



Coming together while keeping a distance.

The SVR's 2020 Integration Barometer

Summary

The SVR's Integration Barometer captures the "integration climate" in Germany. The 2020 Integration Barometer, the third to be based on a representative nationwide survey, was conducted in 2019/20. It encompasses people with and without a migration background, ethnic German resettlers, people of Turkish descent, and people with a migration background from the European Union and the rest of the world.

The integration climate in Germany has remained stable since the first survey was conducted in 2015. The Integration Climate Index (ICI) among people without a migration background has increased slightly compared to the 2017/18 survey – from 63.8 to 65.6 points. The ICI is thus back up to around the same level as in 2015 (65.4 points). Since the start of these representative national surveys, the integration climate has thus been positive, that is above 50. The current increase can be traced back to the more positive attitude towards social coexistence expressed by male respondents. The gender climate gap which was noted back in 2017/18 among respondents without a migration background had practically closed in 2019/20.

The integration climate among ethnic German resettlers deteriorated slightly in 2019/20. No significant changes compared to the last survey in 2017/18 were noted among the other groups of origin.

Other findings of the SVR's 2020 Integration Barometer:

- Satisfaction with democracy and trust in politicians and institutions in Germany increased or remained stable at a high level during the coronavirus pandemic.
- In the period under review – late November 2019 to early August 2020 – some 44 per cent of respondents without a migration background were "not at all" or "less" satisfied with democracy in Germany before the coronavirus lockdown measures took effect in March 2020. In the period after the national coronavirus measures came into force, only around 27 per cent of respondents expressed that opinion.
- The change in satisfaction with democracy was slightly less marked in respondents with a migration background, though the base level of satisfaction was higher in this group. The proportion of those who are dissatisfied with democracy in Germany dropped from around 22 per cent to 15 per cent.
- Over the course of the coronavirus pandemic the general level of trust in politics rose among people without a migration background. Back in March 2020, before the coronavirus measures took effect, some 51 per cent of respondents without a migration background "wholeheartedly" or "on the whole" trusted German politics, but this proportion increased to 65 per cent after the measures were introduced.



- Respondents with a migration background showed a similar increase in terms of general trust in politics. Although the level of increase was more moderate than in the case of respondents without a migration background, the base level was higher: some 63 per cent trusted politics before, some 68 per cent after the coronavirus measures took effect.
- The so-called [honeymoon effect](#) can be observed among recent newcomers when it comes to both satisfaction with democracy and trust in politics: before and after the lockdown migrants who came to Germany within the last 10 years were more satisfied with democracy in Germany and more trusting of politics than migrants who have been in Germany for longer.
- Some 58 per cent of respondents without a migration background trusted the [Federal Government](#) “wholeheartedly” or “on the whole” in the survey period prior to the entry into force of the coronavirus measures in March 2020. In the subsequent period that figure rose to some 73 per cent – a significant increase of 15 percentage points. Attitudes to the Federal Government among respondents with a migration background also improved over the course of the pandemic – less noticeably, but on a higher level.

Changes in attitudes to the public education system and to the police were also investigated:

- Trust in [school and the police](#) as institutions has remained high both among respondents with and respondents without a migration background.
- Fewer of those respondents with a migration background who stated that they had [suffered discrimination on account of their origin within the last five years](#) trust the public education system and the police.