

## Abstract of the thesis

### INTEGRATION OF HIGHLY QUALIFIED SUB-SAHARAN IMMIGRANTS IN PRAGUE;

#### *Comparison with the Situation in Paris, London and Liège*

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The aim of the thesis named *Integration of Highly Qualified Sub-Saharan Immigrants in Prague; Comparison with the Situation in Paris, London and Liège* was to analyse similarities and differences in the process of socio-economic integration of highly qualified Sub-Saharan immigrants that have been residing on a long term basis. The conducted research evaluated in what areas are usually highly qualified Sub-Saharan immigrants socially marginalized and in what areas are their personal or professional qualities – thanks to the implementation of adequate integration policies – optimally valorised. The ambition of the thesis was not to provide an exhaustive analysis of the integration process of all Sub-Saharan communities living in Europe, but rather to give an insight of certain aspects of the integration reality of Sub-Saharan immigrants through an example of 68 respondents living in selected cities – against a background of national integration policies of the respective host society.

Premises of research:

1. *International migrants usually prefer to choose big towns and cities as their place to live in the host country, from which we can deduce that the number of Sub-Saharan immigrants residing in the capital city of Prague will increase in the future.*
2. *Direction of migration flows is maintained through social networks, created between communities living in the country of origin and the host society. The existence of these “transnational” networks plays an important role not only in terms of the decision-taking process whether or not to emigrate, but also tends to affect the way how the integration process will subsequently proceed in the host society.*
3. *Identification of best practices of local (or regional) integration policies that are well-established in France, Great Britain and Belgium, may serve as valuable source of inspiration for a creation of integration strategies in the Czech cities and regions.*
4. *Selected strategy of local (or regional) integration policy has significant effects not only on the way the integration process of immigrants is proceeded, but also on the way how are the immigrants appreciated in the eyes of a mainstream society.*

The thesis is based on the results of a field research, evaluating the integration process of highly qualified Sub-Saharan immigrants living in Prague and in selected European cities (i.e. Paris, London and Liège). The target group consisted of university graduates of Sub-Saharan origin who have been residing in the host country for at least 1 year – on the basis of acquired citizenship, permanent or long-term residence permit or a deposited asylum request.

The creation of an intercultural society based on social solidarity and mutual respect would be reinforced by the elaboration of an effective integration strategy that would support intercultural understanding (while monitoring the enforcement of its principles); and the elimination of causes of intercultural misunderstandings (usually induced by negative prejudices) by a sensitive use of mass media. Only free of prejudice we will be able to work successfully with members of diverse cultural communities on our common future.