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Emigration and Safety⁵⁷ **(selected examples and aspects)**

The article presents the issue of migration and how it affects safety. The main focus is on the emigration of Poles to the UK and the consequences of this phenomenon brings today will be the main focus.

Keywords: migration, security, migrants, internal security

Migration is not merely a contemporary issue. Since the beginnings of humankind, people have migrated for various reasons: economic, political, social. At the same time, matters of safety often took on importance.

It should be assumed that international migration in most situations is not a temporary process, but a long-term one. Assimilation in the new country and the process of settlement will take the rest of the immigrant's life, and consequently affect his or her descendants.⁵⁸ Thus, migration is *"a type of collective action, triggered by a social change, affecting entire communities both in the regions of migrants' origin and the host countries."*⁵⁹

At the present time we can observe various forms of migration. These are usually triggered by cultural and economic changes, as well as conflicts. Although migration is a highly heterogeneous phenomenon, there are certain regularities, which include:

- globalization of migration – migration affects a number of countries

⁵⁷ This article was presented in Polish language in Security Studies 1/2016.

⁵⁸ S. Castles, M.J. Miller, *Migrations in the Contemporary World*, Warsaw 2011, p. 39.

⁵⁹ Ibid., p. 39.

simultaneously;

- acceleration of migration – a substantial flow of people from countries characterized by high risk, poverty and danger to countries which are stable, wealthy and relatively peaceful; compared with previous times, migration is becoming a dynamic phenomenon which cannot be supervised or controlled by states and international institutions;
- heterogeneity of migration – various types of migration occur at the same time, which makes it impossible for the countries of destination (for example) to control migrants;
- feminization of migration – women (as workers) play a more important role;
- increasing political significance of migration – the phenomenon of migration affects the policy of each country;
- increasing role of transit migration – countries of emigration become countries of transit migration and immigration.⁶⁰

Migration gives rise to numerous problems. One of them is the marginalization of migrants. After leaving their home country, migrants do not always find the new, and frequently unexpected, reality easy to live in. Also, the differences in mentality between the migrant community and the society of the host country may become problematic, and so can the rules adopted by that country, concerning employment, for example. Frequently, the inability to speak the language of the host country becomes a barrier that is hard to overcome. The emigrant's life "in the shadow" of the local society, without legal employment, is conducive to criminalization and hooliganism.⁶¹

Another phenomenon which poses a threat to safety is the ghettoization of migrant communities. Emigrants usually do work which is below their qualifications, and live in relatively cheap districts. Ghettoization may contribute

⁶⁰ Ibid., p. 28.

⁶¹ M. Gajewska, R. Kaźmierczak, *Migration in the EU Countries and its Social, Demographic and Economic Effects* [in:], *Demographics and Social Security in EU Countries*, ed. I. Sobczak, M. Wyrzykowska-Antkiewicz, Academic Papers of Wyższa Szkoła Bankowa in Gdańsk, V. 25, Gdańsk 2013, pp. 40–41.

to an accumulation of aggression and violence.⁶² It also leads to lack of assimilation with the environment of the country. Emigrants living in a given district or neighborhood are cut off from the reality of the country and the entire society.

Also, double marginalization or deferred consumption may occur. The former applies to those who have found legal employment abroad which is below their qualifications. After they return to their home country, they may experience difficulties finding their place on the job market, because when abroad they did not improve their qualifications, while their peers who stayed at home frequently raised their level of education. The second term refers to non-participation in the social life of a country, which excludes migrants from local communities and the cultural sphere. Emigrants treat their migration chiefly as a way to earn their living. Hence, they save their money and limit expenditure on accommodation, food and clothes, which means that they abstain from participation in the daily life of their community because it brings extra costs.⁶³

Despite the numerous problems associated with migration, there are many people who decide to live abroad. Most frequently migration results from dissatisfaction with the situation in the home country. In the past and nowadays, at the end of the 20th and beginning of the 21st century, people from Central and Eastern Europe have frequently moved to live away from their home countries. Migration by Poles, in particular, has not been uncommon. Over the centuries, migration occurred in several waves. One of the first reasons for migration, in the 19th century, was exile following national uprisings. Another wave was the economic emigration which lasted until the outbreak of the Second World War. After 1939, Poles migrated primarily because of the war and due to the post-war political situation. In the 1980s the causes of migration were economic and

62 Ibid., p. 41.

63 Ibid., p. 41.

political.⁶⁴After 1989, Poles migrated in search of jobs.⁶⁵

The next wave of migration occurred after Poland's accession to the European Union in 2004, when job markets opened up for Poles in other countries, including the UK. For comparison, according to estimates, in the period 1996–2000, still before Poland's accession to the EU, there were 779 emigrants from Poland leaving the country to stay in the UK on a permanent basis. In 2000 the number of emigrants was 189, in 2001 it was 208, in 2002 it was 254, and in 2003 it was 282.⁶⁶⁶⁷ These figures show that at the beginning of the 21st century there was only a slight upward trend. After Poland joined the EU, fast and substantial growth occurred in the number of emigrants leaving for the UK. In 2004 alone, as many as 543 people emigrated permanently.⁶⁸ In subsequent years, a real expansion in migration of Poles to the UK could be observed. In 2005 3,072 emigrants left Poland to live permanently in the UK,⁶⁹ in 2006 the figure was 17,996,⁷⁰ in 2007 it was 9,165,⁷¹ and in 2008 it was 6,565.⁷²

Other data are given in the report on the size and directions of temporary emigration from Poland in 2004–2015, published by the Central Office of Statistics. This indicates that the estimated number of temporary emigrants from Poland to the UK in 2015 was 720,000. In the preceding years the figures were as follows: 150,000 in 2004, 340,000 in 2005, 580,000 in 2006, 690,000 in 2007, 650,000 in 2008, 595,000 in 2009, 580,000 in 2010, 625,000 in 2011, 637,000 in 2012, 642,000 in 2013, and 685,000 in 2014.⁷³

64 W. Danilewicz, *Social Consequences of Foreign Migration* [in:], *Migration, Exile, Multi-culture. Cultural Clash in the Contemporary World*, ed. D. Lalak, Warsaw 2007, p. 153.

65 See I. Grabowska-Lusińska, M. Okólski, *The Last Emigration?*, Warsaw 2009, pp. 10–12.

66 The Yearbook of the Republic of Poland, 2003, p. 125.

67 The Yearbook of the Republic of Poland, 2005, p. 214.

68 Ibid., p. 214.

69 The Yearbook of the Republic of Poland, 2006, p. 217.

70 The Yearbook of the Republic of Poland, 2007, p. 218.

71 The Yearbook of the Republic of Poland, 2008, p. 209.

72 The Yearbook of the Republic of Poland, 2009, p. 215.

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http://stat.gov.pl/files/gfx/portalinformacyjny/pl/defaultaktualnosci/5471/2/9/1/informacja_o_rozmiarach_i_kierunkach_czasowej_emigracji_z_polski_w_latach_2004-2015.pdf, March 13, 2017.

Although a number of countries, including France and Germany, imposed some restrictions, the UK deliberately waived the interim period for newly acceding countries and provided access to the job market for migrants. The reason for this decision was the shortage of labor in the UK: there were between 500 and 600 thousand vacancies at that time. Additionally, expert opinion was that emigration from newly acceding countries would not be substantial: between 20 and 30 thousand per year. The reality proved quite different.⁷⁴

This led to the current problem of the perception by British people that they face discrimination on the job market. They complain that, because of immigrants, they find it increasingly difficult to gain employment in their own country. Most job offers are addressed to people who can communicate in Polish, Hungarian, Romanian or Bulgarian. Universal Jobmatch, a website sponsored by the British government, was inspected by the Department for Work and Pensions. No discrimination was found, as employers are permitted to post job offers with various linguistic requirements, without breaking the equality regulations.⁷⁵

With the arrival of Polish immigrants in the UK, related problems of security also emerged. One of the issues affecting internal security in the UK is the presence of criminals from Poland. Data published in 2016 show that there may be as many as 3,000 Polish criminals in the British Isles. Dangerous criminals, such as rapists, organized crime bosses, drug dealers and murderers, have been at large for several years. Sometimes Polish criminals operate in the UK in gangs, specializing in racketeering and extortion, robbery or murder. The British press has published portraits of the most dangerous criminals of Polish origin.⁷⁶

In December 2016 the Escort Department of the Prevention Bureau of the Chief Police Headquarters transported a batch of prisoners using two Casa C-295

74 I. Grabowska-Lusińska, M. Okólski, *The Last Emigration?*, op. cit., pp. 88-89.

75 *Announcements*, edition 76, February–March 2016.

76 *Announcements*, edition 76, February–March 2016.

military airplanes flying from London to Warsaw. A total of 39 people sought by the law enforcement authorities were transported. They were suspected of battery, theft and robbery.⁷⁷ It should be noted that a number of wanted suspected criminals are transported to Poland annually, including those subject to a European Arrest Warrant. Prisoners are escorted using planes or road transport, with handovers taking place at border crossings.⁷⁸

Attacks on Poles in the UK are another migration-related problem. One example is the murder of a 39-year-old Pole in Bolton, who was attacked by three or four assailants, wearing balaclavas and carrying machetes and knives. Initially, the Pole was beaten, but when he managed to escape, the attackers caught him and wounded him with their weapons.⁷⁹ Despite medical efforts, his life could not be saved.⁸⁰

Another example is the death of a 21-year-old Pole in Hull. He died as a result of wounds, shortly after being hospitalized. He had been found in a street by a woman passer-by. The police managed to establish that the murderers were two males.⁸¹

Crimes committed in Harlow, Essex, are further examples of assaults against Poles. On August 27, 2016, Arkadiusz J. was attacked, and he died in hospital two days later as a result of head injuries. As a result of a police investigation, six teenage boys suspected of a hate crime were arrested.⁸²

Also in August 2016, two Poles were attacked in front of a store in Harlow. One of them suffered head injuries and was taken to hospital in a critical condition. The other man was hospitalized due to suspected hand fracture and numerous bruises on his stomach. The probable perpetrators were four 15-year-

77 <http://www.policja.pl/pol/aktualnosci/136299>, Kolejny-konwoj-zatrzymany-przybyl-do-Polski.html?search=194211259, March 13, 2017.

78 Ibid.

79 *Announcements*, edition 76, February–March 2016.

80 Ibid.

81 *Announcements*, edition 76, February–March 2016.

82 <http://www.standard.co.uk/news/crime/harlow-polish-police-on-patrol-where-arek-jozwik-was-killed-in-hate-crime-a3347201.html>, March 13, 2017.

old males.⁸³

Another attack took place just hours after the Memorial March organized by Poles in September 2016. One man suffered a cut to his head, and another suffered a broken nose. The assault by four or five males was treated as a possible hate crime.⁸⁴

After the Harlow crimes involving Polish citizens, Poland delegated a number of police officers to assist the British police in establishing contacts with Polish emigrants. For nine days they participated in meetings between the British police and Poles, established contacts with the Polish community and took part in a meeting at a Polish school operating in Harlow.⁸⁵ In the long run, the cooperation is intended to work out solutions to improve the safety and security of Poles living in the UK.⁸⁶

The Harlow assaults attracted the attention of the Polish Foreign Minister and Interior Minister. At the beginning of September 2016 they arrived in London to meet the UK Foreign Secretary and Home Secretary, as well as leaders of Polish organizations. The visit was intended as an opportunity to learn more about the security of Poles in the UK following the attacks of a possibly xenophobic nature.⁸⁷

Research shows that following the referendum of June 2016 in which the British people voted to leave the European Union, the number of hate crimes increased considerably. In July, 41% more crimes of this type were recorded compared with the previous year's figures.⁸⁸ Poles, just like other nationals and

83 <http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-essex-37212778>, March 13, 2017.

84 <https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2016/sep/04/assault-on-polish-men-harlow-possible-hate-crime>, March 13, 2017.

85 <http://www.policja.pl/pol/aktualnosci/132119.Polscy-policjanci-podsumowali-9-dni-w-Harlow.html>, March 13,

2017; http://www.londyn.msz.gov.pl/pl/aktualnosci/polscy_policjanci_wspieraja_dialog_w_harlow;jsessionid=AA8DB332253AA928ACB122965D18F667.cmsap1p, March 13, 2017.

86 Ibid.

87 http://www.londyn.msz.gov.pl/pl/aktualnosci/pilna_wizyta_polskich_ministrow_spraw_zagranicznych_i_wewnetrznych;jsessionid=AA8DB332253AA928ACB122965D18F667.cmsap1p, March 13, 2017.

88 <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/brexit-hate-crimes-racism-eu-referendum-vote-attacks-increase-police-figures-official-a7358866.html>, March 13, 2017.

the British themselves, were the target of crimes. However, increased hate crimes and various types of xenophobic incidents may indicate that migrants are not accepted in the UK.

Despite the numerous negative effects of emigration (such as adaptation problems, racial attacks, and the different language, culture and mentality), some Poles still resolve to emigrate. According to data published in May 2016, as many as 4 million Polish citizens want to emigrate abroad. These are usually people below 35 years of age, with secondary or basic education. Emigration is planned primarily by those who earn less than 2,000 zlotys a month, and by students. Currently, the most popular country of destination for emigrants is Germany (34% of Poles wishing to emigrate). The UK ranks second (18%).⁸⁹

Moreover, Poles are among the more numerous groups of immigrants who decide to have children while staying in the UK. Data from February 2016 show that each year Polish women give birth to 21,000 babies, of which nearly one fourth have fathers of non-Polish origin (citizens of the UK, African countries, and Asians). For men the situation is quite different: 90% of Polish men have children with a partner from Poland.⁹⁰

In late February and early March 2016, an anonymous survey was carried out in the UK, among a small population (N=27), concerning the feeling of security among Poles. The survey included five questions, to be answered YES or NO. Respondents were also asked to indicate their age group (15–18, 19–25, 26–35, 36–45, 46–55, 56–65 or 65+) and the length of their stay in the UK (up to 1 year, 2–5 years, 6–8 years, 9–12 years, or 12 or more years).

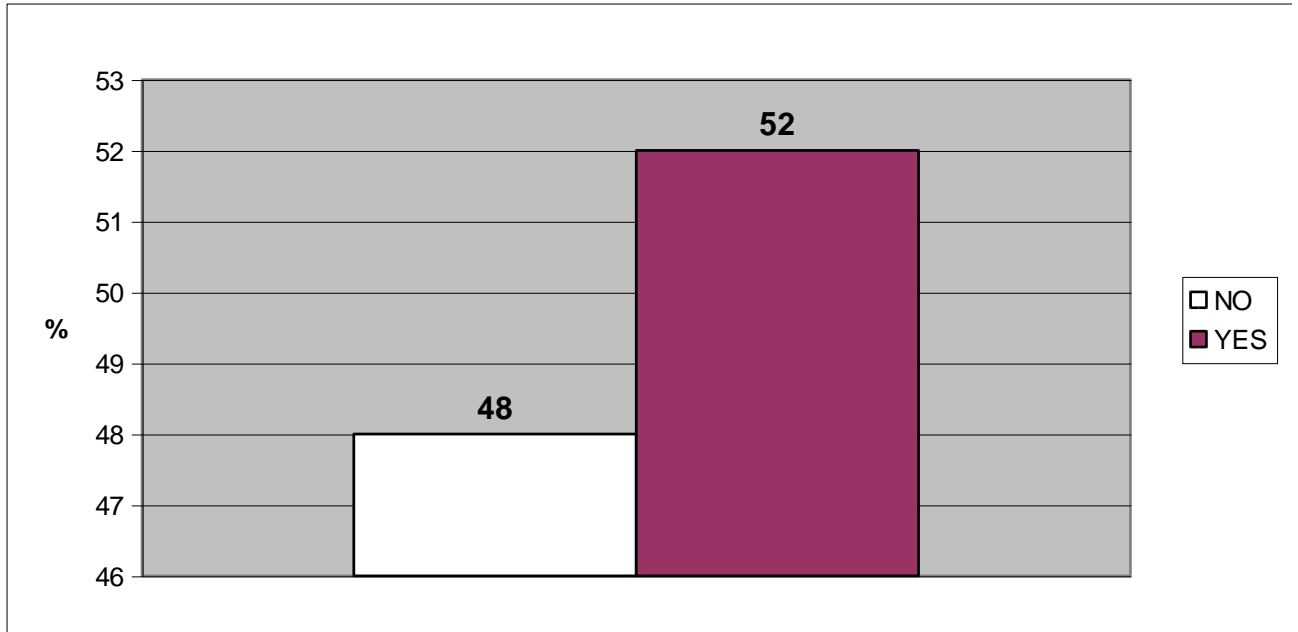
The results showed that 52% of respondents felt safe in their place of living, which is undoubtedly a positive finding. Unfortunately, nearly the same number of respondents (48%) did not feel safe in their current place of residence.

⁸⁹ <http://www.newsweek.pl/polska/emigracja-ponad-4-mln-polakow-chce-wyjechac-na-zachod-raport,artykuly,385406,1.html>, March 13, 2017.

⁹⁰ *Announcements*, edition 76, February–March 2016.

Graph 1

Do you feel safe in your place of residence?

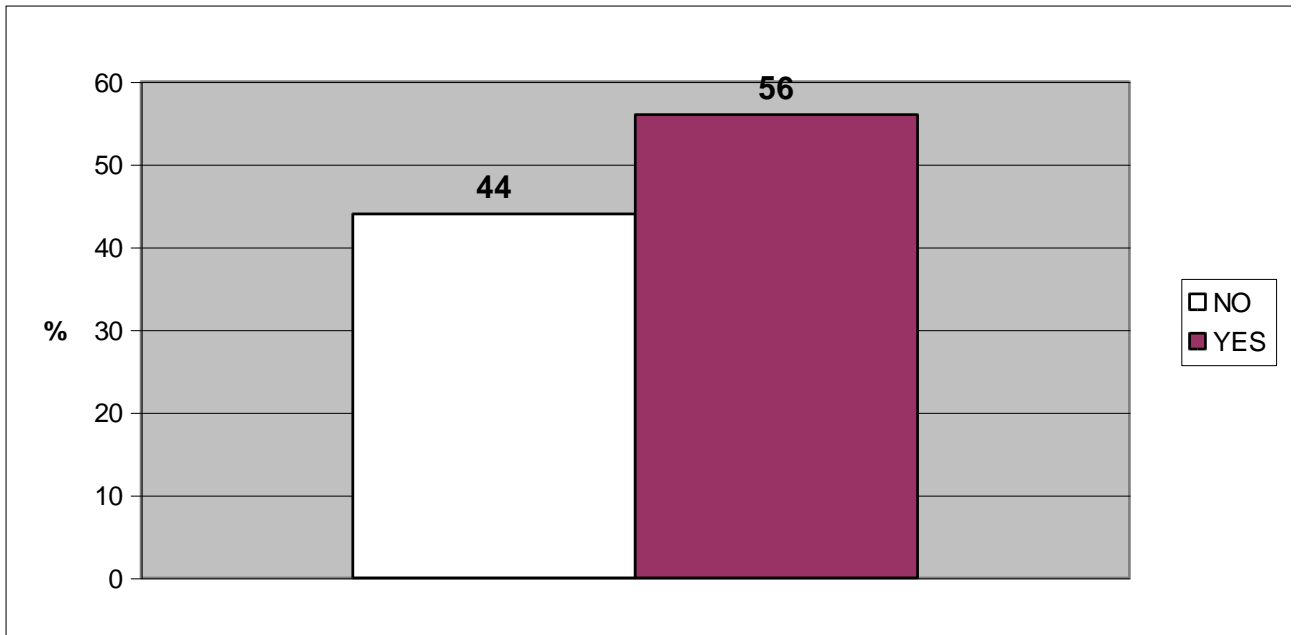


Source: own analysis.

Two further questions concerned the fear of aggression and assaults committed by other nationals, and of those committed by Poles living in the UK. The respondents were more concerned about acts of aggression coming from other nationals (56%), although those who were not afraid of such attacks were not significantly less numerous (44%). Responses were different to the question concerning threats posed by other Poles: 30% of respondents were afraid of aggression from their compatriots, while 70% did not report such fears.

Graph 2

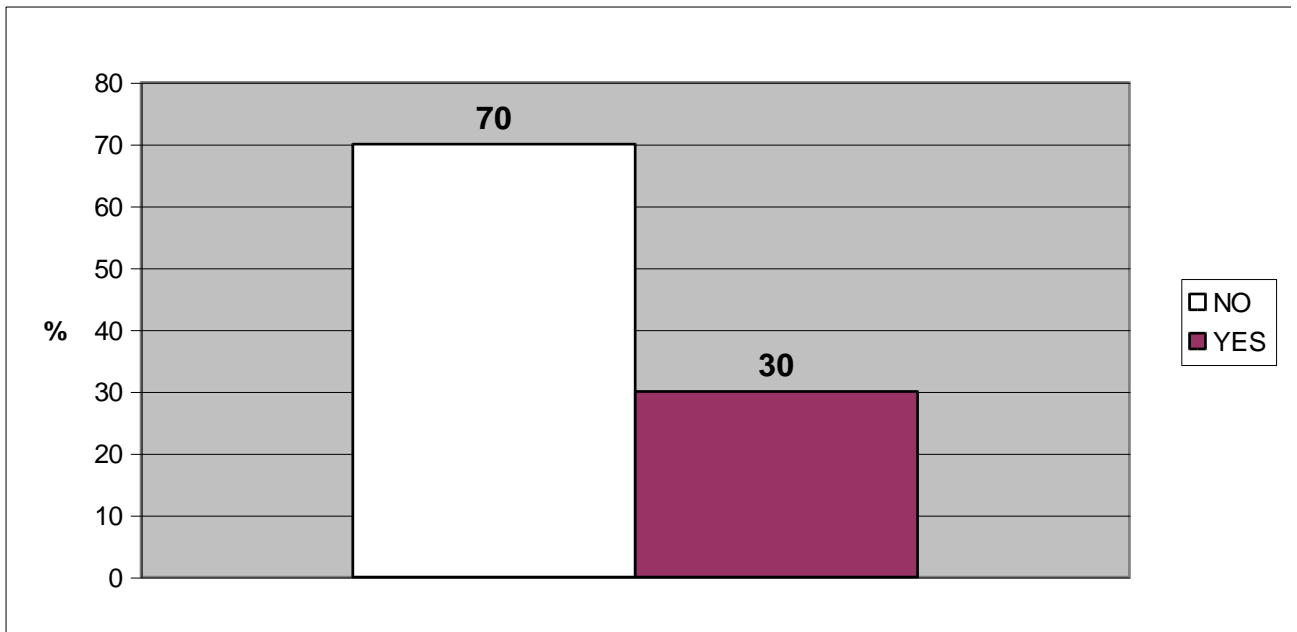
Are you afraid of aggression, attacks etc. from different nationalities?



Source: own analysis.

Graph 3

Are you afraid of aggression, attacks etc. from Poles living in the UK?



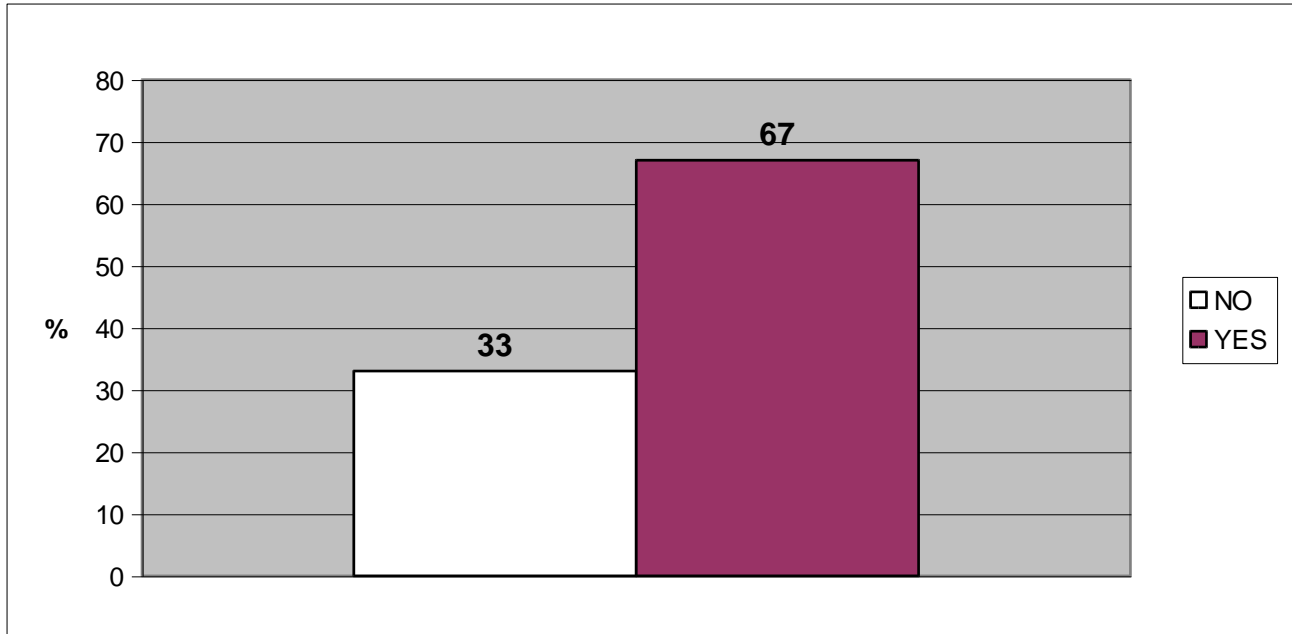
Source: own analysis.

Additionally, 67% of respondents feared terrorist attacks in the UK, with only 33% seeing no threat from terrorists. The survey was concluded with an overall question: do you feel safe in the UK? Here, as in the case of the first

question, 52% of respondents reported feeling safe, while slightly fewer (48%) did not feel safe in the UK.

Graph 4

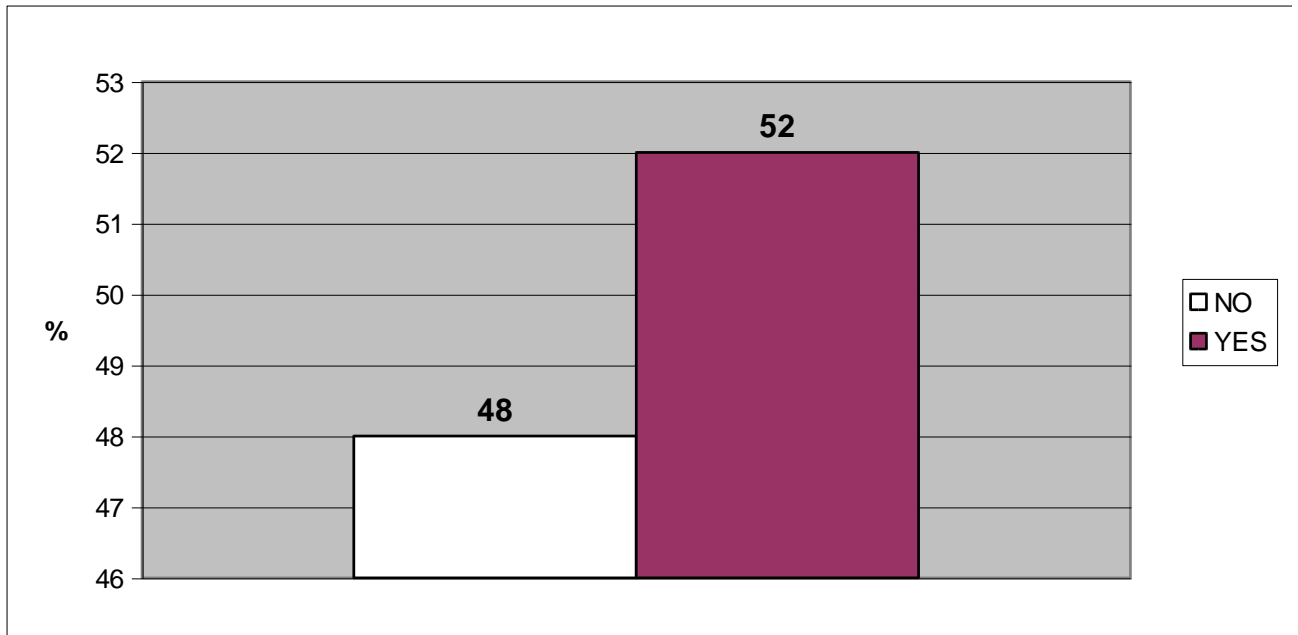
Are you afraid of terrorist attacks in the UK?



Source: own analysis.

Graph 5

Do you feel safe in the UK?

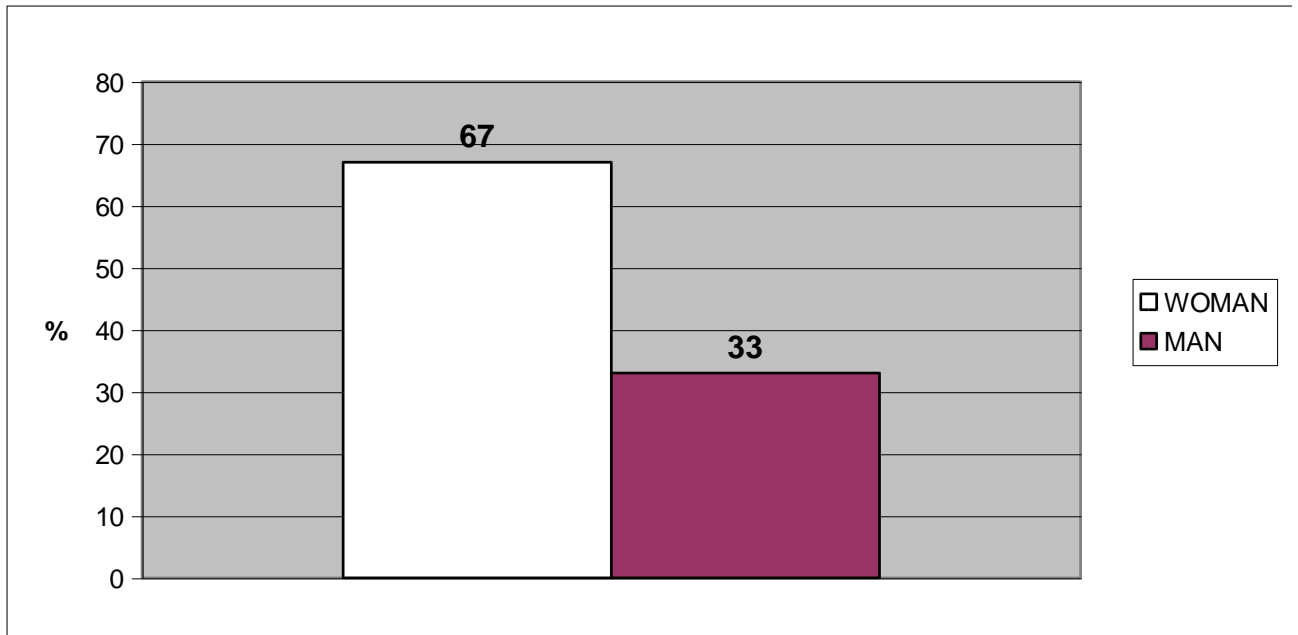


Source: own analysis.

The majority of the respondents were women (67%, against 33% men). Various age groups were represented. The largest group (44%) was those aged 19–25, while 26% of respondents were in the 26–35 age group, 22% were in the 36–45 group, and only 8% were aged 46–55.

Graph 6

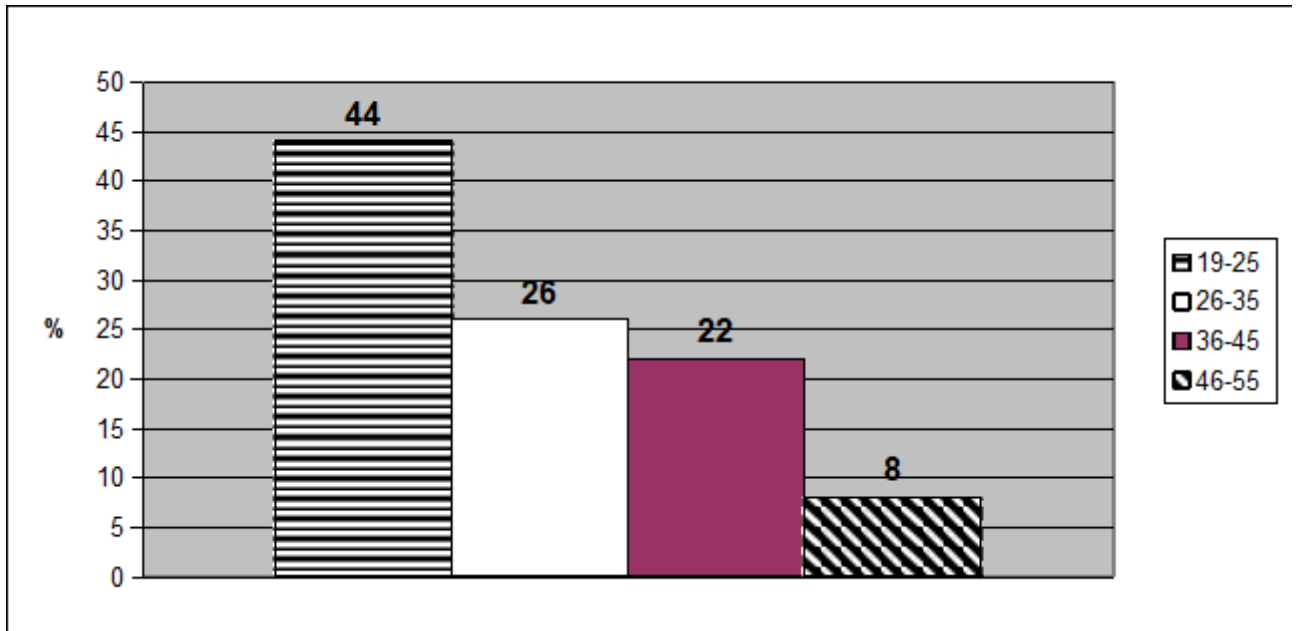
Sex of respondents



Source: own analysis.

Graph 7

Age of respondents



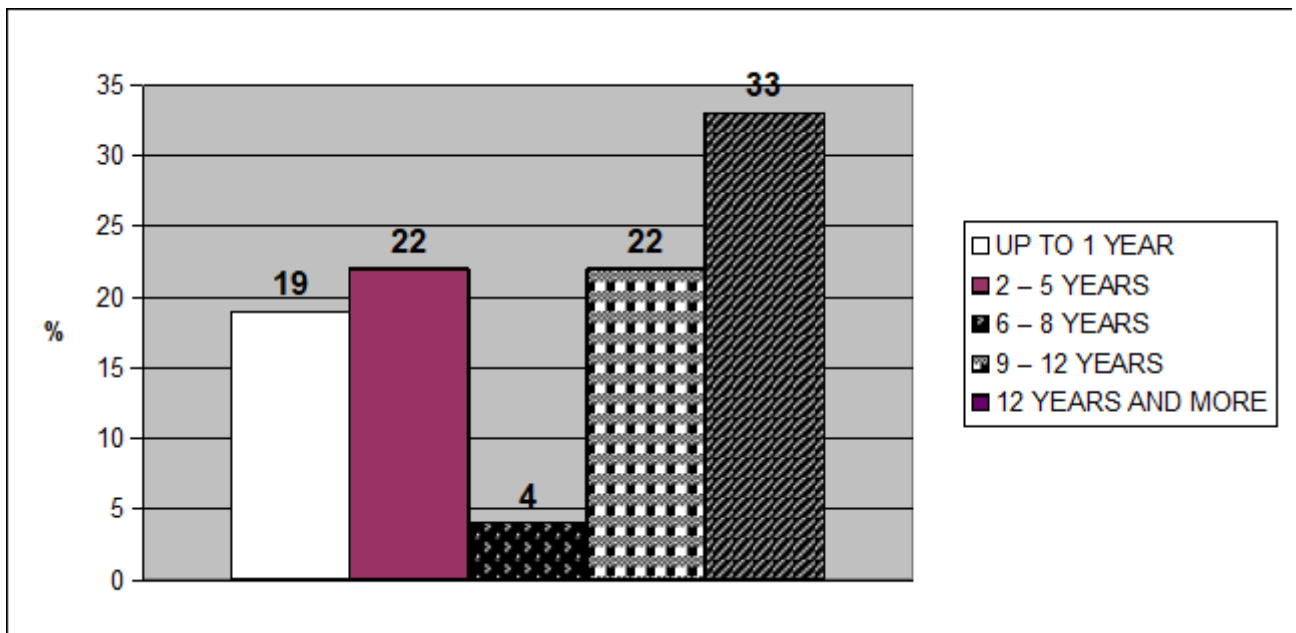
Source: own analysis.

In terms of length of stay in the UK, as many as 33% of the Polish

respondents had lived in the country for 12 or more years, 22% for 2–5 years, and the same percentage for 9–12 years. Slightly fewer (19%) had lived in the UK for less than 1 year; the least numerous was the group who had been in the country for 6–8 years.

Graph 8

Years of residence in the UK



Source: own analysis.

The aforementioned survey was carried out several months before the referendum on the UK's membership of the EU. Even at that time, nearly half of the Poles did not feel safe in their place of residence and in the UK. A considerable group were also afraid of terrorist attacks.

The above considerations demonstrate that the problems of migration are still current and give rise to a variety of effects. First of all, emigrants from other countries may find it difficult to adapt, and consequently their assimilation may be difficult. Additionally, inability to communicate in a foreign language adversely affects their participation in community life and leads to their alienation. Emigrants may also have an impact on internal security by engaging in crimes or

other offences which negatively affect public order in the country. Migrants may become targets of xenophobic violence. Additionally, if they take jobs from local people, they are also exposed to dislike and aggression. Although the negative effects are numerous, the phenomenon also has some advantages, such as cultural exchange and the sharing of experience. It might seem that at present we can only alleviate the migration-related problems, as they cannot be entirely solved in a way which is satisfactory for both sides. From our current perspective, we may assume that in the future, both in Europe and on other continents, migration will continue to increase, due to the drastic and conflict-generating divisions in the contemporary world. It can also be assumed that this will lead to a mixing of societies, giving rise to multi-cultural societies in the future.

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