

# WANT TO GO TO EUROPE? DON'T BE FOOLED!

Have you been offered a trip to Belarus and then to Western Europe? Beware of dishonest travel agencies and organised groups of human traffickers. It's a trap! You can fall victim to an illegal procedure with no guarantee you will be able to start a new life in Europe.

## By deciding to travel to Belarus, you risk:

- being forced to cross the border illegally;
- getting stuck on the Belarusian side with no chance of entering the European Union or being refunded the money you paid for the trip;
- putting yourself and your loved ones in danger;
- going to Belarus that will not help you get into Germany or any other EU country.

**Remember** that no one without legal authorisation to cross the EU border will be allowed to enter the territory of Poland.

The Polish frontier **is closely guarded** by soldiers, police and officers of the Border Guard. Any attempt to make an illegal crossing is a violation of the law, which can be punished by:

- imprisonment;
- a ban on future entry to the EU and the Schengen area.

Legal entry is the **only way** to get into Poland and the EU.

**This means that the only possibility for entering Poland is through a functioning border crossing point, in compliance with legal procedures. If you are planning to emigrate to Poland, please read the information below:**

### Labour migration

To enter the Schengen area, including Poland, you need a visa. You can apply for a visa at a Polish consular post in a non-European country, according to your place of residence or legal stay. When applying for a visa, you must specify the purpose of your visit to Poland and the conditions of your planned stay, presenting documentary proof of these (such as a work permit).

### International protection – for victims of persecution

If you are persecuted in your home country on the grounds of race, religion, nationality, political beliefs, or membership in a particular social group, you can apply for refugee status. Remember that once you apply for international protection in Poland, you may not cancel your application and submit it in another EU country. Your application will be processed by the Polish authorities, and if you are granted refugee status, you will receive a residence card to stay in Poland.

**Remember! You may not enter Poland and stay there legally unless you have a valid visa. If you cross the Polish border illegally, you will be detained, you will have to leave, and you will be banned from entering Poland and the whole Schengen area for several years.**