

In search for a new Europe: contrasting migratory experiences

(International Workshop – 22/24 March 2002 – University of Warwick)

THE WORKSHOP AND ITS AIMS:

The workshop focused on three main issues that both academics and policymakers are facing at national and European level.

These issues are :

- Stage of formation of immigrant communities
- Development of integration policies
- The debate on citizenship

Migratory flows have their own dynamics that lead to a variety of settlement patterns. On the other hand, these patterns are also structured by policy factors, which influence the access of migrants to political and legal rights like citizenship. Here, a tension between the national and European level can be traced. The challenge is to find a way between the prerogatives of the nation state's sovereignty and the increasing transfer of power to the developing supranational entity. Comparing and contextualizing the above key issues in the European Union enlargement framework will path the way for a joint discussion between academics and policymakers in the way to deal with a common migraton policy.

The workshop gave an overview of migratory trends proceeding in countries of Central and Eastern Europe which are expected to become shortly European Union's members and, thus, to join its migration space soon. Moreover, it was the ideal forum to evaluate some elements of immigration policy implemented in the 'old' immigration countries and to identify best practices for immigration countries of Central and Eastern Europe. The latter is of special importance, as these countries face the requirement for

reconsideration of their immigration policies so as to adjust them to European Union's standards.

Starting from the overview of migration trends proceeding in countries of Central and Eastern Europe, the workshop focused then on contrasting experiences between the 'old' and 'new' immigration countries in the three key issues presented above.

The workshop was organised by Paolo Ruspini (Centre for Research in Ethnic Relations, University of Warwick) and Agata Górný (Warsaw University).

RESEARCH NETWORK - «IN SEARCH FOR A NEW EUROPE»:

The research network «In Search for a New Europe» is foreseen as one of the outcomes of the homonymous workshop scheduled on the 22-24 March 2002. The network will gather research institutions from member countries of the European Union, the candidate countries and the United States.

In the first stage, the network partners will be asked to assist in the preparation of the final workshop's publication and its dissemination between adequate recipients in their countries. The dissemination of the final results is an important step to raise further attention on the policy recommendations formulated during the workshop and to attract the interest of other partners.

In the second stage, the network partners will be asked to carry out research based on the comparative perspective developed during the workshop. Taking into account the EU enlargement framework, the comparison will be built upon the different stages of migratory processes and policies adopted in the countries involved.

In the final stage, a general framework for the ongoing process of the creation of a common European immigration policy will be proposed. This framework will be based on the comparative analyses and on special macro research on the European enlargement dynamics carried out simultaneously.