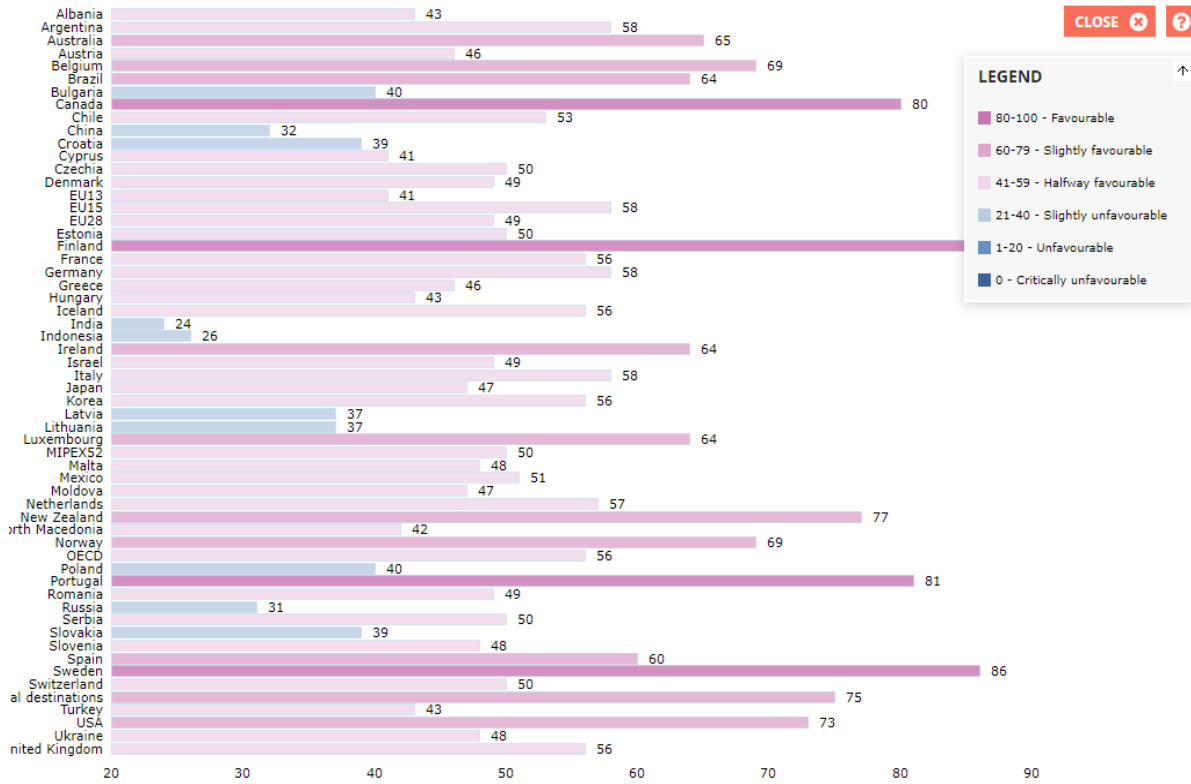
Figure 2: MIPEX Table (MIPEX, 2019)

Figure 3: MIPEX Comparison Bar (MIPEX, 2019)

Chapter 3 Perception of Migration in the Slovak Republic

There are several events and factors that have shaped the view of migration in Slovakia. In the end, these events and factors caused the view of international migration to be more negative than positive in the eyes of Slovaks (Vašečka, 2009).

The first major event is the communist era, which ended in 1989 and is well remembered by many people. During this period, there was a strict regime in the then Czechoslovakia, which, among other things, forbade travel and largely communicated with Western capitalist countries (except in the form of official correspondence), which were at that time more cosmopolitan due to open borders, because there flowed much more foreigners. In Czechoslovakia, this had the effect that people's views of people of other nationalities were quite conservative and distrustful, because people had no experience with other cultures and ethnicities. In addition, strong propaganda was forming against Western countries at the time, due to a different political ideology that only helped indoctrinate distrust and tension with foreigners.

Next important element that influences the perception of migrants in Slovakia is the role of religious groups, which so far promotes strong conservatism among the people. Since the role of the church (especially Christian) is strongly represented in Slovak society, it has a strong voice in shaping the worldview among people (Štefančík, 2012). In this case, it is mainly a negative view of people of other faiths, especially Muslims, because Christianity still considers them a kind of threat, although the church's attitude is also positive in the form that they need help, but the help and tolerance itself must have its borders.

Another factor that shapes the view of migrants is education and upbringing itself. Although education is now under way to educate young people for tolerance and respect for other cultures, races or ethnicities, young people still hold attitudes from the environment in which they were brought up - that is, family or friends who have a strong influence. view of the worldview of young people. This education influenced people even during communism, although at that time the education itself was marked by the communist ideology, which young people at that time carried to the present day, and which indirectly affects the younger generation, in the form of comments or descriptions of some world events (Vašečka, 2009).

The last important factor that also influences people's worldview is the media themselves. In most cases related to migrants, they mostly describe Muslims with a strong connection to global terrorism in large cities around the world. This evokes a form of fear of otherness, which is also reflected in people's very conservative thinking and intolerance, in this case, especially of migrants of the Muslim faith. The main consequence of this situation may be that Slovaks have some skepticism about migrants of other faiths - especially towards Muslims, because it is an unknown culture for them.

In Slovak society, there are factors that are also positive, which achieve that Slovakia does not have to be an extremely conservative country in the future.

The main factor is the fact that Slovakia has had open borders since 2007 thanks to the Schengen Agreement, which puts more pressure on society in the form of multiculturalism and cosmopolitanism (Štefančík, 2012). This trend is shifting thanks to social networks and the Internet, where people are confronted with different views of people from other cultures, other religions or other races and are forced to perceive them. Although they may have a negative opinion of them, they still have to accept their existence. Thanks to the Internet, people can also break down their prejudices and form their own opinion on migration as such.

Another factor is the aging of the population in Slovakia and the migration of young Slovaks abroad, which causes people to be forced to meet other cultures and ethnicities in jobs, which will also help break down prejudices against migrants from other countries. In this case, closing the country to migrants would be a destructive solution in the future, as it is likely that Slovakia will not have enough skilled labor in the future to sustain the economy.

The third factor also concerns open borders. Since Slovaks have had open borders since 1989, they also have unlimited opportunities to travel abroad. Traveling and staying abroad will directly confront another culture, which also has a positive effect in the form of breaking down prejudices against migrants. All these factors are mainly due to modern times in the form of digitization, massive expansion of the Internet, but also membership in organizations such as the European Union, because otherwise there could be generational skepticism about migrants in Slovakia, especially migrants from third countries outside Europe.

As there are very few migrants in Slovakia compared to the rest of the European Union (at least of all European Union countries in 2018), surveys from Eurobarometer also show that the very perception of migrants is more negative than positive, and people are unable to perceive their benefits for society (EUROBAROMETER, 2018). On the contrary, they see them as a threat that, as mentioned, threatens the country itself. This negative trend could be reversed by some of the following steps. The first step must be the education of children in schools itself, with an emphasis on accepting otherness. This education is important because children can adopt habits that would prevent them from developing prejudices in adulthood (Vašečka, 2009). Of course, it is also necessary to talk about Islamophobia, xenophobia and racism in schools, with an emphasis on explaining why this is a negative phenomenon in society and how it can manifest itself. In addition, it is important to talk about this topic with children in their youngest years, because it is possible that some negative habits may be acquired from home. Since all people in Slovakia follow the media, from which they learn the latest information, it is necessary that positive education about migration is spread in this way as well. It is necessary to present a positive view of migration and migrants, especially in their contribution to the Slovak Republic, whether in the cultural or social field, especially for the elimination of prejudices that may arise in the current presentation of migrants. In this context, it is necessary to fight against conspiracies on some websites, which misleadingly present migrants and the international migration of people from third countries as a phenomenon that subverts culture, national identity or the state itself. Subsequently, it is possible to fight for the rights of migrants, especially in the legal field, in such a way that migrants will not only have equality on paper, but their equality and fair access from the Slovak authorities will also be legally enforceable. It is also necessary to adopt some laws that will not push migrants to the periphery of society, but will fight for the migrant himself to be fully integrated into Slovak society. It may be possible for exceptions to integration policy and laws, for example in an area where a highly qualified migrant from a third country would have simplified access to Slovak citizenship (for example, to shorten the period for acquiring citizenship under the condition that the migrant meets all other legal conditions) . All these points can not only help the perception of migrants by Slovaks in a better light, but will also make Slovakia a more cosmopolitan country, which will have a better chance of attracting highly qualified migrants within the framework of global migration.

Conclusion

The bachelor thesis itself addresses the positive and negative aspects with an impact on the Slovak Republic. It shows that global migration also has implications for Slovakia in the form of migration, which is constantly escalating on a small scale. It also addresses the Slovak Republic and special procedures such as migration and integration addressed in Slovakia with positive and negative aspects. A special part is set aside for this part of the work and is developed from the MIPEX 2020 analysis, which monitors specific migration procedures. Subsequently, the work itself deals with the impacts and perceptions of migration from the perspective of the people of Slovakia, i.e. it analyzes which factors positively and negatively affect the perception of global migration of people from third countries to Slovakia.

In this case, it turns out that migration in Slovakia has both positive and negative effects. Among the positive ones are mainly factors in the form of legislation that allows migrants access to health care, protects them from discrimination. The legislation also creates an environment that is vital for people who want permanent residence in the Slovak Republic. From the point of view of legislation, there are also negative factors in the form of bureaucracy and in the form of obtaining various confirmations. A negative phenomenon is also the difficulty of access to citizenship, as an application for citizenship can be rejected for no legitimate reason, but also in difficulties in inclusive education and in the minimum opportunities for political participation. It is therefore important to note that opportunities and openness for migrants exist in the form of laws and regulations, but it is difficult to implement them in practice and ministries responsible for migration and integration of foreigners (Ministry of the Interior of the Slovak Republic, Ministry of Labor, Social Affairs and Family of Slovakia, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic) should do more for migrants as such.

There are also many positive and negative factors in people's views of migrants. It is known that Slovakia is an extremely conservative country in the form of people's worldview and in the form of its policies, but even here there are positive signs of globalization in the form of open borders thanks to the Schengen Agreement and thanks to the great influence of the Internet.

Nevertheless, Slovakia still remains a conservative country in which migrants are under great pressure in the form of mistrust and partial fear.

The bachelor's thesis itself is to serve as a basis for writing a diploma thesis, which will use precisely these acquired knowledge and at the same time will analyze in depth some of the identified problems. It is therefore important that this work has created a summary of the positive and negative aspects of migration, which provides ideal conditions for writing deeper analyzes during further studies at a selected university.

Resumé

Táto bakalárska práca sa zaoberá otázkou migrácie a integrácie osôb z tretích krajín do Slovenskej republiky. V úvode rozoberá migráciu na Slovensku v širšom kontexte – prečo je na Slovensku potrebná a aký spôsob demografickej krízy hrozí Slovenskej republike za predpokladu, že migračná a integračná politika bude nastavená tak ako doteraz.

Prvá kapitola rieši medzinárodnú migráciu a jej možné priame i nepriame dopady na Slovenskú republiku ako takú. Opisuje hlavne migračnú krízu v Európskej Únii, migračné trasy a s nimi súvisiaci dopad na vývoj politík v Slovenskej republike.

Druhá kapitola rieši samotnú migračnú a integračnú politiku, pričom analyzuje pomocou MIPEX-u aj základné náležitosti, ktoré sa týkajú integrácie cudzincov a ich inklúziu do spoločnosti ako takej. Predovšetkým zohľadňuje zákony, ktoré musí migrant dodržiavať v rámci integrácie, no taktiež rieši ich práva, ktoré sa ich citeľne dotýkajú. Týmto spôsobom kapitola otvára diskusiu o možných pozitívnych a negatívnych aspektoch migračnej a integračnej politiky ako takej.

Tretia kapitola uzatvára komplexnosť práce širšou analýzou občanov Slovenskej republiky a ich postojom k migrantom ako takým. Zisťuje, že na pohľad a verejnú mienku ohľadom migrantov vplývajú negatívne mnohé faktory, no zároveň nachádza aj pozitívne elementy, ktoré verejnú mienku posúvajú bližšie k pochopeniu a akceptovaniu multikulturalizmu ako jedného z faktorov modernej liberálnej spoločnosti.

Samotná práca nemá za cieľ detailne analyzovať všetky pozitívne a negatívne stránka migrácie a integrácie cudzincov na Slovensku, ale skôr otvoriť a načrtnúť diškurz o možných zlepšeniach v tejto oblasti, ktorá je na politickej scéne stále populisticky a slabo zdokumentovaná.

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