

Country Report on „Situation of migrants & integration in Germany“

Partner: **Gemeinsam leben und lernen in Europa e.V.**
Country: **Germany**

1. Immigration of migrants to Germany

1.1 Brief overview of the legal background for immigration in Germany at the present

- EU-Citizens have the full stay and work permit (with limited exceptions for new member states)
- For Non-EU-Citizens there exist different types of stay permits:
 - Visa: for a stay for up to 3 months
 - Limited stay for a certain purpose: limited until the purpose of the stay ends (e.g. study)
 - Unlimited stay: conditions to get an unlimited stay permit:
 - To have a limited stay permit for at least 5 years
 - To earn one's living
 - To know sufficiently German
 - Basic knowledge about the German state and history
 - No previous conviction
 - Citizenship: conditions to get the German citizenship:
 - First way:
 - To have a stay permit for at least 8 years
 - To be willing to give up the former citizenship
 - To fulfill the further conditions (earn one's living, good knowledge of German)
 - Second way – for children who were born in Germany
 - If one parent lives in Germany for at least 8 years and has an unlimited stay permit
 - When they reach the age of 18 he/she has to decide within the next 5 years for one of the citizenships (the German or the one of the parent)

1.2 Types of immigration

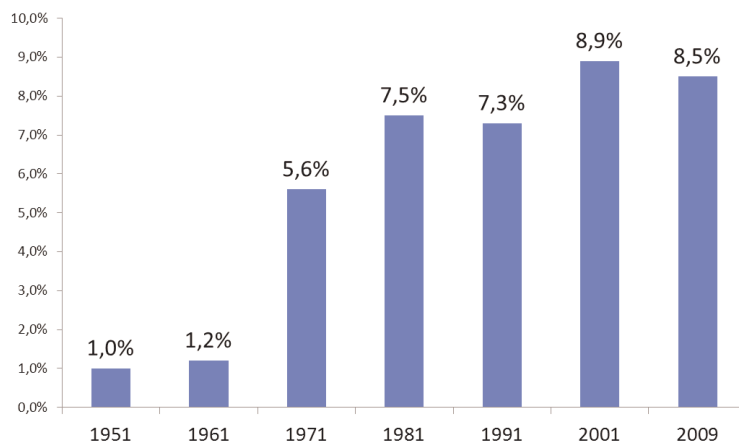
- Legal background of the different types of immigration at the present
 - For working purposes – Clear distinction between the required qualification
 - For unqualified work: just seasonal work permit
 - For people with a completed formation: limited work permit
 - For highly qualified people: unlimited work permit
 - But: the employment agencies will always check if there isn't a German or foreigner already living in Germany who could do the job (with just a few exceptions), and that the foreigner wouldn't be paid worse than a German
 - For the purpose of study and formation



- Students are allowed to stay until one year after finishing their studies, if they don't find a job they must leave
- Immigration of family members
 - Conditions: the husband or wife already living in Germany has to be able to earn the living for the partner or the children coming to Germany
 - The partner has to speak a little German
 - The partner has the same right to work as the one already living in Germany
- Refugees
 - The conditions for being recognized as a refugee are very restricted
 - A refugee is only allowed to make an application for asylum in the first country of the EU he/she sets foot on – therefore not many refugees arrive in Germany
 - During the action refugees are allowed to stay, but:
 - may not work in the first year
 - have to live mainly in special residences
 - get less than the subsistence income
 - may not leave their district without permission
- Illegal immigration
 - Without a legal permit it is illegal to cross the border and to stay in Germany

1.3 Development of immigration

- Number of migrants immigrating to the country since 1945 - Share of foreigners on the whole population



Source: Central Register of Foreigners (AZR)

- Brief overview of the most important immigration processes
 - The recruitment of workers from southern European countries has been the first main immigration process to Germany
 - Reason: lack of labour force
 - Recruitment contracts with foreign governments: Spain, Greece, Turkey, Morocco, Portugal, Tunisia, Yugoslavia
 - 1973 stop of recruitment; workers were supposed to leave again but a lot of them stayed and brought their families to Germany



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- The second main group of immigrant has been the so called Ethnic German “resettlers” since 1990
 - o Definition: ethnic Germans from the successor states of the former Soviet Union and from other East European states could come back and get a German citizenship
 - o Most of them came back after the collapse of the Soviet Union

➔ As a consequence of these two processes Germany appears as an immigration country since the 1970s

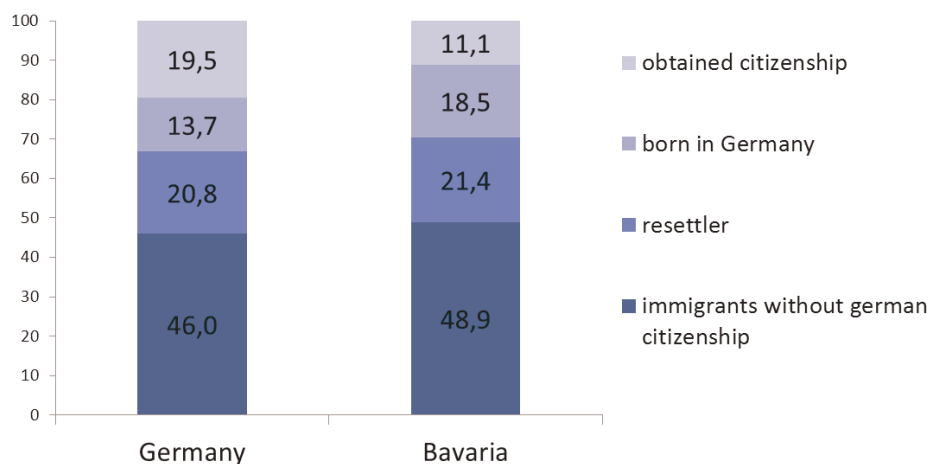
2. Migrants living in the country

2.1 Foreigners in the country

- Number of foreigners at present
 - In 2009 there were living 6.950.000 foreigners in Germany (8,5%), in Bavaria 1.065.000 (8,5%) and in the city of Passau 5.020 (9,9%).

2.2 People with an immigration background

- Definition “immigration background”
 - o Immigration background means in the official German definition people who:
 - Have a foreign citizenship
 - Have a German citizenship but a migration history
 - Have a German citizenship but parents with a foreign citizenship or an immigration history
- Number of people with an immigration background and share of people with an immigration background on the whole population



Source: Mikrozensus, Statistisches Bundesamt, 2009; Central Register of Foreigners (AZR)

➔ More than half of the migrants with immigration background have a German citizenship

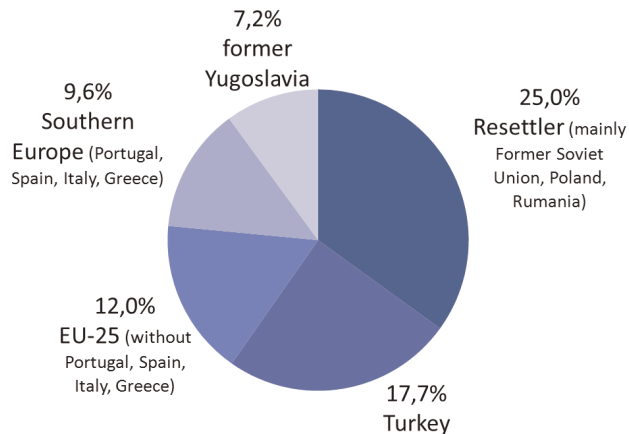


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2.3 Countries of origin

- Number of foreigners and people with an immigration background of the most important countries of origin



Source: „Source: Mikrozensus 2005, calculations made by Berlin Institut für Bevölkerung und Entwicklung, 2009

2.4 Attributes of the different groups of immigrants

- Demographical facts about the different groups of immigrants compared to the native population:
 - Migrants mostly marry someone of the same home country
 - Especially families from Turkey or families from the Middle East live in “normal” families. Usually, two or more generations live together
 - Women with migration background are almost never childless
 - Most of the people with migration background are married (80%); only 69% of the Germans are married

3. Integration of migrants in the country

3.1 Integration of migrants

- Official definition of “integration” in Germany at the present
 - Integration means a two-way approximation of migrants and the native population
 - Immigration country should grant and promote participation of migrants in the labour market, the educational system, civil and social rights
 - Migrants should be willing to learn the language and accept the social and civil rights of the new home
- Brief overview of the preconditions provided by the state for integration
 - In spite of having a growing percentage of a foreign population Germany didn’t want to recognize being an immigration country – it was not before 2005 that the German government passed a law called “immigration law”
 - Integration in the last decades was meant to be a one-way assimilation of the foreigners or they were meant to leave again
 - Existing prejudices, racist and xenophobic attitudes and opinions make the conditions for integration more difficult

3.2 In the educational system

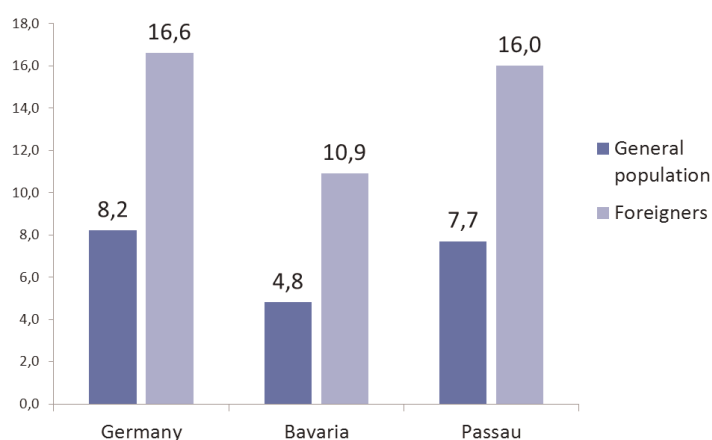
- Brief overview of the school system
 - In Germany children attend primary school from first to 4th grade
 - From 5th grade on they are separated following their results in 4th grade:
 - Lowest level: Hauptschule, until 9th grade
 - Medium level: Realschule, until 10th grade
 - Highest level: Gymnasium, until 12th grade (in some federal states 13th grade), allows entrance to university
- Success of pupils with a foreign citizenship in the educational system compared to the native population
 - Pupils with a foreign citizenship
 - go more often to Hauptschule (for boys: 40% to 17% in 2006/07, for the whole Germany)
 - leave school more often without any degree (14% to 6% in 2009, for the whole Germany)
 - Achieve less often access to university
 - ➔ The PISA-study showed that the German school system is one of the most selective for pupils with immigration background
 - ➔ And that there exist great barriers and difficulties in the transition from the school system to the labour market

Problem of statistics in general: school statistics don't show immigration background, but about 27% of the youth between 5 and 20 years have an immigration background.

3.3 In the labour market

- Success of people with immigration background in the labour market compared to the native population:
 - Less employed than Germans (60% - 73%)
 - More often working as blue-collar workers, less favourable working conditions (e.g. shift work)
 - Often work in professions that do not equal their training (mostly because their qualifications or degrees are not recognized)
 - Less income (79% of the average income of the whole population)

Unemployment rates (just foreigners)



Source: Employment Agency, average unemployment rates for 2009

- ➔ The integration of qualified immigrants with foreign vocational or academic qualifications into the German labour market does not succeed sufficiently



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3.4 Political participation

- Brief overview of the possibilities for political participation:
 - Lack of participation: Right to vote and to be voted just for German citizens
 - Exception for EU-citizens: right to vote and to be voted in the municipality

3.5 Social participation

- Brief overview of the participation in society of people with immigration background compared to the native population:
 - Less voluntary participation in associations and organisations than Germans (38% vs 50%, Source: “Zuwanderer in Deutschland”, Representative Survey of Bertelsmann Stiftung , 2009)
 - Main difference: 275 of the migrants who are engaged in associations are in associations where mainly migrants are → they often do not have sufficient contact with German people

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