

Action Plan on the Integration of Third-Country Nationals

7 June 2016

Investing in integration policies today will contribute to making Europe a more prosperous, cohesive, and inclusive society in the long run. The European Commission is launching an Action Plan presenting a framework for action and concrete initiatives to support Member States in the integration of the 20 million non-EU nationals residing legally in the EU. Whilst the competence for integration policy lies primarily with the Member States, the EU plays an important role in supporting, developing and coordinating Member States' actions and policies on integration. The Action Plan includes actions supporting pre-departure and pre-arrival measures, education, employment and vocational training, access to basic services, active participation and social inclusion.



Why an Action Plan on Integration?



Integration is
a precondition for an inclusive,
cohesive and prosperous
society



A successful integration of all third-country nationals, whether recently arrived or not, will make migration an opportunity for both third-country nationals and host societies. If well integrated, migrants can boost GDP.



It's a **joint responsibility**
and a **common interest**
to invest and work together
on integration



All actors have a responsibility:
national, local and regional
authorities; the EU; civil
society organisations;
employers; migrants and all
citizens.



It's **time to strengthen**
our actions
on integration



The recent increase in
migratory flows has reinforced
the need for effective
integration policies on
integration of third-country
nationals.

Key policy priorities

PRE-DEPARTURE / PRE-ARRIVAL MEASURES



Providing support to integration of third country nationals legally residing in the EU at the earliest stage in the migration process has proven to be **a key element of successful integration**. Such measures are particularly important to prepare the resettlement of refugees.

Examples of actions: launch of projects supporting pre-departure and pre-arrival measures for local communities; engagement with Member States to strengthen cooperation with selected third-countries on pre-departure measures.

EDUCATION



Education and training are among the most powerful tools for integration and access to them should be ensured as soon as possible.

Examples of actions: online language assessment and learning for newly arrived migrants; promoting inclusive education; promoting the upgrading of skills of third country nationals; promoting the removal of barriers for the participation of migrant children in early childhood education.

LABOUR MARKET & VOCATIONAL TRAINING



Employment and early integration into vocational training are core parts of the integration process. Finding a job is fundamental to becoming part of the host country's economic and social life.

Examples of actions: Promoting good practices and support projects for labour market integration through "fast-track" insertion and vocational training; pilot projects for migrant entrepreneurship.

The "New Skills Agenda for Europe" will also develop actions to support validation of skills and recognition of qualifications such as a "Skills and Qualifications Toolkit" for newly arrived third-country nationals.

ACCESS TO BASIC SERVICES



Access to basic services such as adequate and affordable housing and health services is a basic condition for third-country nationals to start a life in the society of the receiving country.

Examples of actions: support Member States in facing the immediate accommodation challenges related to the refugee crisis; facilitate the exchange of experience and best practices on the urban dimension of diversity and immigration.

ACTIVE PARTICIPATION & SOCIAL INCLUSION



The full participation of third-country nationals in all aspects of community and societal life **is essential to achieve integration**.

Examples of actions: launch of projects to promote Intercultural dialogue, European values, social inclusion; promote migrants' participation in cultural life and sport; develop handbooks and toolboxes for practitioners on cultural awareness.

Key figures on integration

RESIDENCE

2015



EU population: **508 million**
Around 20 million third-country nationals resided (legally) in the EU **< 4% of total EU population**.
 Most of them came to **work, join their partner/family or study**.

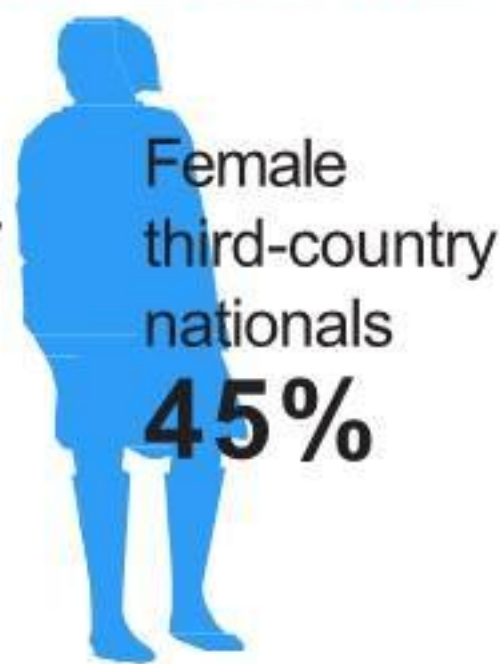
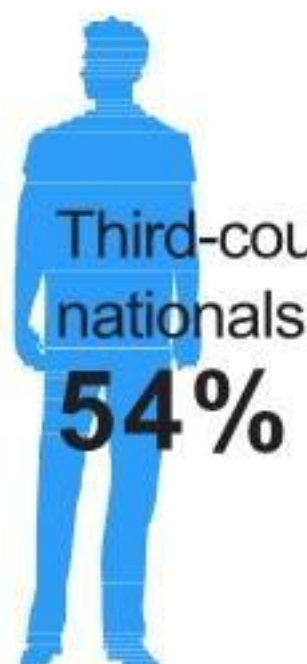
2015

307,620 positive decisions* for asylum issued by a EU Member State = **0.06% of the EU population**

*first instance



EMPLOYMENT



Percentage of the host-country nationals and third-country nationals employed in the EU in 2015 (working age 15 to 64)

However, **the gaps in employment tend to decline** over time: the longer a third-country national stays in a country, the higher his/her employment rate. Early measures for skills and labour market integration can support better and quicker employment outcomes for recently arrived third-country nationals.

EDUCATION

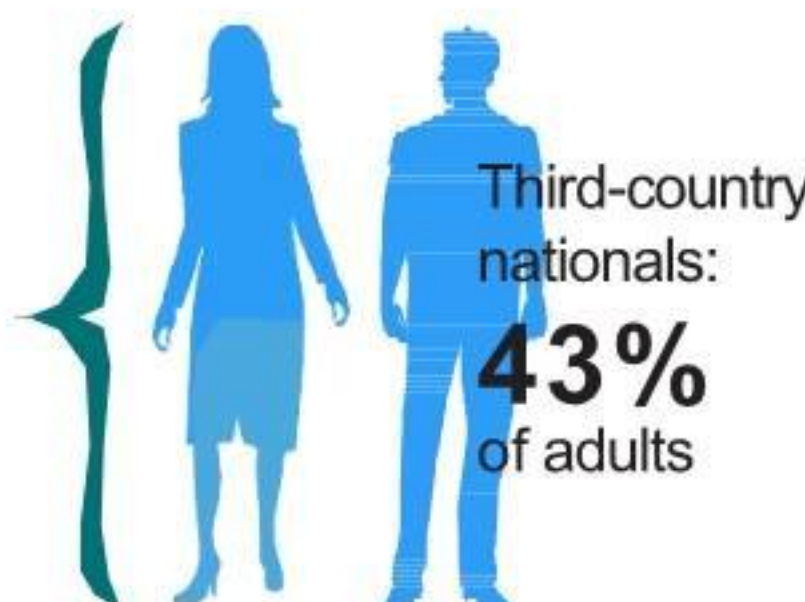
Helps migrants to participate in the labour market and society.

Many migrants are overqualified or overskilled for their jobs.



In 2015

Third-country nationals in the EU have lower educational achievements than host-country nationals



had not achieved upper secondary school level

However **the situation is improving** regarding the share of young (18-24) third-country nationals having left education without upper secondary school level **which has dropped:**

