

Feng Ping

## Chinese migrations in Poland

### Abstract

Traditionally Poland is a immigrant import country. Since Poland joined EU, Poland has attracted more and more immigrants from other countries. Chinese people started to come to Poland in the beginning of 90s. Recently, since the 21st century, more and more Chinese come to Poland. Currently, Chinese has become the largest number of people from Asian countries coming to Poland. Chinese people have a variety of occupations in Poland. The skilled, and high educated Chinese people have relatively high position in Poland, while there are also labor forces coming from China. This article will discuss the overview of Chinese people in Poland, occupations, and living conditions of Chinese in Poland, and some cases of Chinese people in Poland after the deep depth interview.

**Keywords:** Chinese migrations, Poland, integration, occupations, investment, immigration institutions

## Introduction

In history, Poland was an immigrant exporting country. With the reform of the Polish market economic system and Poland's accession to the European Union, Poland began to attract immigrants from other countries. The first wave of Chinese immigration to Poland started in the 1990s, and the number of Chinese in Poland gradually increased. It has become the largest importer of Asian immigrants in Poland. With the implementation of the Belt and Road Initiative, more and more Chinese have come to Poland to seek investment opportunities. In the early days, Chinese people in Poland were mainly engaged in wholesale trade and service industries. Now Polish Chinese are engaged in various fields of culture, education, tourism and services in Poland. The early Chinese immigrants had a high cultural quality, and the Polish language was proficient and deeply integrated into the local cultural life. A new generation of Chinese immigrants has gradually increased, and they have worked hard and created their own wealth. The Chinese people in Poland actively responded to the One Belt One Road initiative and made more contributions to China-Poland economic and trade cooperation and cultural exchanges.

## Methodology

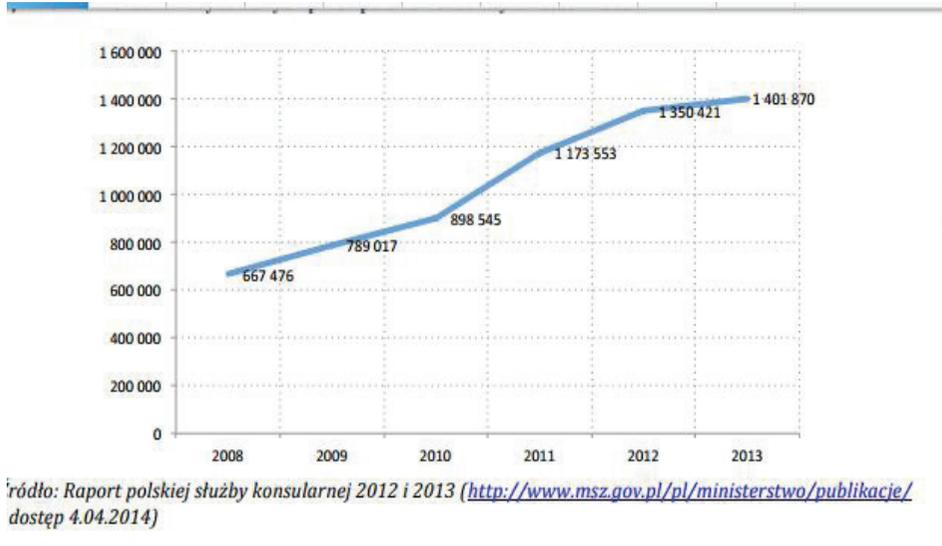
There aren't too many existing text about Chinese people in Poland so far. The existing text by K. Wysieńskiej, report of jak również N. Kłorek and M. Szuleckiej, and thesis of Jonna Wardega is used as sources of this article. The analysis uses the data from Central Statistical Office, Office for Foreigners, Border Guard and Police in Poland. The thesis also has

a in depth interview with several Chinese people in Poland, their life story, their career, and their integration in Poland.

### **Overview of the Overseas Chinese Immigrants in Poland**

Poland has always been an immigrant exporting country. In the 19th century, there was an immigration climax in Poland. After the transformation of Poland's political and economic system in the 1990s, Poland once again attracted immigrants from other countries. With Poland joining the European Union in 2004, many Poles have immigrated to other countries in the European Union. Most of them are young people. In recent years, residents of other countries have begun to emigrate to Poland, and Poland has become an importing and exporting country. However, the number of immigrants in Poland is still less than the number of immigrants in Poland. According to the Central Demographics of Poland, the number of people permanently registered in Poland and registered in Poland is very low. During the period 2001-2010, the number of permanent residents registered in Poland was 1.128 million, of which 72% came from the European Union. The number of people who apply for temporary residency status in Poland is also very low. According to the central demographics, there were 66,000 registered people in 2011. The main countries are Ukraine (18.2 thousand, 28%), Germany (8%), Belarus (7%), Vietnam (5%), Russian Federation (4%) and China (2.8 million, 4%). 35% live in Mazury Province. ( Pawel Kacmarzyk, 2015)

Visa data issued by Poland from 2008 to 2013

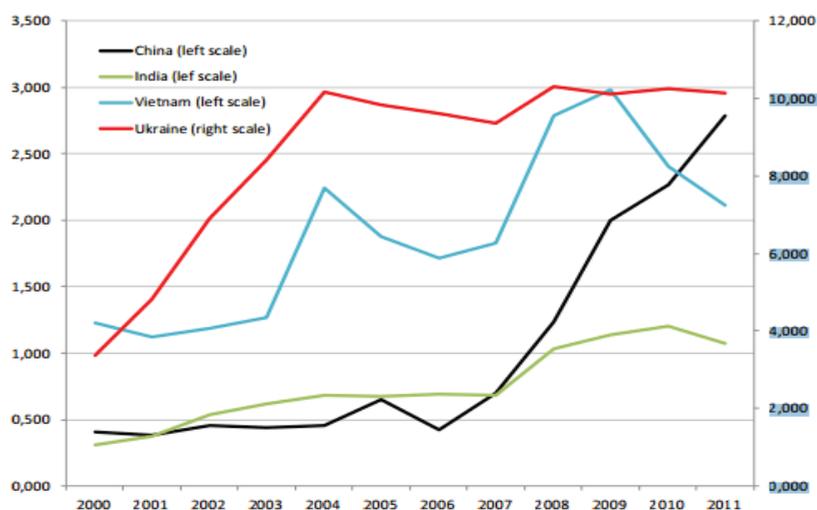


The number of Chinese in Poland has grown rapidly with Poland's accession to the European Union. With the reform of the Polish political system and the strategy of the Belt and Road Initiative, Poland has gradually become one of the destinations for Chinese immigrants. More and more Chinese are coming to Poland to seek investment opportunities. Since the reform and opening up in China, the development of Chinese people in Poland has mainly gone through four stages. The first stage was before 1991. This period was mainly for international students. The second stage was from 1992 to 1995. This period was mainly China. Large state-owned enterprises and Chinese-funded institutions have entered the Chinese market, and the number of Chinese is relatively small. The third stage is from 1995 to 2008. A large number of private enterprises began to enter Poland, with factories, and trade as the mainstay. The fourth stage is the outbreak of the European debt crisis since 2008. It has had an impact on Chinese trade. The economic and trade exchanges between Poland and China have begun to deepen. More and more

Chinese and Chinese companies have begun to enter the Polish market and come to Poland. The number of international students has gradually increased, and the market for Polish Chinese has gradually stabilized and matured. (WWW)

At the end of 1989, there were 617 Chinese in Poland, including 462 temporary residents and 155 permanent residents. This situation has not changed much in the past. In 1998, 133 Chinese allowed to purchase property in Poland, and 411 in the following year. 379 in 2000. In contrast, in 1998 only nine Chinese were allowed to live longer, 18 in 1999 and 28 in 2000. In 2000, Chinese immigrants in Poland accounted for 0.14% of China's immigrants to OECD countries and 0.64% of EU immigrants. After Poland joined the European Union, the number of Chinese people in Poland has gradually increased and the data has gradually increased. By the middle of 2016, there were 6,000 Chinese with legal residence in Poland, and the number of illegally staying in Poland is unknown. (Joanna Wardega, 2017)

Chinese people in Poland:



Sources: Pawel Kacmarzyk Recent Trends in International Migration in Poland The 2013 SOPEMI Report, 2015.

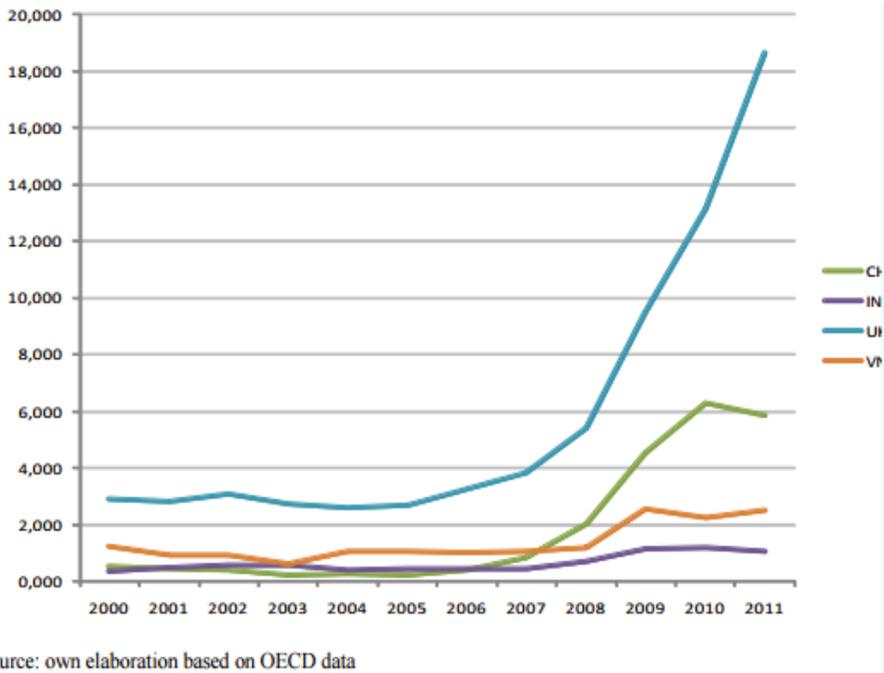
In recent years, the number of Chinese in Poland has gradually increased. According to OECD data, since 2006, China has gradually become the most important immigrant input country in Asia, surpassing Vietnam and India. The growth rate of Chinese is second to that of Ukraine. From January 2014 to July 2016, the Ukrainian population grew at a rate of 61% and the Chinese grew at a rate of 25%. According to the statistics of the Polish Chinese Foreigners Management Office, the number of foreigners in Poland has increased since 2014. Until 2016, the number of foreigners in Poland reached 125,000, and Ukrainians accounted for 30%. Among them, there are 6,000 Chinese. (Pawel Kacmarzyk, 2015)

International students in Poland are also a major source of growth for the Chinese people in Poland. In the 1950s, there were only 10 international students studying in China and Poland. In the 1970s, China-Poland exchange came to a stop. By 2005, China and Poland launched the “Study in Poland” program, and the number of Chinese students studying in Poland has gradually increased. As of 2016, there are 10,000 Chinese students studying in Poland. (www) Many international students stayed in Poland after graduation and became a new generation of Polish immigrants.

### **the occupation and living conditions of Polish Chinese**

In recent years, the number of workers who have come to work in Poland has gradually increased. Ukrainians are the source of the main workers in Poland. Since 2007, the number of workers from China has also increased significantly, although the growth rate is smaller than that of Ukrainians. It surpassed Indians and Vietnamese in the past and became one of the main source of workers in Poland.

Figure 2: Sources of Polish foreign workers - selected immigrant countries



From 2009 to 2011, Chinese workers accounted for 15% to 17% of Polish foreign workers, compared with 1.5% to 3% in 2000. In 2011, China's workers flowing into Poland were twice as large as those in Vietnam, and this trend continued until 2013.

According to the Polish Ministry of Labour, Chinese workers are mainly engaged in construction (20%) and trade (40%), followed by industry and other sectors. Chinese workers are ahead of other countries in obtaining jobs with jobs. In 2011, Chinese workers received 900 (C-type) labor licenses, accounting for 44% of the total. (Pawel Kacmarzyk, 2015)

Form 1: Workers who obtained work permits from jobs in 2011, depending on the type of occupation.

Country of origin	Total	Managers, experts	Qualified workers	Unqualified workers	Other
<i>In thousands</i>					
Total	2136	280	532	687	637
<b>China</b>	<b>932</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>685</b>	<b>155</b>
India	129	19	3	0	107
Ukraine	454	43	316	1	94
Vietnam	17	0	17	0	0
<i>As per cent of the total (for a given country)</i>					
Total	100.00	13.11	24.91	32.16	29.82
<b>China</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>4.40</b>	<b>5.47</b>	<b>73.50</b>	<b>16.63</b>
India	100.00	14.73	2.33	0.00	82.95
Ukraine	100.00	9.47	69.60	0.22	20.70
Vietnam*	:	:	:	:	:

\* not reported due to low number of observations.

Source: own elaboration based on Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs data.

As the largest country in Central and Eastern Europe, Poland has always attracted Chinese FDI. In recent years, China's investment in Poland has gradually increased, though Chinese investment in Poland is still rather low. Before Poland joined EU, Chinese investment in Poland is rather insignificant. More Chinese came to Poland since Poland joined the EU. China's investment in Poland has increased more than sixteen times to USD 288.1 million. (ETNC, 2017)

Chinese companies invest in Poland mainly through Greenfield projects, acquisitions, and merges. There are about 700 Chinese-funded enterprises, most of which are private companies with less than nine people. As of 2016, the main Chinese state-owned enterprises in Poland are China Everbright international, Liu Gong Machinery, Haoneng Packaging, Shanxi Yuncheng Plate-making group, Sino Frontier Properties LTD,

Suzhou Victory Precision Manufacture Co, and TPV Technology LTD. ( Agnieszka McCaleb and Agnes Szunomar, 2016)

Chinese investment in Poland is mainly in electronics, production of TV sets, and LCD monitors( TCL cooperation Victory Technology Polska, Chung Hong Electronics Poland, Digital View), electro-machinery (Nuctech), heavy machinery (LiuGong Machinery), ecology, such as municipal waste processing and alternative gas production (China Everbright intentional) , Publishing and printing (Haoneng Packaging), manufacturing of metals, and metal products (Shanxi Yuncheng Plate-making Group), hospitality and real estate (Min Hong Development Co., sino Frontier Properties LTD) m distribution of goods (GD Poland investment Sp Zoo) and IT(Hua Wei, ZTE) (Heiduk et al. 2012) China also established branch of Bank of China, China construction Bank and Industrial and Commercial Bank,etc.. China's investment is concentrated in some parts of Poland, where these areas have become the gathering place for Chinese Chinese immigrants. Some of the Chinese in Poland work in state-owned Chinese-funded enterprises. Most of them have residency status in Poland. Most of them are Chinese with high technology and higher education.

Chinese working in Polish individual and private enterprises are mainly engaged in trade, wholesale and other work. Goods imported from low-priced products from China are sold to Poland and other Central and Eastern European countries through GD Poland investment.

Since the Chinese who first came to Poland were international students, as well as large Chinese-funded enterprises and Chinese companies with state-owned enterprises entering the Polish market, they were highly educated, proficient in Polish. They understood the local laws and regulations

and were well integrated. In the local society of Poland, the income and status of the Chinese are very high compared to the Vietnamese. The first and second batch of Chinese immigrants coming to Poland were engaged in trade, service, education, catering and other occupations in Poland. After 1995, many Chinese in Poland were engaged in catering, trade and other industries. They have lower incomes and more people than the first and second waves of Chinese migrations in Poland. After 2008, many Chinese in Poland came from state-owned enterprises, looking for investment opportunities in Poland, and some immigrated to Poland from Italy, France and other EU countries to find investment opportunities in GD Poland Investment.

Mr. Huang, the owner of the largest Chinese hotel in Poland, is immigrating from Italy to Warsaw. The boss of the old black supermarket is also from Italy. They came to Warsaw in 2008. They used to work in fashion design and trade in Italy. However, due to the relatively unfriendly atmosphere of Italians and the impact of the 2008 financial crisis, they saw the opportunity of GD Investment Poland and came to Warsaw.

At present, the Chinese in Poland are mainly engaged in trade and service industries. In the past year, due to the fierce competition in the Polish market and the Polish government's taxation inspections in Poland, many Chinese work in Poland has turned to services, education and cultural industries. Start investing in cultural projects. More and more Chinese are opening Chinese schools in Poland, engaging in tourism, investing in cultural industries, and so on.

Polish Chinese are engaged in trading industry later than Vietnamese, but later surpassed Vietnamese in number and in trade.. GD investment Poland is Europe's largest commodity

city, a modern commodity logistics transit center, with more than 1,000 large trading companies, with a total investment of 150 million. EUR. Now GD investment Poland has 1600 retail stores in the countryside, radiating GD products to the countryside. GD Warsaw investment Poland imports goods from China and sells high-end products to Poland and other Central and Eastern European countries. At the same time, they are working to sell Polish products to China.

The Chinese in Poland mainly live in the Wolka Kosowska area, and the Chinese community is closely connected. China often receive delegations from China, who usually meet at the Xinglong Hotel in GD. Chinese immigrants in Poland often have higher education and higher cultural qualifications. They are well integrated into the local life, have higher social status. There are also workers from China who take part in labor works.. Their cultural quality is relatively low. They are engaged in physical work and will not speak Polish or English. They mainly concentrated in the Wolka Kosowska area of Warsaw. Warsaw's municipal government is worried about the integration of these Chinese into the local society, crime issues, education of their children, etc., Wolka Kosowska is regarded by the Warsaw government as a gathering of wealth, while It is also a grey area that breeds crime.

Other Chinese and Polish people are married and form a family, which is well integrated into the local society. There are more than 100 pairs of marriages in Warsaw, which promoted the friendship between the people of China and Poland.

### **Organization of Chinese Overseas Chinese Associations in Poland**

According to the statistics of the Polish Immigration Bureau, there were about 6,000 Chinese in Poland in 2014. Such

Chinese groups are scattered in Poland. Most Chinese come to Poland for investment and trade. In Poland, the Embassy has a total of ten associations, the Polish Chinese Chamber of Commerce, the Polish Peaceful Reunification Promotion Association, the Chinese Association, the Women's Association, the Northern Chamber of Commerce, the Qingtian Association, the Ruian Association, the Chinese Charity Foundation, the Fujian Chamber of Commerce, and the Youth. meeting. The Polish Chinese Chamber of Commerce was established on January 9, 2018 and officially registered in the Polish court. It is an autonomous institution created by Chinese and Polish companies associated with China-Poland economic activities and representing the interests of its members. At present, there are 112 member companies in modern service industry, manufacturing, new energy, retail and commercial trade, medicine, education, real estate, high technology, internet, hotel catering, legal services, taxation services, finance and investment, etc. Industries and fields. The Polish Chinese Chamber of Commerce aims to liaise with the Chinese business elite in Poland, to provide services to chamber members and non-members in need, to promote economic cooperation and development between Poland and China and between the economic entities of China and Poland; Representing members of the Chamber of Commerce in the exchanges with state agencies, local self-government agencies, other state agencies, and international organizations to protect the interests of members of the Chamber of Commerce within the scope of their economic activities; promoting trade and cooperation between China and Poland and the Polish economic entities Chinese business activities and commercial activities of Chinese economic entities in Poland; to help the economic activities of the members of the Chamber by collecting

and disseminating information on the business activities of the members of the Chamber of Commerce. The organization of the Polish Chinese Chamber of Commerce is divided into the General Assembly, the Council, the Standing Council and the Supervisory Board. The Polish Chinese Chamber of Commerce accepts ordinary members and honorary members. Natural or legal persons who are engaged in business activities in Poland or China can join.

The Polish Chinese Association is a core group of Chinese in Poland. It was incorporated in the Polish court in 1998. The purpose of this association is to serve the Chinese people in Poland and improve the social status of the Chinese, promote mutual understanding between the Chinese and Polish people, and promote economic and trade between the two sides, Cultural exchanges and cooperation. Any Chinese who resides, works and studies in Poland, and have Chinese company registered in Poland, can apply for membership.

The Polish Women's Association is a very important association in Poland. It was established in 2011. Over the years, it has done a lot of work on the inside and outside. The Women's Federation unites compatriots, enhances understanding, helps the poor, supports the family, and has done various charities. The activities have enhanced the exchange of material, cultural and civilized people between the two countries and promoted the friendship between the people of Poland and China.

The Polish Qingtian Association is the largest association in Poland. It was established in 2009 and was registered in Wolka KOSOWSKA, Warsaw, Warsaw. Qingtian people in Lubo are an important part of Poland's immigration, and there are more than 200 investment businesses in Warsaw China Mall. It aims to promote cooperation in economic and trade exchanges between China and Poland.

In addition, Poland is also active in some business associations, the Bozhong Business Federation, the Bozhong Economic and Cultural Association, the Polish Chinese Tourism Association and so on.

Regarding the civil society in Poland and China, there is the Friendship Association of Poland. The Bozhong Friendship Association is a national civil society of the People's Republic of China. It is guided and supervised by the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries and the Ministry of Civil Affairs. The purpose is to enhance the understanding and friendship between the Chinese people and the Polish people and promote mutual politics and economy. Exchanges and cooperation in trade, science and technology, society, culture, education, etc., and safeguard world peace. The business scope of the association includes: First. Develop friendly and cooperative relations with people from all walks of life in Poland. Enhance understanding and develop friendship by holding various exchange activities such as commemorative meetings, symposiums, and exchange of materials. Second, cooperate with relevant units to carry out economic, social, scientific and technological cooperation and talent exchanges with Poland, and promote friendly cooperation. Third, carry out exchanges with folk culture in Poland. Send and receive folk culture and art groups and literary and art circles to conduct friendly visits and hold performances and exhibitions.

With the increase in the number of Chinese, the Chinese have opened various Chinese schools in Poland, such as the Warsaw Chinese School, the Warsaw Chinese Language Institute, and the Warsaw Children's Great Wall Chinese School. The Chinese-language media in Poland has also entered a stage of rapid development, such as the Polish Chinese Consultation Network

and Poland's Magnificence. In 2014, Polish Chinese also opened their own local newspapers in Poland, such as the European Times Polish branch.

### Case study

#### Case 1: Mr Yuan , a Chinese doctor in Warsaw

Poland was the first European country to reach Chinese medicine. The Polish missionary Bu Mige introduced the scientific and cultural achievements of ancient China and East Asia to the West. He not only translated the three important Chinese medicine works of "The Yellow Emperor's Canon", "Difficulties" and "Pulse" into Latin, but also wrote the first European book on Chinese herbal medicine "Flora Sinensis" (1659). Published in Vienna), and systematically introduces the "Medical Key" of Traditional Chinese Medicine (Medical Key, published in Nuremberg in 1686. Yuan Dafu, a Chinese doctor in Warsaw, worked in the First Affiliated Hospital of Jiangxi Hospital before coming to Poland. In 1994, he came to Poland to study abroad, graduated. After staying in Poland, Yuan Dafu and his friends started working together in private clinics. He specializes in traditional Chinese medicine and acupuncture. He is now a member of the World Chinese Medical Association. In addition to private Chinese medicine, acupuncture and massage clinics, Tongrentang in Warsaw .

#### Case 2: Mr. Li, the owner of the Warsaw Food Service

Many Polish Chinese have two or three companies, and they have several jobs. Mr. Li came to Poland with his mother in 1993, when he worked in a national company. After the company

was transformed into a private company, in 1998, Mr. Li was engaged in trade activities in the pavilion held at the National Stadium in Warsaw. The Warsaw National Stadium was the largest Polish trade center before the establishment of “GD Warsaw Chinatown”. Later, Mr. Li opened the Chinese Restaurant, which was also one of the few Chinese restaurants in Warsaw at the time, and was engaged in commodity trading activities. Many bosses engaged in catering services have multiple positions, and many companies, such as Chai Hongyun, the owner of Huadu Hotel, in addition to catering services, also engaged in tourism, education and other services.

### Case 3: Mr Chen lawyer of GD Law office

GD law office is a law firm engaged in legal consulting services, company registration and visa services. Mr. Chen came to Poland to study sponsored by government funds in 1989. In 2005, he opened a law firm and translated legal works such as the Constitution of the Republic of Poland and the Polish Administrative Procedure Law into Chinese. GD law office now provides legal advice, investment, immigration and other services, as well as companies such as the Polish Tourism Company.

There is also the young and successful boss Mr Sun of the Central and Eastern European Railway Express. In 2011, he also opened the first clothing trading company in Poland. In 2013, he seized the strategy of the Belt and Road proposed by Xi Jinping, and opened up Eastern European Railway Express Company, engaged in logistics services.

Chinese people in Poland is involved in all fields of work in Poland. Some Polish Chinese also enter Polish universities to teach, such as the Chinese consultant of the China-Poland

Friendship Association in Warsaw, and the coach of Xu in Krakow, who is now the head coach of the Polish table tennis team and so on.

**Case 4: Representative of Chinese student in Poland, a Chinese and English writer who wrote the story of Chinese people in Poland**

Ms Feng was a student who came to Poland in 2014 to study international relations. She is currently a Ph.D. in international relations at Warsaw University. She is good at writing in both Chinese and English. She published three English novels in Poland. During her spare time, she interviewed the Chinese people in Poland and wrote their stories into the novel.

### **Conclusion**

The number of Chinese people coming to Poland is growing in recent years. The development of Chinese people coming to Poland has experienced four stages. The first stage was before 1991. This period was mainly for international students. The second stage was from 1992 to 1995. This period was mainly China. Large state-owned enterprises and Chinese-funded institutions have entered the Chinese market, and the number of Chinese is relatively small. The third stage is from 1995 to 2008. A large number of private enterprises began to enter Poland, with factories, and trade as the mainstay. The fourth stage is the outbreak of the European debt crisis since 2008. More and more Chinese and Chinese companies have begun to enter the Polish market and come to Poland. The number of Chinese students is also increasing during this stage.

Chinese has become the largest group of people coming to Poland from Asian countries. The number of Chinese workers coming to Poland increased too, which ranked the second after Ukraine, some of Chinese workers worked in state owned companies, which China invested in Poland, and some work in private companies, which mainly engaged in trade. Chinese people in Poland have a variety of occupations, ranging from high skilled workers, such as manager, lawyer, and doctor, who are highly integrated into Polish society, but also low skilled workers, who mainly engaged in trade, and construction. In Chinese communities, there are ten associations that are registered in China's embassy in Poland. These associations conducted very active activities in Poland.

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