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ABSTRACT

Murat ÇOLAK, Dokuz Eylul University, Faculty of Economics & Administrative Sciences, İzmir.

Suleyman CİHAN, Suleyman Demirel University, School of Foreign Languages, Isparta.

POLAND: FROM AN EMIGRATION COUNTRY TO IMMIGRATION COUNTRY

Since the beginning of European integration, Poland has been one of the vast reservoirs for labor for many Western European countries. Moreover, Poland has turned into a transit place to Europe for refugees. After the European Union enlargement in 2004, a lot of Polish people migrated to Germany, the United Kingdom and Ireland. However, in recent years, Poland has become a place of refugees and asylum seekers. Owing to the investment growth and economic boom, many people migrate to Poland. Also because of Brexit factor, some Poles are returning to Poland to work.

In this study, Poland's changing migration policy since European integration and also recent developments that have taken place regarding disallowing refugees and asylum seekers from Middle Eastern countries, especially Syria is discussed in details. This decision both brought the tension and debates in Poland and raised the tension with the European Union.

Key Words: Asylum Seekers, Migration Policy, Poland, Refugees.