

First Annual Report on Migration and Integration

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Migration trends in EU 25

- Precise figures for third-country nationals do not exist – statistics tend to focus on non-nationals
- A number of countries are experiencing negative natural population growth – immigration plays therefore an essential role
- Net migration still low – but progressively positive in the majority of new MS

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The situation of migrants in the labour market

Employment rate for EU nationals (25-54y):

Low skilled:	64,5% (1995) – 66,9%(2002)
Medium skilled:	78,8% (1995) - 81,6% (2002)
Highly skilled:	87,3% (1995) - 89 % (2002)

Employment rate for 3CN (25-54y):

Low skilled:	51% (1995) – 50,8 %(2002)
Medium skilled:	64,9% (1995) – 67,5% (2002)
Highly skilled:	62% (1995) – 69,3% (2002)

The medium and high-skilled 3CN's experience the strongest increase in employment (same is true for EU nationals)

EU nationals already have high employment level – immigrants employment rates are still much lower

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The situation of migrants in the labour market

New migrants tends to work in the lower skilled segments (private households, manufacturing, construction), but progressively move to more skilled segments (health, care, education)

Educational attainments remain low, also for new generations.

In 2002:

3CN's between 15-24y:

60% low skilled and 5% highly skilled

EU nationals between 15-24y:

46% low skilled and 8,5% highly skilled

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The economic impact of immigration

- The impact on the public finances is widely debated (burden for the welfare state)
- On average new migrants are young and their tax payments exceed individual public transfers/services
- In those countries where the employment rate of 3CN national exceed that of nationals there is a positive fiscal impact
- Overall it is probably fair to say the net budgetary impact however appears to be fairly small.

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Developments in admission policies

Commissions study on links between illegal and legal migration
COM(2004)412

There exist legal channels for labour migration in all MS

- Bilateral agreements (neighbours, historical reasons)
- Family formation
- Humanitarian protection

Re-orientation of migration strategies towards more selective and employment related are gaining prominence

Important to keep the migration flow on a even keel with and ensure migrants with broad qualifications who can adapt to changing demands

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Trends in national integration policies

- Civic education – democratic norms and values
- Introduction programmes incl language acquisitions
- Participation in political decision making process
- Recognition of professional qualifications
- Housing
- Discrimination
- Employment

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Progress in the development of the common immigration policy

- Consolidating the legal framework
- EU policy co-ordination and exchange of experiences
- Financial support from EU instruments
- Dialogue with 3. countries

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Conclusions

- **Need for a common approach to labour migration**
- **Assessment of skills and qualifications**
- **Integration of newly arrived**
- **Mainstreaming and special needs**
- **Employment Strategy – action needed**
- **Increase dialogue with migrant organisations**
- **Diversity of populations in cities**
- **Definition of common basic principles**
- **The national contact points on integration**

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