

conference + debate + workshops

# State policy and the integration of migrants into society

The international conference, discussions and workshops held as part of the MIPEX and FLEXI-IN-SECURITY projects will present an overview of Czech migration and integration policy, its comparison in a European context and its reflection of the position of migrants in practice. Besides integration, the conference will also focus on the impact of the economic crisis on work migrants. The panel discussions will focus on successful integration strategies, and during the first workshop, two examples from abroad will be presented. The second workshop will familiarise participants with the migration policy of the Czech Republic. The purpose of this event is to familiarise the professional public as a whole with the results of both projects and to formulate recommendations for the politicians in the Czech Republic who are responsible for creating and applying the country's migration policy.

The conference is being held under the auspices of Deputy Chairwoman of the Czech Senate Dr Alena Gajdůšková

**Wednesday, 4 May 2011**  
**from 9:00 AM to 4:30 PM**

Goethe-Institut  
Masarykovo nábřeží 32  
Prague 1

## About the MIPEX project

**MIPEX** (The Migrant Integration Policy Index) is an international study issued every two years by the British Council and the Migration Policy Group. It presents a comparison of the state policies for integration of foreigners in 31 countries in Europe and North America. The study assesses whether the governments ensure equal rights, responsibilities and opportunities for all of their inhabitants. This year's MIPEX III study shows that the Czech Republic remains below the European average for the integration of foreigners from third countries. The Czech Republic finished in 19th place, and its policy was evaluated unfavourably. Sweden was evaluated the best, and Slovenia had the best evaluation among countries in Central and Eastern Europe. According to the study, the legal conditions in the areas of employment, family life and education are relatively well set up in the Czech Republic, but there remains a problem with their implementation and with the application of a proper balance, which is the share of personal discretion of individual officials during decisions. Partners of this project in the Czech Republic are the Multicultural Centre Prague and the People in Need Foundation. More information about the study can be found at [www.mipex.eu](http://www.mipex.eu)

## About the FLEXI-IN-SECURITY project

This project monitors the impact of the global economic crisis on work migrants in the EU. The crisis has even further worsened their often already critical living conditions, and migrants have become one of its first victims. This is because the demand for greater flexibility on the labour market is linked with fewer social guarantees for workers, and this demand is being satisfied particularly by foreigners who have lower requirements for long-term guarantees and are willing to work for less pay. Foreign workers are welcomed during times of economic growth, but as soon as a recession comes, they are often the first to lose their jobs and their positions in society. One of the reactions to the crisis has been the opening of the debate about how migration is organised. The main objective of the FLEXI-IN-SECURITY project is to contribute to the debate by publishing the results of research and documented specific experiences of migrants on the labour markets in the Czech Republic and other EU countries. More information about the project can be found at [www.migraceonline.cz/flexi-in-security/index.php](http://www.migraceonline.cz/flexi-in-security/index.php)



## programme

Registration: **from 8:30**

Start: **9:00 – 9:15**

**Heinrich Blömeke**, Director Goethe-Institut Prague

**Nigel Bellingham**, Director of the British Council in the Czech Republic

**Dagmar Siegllová**, Director of the Multicultural Centre Prague

Conference moderator: **Tereza Engelová**

**9:15 – 11:00 AM**

### Block I. MIPEX

**9:15 – 10:00**

#### Presentation of the MIPEX III study and its main results

**Thomas Huddleston**, Migration Policy Group (main researcher for the MIPEX study)

Presentation of the MIPEX III research study and its methodology; comparison of the results of the research, development and legislation in EU countries and a practical demonstration of how to use MIPEX as a tool.

**10:00 – 10:30**

#### MIPEX III a ČR

**Magda Faltová**, Association for Integration and Migration (researcher for the Czech part of the MIPEX study)

Presentation of the results of the MIPEX III study for the Czech Republic in connection with an overview of legislative changes, particularly the amendment to the law from 2011. An overview of possibilities for implementation and of the main problems related to integration in the context of the economic crisis.

**10:30 – 11:00**

**Miluše Hutyrlová**, Teaching Faculty of Palacký University in Olomouc.

**Selma Muhič Dizdarevič**, Faculty of Humanity Studies at Charles University in Prague

Reaction and additional information from researchers who have taken part in the study.

**11:00 – 11:15 Break**

**11:15 – 12:00**

### Block II. Migrants in the labour market

**11:15 – 11:35**

#### Impacts of the crisis on migrants and migration in the Czech Republic

**Dušan Drbohlav** and **Soňa Schovánková**, Faculty of Science, Charles University in Prague

Changes in the numbers of foreigners in the Czech Republic, social situations and the strategy regarding the behaviour of migrants, measures taken by the state towards migrants in reaction to the economic crisis.

**11:40 – 12:00**

#### Presentation of the results of the FLEXI-IN-SECURITY project

**Jakob Hurrle**, Multicultural Centre Prague

Documentation of the impact of the crisis on migrants in selected European localities and countries.



## programme

12:00 – 13:00

### Block III. Integration of migrants

12:00 – 12:20

#### Examples of good practices from selected German towns

**Claudia Walther**, Bertelsmann Stiftung, Programme of Integration and Education

12:20 – 13:00

#### Panel discussion on the topic: the pillars of a successful strategy for integration of migrants

Participants:

**Thomas Huddleston**, Migration Policy Group

**Pavel Čížinský**, Multicultural Centre Prague

**Claudia Walther**, Bertelsmann Stiftung, Programme for Integration and Education

Moderator: **Jakob Hurrle**, Multicultural Centre Prague

Languages of the blocks before noon: Czech, English (with simultaneous interpreting).

13:00 – 14:00 Lunch

14:00 – 16:00

#### Workshop and public discussion:

#### Local integration of foreigners, sharing of experience

Participants:

**Claudia Walther**, Bertelsmann Stiftung, Programme for Integration and Education

**Dr. Uta Kruse**, Deputy for integration and foreigners affairs of the city of Dresden

Moderator: **Jakob Hurrle**, Multicultural Centre Prague

Languages: Czech, German (with simultaneous interpreting).

14:00 – 15:30

#### Open space with Thomasem Huddleston

Thomas Huddleston will explain to interested participants how to use MIPEX as a tool and will answer any questions for which there was not enough time during the blocks before noon.

Languages: Czech, English. Place: Room 23.



## programme

14:00 – 16:00

### Workshop: Migration policy of the Czech Republic

Is Czech migration policy restrictive or liberal? What influences it – security concerns, needs of the labour market, human rights or demographic concerns? What does “circular migration” mean in practice? Should the Czech Republic go in that direction? How is circular migration related to integration and human rights? What are the conditions for foreigners to obtain state citizenship and health insurance? Emphasis will be placed on migration for economic purposes. The workshop will make use of balanced scorecard methods.

Moderator and host: **Pavel Čížinský**, Multicultural Centre Prague

Language: Czech. Place: Room 23.

16:00 – 16:30

**Summary of the results of the conference, discussions and workshops, conclusion of the day**

16:30

**Glass of wine**

### About The British Council

The British Council is an international organisation of the UK supporting educational opportunities and cultural relations. It creates international opportunities for the people of the UK and other countries and builds trust between them worldwide. It works in the arts, English, education and society - including science and sport - and through this contributes to the security and prosperity of the UK and over 100 other countries where it works. It is a non-political organisation which operates at arm's length from government. More information about the British Council can be found at [www.britishcouncil.cz](http://www.britishcouncil.cz).

### About the Multicultural Centre Prague

The Multicultural Centre Prague is a civic association, which focuses on issues related to the coexistence of people from different cultural communities in the Czech Republic and other parts of the world. Its mission is to contribute to a better understanding of the multi-layer multicultural reality with the help of special educational, cultural and informational activities. The Multicultural Centre Prague also operates a website focused on migration [www.migraceonline.cz](http://www.migraceonline.cz). More information is available at [www.mkc.cz](http://www.mkc.cz).

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