



Faculty of Language
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Arts and Education

Migration and Integration in Luxembourg – societal, political and social perspectives and the role of social work services

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 - 5.1 The development of social work services
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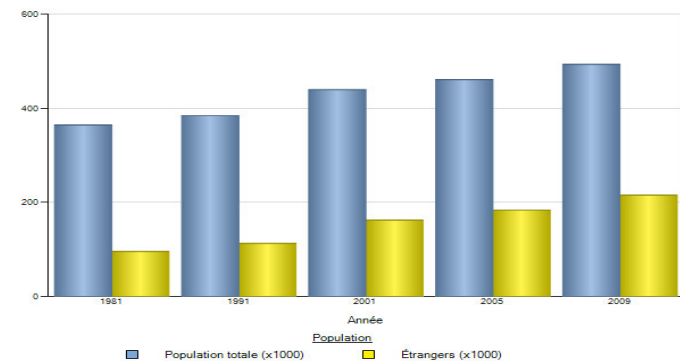
1. Luxembourg – a multicultural society

- Situated in the heart of Europe: surrounded by Germany, France, Belgium (the Great Region)
- Size: 2.586 km² (999sqm), around 500.000 inhabitants
- Possesses all attributes of a bigger nation state
- NATO member, founding member of the European Union
- Highest percentage of all foreign workers in the OECD (44%) and one of the highest per capita incomes
- Multilingual country: Lëtzebuergesch, German, French, English (three official languages)



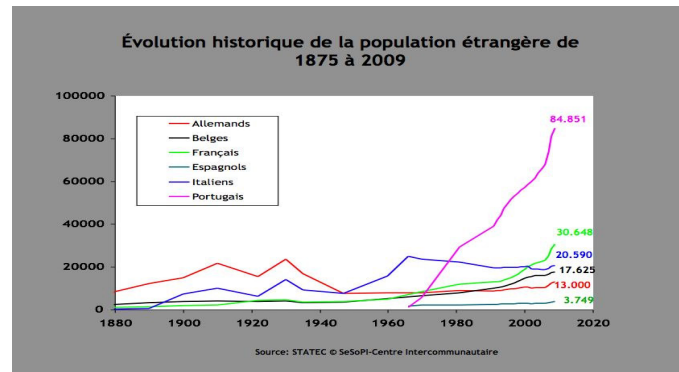
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2. Development of immigrant population



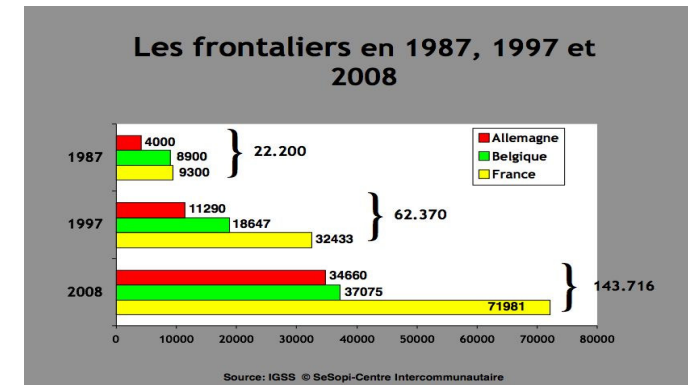
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2. Development of immigrant population



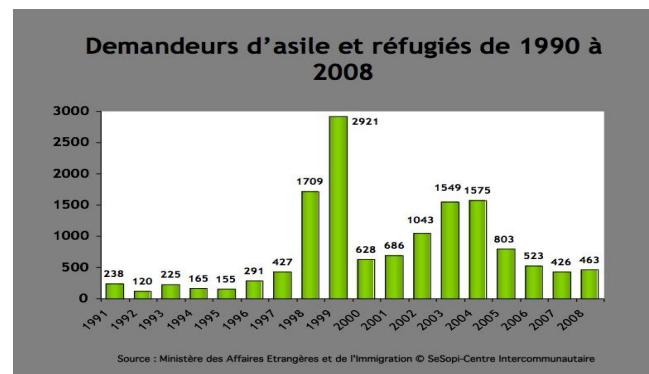
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2. Development of immigrant population



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2. Development of immigrant population



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3. Luxembourgish migration policies since the 1960s

- Need for fairly liberal labor immigration laws (due to economic demands)
- Liberal policy changed between two World Wars, three developments: protection, regulation, reflection on Luxembourgish culture
- 1957 Treaty of Rome: freedom of movement
- 1972 first immigration law
 - Regulation control of immigration
 - Difference between EU- and non-EU immigrants
- 1974 stop of labor recruitment (still high influx of labor immigrants and family reunification)
- 1995 Schengen agreement/1997 Dublin agreement

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3. Luxembourgish migration policies since the 1960s

- 1996 first asylum law (refugee status according to Geneva Convention)
- 2006 new asylum law (subsidiary status/arrival state jurisdiction)
- 2008 modified immigration law
 - Immigration for EU-citizens simplified
 - Five different work permits
 - Law follows European harmonization efforts



4. Ethnic pluralism, transnationalism and integration in Luxembourg: positive and negative effects

- Integration in Luxembourg
 - First step: economic integration (achieved by almost all immigrants in Luxembourg)
 - Second step: social, cultural, political integration
- Although first step is achieved some parts of the immigrant groups struggle (educational, professional, segregation tendencies/ethnic communities)



4. Ethnic pluralism, transnationalism and integration in Luxembourg: positive and negative effects

4.1 Transnationalism and economic prosperity as integration providers

- Luxembourg City: global city (Sassen 1991)
 - Transnational operating companies/organizations/EU-organizations/financial market
 - Variations of social statuses of population
- Transnational upper class
 - Hypermobile businessmen/-women (Faist 2000: 19)
 - Life in host societies: momentary, only one career station
 - Pick their range of societal integration (Nowicka, 2005)
 - System integration has to be combined with their transnationalism
 - Very few research carried out in Luxembourg yet (Hartmann-Hirsch 2008)



4. Ethnic pluralism, transnationalism and integration in Luxembourg: positive and negative effects

4.2 Marginalization and segregation as integration hindrances

- Immigrants with perspective to stay have different positions towards integration
- Migration theory: different forms of integration/social distance (Esser 2008) → impact in Luxembourg
 - Assimilation
 - Downward Assimilation
 - Selected Acculturation



5. The development and status quo of social work services for immigrants in Luxembourg

5.1 The development of social work services

- Social work has a long tradition
- Between 1960s and 1990s expansion of the social services
- Until the 1970s professional social workers got trained in Germany, Belgium and France
- 1973 first social work training courses in Luxembourg
- 1995 general training for social workers which allowed them to get their university degree in other countries
- Since 2003 University of Luxembourg



5. The development and status quo of social work services for immigrants in Luxembourg

5.2 Social work for immigrants in Luxembourg

- 1964 Service d'accueil et d'assistance social aux travailleurs étrangers
- Before: church, religious organizations, Caritas, Red Cross etc.
- 1972 Service de l'Immigration
- 1972 União (1979 ASTI)
- 1974 Conseil national de l'immigration



6. Achieved goals and future perspectives

- Today: multitude of NGOs and different social work services
- Also: many Luxembourgish social workers have immigration background
- 2009 first systematization and elaboration of all social work services in Luxembourg
 - Handbook of social and educational services in Luxembourg



6. Achieved goals and future perspectives

- Diversity and multiculturalism are everyday components of social workers activities
- Example: social work with refugees
 - Social workers guide and support refugees throughout the process in different organizational settings (Ministry, NGOs, Red Cross, Caritas etc.)
 - Duties/responsibilities but also action opportunities depend on setting
 - What Luxembourg has achieved (for the most part) is a productive cooperation between different service providers (Luxemburger Flüchtlingsrat)
 - Cooperation instead of competition
 - Ongoing discourse about projects/service development/cooperation opportunities
 - Collective political statements



6. Achieved goals and future perspectives

- Need for open-minded and resource driven integration approach
- Acknowledgement of different integration outcomes and diverse perspectives of immigrants
- Social work: negotiation between immigrants needs/desires and societies requests and offers
- Luxembourg: immigrants are resources for the country (socially, politically and economically)
- Future perspectives (Filsinger, Rotink & Willems, 2009; Schneider & Willems, 2010)
 - Cultural widening
 - Opening-up of societal organizations
 - Differentiated evaluation of segregation tendencies
 - Organizational cooperation
 - Sustainable projects
 - Evaluation of social work projects/empirical research



Thank you very much for your attention!



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