

# **International migration as a societal security challenge and Polish school responses to this phenomenon: an empirical study**

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## **Abstract**

Increased international migration has become a great challenge due in part to concerns that it poses a threat to societal security. Migration not only refers to the spatial shift related to moving in geographical terms, but it also affects social, mental and cultural processes of societies. It might result in ethnic or racial conflicts as well as increased reluctance. Majority populations may express fear about increased migration related to the change in ethnic structure of society, costs of immigrants' integration, ethnic conflicts, loss of cultural identity. This paper will focus on the role of school in counteracting threats related to societal security. Being a powerful agent of socialization, school can facilitate immigrant children's integration into the host society and contribute to promoting tolerance and understanding. The paper presents an exploratory study that examines immigrant integration in Polish schools and students attitudes towards immigrants.

**Keywords:** societal security, migration, integration, immigrants, education