

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

Social exclusion of immigrants in Germany

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Introduction

People crossing borders in the course of their migration, from the perspective of the country which they enter, are called immigrants. From the perspective of the country they leave, they are called emigrants. The sociology of immigration is usually referred to as immigration.

In several aspects the Immigrants differ from the inhabitants.

One aspect is that they speak a different language and they often have a different culture and / or religion. Furthermore they have a different physiognomy.

These aspects can lead to problems and tensions between immigrants and the country's long-established residents. The conflict can arise from religion, mentality and traditions, the economic situation and many other factors. Sometimes immigrants and natives will respond very differently to the same cases of tension or to the same problems. In many countries debates about integration, customization and multiculturalism have been going on for decades.

A good example of these problems is the discussion of building mosques in some German cities. Some local people are not afraid of building new mosques in some cities. The locals no longer feel at home. So the immigrants feel excluded from their new home country.

In Germany in 2010, 6.75 million (according to the Federal Statistical Office) foreigners are living here, (people without a German passport). Approximately one fifth of the 6.75 million non-Germans were born in Germany. The immigrants live on average for almost 19 years in Germany.

In Germany, the most-highly represented country of origin is still Turkey, followed by Italy and Poland. Almost one in four foreigners in Germany comes from Turkey. At the same time, the number of Turks in Germany has decreased steadily from 2.1 million down to 1.6 million people for reasons statisticians call “next naturalization” , and also on account of the number of deaths and returnees.

More than a third (36 percent) Foreigners in Germany comes from one of the 27 EU Member States. The largest increase was with 21.600 people from Romania, followed by immigrants from Poland and Bulgaria. Greece is the only EU Member State from which significantly fewer people were living in Germany than in the previous year (minus 1400).

In 2006 there were about 15.1 million people with an immigrant background in Germany. A great wave of immigration into the Federal Republic of Germany came in the 1960s. In the course of a very favorable economic development, hundreds of thousands of workers, mainly from southern European countries (Spain, Greece, Yugoslavia, Turkey, Italy) immigrated to Germany.

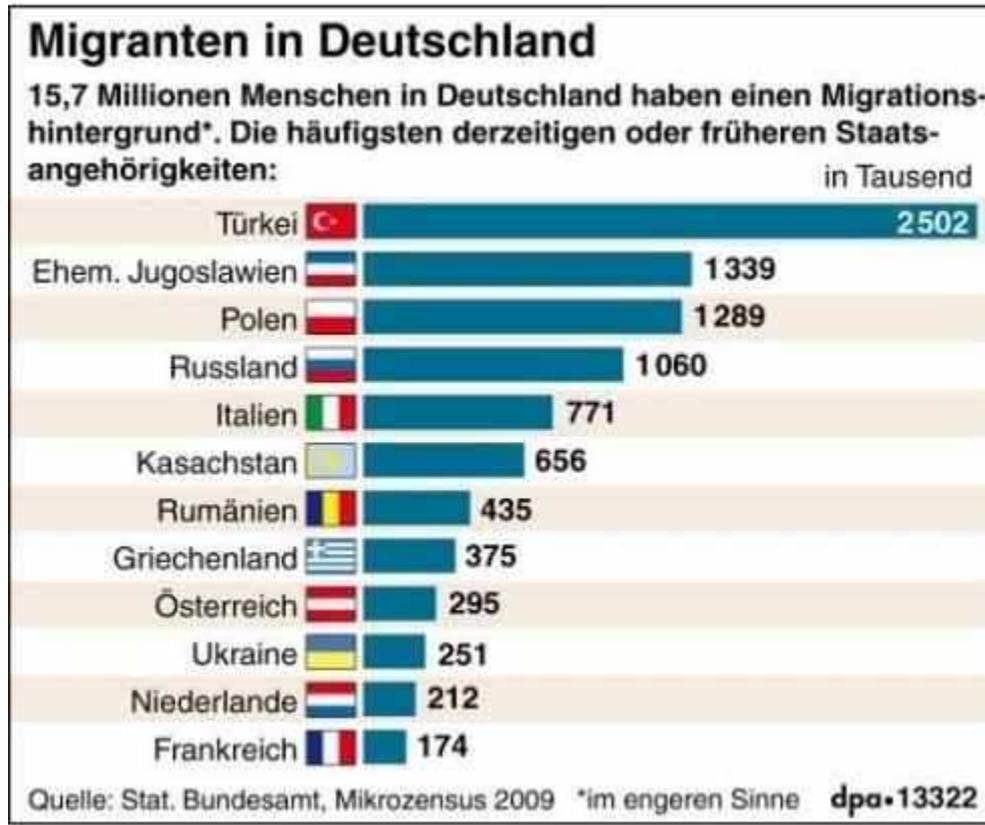
In 2009, 606 000 people immigrated to Germany with a foreign passport, and 579 000 without German citizenship. This represents a surplus of about 27000 immigrants. In recent years, immigration in Germany has declined.

Moreover the German immigration law is subject to certain bonds imposed by the European Union rules on the free movement of people.

Some immigration experts believe that the current immigration policy is not in keeping with the other states do. So the low-skilled workers tend to come to Germany. It lacks a selective model, as it is the case in Canada, the USA and the UK with “the point system” , which results in increasing the immigration of skilled workers. Foundations have calculated, that over the entire period of their lives, due to their inferior skills and wage levels, the immigrants in Germany pay less taxes than they receive in benefits. In addition to that, the targeted control of immigration would be significantly defusing Germany's demographic problems.

Immigrants have different reasons for fleeing or emigration, and differ as to the intention to stay for a short or long period in Germany or just to visit the country.

Here you see a graph of the migrant countries in 2009:



1. Level and structure of the exclusion of immigrants

At the end of the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th century Germany was better known as an emigration country. But since the middle of the 1950's it has become one of the most important countries in the European union when it comes to immigration. This can be distinguished into several phases.

- recruitment of guest workers
- family reunification
- the moving in of resettlers
- the acceptance of asylum seekers

Since the 1990s immigration has reached a peak and it has become an issue more important than ever in the German political life. The most significant actions are:

- 1993 Asyl-compromises to control the asylum allowances
- 2000 new citizenship law
- “Green Card” for engineers
- 2005 new immigration law

Nowadays the structure of immigration in Germany can be described as follows:

“As reported by the Federal Statistical Office (Destatis) on the basis of provisional results, 721,000 persons immigrated to Germany in 2009. Hence the level of immigration rose by 39,000 persons compared to 2008 (+6%). More than 700,000 immigrants were last recorded in 2005. By comparison: at the beginning of this millennium, the annual number of immigrants to Germany amounted to well over 800,000 people.

In 2009, the main countries of origin of the immigrants were Poland (123,000), Romania (56,000), the USA (30,000), Turkey (30,000) und Bulgaria (29,000). The immigrants settled above all in Nordrhein-Westfalen (146,000), Baden-Württemberg (122,000) and Bayern.”

It can be said that due to the new policy und procedures , the structure of immigration will change over the years. There will be more highly-qualified personnel coming into our country and fewer unemployed and unqualified people.

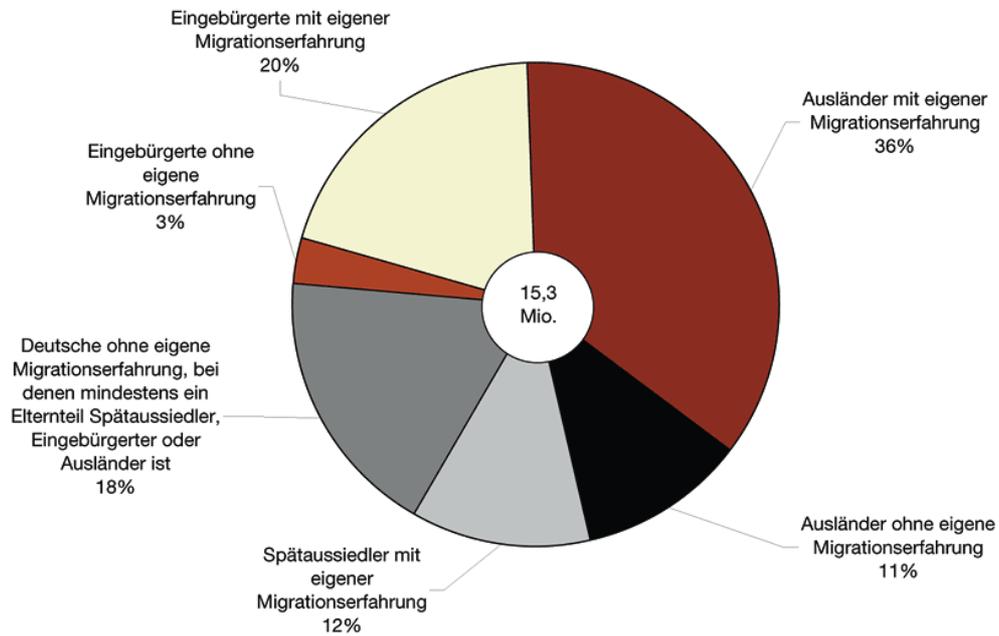
2. Causes and consequences of the exclusion of immigrants :

Some of the reasons for the exclusion of immigrants might be the population mixture in Germany. This means the mixture between Germans and the ones with a migration background as shown in the figures below.

Migration und Integration			
Bevölkerung nach detailliertem Migrationsstatus			
Insgesamt	2007	2008	2009
	in 1 000		
Bevölkerung (Mikrozensus)	82 257	82 135	81 904
Personen mit Migrationshintergrund im engeren Sinne (Mikrozensus)	15 411	15 566	15 703
Ausländische Bevölkerung (Ausländerzentralregister)	6 745	6 728	6 695
Einbürgerungen (Einbürgerungsstatistik)	113	94	96

Source: www.destatis.de

Migrationshintergrund der Bevölkerung



Source: <http://www.focus-migration.de/>

People without any migration background might be concerned about soon becoming a minority in their own country. This goes together with the fear of higher competition on the job market. These factors lead to a negative attitude towards immigrants.

Also the fact that politicians change and develop the migration laws might have a signal effect for the population. On the other hand, the new policy has a significant impact when it comes to the job market. The better immigration possibilities for highly-qualified personnel makes it harder for the country's personnel to compete with them on the job market as most of those immigrants come from countries with lower salary standards.

So, most of the problems that cause the exclusion of immigrants are rooted in the fear of the population of German origin.

3. Government role in preventing the exclusion of immigrants:

The opportunities for political, social and cultural participation of migrants in an immigrant society such as Germany are important conditions for the integration processes. The importance of migrants as active or passive players in German politics is growing because since the 1990s the number of people with migration background has been rising. Without a

German citizenship, the possibilities of cooperation are limited on one side, because they are foreign immigrants - with the exception of EU nationals. On the other hand, there are opportunities for their political involvement, but the difference is sometimes hardly noticed. As can be seen with the following examples: the takeover of party offices and the establishment of partnerships and sub-organizations of German parties by members with immigrant background since the 1990s; the path of citizenship for equal rights to participate in elections and political decision-making; or the work of local advisory bodies for immigrants and migrant organizations.

The media have focused in many articles on "foreclosure trends", "parallel societies" and other issues related to migrants. At the same time the conditions were often limited political participation rights of existing non-Germans or the enormous range of forms of participation of immigrants in German politics and society in the foreground. This is gradually changing.

The Basic Law defines in Article 20 the principle of popular sovereignty and democracy.. "(1) The Federal Republic of Germany is a democratic and social federal state (2) All state authority emanates from the people. It is chosen by the people through elections, other votes and -through specific organs- legislative, executive, and judicial exercise. " Its core makes the universal and equal suffrage for women and men. The political participation opportunities for non-German in the form of the right to vote remains confined in the Federal Republic of Germany to the nationals of the EU and local levels. In its 1990 decision about the municipal election to the legislature, the Federal Constitutional Court rejected two ways of reacting to changes in the composition of the population through immigration: First, the Constitution is in Article 28 which guarantees local voting rights to at least citizens of the European Union - the constitutional change was decided by the Bundestag and the Bundesrat in 1992 by mutual agreement with the required two-thirds majority. Second, to facilitate the naturalization through the amendment to the Nationality Law in the legislative process - this was done with the adoption of the Nationality Act (Act) in 1999 after violent political clashes.

We can assume that full political participation rights are an important prerequisite for the social integration of migrants living with permanent residency prospects in Germany. The approach here is orientated towards naturalization. The opening of the Intercultural Management is to prepare public institutions to new tasks in an immigrant society. An Integration policy can only provide a favourable environment for the success of integration.

To integrate the immigrants themselves, you must therefore be actors in the integration events, not just passive participants. Among the essential conditions for an integration process there remain above all the security structures in the labor market and the competence of public institutions to promote integration and control processes. These latter two structural components have in Germany still a negative impact on the opportunities for integration of migrants. This is the case particularly for low-skilled labor markets, where immigrants often find employment, which are highly competitive and characterized by low wages and precarious employment. Also, the shortcomings of the education system are at the center of a nationwide debate. Gearing to the realities of the practice of integration policy is still not widespread. The necessary skills are developed for different fields of activity. When they were developed from individual initiatives, they have generally remained isolated solutions. They were not systematized, often depending on the commitment of individuals and with the retirement of those people are generally lost. But they are lost not only in the institutions, but also as a reference resource for other institutions. The Intercultural opening must therefore be an interplay between the development of the individual employees' skills and the development of the competence of an organization. In terms of sustainability they are important to ensure such a transfer of competence on the whole field of action - such as youth welfare, schools, police, etc..

4. Institutions and their actions

As already mentioned, a lot of things against the exclusion of immigrants is done through governmental actions in Germany. But this is only the basis. Nevertheless, to achieve an all-embracing integration, the German government depends on local institutions and organizations all over the country to help them reach this objective.

To do so, there is a wide range of local and national institutions in Germany which act against discrimination and for the integration of immigrants through different projects and with the help of foundations, initiatives and administrative bodies.

The actual number of such institutions is uncountable. In this text we present a selection of them. More can be found for example on migration-info.de.

On the one hand, local organizations in every city work directly with people who are affected by social exclusion and who need help to be integrated into their new society. Very often German social workers and people that have a migration background (and went through similar experiences but managed to overcome them to get integrated) work together to help them and their families.

In Germany every city has more than one association that supports people that came from other countries to organize the bureaucratic world of applications needed, to help them learn the language or just to get in contact with other people and have some fun.

Of course there is also and always a problem of financing the projects and organizations. For that there are several foundations and institutions to support them financially.



One of the biggest foundations in Germany is the "Stiftung Mercator". They initiate and support projects for a better education of immigrants in schools and universities. As Gerhard Mercator, the founder, would have wished it, they fund and help organizations and projects which support openness to the world and tolerance through intercultural meetings and try to propose the exchange of traditions and knowledge of different cultures. The foundation wants people, no matter where they come from, to develop their personality, engage themselves in our society and to take every chance they get.

For example they support a master course at the university of Bochum in German-Turkish economy or they helped realize the project "Heimat (home) Almanyia" which implied a "contest" for children with parents from Turkey to expose themselves with their idea of home. Another organization the "Stiftung Mercator" supports is called "Spin - Sport interkulturell" which financially helps sport clubs be a place for integration. Those sport clubs are supposed to help people with migration-background and people without one to get together and just have some fun.

The Mercator foundation has a lot more activities it helps, not only in terms of integration, but also in terms of climate-change or cultural education.

Another important foundation to mention is the "Bertelsmann Stiftung". They engage in public welfare. Particularly in the range of education, economy, social work and health and above all in international communication and the peaceful get-together of different cultures. Through their social engagement they want to encourage the people to engage themselves in public welfare, too. It was founded in 1977 by Reinhard Mohn.

For example, the Bertelsmann foundation implemented an award for the furtherance of integration. They also financially aid the local integration of immigrants in German cities and give young people with a migration-background the chance to speak out through panels.

One of the biggest projects founded by the "Bertelsmann Stiftung" is the project "Alle Kids sind VIPs" (All kids are VIPs) which is hosted by several well-known "Stars" from Germany, including Mario Gomez (soccer) or Culcha Candela (musicians). This integration contest is for classes and their teachers and ask them to engage themselves for more integration and fairness in their everyday lives.

The "Expert Council of German Foundations for Integration and Migration" lists a lot more Foundations who support initiatives and projects against the social exclusion of immigrants. (<http://www.svr-migration.de>)

Where foundations act on a national level, there are also associations who work against discrimination and for integration on state-level.

One good example is nrwgegendiskriminierung.de (NRW against discrimination) which lists all projects in the state "NRW" who act in those manners and also undertakes several projects in integrating immigrants into NRW's cities itself. One of their main projects is the engagement of men with a background of immigration to participate in their local voluntary fire department. Their participation can help both sides broaden their horizons.



One of the biggest projects to be on NRW-state-level is "ProMigra" a widespread project through every layer of social life. It is still in a phase of development but tends to be a big step forward for the integration of immigrants in NRW and maybe one day also in every land of Germany. ProMigra is meant to be a consulting and counseling offer for immigrants and escapees on an individual and social level.

The founding organisation is the Caritas, a religious organization which engages itself in many problems concerning everyday life, like help for old people, unemployment, poverty, violence in families and much more. The Caritas is not only involved in ProMigra but also in



many more projects and events. (cp. <http://www.caritas-nrw.de>)

PRO ASYL DER EINZELFALL ZÄHLT.

Not to forget one of Germany's biggest national interacting networks which acts against the sending of immigrants from Germany to their home country. The "Pro Asyl"-network consists of a foundation, a "Förderverein" (society for funding and supporting) and a working group alliance. All in order to help immigrants getting integrated and being able to stay in Germany.



In our home city Kassel, the mayor and his assistants developed a model for the integration of immigrants in our region in cooperation with the state Hessen. Immigrants are of big importance for the region and its future. The integration of about 9% of 200.000 people living in Kassel and 12% of people who have a foreign passport is still a main task for the city of Kassel.

Various campaigns and actions/activities are taken to work against any kind of social exclusion, for example unemployment or racism. Projects are a meeting opportunity for migrated women, theatre visits and workshops and other cultural excursions, sporting events and a lot more (cp. <http://www.stadt-kassel.de/projekte/integration/>)

5. Other activities against the exclusion of immigrants :

Education

For equal participation in social processes the basic need is the knowledge of languages and a vocational training school. Therefore, the entire education and training system is the key to the success of the integration of migrants.

The promotion of the German language must begin as early as possible, including specific language tests and language development in time for enrollment included as well as strengthening the parenting skills of parents. Likewise, the schools would have to "better prepare" students from immigrant families and students.

Working

For the social integration of migrants, the training and work area is a key position. The success or failure of integration in these key areas affect the opportunities for integration of people with immigrant backgrounds and perspectives to their lives as a whole.

The federal government has committed itself under the National Integration Plan to a set of measures to improve the access of young people with migration background and professional

training. This should increase, in particular the number of training opportunities for young people with immigrant backgrounds. Accordingly, it is called in the National Integration Plan:

"The federal government is

- Together with its partners to intensify the training pact commitment to the integration of vocational training and apprenticeships to young people from immigrant backgrounds.
- the efforts of the partners in the training pact with the "special federal program for the introductory training of youth" for young people (program) and to increase the successful program to 40,000 places.
- With the initiative "Committed to training courses" together with the German Industry and Commerce and German-foreign business associations pursue the objective by the year 2010 to win up to 10,000 new training places in companies with cardholders of foreign origin.
- the program JOBSTARTER, to help improve the educational situation in particular young people from immigrant backgrounds.
- in its field of competence of public administrations and enterprises to increase the number of trainees with immigrant backgrounds.
- Vocational training aid for foreign trainees and BAföG expand, particularly for young people with the right of residence and tenure prospects.
- offer young women with immigrant backgrounds a mentoring program for individual labor market and career guidance.

6. Characteristics of “Arbeiter-Samariter-Bund”



Arbeiter-Samariter-Bund

Workers' Samaritan Federation (ASB) is the name of several independent national relief and charity organizations, which go back historically to initiatives by workers and artisans to help themselves in the field of emergency rescue and first aid training.

The services of the Workers' Samaritan Federation are performed in Germany and Austria by volunteers, employed full-time employees, employees of the FSJ and community service workers. It requires in each case an appropriate training to be used for various activities .

The Workers' Samaritan Federation was founded in 1888 in Germany. Throughout Germany there are 16 state associations and 223 local associations (regional, district and local associations). Currently about 1.1 million people are members of the ASB. The national office is based in Cologne. The ASB has in 2012, about 26,000 full-time and 12,000 volunteers. Furthermore, in 2009, about 1,000 civil servants were employed.

For repatriates, refugees and asylum seekers to deal with the German bureaucracy is often an insurmountable hurdle. The ASB therefore receive migrant's advice and support in dealing with authorities, as well as psychosocial issues.

With the advice to migrants they want to assist the ASB in their integration in Germany and in the process of orientation in the new home page on the stand. They promote young emigrants

to social education, particularly through leisure activities. The ASB staff helps them to find apprenticeships or attend continuing education courses

No matter what country you come from, for any reason you are in Germany or what religion you belong to, the ASB philosophy is to help. They support the migrants and help them with the integration.

They can advise on all matters having to do with the residence status. If migrants are unemployed or cannot work, they will help them in securing their livelihood and support them in career development. If your relatives are still in their home country and you would like to advise them to come to Germany, they support them for family reunification.

If the stay is not secured or the people live "undocumented" in Germany, ASB can help the migrants in this difficult situation. The ASB consulting services specializes in part on specific topics.

Conclusion

To sum up, one can say that the actions taken for integration and against the social exclusion in Germany are a step into the right direction in living in a peaceful and respectful environment.

Nevertheless they are by far not enough. There is still a lot of work to do.

Germany as one of the countries in the EU which has an everyday increasing number of immigrants, needs to make a bigger point for integration and against social exclusion of people who immigrated from other countries.

The government in Germany needs to take more actions and a better, more focused standing point and should be more active in integrating immigrants into our country and culture. Considering our country's historical background, this must be done and cannot be ignored.

Mandatory language courses can be only one of the few actions taken in the context of Germany's integration policy. A lot more must be done. The government needs to compare its politics to countries which do a better job concerning integration and the work against social exclusion (for example the Scandinavian states)

The actions taken by national and local organizations imply that Germany is on the right track. The main task of finding a better integration policy lies in the hands of our politicians to make integration work. On the other hand, the rest of us have to engage ourselves too through local actions or funding.

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