

**LLP-ERASMUS
Intensive Programme**

**Internet advanced promotional tools application for increasing
awareness of social exclusions movement**

Social exclusion of immigrants in France

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Introduction

The exclusion of Immigrants is a problem for many countries. This social phenomenon seems to be expressed at different levels and scales according to history, politics and the establishment of associations in each country. France is trying to respond to this exclusion, and adapt itself to solve this social problem.

1. History

In order to understand the main points and current features of the immigration in France, it's essential to be aware of its history...

France is a particular case. Indeed, it required immigration early in the twentieth century, whereas other European countries used to be migration countries. Indeed, France received many generations of migrants. The main groups are from Italy, Algeria, Spain, Poland, Portugal, Morocco and Sub-Saharan Africa.

The main reason is industrialization. France in its early development (end of 19th century) was concerned with building its empire. The role of immigration in the development of France as a European nation is significant. The overriding theme of inward immigration to France was economic and specifically to labor.

The aforementioned situation continued up to and beyond the First World War(1914-1918). Immigrant workers were required to sustain the French War effort. It also aimed to compensate the low demographic dynamism. Inward immigration for labor purposes ended because of World War

<http://www.spartacus.schoolnet.co.uk/FWW.htm>

<http://www.spartacus.schoolnet.co.uk/FWW.htm>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/war/wwtwo/index.shtml>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/war/wwtwo/index.shtml> II.

During the "*Glorious thirties*" (1945–1974), the country's reconstruction and steady economic growth led to the labor-immigration of the 1960s. Many employers found manpower in former colonies of North and West Africa, India and Indochina. French law facilitated the immigration of thousands of *colons*, ethnic or national French people, to the mainland. Actions were set up for the management of housing problems and for the access to work .

Thanks to the law for the reunification of families, the migrant population (mainly men) was allowed to make their families come to France. At the same moment, the country's population

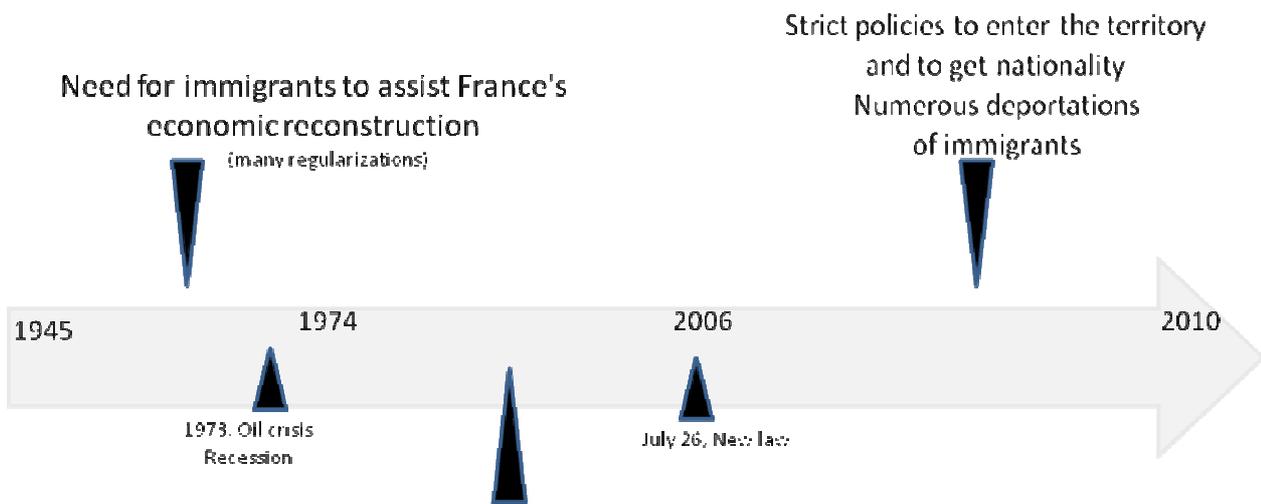


sharply increased with the *baby boom* following World War II. From there, migrant people no longer were economic issues, but they became social issues. Although the theme of immigration from the African continent was transformed into a political issue from the 1960s onwards, the Government were trying to gloss over the fact that immigrants were part of French society.

After the slowdown in economic growth due to the 1973 energy crisis (difficulties to find out a job, fear...), in the period leading up to the Eighties, the French government acted to contain the situation. They adopted a hostile attitude towards immigrants by banning immigration from Africa, and by concentrating their policy upon European Community workers. In response to the economic context, this period represents the official stop of work immigration.

During the Eighties and the Nineties its immigration policy was restrictive, the Government changed its policy concerning immigrants. Nevertheless France has continued being a country of mass immigration. Actions were set up to integrate them within society (alphabetization...). The theme of French policy towards immigrants and even its own French citizens was to suppress other people's cultural beliefs. <http://www.buzzle.com/editorials/12-11-2003-48510.asp>

France being part of the European Union suggests things are changing; the French have to accept that they are no longer culturally isolated.



Set up of migration flow

2. Immigrants 'exclusion'

a. Definition

2006	2007	2008	2009	New immigrants from outside Europe
134 800	118 235	111 244	122 246	

Exclusion: People are considered to be excluded not only those subject to a procedure and planned for disqualification, but also people "set aside" indirectly because they do not have the same rights or cannot participate in the same activities as others. According to the Poverty and Social Exclusion National Observatory, we can divide exclusion into two dimensions. The first one is the economic sphere with unemployment and an obvious lack of resources. The second one is about the non-recognition of social, civil and political rights such as the right Social security cover

Immigrant: Any person born from foreign parents abroad and who lives on the French territory. More generally we can define a migrant as a person who migrates to another country, usually for permanent residence.

It seems important to make the difference between professional immigration and family immigration.

Foreigner: A person residing in France, who do not have French nationality and regardless of his/her birthplace.

b. Some data / figures (from INSEE¹)

The Population of France is about 63 million of inhabitants, 3.26 million foreigners (5.6% of the total population) and 11,8 million of migrants (including children of migrants) - or 19% of the national population. Its worldwide ranking is sixth .

- 40 % live in Ile-de-France (the Paris neighborhood), 11 % in Rhône-Alpes and 9 % in Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur
- ¼ of migrants is graduated from higher education.
- Immigrants are more likely to be between 25 and 70 years old.
- About 180 000 immigrants settle down in France every year.

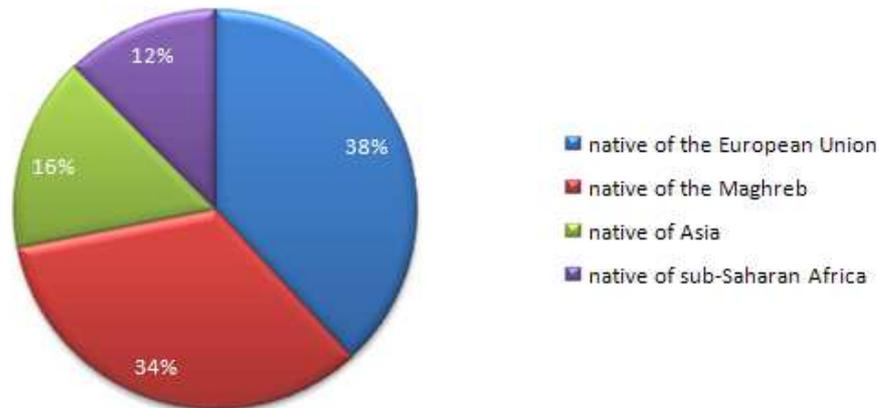
Thirty years of immigration were needed to attempt to reach a balance between Men/Women.

Origin

In France, most migrants are native of the European Union (34 %), followed by Maghreb (30 %), Asia (14 %, mainly from Turkey), and a minority from Sub-Saharan Africa countries -

¹ National Institute of Statistics and Economic Studies

from former French African colonies (11%). The number of migrants from Asia and Africa is growing.



Tendency

The recent data reveal a decline of entries because of family reasons, passing from 109 800 entries in 2009 to 102 500 in 2010. On the contrary, the number of entrances because of working reasons recently increased, going from 20 900 in 2009 to 22 800 in 2010.

On the whole, these figures do not tend to decline, as every year about 180 000 immigrants settle down in France. One should, of course, add the people in an illegal or irregular situation in France, who are estimated to be between 200 000 and 400 000. Figures are however difficult to estimate.

Students' situation

In 2003, 11 % of the students in France were foreign students; from 1998 till 2003 this number increased with an annual rhythm of 12 %. According to the INSEE, half of the foreign students registered in the French universities are natives of French-speaking countries of Africa (47 %). A quarter of the foreign students are natives from Tunisia, Morocco or Algeria. At the end 25% graduated from higher education.

Finally, 24 % of the non- European foreigners who are in France are job-seekers, that is three times as high as the national unemployment rate.

French institutions divide migrant people into 6 groups:

- First-arrivals
- Foreigners in irregular situation

- Asylum seekers
- Migrant Workers in households
- Migrant women
- Romany migrants

3. Causes and consequences of migrant people exclusion

a. Causes of migrant people exclusion

The migrants' fragility leads to social exclusion, which means a serious lack of socialization.

Migrants are clearly affected by poverty and social exclusion. They are vulnerable in front of a limited work access. The unemployment rate is much higher for migrants than for the rest of the population.

Derelict housing also contributes to the precariousness of this population. Other factors such as legal status or the existence of discriminatory practices,(and sometimes xenophobic) in all areas of social life contribute to their social exclusion. The living conditions resulting from situations of social exclusion have an impact on health and access to Health care for these populations. The phenomena of exclusion, poverty, stigma and rejection, even racism, have repercussions on the physical and especially mental conditions of those people.

Indeed, the major social determinants of exclusion such as work, housing, education etc., are interdependent. They interact on each other. The lack of stable jobs and of secure, safe housing, access to public facilities, information and education make the population more vulnerable.

b. Consequences of the crisis in the process of integration:

- A concentration in geographical zones as the Ile-de-France and in degraded zones of housing environment
- Difficulties of cultural order which are questioned by French society, in particular related to the issue of women with Islamic practices
- An economic and social situation degraded for a large number of immigrants and their families
- Preservation of discriminatory practices (housing, work, etc.)
- Significant numbers of foreigners in irregular situations and in precarious conditions are generative of diverse "disorders" (clandestine work, crime).

c. Priorities for the integration of foreigners:

- Knowledge of the French language
- Find a job, to create relationship and being autonomous
- Minimum knowledge of the French history and current society

4. Government policies regarding immigration

a. Conditions to entry and stay:

- Passport
- Unexpired visa
- Documents necessary to get a professional activity, without exemption, if they wish to work.

b. What are the reasons to legally immigrate to France?

- **For work purposes**

You must have a work permit to apply for residence permission. But since 1975, it has been difficult to get that permission on a permanent basis in France.

- **For family reasons**

A national (immigrant) has the right to bring a spouse or children under 18 . But he must have been properly installed in France for at least one year and with favorable living conditions (He must have sufficient wages to support those who come ...)

- **claims**

If he qualifies for admission, the claimant receives a temporary residence permit renewed until OFPRA (French Office for Protection of Stateless Refugees) has ruled. When refugee status is acknowledged to the applicant, he receives a residence card for 10 years.

People, who do not fulfill those conditions, have the right to benefit from the "subsidiary protection". (Act of 10/12/03)

c. A policy based on different laws:

Since the arrival of Nicolas Sarkozy to the Department of the Interior in 2002, the various governments that have succeeded to each other have been able to vote four laws dealing with the control of migration and the right of asylum ; almost all aiming to restrict the entry and residence rights for foreigners.

Act of 26 November 2003 on immigration control, residence of aliens in France and nationality :intended to fight against illegal immigration, the law extends the period of administrative detention from 12 to 32 days.

A file of fingerprints and photographs drawn from the visa application is initiated. It allows the identification of foreigners who have entered legally on French territory and who would have remained in an irregular manner.

A Resident Card is given to the foreign spouse who has been living in France for two years (against a year earlier).

The penalties against those responsible for illegal immigration have increased.

The law created the offense of "marriage of convenience".

The mayors have had their power of control broadened: housing conditions and sincerity of applications. However, the text repeals part of "the double punishment," which punished the common criminals twice and they were to be expelled from the territory after serving their sentence.

Act of 10 December 2003 on the right of asylum

Inspired by the provisions of the European Union, the law of the French Office for the Protection of Refugees and Stateless Persons (OFPRA) stop the processing of asylum applications. The processing time for applications is expected to be reduced.

The Act creates the concept of "internal asylum", which allows the OFPRA to reject the request of a person who may have "access to protection on part of the territory of its country of origin" and that could be returned.

A list of so-called "safe countries of origin" countries "ensuring" respect for freedom and human rights, is published. Prefectures may use this list to deny admission to the territory.

Act of 24 July 2006 on immigration and integration

- The foreigner living in France cannot bring his family for eighteen months and not more than one year after his arrival. The area of housing reflects the family size. As for the minimum resources, only work-related income is taken into account.

- The automatic regularization after ten years of living in France is deleted. It affects around 3000 people per year.

- The granting of a residence of ten years is conditional on obtaining a diploma of knowledge of French.

- With regard to mixed marriages, the residence card is given to the spouse of a Frenchman after three years of marriage (not both). In case of break-up in the four years following, the card can be withdrawn (except in cases of domestic violence).

Act of 20 November 2007 on immigration control, integration and asylum

The provisions of this law are mainly family immigration.

- For any person seeking a long-stay visa for family reunification, there shall, in the country where the visa is requested, be an assessment of its "degree of knowledge of French." If necessary, the applicant must take language training organized locally.

- A "contract of welcome and integration for the family" including requiring parents to ensure proper integration of their children. In case of non-compliance, the juvenile judge can be seized and suspend payment of family allowances.

- Thresholds of resources to be eligible for family reunification must be set according to the size of the family.

- The supervision of the Office for Refugees (French Office for the Protection of Refugees and Stateless Persons) is transferred from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to the Department of Immigration.

DNA tests abandoned

As an experiment, the text provided a DNA test for nationals of countries with "civil status of this deficiency or is nonexistent." The validation of this device was accompanied by the Constitutional Council to several reservations. This proposal aroused heated debate in 2007.

The immigration minister, Eric Besson, finally decided in September 2009, not to sign the decree of application, killing the project in the bud - and incurring the enmity of some tenacious UMP.

5. Government's role in preventing the exclusion of migrants

A person with a residence permit can stay in France more than three months after the entry. It differs from country and from the personal and family situation. There are two different categories:

- 10-year Resident Card renewable automatically

- Temporary residence permit renewable up to one year. This permit gives the people's status: "employee", "student", "Visitors", "scientific", "performer", "private and family life", "retired", "Temporary worker".

France has created the Universal Health Cover and Medical Assistance that are undeniable progress to fight against social exclusion. French social policies have fully achieved their

objectives and, consequently, they are examples, which may be copied by other Member States of the European Union.

A new immigration policy for work:

France has set a new immigration policy that allows both to control migration flows and to organize legal immigration. Professional immigration under control must meet the business needs and be adapted to the capacity of France, given the changes in economic conditions. Organizing professional immigration, France is seeking to meet the needs of economic sectors suffering of recruitment difficulties. Foreign nationals must have easier access to specific occupations. The new immigration policy shall preserve the interests of the country and contribute to their development while promoting economic and cultural French influence.

Integration:

Since 2008, to have a more successful integration process, the family member who asks to join France has to undergo a test in order to evaluate the degree of knowledge of the French language and values of the Republic.

If the need is established, it follows a free training for up to 2 months prior to the issuance of his visa.

Women are a priority for public policy of integrating immigrants because of their role within the family and child rearing. They represent more than half of foreign newcomers. They suffer more frequently than other women in situations of inequality and violence that are inconsistent with the principles of individual liberty and equality between men and women which are French values.

6. Institutions

a. OFII

Created in 2009, OFII: French service of the immigration and the integration is henceforth the only operator of the State in charge of the legal immigration. The OFII's mission is to welcome newcomers and to organize the course of integration. It begins in the home country and extends over the national territory with the signing of the contract of reception and integration.

More precisely its various missions are grouped mainly in four points developed below:

- Immigration
- Welcome and integration
- Welcome of the asylum seekers
- Help to return back home and reinsertion

This institution allows the migrant to benefit from:

- A civic training presenting the values and the principles of the French Republic;
- A session of information about life in France;
- An assessment of professional skills;
- linguistic training, if necessary

In concrete terms, with countries which have signed an agreement with the OFII, prior to the issuance of visa by the Consulate, the OFII submit the recipient's family or the spouse of a Frenchman to a test to assess their knowledge of French and Republican values. If its level is considered insufficient, the OFII offers training in the two months following this assessment.

If the person does not meet the training requirements that are prescribed, it can be denied by the Prefect to renew his/her residence permit or the issuance of resident card (10 years).

In 2010, 101 355 contracts Reception and Integration were signed.

b. HCI

The High Council on Integration (HCI), is also an organization that advises and makes recommendations on all matters relating to the integration of foreign residents

It defines categories that determine the effectiveness of the policy of integration and therefore the axes to develop in order to limit and end the exclusion:

- Reception policies, with the reception and integration contract
- Compensation of inequalities (socio-economic, education, diploma, ...): policy globally orientated towards the underprivileged
- The fight against discrimination and for the acceptance of diversity
- The incentive for participation in social life (involvement in school life, socio-professional organizations, etc..)

Concretely implementation by the politics of integration:

- The implementation of the reception and integration contract
- The creation of the High Authority for fighting against discrimination and for equality (HALDE)

7. Associations

Social Service for Assistance to Emigrants (SSAE) specializes on the issue of immigrants and social work. This association fights against the social and administrative migrants' precariousness.

“Migration Health” has a documentation center with nearly 3000 references. The document collection consists of books, journals, reports about migrant populations in terms of medical, social and cultural development.

« La Croix Rouge Française » is an association of 52,000 committed volunteers, for over 140 years on many fronts. The main objective is fighting against the precariousness and social exclusion. They help migrants by giving them food, clothes...

“Forum réfugié” is an association specialized in the reception of asylum seekers and refugees and defending the right of asylum.

CAFDA: “Coordination of the reception of asylum-seeking families” was created in 2000 following the request of the government. This is the biggest platform for asylum seekers in France. It receives each day children, women (sometimes pregnant - 150 to 200 births per year!) and men. Its mission is to welcome these people, find an accommodation within a day, guide and support them. The accompaniment is both social and legal.

8. Characteristics of “Réseau éducation sans frontière”

“Education without Borders Network,” or RESF, is a network of associations, labor groups, political support and people from civil society fighting against the eviction of migrant children attending school in France. Children’s rights are their priority. They ask for the young educated immigrants’ regularization.

Its development is difficult to quantify: those who are active for youth migrants and families can belong to the network. Its form of organization is original, without direction and with decisions made by consensus.

They use several means of information and expression as internet (mailing lists, website), public meetings and also a radio show.

Actions take place above all at school: petition signatures, parents’ strike . teachers' strikes etc.

Conclusion

In conclusion, we notice that immigration is a challenge that many policies have already attempted to resolve without success. That exclusion remains at the heart of current events and political debates. Nowadays, it is really a growing problem in France as the exclusion of immigrants makes access to housing-and therefore jobs- very difficult.

Indeed it is essential to have a residence permit to find a job which then will allow them to obtain housing. France now seems to show the limits of this vicious circle and therefore attempts to provide solutions by new policies but also by the action of various associations in order to reduce inequalities.



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