

Notes on Integration

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For starters:

- How 'integrated' are the receiving societies to the presence of the immigrants?
- Two issues:
 - 1) The general population
 - 2) The political sphere

Stocks of immigrants

	Denmark	Norway	Sweden
• Total pop	4,97"	4,7"	9,2"
• Born abroad	0,36"	0,34"	1,2"
• 2nd gen.	0,12"	0,07"	0,36"
• 'Foreign pop	0,48"	0,41"	1,56"
• Total %	8,7%	8,9%	17,4%

Asylumseekers 2006

• Country	Total	Per 1000 of pop.
• Sweden	24000	2.7
• Netherlands	14000	0.9
• France	26000	0.5
• Germany	21000	0.3
• UK	28000	0.2
• Norway	5000	0.1
• Denmark	2000	less than 0.1
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Selected questions

- More restrictions on refugee arrivals?
- Sweden 41%
- Norway 55%
- Denmark 56%
- Germany 77%

Enrichment?

- "Do immigrants enrich the cultural life in a country?"

	Agree %	Disagree %
• Sweden	75	18
• Norway	63	22
• Netherlands	62	29
• Germany	51	33
• UK	43	39

Rich or poor immigrants desired?

- Over 80% of Swedes wish "some or many" immigrants from among the poorer in Europe and the poorer outside Europe.
- For EU 20, app. 50%.

Wealth

- There is NO relationship between wealth, measured as GNP or GNP per capita, and attitudes to immigrants.

Employment

- There is NO relationship between levels of employment and unemployment and attitudes to immigrants.

”Immigrant density”

- If there is a correlation between immigrant density and attitudes to immigrants, it is a positive one. The more immigrants, the more positive the attitude of the people in the receiving country/area/city.

Varieties of Integration

- "Integration" is discussed as a fairly well-defined phenomenon, but in fact betrays biases based on our nation-state ideologies.
- Examples:
 - 1) 2nd generation education and unemployment in Austria and France;
 - 2) The "remote cultural" explanation.

Some provisional conclusions

- Opinions about immigrants are NOT based on rates of foreigners or material 'interests,' but on culturally given thought configurations (cf. also yesterday's plenary discussion ab. the role of history).
- If policy developments are related to popular opinions, the variety in Europe makes a comprehensive approach unlikely to succeed.
- "Multiculturalism" is a red herring.
- "Sending country" explanations explain nothing.

A shared fallacy

- In ALL European countries, the share of foreign-born is vastly exaggerated in popular opinion, from between 60-70% (e.g. Denmark, Norway, Germany, Sweden) to between 150-200% (e.g. France, UK).

Sources

- Important sources for this presentation were:
- **Kehrberg, J.E** Public opinion on immigration in Western Europe (Comp. Eur. Pol. 2007); **Sides J & Citrin** J.European Opinion about Immigration (BJS 2007); **Eurobarometer**; **UNHCR**; **European Social Survey**;