

Family migration and migrant integration: academic insights

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Two policy perspectives:

- 1) Family migration is a condition for **successful** integration
- 2) Family migration is the cause and result of **failed** integration

Two policy perspectives:

1) Family migration is a condition for **successful** integration

ILO 1970s; EU free movement of workers/citizens



Source: website of expat consultancy company <http://www.exp-apat.com/>

Two policy perspectives:

2) Family migration is the cause and result of **failed** integration

Dutch, UK, Danish, German, French ... governments since 2000s



Cover of *The Chosen One. An Import Bride Locked up in the Netherlands for Eight Years* (2009)



Cartoon by Nekschot, 2010

"What did Hassan get for this 29th birthday? A virgin!"

Two policy perspectives:

- 1) Family migration is a condition for **successful** integration
- 2) Family migration is the cause and result of **failed** integration

What do we know about family migration and migrant integration?

- Too little...

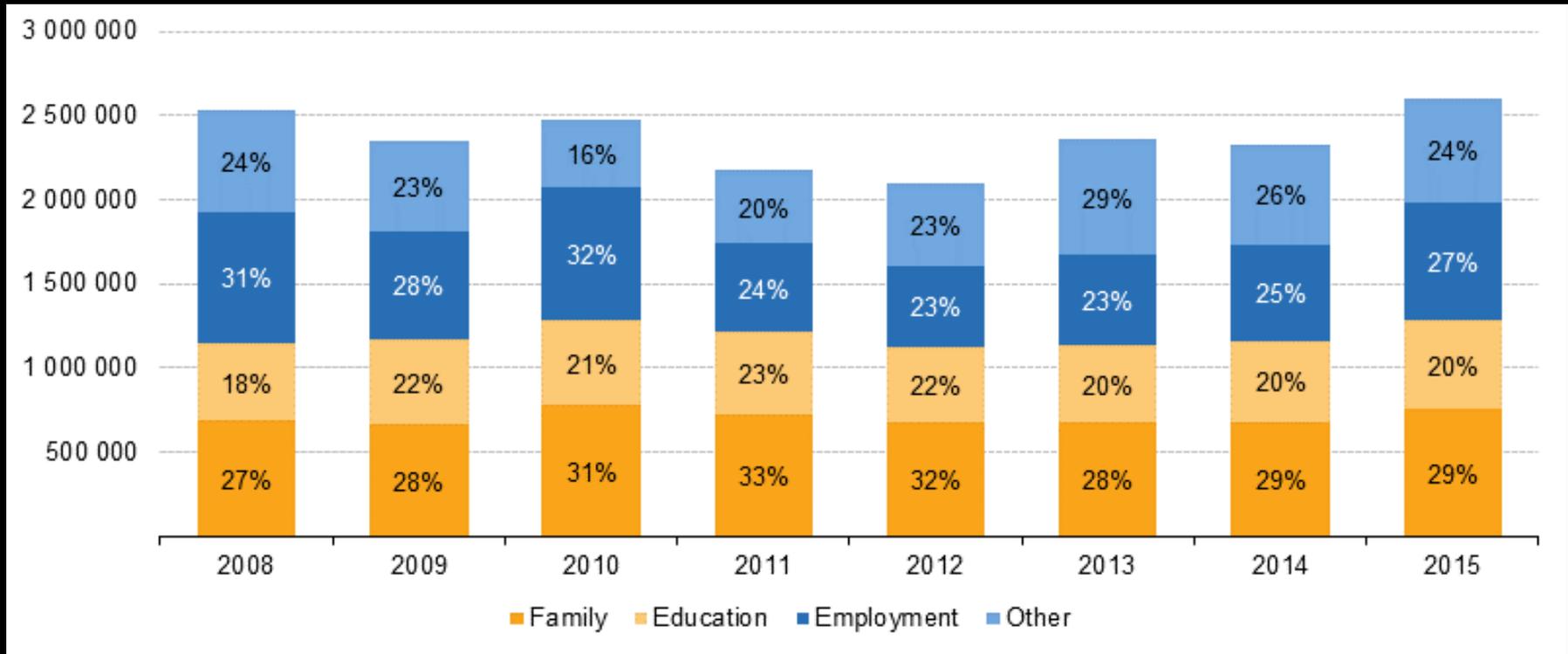
Outline of this presentation:

- Two caveats
- Impact of integration on family migration
- Impact of family migration on integration...
 - Of the migrant partner
 - Of the sponsor
 - Of children
- Impact of family migration policy on integration

First caveat

Family migration is very diverse

First residence permits issued by reasons, EU-28 , 2008-15

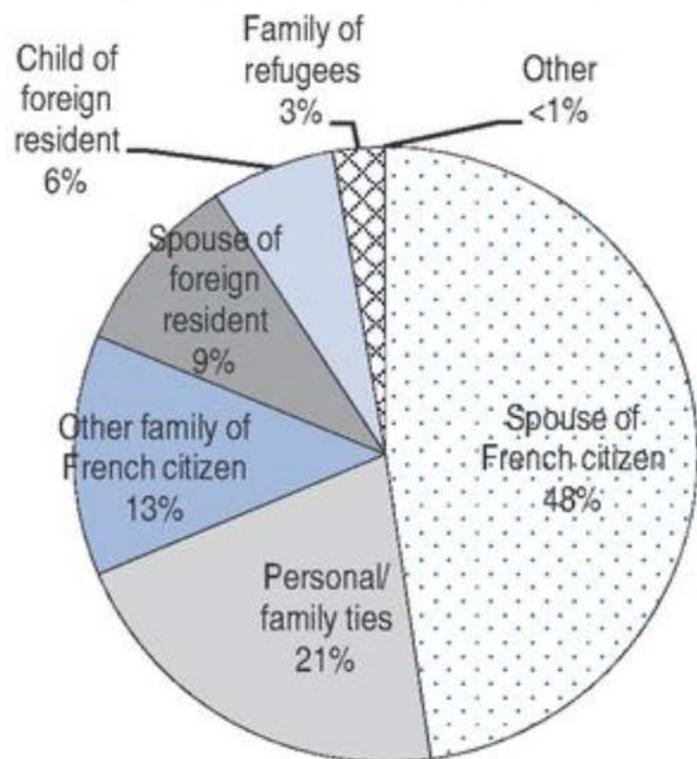


Source: EUROSTAT, http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/File:First_residence_permits_issued_by_reasons,_EU-28_,_2008-15.png

Composition of family migration

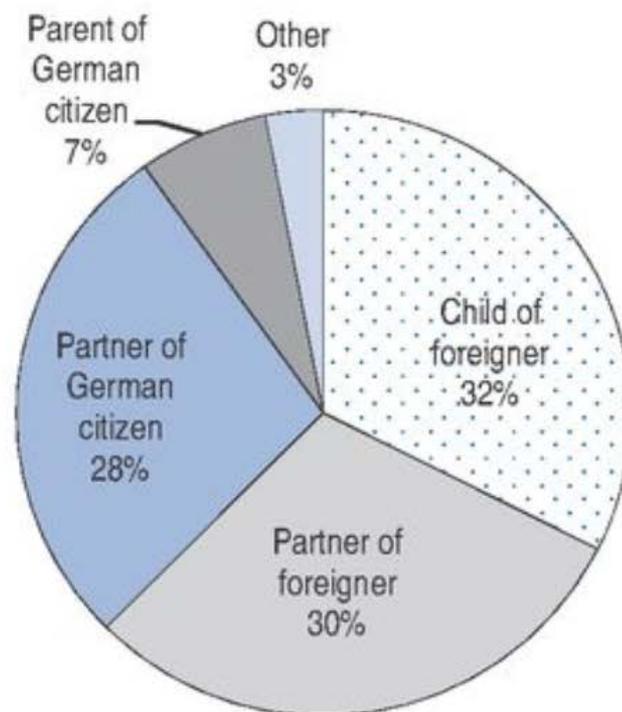
C. France, 2015

Main origin countries: Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia

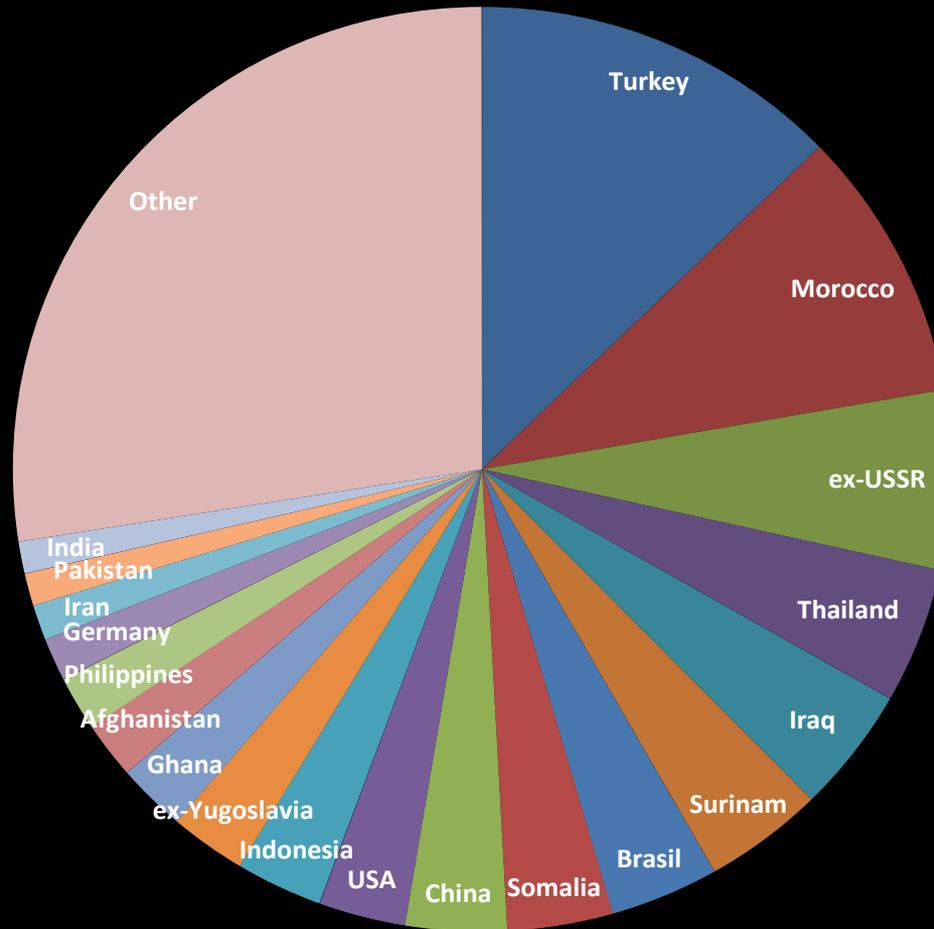


D. Germany, 2015

Main origin countries: Syria, Turkey, Russian Federation



Marriage migration to the Netherlands, 2007-2011



Graph by Saskia Bonjour, based on data from Netherlands Statistics (statline.cbs.nl)

Second caveat

Integration is very complex



Impact of integration on family migration

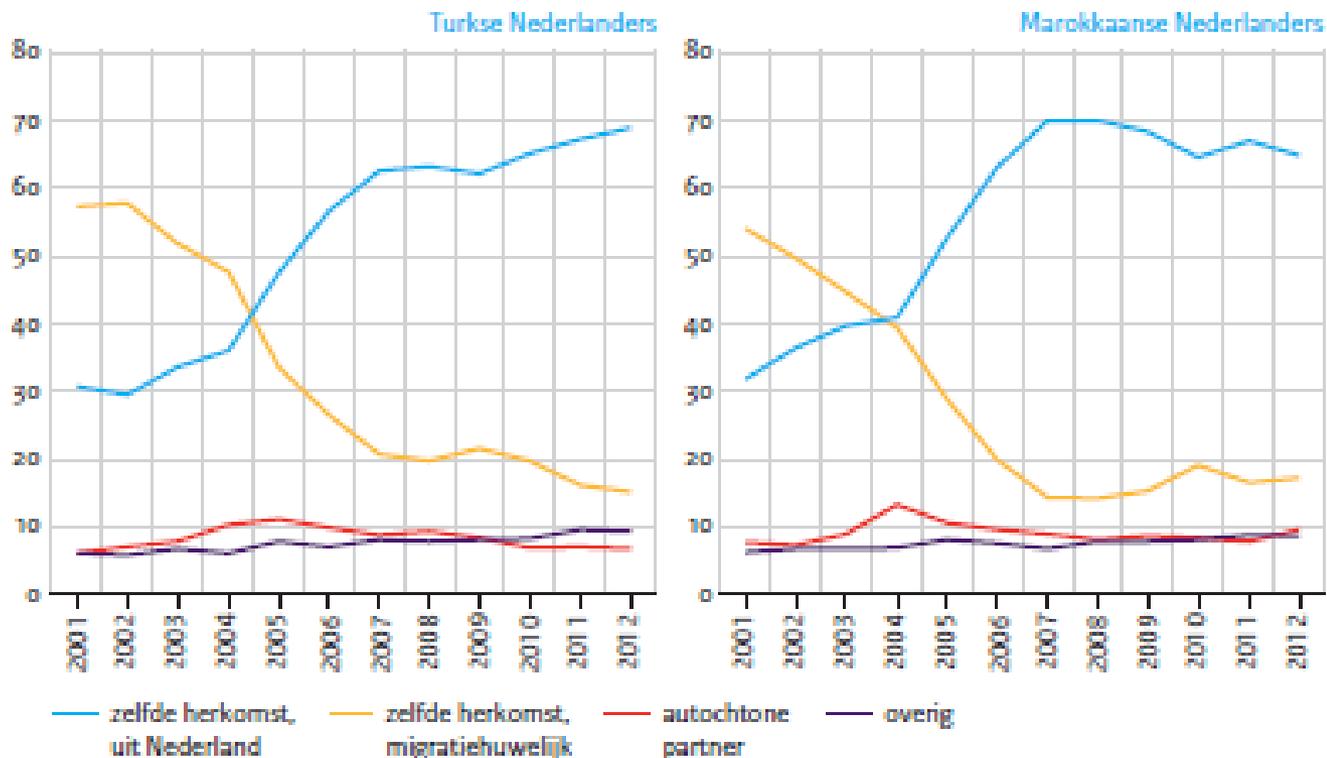
Extensive literature on transnational marriage among (grand)children of migrants:

- Men seek traditional partner, women seek emancipated partner
- Association with lower education & employment, especially for men
- Parents involved, but little coercion
- No association with host country identification
- Recently: declining numbers

Partner choice of Turkish and Moroccan Dutch:

Figuur 2.9

Partnerkeuze van Turkse en Marokkaanse Nederlanders, naar herkomst huwelijkspartner
(in procenten)



Bron: CBS StatLine (2013)

Impact of family migration on integration of **migrant partner**

- Same education as sponsor
- Relatively slow labour market integration
 - Not necessarily related to household deprivation
- Mixed findings on social interactions

Impact of family migration on integration of **sponsor**

Very little research:

- UK: no impact on labour market participation of women of migrant background
- Scandinavia: positive impact on labour market participation of refugees
- Canada: positive impact on labour market participation and social integration of migrants

Survey by Canadian immigration authorities:

“There are significant benefits which sponsored family members may contribute to their sponsor, their families and to Canada.”

Spouses, partners, parents and grandparents contribute by:

- Working full or part-time
- Enabling their sponsor to work additional hours
- Volunteering in the community
- Helping children learn about their cultural heritage
- Providing emotional support for their family
- Enabling their sponsor to settle in Canada
- Provision of child care.

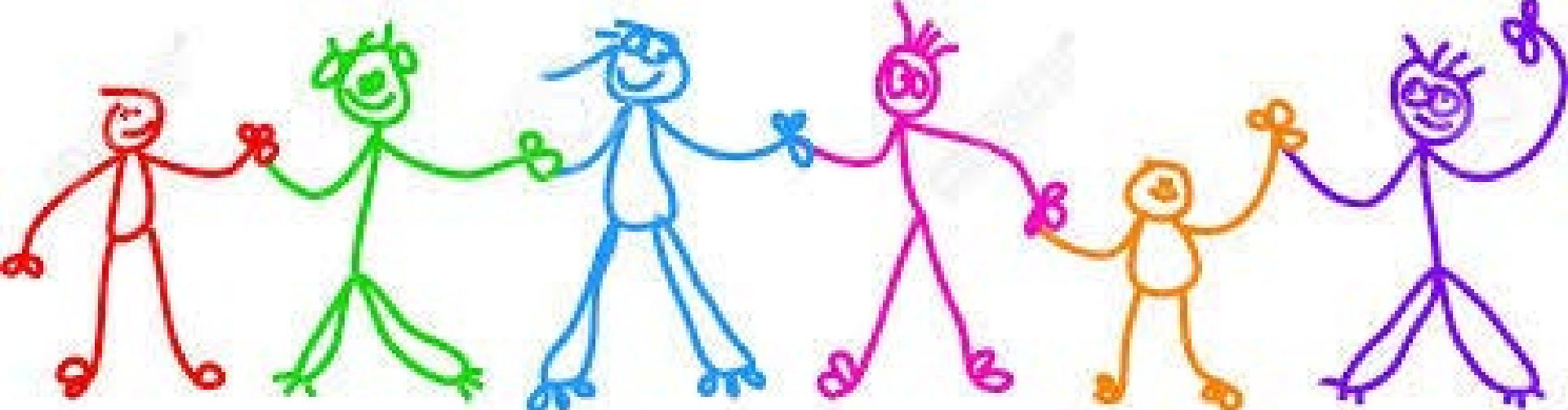
Source: Citizenship and Immigration Canada (2014). *Evaluation of the Family Reunification Program*. <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/pdf/pub/e4-2013-frp.pdf>

Impact of family migration on integration of **children**

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Impact of family migration policy on integration

- Integration tests > self-selection > raise in human capital
- Income requirements: possible negative effect on education, reskilling, upward mobility
- Power relations & dependencies reinforced
- “Lives on hold”
- Resentment of state intervention, damaged sense of belonging and citizenship



Sources:

- S. Bonjour & A. Kraler (2015). Introduction: Family migration as an integration issue? Policy perspectives and academic insights. *Journal of Family Issues*, 36 (11), 1407-1432
- Charsley, K., Bolognani, M., Spencer, S., Ersanilli, E., Jayaweera, H. (2016) *Marriage Migration and Integration Report*, Bristol: University of Bristol
- OECD (2017) *International Migration Outlook 2017. A portrait of family migration in OECD countries*
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