

Competition notice

PRELUDIUM BIS

Project title: Intercultural assistants as an instrument of integration policy: the case of the Polish educational system

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Project description

The research project's aim is to capture the role of intercultural assistants in the integration of children, youth, and families with migration experience. An "intercultural assistant" denotes someone who supports at school the education and integration of children and youth with a migration experience. A key skill of an assistant is the knowledge of the language of the pupil's country of origin. In Poland the legal basis to employ a teacher's assistant has existed since the 1st of October 2010. This institution (position) is based on the position of "Roma education assistant", which functions already since 2004. Intercultural assistants are employed on the basis of resources for administrative and help staff. They are not based on the Teacher's Charter. In the school year 2019/2020, 72 persons were employed [by schools] as teachers' assistants. In addition to this group, there are approximately 20 people in Poland employed through civil society projects. In sum, no more than 100 persons work as intercultural assistants in the Polish educational system.

The number of foreigners in Poland systematically increases. For over two decades the inflow of foreigners to Poland was relatively small, with temporary migration of circular character from Ukraine prevailing. By 2019 the number of Ukrainian nationals who had resident cards in Poland increased by 570%, as compared to 2013. According to the data by the Office of Foreigners on the 1st of January 2020, there were 422,438 foreigners with a residence permit in Poland. In the school year 2019/2020 there were 39,858 foreign children in Polish schools. A migrant child was a pupil in every third school in Poland. The need for a policy response to this situation is growing.

The main research question of the research project is: What is the role of intercultural assistants in the integration of children, youth, and families with migration experience? The role of an assistant was until now rarely the topic of systematic scientific research. The majority of information comes from the expertise and experience of the intercultural assistants and non-governmental organizations cooperating with schools, in which children with migration study. The proposed project will fill this research gap and contribute to the social policy studies and migration studies by: (1) Contributing to the debate on the role of local communities and their institutions (ie. schools) in the process of integration. (2) Contributing to the debate on the multi-level governance of integration policy by focusing on the relations between national policy, local governments policies, the involvement of civic organizations, and the use of the European funds. Creating a preliminary qualitative and explorative study as the starting point for future in-depth quantitative policy research concerning the foreign students in Poland's educational system.

In the project, the mixed methods will be used. The desk research (analysis of existing data produced by state agencies) will be combined with qualitative field research (participant observation, in-depth interviews, and focus group interviews). On the basis of two purposively selected schools, a case studies analysis will be conducted. The interviews will be conducted with intercultural assistants from various schools in Poland in order to learn about the conditions of their work and their experiences at implementing the integration policy at its frontline.

Requirement

The call is open to all those who are not PhD holders and are not students at the doctoral schools.

- Experience in conducting qualitative field research
- Very good spoken and written English language competence
- Documented experience in previous migration research interests (publication, or participation in a conference, or MA thesis)
- Experience of work in an organization (state agency, or non-governmental organization, school) dealing with migrants or ethnic minorities.

Discipline: sociology

Admission limit: 1

Recruitment schedule

- registration in the Internet Registration of Candidates, referred to as "IRK", submitting an application to the IRK: from 6.08 to 25.08.2021
- qualification procedure: from 30.08 to 7.09.2021
- announcement of the ranking list: to 9.09.2021
- accepting documents from qualified candidates: from 13.09 to 23.09.2021
- announcement of the list of accepted candidates: to 28.09.2021

Recruitment fee

150 PLN

Form of the selection procedure

Evaluation of the following elements shall be taken into account in the selection process:

- 1) scientific activity of the candidate based on a CV or resumé, documented with scans of materials attached to the application for admission to the School;
- 2) interview with the candidate / qualification examination
- 3) other achievements.

Language of the selection process, including the interview

The interview shall be carried out in Polish or English – in accordance with the candidate's preferences presented in IRK. If Polish language is selected, the interview may include parts in English.

Required documents

The candidate shall submit the School admission application only through the IRK. The application shall include the following:

- 1) indication of the selected discipline in which the candidate plans to pursue education. Paying the required recruitment fee and submission of a complete recruitment application via the Internet Recruitment of Candidates (IRK) is tantamount to submitting an application for admission to the Doctoral School chosen by the candidate;
- 2) a scan of the graduation diploma of long-cycle Master's degree or postgraduate studies or an equivalent diploma obtained under separate regulations. In the case of a diploma equivalent to a long – cycle Master's degree or postgraduate studies graduation diploma, a candidate shall justify such equivalence. In case the diploma was issued in a language other than Polish or English, the candidate shall attach its certified translation;
- 3) a resume or CV outlining the candidate's scientific activity, including scholarly interests and achievements during the five calendar years preceding the application (if a candidate became a parent during this time, as evidenced by a scan of the child's birth certificate attached to the application, this period shall be extended by two years for each child), including, but not limited to:
 - publications,
 - research and organizational work at student research groups,
 - participation in scientific conferences,
 - participation in research projects,
 - awards and honorable mentions,
 - research internships,
 - research skills training programs completed,
 - activities promoting science,
 - activity in science movement representative bodies,
 - average of their university grades,
 - professional career,
 - level of proficiency in foreign languages;
- 4) scans of materials evidencing scientific activity mentioned in their CV and/or resume;
- 5) motivation letter justifying the candidates skills to be the key investigator in this project;
- 6) declaration of the level of proficiency in English allowing the participation in the learning process at the doctoral school;
- 7) the scan of a declaration by the planned supervisor, confirming their agreement to undertake the duties of a supervisor and of the number of doctoral students, for whom they perform the duties a designated supervisor, in accordance with the template constituting Appendix no.4 to the announcement no. 6 of the Rector of University of Warsaw dated 20. May 2021, on the uniform text of Resolution No. 17 of the Senate of the University of Warsaw of 20 January 2021 concerning the rules of admission to doctoral schools at the University of Warsaw (the University of Warsaw Monitor of 2021, item 142), the candidate may also attach a scan of their planned supervisor's opinion and opinions of other academics about the candidate and their scientific activity and/or proposed research project;
- 8) the candidate's photograph (visible face that allows for his/her identification);
- 9) a declaration confirming whether the candidate was or is a doctoral student or a participant of doctoral studies or whether they have initiated a doctoral dissertation process or whether proceedings to award them a doctoral degree have been initiated – and if yes, the title of their

doctoral dissertation or the research project prepared by a candidate, including the name and last name of the candidate's tutor or supervisor;

- 10) a declaration confirming that they have reviewed the announcement no. 6 of the Rector of University of Warsaw dated 20. May 2021, on the uniform text of Resolution No. 17 of the Senate of the University of Warsaw of 20 January 2021 concerning the rules of admission to doctoral schools at the University of Warsaw (the University of Warsaw Monitor of 2021, item 142) and Articles 40 and 41 of the Code of Administrative Procedure;

Evaluation criteria

- a) competencies to perform specific tasks in a research project (70% of the final score)
- 3 points - very good
 - 2 points – good
 - 1 point – poor
 - 0 points - no competencies
- b) publication track record, including publications in renowned scientific papers / magazines (30% of the final score)
- 4 points – prominent
 - 3 points - very good
 - 2 points – good
 - 1 point – poor
 - 0 points - no publication track record

Education program

The education lasts 4 years. It includes obligatory classes (no more than 360 hours in total during the whole period of education and the implementation of an individual research program carried out under the supervision of a supervisor. Beginning of education – October 1, 2021.

Scholarships

PRELUDIUM BIS doctoral scholarships shall amount to:

- PLN 5,000 gross gross per month, by the month in which a PhD student's mid-term evaluation is performed at the doctoral school and
- PLN 6,000 gross gross per month, after the month in which a PhD student's mid-term evaluation is performed at the doctoral school and

shall be awarded pursuant to the Act on Higher Education and Science of 20 July 2018.