

Demographic Insights



MIGRATION & INTEGRATION

International migration is a decisive feature of modern societies. It influences economic, social and cultural development and leads to greater diversity. This process is often perceived as a challenge, particularly when it comes to national identity and social cohesion. Recent research takes a closer look at these challenges and explores ways to manage them constructively. Find some of it here and more on our website: www.population-europe.eu.

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Family stories from elsewhere

Interview with the demographer Helga de Valk

You studied the lives of so-called “second generation migrants”. How do you define this group?

They did not migrate themselves, but one or both of their parents were born abroad, whereas they were born in the country to which their parents migrated. The ages of second generation migrants vary according to the migration history of the country in question.

What was your main research interest and which data did you use?

We used data from the TIES research program that explored the integration of European second generation Turks and Moroccans in fifteen cities in eight countries. We compare them to young people whose parents do not have migration backgrounds and examine which of these differences can be explained by tradition and culture and which are the result of lower socio-economic status. It is also possible to determine which policies could be the most effective.

What are the most important influences on this group of people?

Early on, parents and institutional arrangements generally have the biggest impact in areas like education. At later stages when, for example, a partner is chosen, peers and friends have an important impact. And siblings have an effect on their brothers' and sisters' academic performance: if one drops out of education the others are more likely to follow. Close friends may have almost as strong an influence but I think more research should be done on the effect that peers and siblings have on the lives of the second generation.

Do your findings suggest that parents of second generation Turks have a different impact than parents in the majority group?

Turkish parents are more likely to express preferences and give advice directly, whereas parents from the majority group are more likely to just indirectly transmit general values. However, among migrant groups we have many more parents who are in disadvantaged socio-economic positions, and therefore Turkish young adults are overrepresented in certain economic positions but also in certain patterns of partnership and marriage. This might change when the next generation of Turks achieves more diverse economic and social positions.

Do you have recommendations for what governments should do to promote academic success among second generation Turks?

There are three elements to this. The first is delaying selection by ability so that children from lower socio-economic backgrounds have time to catch up. The second is lowering the age for school entry to age three or four, as the longer a child is in school the more time they have to learn the language, get used to the system and internalise expectations. The third is an increase in contact hours, so that education depends less on the situation and abilities of parents and the child also is exposed to the language of the country in which they live more time.



Helga de Valk

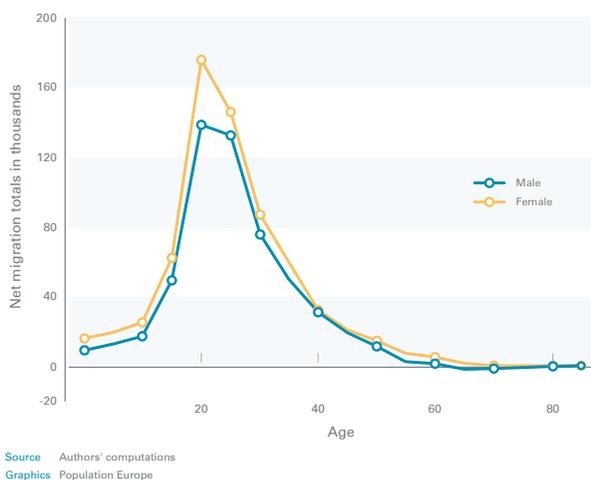
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Estimating Migration Flows

Knowing the number of people moving in and out European countries is important for policies and the stability of social systems in Europe. However, data sources are incomplete and as a result the migration flow forecasts are not reliable. James Raymer, Joop de Beer and Rob van der Erf have developed a new method for estimating migration flows within all 31 countries in the European Union (EU) and the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) from 2002 to 2007.

The results of the new estimation method yield new insights about movement in and out of the EU/EFTA countries. For example the net migration, which is the difference between the number of people moving into a country and the number moving out, is considerably lower than that given by the European Statistical Office EUROSTAT. For instance, the research team estimates a net migration of approximately 864,000 in 2007 for the EU/EFTA countries whereas EUROSTAT reports 2,089,000.



Graph 1. Estimated net migration totals for EU15

Another interesting result shows the estimation of net migration by sex and age. As figure 1 shows, there is a large number of young, mainly female migrants between 20 and 29 moving into the fifteen older member states (EU15). Where the old European member states have a positive balance, the countries which joined the EU late in 2004 and 2007 had overall negative net migration, having lost young people.

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Understanding Integration

The integration of migrants is continually among the most debated topics in Europe. However, new research by Tineke Fokkema and Hein de Haas suggests that our understanding of integration and its determinants is greatly limited. They argue that current immigration policies may in fact be hindering migrants' integration, and that our assumptions about who is integrated may differ from reality.

In this study the researchers focus on socio-cultural integration of migrants in Southern Europe. They analysed survey data of first generation African immigrants – Moroccans and Senegalese in Spain and Egyptians and Ghanaians in Italy. Unlike most previous studies, this research looks comprehensively at the determinants of integration, focusing on both pre-migration factors like prior experiences abroad, and post-migration factors like employment status. Based on this research, migrants who have the opportunity to establish residency and pursue professional careers are also those who exhibit the highest levels of socio-cultural integration. The authors suggest that restrictive immigration policies, such as those that prevent irregular migrants from establishing legal residency, may result in increased marginalisation. It stops migrants from converting their human capital into careers that would help them to achieve upward social mobility.

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25 % of all EU-27 residents will be foreign-born or have at least one foreign-born parent by 2060, according to recent projections. This is roughly twice as much as today, when about 12% have a so defined "foreign background". Though this proportion might sound high at first, it is actually quite normal in other regions of the world and has been so in the history of Europe. The projections, presented in the latest Demographic Report of Eurostat and the EU Commission, also suggest that without migration from outside the EU the number of Europeans would be smaller by roughly 91 million in 50 years' time. In this scenario the total size of Europe's population in 2060 would be just over 516 million, compared to just over 502 million in 2010.

[See EU Commission](#)

Events & Publications

"Population on the move: Migration, citizenship and identity in Europe" was the title of a conference organized by Population Europe, the Netherlands Interdisciplinary Demographic Institute (NIDI) and the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC).

[Find a summary of the results here](#)

"Family Life Transitions of the Second Generation", a special issue of *Advances in Life Course Research*, edited by Dr Helga de Valk and Dr Nadja Milewski, brings together five papers studying the transition to adulthood of children of immigrants. It was initiated considering new data available for the second generation from "The Integration of the European Second generation" (TIES) project. [Read more](#)

New book: **"A Life-Course Perspective on Migration and Integration"**, edited by Matthias Wingens, Helga de Valk, Michael Windzio, and Can Aybek explores useful crosslinkages between the sociological life-course approach and the research of migration and integration. [Read Abstract](#)