

***I was expecting her to be a fanatic Catholic,  
but she was not***

**How International Exchange Programmes  
Reduce Prejudice**

**Abstract**

The text deals with the question of the influence of international exchange programmes on reducing ethnic prejudices in their participants. Apart from a brief introduction into the issue of reducing prejudice, it comprises 392 free responses of Czech respondents, predominantly students, who have filled out an online survey as part of the project *Intergroup Attitudes and Intergroup Contact in Central Europe*. The participants gave accounts of their real contacts with Polish people, oftentimes within the framework of international exchange programmes, Erasmus in particular. Based on the comparison of the results of the qualitative analysis of the statements with the conditions of successful reduction of prejudices, one can suggest that international exchange programmes should have a positive influence on reducing negative ethnic stereotypes and prejudices among their participants.

**Keywords:** *international exchange programmes, Lifelong Learning Programmes, Erasmus generation, prejudice reduction, qualitative analyses, students, Czechs, Poles.*

**Introduction**

Prejudice is a type of attitude affecting individuals as well as communities. Prejudice manifests itself in a fixed attitude used by an individual when judging others on the basis of some arbitrary attribute possessed by the target (Hayes, 1996,