



**The Annual Conference
of the
Association of European Migration Institutions (AEMI)
28. September – 2. October 2011
The Danish Emigration Archives
Aalborg, Denmark**

CALL FOR PAPERS

MIGRATION MATTERS

Over time migration history has thrown light upon the challenges that migrants have experienced faced with realities of a completely different culture in another country.

How can we use this experience when it comes to immigration in today's world?

The AEMI conference in Aalborg October 2011 calls for papers dealing with migration history then and now:

- What can we learn from history and the experience from the Transatlantic emigration concerning ethnic interaction and diversity
- What are the major problems of migration influx
- What are the major problems for people who migrate
- What is the role of the receiving countries
- What can we learn from immigrant nations as the US, Canada and Australia
- What are the chances to find a best practice
- What is the role of the migration institutions

Since 1945 many of the European countries have experienced an increase in numbers of immigrants – job-seekers, exiles and refugees. The countries in the European Union have different attitudes towards immigration. Those having received people in relation to the colonial expansions are much more used to a cultural diversity whereas those with a more homogeneous population look upon the recent immigration as a huge challenge and are faced with numerous controversies among politicians, among private people and in the press.

Despite the difference in attitudes toward immigrants each country will meet a number of similar challenges, and many questions will arise. Immigration will cause problems for both the immigrants and the people already living in the area – clashes of culture, lack of jobs, language barriers, ethical and religious differences etc.

The European Union shares the challenges of migration. We also share the history of migration – the past as well as the present. Almost all European countries were influenced by the overseas emigration during the 19th and 20th centuries. How did our own compatriots cope with the immigration experience?

As researchers of migration history – emigration as well as immigration – we know that the process of integration is not easy. Over the years many aspects of integration processes have been described and researched. Migrants are uprooted and during the transplantation to a new culture, they often feel alienated. Many feelings are involved. Migration is about minds and hearts of human being.