

# Young Migrant Integration Leaders [EXEMPLAR]

## IO1 – Integration Leaders Curriculum

### Module 1: Integration and Me

#### Self-directed Learning Content

#### Introduction to the Module:

This is the first module of the Integration Leaders Curriculum Manual. This module addresses the topic “Integration and Me” which includes definitions of important terms, an introduction to indicators of integration and integration monitor systems, and a brief overview about the migration dynamics and the integration policies in Germany. In the face-to-face session, which accompanies this module, participants will be given the opportunity to reflect on their personal understanding of integration, formulate their expectations, fears and skills and discuss about integration barriers.

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|------------------------------------|--|
| <b>Learning Outcomes Achieved:</b> | Knowledge: Understand the (different) meanings of integration and recognize it as a key factor for the development of individuals and communities.<br>Understand better the host country's existing framework.                               |
|                                    | Skills: Being able to reflect on their own fears, expectations and skills as well as on the cultural differences and similarities between the host country and their countries of origin. Being able to discover and deconstruct stereotypes |
|                                    | Attitudes: Think and act open-mindedly, be flexible and adjustable, having self-assurance and feeling “good” with oneself, feel free to express oneself whilst respecting the values of the host country                                     |

#### Theoretical Content:

In this section, we will provide you with some background information on the topic of integration. First, we will be looking at the heterogeneity of the group of migrants that influences the integration process, then we will provide you some definitions and indicators of integration and at the end we will give a short historical overview about the migration dynamics and the development of the integration policies in Germany.

#### Unit 1: Meaning and Importance of Integration

##### Heterogeneity of the migrant population

Migrants in Germany are not a consistent and homogeneous group, they differ in a variety of features such as country of origin, age, gender, mother tongue, multilingualism, social/political socialisation, experience with democracy and dictatorship, migration and refugee experience, cultural socialisation, educational socialisation, psychosocial situation, school education, vocational training needs, working experience, duration of stay in Germany which can respectively influence the integration process.

##### Some definitions:

**Migrant:** The term “migrant” is a generic term for immigrants and emigrants and refers to people moving from one country to another. In Germany, people who were born abroad and moved to

Germany are considered as migrants. They thus have their own migration experience and are also referred to as "first generation" migrants.

**Person with a migration background:** According to the definition of the Federal Statistical Office, a person has a migration background if he or at least one parent does not have German citizenship by birth. The category "with a migration background" was introduced in Germany with the Microcensus of 2005. It allows to describe social integration processes not only of foreign nationals but also of naturalized immigrants of the first generation and their descendants.

**Third-country national:** Any person who is not a citizen of the European Union and is not covered by the EC law of free movement of the Schengen Borders Code.

**Refugees:** According to the Geneva Refugee Convention of 1951, refugees are persons who have fled the country in which they have their habitual residence because of the justified fear of persecution because of their race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political persecution. Put simply, refugees are migrants that cross national borders to avoid violence because their lives, physical integrity, freedom and rights are threatened.

**Resettlers ("Aussiedler"):** The term Aussiedler describes German nationals who have lost their residence in the former eastern territories of the German Reich due to events related to the Second World War. Aussiedler are one of the largest numbers of migrant groups in the Federal Republic of Germany. Due to their descent, they enjoy a privileged reception in Germany with direct access to German citizenship and active integration assistance by the state.

## **Meaning and indicators of integration**

The term "integration" describes the chances of participation in key social areas such as the labour market, the education system or the housing market. Although in principle every individual in modern societies must have an integrative capacity, the concept of integration in debates usually refers to immigrants and their descendants.

## **Different definitions of integration:**

- 1) Integration is a long-term process. The goal is to involve all people who live permanently and legally in Germany in the society. Immigrants should be given full and equal participation in all areas of society. It is their duty to learn German and to know, respect and obey the constitution and laws. (BAMF, Federal Agency of Migration and Refugees)
- 2) Integration takes place very differently and depends also on the political, socio-economic, cultural or religious background of the immigrants. Integration does not mean that a person or group must assimilate and give up their cultural background and identity which is expressed through language, religion or traditions. The process of integration consists of rapprochement, mutual confrontation and communication, finding similarities and differences, and assuming shared responsibility on both sides. (Federal Government Commissioner for Foreigners and Integration)
- 3) Integration is an overall social process that takes place in different areas and at different speeds and does not have a fixed endpoint. It rather depends on the external and self-perception of the affected individuals. What is to be understood as "successful integration" is continuously renegotiated in the political and social field (Federal Agency for Civic Education)

## Indicators of integration

The integration of immigrants and their children is vital for social cohesion and inclusive growth, and the ability of migrants to become self-reliant, productive citizens. It is also a prerequisite for the host population's acceptance of further immigration. But what are indicators for "successful" integration? Is it the language? Probably only in part, because even people who speak German well are often considered as not belonging. Is it the work? Only partially, because even a job is no guarantee against discrimination. Is it the lifestyle and the values? Only to some extent, because even within the "old-established" society there are very different lifestyles and value paradigms.

## Unit 2: The Framework of Integration

### Integration Monitor systems in Germany and the EU

Germany and Europe have started to establish systems to monitor the integration of the immigrant population. Currently, the observation is mostly limited to the structural area of integration in both the German monitoring and the European monitoring. Social and cultural integration and indicators for the subjective perception of integration are neglected.

The EU's migrant integration indicators come from the Zaragoza Declaration, adopted in April 2010 by EU Ministers responsible for integration, and they use Eurostat data. The aim is supporting the monitoring of the situation of immigrants in order to enhance comparability between the EU Member States and to be able to adjust integration policies.

Four areas of integration have been identified as priority areas:

- **Employment** is a vital part of the integration process
- **Efforts in education** are essential in helping immigrants to become successful and more active participants in society.
- **Social inclusion** is important not only for the access to the labour market, but also for the general entry into the society.
- **The participation of immigrants in the democratic process as active citizens** supports their integration and enhances their sense of belonging.

The "**Welcoming society**" dimension with additional indicators measures how the receiving society plays a role for migrant integration. It captures the cross-cutting issues of discrimination and the subjective attitudes of the general public and of immigrants themselves.

|                     | Employment         | Education   | Social Inclusion                                  | Active Citizenship                           | Welcoming Society                                |
|---------------------|--------------------|---|---|--|--|
| Zaragoza indicators | Employment rate    | Highest educational attainment                        | At-risk-of-poverty (and social exclusion)         | Naturalisation rate                          | Perceived experience of discrimination (survey)* |
|                     | Unemployment rate  | Tertiary attainment                                   | Income  | Share of long-term residence                 | Trust in public institutions (survey)*           |
|                     | Activity rate      | Early school leaving                                  | Self-reported health status (controlling for age) | Share of elected representatives (research)* | Sense of belonging (survey)*                     |
|                     | Self-employment    | Low-achievers (PISA)                                  | Property ownership                                | Voter turnout (research)*                    |  |
|                     | Over-qualification | Language skills of non-native speakers (LFS module)** |   |  |  |

Source: European Commission 2013

## **A short insight into the migration dynamics and the development of the integration policies in Germany**

In the last 50 years, migrants have become an important part of the German social structure. In 1960, not even 700,000 foreigners lived in the Federal Republic. In addition, there were just about 400,000 German-born Aussiedler from the former Soviet Union and other countries of Eastern and South-eastern Europe. Both groups together accounted for only about 2 percent of the German population. Today, almost one person in four in Germany has a migration background and Germany is a multi-ethnic society.

During the last decades, Germany has been a receiving country, which means that this country has been the destination for EU citizens and third country nationals, being these refugees, asylum seekers, economic migrants, etc. However, this has not always been the case: if we look at the history of modern-day Germany it turns out to be quite dynamic in terms of migration flows, both regarding emigration and immigration.

For instance, the transatlantic migrations were movements of people from German speaking territories, especially to the United States of America that took place up until the late 19th Century. "From 1816 to 1914, more than 5.5 million German emigrants departed for the United States" (Hanewinkel & Oltmer, 2018). Due to the progressive industrialisation of Germany, the emigration trends gradually declined.

The first half of the 20th Century was mainly shaped by the two World Wars and its economic, political and social consequences: movements of people due to the warfronts, refugees running away from the Russian Revolution and the Russian Civil War, Jews escaping from pogroms and other sorts of religious persecution in Eastern Europe, exiles fleeing the country facing persecution from the National-Socialist regime, employment of forced labour, late and post-World War 2 population movements, including the relocation of German populations inside the new borders of the country.

At the beginning of the second half of the 20th Century, the economic and social context and the German "Wirtschaftswunder" led German policy makers (both from West and East Germany) to tackle the problem of lack of workforce by recruiting the so-called *Gastarbeiter* (guest workers). "The recruitment agreements were first signed with Italy (1955), Spain and Greece (1960) and later on with Turkey (1961), Morocco (1963), Portugal (1964), Tunisia (1965) and Yugoslavia (1968)" (Apostolopoulos, 2017, 2). Enabling residence extensions in 1971, the residence status of "guest workers" solidified and many of them brought their families. The agreements lasted until 1973, when the Federal Government decided to stop the state-organised labour migration.

The "guest workers" – as the term implies – were not considered as immigrants and were expected to leave the country at some point in the future. What is more, German politicians famously stated for many years that Germany was 'not a country of immigration.'

The 1990s were also characterized by different migratory movements: with the fall of the Iron Curtain and the opening of Eastern Europe, the number of resettlers was increasing. Between 1991 and 1995, Germany also received around 350,000 refugees from the former Yugoslavia.

A turning point regarding integration policies was the Independent Migration Commission's report in 2001 which noted that "Germany is, actually, a country of immigration" (Unabhängige Kommission Zuwanderung 2001, 164). They formulated recommendations for a reform of the integration policy that led to the Immigration Act of 2005 that recognized long-term immigration

as positive. The focus was now increasingly put on integration measures whose central component were the integration courses to teach German language and society knowledge.

Integration policy in Germany follows the principle of promotion and demand. On the one hand, immigrants have a duty to acquire German language skills and to respect the fundamental values of German society, especially the liberal-democratic legal system. On the other hand, German society is called upon to ensure that "immigrants have access to all important sectors of society, economy and politics through equality of opportunity and equal treatment by recognizing and dismantling existing barriers" (Bundesministerium des Innern 2014). Although this approach emphasizes that the receiving society must also contribute to the successful integration of immigrants, in practice and in the public discourse on integration, integration services are required, above all by migrants.

In 2015, the Federal Republic recorded a migration surplus of 1.14 million people, the highest in its history, due to the increasing asylum migration. With a view on the high immigration rates in 2015, in August 2016 an integration law came into force, which affects mainly asylum seekers and recognized refugees. According to this law, recognized refugees are not allowed to choose their place of residence for three years, they are obliged to attend integration courses, and they will only receive permanent settlement after 5 years if they are "well integrated".

### **Current status of integration in Germany**

People living in Germany with or without a migrant background do not have the same opportunities to participate in key social areas such as education, the labour market, housing or political participation, as a glance at various statistics shows. This is also due to years of non-implementation of a coherent integration policy. Even though the integration policies in Germany were and still are criticized by integration experts, in comparison to other countries integration efforts in Germany are evaluated in a positive way. The Migrant Integration Policy Index (2015), which uses 167 indicators to examine the social participation opportunities of migrants over time, sees Germany in the TOP 10 of the 38 countries surveyed.

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