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**Active Civic Participation
of Immigrants in
the Czech Republic**

POLITIS – a European research project

Project information

POLITIS is short for a research project with the full title: Building Europe with New Citizens? An Inquiry into the Civic Participation of Naturalised Citizens and Foreign Residents in 25 Countries. The European Commission funds the project that mainly seeks to improve our understanding of different factors that promote or inhibit active civic participation of immigrants. A unique project construction is developed that includes workshops with foreign-born students who are recruited as discussants and interviewers. National experts in all 25 EU countries have prepared country reports on the contextual conditions and state of research concerning civic participation of immigrants. These reports can be downloaded from www.uni-oldenburg.de/politis-europe

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Abstract

This report examines the issue of civic and political participation of immigrants in the Czech Republic by describing and analysing the processes of ethnic community formation and by locating structural opportunities for their participation on democratic process.

In the early 1990's the Czech Republic along with other countries of Central and Eastern Europe became part of a buffer zone of international migration. The turbulent developments of migration in the Czech Republic which have become visible since the beginning of the 1990s along with the EU pressure created a need to draft and implement a migration policy and regulative and control mechanisms. Democratisation and liberalisation of political and economic relations brought about a relatively free movement of persons. In a rather short period of time, especially in the mid-1990s, when the migration legislation and practice were liberal and the economic relations favoured immigration, many foreigners came to the Czech Republic to work. There was a preference for short-term, temporary migration of workers into specific segments of the economy. From mid 90s., the Czech Republic has increasingly become a target country for immigration rather than a country of transit migration. This development generates a need to create a comprehensive policy of integration of foreigners. Social inclusion of immigrants has become one of the main issues of migration in the Czech Republic.

The total number of foreigners legally residing in the Czech Republic is 252.120 (as of 30/6/2003), which is approximately 2.5% of the total figure of population of the Czech Republic. One third of these are foreigners living in the Czech Republic on the basis of family reunification; two thirds are typical economic migrants. Estimates of figures of illegal migrants vary between 100.000 and 200.000 individuals. The largest groups of migrants are citizens of Ukraine, Slovakia, Vietnam, Poland, and Russia. Statistical figures of migrants from countries of the Balkans or Caucasus regions are also visible, as well as from Belarus, Moldova, the United Kingdom, USA and Germany.

In the Czech Republic is lack of research directed specifically on civic participation of immigrants and only recently results from some research projects targeting social inclusion of immigrants on a more general level have become available. Some particular results of researches (directed to description of ethnic communities of immigrants in CR) are useful for issue of civic participation.

Despite the considerable development in creating superstructural elements (legislation, administrative practice, government initiatives) on the central level of the state administration regarding the integration of foreigners, the implementation of declared policy has been characterized by considerable shortcomings. Civic participation of foreigners is lacking in practice although it has been declared as one of the aims of official state policy and conceptual documents of the Czech Republic such as the right to vote at the level of municipality administration. The fundamental limitation to the participation of immigrants is a lack of formalized institutional setting for the voicing of integration issues at the local and regional levels. De facto, concerns of foreigners have been defended by proxy by sympathetic NGOs and religious societies. On the individual level is remarkable participation of immigrants on life of the schools, which are attended by their children.

Policy makers are aware of the necessity of encouraging civic and political participation of immigrants and developing a sense of their belonging to the Czech society. Real obstacles to the implementation of this awareness lie in the lack of political will of representatives of the Czech Republic to promote civic rights of non-citizens which are commonly seen as undeserving.

Table of content:

Part I: Understanding the conditions for immigrant participation	7
1. History of Migration in the Czech Republic	7
1.1. Migration until 1990	
1.2. Migration after 1990	
1.3. Migration Policy of the Czech Republic	
1.4. Main immigrant´s groups in the Czech Republic	
1.5. Asylum policy of the Czech Republic	
1.6. Illegal migration	
1.7. State Citizenship	
2. Public discussion	18
3. Institutional framework for the participation of immigrants	19
3.1. Association of foreigners	
3.2. Political participation of foreigners	
3.3. Culture and Social Affairs	
Part II: Active Civic Participation of Third Country immigrants	25
1. Institutional setting: Hidden, closed or obstructed gates to the public space	27
2. Vietnamese cultural patterns changing in the Czech Republic	33
3. Chinese: Shaping of the youngest immigrant´s community in the ČR	38
4. Inclusion of former citizens of USSR or making of post-soviet underworld?	40
5. Prominent examples of immigrants active in public life	45
Part III: Conclusion	48
A. Main civic initiatives undertaken by immigrants	
B. Ethnic groups and nationalities	
C. The rate between civic participation of immigrants and the majority population	
D. Relation between organizations of migrants and of the mainstream society	
E. What issues do you consider to be of particular interest and importance in the field?	
F. Research gaps	
Annex 1: Mapping of Research Competences in the Czech Republic.....	52
1. Civic participation of immigrants	
2. Civic participation in general – leading institutions	
2. Immigration in general and particular – leading institutions	
Annex 2: Bibliography	56

Part I

Understanding the conditions for immigrant participation

1. History of Migration in the Czech Republic

1.1. Migration until 1990

Historically, international migration movements in the Czech lands since the historical Kingdom of Bohemia and the Moravian Margraviate have been marked by a preponderance of emigration over immigration. Between 1850 and 1914, in fact, the area occupied by the current Czech Republic experienced a net emigration of about 1.6 million inhabitants (Drbohlav 2004). The ratio of immigration to emigration has been changing abruptly since the turn of the 19th and 20th centuries.

The main migratory flows were directed to other parts of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, mostly to the capital of the monarchy – Vienna, and naturally to the United States and Canada. In the second half of the 19th century, peasant populations from southern and south-western Bohemia dominated emigrants from other regions. The most important motive for emigration was linked with economic factors in the broadest sense, due mostly to the unfavourable geography and climate, and to the scarcity of land. Emigration continued to dominate over immigration throughout the 1920s and 1930s, even after the establishment of Czechoslovakia. A significant inflow of immigrants was brought about by the so called "Russian action" organised and presided over by the Czechoslovakian state authorities. The aim of the action was to establish centres for political emigration from Russia, Ukraine and Belarus after the victory of the Bolsheviks in 1921 (Běloševská 1999).

Whilst socio-economic factors were crucial in promoting emigration until World War II, the situation began to change at the end of the 1930s, when political factors increasingly gained significance. The most evident example of how politics had become a determining factor in international migration trends is seen in the new geopolitical regime that arose in the aftermath of the World War II, which caused mass migration movements which impacted the whole of Europe.

After 1945, some 2,820,000 Germans were transferred and expelled from Czechoslovakia to Germany or Austria in three, organised as well as spontaneous, waves. Hence, in the post-war period the Czech part of Czechoslovakia had, from the point of view of ethnic composition, become a very homogeneous country: 94% of the population was Czechs.

International migration movements during the communist era in Czechoslovakia were very specific. Conforming with the governing regime, which in many aspects isolated pro-Soviet block countries from the rest of the world, meant that movements were far from "natural." Migration activities and trends suffered from a form of deformation and that they were, to a large extent, limited to illegal/ undocumented emigration.

Two important political events – the rise to power of the communists in 1948 and the Soviet army's occupation in 1968 - and their aftermath, caused two waves of emigration from Czechoslovakia. The 1970s and 1980s were also characterised by emigration. Political reasons for emigration were often intertwined with economic motives, for people were eager to find countries with higher standards of living. Most of these emigrants belonged to the

young and healthy segments of the population; many travelled with their families; most were economically active; their average age was 35; and the majority of them was skilled or semi-skilled, "blue collars". Czechoslovakia lost approximately some 420,000-440,000 people between 1948 and 1990 (Drbohlav 2004).

The Czech Republic (as part of the Czechoslovak Federation) did, however, also experience immigration. It occurred in the form of "individual" temporary workers who came within the framework of intergovernmental agreements drafted between Czechoslovakia and other socialist countries - within the so-called "international aid co-operation" schemes mainly involving Poland, Yugoslavia, Hungary, Cuba, Mongolia, Angola, and North Korea (Boušková 1998 in Drbohlav 2004). This immigration, similar to many other projects during the communist era, was tightly regulated. Very often the immigrants were segregated. They were not very visible and were confined to operate only within certain factories and/or locations (Drbohlav 2004). This scheme also involved Vietnamese, but many of them, in contrast to the other above mentioned workers, have formed de facto permanent settlements in the Czech Republic in the 90's. Apart from the Vietnamese workers, permanent immigration to the Czech Republic was rather marginal and politically motivated. The centre in Moscow and the representatives of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia were directing the migration flow of Greek civilians and pro-communist partisans to Czechoslovakia. The total number of them approximated to 14,000 (Otčenášek 2003). The immigrants were leaving the northern regions of Greece after the loss in the civil war (in 1949) under the assumption that they will soon return to Greece. However, they settled permanently in the Czech Republic.

The second group of migrants who created permanent settlements consisted of several thousand Bulgarians who were invited to occupy the abandoned areas of the Czech/German borderland in the 1940s (Otčenášek 1999). The resettlement program of abandoned areas of Czech Germans also included a semi-conducted immigration of Slovaks and the Slovakian Roma people in the 1940s and 50s.

1.2. Migration after 1990

The transfer of descendants of Czech immigrants and their family members from the Ukraine and Belarus started in 1991 and were completed at of 1993. A second wave of repatriation was provided between 1993 and 2001 from Kazakhstan. An inflow of foreigners from 3rd countries to the Czech Republic increased after the Velvet Revolution when the entry into the country was liberalized. The division of the Czechoslovak Federal Republic in 1993 occasioned a change of the context of migration. The majority of the Slovaks who had permanently settled in the Czech Republic were granted Czech citizenship (close to half of a million individuals). An agreement on free movement between the Czech and Slovak republics stimulated a new wave of immigration of Slovaks who established the biggest "allochthonous" group (permanently settled immigrants) in the Czech Republic (Drbohlav 2004). Emigration of Czechs to the countries of European Union, particularly Germany and the United Kingdom and to overseas countries was also significant, especially in the early 1990s. In 1992 and 1993 between 0.4 and 0.8 percent of the domestic labour force, 27 000 and 49 000 persons respectively, found seasonal or commuting jobs in Germany (Ibid.). The data collected in host countries reveal a rather low number of Czech citizens residing abroad soon after the year 2000 (OECD 2004). Based on statistics of the OECD Czech emigration into the EU countries appears to be one of the lowest in the 10 countries of the CEEC (OECD 2004). The period of transition in the Czech Republic was characterised by transit migration from Eastern Europe and Asia to the EU countries, with such consequences as the high figures of asylum seekers or the remarkable increase in illegal migration (see tables). The Czech Republic has gradually become the most exposed country in terms of immigration rates

in the region of the CEEC until 2000 (Wallace, Stola 2001; Drbohlav 2004; OECD 2004). Permanent immigration onto the territory of the Czech Republic has been gradually gaining in importance. Since 2000 the Czech government has been adopting strict measures to regulate international migration, but from 2001 the figures of nationals of the 3rd countries now residing in the Czech Republic have continued to increase.¹ The CR is attracted by several (pull) factors of immigration:

- A. **Economic transformation:** The Czech economy has continued to show demands for both skilled and unskilled labour mainly in the manufacturing and construction sectors (CSO 2001). The Czech Republic has had one of the highest incomes per capita in the region of CEE. Thus, imbalances between the labour market and income levels have become significant causes of migration in the country.
- B. **Geopolitical factors:** From the point of view of geography the Czech Republic and the GDR constitute the most western parts of the former Soviet empire. The border with Austria and Germany has been attracting transit migrants while the immediate prospect of integration into the EU has also played an important role in influencing the patterns of permanent immigration. The state of transition of the country has meant that old "colonial" interconnections and channels have continued to function, while simultaneously occurring processes have been establishing new connections with western Europe. This situation has determined the patterns of migration trends in the whole region of Central Europe.
- C. **Cultural reasons:** Immigrants from the former Soviet Union and Yugoslavia find in the Czech Republic a similar heritage of socialism which they are familiar with from their countries of origin. The issue of language barrier for immigrants from the above mentioned countries has been insignificant as the Russian language has remained highly useful and the different Slavic languages share many similar features which make them mutually understandable or at least easy to learn.

The context of international migration within Czech territory has to be seen as closely integrated into the European context. From a historical point of view, emigration trends were spurred in the 19th century by the processes of urbanisation and industrialisation. Emigration from Czech territory has been influenced and formed an integral part of the Holocaust and mass expulsions after the World War II affecting the whole continent. The disentangling of the "Iron curtain" has ended the patterns of international migration involving the illegal, continuous outflow of skilled young individuals escaping an oppressive regime or the directed and closely controlled immigration of workers. The Czech Republic had become a part of the eastern migratory "buffer zone" for the EU, together with Slovakia, Hungary and Poland, during the turbulent development of the last decade of the 20th century. The Czech Republic gradually becoming a new country of immigration, especially for people from the former socialist (second) world. For migrants from countries of the Far East, USA, South Asia is the Czech Republic still country of transit or temporary stay.

¹ For example the visa regime with countries such as Romania, Yugoslavia, Ukraine, Russia (and other countries of CIS). Than the Czech Republic pass to force restrictive amendments regarding to employment of foreigners.

1.3. Migration Policy of the Czech Republic

Czech migration policy and practice were more improvisational rather than conceptual during 90s. The Czech Republic came through the complicated process of the disintegration of Czechoslovakia and economic and political transformation. Thus, institutional bodies were occupied by different issues. The process of accession of the Czech Republic to the European Union gradually raised the clear objectives of Czech migration policy such as the combating of illegal migration; Asylum policy; and the harmonisation of migration policies with standards of countries in EU. Institutional and legal harmonisation between the Czech Republic and EU was a formative element of the Czech migration policy. Its "morphology" has graduated on the brink of the millennium. "At least until 1999 the policy had been concerned with measures within a more or less static model. Unambiguously, passive attitudes prevailed over active ones" (Drbohlav, 2004 pp.75). In January 2000 two key Acts came into force: Act No. 326/1999 Coll. [on Residence of Aliens in the Territory of the Czech Republic], and Act No. 325/1999 Coll. [on Asylum]. Both acts were changed by several amendments during last few years. In 2000 the implementation of migration policy was complemented by the regulation of visa policy according to standard regime in the EU countries (visa regimes with Ukraine, Russia and other countries of former USSR). Employment and entrepreneurial activities of foreigners are regulated by specific laws.

The political framework for the integration of foreigners in the Czech Republic was established by the "*Conception of the Integration of Foreigners*", a document that the Czech Government endorsed it on 11 December 2000. The Minister of the Interior was, until 2003, entrusted with co-ordinating and supervising activities aimed at achieving these aims, and an advisory body called the "Committee of the Ministry of Interior for the preparation and implementation of the policy of the government of the Czech Republic in the area of integration of foreigners and the inter-community development" (henceforth Committee) was established. Representatives of the Czech government's social partners, the civil sector, the academic community, and the territorial administration took part in the Committee. In accordance with the government's decision No. 126 of 11 February 2004, co-ordination of the implementation of the Conception was transferred to the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (MLSA); moreover, a MLSA Committee was formed. The ministries that took part in the Committee were charged with developing plans for integration policies for the period of

2004-2006 and materials for the "Situation Analysis and the Status of Foreigners" were developed. Even before 1 May 2004 (date of accession to the European Union), the Czech Republic had already accepted a number of harmonising legislative changes affecting both foreigners' residency conditions within its territory and the institutional framework for their integration.

Part of the Czech immigration policy is the pilot project "Active selection of qualified foreign workers". It is a recruitment instrument similar to the so called Quebec System. It supports foreign experts coming to the Czech Republic along with their families. It gives them an opportunity to obtain a permanent residence permit within a considerably shorter span of time than usual (2.5 years versus 10 years). The applicant has to be citizen of selected countries (Bulgaria, Belarus, Croatia, Kazakhstan, or Moldova) or graduates from universities and other tertiary education institutions in the Czech Republic irrespective of their nationality. Other conditions are: a valid visa for over 90 days for the purpose of employment or a long-term residence permit for the purpose of employment and work permit in the CR.

The Aliens Law provides for two regimes of residence of foreigners: 1/ Temporary residence 2/ permanent residence.

Temporary Residence: A short-term visa is: an exit order; a transit visa; an airport visa; a residence visa for up to 90 days; the "Unified Schengen Visa" (valid until a decision to cancel controls on Czech border is adopted). **A long-term visa under the Aliens Law is:** a residence visa for over 90 days; a tolerance visa.

Permanent residence is granted to recognized asylum seekers (according to Geneva Convention) or it is acquiring by foreigners after ten years of their continuous staying in the Czech Republic (details see in the Part II).

1.4. Main immigrants groups in the Czech Republic

The most favoured migratory destination is the capital city Prague (up 4% of total population) and the surrounding region. Important migratory destinations are regional capitals (Karlovy Vary, Brno, Plzeň, and Ostrava) (CSO 2003). Spatial distribution patterns of Poles and Slovaks reflect the borders of their mother countries to the east of the Czech Republic (Drbohlav 2004). Vietnamese are, besides Prague, concentrated in several districts of the western regions of the CR.²

Ukrainians: the circular migration of workers from Ukraine has proven to be the most dynamic and visible pattern of migration into the Czech Republic in the early 1990s. The figure of Ukrainian citizens residing in the Czech Republic has been dramatically increasing. It doubled each year between 1994 and 1996 when the Czech institutional authorities began to apply restrictive measures on the obtaining of working permits. In 1996, when visa applications were accepted for business reasons rather than for work, a new trend began. Since 1996 entry onto the Czech labour market was noticeably easier for migrants as shareholders of just formal entrepreneurial entities such as co-operatives, Ltd or trade companies. The trend of increasing population of Ukrainians continued between 1997 and 1999 - an increase from 43,402 to 65,883 persons. The decrease of Ukrainian citizens residing in the Czech Republic in 2000 was determined by the launch of a visa regime with Ukraine – along with Russia and Belarus. Source regions in Ukraine include rural and urban areas in the west of the country, but they have currently begun shifting to the eastern parts of Ukraine as well (Leontieva, 2004). The Ukrainians work mainly in construction industry, but a significantly growing percentage of Ukrainian women have started to work in manufacturing and agriculture (CSO, 2004). These workers periodically visit the Ukraine, once per year or more frequently. They usually use the income from the Czech Republic to increase their standards of living at home (Uherek, 2004). The pattern of circular migration of Ukrainians involves also illegal or quasi-legal regimes of migration, such as formal asylum requests. Drbohlav noticed a shift from circular migration to permanent immigration of Ukrainians (Drbohlav, Šelepová, 1999). Leontieva also describes trends of permanent settlement of Ukrainians in the Czech Republic (Leontieva, 2004), but these concern young skilled individuals such as IT professionals rather than families of unskilled workers. In any case, only 17% of Ukrainian citizens hold permits to permanent residence in the Czech Republic.

² Czech Statistical Office (CSO) collects data for migration from various resources. It determines variations of data's quality according to methodology of particular resources. For instance, data from the foreign born population is unavailable. These tables consist solely of data from foreign nationals. Figures are accessible at website: <http://www.czso.cz/ciz/cizinci.nsf> (in Czech).

Table No. 1: Foreigners in the Czech Republic – state at 30 June 2004. Top 15

Foreigners by country of citizenship and residence permit - 30 June 2004				
Citizenship	total	visa over 90 days	permanent	% of permanently resident
Armenia	1078	414	664	62%
Belarus	2794	1993	801	29%
Bulgaria	4298	2188	2110	49%
China	3170	2275	895	28%
Croatia	1877	621	1256	67%
Kazakhstan	1989	776	1213	61%
Macedonia	1022	570	452	44%
Moldova	3737	3235	502	13%
Mongolia	1798	1564	234	13%
Romania	2469	616	1853	75%
Russia	13399	8476	4923	37%
Serbia and Montenegro	3184	1264	1920	60%
Ukraine	70496	58503	11993	17%
USA	3116	1743	1373	44%
Vietnam	31501	13282	18219	58%
Total of foreigners	252 120	167 371	84 749	34%

Source: Directorate of Alien and Border Police, Ministry of the Interior

Vietnamese "temporary" workers and students have been staying in the Czech Republic despite the directive for temporary immigration of Vietnamese and the expensive programme of return provided by the Czechoslovak government early in the 90's (Tung, 2000). Moreover, Vietnamese from the former GDR, Vietnam and from CIS countries have found a profitable economic niche in the Czech Republic (Tung, 2000; Brouček, 2004; Kocourek 2004). They were pulled there by the market opportunities unleashed in the 1st half of the 90s by the hunger for consumer goods felt by the post-socialist society and by the cross-border trade with Germany and Austria. These entrepreneurs have preferred sundry trade of textile and consumption goods, tobacco products, alcohol and electronics which was concentrated on large market places located near the borders with Germany and Austria, as well as in the interior parts of the country. The number of Vietnamese has been increasing due to the high birth rate and illegal immigration into the Czech Republic. Due to admission of the Czech Republic into the European Union, the legislature has become more severe and at present more and more entrepreneurs have been subjected to controls made by the authorities of the Czech Republic during which all goods which do not comply with Czech standards are confiscated (Report on activity 2004).

Russian citizens represent a different type of foreign entrepreneurs in the Czech Republic. The number of Russian citizens has been constantly increasing, except in the year 2000, when a visa regime between Russia and the Czech Republic was put into place. The ethnic Russians who come to the Czech Republic are mostly economic elite or group from the higher middle strata of the Russian society, the so called "New Russians" (Černík, 2004; Drbohlav, Lupták,

1999). They are pulled by the political stability and the interesting environment for their investment. Their populations are concentrated in Prague and Karlovy Vary, a spa city in the western part of the Czech Republic, where they invest in hotel facilities and services. In Prague, Russian citizens established companies in the fields of IT and international trade and hotel facilities too (Černík, 2004). What is remarkable is the low rate of economically active individuals of all the Russians residing in the Czech Republic. Only 20% of them were economically active in 2003 (CSO, 2003). The Russian businesses a specific post-soviet "supra-ethnic" economy, which was bolstered the fact that investors usually prefer to employ former citizens of the USSR (Černík, 2004).

People from the Eastern Mediterranean in the Czech Republic: Among immigrants from the Balkan countries citizens of Bulgaria and Serbia and Montenegro, and groups from other countries of the former Yugoslavian federation - Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Macedonia, dominate. Migration from the former Yugoslavia started relatively early. People have been escaping the civil war and the consequent economic struggle characterising the first half of the 1990s. Many young and skilled people left Serbia because of their dissatisfaction with limited social mobility caused by the mafia-styled regime of Slobodan Milosevic and economic sanctions imposed by the United Nations (Otčenášek, 2002). People from the former Yugoslavia are economically well established (approximately half of them hold permanent resident permits); many of them are owners of pizzerias, cafes, and various fast food bistros. Some of them have begun enterprising in the field of tourism (Otčenášek, 2002). Immigration from Bulgaria has had the same character, except for the absence of civil war and the fact that economic activities of Bulgarians are concentrated in the field of international trade (Czech/Bulgarian export - import) and international transport (Otčenášek, 1999). A portion of immigrants from the Balkans is involved in illegal activities such as smuggling of people and narcotics, and human trafficking.

Chinese began coming to Czechoslovakia through Hungary in 1992 and 1993 (Obuchová, 2001; Moore - Mezlíková, 2003). The Czech Republic represented for them a terra incognita. For many of the settled Chinese, the Czech Republic became the first transition country in their plans of economic expansion to the rest of Europe. Many of the Chinese residing in the Czech Republic were already entrepreneurs engaged in international trade between China, Hungary and Russia. Their entrepreneurial plans in the Czech Republic were supported by local or regional companies or other organisations which were establishing a wholesale market for their goods (Moore-Mezlíková, 2003). One third of them held permanent resident permits. The number of Chinese citizens who settled in the Czech Republic was relatively stable and has been decreasing. The figures of illegal and asylum migration for the Chinese have been constantly on the rise because Central Europe has become an important transit zone on the Russian route to Western Europe. The involvement of illegal migrants and asylum seekers in the Chinese ethnic economy could be seen as an integral part of these developments (Obuchová, 2001).

1.5. Asylum policy of the Czech Republic

The Czech asylum procedure is regulated by Act No. 325/1999 Coll., on Asylum and on the Amendment No. 283/1991 on the Police of the Czech Republic, and by the amendment No.2/2002 Coll. to the Act No. 325/1999. This came into force in February 2002 in order to finalise the harmonisation of Czech asylum law with *acquis communautaire* and also it reacts to the common misuse of asylum procedure. The Ministry of Interior is the ruling institutional body in the 1st instance of procedure (the Asylum and Migration Policies Department). The Ministry issues the meritorious decision within ninety days after opening the procedure.

Table No. 2: Top 20 of the most frequent state nationalities of Asylum Seekers

Number of Asylum Seekers by Country of Citizenship and Years - 1990-2003 (31.12.) and 2004 (31.8.)															
Citizenship	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Belarus	-	5	-	7	1	-	6	18	20	44	193	438	312	281	161
Bulgaria	168	586	82	1125	512	330	837	724	138	141	156	290	123	70	46
Yugoslavia	-	-	6	-	17	12	27	30	711	622	165	111	36	2	3
Moldova	-	-	9	2	9	7	8	30	33	98	784	2459	724	192	58
Romania	1080	656	78	60	58	490	693	159	27	124	510	1848	98	52	20
Russia	-	67	80	21	28	44	50	34	61	245	623	642	629	4852	1350
Slovakia	-	-	-	2	2	4	3	19	6	13	723	389	843	1055	103
Ukraine	2	61	36	30	34	43	36	50	43	94	1145	4419	1676	2043	1133
Afghanistan	9	56	28	32	78	107	133	268	1260	2312	1121	356	27	51	9
Armenia	-	4	163	733	160	60	55	42	78	34	274	1019	452	49	46
China	1	1	5	-	-	1	-	1	1	203	259	317	511	854	215
Georgia	-	8	12	15	27	7	13	2	17	10	103	1290	678	319	181
India	-	1	-	1	-	6	-	13	297	887	646	1305	364	167	43
Iraq	9	57	14	15	22	80	88	283	315	346	127	296	201	105	24
Pakistan	5	1	-	-	-	1	-	11	76	223	94	70	19	11	12
Sri Lanka	-	8	5	-	16	29	5	89	368	900	355	146	32	14	-
Turkey	16	27	22	1	8	3	15	1	11	109	90	58	31	12	18
Vietnam	8	56	133	23	-	9	7	23	6	34	586	1525	891	566	266
Algeria	-	-	-	3	10	3	11	66	91	105	112	127	73	67	22
Nigeria	29	35	-	4	17	10	12	22	94	68	28	40	34	38	26
stateless	1	1	12	6	6	20	24	16	22	38	22	67	132	58	32
Total	1602	2226	841	2207	1187	1417	2211	2109	4085	7220	8788	18094	8484	11400	4123

Source: Ministry of the Interior

Data are available at 31.12. for each year,

only for year 2004 are data at 31.08

The number of asylum seekers remained stable through 1997. Up until then, each year asylum was requested by approximately 2000 applicants. Since 1997, the figure increased rapidly and reached its peak in 2001 (more than 18 000).³ Since February 2002, when the amendment to the Act on Asylum entered into force, the number of applications fell by approximately 50 percent. Actually (November 2004) 1605 persons had obtained asylum in the Czech Republic until November 2004 (Data of Ministry of Interior). They are groups which include in particular people from the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. As regards to nationality, the majority of asylum applicants in recent years came from the Ukraine, then from Vietnam, Slovakia, Moldova, Georgia and Russia, China and Armenia (see Table No. 2). The majority

³ The Czech Republic had become ninth country in Europe in number of asylum seekers and eleventh in the world at 2001.

of applicants are middle-aged men without families. This is true especially for citizens of the Ukraine, Moldova and Vietnam.

The asylum procedure was a popular channel for the legalisation of stay and work in the CR for labour migrants namely from former USSR (mostly from Ukraine). The second factor which increased the number of asylum seekers in the CR was transit migration to Western Europe. Since 1998 there has been an increasingly growing number of arbitrary exiting by seekers of this procedure. Some of these people were concurrently captured at the border with Austria or Germany. Actually, asylum seekers are the most significant group of captured illegal migrants (see Table No. 2).⁴ Results of directed research include individual cases of misuse the Czech asylum procedure by traffickers or smugglers of human beings (Uherek, Skřivánková, Weinerová, 2003).

The above mentioned amendment (No.2/2002) regulates the right to work for seekers, which is allowed only after one year of the beginning of the procedure. The important innovation of asylum policy was the institution of unsubstantiated requests and the following appropriate elevated asylum procedures. "Furthermore, conditions under which social subsidies were paid have become tougher and stricter conditions govern the registration of a stay outside the refugee centres as well" (Drbohlav, 2004 p. 47). The significant change in asylum procedure has come in force in January of 2003. Firstly, the entrance to Czech labour market is open for asylum seekers just after passing of one year of asylum procedure. Mentioned amendment conveys the second instance of decisions on asylum requests to regional courts. So far unsuccessful applicants have had the option to appeal to the High Court in Prague (until February 2002). Before this, it was a second instance decision provided by the Remonstrance Commission Unit at Ministry of Interior.⁵ Once the asylum seeker receives a negative decision from the regional court, he/she ceases to be an asylum seeker. Then, he/she could lodge a cassation complaint against the decision of regional court with the Supreme Administrative Court. He or she may obtain "a toleration stay" visa (if legal conditions are met). Czech NGOs are actively participating in Asylum procedure through free legal consulting for asylum seekers or by promoting social and psychological help in lodging and boarding centres.

Important parts of the Czech asylum policy are integration programmes for recognised refugees. It consists of an allocation system of "integration flats", lecturing of the Czech language, vocational training and other preparatory courses for everyday living in the Czech Republic. NGOs also participate in these integration programmes.

1.6. Illegal migration

Concept of illegal migration covers a set of activities tied to migration. Here it refers to cases of cross state borders illegally or a violating a legislative condition for an alien's stay in the country.

⁴ It recently regards to asylum seekers from Armenia, Georgia, China and Russia (Chechens)

⁵ The Commissions are still employed with appeals applied before February 2002.

Table No 3: Illegal migration

Illegal migration - by type of migration and top 10 of citizenship - 31.12.2003			
illegal crossing border		violation of residence rules	
Citizenship	Persons	Citizenship	Persons
Russia	2 912	Ukraine	17 020
China	2 152	Belarus	765
Poland	793	Vietnam	585
Germany	602	Moldova	405
Ukraine	575	Russia	361
Vietnam	550	China	275
Georgia	546	Slovakia	271
India	442	Latvia	223
Moldova	393	Romania	184
Slovakia	263	Bulgaria	152
Total of foreigners	11 125	Total of foreigners	21 350

Source: Police Headquarters CR

Illegal crossing of the state border, the most visible mode of illegal migration appears in the Czech Republic mostly in cases of exits from the territory to Austria (4,425 case in 2003) or Germany (Total cases 9,406). Incoming illegal migrants are crossing Czech-Slovak border (1,116 cases in 2003; total incoming cases is 3,800).⁶ Historical development of this issue in the Czech republic fosters the thesis of shift of the CR from position of transit country. While in the 1993 were revealed 43,302 cases of illegal crossing, in 2003 there were just 13,206 cases apprehended (Czech citizens included). The smuggling or trafficking of human beings are within the scope of organised crime in the Czech Republic. These illegal activities are concentrated on the border regions of Western Czech (for instance IKSP 2004).

Violation of regimes rules are cases registered by the Alien and Border Police of the Czech Republic staying in the country illegally. It includes cases of unauthorised stay in the Czech Republic or other violations of legislative condition of foreigner's stay here. Estimates of illegal migrants staying on the territory of Czech Republic vary between 100 000 to 200 000: "165 000 might be irregular migrants active on Czech labour market and some 30 000 their dependents" (Drbohlav 2004 IOM). Processes of *illegalization* of migrants are underresearched in the Czech Republic (see Part II).

1.7. State Citizenship

The naturalisation of foreigners is regulated by the Act on Acquiring and Losing Czech Citizenship (No. 40/1993). It does not allow for double citizenship apart from exceptional cases. In the Czech Republic, the legitimacy of children to acquire citizenship is governed by

⁶ All here mentioned data regarding to illegal crossing border (Table No. 3 include) are covering revealed cases of entries/exits of foreigners to/from the CR, including attempts. All the data are collected by Ministry of Interior (Statutory Report 2003).

the principle of "*ius sanguinis*" ("the right of blood"); i.e. the child's citizenship is determined according to the parents' citizenship (Čižinský, 2004). Czech citizenship law does not elaborate on the principle of "*ius soli*" (the acquisition of citizenship by birth on state's territory), which facilitates access to citizenship for a second generation of foreigners.

Table No. 4: Acquire Czech citizenship Acquisition of Czech citizenship on the basis of Act No. 40/1993. Top 15

Czech citizenship acquired: number, by previous citizenship - 1999 - 2003									
	1999	2000		2001		2002		2003	
Previous citizenship	Total	Total	incl.: Refugees	Total	incl.: Refugees	Total	incl.: Refugees	Total	incl.: Refugees
Total	7 309	6 436	86	4 499	40	3 125	16	2038	34
Armenia	40	36	28	20	9	8	2	18	7
Belarus	7	13	-	23	4	13	3	14	4
Bosnia i Hercegovina	10	22	11	18	5	20	3	47	5
Bulgaria	85	105	-	133	1	95	-	54	-
Yugoslavia	50	12	-	35	-	16	1	x	x
Kazakhstan	3	17	-	25	-	43	-	156	-
Cuba	29	30	1	23	-	26	1	12	1
Macedonia	16	18	-	28	-	18	2	21	-
Poland	23	8	-	163	-	304	-	170	-
Romania	47	68	10	142	2	109	2	116	-
Russia	104	74	3	87	-	65	-	7	1
Greece	45	26	-	38	-	19	-	26	-
Slovakia	6 278	5 377	-	3 378	-	2109	-	932	-
Ukraine	273	376	3	173	-	251	-	419	-
Vietnam	111	112	11	80	4	29	2	46	2

Source: Ministry of the Interior of the CR

There is no right to receive citizenship by the process of naturalisation. The foreigner can apply for Czech citizenship after five years of permanent residence in the Czech Republic. According the recent form of Alien law the permit for permanent residence status to foreigner can be granted as late as after ten years of residence under a long term visa. This results in a 15 year period preceding the application for requisition of citizenship. An applicant must have a clean criminal record for the past five years which requires that the applicant has not been convicted of a deliberate crime in the last five years.⁷ The applicant must prove that he/she has lost previous citizenship status or that he/she will certainly lose the same on acquiring

⁷ This requirement may be pardoned.

Czech citizenship.⁸ Additionally, knowledge of the Czech language is required.⁹ And the applicant must fulfil the conditions set by a number of legal prescriptions like the Act on the Residence of Aliens, Act on the Health Insurance, Act on the Social Insurance etc.

2. Public discussion

Recent public discussion on issues related to migration can be divided into four distinct categories: 1) Refugees, 2) Demographic decline of the autochthonous population of the Czech Republic and economic needs of the labour market, 3) Illegal aspects of migration, 4) Integration of foreigners. In the Czech media, commentaries and reports on international events relating to migration such as the crisis in Darfour, recent escalating of ethnic/religion tensions in the Netherlands or discussions over the wearing of headscarves in French schools have been emerging. The process of the construction of European asylum and immigration policy is also closely observed by several Czech journalists.

The issues of asylum seekers have been dominated migration themes since the beginning of the 2000s. Now the issue of asylum has become more distinguished from other migration themes in the Czech media. Many journalists commented on the influx of Chechen refugees from Poland that occurred in spring 2003. It represented the last mass flow of refugees into the Czech Republic, and it was preceded by an inflow of Georgian and Armenian asylum seekers. The war in Chechnya and its aftermath have become focal themes of several journalists. Relatively large-scale protests were organized in support of the Chechen refugees and against the war in Chechnya. The conveyance of asylum seekers in camps and local communities is constantly presented by media as a typical migration issue since of the beginning of the 1990s.

The Czech population is sensitive to issues of criminality or illegality which are associated with international migration. In the Czech media, cases of detection of bands of smugglers or gangs specializing in the trafficking of human beings have been publicized. As a result, police activities connected to these cases and presented in the media, particularly the Czech TV, have been generalized by the audience onto all illegal foreign workers. All types of organized crime committed by foreigners have been a highly rewarding topic for the media dating back to the early 90s. They helped to produced ethnic stereotypes of certain groups of immigrants in the Czech Republic. For instance, Albanian is depicted as a drug smuggler, Russian as mafioso, Ukrainian as illegal worker or Vietnamese as petty-trader (Karhanová, Kaderka, 2003). The latter group is the target of more detailed reporting; journalists are concerned with the transformations of the Vietnamese community and growing its second generation.

Both of the themes described above are tightly connected with issues of integration. For instance, the recent Czech president has started discussion on the question of "the rights for immigration", according to Kasper (Klaus, 2003; Kasper, 2002). Among the concrete issues of integration, the conditions of temporary workers from Ukraine in the Czech Republic have attracted the attention of media increasingly in the past two years. Journalists are concerned

⁸ This requirement could be pardoned under certain conditions.

⁹ This is proved by an interview at the office where the applicant files his/her application. The interview is about 30 minutes long, and it will be based on news articles given to the applicant: the applicant's ability to understand the text and to react adequately to additional questions will be assessed. The Ministry of Interior may pardon this requirement for "*reasons worth of special consideration*" (Čížinský, 2004).

with the cluster of mutually entangled problems. Firstly, they write about discriminatory behaviour of the Czech officials, especially of alien and border police. They also noticed several discriminatory features in Czech migration law. Secondly, the journalists perceived and described the difficult living conditions of temporary workers in the Czech Republic. Lastly, the media presented the dubious practice of organized crime which entailed exploitation and racketeering. In the context of these issues the voice of both main organisations of Ukrainians in the Czech Republic has played a remarkable role. All of these articles were written as appeals for the improvement of living and legal conditions of temporary workers in the Czech Republic.

In the same vein the *Pilot project Active Selection of Qualified Foreign Workforce* has started a public discussion on the necessity of the offset of the natural decline of population by immigration. The discussion is also focused on the discovery of the potential of immigration of skilled foreigners and on the necessities of the domestic labour market. The central issue of migration is the question to what degree can a decline of population due to low birth rate be balanced out by immigration. One of the most common answers to this question is the complaint that due to the highly discriminatory legal and institutional environment inhibiting migration in the Czech Republic, any plans to offset population decline by attracting new immigrants is wishful thinking. The above mentioned project has been complemented by a media campaign in which migration issues have been presented as issues for open public discussion.

In the year 2003 projects targeting the media were launched which demanded that "The image of foreigners" portrayed by journalists be improved and more balanced. One of the aims is also to inform the Czech public about the challenges and opportunities posed by migration, and thus to contribute to combating racism and xenophobia.

3. Institutional framework for the participation of immigrants

Civic participation of immigrants constitutes a new issue in the Czech Republic. It implies the creation of a set of features on the institutional level to tackle the situation. The Czech integration policy has been implemented since 2000, but the relatively short period of its implementation, among other factors, account for the salience of the gap still existing between policy and practice – of which the lack of civic and political participation of foreigners forms a part. The crucial document of the Czech Integration Policy "Concept of integration of foreigners on the territory of the CR" (henceforth Concept, 2000) gives attention to the political participation of foreigners.

At its base, the public administration has prepared political instruments (Concept 2000) fashioned on the model of the recommendations drawn by the Council of Europe or other international institutions. However, the process of implementing policy into practice has been repeatedly paralysed by old-fashioned and restrictive legislative norms or the conservative character of state institutions. That situation accounts for the difficulties in distinguishing between the encouraging and restrictive conditions of the institutional framework. There is a need to distinguish between the theory and practice of one issue, and then formulate future perspectives for the solution of this issue, and simultaneously identify non-systematic forms of participation.

The list of conditions of participation of foreigners listed below is categorized into three main fields of civic participation of foreigners: 1) Association of foreigners; 2) Political participation; 3) Culture and social affairs. Each of these main fields consists of key issues,

which are described in greater detail. An indication of their encouraging (↑) or restrictive (↓) character is included. Each key issue is introduced by a short description and concluded by an evaluation of the practical importance of that issue.

3.1. Association of foreigners

3.1.1. Establishment of the Association of foreigners

The Ministry of Interior registers civic organisations according to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (Declaration) and the Czech Act no. 83/1990 Coll., on Civic Associations.

↓ **The administrative practice of the Ministry of Interior denies rights for civic associations of foreigners** with reference to an older act No 116/1985 (on activities of associations with international elements). The quite existence of this specific act, which regulates civic and political rights of foreigners, stands in contradiction to the Declaration (Article 20, par 3), while its effectiveness can not be limited by any legal act. The administrative interpretation of the aforementioned act amounts to a conclusion that associations of foreigners do not qualify for simple registration and therefore must apply for a permit. The Ministry of Interior thus devised a practice which forbids associations of foreigners (Uhl, 2003).

If the foreigners wish to avoid the uncertain permit application procedure, they must find three citizens who will agree to participate in the establishment of the association. The three citizens must put their signatures on the application for registration and their names have to be listed among the members of the preparatory commission (which prepares the status of the association). This is a practical solution to the restriction. Permits for associations have a high significance particularly for the Vietnamese who are excluded from the rights granted to national minorities (see below). For them the only means of civic participation comes through subsidies, which, in turn, are granted to organisations.

3.1.2. Associating into professional chambers and councils

Here legal act directing the establishment of associations (Act no. 83/1990 Coll., on Civic Associations) regulates the associating into professional councils.

↑ Generally, **state citizenship is not a condition of memberships in professional councils** (such as General Medical Council and Bar Council).

↓ In the Czech Republic there are several exceptions such as the Czech Council of Architects or the Czech Council of Authorized Engineers in Construction, membership in which is **conditioned by Czech citizenship**. These exceptions are residues of previous legislature rather than deliberate measures (Uhl, 2003).

↓ Despite the general openness of professional councils, some foreigners are limited by general conditions of membership stated in the statutes of the councils. In some there exists a **codified condition of adequate education acquired in the Czech Republic**. As a consequence some foreigners have to come through the procedure of clarification of diplomas operated by the Ministry of Education.

↑ Some professional **councils have concluded bilateral contracts with their foreign counterparts** (such as the Czech Council of Architects) to simplify membership for foreigners.

The high importance of membership in the professional councils lies in fact that it determines the legality of practice in certain professions on the territory of the Czech Republic.

3.1.3. Associating in trade unions

Associating in trade unions is regulated by the same legal Act on Civic Associations.

↓ The legal act No. 116/1985 **hypothetically reduces the right to associate** in trade unions, because the establishment of a trade union has to follow the same procedure as civic associations (Uhl, 2003).

↑ Two main Czech trade **unions were participating in the development of an Integration policy** as members of the Commission of Advisers for the Integration of Foreigners of the Ministry of Interior. They are continuing these actions in similar board at the MLSA (Realizace Koncepce, 2003).

↑ Concrete activities of the trade unions mostly comprise the publication of newsletters, brochures and other **information materials for foreign workers about their rights and duties** on the Czech labour market (Realizace Koncepce 2003).

The fundamental limitation of the practical importance of the membership in trade unions is the unstable position of foreign workers in the Czech Republic.

3.2. Political participation of foreigners

3.2.1. Election to the municipalities and holding functions in the public administration

The material issued by the government “Realizace Koncepce integrace cizinců v roce 2003 a její další rozvoj v souvislosti se vstupem České republiky do Evropské unie” (Implementation of Conception of Integration of foreigners on the territory of the Czech Republic and next development of that Conception after entrance of the CR into EU) (Realizace Koncepce 2003) incorporates the issue of civic and political participation of foreigners according to the recommendations of the Council of Europe. Local elections and referenda are regulated by the legal act No. 491/2001 on election to municipalities

↓ **Only Czech citizens are allowed to vote** in elections for parliament and the regional chambers. The right to vote in elections for local municipalities and the European parliament is granted only to EU country nationals settled on the territory of the Czech Republic.

↑ **The citizens of third countries can hypothetically vote** in the Czech Republic in the instance that a bilateral agreement between the Czech Republic and the relevant foreign country on electoral issues exists. The paragraph stating the priority of international agreements in the Czech voting law was implemented as a consequence of European Union integration.

↑ Government materials on the Implementation of Conception of foreigners mentioned the **possibility of participation of foreigners in local elections** as regular voters in the near future (Realizace Koncepce 2003).

↓ The **voting of all foreigners in municipal elections is complicated by the Legal act** No. 128/2000 on the establishment of a local municipality, where the members of the community can only be state citizens (Uhl, 2003).

↓ ↑ Foreigners are not allowed to **join in political parties** in the Czech Republic. The

majority of constitutional functions are not granted to foreigners, with the exceptions of governmental positions (such as minister, vice prime minister or prime minister) (Uhl, 2003).

↓ Foreigners **cannot become policemen or army officers**. Foreigners can be a volunteer for military service after an agreement of the president of the CR. Foreigners can not serve in positions in the public administration such as forester, fisher, or nature guards (Uhl 2003).

In the realm of governmental policy, collective forms of political participation such as special councils at municipalities appear as a more plausible alternative (see below). But the right to vote remains an open issue whose debate will be sparked by the larger European discussion.

Regarding the holding of functions in the public administration it is necessary to make serious decisions, but just the simple existence of the possibility to hold public functions could be an important agent of integration.

3.2.2 Advisory Councils

The implementation of the Integration Policy in the Czech Republic is not mandatory task of local municipalities and regional governments. This is a fundamental problem. The Ministry of Interior (MI) and the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (MLSA) have repeatedly been calling on cooperation the issues of integration the above mentioned structures of public administration. The results were fragmented ranging from an open unwillingness to particular responses with reservations about active co-operation. Recently there has emerged a predominant trend to draw the regional and local levels of public administration into the process of the implementation of the Czech Integration Policy (Implementation of Concept).

↑ **Local (district) councils for the integration of foreigners:** The first attempt at fostering civic participation of foreigners in the Czech Republic emerged through the struggle of the Ministry of Interior in 2000. The district municipalities and selected city mayors were asked to establish "*The District's advisory councils for integration of foreigners*". The function of these councils was to monitor the situation of foreigners at the local level. Each council had to consist of officers of the local administration, representatives of foreigners, and local NGOs. The existence of councils within the district municipalities ended with dismantling of the district level councils by the reforms of the state administration in 2002. The councils of four city mayors still continue to exist in Prague, Brno, Ostrava and Pilsen, where there is the highest concentration of foreigners in the Czech Republic.

↓ **Regional level for the integration of foreigners:** The concrete form of the implementation of the integration policy at the regional level is not clear. The material Implementation of the Conception elaborates on the level of necessity needed to activate a pilot model of co-operation between regional public administration and regional NGOs. The search for starting points can be a long process.

↑ **Advisory Commission for the integration of foreigners of the MLSA:** The Czech Integration Policy was co-ordinated by the Ministry of Interior, particularly by the Ministerial Commission of Advisors, until 2003. The Commission was composed of migration experts, representatives of NGOs, and selected state bodies. Since 2004 the role of the co-ordinator of the integration policy has been transferred to the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs. MLSA recently restructured the Commission as policy/making board,

where representatives of foreigners also participate.

↑ **Committee for Rights of Foreigners** under the Council for Human Rights of the Czech government. Several representatives of immigrants participate in the initiatives of the committee as representatives of NGOs. The Council has an official mandate to comment on legislation to the state bodies and suggest legislative changes. The Committee formulates evaluations and recommendations which are directed to the competent state bodies and discusses concrete causes regarding to violations of the rights of foreigners.

The councils represent a form of collective civic or political participation of foreigners. Although it does not have a clear democratic principle, the councils could be a gate to a co-operative policy system in the Czech Republic. Lastly, the experience of district councils foreshadows the approach of the Czech Integration Policy to this issue.

3.3. Culture and Social Affairs

3.3.1. The Rights of Ethnic and National Minorities

The Legal Act No. 273/2001 Col. on rights of members of national minorities obliges the state to provide subsidies in order to sustain the culture, traditions and languages of the national minorities. The subsidies are granted to radio and TV broadcasting in the respective languages of the minorities (Uhl, 2003).

↓ **Foreigners do not have rights as ethnic and national minorities** in the Czech Republic. The Czech minority law operates with the term national minority which it defines as *"a community of citizens of the Czech Republic, who are distinguished from others citizens usually by common ethnic origin, culture, and traditions, they create numerical minority of the population at the same time they declare will to be recognized as national minority ..."* (Legal Act No. 273/2001 Col.)

↑ The minority law **obliges local municipalities** (with up to 10% inhabitants of minorities) and regional governments (with up to 5% inhabitants of minorities) to create councils for national minorities. The councils have to consist of a minimum of half of the representatives of the national minorities. The municipal council is an initiating and control organ and its function is consultative. The regional council will have a co-ordinating role. At the governmental level there is a council for national minorities, which consists of representatives of recently recognised national minorities (Slovaks, Germans, Poles, Roma people, Bulgarians, Croats, Hungarians, Russinyans, Russians, Greeks and Ukrainians).

Civic and political rights are granted to the state-recognized national minorities. They are authorised by the state only to the narrowly defined as "communities of (Czech) citizens". Thus, the structure for the pursuit of political and civic participation of national minorities is useful for the similar pursuit in issues of political and civic participation of foreigners. Several ethnic organisations are covering non-citizen members of communities (despite the narrow definition of national minorities). Some of Ukrainian, Bulgarian, Russian organisations try to represent both citizens and foreigners in the fields assigned by the minorities' law.

3.3.2. Integration subsidies

In the Czech Republic there are limited resources available for the cultural and social initiatives of foreigners. The program of subsidies for integration of foreigners exists within the framework of the state budget (besides the subsidies for national minorities).

↑ The **cultural activities** of organisations of foreigners are subsidised from financial resources of the state budget apportioned to the integration of foreigners. The Ministry of Culture annually announces a special grant program (since 2000 a program of subsidies) partly targeting the support of cultural and religious activities of foreigners settled in the Czech Republic. The second issue targeted by this program is support for the creation of a media portrayal of relations between culturally and religiously different communities which would better reflect reality. The program is supporting such activities as theatre performances, multicultural music festivals, exhibitions, film projections, and periodicals. According to the priorities of the Ministry of Culture two types of activities are given preference. Firstly, activities targeting mutual introduction of domestic population and foreigner communities are supported. Secondly, culture activities of foreigners are boosted.

↑ *"The Pilot Project Integration of Foreigners and Support to organisations and Associations of Foreign Communities in the Czech Republic"* (Pilot project) was introduced by the International Organisation for Migration (IOM). The Project for Support of Organisations of Foreigners has been subsidised during 2003 and 2004 by the MLSA. The Pilot project had three aims. First was to research the basic integration issues of the three selected communities: Armenians, Ukrainians and Vietnamese (more details see below). The second aim was the establishment of an informational web site focused on all aspects of the lives of foreigners in the Czech Republic. The last but not least aim of the Pilot Project was the support of organisations of foreigners. It was a cluster of activities including courses on fund-raising, project development and communication with potential donors; support of thematic inserts in the communities' periodicals (social and legal counselling); assistance on project development; dissemination of information about grant possibilities.

↑ The Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport supported **courses in Czech language** for Vietnamese adults and the publication of a textbook for Vietnamese autodidacts.

Subsidies are available for foreigners mainly within the program of the Ministry of Culture. It determines some limitations for their activities. Such issues as education or social assistance lie aside of the aims of the program of subsidies. The same approach has been adopted by city mayors, which supported similar activities in the frame of the program for national minorities. Among the exceptions are activities of the Vietnamese organisation in the field of education (further details see below). The Pilot project foreshadows the possible way for participation and co-operation with organisations and individuals on a larger scale.

Part II

Active Civic Participation of Third Country immigrants in the Czech Republic

This chapter offers a state of the art look at the civic participation of migrants in the Czech Republic. The opening part deals with the institutional and legal framework for participation of foreigners. And the closing part recapitulates the modes of participation and community making of main immigrant groups from third countries in the CR. Here, the examination is provided from three theoretical points of view. Theories extracted from general studies in the field of civic participation are placed in the context of the Czech Republic in cases of particular groups in the CR.

Conceptualisation of the civic participation of immigrants

The nature of political participation of immigrants is conceived by neo-Marxists as a process through which immigrants promote their concerns as ethnically or racially defined sub-classes. The model of class theory works with terms of exclusion versus inclusion. In terms of Castles and Davidson the emergence of minorities is a side-effect of the exclusion of immigrants. The definition of a minority is an outcome of a dialectical process of other-definition and self-definition (Castles and Davidson, 2000; Castles and Miller, 1998).¹⁰ Ethnic/racial theory is based on the assumption that ethnic (or racial) identity has a fundamental importance for society. It implies that ethnic identity represents a significant factor in the participation of immigrants. Immigrants articulate their political or social concerns according to ethnic, racial and religious patterns. Each group has developed modes of (political or civic) participation on institutions and processes of the receiving society according to the processes of collective socialization in interaction with surrounding groups. It is influenced by the remnants of social or political patterns of participation functioning in the country of origin. Ethnic/racial theory has reached similar conclusions and identified similar research fields to the class theory. The difference is grounded in the emphasis put on the cultural characteristics of groups in contrast to the socio-economic determinism of neo-Marxists. The object of this research is the development and transformation of immigrant identities and the related integration strategies. An ethnic approach to the issue of civic/political participation draws attention to the identity politics of both dominant and subordinate groups which distinguish themselves from other groups on the basis of ethnicity, race or religion (see Eriksen, 1993). Social identities of ethnic (immigrant) minorities are maintained on the basis of shared clusters of symbols and forms of communication subsumed under the term culture (Uherek, 2004). Ethnicity is an intrinsically political resource which furthers the social and political concerns of groups (Solomos and Schuster, 2000). The institutional channelling theory put forward by Patrick Ireland is based on the assumption that

¹⁰ Two mechanisms of marginalization are included in the other-definition aspect in the formation of a minority. These may be referred to as institutional and structural exclusion and discursive practices of stereotyping (Castles and Davidson, 2000). The second mechanism of marginalization is interpreted by Castles and Davidson as a process of *racialization* or *ethnicization* (Ibid). The dominant group attributes ethnic or racial characteristics to groups as root causes of social or economical differences (Ibid). According to the class theory are exclusion and discrimination resulting into a reinforcement of a self-definition of the minority.

immigration policy and administrative practice trigger specific development. The central issue concerns the response of immigrants to specific structural opportunities for their participation in public life put into place by state institutions or other administrative entities. This includes "gatekeepers" of the political system such as trade unions, NGOs, political parties, ethnic and religious organisations and various forms of affirmative actions. Objects of research put forward by the institutional channelling theory include the conceptions and practices of state policies and their resulting effects. Analyses from this theoretical point of view are often comparative in perspective.

Research in the Czech Republic relating to participation of immigrants

A more systematic study of international migration phenomena in the Czech Republic became in concurrency with establishment of the Czech migration policy commonplace at the end of 1990s (see Uherek, 2004 UNESCO). The character and aims of research reflect current situations and problems. The first examined issues were consequences of asylum such as the integration program for asylum receivers, trafficking of women in asylum procedure, and an education program for children of asylum seekers (Uherek and Weinerová, 2002),¹¹ as well as legal study of the asylum system in the Czech Republic (Pařízek, 2004). A study of Czech migration policy was made by Drbohlav at the beginning of 2000 (Drbohlav, 2004; 2003) and survey of institutional frame of international migration in the CR was created in 2002 (Černík, Uherek, Březinová, 2002). In particular domain of the Integration was examined the integration of children and immigrant's youth in the CR is examined (Drbohlav, Černík, Dzůrová, 2005).

Several research projects studied the intricacies of establishing a policy of Integration of foreigners in the Czech Republic. The aims of these researches were to map the situation of particular groups of immigrants: Ukrainians (Uherek and col, 2004; Drbohlav, Šelepová, 1999; Zilynskij, 2002; Leontieva, 2004), Russians (Drbohlav, Lupták, 1999), Immigrants from selected Balkan countries (Otčenášek, 2001; 1999), Albanians (Tesař, 2001), Armenians (Maroušek, 2001), Georgians (Černík, 2000), Chinese (Obuchová, 2003; Moore-Mezlíková, 2003), Vietnamese (Brouček, 2003; Tung, 2000; Kocourek, 2004) and Roma (for instance IOM Prague, 2004).

Specialized institutes have been providing directed research of particular migration issues (see Annex). Quantitative research on health and the distribution of health care began in 1999 and continues today (IZPE 2004). Studies of the labour implications of migration began in 1994 and continue currently as well (Horáková, 2004). Labour affairs from the anthropological perspective (informal organization of migrant's labour) are continuously examined in the studies of the Ethnological Institute (Černík, 2004; Červinka, 2004). The Ministry of Interior has been publishing annually the report on International migration in the Czech Republic since 1996. The reports are concentrated on asylum issues and illegal migration. The integration of children and migrant youth were the aims of research provided by Charles University and IOM Prague (Drbohlav, Černík, Dzůrová, 2005). A few studies of legislative measures regulating international migration were conducted by NGOs. Set of specific issues relating to the integration of foreigners were examined in a breakthrough Comparative Study funded by the Open Society Fund (Komparativní studie 2003). Research on relations of immigrants' communities was conducted by IOM Prague (Ezzedine-Lukšíková, Drbohlav, 2004).

¹¹ This set of research was ordered by the UNHCR Office in Prague.

1. Institutional setting: Hidden, closed or obstructed gates to the public space

Immigration is generally a new phenomenon in the Czech Republic, and therefore an examination of migrant's inclusion into mainstream political structures on the policy level is premature. The exclusion of immigrants from exercising their civic rights is a (fearful) reaction of the autochthonous society and its institutions to the appeared phenomenon of the international migration. The institutional setting of the Czech Republic regarding the issue of civic participation differs from the current general standards of old member countries of the EU (as is particularly described in Part I). The Czech Republic, along with its state institutions and civic sector, has created several "gates" into the Czech political system as well as to public space. To this day it is only possible to outline some of the characteristic features of civic and political participation of immigrants in the Czech Republic determined by the institutional setting (see Part I):

- High centralisation
- Significant share of NGOs
- Limitation of ethnic associations on activities in cultural affairs
- Disproportion between participation of naturalised immigrants and foreigners

1.1. Neither Citizen nor Denizen

Czech citizenship law has had to confront the disintegration of Czechoslovakia since its adoption in 1993. The prime legal act had to be complemented by a specific legal act regarding former citizenship of Czechoslovakia in 1999. The division of the Czechoslovak Federation is not the only exception from the European standard. Even though the Czech Republic has signed the European Convention on Nationality No. 166, some conditions regarding the acquisition of Czech state citizenship do not correspond with the Convention.

The most flagrant example on the level of institutional practice of exclusion of immigrants from access to civic rights are the requirements demanded for the acquisition of the permit for permanent residence in the Czech Republic (Drbohlav, Šelepová 1999). The requirement is ten years (see Part III) and is relevant to all foreigners from 3rd countries in the Czech Republic. This legal status could be classified in terms of Hammar as *denizen* or in terms of Castles as *Quasi-citizen*. Aleinikoff and Klusmeyer elaborate with concept *National Franchise*. Nevertheless, the status exists in the Czech Republic, but the statutory term of ten years of uninterrupted living in the Czech Republic is an exception in frame of EU. The ten years foreigners have to stay in the Czech Republic as temporary immigrants are filled with consequences such as restrictions on changing jobs, periodically repeating the administrative procedures because of a limited duration of stay, and restriction of mobility within the CR (by occupation). The Czech Republic enforces a restrictive policy of naturalisation by reference to alien law (see above), which may in fact result in a fifteen year waiting period for the granting of citizenship. The Czech Citizenship law is an elaboration of the principle of *ius sanguinis*. This reduces the granting of citizenship to (the just growing) second generation of immigrants in the Czech Republic. The function of *denizen/quasi-citizen* or *franchised citizenship* statuses

in European countries is to "facilitate" restrictive naturalisation policy or in more positively terms make to access (of immigrant) to the democratic processes.¹²

Czech citizenship law does not elaborate with the principle of "*ius soli*" (the acquisition of citizenship by born on state's territory), which facilitates access to citizenship for a second generation of foreigners. Introduction of the principle of *ius soli* has been requested by the Convention (Baršová, 2003). The Convention regulates naturalisation in Article 6 (3) which states: "*Each state Party shall provide in its internal law for the possibility of naturalisation of persons lawfully and habitually resident on its territory. In establishing the conditions for naturalisation, it shall not provide for period of residence exceeding ten years before the lodging of an application*" (Convention). Czech citizenship law seemingly respects the Convention in regards to the length of minimal period of residing on the territory. "*At least five years of permanent residence in the Czech Republic; the foreigner is required to remain in the Czech Republic for the most part of this period*" (Čížinský, 2004). More problematic is an additional condition of legal status of permanent residence, which refers to alien law. According to the recent form of Alien law the highest residence (permanent) status to a foreigner can be granted as late as after ten years of residence under a long term visa (Baršová, 2003). This results in a 15 year period preceding the application for requisition of citizenship, which is in contrary to the Convention.

Andrea Baršová concludes that the Czech legal act on citizenship does not conceptually or holistically reflect these new challenges. She indicates that "*the Regulation of naturalisation is globally restrictive and rigorous*" and points out the principle of "unclaimability" (Baršová, 2003). Which is reinforced by practice "*when a decision about rejection of a request is simply substantiated formally ... that for acquisition is not a legal claim*" (Ibid.).

Not easy access to the citizenship is in the Czech case combined with complication of granting the permit for permanent stay. The exclusion of immigrant is highlighted by fact that not every civic right is tied to the permit for permanent stay. Nowadays, Both "social contracts" - the Citizenship and *Denizen status* or *Quasi Citizenship* are out of reach or hidden gate to civic rights for foreigners and their children in the Czech Republic.

¹² In light of recent seems that the requirement of ten years stay in the Czech Republic will be shortened in near future in accordance of EU Direction on Long-term residents.

The concrete recommendations are included in the concluding remarks of the relevant chapter “Citizenship” of the Comparative study (Komparativní studie 2003):¹³

On naturalisation:

- The request of 5 years permanent continuous residence would be replaced by request of 10 years (or shorter) period of legal stay in the CR. The uninterrupted stay should be replaced by a different qualified stay (such as predominant stay) or a concrete count of years of real presence on territory.
- To reconsider the shortening of requested length of 10 years of stay to agree with European standards, such as 5 years.
- To change the nexus between the permanent status of stay and an opportunity to apply for a request of citizenship (in essence to enable a request by holders of different permit to stay).
- To prepare to change the legal act, which regulates for certain categories of persons (for instance spouses of Czech citizens) the claims to citizenship.
- To reconsider the position of minority languages and opportunities to differentiate language requirements according to the social position and education of the claimant (Baršová, 2003).

On the citizenship of second and third generation immigrants:

- To prepare and to adopt complex regulation on the facilitation of citizenship for foreigners born in the CR and those who have lived here for a certain time before they come to age.
- To adopt *ius soli* for 3rd generation as a subjective legal claim for them. Straightaway offer permanent residence permit to all foreigners borne in the CR (if their parents are on legal stay) (Ibid.).

Other recommendations are to facilitate dual citizenship and prepare more sensitive regulations regarding the acquisition of Czech citizenship by former Czechoslovak citizens (Baršová, 2003).

1.2. Public administration

The lack of functional linkage of Czech integration policy between central institutions (policy and decision making level) and regional or local gatekeepers of immigrant’s participation (implementation level) undermines the possibilities for large scale participation. A limited attempt was made by the establishment of *the District’s Advisory Councils for Integration of Foreigners* in 2001. A board of councils consists (some of them still exist) of representatives of foreigners, local NGOs and district officials. The administrative level of district was rejected during a reform of state administration in 2002. Currently, the formal direct participation of immigrants on the democratic process is real on the level of central state institutions. Some of foreigners and their supporting institutions are lobbying for their concerns at the central level, especially in two boards and within particular ministries. The Committee for Rights of Foreigners was the established under the Council for Human Rights

¹³ Translation from Czech was provided by the author of this report

of the Czech government. Several representatives of immigrants participate in the initiatives of this committee as representatives of NGOs. The importance of the Council lies in its official mandate to comment new or changed legislation. Committee is useful platform for communication between non-governmental organizations and state bodies. The Council has the authority to push for legal improvements too.. For instance the Committee has been negotiating to push through legal measures which would grant immigrants the right to vote in municipal elections. The Committee formulates evaluations and recommendations which are directed to the competent state bodies and discusses concrete causes of the violations of the rights of foreigners. Representatives of the ministries are obliged to explain and justify the steps taken by state institutions.

The second significant forum is the Council for Integration of Foreigners at the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (Council) (see Part I). This is a recently established policy-making board on the governmental level. Council for integration is also body for cooperation an implementation of integration policy of the CR across public administration. Here, several organisations are more or less giving a voice to migrants' concerns. Nevertheless, enumerating the concerns of immigrants through NGOs in the CR is more influential.

Committee at Council for Human Rights is influential in its direct functional feed-back to legislative and administrative practice. Functional limitations (in broad sense of civic participation) are given by its focusing on an actual public administration at the highest level (national legislation and administrative practice of the governmental bodies).

Council at MLSA has indirect influence to improve situation of immigrants in further horizon. Co-ordination role of the Council at MLSA represents two important aspects: 1/ Policy making on the level of state's executive institutions 2/ Interconnection with European structures. Anyway, both "gates" are very important for civic participation but it is in fact indirect or very individual

1.3. NGOs gatekeeper - immigrant's objectification

The Department for Migration and Integration of Foreigners has been communicating with NGOs and religious societies, which play a substantial role in defending the rights and interests of foreigners at the local level as well. As was mentioned above, the implementation of integration of foreigners is not a mandatory task of public administration at the regional and local level. Thus, NGOs supply these elements on these levels since the establishment of the Czech immigration policy. NGOs are its main implementers.

Currently the measures of the state generate a high degree of centralism of civic participation of foreigners and paternalism of "the gatekeepers". A similar situation could be detected in Germany in the 1970s when the Federal State Commission for the Interests of Foreigners became engaged in "a war by proxy". Immigrants were pushed into the role of being "helped" (Ireland, 2000). Immigrants play the role of objects; they are not acting as accepted subjects in the public space in the CR (they could just through civic participation on the local level). A second similarity with the German example can be observed in the struggling efforts to create an umbrella organisation of foreigners. Slovo 21, an NGO established by foreigners, has been visibly participating in both above mentioned governmental boards and it has relatively successfully advanced the interests of immigrants on the regional level (see examples of most prominent foreigners in public life below). The establishment of umbrella organisation of immigrants in the CR is underway now, and its particular effects suggest ways of uniting the voices of immigrants (journal, conferences, round tables, e.g.).

1.4. Trade Unions

Trade unions have started to offer activities related to presentation of advantages of membership in the trade unions for foreigners. Results are not too visible because foreign labourers are still in a state of uncertainty and remain more dependent on informal structures of self-help. The civic participation of immigrants through trade unions is undermined by a restrictive employment act (limitation in administrative procedure). This forces the pragmatic use of entrepreneurial reasons for stay in the Czech Republic or other forms of quasi-legal opportunities to work in the CR.¹⁴ Current activities of the trade unions include the dissemination and publication of informational materials.

1.5. Ethnic associations

Cultural affairs are the foci of ethnic associations because of the policy of subsidies. The Ministry of Culture has a specific program of subsidies for ethnic minorities financed from part of the state budget apportioned to the integration of foreigners. Conditions of the program differentiate two types of subsidised activities: 1/ multicultural and multiethnic events 2/ cultural issues of a particular community. Ethnic associations of immigrants do not have the capacity or a legitimate opportunity to specify their activities in different fields according to state subsidies.¹⁵ Subsidies in the Czech Republic are not used as a specific instrument for regulating the participation of organisations of ethnic minorities as can be seen for example in Sweden (see Odmalm, 2004). Activities of ethnic organisations are directed to their “policy of identity” and concurrently to the presentation of ethnic culture to the autochthonous population.

1.6. Rights of national minorities or civic participation of immigrants?

Czech minority policy is discussed in Part I (Legal and institutional setting) where contradictions in the Czech minority policy are mentioned. The outdated narrow definition of a national minority is a de facto exclusion of foreigners from this structural opportunity of participation, mainly in regards to Vietnamese and Chinese.¹⁶ Naturalised immigrants and their organisations operate in a niche carved out by the inert minority policy of socialist or pre-world war II Czechoslovakia. As is mentioned above, the recent status of national minorities with special rights such as Germans, Hungarians, Poles and Slovaks are a residue of the Treaty of Versailles without a legitimate foundation in the contemporary trans-national framework of the EU. Czech minority policy is designed partly in the context of the Europe of the 1920s and partly as a reaction to the social exclusion of the Roma people in the 1990s (Černík, 2003). Those national minorities which also represent main immigrant groups such as the Ukrainians (and to a lesser extent Russians and Bulgarians) are not successful to find a visible response for their activities from their migratory compatriots. Representatives of

¹⁴ Similar strategy is using by autochthonous population.

¹⁵ Except of ethnic organisation of Vietnamese community (see bellow).

¹⁶ Today are recognised these national minorities in the CR: Slovaks, Poles, Roma people, Germans, Bulgarians, Croats, Hungarians, Russians, Ukrainians and Russinyans.

national minorities are naturalised intellectuals or sometimes elderly people. They are very often in conflict with representatives and associations of immigrants of the same ethnic background. Naturalised compatriots (here Ukrainians) are accused of elitism and unsociability (see Leontieva, 2004). The gap between naturalised minorities and the immigration community is based on cultural misunderstanding. Both groups were socialised in different contexts which produced different (cultural) perceptions of civic participation. In the case of Ukrainians, recently there has been a process of creating ties between "national" and "ethnic" Ukrainians through the participation of students from the Ukraine in both poles of minority (see previous chapter) and regional co-operation. National minorities defined by law have easy access to regional and local structures of public administration through councils for national minorities. In many regards the Czech minority policy and law have set preconditions for the creation of structural opportunities for the civic participation of immigrants although contemporary practice reproduced the gap between naturalised members of minorities and immigrants from third countries. The forming of minorities by immigrants from third countries is examined in the two following parts.

The resulting situation is the practice of establishing a double faced approach to ethnic communities. One face is "ethnic multiculturalism" of Czech minority policy towards to institutionalized national minorities and the second face is the exclusion of immigrant groups from civic rights (Černík, 2003). The Czech minority policy is cultivating within itself contradictions between declared concepts of multiculturalism and segregating effects of citizenship in Czech legal framework (see chapter on Political participation). Culture rights of some groups are doubled (in cases of concurrently members of institutionalized national minorities and citizens of EU countries).¹⁷ In contrary to them, the cultural rights are denied to certain groups of immigrants, which are neither EU citizens nor members of recognized national minorities. Lastly, the groups, which consist of both citizens of the CR and immigrants from third countries are bifurcated by internal conflicts. The minorities policy is de facto segregating distinctive groups of one ethnic background: the naturalised culture elite from vital strata of immigrants.¹⁸

1.7. Political participation of immigrants

The inclusion of immigrants in the political mainstream of the Czech Republic is not visible on the level of political parties (see Part I). The discriminatory factors and limitations imposed on political rights of foreigners are described above (see chapter Institutional settings) (Uhl, 2003). In a brief summary, the most important points according to Uhl are the following:

- Foreigners from non-EU countries do not have the right to vote on any level of state administration.
- The right of association (of foreigners) is limited by a specific law and practice of the state bodies of the Czech nation state.
- Foreigners are principally excluded from being granted minority rights by the narrow definition of a national minority embedded in Czech law on minorities.
- Foreigners have no access to elected or appointed functions (apart from a few exceptions).

¹⁷ Act on National minorities guarantees same rights for EU citizens as the new School Act.

¹⁸ The intra-ethnic segregating effect of the double-faced policy is discussed in bellow article about civic participation of Ukrainians in the CR.

The first is the fact that no consistent respect is being paid to the rights of foreigners, who were found to be discriminated. The second circumstance is the existence of low legal certainty for foreigners. An important conclusion of the study is a reflection on the undifferentiating approach to the foreigner's political and other public participation in the Czech Republic. "The mere fact of the possibility to command or not to command political rights does not depend on any type of residence permit. It holds regardless of the real degree of social integration of a foreigner, how long he/she lives in the Czech Republic or to the measure that he/she contributes to the creation of values." (Uhl, 2003 pp. 85)

This discussion about civic participation in the near future is undoubtedly necessary because the present status quo of civic participation in the Czech Republic does not correspond to the demands posed by the processes of globalisation as well as to the current standards in the most of countries in European Union.

2. Vietnamese cultural patterns developing in the Czech Republic

The recent situation of Vietnamese in the CR could be effectively conceptualised by the theory of ethnicity. "When cultural differences regularly make a difference in interactions between members of groups, the social relationship has an ethnic element" (Eriksen, 1993 pp.12). Cultural patterns of social organisation determine modes of civic/political participation of the Vietnamese in the CR. These modes develop in interaction with outside conditions and majority society. Vietnamese are entering into public life through avenues which would be suitable in Vietnam. This model of participation is based on the patronage of economic activities and on a deep kinship structure. These patterns are transformed through new social and cultural contexts.

2.1. Kin patterns of social organisation from Vietnam in the Czech Republic

Social organisation of the Vietnamese society is significantly influenced by Confucianism which ascribes high value to family and kin ties and the cult of ancestors. Social relations are regarded as parallel to family relations (Brouček, 2004). Vietnamese perceive emigration as an accomplishment of obligations towards relatives in Vietnam (Brouček, 2004). Paradoxically, the Vietnamese in the CR set up new families without regard to marriages preformed in Vietnam. They continuously fulfil their obligations to relatives in Vietnam but they also exploit the advantages flowing from everyday life in a family circle. Brouček concludes that non-formal bonds in the country of immigration, in this case the Czech Republic, are furthered and cultivated in accordance with the ideas of social organisation in Vietnam: the cultural concept of family, which is focused on survival (Brouček 2004). Migration is a new reality in the relationships of the Vietnamese. Thus, they are creating new kinship rules as well as further patterns of social acting. The traditional concept of family and (here village) community is concurrently infringed and re-established according to the new external conditions.

Family relations and the problem of adaptation of the second generation of Vietnamese in the Czech Republic are important fields of research. Paradoxically, the population boom of Vietnamese peaked at the moment of maximum decrease of the nationality among the autochthonous population in mid 90's. Family relations of the Vietnamese are partly structured in the traditional Vietnamese manner and partly shaped by the situation of immigrants. Brouček examined the adaptation process of the traditional family manner of Vietnamese in the CR (see bellow). Tung points out that the secondary migration of seniors is

provided by their descendants. They are forced to take care of their parents as a requirement of the cult of ancestors. Seniors are mostly isolated at home and "they want to go back at home to die" (Tung, 2000, pp. 21).

2.2. Vietnamese Ethnic economy: Asian stalls and marketplaces in landscape

The history of immigration from Vietnam to Czechoslovakia and then to the CR from the 1950s to recent times is thoroughly described by numerous authors (Brouček, 2003; Kocourek, 2004; Tung, 2000). The main issues when examining the processes of the adaptation/integration of Vietnamese in the Czech Republic are their economic activities and their consequences.

However, the economy of the Vietnamese is based on petty trade. Their wide ranged ethnic economy model has three hierarchically ranked levels: 1/Wholesale 2/Supply 3/Retail (Brouček, 2003). Traders of the first rank are concentrated in huge "emporiums", these are "... Vietnamese villages in the Czech Republic, where Vietnamese traders spend nearly all their time" (Tung, 2000, pp. 28). Traders of all ranks and their families inhabit quarters nearby market places in Prague, Ostrava, Brno, Cheb and in several towns on the borderland with Germany and Austria. The marketplaces are very often a "thorn in eye" of municipal politics. Since the Republic's accession to the European Union, laws have become stricter and thus made the present model of Vietnamese economy no longer practicable because so many of the traded goods do not comply with EU standards (Report on Activity 2004). In fact, the increasing harshness of regulations and the gradual criminalizing of these kinds of activities may be driving some Vietnamese immigrants away from the Czech Republic and back to Vietnam or on to other countries¹⁹. At the same time, some members of the Vietnamese community seem to be adapting to changing realities. In fact, a trend has been noted whereby the Vietnamese are starting to open up small, family-owned Asian bistros or regular shops in villages and small towns (Drbohlav, Černík, Dzůrová, 2005). These market places are targets of legitimate controls (hygienic norms, illegal use of trade marks) provided by municipal bodies. However, Vietnamese market places are also objects of political warfare on the local level. Brouček examines the situation of a forced closing of two market places in the regional centre Hradec Králové. The affected Vietnamese expressed their dissatisfaction with the lack of concern of the Czech leaseholder (Brouček, 2004). They had been expecting some support from the side of the leaseholder in return for the higher than standard payments for renting stall-places which are perceived as gifts to the leaseholders. In any case, the leaseholder had not perceived these special incomes as obligating him to defend the concerns of stallholders (Brouček, 2004) but as a special tax of inferiority. The Vietnamese practice more or less corresponds to the traditional concept of replacement of power by extra presents in the Maussian sense of gift economy, which seems not working in the Czech Republic.

The ethnic economy of Vietnamese in the Czech Republic is a commonly perceived phenomenon. Vietnamese are stereotyped as petty traders, who are selling low-grade goods. Similarly, among Vietnamese thought that "without frauds and bribery they do not achieve anything here (in the Czech Republic)" is extensive (Tung, 2000). Brouček's respondents described local relations as two-sided mistrust. Vietnamese feel themselves as the target of fraud, extortion, and racketeering provided by rapacious individuals and the ill-natured Czech state administration. On the other hand, Vietnamese ethnic businesses tend to come out of state control (Brouček, 2003).

¹⁹ Many families are considering returning to Vietnam (some have already done so) or leaving for other countries (former Yugoslavia, former Soviet Union, or the Near East) where the trade of textiles and other consumer goods is more profitable. These trends mainly affect children because they are often more integrated in Czech society than their parents.

2.3. Vietnamese Associations (under control)

”Vietnamese are not accustomed to associating under a certain institution/organisation. Activities of assisting organisations are considered by them as an encroachment on the privacy of their families; ... the Vietnamese community did not see any point in the organisation of formal organisation” (Ezzedine-Lukšíková, Drbohlav 2004, pp. 67-68). Results of research targeted on community relations are expressive: Actually the ethnic organisations are not the main ”channel” or mediating platform for the civic participation of Vietnamese. Vietnamese ethnic organisations are focused on community issues. Their current activities are determined by the policy of identity and the goals of the political leadership at the embassy. The representation of Vietnamese is also limited by its inappropriateness in the social environment of the community. It herein includes an emphasis on individual resoluteness to overcome all problems and on social organization based on the traditional kinship structure (see Kocourek, 2004). The ”notoriously” apolitical Vietnamese are perceived as interfering into private life when they try to gain political support (Kocourek, 2004). Kocourek examines these ”political attitudes” in the context of the historical (structural) experience of the determinative influence of nomenclature and hypertrophy of political mobilisation during the wars in Vietnam.

In the Czech Republic politically active cells of the Communist party of Vietnam still exist. Several ethnic (roofing) Unions are directly conducted by the Vietnam Embassy. The head of the party unit of the embassy is entrusted with directing the Vietnamese community in the Czech Republic (Tung, 2000). The three following Vietnamese ethnic organisations are under the influence of the political leadership of the embassy. The Union of Vietnamese entrepreneurs in the CR is mainly concerned with the economic policy of Vietnam, communication with the embassy of Vietnam, and with the concerns of Vietnamese entrepreneurs in the CR. The Union of Vietnamese in the CR is a wide-ranged organization supported by the embassy of Vietnam. The Union has branches in each city or town where higher numbers of Vietnamese are concentrated. ”The aims of the Union are to improve mutual solidarity, support Vietnamese in their civic life and entrepreneurial activities. The Union aims to support the national consciousness and good and active relations with the CR. Its activities usually include organizing cultural events, propagating Vietnamese culture, and setting up of courses of the Vietnamese language for Vietnamese children.” (Report on Activity 2004). For example, organises various sport activities. The Union of Vietnamese Youth in the CR does not seem very active at the moment. The Bambus Club is a former Association of Vietnamese-speaking citizens of the Czech Republic. “The aims of the Association target the extending of cooperation with Czech partners in the field of learning language education at the primary school level (both Czech and Vietnamese languages) and on intensifying mutual relationships between children of both nationalities” (Kocourek, 2004, pp. 43) . The activities of the Association include teaching the Vietnamese language to Vietnamese children (who are losing their mother tongue) and Czech language for Vietnamese citizens. The Bambus Club limits its activities to Prague only. The list of Vietnamese organizations could be prolonged by several local or narrowly concerned organizations of the community.²⁰ Kocourek points out those ethnic organizations are not extremely active in creating a more open community and more intensive cooperation with the autochthonous society. ”Thus, they are not distinguished from the character of the whole community. All of the above mentioned barriers are contributing to this situation as well” (Kocourek, 2004, pp. 44)). This doesn’t mean that their activities are not beneficial for the

²⁰ The Czech-Vietnamese Society and the Hanoi Club are organizations where mainly Czechs participate, as well as experts and people with some relations to Vietnam.

integration of Vietnamese or indirectly to civic participation. For instance, some of the locally defined organisations (in Prague, Hradec Králové, e.g.) are active at primary schools where there is a high rate of Vietnamese pupils. Nevertheless, the education is only one "pull factor" for the civic participation of Vietnamese and its agents are separate from organisations as well as individuals such as parents or teachers (see below). Apart from this, the ethnic organisations do not play the role of mediator with Czech institutions. Mediators are mostly immigrants from the first wave of Vietnamese to Czechoslovakia before 1985, fully socialised students or Czech au pairs. Dominant mediators are Vietnamese agencies, which offer legal, quasi-legal and illegal services. Their business is based on the segregation of Vietnamese community and the disbelief of its members in the Czech institutions.²¹

2.4. Second generation socialisation - making of the culture change

"The obligations of Vietnamese men are divided between ancestors and descendants" (Brouček, 2004, pp. 28). The reverence is rendered to ancestors through family altars and self-transcendence is projected through children. Vietnamese children are highly motivated and determined to study (with surprising results in Czech schools) at all levels of education. A population increase of Vietnamese living in the CR in the mid-90's has caused the visible presence of Vietnamese children in ordinary schools at present.²² It is related to a spontaneous emergence of Vietnamese assistants in several primary schools in districts with high concentration of Vietnamese. They act as volunteers (parents) or professionals (staff of school). Their role is either to negotiate between the school and parents or to support pupils/beginners in the Czech schools. The tendency of the second generation to let Czech culture dominate their native language and culture is negatively perceived by parents (1st generation). Recently situations have arisen in which parents cannot speak the Czech language and their children have lost their knowledge of the Vietnamese language (Tung, 2000). Brouček and other authors stress the adaptation of Vietnamese children in the Czech Republic. These children are very often in the care of Czech fosters (Brouček, 2003). Research targeted on the integration of children and youth immigrants reveals a specific mode of civic participation of Vietnamese in the Czech Republic. Primary schools, which are attended by significant number of Vietnamese children, cooperate with the local Vietnamese community. Some parents participate in voluntary school activities and several schools employ part-time Vietnamese pedagogical assistants. They support pupils/beginners and provide mediation between the school and parents (Drbohlav, Černík, Džurová, 2005).

Common public initiatives of local Vietnamese communities in the CR struggle to preserve Vietnamese language and "culture traditions" (Kocourek, 2004). The maturing second generation of Vietnamese are rapidly losing the native language and have begun to use Czech names as nicknames for instance. Saturday courses of Vietnamese language appear in the framework of local communities. The maintenance of the native language is felt as invaluable for transferring Vietnamese national culture to the second generation. As the native language

²¹ High capitalisation of the social networks of immigrants is a common feature of ethnic communities (Ezzedine-Lukšíková, Drbohlav 2004).

²² Many young and very young Vietnamese immigrants are actively involved in the daily economy of their family, which is considered a negative factor in terms of these youths' future integration into the Czech labour market. Trading in kiosks, in fact, and selling second-class (often even counterfeit) goods is not viewed as a very efficient way of utilising knowledge gained in Czech schools.

is a fundamental component of ethnic identity, "it is a medium through which clusters of symbolic meanings or national culture are transferred" (Solomos, Schuster, 2000).²³

2.5. Conclusion: Current features of the civic participation of Vietnamese

Recently, the Vietnamese have come through a radical cultural change. The indicators are the crisis in the ethnic economy mode, the brief loss of their native language by the second generation, and the fragmentation of the closed community. Deep kinship structure is projected into the high value ascribed to education. This also stimulates culture change through the integration of Vietnamese children and youth through the education system of the CR.

The integration is a two-sided process. However, dual accusations of fraud and extortion drive the Vietnamese to opposite pole of coexistence: to segregation. These processes of adaptation occur regardless of a state policy. The task of integration policy is to reflect this crucial momentum and offer a way to social cohesion. It should be an acceptance of the Vietnamese into the public life of Czech villages, towns and cities. The future of the civic participation of Vietnamese is recently outlined in some primary schools.

Vietnamese mode of belonging is established on kin ties, consistency of local neighbourhood, or regional identity. For example, some Czech borderland towns are "occupied" by compatriots from the same province of Vietnam. Additionally, is not difficult to find a street entirely populated by members of one large Vietnamese family (Tung, 2000). Adaptation of Vietnamese on the local level is examined also by Brouček. He is concerned with relations between the local (Czech) community and the Vietnamese. The Vietnamese are narrowly focused on their economic well-being which reduces their accommodation in local communities. The second aspect of their relative isolation is the transience of Vietnamese modus of everyday economy. The trade opportunities or complications are strong motivations for migration to the CR. On the other hand, Brouček gives examples of the mutually profitable co-existence of local community members and Vietnamese.²⁴

The civic participation of Vietnamese is limited by the temporality of their declared length of stay in the CR. However, the Vietnamese, according to Kocourek, very often remain for a longer time than originally declared. The main principle of segregation of Vietnamese is a mutual mistrust among the autochthonous society and the Vietnamese in the Czech Republic. At least the traditional (rural) way of life toughens community's borders. These demonstrations of culture differences and social interactions (both-sided) are determinants of the current isolation of Vietnamese. Second generation is socialising in quite different civilisation context than parents (rural communities, war communism). The acceleration of culture change comes from traditional high value of education. Thus, Vietnamese children are motivated to deeper socialization through Czech education system by culture values of Parents. They are drawn to the civic participation into schools (extracurricular activities), to the participation on the culture change.

²³ The reality of entanglement of internal patterns and external conditions is reflected in language competitions of the recently growing-up second generation of Vietnamese. Their mother language is Vietnamese, but first writing language is Czech. Some of the children are lectured in written Vietnamese when they are attending first classes of primary school

²⁴ For instance Czech pensioners rent a yard for goods and car of Vietnamese traders. They also take care of trader's children (Brouček 2003).

3. Chinese: Shaping of the the youngest immigrant's community in the ČR

Notwithstanding that Chinese migration to the CR began in the 1920s, the Chinese "community" in the Czech Republic is relatively new.²⁵ Most of them came to the Republic in the mid 90s from Hungary or from CIS countries. "The genesis of the Chinese ethnic economy in countries of Central and Eastern Europe was supported by Chinese states companies, in contrary to ethnic economies in the USA and Western Europe, which have relied by significant measure to the development of private enterprises by new Chinese immigrants" (Moore-Mezlíková 2003, pp. 25). Regional producers borrowed starting capital or gave the first supply free of charge to their compatriots in CEEC countries.²⁶ Obuchová analyses the geographical determinants of the transnational networks of Chinese "Diasporas". According to the results of a quantitative analysis, the sectors and practice of Chinese entrepreneurs are determined by their region of origin in China (Obuchová, 2003).

Both studies of Chinese in the CR offer a set of factors which influence the civic participation of foreigners in the Czech Republic. Chinese in the Czech Republic have developed several formal or non-formal organizations with different appeals to expatriate Chinese. Among them is "The chamber of Chinese traders" which, according to Moore-Mezlíková, has been "struggling to acquire influence and authority through controversial tools" (Moore-Mezlíková 2003). The leaders have been appealing to the feelings of mutuality and solidarity, which they elaborated within the discourse of ethnicity. The Chinese were forced into membership by the use of psychological pressure (Moore-Mezlíková 2003).²⁷ The Chamber supported regional particularities by establishing regional subunits. Lastly, the Chamber had a connection to organized crime. In fact, many Chinese chose to become members in order to secure friendship and kin networks.

Contrary to the Chamber, the Association of the Chinese in the Czech Republic was established to increase transparency, improve the legal knowledge of compatriots, and foster cooperation with the Czech institutions. The principles and conditions of membership in the Association of Chinese living in the Czech Republic are very strict. The first principle of membership is based on the concept of *ius sanguinis*. It is complemented by the condition of correctness, the necessity of the pledges of three recent members of the Association (Obuchová, 2003). Obuchová also notes the important fact that the Association is privately financed by the "Salon of the oriental art". The founder of the Association is a charismatic, naturalized Chinese lady. „Her accumulated social and cultural capital (through 40 years of living in the Czech Republic) ensured her the authority and respect of the newly incoming Chinese“ (Moore-Mezlíková 2003, pp. 26). The completely feminine leadership of the Association distinguishes it from the entrenched patriarchal mode (characteristic for Chinese organization) in south-east Asia, USA, Western Europe, Hungary, and Romania. Women were excluded from participation in the leadership there. The appeal of the Association was based on Chinese cultural identity and the improvement of mutual solidarity. The Association has been providing legal consultancies and publishing periodicals (the Czech-Chinese newsletter).

²⁵ First Chinese settlers in the Czechoslovakia had left country after the communist putsch in 1948.

²⁶ In the Czech Republic were wholesalers lately, but it is turning now. Approximately in 2003 a boom of Chinese bistros in Prague and other Czech cities began.

²⁷ One of the aims of the Chamber was a mediating role between gangs of racketeers and the Chinese community. Fee for membership in Chamber was used as payments to formations of organised crime (Moore-Mezlíková, 2003).

Chinese Christians (Protestants) are very active. The idea behind the linkage between faith and migration is "it is not possible to sustain a direct relationship between religion and the tendencies to migrate but the conversion to Christianity could serve to stimulate migration – it creates identity distinct from the majority and creates a (real or imaged) fear from persecution." (Obuchová, 2003, pp. 23) The Chinese Christian could fall back on both the Chinese community and the ethnic church abroad.

The international Chinese primary school in Prague offers education in Chinese, officially within the framework of the current educational system in China. The school offers Chinese language courses on Saturday in addition to afternoon lectures for children who are attending Czech primary schools.

Moore-Mezlíková concludes with the observation that the feelings of solidarity among compatriots from the same district or region are more viable than common solidarity of all Chinese based on the notion of a common cultural identity and ethnicity. "On the basis of local identities small-scale communities (core communities) have been established as non-official associations within the Chinese community" (Moore-Mezlíková 2003, pp. 27).

Civic participation of Chinese in the Czech Republic is an ongoing process. Nevertheless, the Association has already received subsidies for its culture program. The civic activities of the Chinese are mainly concentrated to the community, but presentation of Chinese culture to the outside population takes place as well. Both researches have expressively asserted that the Chinese are isolated from autochthonous population. Moore Mezlíková classifies Chinese migrants in CEEC as sojourners. In fact, the Chinese and Vietnamese view living in the Czech Republic as temporary. From this point of view they are not seriously motivated for adaptation. For instance, one of the key findings of the aforementioned researches was poor knowledge of Czech language among Chinese. Just 20% of Chinese children speak Czech. The rest of them prefer English or German, because these languages improve their position in the Chinese labour market (according to their parents) (Moore-Mezlíková 2003).

4. Inclusion of former citizens of USSR or making of the Post-soviet underworld in the CR?

In recent time we can observe something what could be called "the Russian speaking community" in the CR. The Orthodox Church, language (Russian as imperial lingua franca and former medium of universal ideology), distinguished economic niches, and a comparable cultural background are common features of that "supra-ethnic community".²⁸ Which consist of various ethnic groups or social classes. Nevertheless, an examination of the civic participation of these immigrants as distinct groups is premature.²⁹ We can reflect on the current state of particular groups of this group according to their perspectives of their civic participation in the democratic process.

Tactics used to make a difference by an outside (Czech) society are visible in the case of immigrants from the Ukraine and other countries of the European part of the former USSR (Belarus, Moldova, Latvia). Some professions are ethnically stereotyped (Uherek and col., 2004) as a workforce consisting of unskilled and exploited temporary workers in specific sectors of economy such as construction and manufacturing. Their civic rights are too difficult

²⁸ In the Czech Republic approximately five journals in Russian for various social groups are published.

²⁹ Greco-catholic Ukrainians are already distinguishing from described group by religion.

to acquire and their presence is tainted by a radical uncertainty. Temporal labour migrants from ex-soviet countries are marginalized in both forms of exclusion.³⁰ The self-defining of labour migrants from former USSR is that of a distinctive group rather than an ethnic community based on a self-help framework or belonging to micro-communities of working collectives. It has more mutually entangled reasons: Self-definition (in the context of labour migration in the CR) is ongoing and ethnic identity is not recently affected among members of that group; ethnic vagueness reflects similar other-definitions of the group (as "Russians"); persisting common culture features of "post-socialism".³¹ Lastly, these people coming to the Czech republic as part of capitalist mode of production, in terms of Castles they are acting as ethnic sub-proletariat. Here it is not space to examine all of these questions. It is more accuable to define recent forms of belonging to societal units of labour immigrants in the Czech Republic. Recent modes of community making processes can help us understand the lack of civic participation of people from the former Soviet Union.

4.1. Lower strata - Labour migration as serfdom

The disintegration of a central ideology and "Transition" to market economy comprises a varied scale of social forms of production in ex-sayuz countries, but various features of soviet economical practice persist until now.³² The soviet economy was not established on capital but on collective work. This caused a politicisation of working collectives. They have been both economical and political units (Verdery 1996; Humphrey 2002). Katherine Verdery conceives the inertia of politicised economy as "transition from socialism to feudalism" (Verdery 1996). Caroline Humphrey formulates it as "transition from administrative serfdom to economical serfdom" (Humphrey 2002). The collective economical activities of ordinary people are provided within the frame of socially compendious groups with a strong principle of authority. The working collective is directly controlled by master, who holds specific knowledge and connections for the maintenance of resources (Ibid). The mastership, the leading principle in the labour migration environment of the Czech Republic, is labelled by the institution as The Client. The Client is more correctly a patron, but let's put aside this terminological aspect. The Client offers unskilled, flexible and cheap labour mostly of Ukrainians. It is his/her main commodity on the Czech labour market. From the Ukrainian point of view, The Client is defined as the person who gives jobs and takes care of them. It doesn't matter if The Client is a man or a woman, Czech, Armenian or Ukrainian. The Client usually arranges common housing in boarding houses and (not necessary) legality of stay for his/her workers. The Client and the working community are within the reach of "protection" (racket) of organised crime. The cultural or class aspects of interconnection among The Client, organised crime and local employers is not the aim of this report, but we can pay particular concern to the social consequences of creating a community styled in the zone of shadow economy. The labour workers are in a state of radical uncertainty. They don't know where they will work tomorrow (Uherek 2005; Drbohlav, Šelepová, 1999). The Client offers the flexible workforce of his collective to various employers. Their salary is rarely fully paid

³⁰ In case of immigration from former USSR it is more accurate to speak about migratory or ethnic communities than ethnic minorities. Classification of specific immigration groups will be discussed in chapter 3 of this part.

³¹ Post-socialism is an academically constructed concept for grasping of sharing features of "*actually existing socialism*" which is distributed and mouldering of diverging ways in different countries" (Humphrey, 2002).

³² Concept of Transition is recently under critique for its ethnocentric or teleological characters and disrespect to cross-national variations (Kideckel 2002; Verdery 1996).

or on time and their stay is more quasi-legal or illegal than legal. Their whole societal life is concentrated in the micro-community of workers, which is headed by The Client. An unskilled temporary worker has to belong to some of these collectives because without the order the collectives provide, dangers from the injustice of organized crime would prevail. Members of collectives do not see their master simply as an exploiter, but as a man who offers not only jobs but also migration services (from the country of origin). They perceive him/her as a person who knows law and order in the destination country and who is able (owing to his/her special knowledge) to guarantee protection for the whole collective. The Client sets up social and political units numbering from five to one hundred members. These micro-communities are not very stable. The disintegration of the community by external impacts or emancipation of temporary workers in processes of social mobility (usually these who tend to permanent immigration) is not infrequent. The structure of working collectives of temporary workers exemplifies the scale of dynamics and variations, which reflect the shift from temporary stay to permanent immigration. The unskilled, temporary worker on an illegal stay is totally dependent on The Client and community around him/her. Emphasis on collective in the process of socialisation and politicisation of economic activities has derived similar modes of everyday economy in provincial Russia as described by Caroline Humphrey.³³ Other external factors are the practice of intermediation through Clients and limited accessibility of legal entrance for both employers and labour migrants to the labour market in the CR. The Client System looks as relative familiar social space for labour migrants. In other words, the Client collectives are islands of comprehensibility in undistinguished and eventually hostile social practice in the CR. The collectivist mode of organisation of the everyday economy of labour migrants became established in the CR in early 1990s as groups under informal leadership. During gradual institutionalization of the labour migration (visa regime, restrictive measures to legal employment of foreigners, e.g.) were these groups involved to the underworld order enforced by formations of organized crime. Today we can not speak about a general systemic practice of the organising of migrant's labour, or even about the practice of individual Clients.³⁴ Thus, to specify the potential responses to the participation in Trade Unions by that group would be nearly prophetic. Anyway, the civic participation of Clients, their isolation from organised crime, and effective state control over labour conditions of migrants could be the starting point.

4.2. Middle strata as networks of self help

After the disintegration of The Client collective or the emancipation of individuals, the older relations persist in the self-help networks, which is the second mode of the community making of immigrants from the former USSR in the Czech Republic. The fundamental elements of the self-help networks (in terms of Humphrey "networks of reciprocity") are various modes of solidarity (for instance occasional "joint ventures" of entrepreneurs).³⁵ Solidarity ties are maintained at birthday parties or other celebrations. Common language is a mixture of Russian and Ukrainian languages with Czechisms.³⁶ These networks are not defined ethnically. The participation consists mostly of Ukrainians, than Byelorussians,

³³ As one of internal factors of "shadow styling" of labour migrants home-making could be a practice of semi-legal or illegal internal labour migration in USSR "*schabasch*" (Černík, 2004).

³⁴ In terms of Castles the *Client system* is peculiar *home-making* or in other words *collective-making*.

³⁵ Ezzedine-Lukšíková and Drbohlav mention forms solidarity such as finance support, advising and communication with alien police (Ezzedine-Lukšíková, Drbohlav, 2004).

³⁶ *De facto* permanent immigrants from the former USSR are dispersed in Prague and in regional cities. Recently the spatial preferences in Prague's quarters (prefab quarters, e.g.) have been outlined.

middle class Russians, Georgians and Armenians. Equally heterogeneous are their economic activities (Černík, 2004). Among the group of permanent economic immigrants from the former USSR, men are partly self-employers in the construction segment of the economy. Women do domestic work or unskilled work in hotel services, but recently also IT professionals have become. These people seem to have recently formed the middle class of immigrants of the "Russian speaking community" who permanent immigration in the Czech Republic. They are usually struggling to obtain a permit for permanent living (if they don't have it). Thus, their acceptance as partners in the democratic process is a challenge of the Czech integration policy.

4.3. Higher strata - "New Russians" in the Czech Republic

The class approach seems to correspond with the situation of Russian citizens in the Czech Republic. They constitute a distinctive group of highly educated, successful, rich but excluded people (see Drbohlav, Lupták, 1999). These so-called "New Russians" form the new higher strata of Russians. Their motivation for immigration is similar to other migrants from the former USSR: political stability, essential security, accession of the CR to EU and a familiar language. They are perceived (if they are distinguished from "the Russian speaking community") through stereotypes by the autochthonous society as Mafiosi, fraudulent entrepreneurs or more generally as imperial usurpers. A significant group of "New Russians" segregate themselves spatially in certain residence quarters in Prague and in the spa-town Karlovy Vary (villas or luxury apartments). Their economical activities maintain a specific "post-soviet supra-ethnic economy". Entrepreneurs from Russia prefer to employ former soviet citizens for the realisation of their business plans. The Russian community has formed several associations and Russian schools as well as an active Orthodox Church community (See in part III). The New Russians are excluded but not marginalised because they come to the Czech Republic in the position of social and economic elites (or higher middle strata) (Drbohlav and Lupták, 1999; Černík, 2004).³⁷ On the other hand their social capital is seen as inappropriate by the Czechs. The Russians in the CR are excluded from mainstream society in legal, economic, social and cultural spheres. The exclusion of this non-marginalised group is, in terms of Castles, enforced by self-definition rather than other-definition.³⁸ The Russian ethnic organisations are interconnected with this rank of former soviet citizens. The promoting of concerts, Russian interpreters, and the publication of books in Russia are the main activities of these organisations. The fact that Russians in the Czech Republic are a recognised national minority (see above) raises the tendencies to preserve the "high culture" in Prague and other cities with a significant population of permanently settled Russians. The case of a specific group of immigrants which is struggling to preserve and cultivate its distinguishing social (cultural, economic, human) characteristics in an environment of limited acceptance (such as Russians in the Czech Republic) can be seen as a counter model to the

³⁷ The immigration of the post-soviet elite has common features with the migration of (less or more) highly skilled professionals from Western Europe or North America. *"The collective activities of the Russian community could be compared to the behaving of Anglo-Saxon community in Prague. They are carving a space for themselves in the Czech Republic without Czechs"* (Černík, 2004).

³⁸ Russian elite migratory *place-making* is bordering with *diasporic consciousness*, which perhaps traverse the concept of class theory and the dialectical concept of exclusion x inclusion (see Castles and Davidson 2000, p.139, 154)

mechanisms of exclusion defined by the class theory.³⁹ According to here described features of this distinctive group of Russians are determined forms of civic participation through adequate forms of higher social strata.

4.4. Armenians in the CR: Art of the feasible

Armenians are a new group of immigrants in the Czech Republic (in contrary to Poland and countries of the Balkan peninsula). They came here in the 90s, mostly as asylum seekers. The migration inflow to the CR was partly stimulated by economical depression in Armenia.

Armenians are not a significant immigration group (slightly over 1000), but, for the aims of this report, serve as an example of active civic participation of immigrants in limited conditions in the CR. Armenians are acting as various entrepreneurs of different ranks or they have various kinds of occupations (Maroušek, 2003). Even though the Czech Republic is not a primary target of immigration, Armenians' integration strategy is fully linked with the autochthonous population. The economic viability of Armenian craftsmen or petty-traders relies on autochthonous customers (Černík, 2004). They work in ethnically mixed collectives, and at the very least Armenians participate in the various sectors of public life in the Czech Republic (Maroušek, 2003). They are working in NGOs, at Universities as lecturers or as artists in most of the multicultural events (festivals) in the CR. The results of quantitative research are expressing, *"Armenians struggle to gain recognition of their education and often improve it in the Czech Republic"* (Ezzedine-Lukšíková, Drbohlav, 2004, pp. 59). They learn to speak Czech at a very early stage. Armenians are striving to maintain their cultural distinctiveness of their group through Saturday schools on their native language or cultural activities in contrary to functional links between social mobility of Armenians and autochthonous society. Assimilation to the receiving country regarding to economic actions and similarly the creation of a Diaspora discourse among groups is a feature of the Armenian culture of emigration. Both qualitative (Maroušek, 2003) and quantitative researches (Ezzedine-Lukšíková, Drbohlav, 2004) document strong ties of Armenians with their country of origin. Armenians provide financial and material support to their less well-off relatives (both in Armenia and the Czech Republic). This aspect of Armenian culture is connected to the large extended network of acquaintances and strong identities formed on the basis of "localities" through neighbourhood relationships. Some of the Armenians, as Maroušek mentions, are frustrated by the anonymity of the relations which they perceive as characteristic of the autochthonous society. *"Armenians actively search and maintain connections with other compatriots and they are well informed about the life of each other's families"* (Maroušek, 2004, pp. 49).

It must be mentioned that two Armenian organisations are subsidised by grant programs of Ministry of Culture or Prague City council. Activities of the Czech-Armenian Society limit themselves to the promotion of annual meetings to mark the anniversary of Armenian genocide on the 24th of April. More influential and active is an association called "Arménský dům" (Armenian house), which offers legal and social consultancies at a non-formal level to compatriots. The Armenian House covers social and cultural events such as concerts, exhibitions, literature evenings and other gatherings of compatriots. Their main activity is publishing a monthly magazine "NAIRI" (see bellow). The most influential ethnic institution

³⁹ Quite different group of Russian citizens in the CR are Chechens (asylum seekers, recognised refugees and in regime of tolerance stay). Individual naturalised Russians (descendants of immigrants of 20s, see chapter Migration History) are very active in frame of organization of the recognized Russian National minority.

of Armenians in the Czech Republic seems to be the Saturday School of Armenian language. Its aims and activities are clear – to preserve the language and teach children to read and write in Armenian. Children attend school accompanied by parents. For the latter, the school offers an excellent opportunity for information exchange and the fostering of friendships. In the Czech Republic two Armenian magazines are published. The above mentioned NAIRI is bilingual; the Armenian section includes information from Armenia and Armenian related world news. The Czech sections (participating activists are Czech students of Armenian language) contributes articles on Armenian history, nature and literature. The second magazine "ORER" (Days) is a more politically and culturally engaged journal. It acts as a significant journal for the whole Diaspora. The Armenians who were surveyed generally know their organizations. They are well informed about the activities of the NGOs focused on migration issues. Armenians perceive the lack of an Armenian church, which is a symbol of a viable Diaspora (Maroušek, 2003). Both Armenian organisations mentioned above promote cultural events for Armenians and other communities in the Czech Republic and they are, at least continuously successful in state subsidies provided by Ministry of Culture. Members of the relatively new Armenian community are active in Czech NGOs concerning migrants. In the case of this community we can see civic participation of individuals as well as group.

Here, Armenians are outside of the constructed "Russian speaking community". Their mode of civic participation is shaped by Diaspora discourse - it includes strong kin ties, maintenance of language, Armenian Church community and ethnic organizations. Diaspora concept (or culture of emigration) define groups as distinctive parts of the local population, it define ethnic or religious borders within alongside dominant group. Armenians do not creating the ethnic economy, they are finding specific economic niche in the Czech Republic. Regarding to civic participation, they use all of here available "gates" to the public space.

4.5. Ethnic versus National Ukrainians

Every author who describes the process of Ukrainian community formation in the CR refers to the idea of "schism" (Leontieva, 2004) or "bifurcation of Ukrainian community" (Uherek, 2003) or "a failure of representatives of community" (Zilynskyj, 2002).

Zilynskyj offers a survey of the development of association of Ukrainians in the Czech Republic, which gives a coherent picture of their development in the 19th and 20th centuries (Zilynskyj, 2002). The establishment of the Ukrainian minority in the Czech lands (historically of Bohemia and Moravia) started at the turn of the 20th century with immigration from the territory of the Ukraine (the former Austrian empire and Poland). The industrialization of northern Moravia provided the first impulse for mass inflow of Ukrainians from Halic. In an historical survey, Zilynskyj describes the development of minority organizations in the beginning of the 1990s. The turbulent development of these organizations was motivated by the desire for unity which would ease the fragmentation and tensions between different communities. Zilynskyj describes the failure of the representatives of the Ukrainian minority in the Czech Republic to accommodate their compatriots/migrant workers who have immigrated since the early 90s (Zilynskyj, 2002). Leontieva conceives the "schism" of the Ukrainian community as a gap between permanently settled cultural elites (who established an institutionalised national minority) and migratory labour migrants. She notices the bridging effect which religious practice has on these communities and its important role in community and social life (Leontieva 2004).

On the one pole is the most firmly established organisation: "Ukrajinská Iniciativa v ČR" (The Ukrainian Initiative in CR – further referred to as the UICR) The UICR is concerned

with the promotion of cultural activities, and the publication of the only Ukrainian magazine "Porohy" (Leontieva 2004). UICR is ethnic organization of recognized National minority of Czech citizens, its activists are mostly descendants of immigrants from 20s. The two other organisations are limited by members capacities and financial resources and are composed of people concerned with the maintenance of traditions and the organisation of sporadic cultural events. On the other hand is the second well established organisation Fórum Urajinčů v ČR (the Forum of Ukrainians in the CR - FUCR). Students from the Ukraine in Prague established this organisation in 2001. Their activities target young people as well as labour migrants and influencing the Czech media. The web site "Forum" was established before FUCR and popular chat rooms for Ukrainians have existed for some time. The next popular activity of FUCR is matches of the Ukrainian football team "Forum". Lastly, FUCR made a film about Ukrainian labour migrants in Europe. Leontieva points to the tensions among Ukrainian organisations, especially between UICR and FUCR. That situation is, according to Leontieva, a result of a rebellious policy adopted by the FUCR (Leontieva 2004). Anyway, FUCR facing to the limitations of organization of "the ethnic minority" (of immigrants in the CR) and UICR can participate on resources granted to organization of "the national minority" of Czech citizens (of the Ukrainian origin).

As is mentioned above, from the autochthonous point of view, are citizens of former USSR are simply "Russians". This is not exactly a falsification of the other-definition but a reflection of several common features of examined group as it is mentioned above. The general result could be optimistic as well as pessimistic. The "Russians" is high socially stratified community. Thus, the each of here described social strata will evolve the modes of participation according to the appropriate structural preparedness of institutional framework. Armenians and Ukrainian elite are distinctive groups already, thus they are most integrated groups and actively participating in public space. Vice versa, the "Russian speaking community" could be forced, by various forms of exclusion, into isolation and some informal social practices of post-socialism could become a powerful discourse of counter-culture or parallel structures. An Armenian example supports an idea that social mobility, civic participation and maintenance of "culture retreat" could be a successful cluster of integration strategy directing to social cohesion. The civic participation of immigrants from the countries of the former European part of the USSR could play a key role in process of their identification inside the society in the Czech Republic. Czech Republic will not probably facing to the religion extremism, but similar jeopardise factor (for social cohesion) bearing underworld culture of organized crime.

5. Prominent examples of immigrants active in public life

Participation of immigrants in public life in the Czech Republic (except for entrepreneurship) is a scarce phenomenon. A greater degree of active participation is found among citizens of Slovakia, Poland or the United States. Representatives of the Ukrainian community act as representatives of Ukrainian national minority. Most of them were born in Czechoslovakia. The following are examples of some of the most prominent immigrants from 3rd countries that have been active in public life.

Jelena Silajdžić

Born in Sarajevo (Former Yugoslavia)

She is resident of the Czech Republic since 1992 (holder of a permanent residence permit).

- Member of Advisory Council for Integration of Foreigners of the Ministry of Labor

and Social Affairs.

- Member of the section for rights of foreigners at the governmental Council for Human Rights.
- Nansen Medal Awarder
- Director of the civic association Slovo 21

Slovo 21 is the most consolidated organization of foreigners in the Czech Republic.

The main goals of Slovo 21 (Word 21):

- To fight against racism and to cultivate interethnic toleration
- Expand educational opportunities and media support for minorities
- Increase integration of foreigners
- Promote gender equality

Activities of Slovo 21 in the field of foreigner integration in 2003:

State-wide conference "Cizinec nebo spoluobčan" (Foreigner or citizen) was the final event in a set of round table discussions held in regional centers in 2002. Both the conference and the round tables had foreigner integration and related issues, such as media images of foreigners as the main themes. State bodies, representatives of NGOs and foreigners participated in all the mentioned events.

International conference "Integrace cizinců v Evropě" (Integration of foreigners in Europe) took place in Prague for 2 days. It was the first conference of this magnitude in the CR. There were participants from twelve European countries (Central and Western Europe). Representatives of state bodies presented models and programs for the integration of foreigners which have been applied in their respective countries. Representatives of NGOs presented their activities as well.

Bulletin Slovo is a periodical "about and for foreigners". It publicizes migration and integration issues in a popular form. In 2003 three issues were published.

Igor Blažević

Born in Sarajevo (holder of permanent residence permit)

- Film director and director of One World Film Festival
- One of the top managers of the People in Need, benevolent society.

The International Festival of documentary films "One World" is particularly concerned with human rights. The NGO People in Need has held the festival six times through 2004, under the auspices of former president Václav Havel, the Czech Minister of Culture, and the Mayor of Prague. One World consists of an international competition of documentary films and videos, retrospectives and tributes, educational screenings for primary and high school students, workshops, debates, concerts and photography exhibitions. Approximately 130 films from all around the globe are presented each year, with screenings followed by guest panel discussions.

Today, One World is a driving force behind a cluster of smaller human rights festivals in Central, Eastern and Southern Europe. One World helps non-governmental and cultural organisations in other countries to launch their own human rights film screenings. One World is a member of the European Co-ordination of Film Festivals (ECFF).

Goranka Oljača

Born in Sarajevo (Former Yugoslavia)

Resident of the Czech Republic since 1992 (holder of a permanent residence permit since 1997).

- Member of the section for the rights of foreigners at the governmental Council for Human Rights.
- Board councilor of the NGO Counseling Center for Refugees
- Board member of the Center of Migration Issues.
- Participant in other NGO projects focused on problems of foreigners in the CR.
- Co-editor of the bulletin SLOVO, produced by the NGO Slovo 21 (see above)

Goranka Oljača is an employee of Czech Radio Broadcasting, where she works as editor of two programs about foreigners.

We and They - Discussion program on migration and related issues.

Foreigners - Portraits of foreigners in the CR as well as coverage of actual events among NGOs active in the field of migration.

Nguyen Tung

Born in Vietnam, resident of CR since 1960s (Czechoslovakia), Czech citizen

- Member of the Council of the Prague City Mayor for National Minorities
- Head of the NGO Club Bambus
- Official Translator and head of a consultancy company (Official communication with Czech institutions, advisor for the Vietnamese)

The aims of the Bambus Club include the expansion of cooperation with Czech partners on the issues of language education at the primary school level as well as the improvement of relations between pupils of both nationalities. Activities of the Bambus Club include teaching the Czech language to Vietnamese citizens in addition to teaching the Vietnamese language to Vietnamese children who are forgetting their mother tongue. The Association also organizes sporting events. Activities of the Bambus Club are limited to Prague.

Part III

Conclusions

A. Main civic initiatives undertaken by immigrants

The main Initiatives of immigrants in the Czech Republic might be sorted into three categories: Culture events; Educational activities; Religion practice.

Associations of foreigners are most active in cultural activities. These include the promotion of national "high culture" or "popular culture" events among their members and sympathizers from autochthonous society through activities such as concerts, exhibitions, celebrations, and festivals (a). These activities are determined by the identity politics of each community and its social stratification. Cultural events are mostly open to the general public. However, usually only professionals (translators, scientists, NGOs activists) and other individuals and groups (such as family members) attend these events. Participation of the autochthonous population is minimal (c). Immigrants do participate in cultural events which target the autochthonous society and are organized by NGOs. These multicultural events are generally provided by Czech NGO's specializing on issues of racism and migration; the role of foreigners could be labelled as active participation on initiatives of the autochthonous groups (b).

Immigrants initiatives on the field of education are concerned to preserve their native languages through regular (country of origin styled schools) or non-formal voluntary schools. The Chinese, Russians and Arabs (from Libya and Egypt) especially have established their own primary schools through their respective embassies. Armenians, Vietnamese, and Georgians have established some kind of voluntary courses in their native languages. Ukrainians have possibility to obtain education in Ukrainian language and Jews have regular schools within the official educational system of the CR (a). Both mosques in the CR offer Arabic for both allochthon and autochthon communities. (b) Parent associations (multinational) have been established in one or two primary schools in Prague. They are using by Vietnamese youth for extracurricular activities of schools (c).

Religion practice plays an important role for identification of certain groups of immigrants in the Czech republic as unifying element. It generate occasional initiatives tied to the religion celebration of holydays. The non-formal community of Greco-catholic Christians serves to unite and represent the community of Ukrainians (in the CR from western Ukraine) rather than different ethnic organizations. The Orthodox Christians church is also unifying element for immigrants from former USSR (with different ethnic background) especially during celebrating of orthodox eastern (a). The mission of the Jehovah's Witnesses seems to be successful among immigrants from the former USSR (c). The Community of Muslims consists mostly of immigrants but the leadership consists mostly of ethnic Czechs (a)

B. Ethnic groups and nationalities in the Czech Republic

Each of ethnic groups in the Czech Republic developed variable modes of civic participation according to external conditions. The Armenian community is very active relative to their low total number in the CR. Armenians have a culture of emigration (Diaspora discourse), which involves institutionalization of the community, issuing of minority periodicals and the

establishment of the Armenian Church. The first two conditions have been completed. In the CR two periodicals are issued periodically and two active ethnic organizations are in operation. (b) People from the former Yugoslavia are successful from many points of view (as entrepreneurs, artists) - as individuals. This is explained by the selective character of immigration from Yugoslavia to the CR in the early 90s (see Migration History) (c). Ukrainians, Croats, Bulgarians and Russians are partially active through their official status as national minorities, which offers them opportunities for subsidies. The activities of these immigrant groups focus mainly on the promotion of events aimed at preserving "high culture," or in the case of Ukrainians producing a minority periodical (b). Russians are well organised in numerous areas of civic participation. In the Czech Republic up to six Russian journals and e-zines exist. Several primary and secondary Russian schools provide education for children of Russian-speaking immigrants in the CR. Orthodox churches help to foster a community through religious affiliation and practices. It is necessary to distinguish between the Russians claiming to represent a national minority (and their activities) and the new community of Russian citizens. The first group is concerned with "high culture" through such events as concerts and publishing. It is represented by the Association of friends of Russian Tradition. On the other hand, activities organized by the new immigrants address more practical and economic or popular issues. Artek, the Association of Russian speaking students in the Czech Republic is an example of an organization concerned with such issues. (c)

Vietnamese are less active for more intertwined reasons. Firstly, they do not have the status of a national minority. Additionally, the main ethnic organisations are politically controlled by the Vietnamese embassy in the CR. The ethnic economy of the Vietnamese is based on individual entrepreneurship. Social organisation of the Vietnamese community is based on kin structures rather than on a common sense of nationality or religion and finally, Vietnamese are living in the permanent makeshift, they declare the temporality of their staying in the CR (b).

C. The discrepancy between the rate of civic participation of immigrants and the majority population

The civic participation of immigrants is substantially lower than that of the majority population and that of immigrants from EU countries due to their lower population rate (2,3 % of residents of the CR), and lack of stability. The primary concern of immigrants is basic survival and securing of all legally required documentation. An important reason for the relatively low civic participation of immigrants in the CR could be the absence of a second generation of immigrants. (c)

D. Relationship between organizations of migrants and mainstream society

Many foreigners are employees of NGOs concerned with aid to foreigners. They usually work as social assistants and less frequently as lawyers (b).

The Centre for Integration (Poradna pro integraci – PPI) is concerned with the integration of recognized refugees and foreigners. PPI offers individual legal and social assistance to both groups of immigrants in three cities in the CR. The Centre also promotes the interethnic music festival.

The Organization for Aid to Refugees (Organizace pro pomoc uprchlíkům) has a similar target group and offers legal assistance to asylum seekers. The organization assists foreigners in entering the labor market.

The Centre for Refugees (Poradna pro uprchlíky) serves immigrants, asylum seekers and persons who have received asylum since 1993. The Centre provides a multicultural group of women and offers other activities supporting community relations between foreigners and the autochthonous population. The Centre and its close associates function as an interethnic community on the level of interpersonal relations.

The Society of Citizens Assisting Emigrants (Sdružení zabývající se emigranty) focuses on migrants of different legal statuses. Its activities are largely concentrated in Brno as well as the Moravian and Silesia regions. The headquarters is located in Brno.

The Counselling Centre for Citizenship, Civil and Human Rights monitors the compliance of the Czech internal laws with ratified international treaties on human rights and freedoms. It advocates the creation of conditions for the cooperation between the private sector and state institutions, with a special regard to human rights in the Czech Republic. The Centre implements programs focused on the integration of foreigners, including legal aid in cases of problems with citizenship and legalisation of residence.

The Counselling Centre for Integration focuses on promoting and ensuring human and civil rights for recognized refugees in the Czech Republic. It aims to create and implement a functional system of full integration of recognised refugees in the Czech Republic. This includes all aspects of integration, such as working with individual clients as well as improving political and social attitudes toward refugee issues.

These and other NGOs (Charitas, Diacony) advocates are concerned with the foreign-born population in the CR. They participate in councils and state commissions in addition to lobby for improvement in the quality of life of foreigners in the CR. Foreigners form part of the staff of these organisations. Associations such as the Czech-Arabic Society, Czech-Vietnam Society or Czech-Georgian Society, are more concerned with economic or cultural relations between the Czech Republic and the respective country. Overlaps are possible but the aims of these organizations are more or less distinct from the life of ordinary foreigners. (c)

E. Issues of particular interest and importance in the field?

Three notices below identify what is lacking. Their elimination is a question of developments in the near or more distant future.

It is necessary to pay particular attention to the legal conditions of permanent immigrants. A foreigner can obtain a permanent residence permit after 10 (or 8) years of permanent stay on a specific type of visa. This requirement is usually fulfilled by obtaining a temporary permit of residence (visa over 90 days) for the purpose of conducting business or employment. This creates a long period of instability and limited rights for foreigners who are de facto permanently settled on the territory of the CR. The requirement for obtaining a permit for permanent residence has a longer waiting period than in other EU countries (approximately 5 years). Citizenship can be granted after 5 years of living in the Czech Republic while holding a permanent residence permit. The time requirement for acquiring Czech citizenship is 15 (or 13) years in total. This is in direct contradiction with the European convention for citizenship.(c)

Particular interest should be paid to the concept of national minority as stated in Czech law along with its consequences to the civic participation of immigrants. National minorities such

as Germans, Slovaks, Poles or Hungarians represent a historical residuum within the transnational frame of the European Union. On the other hand, communities such as the Vietnamese have no rights as minorities because of the narrow legal definition of this status. Minority institutions of the Russian or Ukrainian communities stand apart from ordinary migrants. They represent only the naturalised groups of these immigrants (according to the law). Activities of these institutionalised organizations which focus on new immigrants are, necessarily, provided through non-systemic, unofficial means (c).

The implementation of integration policy is lacking on the regional and local levels in the Czech Republic (except for four cities). Civic participation of foreigners in the field of integration is possible (but not in fact) just at the central level (c). Particular interest has to be paid to the fact that non-citizens are not members of local community according to legal Act about municipal election. It undermines an opportunity to vote of immigrants from third countries at local level.

F. Research gaps

Non-institutional forms of organisation and self-help of immigrants have not been researched sufficiently. Simultaneously, this represents a significant feature of the biggest group of immigrants in the Czech Republic - workers from the western part of the former USSR. They have established highly functional networks of mutual reciprocity, which help to redress a state of uncertainty of immigrants. These networks have high potential for civic participation because they distribute migration and integration strategies. On the other hand, these structures sometimes have connections to the black market and have ties to organized crime. (c) The institutional and legal knowledge of immigrants was not examined in the CR as well as evaluation studies. The most flagrant gap of examination in the field of immigration in the Czech Republic is an absence of targeted research policy. This conceptual material could declare what is necessary to research, which kind of data is needed or what are priorities of the CR in field of International Migration and Integration of foreigners.

Annex 1

Mapping of Research Competencies in the Czech Republic

1. Civic participation of immigrants

In the Czech Republic currently neither an institution nor a group of scholars exists which could systematically examine the degree of civic participation of immigrants. Thus, concrete projects are objects of a preliminary deliberation.

2. Civic participation in general – leading institutions

The Institute for the Study of Culture and Ethnocentrism (ISKE)

Gorkého 7; Brno; 612 00

Phone: +420 5 4949 5479; navratil@fss.muni.cz

<http://www.iske.cz>

Head of Institute: Pavel Navrátil, Ph.D.

ISKE is an NGO created to study cultural plurality, ethnic relations, nationalism and racism. The results of its efforts are used in educational and consulting activities.

ISKE has been collecting information and data from research in the field of integration of minorities (especially of the Roma people). The institute is concerned with putting the results of their research into practice.

Socioklub – Association for the promotion of Theory and Practice in the Area of Social Policy

Plzeňská 175, BOX 19, 150 06 Praha 5,

Phone: +420 602 365 612, office@socioklub.cz

Statutory body: Petr Víšek, Executive Director.

<http://www.socioklub.cz/>

SOCIOKLUB is an association of citizens, a juridical person, and a non-governmental and non-profit organisation operating on the territory of the Czech Republic. The activities of SOCIOKLUB include support, sponsorship and implementation of research, publication of studies and papers in the area of social policy, and the collection and classification of information on social policy. SOCIOKLUB cooperates with governmental and non-governmental bodies, institutions, organizations and educational institutions in the area of social policy such as integration of the Roma minority.

Centre for Research of Personality Formation in Ethnic and Social Contexts (FPESC)

School of Social Studies Masaryk University Brno,

Pellicova 43, 602 00 Brno, Czech Republic

Phone: +420-5-41 615 136, smekal@fss.muni.cz

http://www.centrum.fss.muni.cz/index_en.html

Head of the Research Centre: prof. PhDr. Vladimír Smekal, CSc.

The intention of the centre is to evaluate the consequences of the fundamental social, political and economic changes brought about by the processes of democratization and incorporation of the Czech Republic into European structures. These changes have brought new possibilities both for individuals and social groups. The aim of the Research Centre is to implement the principles of democracy at all levels of social life. Its main task is to identify, analyse and predict the influences of our social, political and economic situation on the social, mental and physical development of children and youth, on family structures and on the coexistence of various minorities and ethnic groups.

Department of the Civic Sector

Charles University in Prague, Faculty of Humanities
Husníkova 2075, 155 00 Praha 13
Phone: +420 251 620 283; marie.dohnalova@fhs.cuni.cz
<http://ose.ycnega.cz/>
Head of Institute: Ing. Marie Dohnalová, CSc.

The Department aims to contribute to the development of civil society. A multidisciplinary approach is applied in order to achieve this aim. It requires cooperation of the disciplines of anthropology, sociology, political science, philosophy, and economics.

The research program of the Institute includes monitoring the state of civil society, as well as analysis of social investment in the field of civil society.

NROS Foundation for the Development of Civil Society

Jelení 196/15; 118 00; Praha 1
Phone: +420 233 356 173; nros@nros.cz
<http://www.nros.cz/>
Director: Hana Šilhánová

The Foundation reinforces the development of the non-profit sector, philanthropy and work volunteer and thus contributes to the development of civil society and European integration. It supports those non-profit organizations which provide help to threatened and disadvantaged groups, protect human rights and democratic values, contribute to mutual communication and tolerance of minorities in society, or in other ways raise the awareness of citizens regarding regional development and public life. One of the key target groups is children and young people, whom the foundation supports with youth-specific programs. The foundation is also permanently trying to increase the levels of information and education within the non-profit sector.

2. Immigration in general and in particular – leading institutions

Research Institute for Labour and Social Affairs - RILSA

Palackého nám. 4; 128 01 Praha 2
Phone. +420 22497 2650; e-mail: rilsa@vupsv.cz; <http://www.vupsv.cz/>
Director Průša Ladislav, Doc. Ing., CSc.

The Institute's main role is applied research on labour and social affairs at the regional, national and international levels, formulated in accordance with the current needs of the state administration.

Milada Horáková conducts quantitative research examining the integration of foreigners into the Czech labour market. Results are published in annual reports on labor migration in the CR.

The Institute of Ethnology of the Czech Academy of Science

Na Florenci 3; 110 00 Praha 1

Phone: +420 2 22828111; fax +420 2 22828511

<http://www.eu.cas.cz/>

Director: Doc. PhDr. Lubomír Tyllner, CSc

The Institute of Ethnology provides information and conducts basic and applied research in the fields of ethnology and similar areas. Activities of the Institute of Ethnology are essential for a better understanding of other cultures and ways of life of various national, ethnic and social groups residing in the Czech Republic and abroad.

Zdeněk Uherek, PhD. is Head of the Department of Ethnic Studies - uherek@eu.cas.cz. The institute's main fields of research are the ethnic processes and migration, minorities and integration of foreigners, and urbanization. The department has completed research projects on the integration of foreigners for state bodies, particularly concerning integration of the Vietnamese, Armenian, Chinese, Arabic, Georgian and Balkan communities.

Department of Social Geography and Regional Development of Faculty of Sciences of Charles University

Albertov 6, Praha 2, 128 43

Phone: +420 224 92 06 57 ksgrrsek@natur.cuni.cz

<http://www.geography.cz/socgeo>

Head of department: Doc. RNDr. Zdeněk Čermák, CSc.

The department is continuously conducting research on the spatial distribution of populations. Research fields include processes of urbanization and suburbanization, regional development, and migration. Doc. RNDr. Dušan Drbohlav, CSc. is the coordinator of research in the field of migration. This research is mostly quantitative and focuses on the territory of the Czech Republic and CEEC countries. The department has prepared several research projects on migration trends for state bodies on topics of labor migration from Ukraine, immigration from Russia and integration of other selected groups of immigrants. Dušan Drbohlav has published several articles on the migration policy of the Czech Republic.

Institute of Health Policy and Economics

Kutnohorská 1102; 281 63 Kostelec nad Černými lesy

Phone: +420 321 679 061; sekretariat@izpe.cz

<http://www.izpe.cz/aktuality.php>

Director: MUDr. Petr Háva, CSc.

IZPE aims to contribute to the development of knowledge in the sphere of healthcare and healthcare services both in the Czech Republic and abroad. IZPE is an institutional research

organization in the realm of social medicine, using a multidisciplinary approach towards this field (medicine, public healthcare, health promotion, sociology of medicine, psychology of health, public economics, social policy, political science, e.g).

Karolina Dobiášová is a coordinator of research on health care distribution and health conditions of immigrant groups in the Czech Republic. This research uses the sociological method of quantitative examinations. of the research is completed at the behest of the Ministry of Health.

Institute of Ethnology

Charles University in Prague, Faculty of Philosophy and Arts

Celetna 20 116 42 Praha 1 Czech Republic

Phone: +420 224 491 454-57

E-mail address: ethno@ff.cuni.cz

<http://etnologie.ff.cuni.cz/welcome.html>

Head of the institute: Doc. PhDr. František Vrhel, CSc.

Research activities of the institute are focused on the ethno-cultural reality of Czech Republic, Europe and Latin America. Migratory processes in Europe from an historical point of view are examined by Leoš Šatava PhD.

Jan Černík (author of the this report) is a post graduate student at the Institute, whose focus in the field of immigration is the everyday economy of labor migrants from the former USSR in the Czech Republic and general immigration from the Caucasus region.

Annex 2

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