



Stable integration climate in Germany

Summary of the 2018 Integration Barometer

The SVR's Integration Barometer captures the "integration climate", that is the public's opinion of the integration of first- and second-generation migrants. The 2018 Integration Barometer is the second to be based on a representative nationwide survey. It shows that, compared to the survey conducted in 2015, attitudes to integration among both the migrant and native population are largely stable.

The Integration Barometer is representative of people with and without a migration background, including ethnic German resettlers, people of Turkish descent, and European Union (EU) and rest of the world (RoW) migrants.

The Integration Climate Index (ICI) for people without a migration background has dropped marginally. Back in 2015, it stood at 65.4 points. Back in 2015 the Integration Climate Index (ICI) stood at 65.4 points. In 2017/18 it dropped to 63.8 points, which is still well above 50 and thus reflects a positive attitude. Hardly any change in attitude can be noted in people who are in frequent contact with those with a migration background. Based on their everyday experience, they continue to regard the integration climate as positive. It is above all people without a migration background who have hardly any or no contact with cultural diversity who regard integration more pessimistically, especially those living in Germany's eastern federal states. Overall, men also appear to be more sceptical than women. People of Turkish descent rated the integration climate more optimistically in 2017/18 than they did in 2015. By contrast, EU migrants were more pessimistic than they were two years ago. The ICI for those from the western EU member states in particular is not quite as good as it was. The ICI for ethnic German resettlers and RoW migrants is virtually unchanged.

Other findings of the SVR's 2018 Integration Barometer:

- Attitudes to refugees are predominantly positive. The majority in all groups of origin believe that refugees enrich Germany both in a cultural and economic sense. Only a small proportion of those surveyed believe that refugees pose a threat to German prosperity.
- Ethnic German resettlers are most likely to regard refugees as posing a threat to prosperity: In 2017/18 around 45 per cent stated that this was the case, a similar proportion as in 2015 (around 47 per cent). The majority population is the most optimistic, with only some 28 per cent stating that they believe that prosperity is currently under threat (compared to some 29 per cent in 2015).
- Opinions are divided when it comes to criminality. Almost half of those without a migration background who were surveyed believe that refugees lead to increased levels of crime. People of Turkish descent and EU/RoW migrants living in Germany have similar attitudes. By contrast, more than two thirds of ethnic German resettlers expressed this opinion.
- Sixty per cent of those without a migration background who were surveyed believe that Germany should continue to receive refugees, even if it were the only EU member state to do so. Results vary across migrant groups, though, with the highest level of agreement registered among people of Turkish descent – slightly more of whom agreed with this statement than those in the majority population did. Ethnic German resettlers are markedly more cautious, with the majority coming out against Germany receiving more refugees. Results for EU and RoW migrants were somewhere in between (around 52 and 57 per cent, respectively).



- The majority in all groups of origin agree that the number of refugees arriving in Germany should be limited. Only people of Turkish descent are split on this issue.
- The majority of the population is satisfied with how refugees are being accommodated and allocated by local authorities. There are, however, regional differences. Eight out of ten people without a migration background surveyed in southern Germany rated the work of local authorities in this regard as good. Only around five out of ten people in Germany's city-states (Berlin, Hamburg and Bremen) believed this to be the case. The majority of the native population in Germany's eastern federal states (excluding Berlin) are more sceptical. People with a migration background rate the work of the authorities in the city-states more positively, those in southern Germany somewhat more negatively.
- Those surveyed were also asked what it takes to be successful in Germany. The following picture emerges: Anyone who is willing to work hard can make a success of life in Germany. It is not origin which is important when it comes to leading a successful life (in the widest sense) – but talent, intelligence and education are. These defining factors of an "achievement-oriented society" are nevertheless limited by social background. Depending on their group of origin, between 63 and 77 per cent of those surveyed stated that social background is an important factor for success.

Those taking part in the survey were also asked about their attitude to the wearing of Islamic headscarves in schools and government agencies.

- Responses as regards the wearing of Islamic headscarves in schools are closely linked to a person's religious affiliation. Regardless of their origin, around eight out of ten Muslims surveyed were in favour of allowing female Muslim teachers to wear an Islamic headscarf in schools. Christians with a migration background were more sceptical, with only around 41 per cent in favour. Opinions are divided among those migrant groups with no religious affiliation, with half in favour and half against. Some 58 per cent of the majority population included in the survey are not in favour of female Muslim teachers being allowed to wear an Islamic headscarf on school premises.
- Non-Muslims included in the survey are less sceptical when it comes to the wearing of Islamic headscarves in government agencies. Opinions are nevertheless divided: Some 52 per cent of the majority population, around 47 per cent of ethnic German resettlers, 79 per cent of people of Turkish descent, 51 per cent of EU migrants and some 61 per cent of RoW migrants would permit the wearing of such headscarves.
- For the first time, the survey allows to look at the attitudes of headscarf-wearing Muslim women as a distinct group. The overwhelming majority of them approved of Islamic headscarves being worn in government agencies and in schools.