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Migration behaviour, intention, and indicators of integration

Measuring the integration of the population with a migration background in Switzerland

Note by the Swiss Federal Statistical Office

Abstract

In 2007, FSO was officially mandated by the Federal Council to develop a system of quantitative indicators which evaluate the integration of the population with a migration background in Switzerland. This tool is designed to allow a systematic observation, at regular intervals over a long period of time, of migrants' integration in Switzerland while taking into account the multidimensionality of this process. The concept of integration is based on Swiss law which decrees equal opportunities for nationals and non-nationals in Swiss society.

To measure the extent to which this government decree is being applied, the integration of migrants into their host society is evaluated by means of 68 indicators covering a dozen areas of life in society. The indicators provide results for different population sub-groups and allow the comparison between them. Most available data permit to go beyond the simple distinction by nationality (nationals/foreigners). Additional classifications based on country of birth and migration status are used in order to consider the migratory experience of individuals more adequately.

The paper briefly describes FSO's system of integration indicators with special emphasis on the concept of integration, the target groups of integration, the selection of indicators and the statistical sources it is based on. Different approaches to analyze and synthesize the data are discussed. Finally, some selected key findings of the integration outcomes of the population with a migration background in Switzerland based on the most recent available data are presented

I. Introduction

Over the past decades, most ECE Member States have experienced large scale or increasing migration inflows. The size and the composition of their population has significantly changed, and their societies are faced with ever increasing diversity. Governments are confronted with questions of coexistence of different population groups in terms of ethnic and national origins, cultures, languages and religions as well as creating the proper political conditions for social cohesion.

The issue of how best to integrate these heterogeneous immigrant communities into their respective host societies is a central policy challenge throughout the ECE region. Political debates on integration are held regularly in order to increase the economic, social, cultural and political participation by migrants. Integration – however it is defined – is an ever evolving process which requires close monitoring. Policymakers, therefore, require statistical indicators to measure integration processes and progress.

In 2007, the Federal Statistical Office (FSO) was officially mandated by the Federal Council to develop a system of quantitative indicators which evaluate the integration of the population with a migration background in Switzerland. This tool is designed to allow a systematic observation, at regular intervals over a long period of time, of migrants' integration in Switzerland while taking into account the multidimensionality of this process. The concept of integration is based on Swiss law which decrees equal opportunities for nationals and non-nationals in Swiss society.

The paper briefly describes the FSO's system of integration indicators with special emphasis on the concept of integration, the target groups of integration, the selection of indicators and the statistical sources it is based on. Different approaches to analyze and synthesize the data are discussed in Section III. Section IV presents some selected key findings of the integration outcomes of the Swiss-born population with a migration background based on the most recent available data. A few concluding remarks are made in the last section.

II. The FSO's system of integration indicators

The concept of integration

There are various definitions and interpretations of the concept of integration. Different aspects were highlighted by Heckmann et.al (European Forum for Migration Studies)¹: social and systemic integration; integration as a reciprocal process engaging both the immigrants and the host society; finally, the importance of the socio-demographic composition or the social profile of the various population sub-groups. Besides these theoretical aspects, Swiss legislation on integration serves as a point of reference for the integration indicators. Art. 2 al.1 of the Ordinance on the Integration of Foreigners (OIE) and Art. 4 and 53 of the Foreign Nationals Act (FNA) state that integration must enable legal long-term foreign residents of Switzerland to participate in the country's economic, social and cultural life. It aims to establish equality of opportunity between nationals and non-nationals in Swiss society.

Appropriate indicators are used to measure the social phenomenon that is the integration process. They enable the comparison of statistical results between immigrants (or their descendants) and

¹ Heckmann Friedrich & Friedrich Lena (2007). *Auf dem Wege zum Integrations- und Diversitätsmonitoring?*, Internationale Fachtagung "Integration messbar machen", 26/11/2007, Vienna, Europäisches Forum für Migrationsstudien (efms)

natives with regard to access and participation in various areas of societal life at a given time. Similar values can be sometimes interpreted as a sign of assimilation but are most often a good sign of integration into the Swiss society.

Population breakdown by migration status

Like in other countries, distinction by nationality (citizenship) is deemed to be too restrictive to measure integration in Switzerland. Integration is indeed a process that requires time; it takes years, decades or even generations to manifest itself. Individuals' experience of migration or that of their parents must be taken into consideration.

Switzerland has developed its own population typology according to migration status based on the UN's recommendations². This typology is based on the nationality, place of birth of individuals and that of both their parents. In Switzerland, in 2013, 34.8% of the permanent resident population aged 15 or over had a migration background (about 2.4 million out of 6.8 million individuals). This population includes all foreigners up to the second generation (the third generation or higher is considered to have a migration background solely in the scope of the integration indicators); all persons who have acquired Swiss nationality in their lifetime except those born in Switzerland with both parents also born in Switzerland; and Swiss citizens by birth with both parents born abroad. Whether born or living in the country for a long or short time, this heterogeneous population does not have the same needs in terms of integration. Using the place of birth variable, a general distinction is made between the first (1.9 million people aged 15 and over) and the second generation (0.5 million).

Choice of indicators and statistical data used: 68 indicators, 11 areas and 18 statistical sources

The integration indicators cover 11 areas of life at an individual, social and institutional level. The choice of these areas is based on the national and foreign scientific corpus; the recommendations of Eurostat³ and the UN; and the following Swiss government documents: the Ordinance on the Integration of Foreigners (OIE) and the Federal Council's Report on the evolution of the Confederation's integration policy dated 5 March 2010.

The areas relevant to integration are:

1) social security and poverty	7) labour market
2) culture, religion and media	8) politics
3) education and training	9) health
4) family and demography	10) security and criminality
5) language	11) racism and discrimination
6) housing	

The integration indicators are the result of a selection process initially based on international recommendations and scientific literature. During workshops organized by the FSO, they were then discussed with experts and representatives from the federal offices concerned, including the Federal Office for Migration (FOM) and the Service for Combating Racism. Only those indicators

² UNECE, *Conference of European Statisticians Recommendations for the 2010 Censuses of Population and Housing*, United Nations, New York and Geneva, 2006 (population groups relevant to international migration, pp. 91-92)

³ Indicators recommended by the European Union published in the report "Indicators and monitoring of the outcome of integration policies" (2009)

whose development was considered possible and relevant by the FSO were retained. The weighting of the indicators according to their estimated importance enabled a set of 68 indicators to be devised, 33 of which being key indicators⁴.

Fifteen statistical data sources are necessary to construct and calculate the integration indicators. Apart from two external sources, these data are exclusively from FSO internal sources. There are 8 sample surveys (e.g. LFS, SILC) and 8 comprehensive surveys and registers. For the time being, slightly more than half (39) of the indicators may be presented according to the migration status and 12 according to a combination of place of birth and nationality⁵.

III. Presentation of the results and analytical avenues

Socio-demographic variables

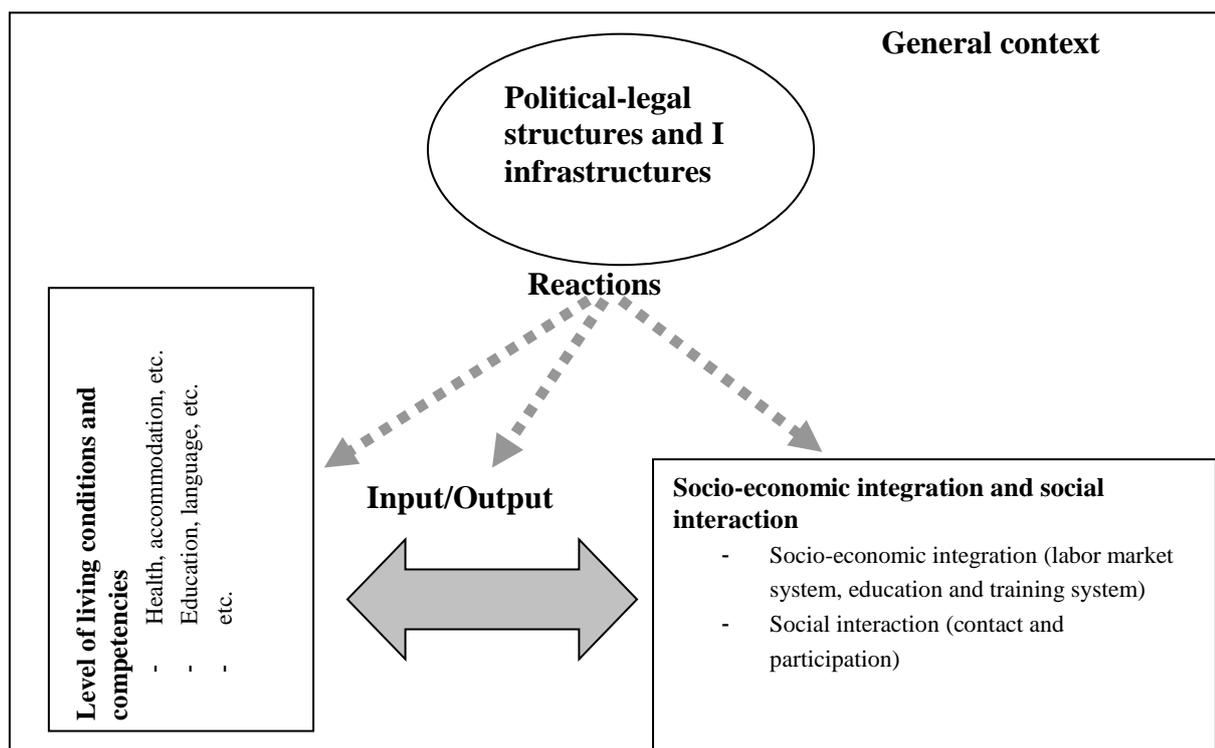
The idea of using socio-demographic variables is to breakdown the results in light of additional explanatory factors that may help or slow down the integration process. The variables enable to better determine and describe the state of integration at a given moment. Those mainly used are: gender, age group, the highest level of educational attainment, nationalities by group, sector of economic activity as well as a spatial breakdown (canton or major region).

System of analysis

The integration indicators are part of a systemic typology, because the different dimensions of integration are linked to each other. During the development of the set of indicators, five different reading grids or dimensions were considered in a theoretical manner to present and analyze the indicators:

⁴ see the complete set of indicators on <http://www.bfs.admin.ch/bfs/portal/fr/index/themen/01/07/blank/ind43.approach.4301.html> (in French only)

⁵ The remaining currently available indicators can be broken down by nationality only.



The general context

In this dimensional heading, information that is specific to the areas of demographic and lifestyle behaviors provides a general overview of a national environment in which different long-term resident population groups coexist. Data concerning the rights of foreign nationals (political participation for example) may also be included in this dimension.

Level of living conditions and competencies

The level of living conditions and competencies varies among the individuals. The indicators of this dimension explore on the one hand living conditions relating to health, accommodation or poverty, and on the other hand education and educational attainment by comparing different population groups. This can be done on an individual or household level.

Socio-economic integration and social interaction

The various areas of socio-economic integration are regrouped under this dimension – mainly with information on the labor market, the education and training system and on the social interaction between the different population groups and the host society (contact and participation) in various areas such as politics, media, discrimination and tolerance between different cultures and religions. This is a more global field of research than "level of living conditions and competencies" in which the population groups with and without a migration background intersect.

Flow/impact between the two previous dimensions (input/output)

This dimension involves describing the mutual impact of the two previous dimensions: "level of living conditions and competencies" and "socio-economic integration and social interactions". The indicators, as well as comparisons over time, make it possible to determine to what extent socio-economic integration affects living conditions and vice versa (how the level of education or language skills influence integration into the labor market, for example).

Reaction to changes in political-judicial structures and society's infrastructures

This dimension highlights the temporality of political decisions with regard to migration, integration and infrastructures (legal, educational, etc.) that are in place. Any change to these foundations could reverse the result of the indicators. The FSO, as the national center for statistical information in Switzerland, can produce data showing the impact or the result of political measures and other actions for integration. If such data are regularly available, they can play an important role in verifying actions concerning integration. Nonetheless, any variation in integration outcomes, i.e. apparent improvements or deteriorations, indicated by the results of the indicators may be the result of changes in the population's socio-demographic composition. The "general context" dimension will make it possible to verify this.

Other analytical approaches

The integration indicators are updated at regular intervals time which will enable the change of the integration outcomes over time to be analyzed. The availability of results for several population groups (without a migration background; first generation with a migration background; second generation with a migration background) and of the total population enable various analyses to be made by comparing these groups with each other and the general population.

IV. Initial systemic analysis of some results

The results that are presented here offer a brief, selected overview of the integration situation of the native-born population with a migration background compared to that of the population without a migration background.

General context

Similarities and differences in demographic behavior

35.5% of all marriages in 2012 were "mixed", i.e. binational, marriages. Almost 60% of foreign nationals born in Switzerland married a Swiss national in that year, whereas Swiss nationals more often chose to marry other Swiss nationals (78.6%).

Women born in Switzerland of Swiss and foreign nationality showed little difference in terms of the total fertility rate. In 2012, this figure was 1.42 children for Swiss nationals and 1.45 children for foreign nationals. In contrast, the age-specific fertility rates show that the number of live births per 1000 women is higher in the youngest age groups among foreign nationals born in Switzerland than among their Swiss counterparts (e.g. 2.2 compared with 1.3 children among adolescents aged 15 to 19 years).

Civic life: unequal possibilities of participation

In Switzerland, only two cantons (Jura and Neuchâtel) grant foreign nationals the right to vote at cantonal level. All municipalities of the cantons of Fribourg, Geneva and Vaud and to some extent the municipalities of Basel-Stadt, Graubünden and Aargau allow foreigners to vote and elect. With the exception of those in Geneva, these municipalities also allow foreign nationals to be elected. Although 54.8% of foreign nationals born in Switzerland fulfill the federal conditions for naturalization linked with their duration of stay in the country, federal votes and elections are exclusively for Swiss passport holders only.

Level of living conditions and competencies

Strong language skills but unequal education and training

Almost 100% of the population with a migration background of the second generation or higher have a national language as their main language⁶. 88.2% of them usually speak a national language at home, and 98% do so in the workplace. In terms of multilingual skills, whereas 13.7% of persons without a migration background said they spoke two or three national languages⁷, this percentage was 2.5 times higher among the second generation or higher (33.9%).

In terms of education, in 2013, the population with a migration background of the second generation or higher was 1.5 times more likely than the population without a migration background not to have completed education or training beyond compulsory schooling (25.3% compared with 16.4%). Here the effect of the age structure of the different population groups may play a role. Foreigners, who are generally younger, often have not yet finished their education and training. But the respective proportions do not coincide and cannot fully explain this difference: In 2013, 11.7% of the second generation or higher were aged 18 to 24 years compared with 9.8% of Swiss nationals born in Switzerland. Moreover, a comparison between the native population and the second generation or higher, shows that 3.1% of young people aged 18 to 24 years from the first group left school early whereas the percentage for the second group was 7.9%. Meanwhile, tertiary level education was completed by 29.7% of the population without a migration background and 25.9% of the second generation or higher.

Socio-economic integration

In the 2nd quarter of 2012, there was hardly any difference in the percentage of employed persons aged 15 to 64 years between the population without an migration background and the second generation or higher (between 82% and 83%). Among foreign nationals born in Switzerland, citizens from European countries outside the EU27/EFTA and those from non-European countries have a lower activity rate (78.6% and 56.4%).

In these different economically active population groups, the unemployment rate as defined by ILO is not the same. It is 2.3% among persons with a migration background and more than double this among the second generation (4.9%). Citizens of European non-EU/EFTA member states and those from other continents display the highest percentages among persons with a migration background with 9.5% and 12.0% of unemployed persons respectively.

Persons without a migration background are more likely to be self-employed or employed with a managerial function than the second generation or higher. In fact, there are 7.6% self-employed persons with employees among economically active persons who do not have a migration background compared with only 4.5% among the Swiss-born population with a migration background. Nationality also plays an important role. In fact, if Swiss nationals with a migration background of the second generation show a trend toward a slightly lower percentage than Swiss nationals without a migration background (6.0% compared with 7.6%), the share of self-employed is even lower among native-born foreign passport holders (2.6% or less). This finding is less obvious for employees with a managerial function but the differences indicate the same pattern according to migration status and nationality.

⁶ The main language is the language a person thinks in and with which one is the most familiar (definition according to the FSO's Structural Survey).

⁷ Switzerland has 4 national languages: German, French, Italian and Romansh

The distribution by occupation is similar between the second generation or higher and the population without a migration background. Nonetheless, native Swiss are more likely to exercise "intellectual and scientific professions" than the second generation. Agriculture remains an occupation that is reserved for the native population (92.9% of the employed are Swiss), whereas the second generation or higher figure slightly more frequently among "clerks" (12.2% compared with 10.4%) and "service and shop and market sales workers" (18.1% compared with 15.0% of the population without a migration background).

Link between "level of living conditions and competencies" and "socio-economic integration"

According to FSO data there is no significant difference in overqualification in employment (based on a comparison of educational level and current occupation) between the population without a migration background and the one with a migration background of the second generation or higher.

Looking at the median equivalized disposable income indicates that there is a considerable gap between the population with and without a migration background for persons with upper secondary level educational attainment. CHF 52,000.- for persons without a migration background compared with CHF 46,000.- for persons with a migration background. On the basis of the available data, it is not possible to confirm a significant difference in other educational levels.

Financial and material conditions

Individuals with a migration background more frequently have difficulty in making ends meet than those without a migration background (17.6% compared with 7.3%). Similarly, persons with a migration background are more often unable to afford consumer goods and habitual activities (material deprivation rate of 5.6% compared with 2.3% among those without a migration background). Although there is no significant statistical difference in the poverty rates, the at-risk-of-poverty rate for persons with a migration background is higher (19.8% compared with 12.3%). In terms of living conditions, the deprivation rate with regard to physical and material comfort shows that there is no difference from a statistical perspective.

Foreign nationals born in Switzerland are happier with their state of health than Swiss nationals

Persons with a migration background of the second generation or higher consider themselves to be in good or very good health more often than those without a migration background (89.3% compared with 85.0%). Furthermore, although more than a quarter of persons without a migration background who were born in the country say they suffer from long-term health problems, less than 20% of the second generation or higher report such problems, i.e. a difference of eight percentage points.

V. Conclusion

The majority of the integration indicators of the population with a migration background are based on data and variables that have already been generally published by the FSO. The added value of the integration monitoring system lies in the fact that these data are regularly and systematically compiled and above all disaggregated by migration status or country of birth/nationality and other variables of relevance to measuring integration.

Published for the first time in 2010, the aim of the FSO's system of integration indicators is to offer an independent statistical database for the definition of policies by the competent authorities, democratic debate, research and actions in the field of integration in Switzerland.

Future work will involve the construction of time series, thus making it possible to monitor the changes of integration outcomes over an expanded period of time; more in-depth analyses of different population groups with permanent residence in Switzerland allowing for a more differentiated understanding of observed equalities and inequalities; and endeavors to close existing gaps and improve the quality of the statistical databases for several indicators to provide more pertinent information.

Appendix: Results table

Area Indicator	Migration status				Unit	Source
	Population without a migration background	± 1)	Population with a migration background 2nd generation or higher	± 1)		
Language						
Swiss national language as main language	99.8	0.0	97.9	0.2	%	RS 2011
Languages used at home (at least one national language)	97.8	0.1	87.1	0.5	%	
Mastery of 2 Swiss national languages	11.8	0.2	27.5	0.7	%	
Mastery of 3 Swiss national languages	1.9	0.1	6.4	0.4	%	
Education and training						
Highest completed educational level: compulsory schooling	16.4	0.4	25.3	1.3	%	SLFS 2013
Highest completed educational level: secondary schooling	53.9	0.5	48.7	1.5	%	
Highest completed educational level: tertiary	29.7	0.5	25.9	1.3	%	
Young early school leavers	3.1	0.7	7.9	1.6	%	
Labor market						
Correspondence between educational level and current occupation (over qualification)	9.6	1.6	(11.9)	4.6	%	SLFS 2nd quarter 2012
Rate of employees with managerial function	35.5	0.9	32.9	2.3	%	
Unemployment rate based on ILO definition	2.3	0.2	4.9	0.9	%	
Activity rate of 15-64 year olds	82.9	-	81.7	-	%	
Rate of self-employed with employees	7.6	0.5	4.5	1.1	%	
Labor force distribution by occupation						
Legislators, senior officials and managers	8.1	0.5	7.6	1.5	%	
Professionals	24.5	0.9	22.7	2.4	%	

Technicians and associate professionals	19.3	0.8	20.6	2.3	%	
Clerks	10.4	0.6	12.2	1.7	%	
Service workers and shop and market sales workers	15.0	0.7	18.1	2.2	%	
Skilled agricultural and fishery workers	4.5	0.4	0.5	0.3	%	
Craft and related trades workers	12.3	0.7	12.8	1.8	%	
Plant and machine operators and assemblers	2.7	0.3	2.7	0.9	%	
Elementary occupations	2.7	0.3	2.6	0.8	%	
Social security and poverty						
Median equalized disposable income	52,953	958	47,031	1822	CHF	
Difficulty making ends meet	7.3	0.8	17.6	2.1	%	
Material deprivation	2.3	0.5	5.6	1.3	%	
At-risk-of-poverty rate	12.3	1.0	19.8	2.1	%	
	Swiss nationals born in Switzerland		Foreign nationals born in Switzerland			SILC 2012
Poverty rate	7.0	0.6	4.1	2.6	%	
Poverty rate among employed persons	2.7	0.5	()	()	%	
	Swiss nationals		Foreign nationals			
Poverty gap	18.1	+2.4 -1,4	22.1	+4.7 -7.4	%	
Health	Population without a migration background		Population with a migration background 2nd generation or higher			
Health self-assessment (good or very good)	85.0	0.2	89.3	0.4	%	SLFS 2013
Long-term health problems	27.9	0.2	19.9	0.6	%	
Limited activity since at least 6 months	22.3	0.2	16.2	0.6	%	

1) Limits of the confidence interval at 95%

(number): statistically only partially reliable

(): insufficient number of observations (<200) or confidence interval too high (≥10%) to publish the results