
International conference

FAMILY AND MIGRATION IN THE BALTIC-NORDIC REGION: CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS

21 November 2014, Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania, Gedimino pr. 53, Vilnius



Organizers

Nordic Council of Ministers Office in Lithuania

Committee on Human Rights of the Parliament of the Republic of Lithuania

Sweden Embassy

Royal Norwegian Embassy

Ministry of Social Security and Labour of the Republic of Lithuania

Executive team

Public institution "GEBU"

Institute for ethic studies of LSRC

Public institution "Bendruomenių kaitos centras"



CONCEPT NOTE

International conference

FAMILY AND MIGRATION IN THE BALTIC-NORDIC REGION: CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS

21 November 2014, Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania, Gedimino ave. 53, Vilnius

The two decades from 1990 to 2010 mark a period of intense migration in Europe. The expansion of the European Union in 2004 and the latest ratification of the Schengen Agreement in 2007 have changed the demographic situation and migratory behaviour of the societies in the European continent. The liberalisation of the freedom of movement within the EU has become an important factor encouraging international migration. It has influenced the emergence of new migration systems within the EU.

With regard to the challenges posed by international migration, the Baltic and Nordic countries are not an exception. These countries have gained rich migration histories and experiences. In the context of international migration, the Baltic States have played an important role as 'sending' countries. After the collapse of the Soviet Union, Lithuania, Latvia and (to a certain extent) Estonia have witnessed a huge population outflow. At the same time, the Nordic countries have experienced intense immigration. Such a complex migratory behaviour has created diasporas and migrant communities, which, as a part of migration network, play an important role in shaping new paths of international migration.

Together with a growing trend of emigration, new challenges have emerged. On one hand, sending countries have become concerned about such social costs of migration as demographic decline, the welfare of transnational families and families living abroad, those left behind the migration processes (particularly, children and elderly people) and the rights of the child. On the other hand, receiving countries have started implementing a more complex set of social policy measures in order to address such migration-related challenges as migrant integration at the local level, migrant child and family support, working and living conditions, and more inclusive and tolerant society.

In the entire context of international migration, the conference will bring forward different questions: how the links between governmental institutions and non-governmental organisations in sending and receiving countries have to be strengthened and how these links could help in increasing social and psychological support for migrants and their families as well as ensuring the rights of the children in family setting? How are sending and receiving countries addressing migration in relation to social (child and family) policies, equal opportunities and human rights? How are different actors and stakeholders (governmental institutions and nongovernmental organisations) shaping the environment for integration in receiving countries and environment for reintegration in sending countries on national and local levels? What linkages could be drawn to strengthen international cooperation of such actors? Finally, what kind of measures should be taken to improve international and cross-sectoral cooperation, social and psychological environment for migrants and their families?

These and other important questions will be addressed by the international conference, which will bring together politicians, practitioners, experts and key stakeholders from the Baltic and Nordic countries. The conference will be divided into two sections. During the first section, models of social policies with regard to migrant integration, family support and ensuring the rights of children will be presented and respective challenges identified. In addition, good practices in dealing with the above-mentioned challenges on national and local levels will be presented. During the second section, the key stakeholders will share experience and gain insights into best practice in providing social, legal and psychological assistance for migrants and their families, creating social and psychological environment for such families and ensuring the rights of children in order to deal with migration-related challenges. These two sections will contribute to a better understanding of the impact of migration on family, children and family members left behind. During the final discussion, linkages of international cooperation and indicators of successful integration will be debated; further steps to improve international and intersectional cooperation of governmental institutions and non-governmental organisations will be discussed.



AGENDA

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21 November 2014, Parliament of the Republic of Lithuania, Gedimino av. 53, Vilnius

- 09:00 Registration.
- 09:30 Welcome speech by Rimantė Šalaševičiūtė, Minister of Health, a member of the Committee on Human Rights of Seimas (Parliament) of the Lithuanian Republic.
- 09:35 Welcome speech by Algirdas Šešelgis, Vice-Minister of Social Security and Labour of the Republic of Lithuania.
- 09:40 Welcome speeches by Cecilia Ruthström-Ruin, Ambassador of Sweden, and Dag Malmer Halvorsen, Ambassador of Norway.
- 09:50 *1st Keynote speech. Transnational families: policies to promote their well-being and to reduce the costs of migration.* Anna Platonova, Regional Labour Migration/Migration and Development Specialist, Regional Office for the EEA, EU and NATO, International Organization for Migration (Brussels, Belgium).
- 10:10 *2nd Keynote speech. Aspects of migration between the Baltic and the Nordic countries.* Rasmus Ole Rasmussen, Senior Research Fellow, NORDREGIO (Sweden).
- 10:30 *3rd Keynote speech. Child rights protection in international family dispute cases: practise of Lithuanian Central Authority.* Odetta Tarvydienė, Head of State Child Rights Protection and Adoption Service under the Ministry of Social Security and Labour (Lithuania).
- 10:50 Q/A session (moderator: Dr. Karolis Žibas, Institute for Ethnic Studies at the Lithuanian Social Research Centre, Lithuania).
- 11:10 – 11:30 Coffee break
- 11:30 **PANEL 1: MODELS OF SOCIAL POLICIES CONCERNING MIGRANT INTEGRATION, RIGHTS OF THE CHILD AND FAMILY SUPPORT: GOOD PRACTICES IN DEALING WITH CHALLENGES ON NATIONAL AND LOCAL LEVELS**

- 11:30 *Emigration, return migration and immigration in Latvia: current trends and family support policies to different migrant groups.* Inese Šūpule, Institute of Philosophy and Sociology, University of Latvia (Latvia).
- 11:45 *Migrant integration and the Child Welfare Service in Norway.* Oddbjørn Hauge, Director General, Norwegian Ministry of Children, Equality and Social Inclusion (Norway).
- 12:00 *Gender equality in private and family life: from national to international legal framework.* Dalia Leinartė, UN CEDAW Committee expert (Lithuania).
- 12:15 *Protection of the Rights of the Child without borders: a primary consideration - the child's best interests.* Inga Juozapavičienė, Senior Adviser of the Ombudsperson for Children's Rights (Lithuania).
- 12:30 Discussion (moderator: Dr. Karolis Žibas, Institute for Ethnic Studies at the Lithuanian Social Research Centre, Lithuania)
- 13:15 – 14:30 Lunch
- 14:30 *4th Keynote speech. Raising children in Norway: children's rights, parenting practice, parent support and services.* Randi Talseth, Voksne for Barn, General Secretary (Norway).
- 14:45 *5th Keynote speech. Helping migrant communities to protect children's rights.* Jolanta Blažaitė, the Public Establishment "Community Change Centre" (Lithuania).
- 15:00 *6th Keynote speech. Migration and Integration Experiences in Södertälje Municipality - A Reality Report.* Paki Holvander, Municipality of Södertälje, Democracy and diversity officer (Sweden).
- 15:15 Q/A session (moderator: Aleksandra Batuchina, Klaipeda University, Lithuania)
- 15:30 **PANEL 2: SHARING EXPERIENCE AND GAINING GOOD PRACTICES IN PROVIDING SOCIAL, LEGAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSISTANCE FOR MIGRANTS AND THEIR FAMILIES**
- Moderator: Aleksandra Batuchina, Klaipeda University (Lithuania)
- 15:30 *Support system for emigrant families from Latvia.* Kristine Dudina, "Latvia's Parent Forum" board member (Latvia).
- 15:45 *Lithuanians in Norway. E(im)migration, integration and child rights' protection.* Lina Baltrukonienė, Lithuanian Community in Norway (Norway).
- 16:00 *"Big Brothers Big Sisters" - one of the programs supporting children in migration situation.* Jūratė Baltuškienė, "Big Brothers Big Sisters" program Executive director, Children Support Centre (Lithuania).
- 16:15 Final discussion (moderators: Aleksandra Batuchina, Klaipeda University; Karolis Žibas, Institute for Ethnic Studies at the Lithuanian Social Research Centre, Lithuania)
- 16:45 End of the conference and closing speech by Bo Harald Tillberg, Director NCM Office in Lithuania.



FAMILY AND MIGRATION IN THE BALTIC-NORDIC REGION: CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS

November 21

Biographies of speakers

Transnational families: policies to promote their well-being and to reduce the costs of migration



Anna Platonova

Anna Platonova guides the work of the International Organization for Migration in the EU, Norway and Switzerland on labour migration, integration and migration and development being based at the IOM's Regional Office in Brussels. From 2009 to 2011, she was in charge of the IOM Independent Network of Labour Migration and Integration Experts (LINET), and published a number of comparative studies on various aspects of migration policy development and immigrant integration in the labour market. Before joining the IOM, she has worked for over five years on migration and freedom of movement issues at the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE ODIHR). She was also working on the European integration issues in the public administration in her native Latvia before its accession to the EU.

Aspects of migration between the Baltic and the Nordic countries



Dr. Rasmus Ole Rasmussen

Dr. Rasmus Ole Rasmussen has a profound research experience in relation to Regional Development, Regional planning, and Statistical Analysis. He has extensive knowledge in relation to the Nordic Countries, is recognized as a capacity in relation to the North Atlantic and Arctic development, among other things being responsible for the Nordic Arctic Research Program. He has working experience in relation to sparsely populated regions, the Baltic region, and as a Senior Research Fellow at Nordregio – Nordic Centre for Spatial Development, his major contributions are related to demographic and socio-economic development in Europe and the Arctic.

Has been working at University of Copenhagen and Roskilde University in Denmark and as visiting professor at the Arctic Centre, University of Lapland, Finland, and at following Universities: Université Laval, Quebec, Canada, University of Alaska, Fairbanks, McGill University, Montréal, Canada. Rasmus Ole Rasmussen has been working also at Statistics Greenland and at the Min. of Education and Vocational Training, Greenland, as well as for Danida – Danish International Help Agency. For further information, please consult <http://www.nordregio.se/en/Our-Staff/Rasmus-Ole-Rasmussen/>

Child rights protection in international family dispute cases: practise of Lithuanian Central Authority



Odeta Tarvydienė

Odeta Tarvydienė is Head of State Child Rights Protection and Adoption Service under the Ministry of Social Security and Labour. Participates as an expert in various national and international projects related to child protection and adoption procedures development. Belongs to court a list of mediators.

MODELS OF SOCIAL POLICIES CONCERNING MIGRANT INTEGRATION, RIGHTS OF THE CHILD AND FAMILY SUPPORT: GOOD PRACTICES IN DEALING WITH CHALLENGES ON NATIONAL AND LOCAL LEVELS (moderator)



Karolis Žibas

Karolis Zibas is a researcher in the Institute for Ethnic Studies at the Lithuanian Social Research Centre. His scientific interests lie in contemporary migration processes such as new patterns of migration in CEE after EU enlargement,

immigration and migrant integration policies in Lithuania, labour migration processes and integration of migrant workers, development of monitoring indicators on immigrant groups in Lithuania. As a project partner, leader and independent expert Karolis was (and still is) involved in different projects and migration research on national and international levels: FRANET (a multidisciplinary research network of European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights); Social Challenges for Ethnic Minorities and New Immigrant Groups in Lithuania after Joining the EU (The Research Council of Lithuania); Migration

Information and Cooperation Platform (project leader, The European Fund for the Integration of Third-country Nationals); Migration as a Part of a Policy for Increased Competitiveness (Global Challenge, Sweden); Implementation of the EU Asylum Policy in Lithuania: Legal and Sociological Perspectives (The European Refugee Fund). Immigration Processes in Lithuania: Social Developments of Chinese and Turkish Immigrant Groups (research leader, ERSTE Foundation Social Research Fellowship Generations in Dialogue: Migration and its Effects on Demographic and Economic Development in CEE.); LINGUAL INCLUSION (European models and best practices for linguistic integration in primary schools with young migrants); Third Country Nationals in Lithuania: Assessment and Indexes of Integration Policy (The European Fund for the Integration of Third-country Nationals); Addressing the problems of 'new immigrants' in Estonia and in the Baltic States (supported by the Network of European Foundations for Innovative Cooperation within the European Programme for Integration and Migration – EPIM); Migration Trends 2006–2008 in Söderköping Process Countries (The European Commission initiative); Legal-institutional and Socio-economic Aspects of Employment of Belarusians, Moldovans and Ukrainians in Lithuania (The European Commission initiative), other. Also, Karolis is a country-coordinator in Lithuania of European Web Site on Integration – project funded by the European Commission.

Emigration, return migration and immigration in Latvia: current trends and family support policies to different migrant groups



Dr.sc.soc. Inese Šūpule

Dr.sc.soc. Inese Šūpule is a senior researcher (project director) and a member of the board of a private research institute "Baltic Institute of Social Sciences", and a part time researcher at University of Latvia, Philosophy and Sociology Institute, in ESF project "The emigrant communities of Latvia: National identity, transnational relations, and diaspora politics". She has obtained a doctoral degree in political sociology (Dr.sc.soc.) at the University of Latvia. Her fields of expertise are ethnic studies, migration, society integration, education and language use and knowledge. Since 1997, Inese

Šūpule has managed and participated in different projects, both national and international. Her recent publications: Šūpule, I. (2014) Chapter 15: Latvia. In: Triandafyllidou, A., and Gropas, R. (eds.), European Immigration. A Sourcebook. Ashgate Publishing Ltd.; Šūpule, I., Bebrīša, I., Kļave, E., (forthcoming) Sociological Analysis of Integration of Non-citizens in Latvia. LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing. Šūpule, I. (2012) Constructions of National and Ethnic Identity in Online Discussions on Referenda Initiatives in Latvia. In: Baltic Journal of European Studies (BJES). Vol.2, No 1, June 2012. Journal published by Tallinn University of Technology.

Migrant integration and the Child Welfare Service in Norway



Oddbjørn Hauge

Oddbjørn Hauge, Director General in the Department of Child Welfare, Norwegian Ministry of Children, Equality and Inclusion. Original profession, social worker. Worked as a leader within social services at local, regional and national level for more 30 years. For three years Hauge also worked as a national expert in the European Commission, DG Education and Culture, dealing with communication issues and contributing to the first white paper on European Youth policies. Hauge has also been full-time occupied as a journalist in regional newspapers in Norway, mainly writing about music, artists and politics.

Gender equality in private and family life: from national to international legal framework



Prof. Dalia Leinarte

Prof. Dalia Leinarte is member of UN CEDAW Committee (expert), and Director of Gender Studies Centre at Vilnius University. She is an author of Adopting and Remembering Soviet Reality: Life Stories of Lithuanian Women, 1945–1970, as well as numerous articles on women's and family history. Her recent research project is focused on family life during the Soviet period with specific focus on gender stereotypes and Soviet ideology regarding women and girls. Dalia Leinarte is also a professor of family history at Vilnius University.

Protection of the Rights of the Child without borders: a primary consideration - the child's best interests



Inga Juozapavičienė

Inga Juozapavičienė obtained a master's degree at Vilnius University, Faculty of Law. From 2006 she works as an Adviser (from 2013 senior-adviser) of the Ombudsperson for Children's Rights in Children's Rights Ombudsman's Office. The main areas of practice - child protection issues with an international element. Senior Advisor is giving presentations, participating in round table discussions and working groups about migrant children, children of refugees, international family law, trafficking in children

and other related issues. As a worker in Children's Rights Ombudsman Office she has prepared a report on "Armenia's human rights defender institution capacity building in the field of child protection" as a part of the implementation of the Lithuanian Ministry of Finance funded project; participated in the study and prepared the report about families in which the parents are accommodated psychoneuroimmunology pensionates, examined the preservation of family ties, communication with children issues; participated in the study (conducted by the institution) and preparation of report "The rights and legitimate interests of children whose parents left the country, dealing their living and learning issues"; participated in the international project "European communities against Trafficking in Human Beings", funded by the European Commission; participated in the program funded by Nordic Council of Ministers Office in Lithuania "Practice in Nordic institutions"; in a project implemented together with the International Organization for Migration she is giving presentations about the legal aspects of child protection for the specialists, working in the field of child protection in the seminars "Aspects of cultural diversity in the provision of assistance to families".

Raising children in Norway; children's rights, parenting practice, parent support and services



Randi Talseth

I have been working as secretary general for 23 years working for children's mental health in the NGO Voksne for Barn. Working with social policy, programs and services both within promotion and prevention aimed to children themselves, parents, professionals and decision-makers. Educated in the information field, worked as director for cultural affairs in community in 13 years, chair of trustees in the international charity Partnership for Children, member of boards for hospitals and institutes, politically engaged on all levels, project leader for projects within the EEA region.

Special interest is mental health promotion for children and children at risk – living with parents having mental illness or substance abuse problems.

Helping migrant communities to protect children's rights.



Dr. Jolanta Blažaitė

Jolanta Blažaitė, Ph. D., studied education at Kaunas University of Technology and University of Oxford, U.K. She was a Fulbright Scholar at the Institute for Social Policy at Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, U.S. Jolanta has worked for UNDP and several civil society organizations. Her professional interests lay in the areas of social innovation and solving social issues at the local community level. She is active in the field of children's rights since 2004. She has developed several successful inter-agency cooperation projects addressing children's issues on the local level. Together with other Lithuanian and Dutch

experts, Jolanta has developed training and qualification raising courses for social and youth workers, child protection workers, pedagogues and parents.

Migration and Integration Experiences in Södertälje Municipality - A Reality Report



Paki Holvander

Democracy and diversity officer in the municipality of Södertälje.

Paki Holvander has been working with diversity issues since 1999 at the municipal level in Sweden. With experience from private as well as public sector, Holvander is a frequent lecturer on the subject of strategic work for diversity and how to avoid pitfalls in order to pursue development in a diversity-oriented organization.

SHARING EXPERIENCE AND GAINING GOOD PRACTICES IN PROVIDING SOCIAL, LEGAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSISTANCE FOR MIGRANTS AND THEIR FAMILIES (moderator)



Aleksandra Batuchina

Aleksandra Batuchina is a PhD student in Education Science at Klaipeda University and the assistant at the KU social geography department. Her research interests are: experiences of migrated children, migration consequences on children and whole family, migration as a phenomenon (phenomenological approach). She is wrote number of publications and did different approach researches on the children-parental relations in the migration context. Current research is focused on the phenomenology of arriving to a new country, with lived experiences of a young and children migrants. She studied migration theories and improved qualification in the Netherlands, Radbaud University, UK, Leeds Metropolitan University, Turkey, Sakarya University and others.

Support system for emigrant families from Latvia



Kristine Dudina

Kristine Dudina, MS in psychology, has been working with general and risk families for more than 12 years as a counselor, head of the crises centre under the premises of Social Services, researcher while teaching courses about family psychology and methodologies for social work students. Since 2009 co-founder of the Latvia's Parent forum. Main areas of interest- children and adolescent mental health and wellbeing, effectiveness of family support and education methods.

Lithuanians in Norway. E(im)migration, integration and child rights' protection



Lina Baltrukonienė

Lina Baltrukonienė is a board member in Lithuanian Community in Norway. She acquired the Norwegian-Lithuanian language and literary specialties at Vilnius University and later international business and communication diplomas at University of management and economics and Vilnius university. Currently working in the field of online marketing. She is interested in neurolinguistics and phenomenon of bilingualism, practice neuro-linguistic programming and is certified by ICTA. Lithuanian Community in Norway care about social issues, is interested in family policy, the issue of children's rights and education.

"Big Brothers Big Sisters" - one of the programs supporting children in migration situation"



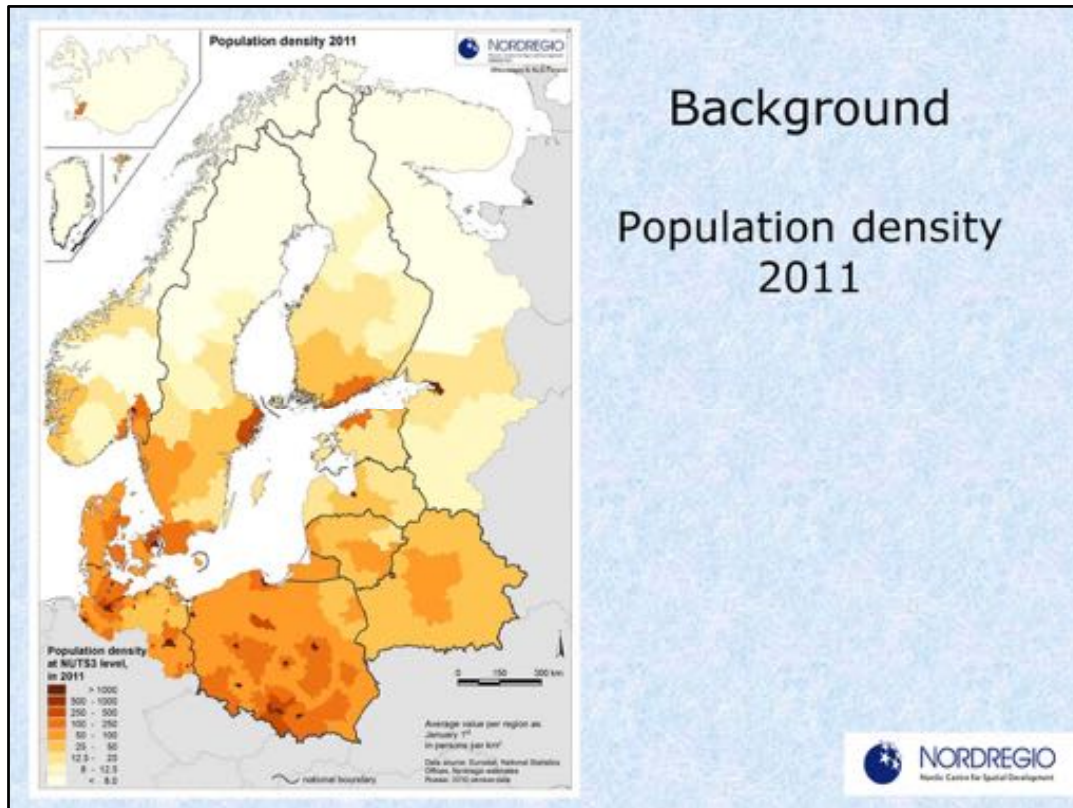
Jūratė Baltuškienė

Educational background - Master degree in Clinical Psychology (Vilnius University). I work as children and teenagers psychologist for 11 years. I do counselling to children and teenagers, who experienced various life difficulties (for example: school bullying, tense situation at home, life without parents, suffered physical or sexual abuse). I worked in several child care institutions, Pedagogical psychological service. For almost 10 years I am working for the NGO Children Support Centre, which 20 years consistently works to help Lithuanian children to be safer. I am executive director of „Big Brothers Big Sisters“ program in Children Support Centre for almost 7 years. "Big Brothers Big Sisters" program is mentoring program which professionally supports stable one to one long-term relationship between a child in need and adult volunteer.

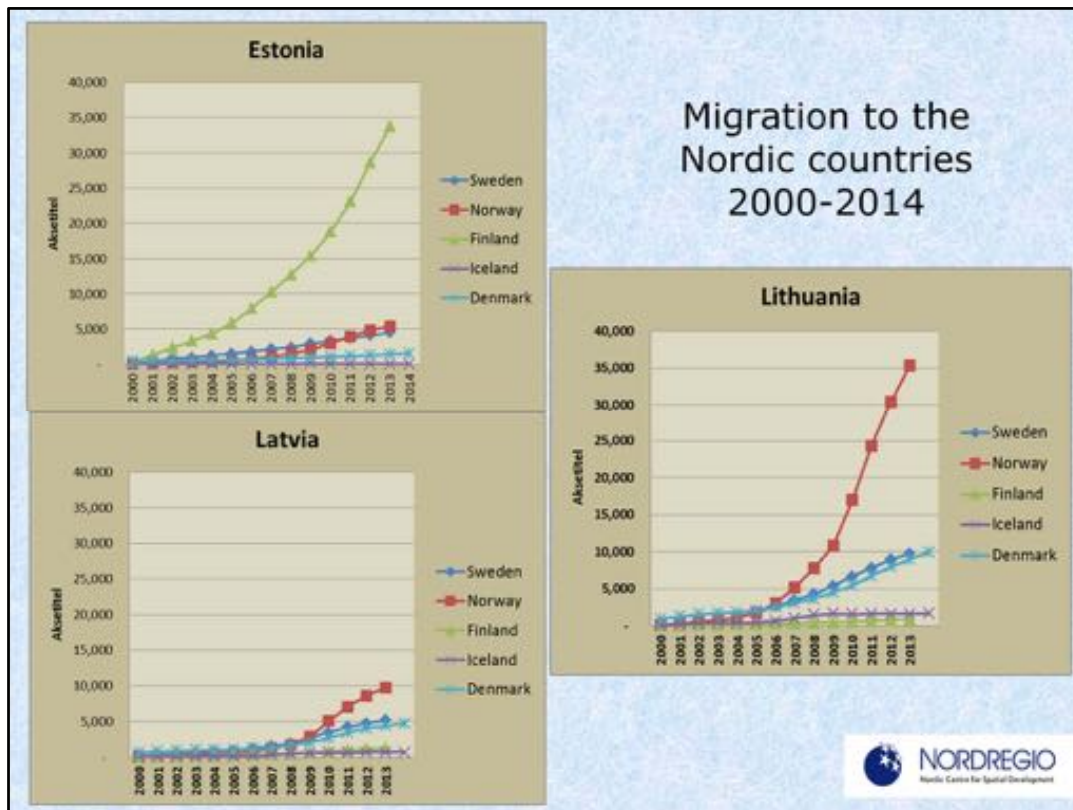
Aspects of migration between the Baltic and the Nordic Countries

Rasmus Ole Rasmussen
Senior Research Fellow
Nordregio

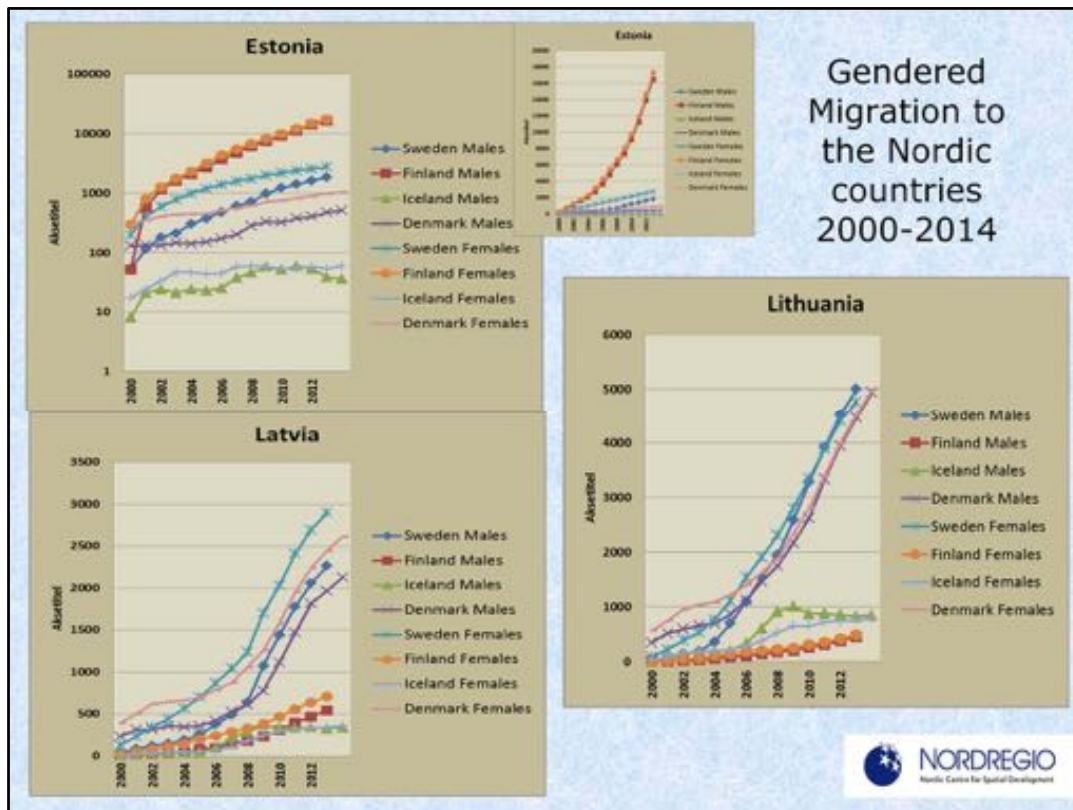




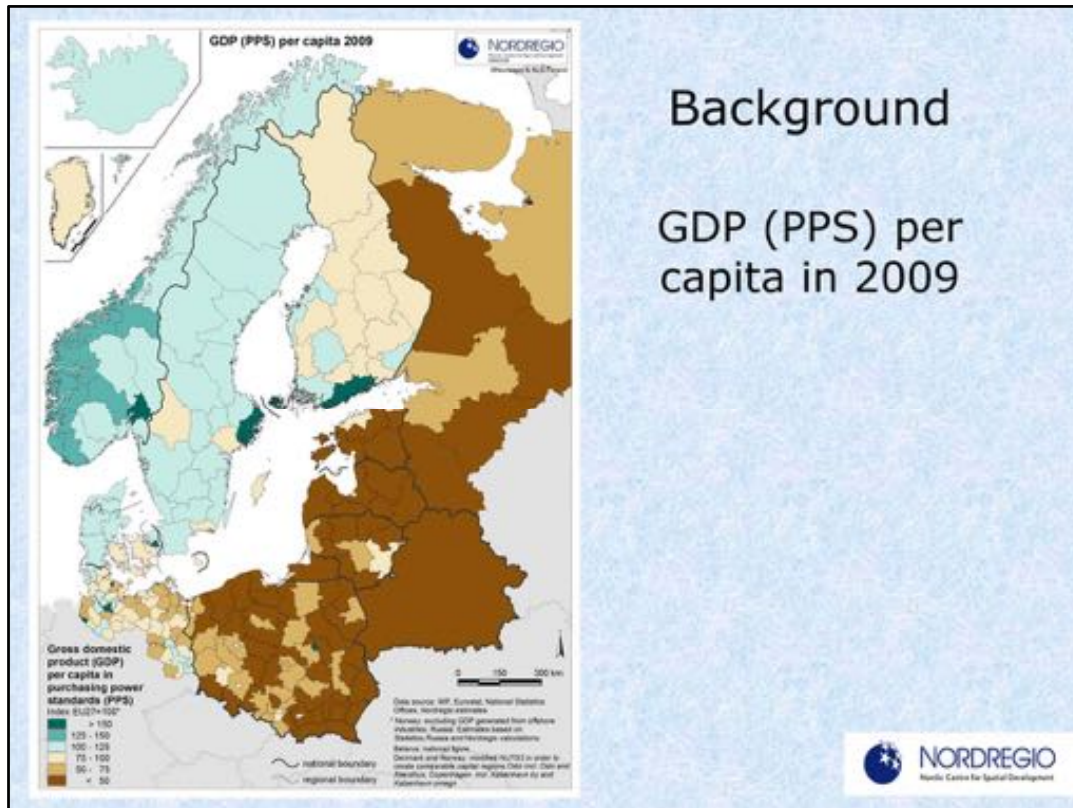
CONTEXT: The southern parts of the Nordic countries and the Baltic region resembles each other in many way. As shown on the map with Population density in 2011 the density is around the same level, and the distribution of the population between urban and rural regions just as the key infrastructural densities as well as the relations to the sea has resultet in cultural characteristics with many similarities in spite of marked differences the political environments during the last century.



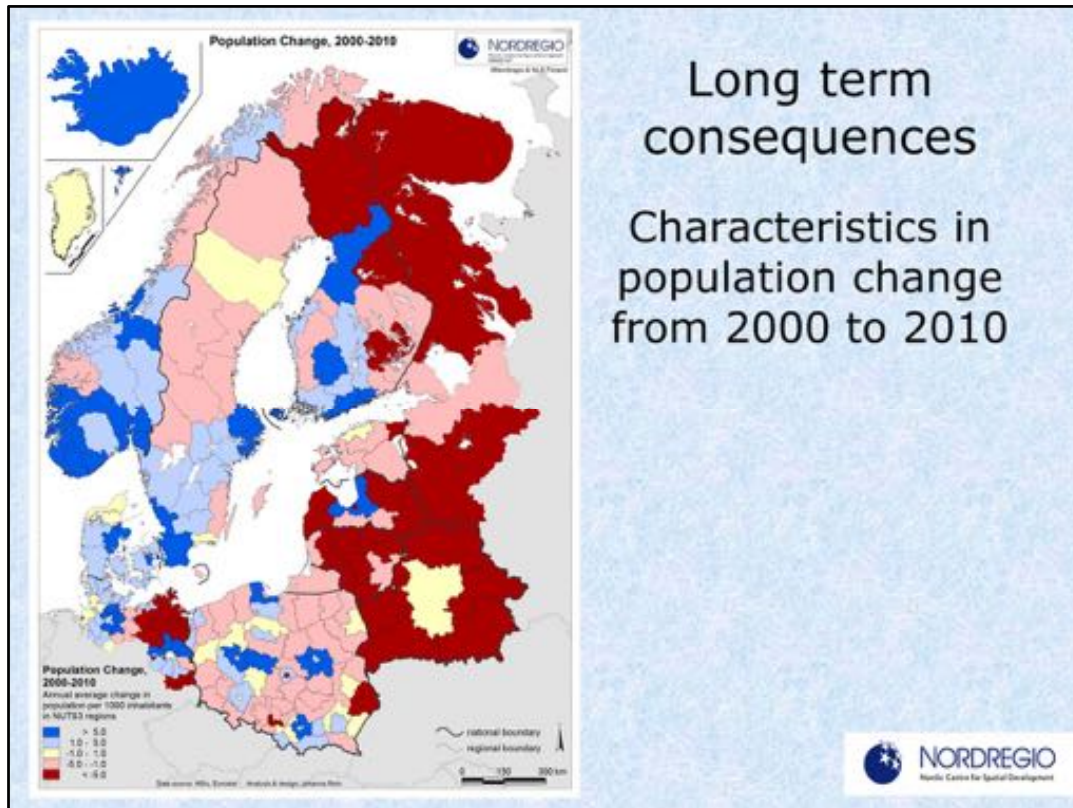
CONTEXT: The opening of new mobility options for the Baltic population a quarter of a century ago showed some immediate responses across the baltic sea, but did also reflect some marked differences. The first large outflux from Estonia was directed to Finland, primarily due to language similarities but also due to previous higher levels of interaction. A similar steep growth was however absent from both Latvia and Lithuania. From Estonia to the other Nordic countries the levels of outmigration have been at a much more low level and quite similar between the Nordic countries. From Latvia increase in the out-migration level took off in connection with the Economic crisis between 2006 and 2009, but increased markedly to Norway where the crisis hit less hard and therefore offeret better job opportunities. And similar patterns appeared in the outmigration from Lithuania, even the pace was even higher to Norway.



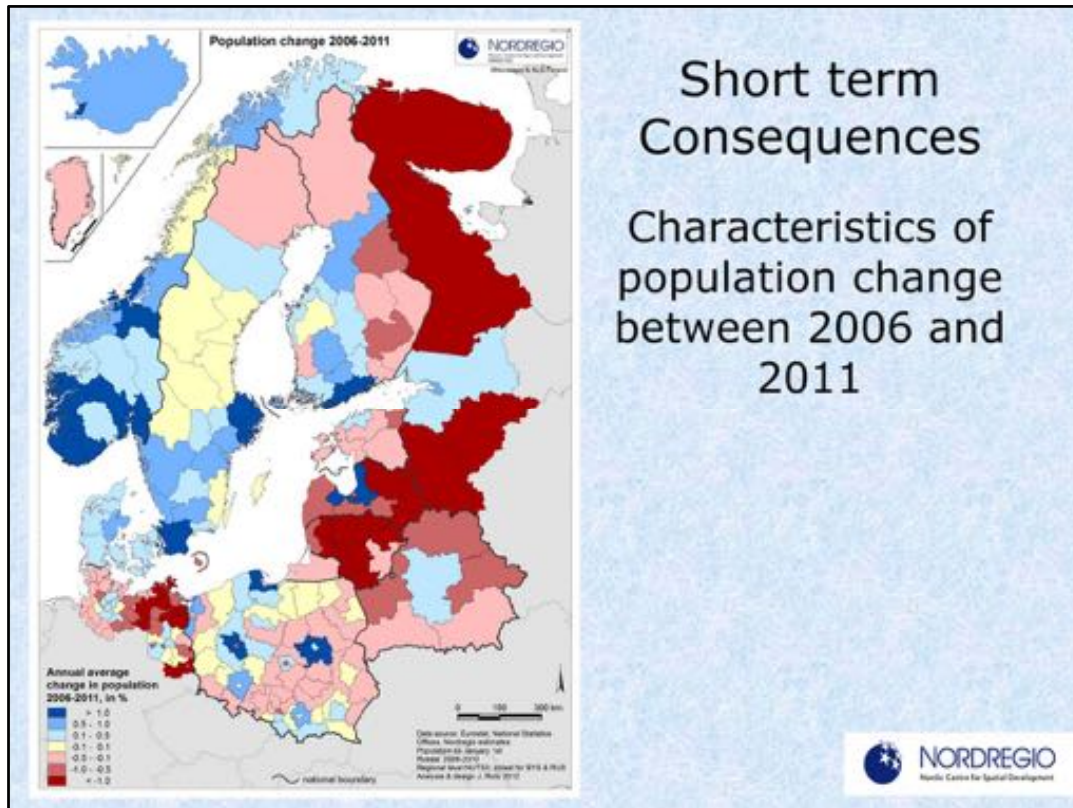
CONTEXT: What is important in the outmigration pattern has been the marked differences in gender behaviour. For all three Baltic countries the level of outmigration has been marked higher for females than for males, and only for Finland the pace has been almost similar for men and women. In order to see the details in relation to Estonia two graphs have been generated. A small version with an ordinary scale which reflects the marked dominance of outmigratinons from Estonia to Finland for both gender, and the same data showed with a semi-logarithmic scale in order to show the details for the other Nordic countries.



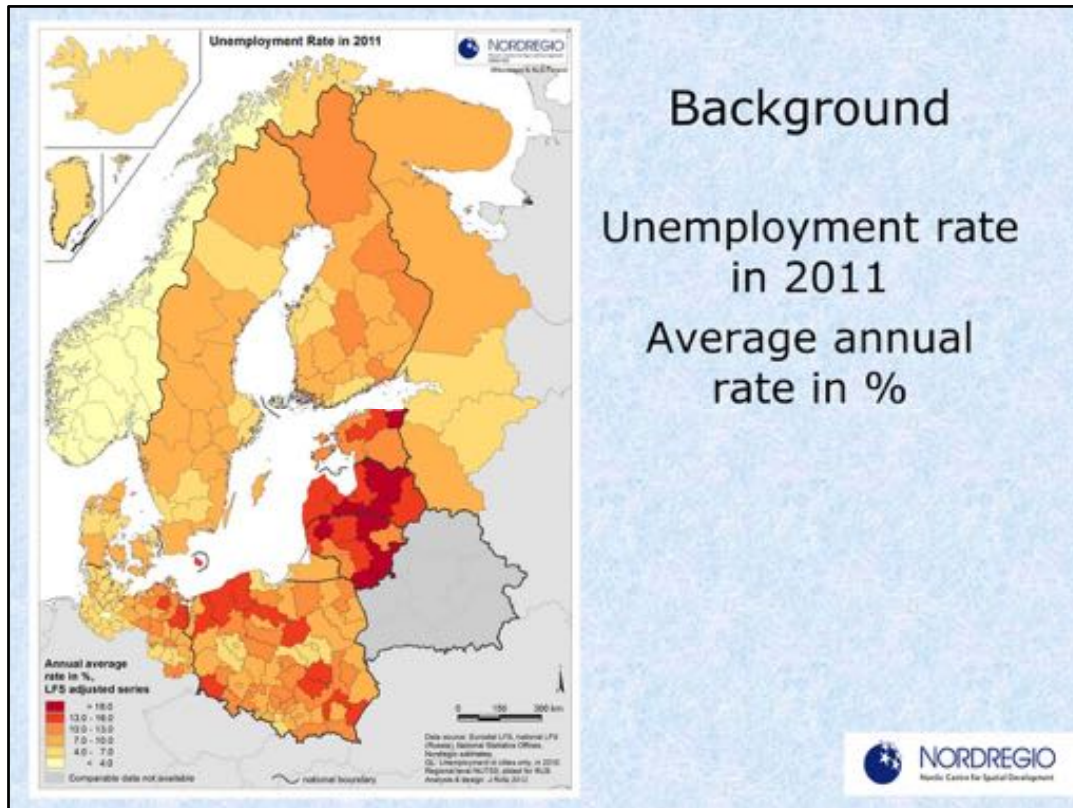
CONTEXT: The most important factor in generating the out-migration has been the economic situation in the Baltic countries with GDP (in PPS) per capita show levels less than 1/3 of the levels in the Nordic countries. So a push out due to the meagre economic opportunities in the Baltic countries, and a pull from the more wealthy Nordic countries (even in spite of the Economic crisis) has been the major driver in the development.



CONTEXT: In a long term perspective – here illustrated through population change from 2000 to 2010 – the combined push and pull factors resulted in general marked levels of population loss as shown on the maps.



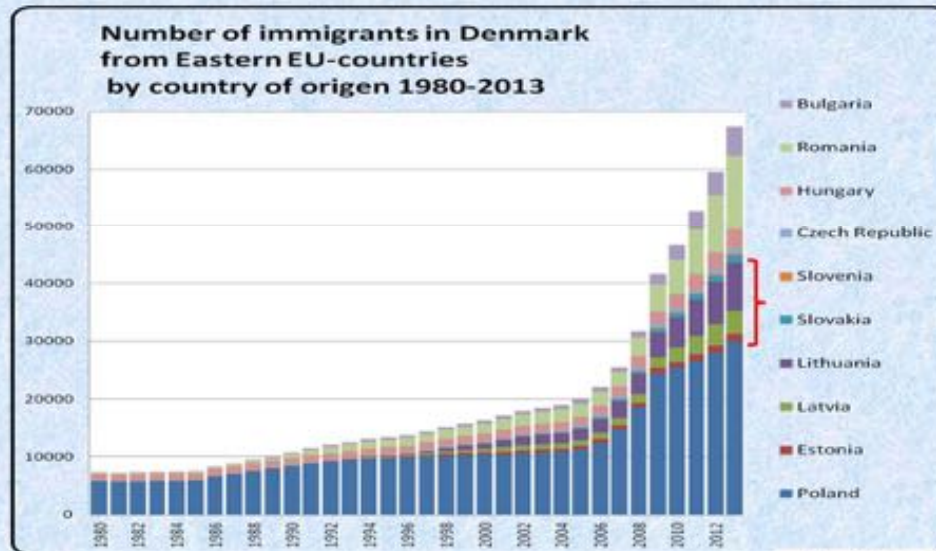
CONTEXT: Looking into more short term characteristics as shown on the map above with data regarding population change between 2006 and 2011 it is clear how important changes internally in the Baltic countries have resulted in more diverse situations both within and between the countries. But the pattern of marked outmigration, however, continues.



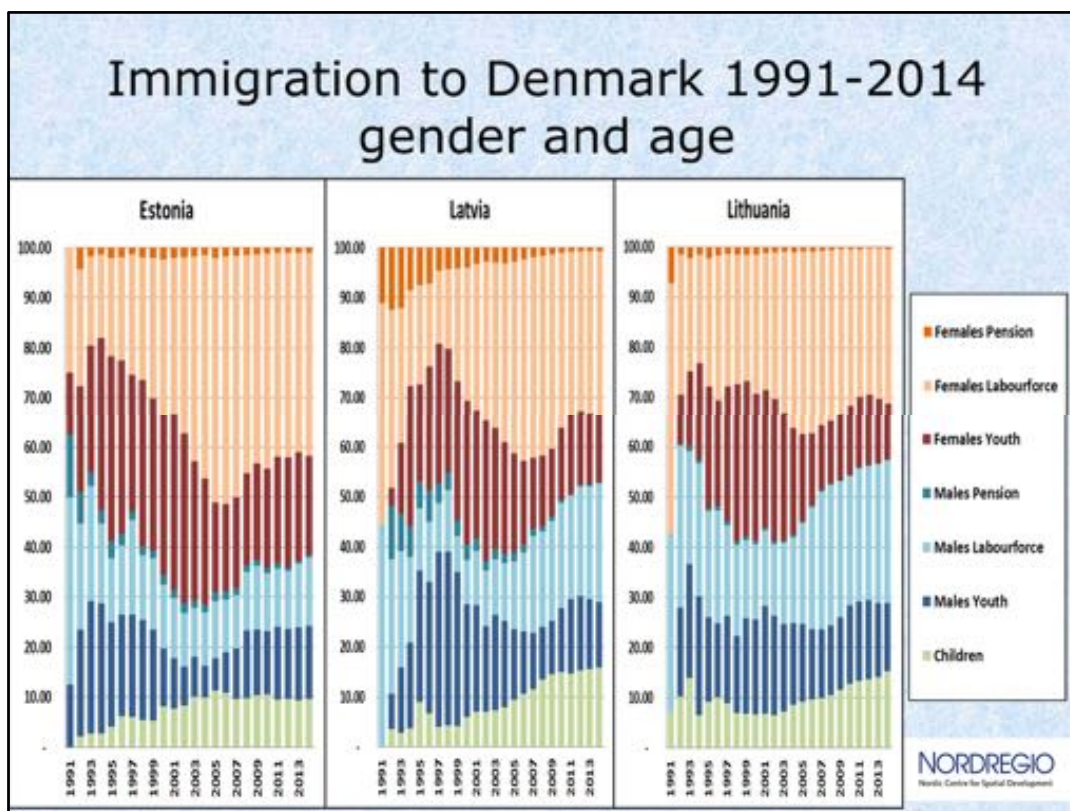
CONTEXT: And the process is further fuelled by the marked high level of unemployment between 50% to 100% above the situation in the Nordic countries.

At this point of time it would be relevant to look into details regarding the situation in individual Nordic countries, but as time is limited the focus will be on the situation in Denmark as a case.

Number of immigrants in Denmark



CONTEXT: Looking into the role of the three Baltic countries in relation to the number of immigrants in Denmark from Eastern EU-countries the data from 1980 to 2013 first of all reveals the marked dominance of Polish immigrants to Denmark as almost 50% of the immigrants are coming from Poland. This is nothing special for Denmark as most of the Nordic countries show a similar pattern – a pattern which is also typical for for instance GB, Ireland and other European countries. The outflux from Poland took off both much earlier than the other countries included in the graph, and was furthermore pushed forward due to the situation in as well agriculture, mining and industries. The three Baltic countries are covering around 20% of the immigrants, and with a clear dominance of Lithuania followed by Latvia, and with Estonia at a third position among the three countries.



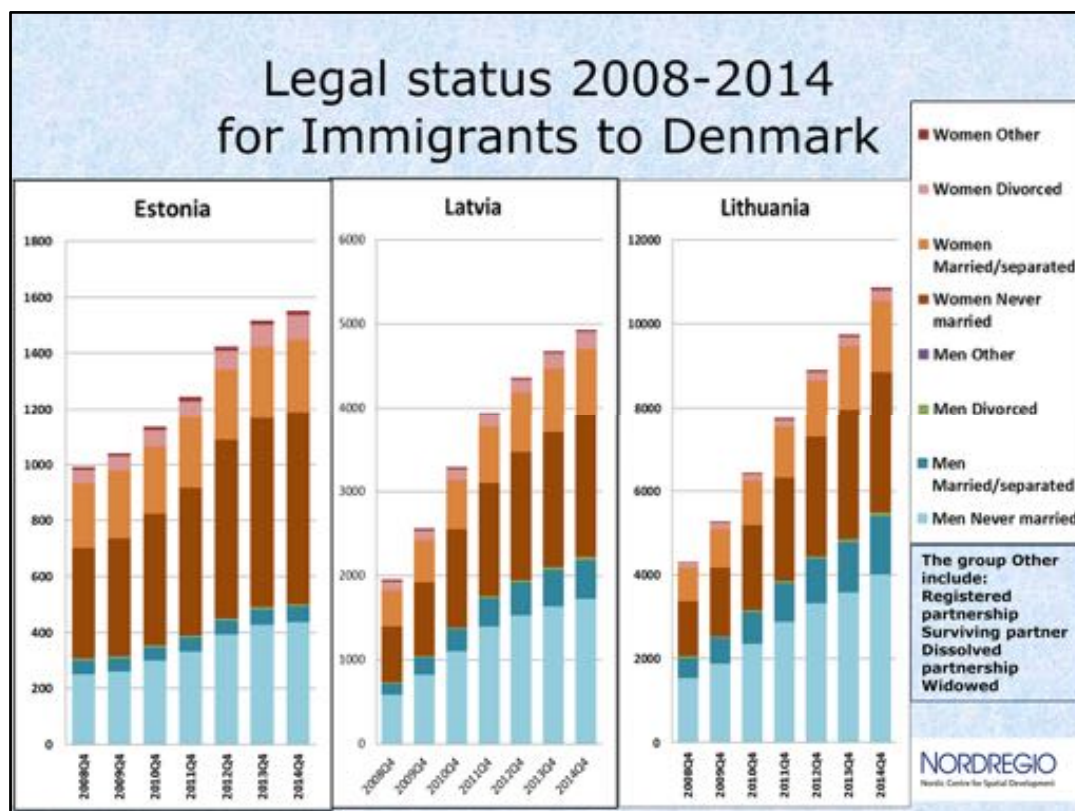
CONTEXT: The slide above put emphasis on two important dimensions in the migration pattern. First of all the gendered characteristics of migration, but also the role of age in the migration pattern. The age groups included in the graph are 1) a general group of children (0-14 years) not subdivided in gender, 2) a youth group (15-24 years), 3) the major labourforce (25-64 years) and the old age group (65 years and above) here registered by the concept of Pensioners. While the three countries show marked resemblances in the structural development it is relevant to emphasize some marked trends in the period from 1991 to 2014. The group of children has been steadily increasing during the whole period, indicating a general adjustment to the immigrants slowly adjusting to the new situations. In relation to the group of males the youth group had a short take-off period parallel to the male labour force, but both groups have adjusted downwards until they reached a relatively stable and slowly increasing levels during the next 15 years. The male pensioners have throughout the whole period been a very small group and more or less disappearing during the last 10 years. The female youth took off at a relatively high rate – marked higher compared to the males – and has been stable throughout the whole period of time. The female labour force has clearly been the largest group, and except for short time deviations increasing throughout the whole period of time. And the female pensioners – the grandmothers – have been an obviously more important group than the male pensioners. Most deviations in both the male and the female groups are related to both internal Baltic and internal Nordic economic variations. But what is most important for both groups are the tendency towards much more stable situations resembling the general demographic age grouping characterizing more mature western societies – a development which may be interpreted as adjustments to the situations in the receiving countries.

Narrative on Changes in the Economic contribution and primate

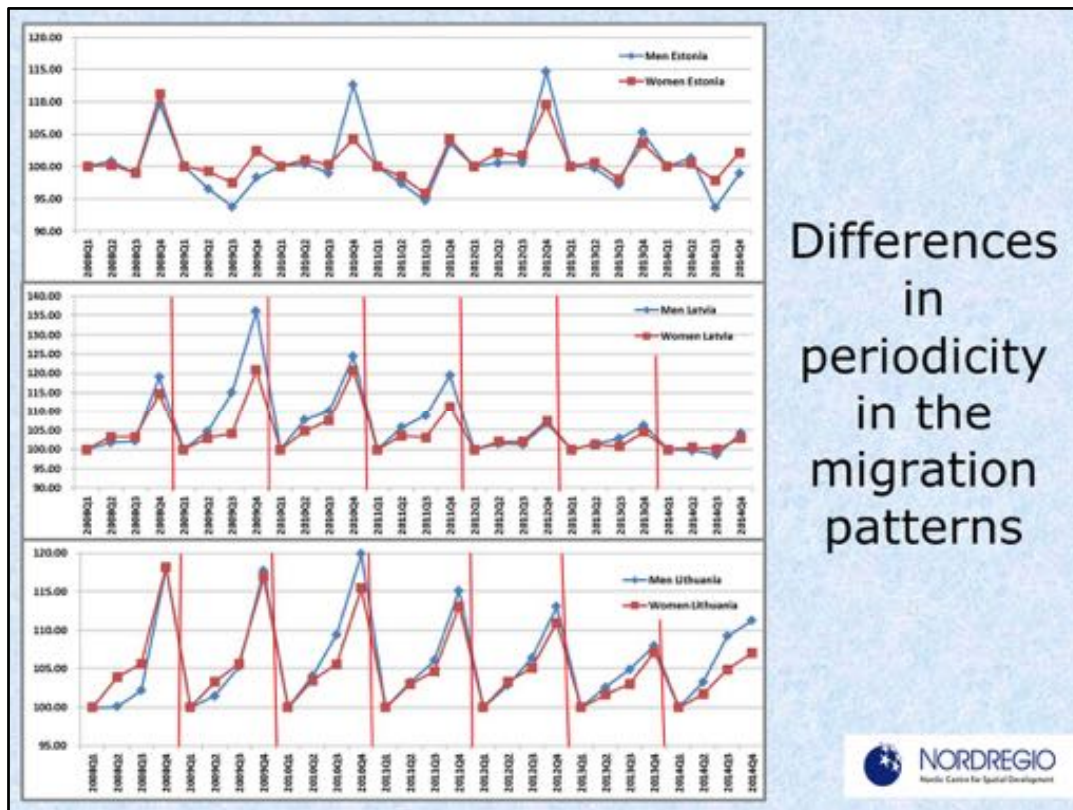
- Two narratives have been dominating the The Danish labour market in relation to the need for highly technical and academic skilled foreign workers.
 - On one hand the focus on that Denmark cannot afford to pay for foreigners who cannot support themselves.
 - On the other hand that if you work, you are welcome. Consequently: Are you foreigner, and you have been offered a job in Denmark, you are welcome.



CONTEXT: The response to the immigration from the Baltic countries has been met with two narratives: One is about the rejection of immigrants that are not able to support themselves. And one is about the general interest in receiving immigrants with skills and knowledge relevant for the Danish economy. (Inspired by Trine Lund Thomsen, CoMID Aalborg University, Denmark 2013.



CONTEXT: In the discussion about the role of gender, family and children as element in different migration strategies the legal status for the immigrants in relation to marriages, partnerships etc. is an important issue to reflect on, and the role of single men and women versus men and women involved in different types of social contracts through marriages, registered partnership etc. Are important to take into account.



CONTEXT: In this graph the quarterly variations in migration has been calculated by having the take-off – i.e. 1st quarter of each year – set as basis for the indexes in the following quarters. Thereby it is possible to see the quarterly variations in level of immigration (positive or negative) during each year and during the whole period. What is clear is that the situation for Estonia deviates markedly from Latvia and Lithuania. In Estonia both periods of increases, stability and declines are shown while the two other countries show general tendencies of increases – by far the largest in Lithuania – and eventually decline and stabilisation during the last years.

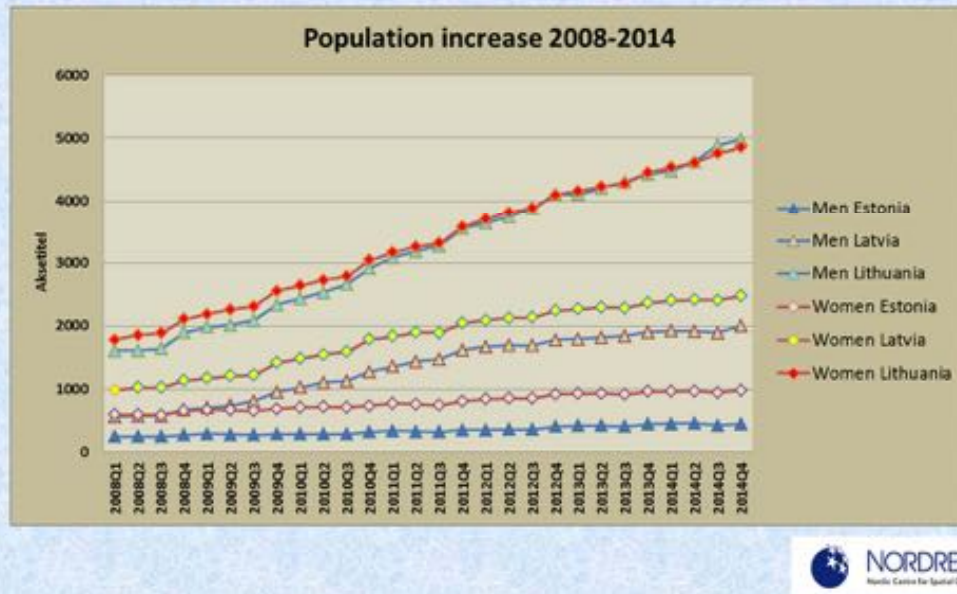
Changes in the Social dumping narrative

- The social dumping narrative has been fuelled by the accelerated migration from Eastern European EU countries as well as the economic crisis causing increased unemployment.
- Current debates regarding restriction on the rights to social welfare services and benefits will challenge the motivation and possibilities of integration of the many newly-arrived immigrants.

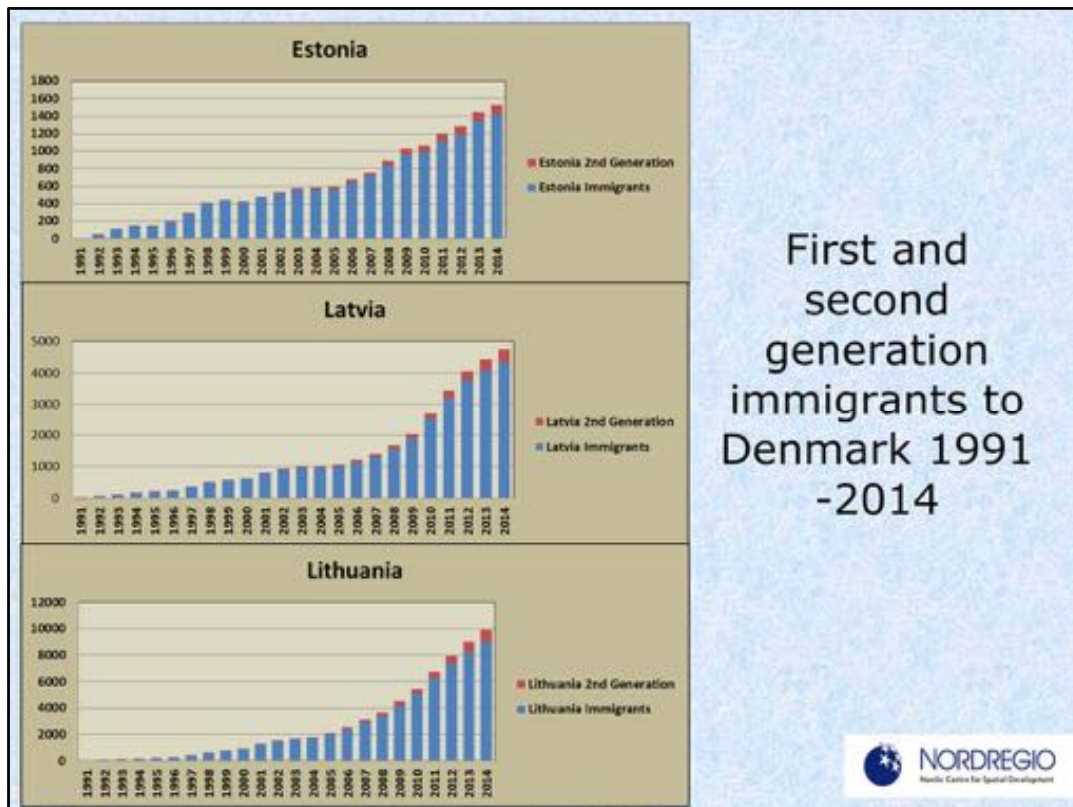


CONTEXT: While the first narratives were mostly related to labour market effects of immigration the more recent narratives relates to the concept of Social dumping (Inspiration from presentation by rine Lund Thomsen, CoMID Aalborg University, Denmark, 2013).

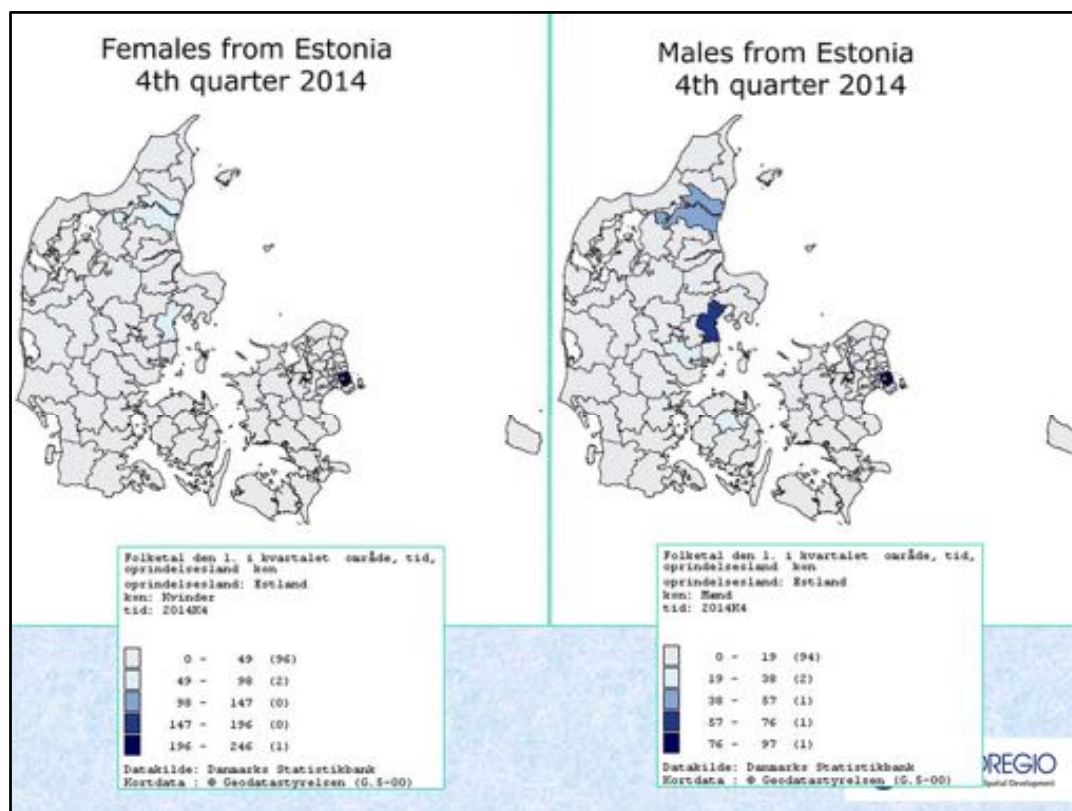
Gender based population increase



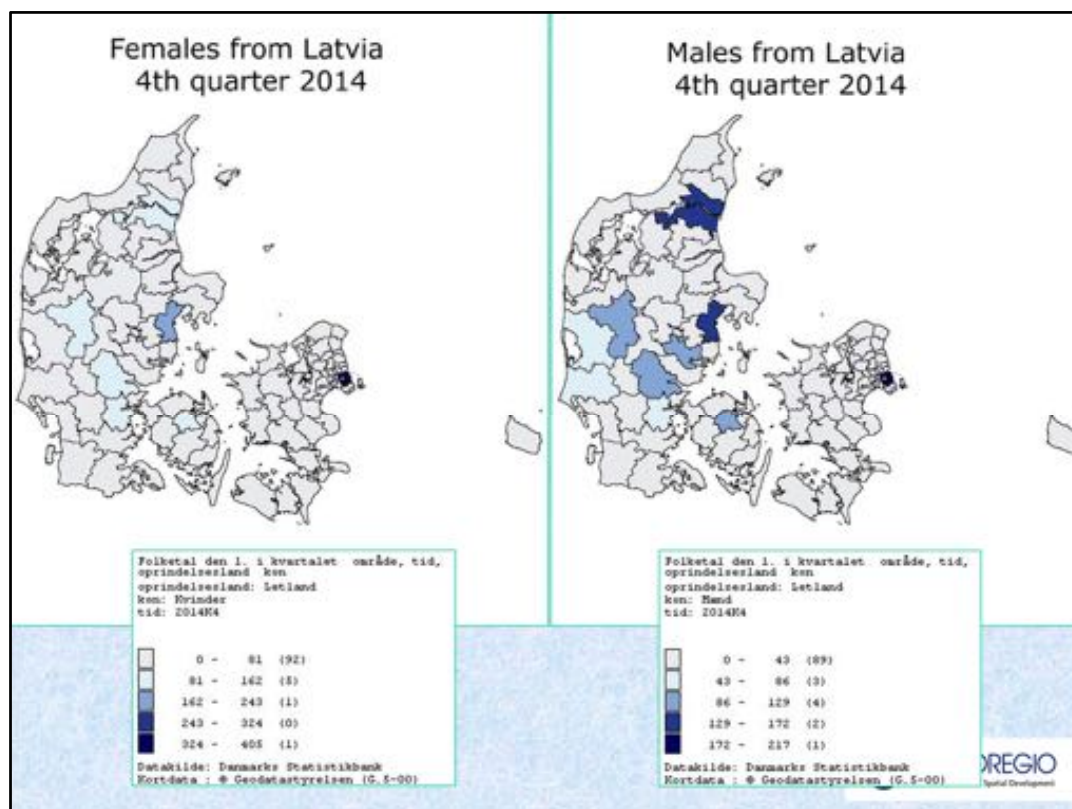
CONTEXT: Digging into details regarding immigration to Denmark from the Baltic countries it becomes more clear how women has been absolute dominant in relation to Estonia and with domination in relation Latvia. Regarding Lithuania there has been a marked trend towards equal immigration of both sexes, and the last months even a tendency towards a small surplus of male immigrants. At the same time the marked increase of immigrants from Lithuania compared to immigrants from Estonia and Latvia has become even more striking.



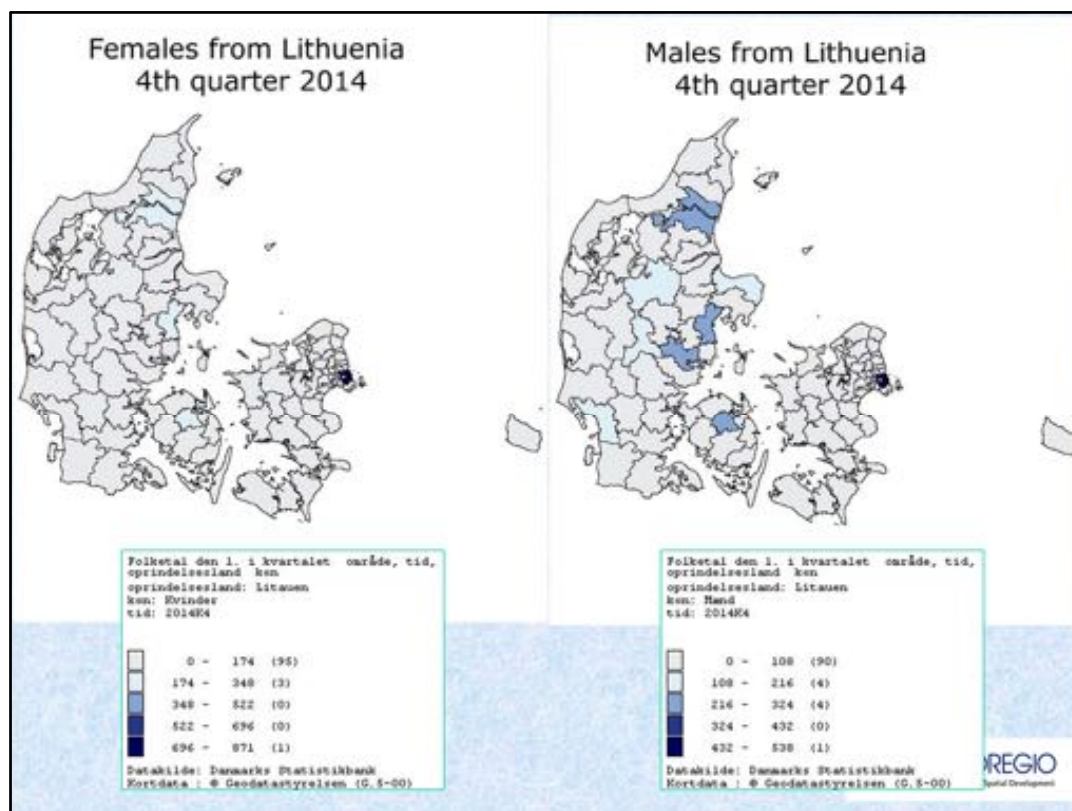
CONTEXT: While immigration to Denmark has been considered a "first generation" event during the first 15 years since it took off around 1990 the situation today is, that the question of a "second generation" – i.e. Persons born by immigrants in Denmark and therefore living their whole lives (so far) in Denmark - has become an issue that is important to take into considerations. Children in kindergardens and schools are very often acting as facilitators of increased integration of families into local communities, and thereby opening up for the integration process of the immigrants. And furthermore opening up for the process of establishing Diasporas for the Baltic immigrants between their "old homelands" in the Baltic regions and their "new homelands" in Denmark. Experiences with Diasporas of Greenlanders and Faroese illustrates the role of such a process.



CONTEXT: The regional structures of settling of immigrants is another issue which should be taken into account. And in this context the gender issue is important to bring forward. The previous graph showed how the number of female immigrants from Estonia has been more than twice than the male immigrants. And the women have first and foremost chosen to settle in Copenhagen and to some extent in the larger towns Aarhus and Aalborg. The explanation is related to the type of jobs available, i.e. the service sector and the knowledge related economic activities. The men are much more dispersed – still choosing the larger settlements due to the number of jobs available, but dispersed due to the need of unskilled and technical skilled labour force in medium sized towns and rural areas.



CONTEXT: The regional structures of settling of immigrants from Latvia show the same gender context as those from Estonia, but even with more clear patterns. The women has first and foremost chosen to settle in Copenhagen and to some extend in the larger towns Aarhus and Aalborg. But also represented in the former intensive users of female workforce in Jutland and Funen. Still the explanation is related to the type of jobs available, i.e. the service sector and the knowledge related economic activities, but also connected to more traditional industrial activities. The men are still much more dispersed – to some extend still choosing the larger settlements due to the number of jobs available, but dispersed due to the need of unskilled and technical skilled labour force in medium sized towns and rural areas.



CONTEXT: The regional structures of settling of immigrants from Lithuania show the same gender context as those from Estonia and Latvia, but even with more clear patterns. The women has first and foremost chosen to settle in Copenhagen but to some extend also represented in the former intensive users of female workforce in Jutland and Funen. Still the explanation is related to the type of jobs available, i.e. the service sector and the knowledge related economic activities, but also connected to more traditional industrial activities. The men are still much more dispersed – to some extend still choosing the Copenhagen area due to the number of jobs available in connection with building and construction activities, but dispersed due to the need of unskilled and technical skilled labour force in medium sized towns and rural areas.

Drivers of social integration

- Language: level of language proficiency – earlier on-the-job but increasingly due to integration in the communities (facilitated by the socialisation of children);
- Education/skills: from former overqualified-underemployed-underpaid to situations where the skills and qualifications has been increasingly accepted. Not the least due to accepting the requirements from Danish unions;
- Political and civic participation: from very low to more openly engaged in local communities;
- Social mobility: from very low to higher level of mobility, especially in connection with the establishing of family structures in the communities;



CONTEXT: Changes in the process of social integration

Drivers of social integration

- Culture/gender: prejudgements and stereotypes of ethnic groups, and this partly coloured by the first decade of experiencing "visitors" from the Baltic countries – but in contrary to stereotypes connected to immigrants from other parts of the world the belonging of Baltic immigrants to the same cultural background as Danes makes it easier to accommodate to the local communities in Denmark;
- Social exclusion: low access to social relations and institutions during the first decade, but slowly moving into a second stage with higher level of inclusion especially due to the upcoming of a second generation of immigrants, and the emergence of a functional diaspora.

CONTEXT: Changes in the process of social integration

Thank you very much

FAMILY AND MIGRATION IN THE BALTIC-NORDIC REGION: CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS

21 November 2014, Parliament of the Republic of Lithuania, Gedimino av.
53, Vilnius

Emigration, return migration and immigration in Latvia: current trends and family support policies to different migrant groups

Inese Šūpule, Dr.sc.soc

Institute of Philosophy and Sociology, University of Latvia

IEGULDĪJUMS TAVĀ NĀKOTNĒ



**LATVIJAS
UNIVERSITĀTE**
ANNO 1919

research project "The emigrant communities of Latvia:
National identity, transnational relations, and diaspora
politics" Nr.

Nr. 2013/0055/1DP/1.1.1.2.0/13/APIA/VIAA/040

The scope of the problem of depopulation and emigration in Latvia

- In the time period from the beginning of the 1990s till 2013 the number of inhabitants has decreased by approximately **645 thousands or 24%**, including the decrease of almost 360 thousands from years 2000 till 2013.

The scope of the problem of depopulation and emigration in Latvia

- The causes of depopulation are **low birth rate** and **long-term emigration**.
- **More than a half** of the total population decrease can be attributed to the negative net migration during the last 20 years, and **it has negatively affected age structure of the population**.
- The major decrease of the population due to emigration has been in **the economically more active age groups**.

Loss of population due to emigration in Baltic states (2000-2012)

- Latvia – 10%
- Lithuania – 12%
- Estonia – 8,5%

(Data source: calculations of prof. Mihails Hazans)

Effects of emigration

- During the financial and economic crises 2009-2011 the emigration had a **positive short-term impact** in Latvia - remittances, safety valve for poor employment opportunities in times of crisis.
- However, in a **long-term perspective** emigration may **endanger Latvia' economic development**. Depopulation may cause a deficit of local labour force and a decrease of competitiveness, and consequently also a decrease of investment and the growth of GDP.
- **Currently emigration from Latvia still continues as it is fostered by wage gap and differences in social security and welfare levels, as well as by the emergence of powerful migration social networks.**

Return migration

- Very difficult to estimate
- Return migration and repeated emigration
- Identified as the most important process to be fostered in a long-term perspective in Latvia
- *“Return migration Support Plan 2013-2016”* – was approved by the Cabinet of Ministers in July 30, 2013.

Immigration

- On 1 January 2014 valid temporary residence permits hold **23,857** persons,
of which 35% were citizens of the EU or EEA countries (8466 persons),
while 35% were citizens of Russian Federation (8405 persons), and 8% were citizens of Ukraine.
- *Source: OCMA data on 1.01.2014.*

Family policy target groups in the context of migration

- Latvian emigrants (about 250 000 people)
- Return migrants (difficult to estimate, 492 school children)
- Immigrants (about 24 000 people)
- Permanent residents of Latvia (about 2 millions), among them – children who's parents are working abroad - about 4000

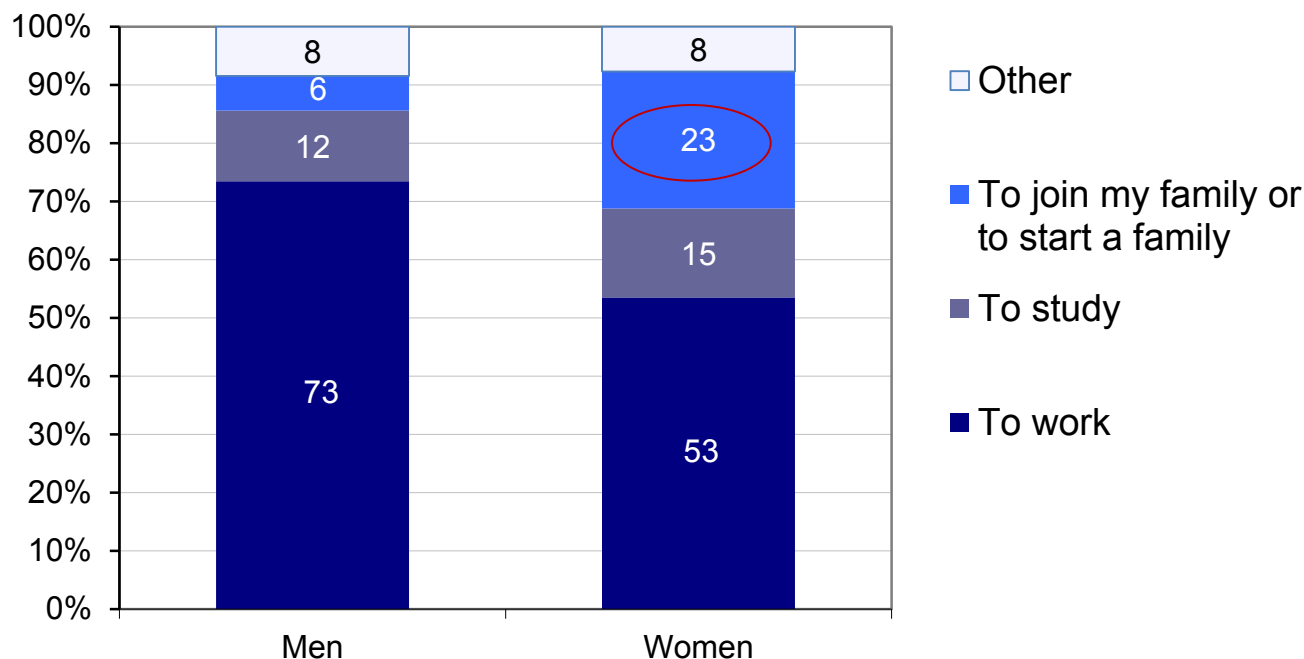
Families with children: a group at risk of poverty and social exclusion in Latvia

- Total number of children: 374 336 (2012)
- 19,8% of them are children with the poor person status (income below 128,08 EUR per month per person)
- Euro orphans - children with one or both parents emigrated

Euro orphans

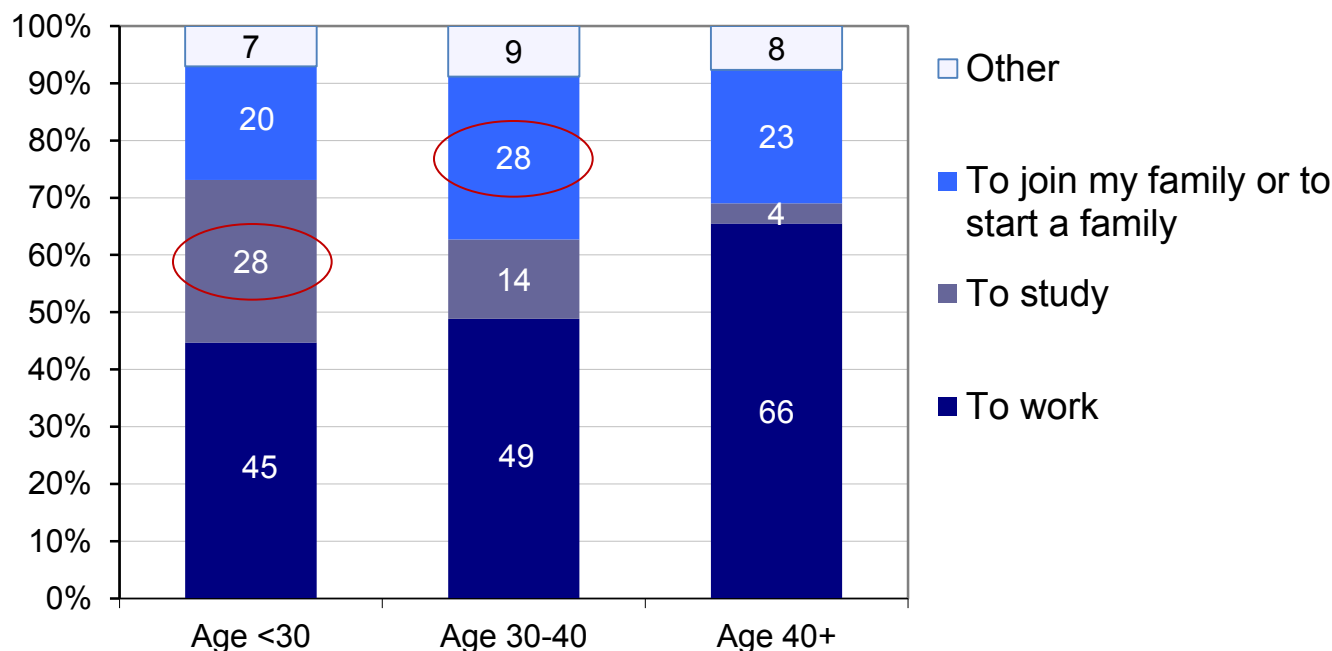
- 35.2% of emigrant women have children
- For 27.6% of them, a child lives in Latvia
- Leaving children in Latvia is much more common for men (44.3%) than women (18.8%).
- Data source: ESF project «**The emigrant communities of Latvia: National identity, transnational relations, and diaspora politics**». 14 553 interviews of Latvian emigrants age 15+. Method: Web-survey. Time of the fieldwork: August 4th till October 30 2014. More information: www.migracija.lv

The aim of emigration



- Data source: ESF project «**The emigrant communities of Latvia: National identity, transnational relations, and diaspora politics**». 14 553 interviews of Latvian emigrants age 15+. Method: Web-survey. Time of the fieldwork: August 4th till October 30 2014. More information: www.migracija.lv

Age differences



- Data source: ESF project «**The emigrant communities of Latvia: National identity, transnational relations, and diaspora politics**». 14 553 interviews of Latvian emigrants age 15+. Method: Web-survey. Time of the fieldwork: August 4th till October 30 2014. More information: www.migracija.lv

Family support policy to emigrants

- On 17 July 2014, a draft **Action Plan on Cooperation with the Latvian Diaspora for 2015-2017** was announced at the weekly Cabinet of Minister's meeting of State Secretaries. The Action Plan was produced by the Diaspora Policy Working Group led by **the Foreign Ministry** in conjunction with the Ministry of Culture.
- Support for maintaining national identity and Latvian language
- *There are about 100 Latvian week-end schools abroad, mostly in UK ; they receive a certain financial support and teaching materials. In 2013, 36 schools received a financial support in competition, in 2014 – 20 schools.*

Family support policy to return migrants

- *“Return Migration Support Plan 2013-2016”* – was approved by the Cabinet of Ministers in July 30, 2013.
- Too early to talk about any achieved goals and functionality of initiated return policy, but the weak points, which could be mentioned already, are:

The failure to budget sufficient resources for implementation of return policy in 2014: for the year 2014 **199,202 EUR** were allocated for the implementation of the Plan instead of **1,092,339 EUR**.

The responsibility of return policy is **very diffuse** – very many ministries are involved in the implementation of the Plan, and in the case of Latvia, this might appear to be a crucial aspect.

Main actions envisaged in the “Return migration Support Plan 2013-2016”

- 1) Ensuring „one-stop agency” principle – single agency that provides information and consultations on matters regarding moving to or residing in Latvia, among them – from distance;
- 2) Availability of labor market information – establishing effective two-way communication mechanism that would ensure that abroad living Latvian nationals receive employer information on necessary professionals/ vacancies, trainees.
- 3) Attracting a highly qualified labor force – the state and EU funding for entrepreneurs to attract necessary high qualified professionals as well as to promote returning of high qualified youth with education obtained abroad; reviewed requirements and list of professions that can apply for repayment of tuition fee loans.
- 4) Learning Latvian language – support for learning Latvian after returning to Latvia for all family members of Latvian nationals.
- 5) Cooperation with diaspora, particularly in establishing and maintaining business ties – activities for informing diaspora on current events in Latvia and support for entrepreneurs, consultations on starting a business and so on.
- 6) Support for schoolchildren who return, to introduce to the Latvian education system and support to their parents – improvement and broadening of existing support mechanism.
- 7) The requirements in respect of personnel selection – state institutions or joint stock companies need to review how justified are the requirements for applicants.
- 8) Expanding the ranks of people eligible for the status of a repatriate – in order to give rights to the status of a repatriate and according support to those persons, who left country after May 4, 1990 and have lived abroad at least 10 years.

Returning school children 2013/2014 (data of Ministry of Education and Science)

- **492 pupils**, among them 283 (58%) have attended schools in Latvia before emigration, but 209 (42%) have not attended schools in Latvia.
- 83,7 % of pupils, who have attended schools in Latvia before emigration, study in the grade corresponding to their age, 16,2 % do not.
- 76,5 % of pupils, who have not attended schools in Latvia before emigration, study in the grade corresponding to their age, 23,4 % – do not.

Returning school children

- Support measures for one semester, additional consultations
- Individual plan how to adapt
- Closer cooperation with parents
- Support from social worker and/or psychologist (or other support personnel) at school to integrate
- There are courses for teachers how to work with schools children returned from abroad
- Latvian language learning resources free of charge available on webpage of Latvian language agency

Immigration

- **European Fund for the Integration of Third-Country Nationals** – main financial source, not effectively administered in Latvia (lack of administrative capacity)
- Project approach in support, a number of good, but short term projects (2-6 months projects, including integration and language courses, including also support to families)
- 894 school children with citizenship of other countries, certain support at school level, lack of comprehensive information

Family support policy to different migrant groups

- In general it has little real material impact on people as it allocates no tangible advantages or disadvantages.
- Main focus is on Latvian language acquisition and support to adaptation of school children.

Conclusions: good practices

In Latvia in general:

- 1) pre-school education free of charge, although there are problems to provide it in Riga (not enough pre-school institutions). Parents are obliged only to pay for catering (about 1,70 EUR per day). For children with the poor person status – a reduced fee or no fee for catering, depending on particular policy of municipality.
- 2) 1-3 grade at school – hot meal free of charge (for all). For children with the poor person status - hot meal free of charge.
- 3) Books and workbooks are provided by school or pre-school education institutions, no additional costs.
- 4) Interest education (informal education, sports) is available in educational institutions free of charge or with a reduced fee (but not everything, limited choice).
- 5) Comparably good social benefits until child is 1,5 years old: child birth benefit, child care benefit and parents' benefit; lack of sufficient support later.
- 6) Public transport – free of charge for children in particular municipality

Conclusions: problems

In Latvia in general:

- Insufficient number of social workers in local governments
- Social workers have too much work, not enough time to work with families
- Support mostly in cases of crisis, not before
- Lack of financial resources
- Lack of inter-institutional cooperation

Emigration, return migration and immigration in Latvia: current trends and family support policies to different migrant groups

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NORWEGIAN MINISTRY OF CHILDREN,
EQUALITY AND SOCIAL INCLUSION

Migrant integration and the Child Welfare Service in Norway

Oddbjørn Hauge

International conference, Vilnius 21.11.14

The Child Welfare Act

- Applies to all children in Norway, regardless of their cultural background, nationality or citizenship
- Follows the principles of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child
- The best interest of the child
- The child's right to care and protection

The Child Welfare Service

- Zero tolerance for violence
- Ensure adequate care, security and opportunities for personal development for children and young people
- Support at home is the preferred solution



The child welfare system

- Child welfare cases are handled by the child welfare services in the municipalities
 - They cannot be instructed by the Ministry
- The County Governor inspects the work of the child welfare services
 - Provides guidance to parents
 - Receive complaints from parents

Voluntarily assistive measures

- 2012: 53.000 children received measures from the Child Welfare Service
- 8 out of 10 cases: voluntarily assistive measures at home
 - Guidance on parental practices
 - Kindergarten
 - Support person for the child
 - Leisure activities
 - Economic aid
 - Etc.



Alternative care

- A care order can only be decided if
 - A child suffers severe neglect and cannot be safeguarded at home
 - It is considered necessary due to the child's situation
 - It is in the best interest of the child
- Constitute 17 percent of all child welfare measures
- Strict legal requirements must be fulfilled

The County Social Welfare Board

- Decides on a care order
- Independent and impartial decision-making body
 - Cannot be instructed by other entities, including the Government
- Decides after a careful consideration of all the relevant aspects of the case

Legal rights

- Parents and children over 15 years of age are parties to a child welfare case
- They have a right to
 - Free legal counsel
 - Be heard
 - Bring witnesses
 - Appeal the Board's decision

Foster home

- Most children, who cannot live with their parents, are placed in a foster home
- A foster home is based on the child's
 - Personality and individual needs
 - Religious, cultural and linguistic background
- Challenges in recruitment



Minority groups

- Children from minority groups shall never be assessed or treated differently from other children
- A child's cultural background and the family's status of residence is taken into account when decisions are being made



Information

- Many have insufficient knowledge about the Child Welfare Services
- Information and dialogue is important
 - Information in different languages
 - Meetings with foreign embassies
 - New webpage



International agreements and conventions

- Child welfare cases cannot be solved through bilateral agreements between states
- Foreign embassies cannot be parties to a child welfare case
- Norway works to ratify the Hague Convention of 1996



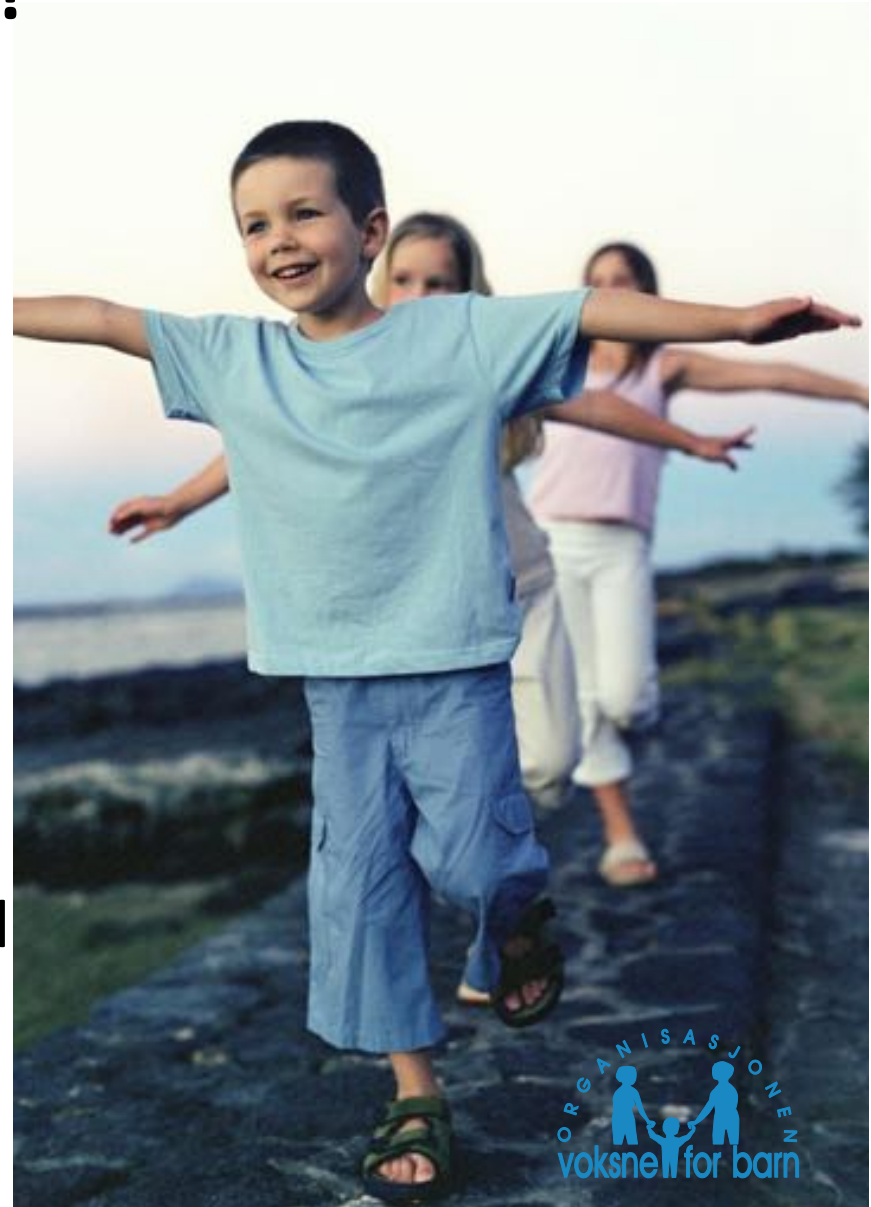
Voksne for Barn

Raising children in Norway
Vilnius 21 November 2014
Secretary general Randi Talseth



Who are Voksne for Barn?

- Adults working for children's interest
- Ideal membership NGO
 - Ca 3000 members
 - 15 local units
 - 250 local ombudsmen for children's mental health
- Established 1960
- Working for children's mental health



Children's rights, Parenting practice, parents support and service

The relation between children and parents is regulated through «Barneloven» and above this again UN Convention for Children's rights

The balance between protection and involvement and autonomy

The law regulates the parents' duties and the children's rights



Important areas:

- This law states that it is illegal to maltreat a child physically or mentally (1987)
- The child has the right to have access to the parents after divorce (not the other way around)
- A child of seriously ill parents (somatically, mentally or substance abuse) have the right to get information and their situation assessed (2010), responsibility of the health personell

The parental role - developments

- From a paternalistic parental role to building confidence between parents and children
- A consequence of womens' liberation in the 70ties
- Big focus in the 80ties about the domestic violence, abuse and neglect
- A national parent guidance program in the 90ties – to learn the new parental role
- Helsestasjonene and helsesøster the main responsibility at the start of each childhood. Home visits just after birth

- More about developments

- Kindergartens for all children from 1 year old
- Kindergartens personell talks with the parents, can have a big influence and be supportive to parents



Some challenges

- **General lack of support for parents with teenagers**
 - **Lack of support; nothing between helsestasjon and the child protection service**
- **All services depend on the economy in each municipality**
- **The quality of the services are diverse**

What can be done to support immigrant families better?

- Establish an introduction parental program for immigrants in general not only asylumseekers
- Support to NGO's from both Norwegian community and immigrants' own org to give training courses – positive parenting
- Help lines, email support and chatting service – as Bekymringstjenesten we have already, expand to more languages

Make it easier to understand the Norwegian parental role – and remember

- **Give information about the child protection service and be sensitive to cultural differences**
- **Be clear about what is not accepted in the Norwegian society**
- **Be aware that the stories we hear – is often the voice of frightened parents- not the children that might be in need for help**
- **It takes time to change the parental role!**





bkc | bendruomeniu
kaitos centras







norden

Šiaurės ministrų tarybos
biuras Lietuvoje

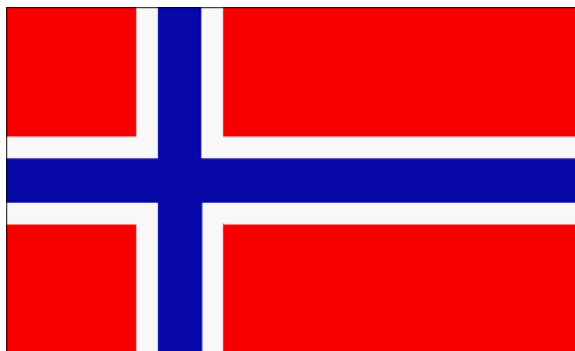
Helping Immigrant Communities to Protect Childrens' Rights



www.shutterstock.com - 217981798



bkc bendruomenių
kaitos centras



ORGANISASJONEN
voksne for barn

Ta barn på alvor!



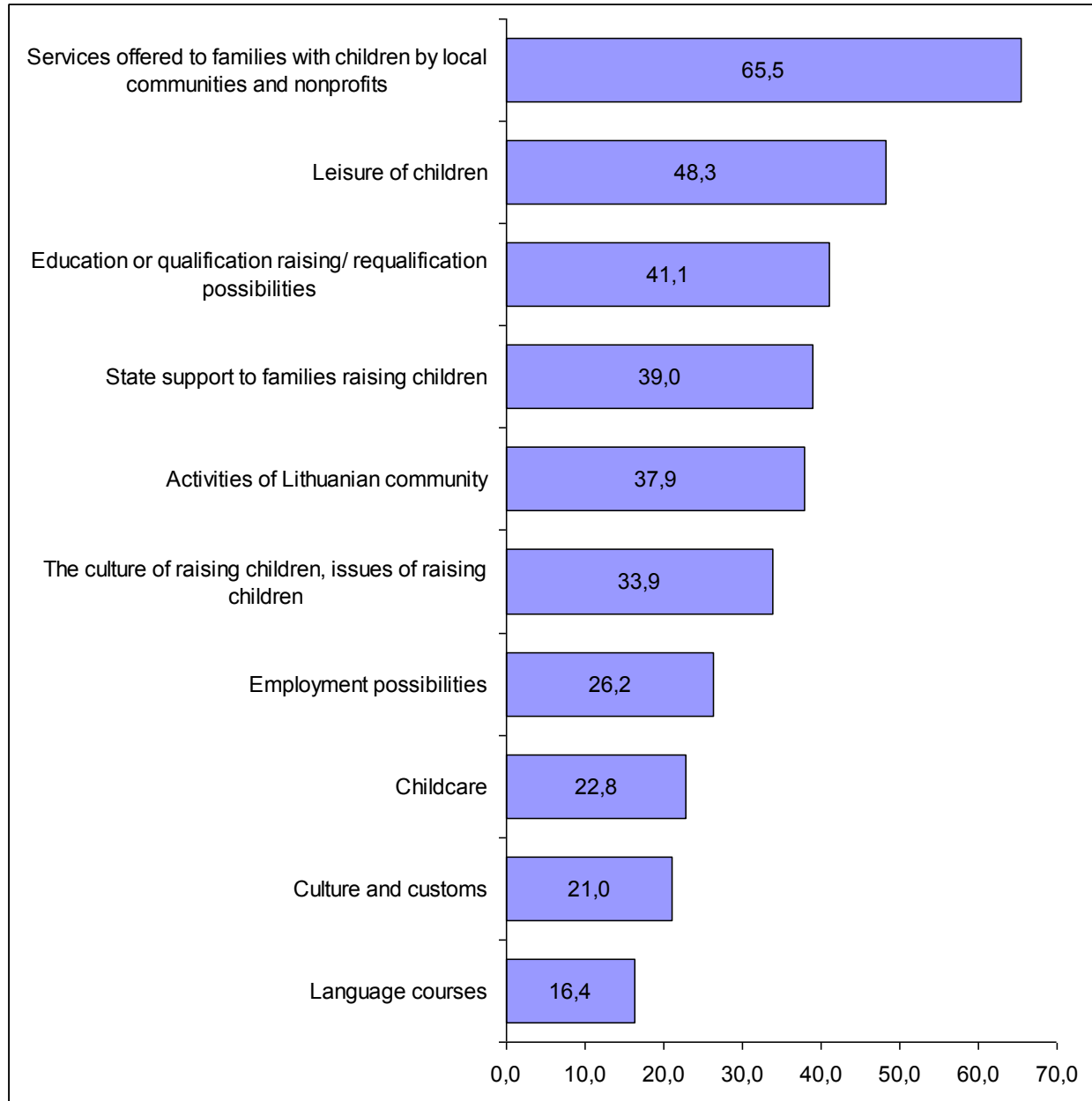
Areas of insufficient information

(by frequency of mentioning)

- residence permits, family reunion
- social support
- culture of raising children
- support for families raising children
- services provided by local communities and nonprofits



Areas of insufficient information (percentage)





ngoin.lt



- Laws and institutions securing immigrants' rights in Lithuania (state institutions)
- NGOs which have special programmes for immigrants' integration
- NGOs which can provide assistance as part as their regular activities
- Learning opportunities





- Support provided to emigrants by Lithuanian organisations
- Children's rights protection service (Barnevernet) in Norway - responsibility and principles of work
- Domestic violence and support to children in Norway
- How to communicate with nursery/ school in Norway
- Children's healthcare in Norway
- What does it mean to be a good parent in Norway







- 43 (72 %) respondents would like to take part in Lithuanian self-help groups for families raising children in Norway
- 51 (83,6%) would take part in informational events for Lithuanian families raising children in Norway



- *1/3 respondents interested in self-help groups, 1/2 - informational events for families*



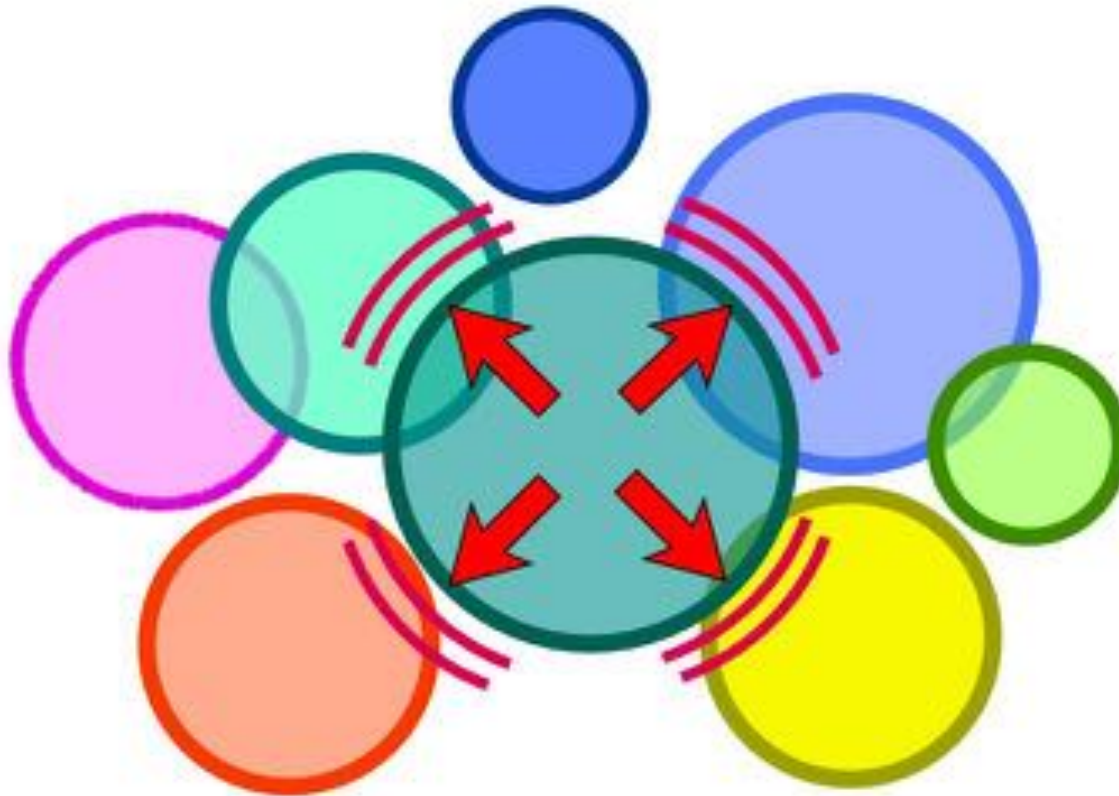






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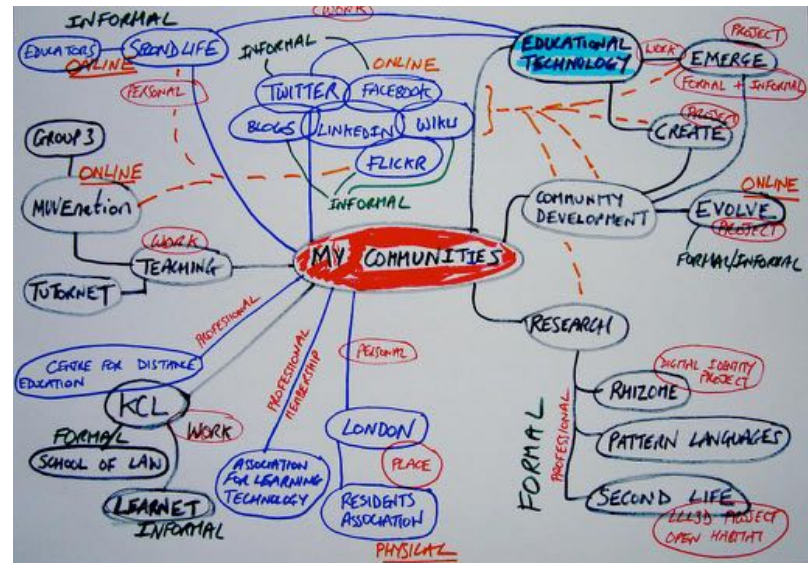
Perspective?





Challenge I – reach out to the families

+





*Challenge II – expand
cooperation*



Challenge III- mobilize resources





and more....

Thank you for attention!



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bkc@bkcentras.lt
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Paki Holvander

Head of Democracy and Diversity Strategies

2014-11-21

paki.holvander@sodertalje.se

What I will talk about today:

1. A brief presentation municipality of Södertälje .
2. How do we deal with integration in practice.
3. Social system in Sweden, how does it work in practice in a municipality?
4. How we protect children's right..

A brief presentation of municipality of Södertälje

- 92.000 inhabitants
- 49,5 % other ethnic background
- 85 different languages
- 130 nationalities
- Many different congregations

How do we deal with integration in practice?

Some facts: We have received more refugees from Iraq than US and Canada together!

Approximately more than 10 000 in since 2005. – ongoing

All municipalities in Sweden have to receive/accept children who seek asylum on their own - (4000/31). Next year 5000/ -

We started special classes – once a week for a period of time.

A real challenge! Why?

The government subsidizes the municipalities for two years, after that they are supposed to be able to support themselves.

In average: 5-7 years for a man and 7-10 years for women to get a job.

Approximately 20-25% able to support themselves after two years.

How do we deal with integration in practice?

- We don't ask where you come from! We ask: where are you going?
- Action Plans!
- Introduction.
- Last but not least – we cooperate.

Social system in Sweden – how does it work in a municipality?

- Every one survives!
- Right to have education, health care etc
- We pay taxes in order for our citizens to have equal opportunity in education, health care etc.
- We take our responsibility – refugees
- Human rights, including children's right

How we protect children's right?

- We are accountable!
- Max 18 – indicators
- Yearly report to our local government
- February 2015 – citizens dialog about children's right in our municipality
- Children's right in the first “room”, top priority.

Thank you for your attention!

Rapport 2007 från Handelshögskolan i Göteborg: "Sweden in the Creative Age (Richard Florida)"

..... Södertälje takes the first position.....it shows an interesting profile in terms of technological industry, innovation, and social diversity..... important assets for the future development of the area.





International conference

FAMILY AND MIGRATION IN THE BALTIC-NORDIC REGION: CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS

21 November 2014, Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania, Gedimino pr. 53, Vilnius

More information can be found at:

www.gebu.lt, www.norden.lt

