

Integration of refugees in the Czech Republic

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Abstract: With the number of refugees increasing worldwide, states not historically refugee destinations and refugees are placed in new roles. Questions arise about how refugees integrate into a new host society, how do identity markers and past experiences affect the integration process, and how do state's policy choices affect integration processes? I will examine these questions, among others, through an analysis of refugee integration in the Czech Republic (a new destination country for refugees). I derived my data from twenty semi-structured interviews with refugees, institutional interviews and analysis of diverse documents. Findings show that refugees consider obtaining Czech language skills and citizenship as essential for successful integration to take place. In addition, my data shows that policy-makers are often disconnected from the policy implementation process hampering the governments' integration efforts.