

# Introduction

As co-editors of the last, fourth, issue of the *Public Policy Studies* Journal in 2020, we are pleased to invite you to read seven scientific articles in English prepared by both Polish and foreign scholars. This thematic issue results from our call for papers on *Policy Responses to Migration Challenges* launched in early 2020. At that time, Europe had just experienced the so-called refugee crisis, seeking the best possible policy responses to migration-related developments in the European Union (EU) itself and its Mediterranean neighborhood since 2014–2015 period, and anticipating the new challenges based on the lessons learned. In addition, Brexit has become a new reality, bringing new legal frameworks and practices in the European Union and the United Kingdom (UK) relations.

Recent years have also been marked by the refugee and humanitarian crisis in Venezuela, which has destabilized to some extent the political and economic situation in the South American region. We must not forget about many migration challenges in other parts of the world – just to mention a few of them: the tightening of migration control policies in the United States, the development of the asylum and inclusion policy towards asylum seekers and refugees in Canada, the political crisis in Libya, or the civil war in Syria. However, the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, which in fact significantly slowed down international migration flows, turned out to be a particular challenge for mobility and migration and their management at international, national, and even local levels.

Migration challenges take different forms from case to case, and this requires various actions and interventions across a wide spectrum of public policies. This is very well reflected by the diversity of research topics undertaken by the authors of the articles in this issue. As expected, they submitted the papers that cover the issues at the intersection of migration research and public policy studies.

The situation in Europe in various aspects attracted the most attention among the contributors. Diego Caballero Vélez and Ekaterina Krapivnitskaya address in their article the foreign policy strategies of the EU after the 2015 refugee crisis, investigating to what extent the EU migration policy is part of the European foreign policy. Also, Jolanta Szymańska and Patryk Kugiel focus on the EU migration policy in relation to the above-mentioned crisis, but specifically on its external dimension. They examine which policies and tools helped the EU to regain control over international migration and to what extent foreign aid played a role in the EU response to the crisis.

Migration issues in the context of Brexit appear in the article by Piotr Teodorowski. He explores the attitudes and sentiments towards migration as well as emotions and expectations regarding the future reciprocal migration regime between the UK and the EU among Twitter users around the last day of the UK membership in the EU that is 31st January 2020.

The issues of detailed EU legal solutions concerning posted workers, which affect the EU immigration practices and policy, are discussed by Maksymilian Kosma Jabłecki. He aims to analyze if the subsidiarity principle in the context of the legal solutions introduced by Directive (EU) 2018/957 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 June 2018 amending Directive 96/71/EC concerning the posting of workers in the framework of the provision of services (Text with EEA relevance) should be considered justified and proportionate. The last paper on the situation in Europe was provided by Salvatore Francesco Pio Barillà and Alberto Pellicanò. They refer to the current issue of the COVID-19 crisis in their comparative study of Italian and Portuguese responses to irregular migration during the pandemic on the example of emergency migration legislations.

Moreover, the scope of the two papers goes beyond Europe. Iga Kleszczyńska discusses the humanitarian crisis in Venezuela and the international response to its regional migration implications, already mentioned in this editorial. Finally, Joanna Modrzejewska-Leśniewska reminds us in her paper about the changing and unstable situation of Afghan migrants in Iran in recent years.

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